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



## CALL FOR TENDERS: EU CENTRE OF EXPERTISE FOR VICTIMS OF TERRORISM

**What is it?** The main objective of this contract is to set up an EU Centre of Expertise for Victims of Terrorism.

The EU Centre aims at assisting EU Member States in ensuring effective transposition and practical application of the EU rules on victims of terrorism by making available common assistance mechanisms and resources at Union level.

**What is the deadline?** 25 June 2019, 12:00 CET.

**Important notice:** Bids in response to this call for tenders have to be submitted exclusively using the e-Submission application which allows economic operators to respond to Call for tenders by preparing their tenders electronically in a structured and secured way, and submitting their tenders electronically. Further information and guidance can be found on the [e-Tendering platform](#).

[More information about the call for tenders](#)

## RAN ACTIVITIES SINCE THE LAST UPDATE

### RAN P&P Specialised risk assessment tools (Bucharest (RO), 28-29 March)

The RAN Prison and Probation Working Group discussed the why, when and how to implement risk assessment tools (such as VERA-2R and ERG22+) that are focused on radicalisation. One of the main challenges most participants face is that effective risk assessment and management requires information from different stakeholders. However, sharing information with other services is not usually permitted. Another issue concerns the design of risk assessment tools. To ensure these tools deliver added value for the rehabilitation plan of offenders, they should include additional protective factors. An ex post paper is not foreseen for this meeting.

### Multi-agency meeting RAN POL – C&N 'Current and future most used and most watched narratives and strategies of far-right extremists and Islamist extremists' (Stockholm, 4-5 April)

The joint RAN POL and RAN C&N working group meeting kicked off with a simple yet pertinent question: "If propaganda is so powerful, why didn't I join Daesh? I've spent enough time watching their videos." This question launched the group into a vigorous discussion about the prominent factors or conditions that cause radicalisation. Participants also considered the elements that can make extremist narratives particularly effective, and how these narratives are disseminated and transmitted. They also identified the types of narratives most often used by Islamist extremists (threats to identity, masculinity/aggravated entitlement, victim mentality, eco-fascism and anti-establishment) and those used by far-right extremists (double salvation/hope for everlasting life, victimhood/sense of not belonging, empowerment/taking control, injustice/group grievance, support for Caliphate). Participants also discussed the pitfalls and/or situational developments that extremist groups may exploit and thereby serve as a stepping stone for future narratives. This information was used to identify the most important elements that

alternative narratives should address in order to resonate meaningfully with their target audience.

### **RAN RVT Evaluation of the impact of victims' testimonies (Prague, 10-11 April)**

Victims are a credible voice when it comes to testimonies about terrorist attacks. To measure victims' impact on their target audience, it is essential to evaluate these efforts. The RAN RVT Working Group gathered to discuss this topic with a group of victims who have experience in delivering testimonials. Representatives of projects integrating testimonies and researchers and experts on evaluation also participated.

The aim of the meeting was to map existing evaluation tools used in primary and secondary prevention, to present inspiring practices and provide practical guidelines to victims of terrorism on why, what and how to evaluate their testimonies. The upcoming ex post paper provides an overview of current evaluation efforts to measure the impact of victims' testimonies, as well as practical examples of evaluation tools and methodologies.

### **RAN YF&C Academy 'Children growing up in an extremist family' (Rome, 24-25 April)**

Building on past RAN events held on this topic, this Academy meeting shared lessons learned and examples of work practices among a broader group of (new) practitioners in the field. Case studies about persons raised in cult families and those taken out of extremist families and the related implications were presented. Practitioners also shared inspiring multi-agency approaches and the challenges they encounter. These include finding sustainable, long-term care, and creating a safe haven for practitioners to carry out multi-agency approaches and the prevailing focus on security.

