

April/May 2016

This is an update on the activities of the Radicalisation Awareness Network (RAN). You receive this e-mail, along with some 2 200 other people, because 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 to colleagues and invite them to [subscribe](#).

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RAN activities since the last RAN Update

RAN EXIT: defining the basic elements of exit interventions

Exit work encompasses a wide range of different approaches, however there is a need to define at least the minimum methodological requirements to define the effectiveness of exit interventions. The framework for exit interventions must also take into account new trends and current challenges. The RAN EXIT Working Group meeting on 15-16 March in London, highlighted (based on the approaches of two exit workers) the criteria for defining exit interventions as a programme or a project. The recommendations of this working group, along with the former RAN DERAD working group's definition of key elements of exit work, will inform the 'The Outline for Interventions of De-radicalisation from Involvement in Violent Extremism', to be published in 2016.

Steering Committee identified upcoming priorities

The first Steering Committee meeting took place in Amsterdam on 29 March. The work of the nine RAN working groups was reviewed and upcoming priorities were identified: boosting the dissemination of RAN lessons learned and recommendations, offering more support to local authorities in their strategies to prevent radicalisation and combining insights of different WG's on multi-agency cooperation.

RAN POL: engaging with communities

Successful and effective engagement between local police and communities was the focus of RAN POL's recent meeting. Recommendations focus on the need to build solid long-term relations with communities in times of low-level threat. These networks should build on online and offline strategies and partner with schools and NGOs. For effective action, training is needed at management level and for those in the field. Participants emphasised the importance of dialogue in community policing as a way to

prevent conflict, violence, extremism and radicalisation. The model used in Oslo was presented as an effective strategy.

RAN YF&C 'Religion and violent extremism'

The key message from various religious experts at the Youth, Families & Communities meeting on 7-8 April was the importance of religion when addressing violent extremism. Even though [other factors](#) also play a role in the radicalisation process, religion should be addressed together with community- and faith leaders. The working group also looked at the positive role religion plays in prevention through inter-religious dialogue, training for religious leaders and interventions.

RAN Research seminar: bridging research and practice

A new RAN Centre of Excellence work stream involves bridging the gap between research available on the prevention of radicalisation and the needs of practitioners. A first seminar gathering academia and practitioners from across the EU found that researchers, practitioners and policy-makers need to find a common conceptual language. Moreover, research should take longevity of findings into account when looking at their effectiveness from a policy perspective. Output should be produced faster and disseminated more effectively. The RAN CoE will support the implementation of the recommendations. During break-out sessions, participants discussed state-of-the-art research linked to the different RAN working groups. The RAN research paper, mapping the latest research findings and highlighting gaps, will be published in 2016.

Thematic event: 'Refugee and Migrant Crisis: challenges for CVE policy'

Participants shared clear concerns about the effects of the migrant and refugee crisis on polarisation, increasing right-wing extremism and the exploitation of migrants and refugees by extremists. Over 75 experts took part in the discussions on 14 April in Vienna. It became clear that CVE policy should be used to counter these developments at both local and national level, covering: strategic communication, integration programmes and the training of staff working with refugees on CVE.

RAN EDU: schools as both organisations and communities require leadership

School leaders from all over Europe are facing the same challenge: dealing with societal tensions affecting the school community. Their tasks are to make sure students follow the curriculum, prepare them to be democratic citizens and to keep students safe. Gaining trust and respect are therefore very important, which is not always an easy task when engaging with angry students who feel like outsiders. At a recent RAN Education meeting, school leaders explored the various ways schools can address societal tensions, for example through interreligious dialogues or using arts and culture as a way of starting a dialogue on identity and injustice.

Upcoming RAN activities

RAN LOCAL: which projects and initiatives should be supported by local authorities?

Local authorities will present inspiring practices and experiences at the 23-24 May meeting in Athens. Participants will address:

- how to find funding
- how to get political support

- whether local authorities should fund a broad range of projects and initiatives, including those addressing breeding grounds, integration and an inclusive ‘we’ society - or just specific projects on radicalisation
- how to make use of existing policy
- the development of templates that can support decision making.

