

# RAN Update 20 RAN

April, 2015

*This is an update on the activities of the Radicalisation Awareness Network (RAN). You receive this e-mail, as do some 1500 other people, if you have participated in a RAN working group activity, or if 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 and suggest others to subscribe.*

## Fourth year of RAN and the RAN Centre of Excellence

The RAN has entered its fourth year and will continue to exist in its current form until the end of September 2015. Starting October 2015, the RAN Centre of Excellence will officially be installed. In the upcoming 6 months, no less than 20 RAN activities are planned. In addition to 4 support deliveries to Member States, 13 working group meetings and 2 Steering Committee meetings, one larger thematic event on foreign fighters will take place, focussing in particular on prison regimes of convicted foreign fighters, exit-strategies for returnees and community engagement by the police to prevent travel. This cross-cutting event will be organised by the RAN INT/EXT, P&P, Derad and POL working groups.

## Working Group activities since the last RAN Update

### **RAN @ delivered a successful training on online counter-narratives**

In line with one of the main aims of the RAN @ working group to empower practitioners to deliver effective counter-narratives, on 2 March 2015 the working group delivered a training in London (UK) to 20 practitioners and content creators from across Europe. The participants were practitioners that are already active (online and/or offline) to spread an alternative message, who have testimonies of their own or other's experiences as powerful counter-narratives and who want to take their counter-narrative work to a next level using online tools. The programme consisted of knowledge and insights from the RAN @ activities as well as practical, hands-on training from specialists at Google and YouTube on the delivery of counter-narratives on these platforms.

### **RAN Prevent published Manifesto for Education with 24 recommendations**

On 3-4 March 2015, nearly 100 teachers and other educators from EU Member States (MSs) gathered in Manchester to discuss the role of schools and their contribution to preventing radicalisation. During the conference, titled *Holding Difficult Conversations, Empowering Educators and School*, a manifesto was drafted to help empower the very group of people who have the potential to be some of the most influential in the lives of our young people and to help them truly prevent violent extremism. As it is impossible for schools to solve the problem alone, at different levels (the educator, the school, the partners and the government) suggestions were made to inspire interventions that could start tomorrow (short term) and help establish a sustainable approach for the future (long term). This manifesto was drafted in view of the EU's education ministers meeting in Paris on the 17<sup>th</sup> of April, which looked at, amongst others, preventing radicalisation and promoting a free, tolerant and inclusive society through education. Several media outlets reported on this RAN deliverable. The manifesto is a call to action for a sustainable response, and to ensure that successful practices that teachers have used in their classrooms will be acknowledged and supported. Some examples of the suggestions

made in the manifesto are the training of teachers to detect radicalisation at an early stage, to provide them with the tools to hold conversations that enable pupils vulnerable to radicalisation to challenge violent extremism, to approach parents as partners and to include (online) content countering extremist propaganda, created by those credible to youth at risk of radicalisation. You can find the complete Manifesto for Education and the accompanying press release [here](#).

### **RAN POL organised plenary meeting on police and community engagement**

On 11 and 12 March 2015 RAN POL organised a plenary meeting in Madrid (ES) on police, prevention and community engagement. With community police as a main focus, the importance of well-trained police officers, with good communications skills, as well as the need for support from their management, was emphasized during the meeting. In addition more awareness amongst police officers is needed to avoid certain (unaware) attitudes which could enlarge the problem, such as ethnic profiling or criminalising certain groups. The importance of cooperation with other partners was mentioned as well, since identity processes and feelings of inclusion and exclusion are part of radicalisation processes. A conclusion was that police cannot do it alone.

### **RAN Experts empowered relevant Greek actors tackling radicalisation leading to terrorism and violent extremism**

On 16 and 17 March 2015 in Athens, experts from the RAN network and the RAN Secretariat provided expertise to the Centre for Security Studies (KEMEA) in Greece, and their national stakeholders, focusing on prevention measures, deradicalisation methods and multiagency cooperation. Some of the take-aways were that there is not one foreign fighter profile, and, moreover as the withdrawal of passports of returnees is difficult, it is more effective to prevent travels in the first place. Another lesson was that even though some returnees may intend to indeed plot attacks in EU, others have been disillusioned (and de-radicalised) by their experience with IS.

### **RAN VVT brought victims and formers together in Vienna**

On 23-24 March 2015, a RAN VVT meeting in Vienna (AT) brought together victims and formers for the first time in the realm of the RAN. The meeting focused on the possible cooperation between victims and formers and the necessary prerequisites that should be met to create the intended effect, guarantee safety and build mutual trust. The aim was to have an interactive discussion which was triggered by some examples of testimonies. Some of the most important outcomes were that cooperation between victims of terrorism and people who were radicalised is regarded as valuable and can be effective in preventing radicalisation. It differs per situation and per testimony, however testimonies will be more effective for prevention rather than for de-radicalisation. The advantage of such cooperation is that the audience will hear both sides of the story, which deepens the narrative/testimonial, the message and the understanding of the message.

## **Upcoming Activities**

### **RAN INT/EXT to discuss successful de-radicalisation practices for Foreign Fighters**

On 13 April 2015 the INT/EXT working group will convene in Amsterdam (NL). Focusses of this 1-day meeting are the typologies of returned foreign fighters and specific de-radicalisation interventions and good practices that (have) work(ed) for the respective typology. The meeting is targeted for practitioners who currently provide derad interventions to returned foreign fighters.

## RAN Derad will empower practitioners in Baltic States, Finland and Poland

Participants from Latvia, Lithuania, Estonia, Finland and Poland will gather for a regional meeting in Riga (LV) on 16-17 April 2015. Just as earlier meetings of this kind in other parts of Europe, the goal is to identify local practitioners that in the broadest sense work in the field of prevent or de-radicalisation work (for example social workers dealing with young people at risk of being recruited into violent extremist movements), to connect them with each other and with the RAN, and let them share experiences on the challenges they meet in their work. The RAN Derad working group helps further develop the practitioners' approaches, encourage exchange, and promote an up-skilling of de-radicalisation work in this region of Europe.

## RAN Prison and Probation will produce a Declaration

This year, RAN P&P will produce a Declaration in which knowledge, insights, lessons learned and recommendations of the working group so far are combined. Moreover current challenges and questions will be taken into account. Topics to be included in the declaration are: prison(er) society, prison regime, deradicalisation in prison and probation, multi-agency cooperation (specifically prison and probation cooperation), awareness training for staff and risk assessment.

## RAN Calendar

April	May	June
<b>RAN INT/EXT</b> <i>Derad Practices for Foreign Fighters</i> <u>Date and location:</u> 13 April, Amsterdam (NL)	<i>No RAN activities yet planned in May</i>	<b>RAN Thematic event</b> <i>Challenges on Foreign Fighters</i> <u>Date and location:</u> 15-16 June, Brussels (BE)
<b>RAN Derad</b> <i>Regional meeting for the Baltics</i> <u>Date and location:</u> 16-17 April, Riga (LV)		<b>RAN SC</b> <u>Date and location:</u> 17 June, Brussels (EU)
<b>RAN P&amp;P</b> <i>Declaration meeting</i> <u>Date and location:</u> 29 April, Amsterdam (NL)		

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