One key takeaway from the meeting is that trauma therapy and psychological care are essential for children's rehabilitation and reintegration. Also important is for therapists to find common ground with the parents and to be transparent in their counselling, instead of emphasizing different parenting approaches and passing information to other parties without consent. Building trust between all parties and creating a primary point of contact is key. These recommendations will be outlined in the ex post paper that will be published.

### **RAN H&SC Grooming for terror – Manipulation and control (Bucharest, 24-25 April)**

The RAN H&SC working group meeting kicked off with a screening of the documentary 'Recruiting for Jihad' which shows the grooming process and the role of the groomer in radicalisation. By combining the expertise of psychiatrists, psychologists, social workers and academics with the experiences of former recruiters, the group identified several steps of the grooming process. They concluded that the process of grooming is similar to child sexual abuse and that there is no remarkable difference in the process regarding left wing, far right or jihadist extremism. As such, health and social care professionals should be empowered to use the skills they already possess for violent extremist cases. They can serve as the bridges to redirect groomers (and their victims) to a new path in life.

The lessons learned during RAN working group meetings are shared in ex post papers. Papers are published on the [RAN website](#), usually around a month after the meeting date.

## **COMING UP**

### **RAN study visit in Strasbourg (21-22 May)**

Bringing together RAN practitioners from different working groups and different countries, participants will visit the City of Strasbourg to learn about their local P/CVE strategy and the reasoning behind it. Local P/CVE coordinators and their multi-agency partners will inspire with their approaches and projects. The focus will be on the December 2018 Christmas Market attack in Strasbourg and how the city responded. What kind of response strategy did Strasbourg use and what can we learn from how Strasbourg reacted? Finally, participants will take part in a multi-agency cooperation simulation called Hexagon. They will examine the cases of the radicalising of 16-year-old Vincent and 23-year-old Andrea and experience what information and cooperation and which types of organisations are needed to deal with situations like these. The Hexagon multi-agency simulation is developed and will be directed by the Canadian CPRLV the P/CVE partner of Strasbourg.

### **Member State workshop 'Developing in-depth train the trainer' (Rotterdam, 22 May)**

Experienced trainers from several Member States will participate in this workshop for practitioners. While many Member States have invested in basic training courses for their first-line practitioners, these mainly cover primary and secondary prevention. As such, the RAN Centre of Excellence has identified the need for more in-depth training to support tertiary prevention. This is about engaging with persons (such as ex-detainees) who are or were radicalised, and it involves resocialisation, exit work and risk management.

By building on basic knowledge, skills and attitudes of those working in partnership with the exit workers in multi-agency tertiary settings, this train-the-trainer programme aims to strengthen the full range of multi-agency partners. In turn, Member States will be able to apply for the delivery of this programme in their country during the second half of 2019. The session will provide the to-be trained local trainers with all resource materials and exercises. The preliminary course elements include: awareness and urgency of tertiary prevention, the key elements of tertiary prevention, conversation techniques with radicalised persons, cooperation with family and social network, cooperation and information sharing between different agencies from care and security, and national support structures.

#### **Multi-agency meeting RAN LOCAL-H&SC 'Taking mental health issues into account in CVE and PVE' (Paris, 28 May)**

Practitioners from several RAN working groups have indicated a correlation between specific mental health issues and susceptibility to radicalisation. If the susceptibility for radicalisation and recruitment is higher for persons with specific mental health conditions, local, social and healthcare policies could help in detecting early-stage symptoms. The primary goal remains safeguarding the individual, protecting the public and promoting resilience of vulnerable individuals. To better understand what is needed on a local level, practitioners should know about the mental health issues that create a higher vulnerability to radicalisation. They should also know what to do with this knowledge. The focus of this meeting will be on why, when and how to take stock of mental health issues when preventing radicalisation and violent extremism at the local level.