Member State workshops ‘Refugee and Migrant Crisis: challenges for CVE policy’

Three one-day workshops will offer advice on how to adjust national CVE policies to the current refugee and migrant crisis. During each workshop, 15 Member State representatives from five different Member States will discuss the challenges that the migrant crisis presents for CVE policy. By sharing experiences, insights, practices and possible solutions, participants will create the building blocks for both a comprehensive response and effective interventions. The findings gathered from first-line practitioners across the EU will enrich these workshops.

RAN H&SC: building multi-agency structures that include the health and social care sectors

How can the health and social care sectors be part of multi-agency structures for CVE? What are the benefits, but also the challenges? On 18-19 May, RAN Health & Social Care will address these questions in Copenhagen. Participants will also visit the Danish ‘SSP structure’ - a good practice in setting up local collaboration between schools, social services and police. The outcomes of the meeting will feed into a handbook or road map - tailored specifically to the health and social care sectors - on how to build effective multi-agency structures supporting interdisciplinary exchanges between practitioners and policy makers.

Applications to attend RAN Events

First-line professionals, policy makers and researchers are often invited to express interest in attending RAN (Working Group) meetings. An application does not guarantee participation. Often, many more people register their interest for an event than can be accommodated. Please note that the Working Group leaders decide who will be invited to attend RAN WG meetings. When selecting participants, division of Member States, type of expertise, contributions in meetings, etc. are taken into consideration. Additionally, please note that only one person per organisation can be invited.

Dissemination of RAN lessons at external events

First-line practitioners dealing with radicalisation: awareness raising and capacity-building in the Western Balkans

The FIRST LINE project was set up by Slovenia, Austria, Belgium, the Czech Republic and Hungary (co-funded by the European Commission) to raise awareness among first line practitioners in the Western Balkans of their role in the prevention of violent extremism and radicalisation. The network is similar in its set-up to the RAN model: its aim is to transfer knowledge, experiences and good practices to Western Balkan project partners. RAN shared its experiences in connecting first line practitioners across the EU at the kick-off conference in Brdo, Slovenia, on 18-29 April.

RAN webinar on radicalisation in schools

Adolescence and early adulthood are vulnerable periods in life, susceptible to abuse for the purpose of radicalisation. Secondary schools and the educational system are put under political and societal pressure as youngsters continue to join Daesh. How can schools get to grips with this task while remaining a positive learning environment in which pupils and teachers feel comfortable? What could schools do to build resilience against extremist thoughts? These questions were discussed by Jesper Holme (Aarhus, Denmark) and Karin Heremans (RAN EDU working group leader, Antwerp, Belgium) during a recent RAN-Deutscher Präventionstag webinar. The webinar and the presentation can be found [here](#). If you are interested in joining future webinars please contact ran@radaradvies.nl or [Deutscher Präventionstag](#).

Other news

Updating the Sinapse library of documents

All working group participants are invited to register with the online community Sinapse, which is home to all reports, presentations and papers. In addition, the library of documents contains a wealth of reading and research material relevant to preventing radicalisation and countering violent extremism. The online community can be [found here](#).

RAN Calendar

| May 2016 | June 2016 |
|--|--|
| <p>MEMBER STATE WORKSHOPS <i>Refugee and Migrant Crises: Challenges for CVE policy</i> <u>Date and location:</u> 11-13 May, Warsaw (PL)</p> | <p>JOINT EVENT <i>Involving young people</i> <u>Date and location:</u> 2-3 June, Vienna (AT)</p> |
| <p>RAN H&SC <i>Multi-agency structures and H&SC</i> <u>Date and location:</u> 18-19 May, Copenhagen (DK)</p> | <p>RAN P&P <i>Exit programmes in prison and probation'</i> <u>Date and location:</u> June, Berlin (DE)</p> |
| <p>RAN LOCAL <i>Which projects and initiatives should be supported by local authorities?</i> <u>Date and location:</u> 23-24 May, Athens (EL)</p> | <p>RAN EXIT <i>Researcher recommendations on dealing with methodological changes</i> <u>Date and location:</u> 16-17 June, Barcelona (ES)</p> |
| | <p>RAN POL <i>Training</i> <u>Date and location:</u> 14-15 June, Athens (EL)</p> |
| | <p>STUDY VISIT <i>Deutscher Präventionstag</i> <u>Date and location:</u> 6-7 June, Halle (DE)</p> |
| | <p>STUDY VISIT <i>UK Prevent Strategy</i> <u>Date and location:</u> 16-17 June, London (UK)</p> |

Contact details

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