

*This is an update on the activities of the Radicalisation Awareness Network (RAN). You receive this e-mail, along with more than 3 500 other people, because you have participated in a RAN activity, or because you have registered your interest in the network. If you do not want to receive such e-mails, please let us know. Feel free to distribute this RAN Update to colleagues and invite them to [subscribe](#).*

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## RAN activities since the latest RAN Update

### **Workshops on responses to returning foreign terrorist fighters and their families**

Delegations from 22 EU Member States participated in a series of one-day workshops on responses to returning foreign terrorist fighters and their families in Berlin in September. The workshops were a follow-up to the Brussels conference on ‘Responses to Returnees’ held in Brussels in June. The RAN manual [‘Responses to Returning Foreign Terrorist Fighters and their Families’](#), with its insights, practical advice and recommendations on effective approaches and interventions, formed the basis for the workshops. Discussions focused on prison and probation, resocialisation and integration, and dealing with the children of returning foreign fighters. They engaged with the learnings from within RAN, and shared their own knowledge, challenges and experiences. This enabled a fruitful and comfortable environment to learn, inspire and engage on the topic. The workshops were held under Chatham House Rules.

### **RAN YF&C: prep-meeting ‘The role of youth-work in the prevention of radicalisation and violent extremism’**

The objective of the RAN YF&C meeting in Amsterdam in September was to discuss how the working group can add value whilst complementing existing tools and handbooks created by DG EAC and SALTO. Participants agreed that these tools are very useful, offering clear insights into the role youth-workers can play in PVE. Participants did however find that these practical tools mainly cater to traditional youth-work, and less to open and detached youth-work. Discussing taboo topics was considered a priority - as well as a challenge. RAN YF&C will develop a tool that helps youth-workers to become aware of their own taboos, and to discuss sensitive topics with youngsters.

## **RAN Steering Committee**

Among the topics on the agenda at the 27 September steering committee (SC) meeting was progress by the High-Level Commission Expert Group on Radicalisation (HLCEG-R). RAN CoE director Omar Ramadan, appointed by the SC to represent the RAN within this expert group, reported on the HLCEG-R's 11 September meeting, at which several policy priorities in prevent work were identified. The SC considered these for RAN's 2018 annual activity plan (AAP). Preparing for the following HLCEG-R subgroup meeting, the SC also took stock of initiatives to increase exchanges between practitioners and (national) policy-makers, as well as academics. Opportunities to feed practitioner learnings into the policy-making process were much appreciated.

The SC meeting also appraised a new tool to manage the contact details of RAN participants. It was agreed to review the WG constituencies and prepare for publishing details on the organisations participating in RAN in 2018, as is being done for CSEP. The SC also adopted additional practices for the RAN Collection and reviewed recent and forthcoming WG activities.

## **RAN EDU: dropping out of school**

School principals, policy-makers and exit workers looked into the education sector's involvement with those who 'drop out' of school, either physically or mentally, as well as those in need of education, such as those returning from a conflict zone. Participants also discussed a link with 'exit' and 'disengagement' strategies - with a focus on the role for formal and informal educators. The view was that, by not being inclusive, education can become part of the breeding ground for radicalisation. Inequality of educational opportunities, a rigid school philosophy, or a lack of cultural awareness amongst teachers, were all highlighted as contributing to students dropping out, as each isolates the student from the school community. It is conceivable that this could accelerate radicalisation within and outside of the school.

## **RAN EXIT and RAN P&P on religion**

To what extent should religion be a part of exit work? What can Islamic clergymen do to prevent or counter violent extremism in prisons? These were the main questions for the joint meeting between RAN P&P and RAN EXIT from 10 to 11 October in Madrid. One important conclusion was that a discussion on religion can help build up trust and start a personal conversation when first contacting extremists. As religion is not always a decisive factor in radicalising people, the significance of religion in exit work will however vary in importance. The alternative view on belonging that an Iman can provide was highlighted as a potentially positive contribution to countering and preventing violent extremism. They are also able to work with prisoners on self-esteem and becoming more resilient.

## **RAN POL 'Police and Families'**

The objective of the meeting on 12-13 October in Lisbon was to discuss the role of the police in engaging with families who have radicalised members, and the social workers that support these families. The meeting built around [lessons from the RAN YF&C working group](#) on the role of family support in P/CVE. The police share the same objective as family support: to safeguard a family. However, the police also have a prime responsibility to protect society, and need to investigate and pursue individuals in this context. The meeting discussed how police can deal with these sometimes conflicting responsibilities, the advantages and challenges in the collaboration with families and family support workers, and vice versa. Viewing the family as a whole, transparency and trust, protocols and benchmarks are some of the key ingredients for successful engagement with families and family support workers. The ex post paper - to be

published on the RAN website - will offer concrete recommendations and practices for establishing these.

## Coming up

### **RAN C&N meeting on audiences, 2-3 November, Rome**

The RAN Communications and Narratives working group will come together in Rome to discuss target audiences. The workshop will focus on left-wing and right-wing propaganda and how each group seeks to have an impact on its target audiences. In this context, the meeting will look into the groups' communications strategies and target audiences. Participants will also focus on how communications can be used to prevent or counter these propaganda strategies, and how effective alternative and counter narratives can be promoted.

Participants at the meeting be first-line practitioners engaged with at-risk groups targeted by right-wing and left-wing extremists, as well as academics expert in propaganda, conspiracy theories and disinformation on both sides of the political spectrum. The meeting will be prepared in close cooperation with European Strategic Communications Network (ESCN).