#### **Policy & Practice event 'A mental health approach to understanding and preventing violent extremism' (Paris, 29 May)**

To deliver on the call by both practitioners and national policymakers to increase mutual exchange, the Commission tasked the RAN Centre of Excellence to deliver six Policy & Practice events in 2019. The main objective is to allow insights of practitioners to feed into national policies, as well as have national policy priorities guide the daily work of practitioners. The first of these Policy & Practice events will focus on mental health. Over the past years, practitioners working in the field of P/CVE have pointed to a potential link between mental health disorders, on one side, and radicalisation, on the other side. According to some practitioners, there is a greater prevalence of mental health disorders among terrorists due to online entry, mass recruitment tactics and higher exposure to threats, grievances and propaganda. There is a sense of urgency to do more on preventing vulnerable individuals with mental health problems from joining terrorist groups or committing terrorist acts in the name of a terrorist organisation.

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## **PODCAST: A DAY IN THE LIFE OF A LOCAL PREVENT COORDINATOR**

Meet Sean Arbuthnot, Local Prevent Coordinator at the St. Philip's Centre in Leicester (UK).

Sean has been a police officer for 12 years and now works in the field of Prevent, which is part of the UK government's counter-terrorism strategy. He said: "I've worked with countless cases of young people who were on the very edge of society, very close to committing acts of violence who received support through Prevent and who have turned their lives around and they'll quite openly say that Prevent saved their life."

Interested to learn more about how Sean tackles radicalisation in his work? Listen to the podcast [here](#).

## **TRAIN-THE-TRAINER COURSES**

### **Submit a request for a RAN Train-the-Trainer course!**

At the request of, and in close collaboration with an EU Member State, the RAN Centre of Excellence can support a country's efforts to tackle radicalisation leading to violent extremism.

Member States are invited to submit a request for the following:

- RAN general awareness training;
- In-depth RAN Train-the-Trainer course

All requests should be submitted by a national authority.

### The general awareness Train-the-Trainer course

'RAN DNA' refers to the crucial lessons learned by the RAN working groups — the keys to tackling radicalisation. These include the importance of a preventive approach, the need for multi-agency collaboration, and a focus on the local scale and practitioners. This knowledge is passed on during a two-day train-the-trainer course that aims to equip participants to lead a one-day workshop (or sections of it, as appropriate) on awareness and action for colleagues.

Alternatively, the training could be integrated into existing training curricula (for example, for police, prison personnel or social workers). The training increases understanding of the process of radicalisation and provides guidance on how different practitioners can share information, recognise radicalisation, and ultimately prevent or counter it. National authorities will be asked to help with the course preparation to ensure it is tailored to the local context and policies. Each course also allows for local cultures, challenges and trends, and may be tailored to include specific topics, such as family support, healthcare or deradicalisation. Training material in the national language is provided.

### From the second half of 2019: the RAN in-depth Train-the-Trainer course

Starting in the second half of 2019, RAN will offer an additional training, going more in-depth to support tertiary prevention, with materials and exercises to deal with topics like conversation techniques with radicalised persons, information sharing, cooperation with family and social networks and cooperating between different agencies, such as care and security. This training is still being developed and may be subject to change. Similar to the RAN DNA training course, participants are experienced national trainers or radicalisation experts with training skills who will be provided guidance and training material to deliver trainings themselves, on the topic requested by the MS State, and to adjust these to the national circumstances. A prerequisite for participants is to have had some form of training on the prevention of radicalisation.

### Interested?

See the [Member State support](#) leaflet for further information on the support available.

## LATEST PUBLICATIONS

### [RAN H&SC Understanding the mental health disorders pathway leading to violent extremism](#)

Several practitioners note that radicalised individuals have specific neuropsychiatric disorders like autism spectrum disorder or schizophrenia. This paper identifies risk factors that make these people vulnerable to violent extremism, as well as ways professionals can assess protective factors which may contribute to safeguarding them.

### [RAN C&N Monitoring & Evaluating counter- and alternative narrative campaigns](#)

Monitoring and evaluation (M&E) is essential when wanting to know whether a counter- or alternative narrative campaign has been effective and impactful. This paper guides first-line practitioners, communication specialists, campaign developers and evaluation experts who are planning a counter- or alternative narrative campaign.

### [Multi-Agency Working and preventing violent extremism: Paper II](#)

This is the second of two position papers from the Health and Social Care (RAN H&SC) working group focusing on Multi-Agency Working (MAW). It presents a series of case studies on MAW in the EU (Denmark, UK, France and Germany) and identifies key considerations for those intending to introduce MAW in this space in future.

### [RAN EXIT Practical guidelines — Management of exit programmes](#)

Managers deal with the specific circumstances that exit work encompasses. This paper outlines the internal and external factors that should be considered in the design and management of an exit programme or facility. All requests should be submitted by a national authority.

## EDITORIAL BOARD: LORENZO VIDINO'S MUST READS

Europol's European Counter-Terrorism Centre (ECTC) organised two major events at its headquarters at The Hague in the Netherlands in April. It convened the third annual conference of the ECTC Advisory Network on terrorism on 9-10 April. This event covered topics ranging from online radicalisation to returning foreign fighters. It also hosted its first high-level [Conference on Online Terrorist Propaganda](#) on 10-11 April. More than 150 participants gathered at Europol's headquarters to discuss a wide variety of topics pertaining to the online terrorist threat.

Thomas Renard published for the Egmont Institute the report [Returnees in the Maghreb: Comparing policies on returning foreign terrorist fighters in Egypt, Morocco and Tunisia](#) (with a foreword by EU Counter-Terrorism Coordinator Gilles de Kerchove and Principal Adviser to the EU Counter-Terrorism Coordinator Christiane Höhn).

The Centre for Research and Policy Making (CRPM) and the Centre for Education Development (CED), in association with NEXUS civil concept (and with the support of the Hedayah Centre of Excellence in Countering violent extremism), published a [Handbook for Teachers in Secondary Schools and Tools for Early Detection and Action](#).

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## ANNUAL ACTIVITY PLAN 2019 – A SUMMARY

A summary of RAN's annual activity plan for 2019 is now available online.

The annual activity plan reflects the general objective to better address specific needs in Member States to improve the knowledge transfer. To address challenges and priorities in a coherent and effective way, the AAP 2019 focusses on certain activities in roadmaps. While these roadmaps do not cover all RAN activities, they are indicative of the topics that will receive particular attention in 2019. The topics are:

- Rehabilitation of radicalised and terrorist offenders
- Evaluation on interventions
- Islamist extremist and far right extremist ideologies

Also, the newly established RAN YOUNG Empowerment Academy will hold four events in 2019.

Read the summary [here](#).

# RAN Calendar

## May 2019

### Member State workshop

Developing in-depth train-the-trainer  
22 May  
Rotterdam, Netherlands

### Multi-agency meeting RAN LOCAL-H&SC

Taking mental health issues into account in CVE and PVE  
28 May  
Paris, France

### Policy & Practice event

A mental health approach to understanding and preventing violent extremism  
22 May  
Paris, France

## June 2019

### Multi-agency meeting RAN Exit-P&P

Connections, roles and quality review of rehabilitation, resocialisation and exit activities  
5-6 June  
Budapest, Hungary

### Multi-agency meeting RAN YF&C – P&P

Extremists being released from prison - community and family acceptance  
6-7 June  
Budapest, Hungary

### Steering Committee

11 June  
Brussels, Belgium

### RAN EDU

Schools and challenging far-right extremism  
13-14 June  
Berlin, Germany

### RAN RVT

How can victims contribute to social cohesion after a period of violence  
20-21 June  
Bilbao, Spain

The [2019 calendar of RAN events](#) is available online

If you are interested in attending an upcoming RAN meeting, please contact the appropriate RAN CoE staff member. Check the RAN website for a [full list of contacts by working group](#).

## Contact details

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Would you like more frequent updates on RAN's activities? Gain 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)