### **Thematic event on training, 16 November, Brussels (Belgium)**

Teaching practitioners how to deal with radicalisation leading to violent extremism is a common component in PVE/CVE strategies throughout the EU. Brussels will host an event in November that looks at a broad range of training programmes, from those focused on early detection to others on how to deradicalise, using a multi-agency approach, and engaging with radicalised persons. The meeting will also address more strategic questions, such as how to teach relevant skills and information to practitioners, and how to secure a sustainable level of knowledge throughout different sectors.

### **RAN YOUNG: we are growing!**

The voice of young people in the prevention of violent extremism is essential: these people are our future youth workers, teachers, police officers, policy makers and leaders! Youngsters are credible voices for other young people, and have a better understanding than older generations of how the young see the world. RAN Young empowers young people (18-25) with a personal or pragmatic link to the subject of radicalisation.

After a very successful RAN YOUNG kick-off meeting in March, the platform has continued to grow. Both behind the scenes and in the spotlight at different RAN practitioner meetings, the youngsters have been busy sharing their insights with the rest of RAN and connecting with each other. This has led to a growing network of young people from different European countries and different backgrounds and disciplines, all dedicated to counteracting radicalisation.

At the next meeting (23-24 November) these young people will come together in Budapest, to cement an even stronger connection with both RAN working groups and the academic world, as some academics will also be present.

Do you know a young person who would like to be involved in RAN YOUNG? Don't hesitate to contact Yasmine Gssime: [y.gssime@radaradvies.nl](mailto:y.gssime@radaradvies.nl)

## New publications

### **'Resilient Cities. Countering Violent Extremism at Local Level'**

The Barcelona Centre for International Affairs published 'Resilient Cities. Countering Violent Extremism at Local Level' in September 2017. The magazine's 11 articles deal with different aspects of the prevention of radicalisation and violent extremism at local level.

The latest issue contains an article by Marije Meines' (RAN CoE) on 'Local strategy: elements of an effective local action plan to prevent radicalisation and violent extremism', as well as numerous references to RAN papers, including 'The root causes of violent extremism', the Handbook on 'How to set up a multi-agency structure that includes the health and social care and the RAN Collection.

Download it [here](#).

## New Chapter in the RAN Collection

### **Prison and probation interventions**

The RAN Collection now contains a new chapter and new practices on prison and probation interventions.

This approach is based on the following principles:

- offenders' well-being and rehabilitation must be promoted to ensure safety;
- individuals sentenced for terrorist acts do not all pose the same risk to society;
- offenders are capable of positive change, and need support to disengage from extremism;
- universal human rights must be upheld at all times;
- positive staff-prisoner relationships and healthy prison settings are important;
- multi-agency cooperation is crucial.

Current practices:

- [Social Net Conferencing](#);
- [Team TER \(terrorist Extremists and Radicals\)](#);
- [Inclusion](#);
- [Information Management to prevent radical escalation](#);
- [Identification of violent extremism and radicalisation in Finnish prisons](#);
- [Violent Extremism Risk Assessment](#).

Download the Collection chapter [here](#).

## RAN Calendar

November 2017	December 2017
<p><b>RAN C&amp;N</b> <i>Audiences</i> <u>Date and location:</u> 2-3 November, Rome (Italy)</p> <p><b>Thematic event</b> <i>Presentation of a toolkit outlining components of effective general and sector-specific radicalisation awareness training</i> <u>Date and location:</u> 16 November, Brussels (Belgium)</p> <p><b>Steering Committee</b> <i>Quarterly meeting to discuss upcoming activities</i> <u>Date and location:</u> 21 November, Brussels (Belgium)</p> <p><b>RAN YOUNG</b> <i>Meeting between young people and academics</i> <u>Date and location:</u> 23-24 November, Budapest (Hungary)</p> <p><b>RAN EDU</b> Projects and materials on citizenship, media literacy and critical thinking. <u>Date and location:</u> 29-30 November, Budapest (Hungary)</p>	<p><b>RAN YF&amp;C</b> The role of youth work in the prevention of radicalisation. <u>Date and location:</u> 6-7 December, Vienna (Austria)</p> <p><b>RAN LOCAL</b> 10 different interventions, tools and training programmes that have been offered to local coordinators or are used on a national level. <u>Date and localisation:</u> 7-8 December, Berlin (Germany)</p> <p><b>RAN H&amp;SC</b> Collaboration with the Countering Lone Actor Terrorism (CLAT) consortium. <u>Date and localisation:</u> 12-13 December, Mechelen (Belgium)</p> <p><b>RAN P&amp;P and RAN EXIT</b> The role of religion in the exit process <u>Date and location:</u> 12-13 December, Prague (Czech Republic)</p>

Often, many more people register their interest in an event than can be accommodated. So that expectations are realistic, please note that the Working Group leaders decide who will be invited to attend RAN WG meetings. When selecting participants (depending on the meeting topic), division of Member States, type of expertise, contributions in meetings, etc. will be taken into consideration. Additionally, please note that only one person per organisation can be invited.

## Contact details

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Would you like more frequent updates on RAN's activities? Get access to all public RAN papers as they are released, other RAN news and thought-provoking articles on the radicalisation process by following RAN on [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#), [LinkedIn](#) or [YouTube](#).

Website: [ec.europa.eu/ran](http://ec.europa.eu/ran)