

*This is an update on the activities of the Radicalisation Awareness Network (RAN). You receive this e-mail, along with more than 4 000 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 last RAN Update

### **European Remembrance Day for Victims of Terrorism**

The ceremony for the 14th European Remembrance Day for Victims of Terrorism was held in Brussels on 9 March. Some 170 people attended, including mayors and over 80 victims of recent and previous attacks. The event was organised by the European Commission and the RAN RVT working group. EU Commissioners King and Avramopoulos, as well as representatives of national governments, expressed their commitment to supporting victims of terrorism.

After a minute of silence, victims took to the floor to deliver testimonials: powerful messages describing the impact of the attacks upon their lives and how they are trying to come to terms with this. A first responder from the Red Cross also spoke about the personal impact that attending to the victims of an attack had had on him. A paper on the resilience needed to rebuild life after an attack was the theme of a [RAN paper](#) presented the same day.

Participants were invited to write messages of hope on pebbles that were placed under a tree at the end of the ceremony.

### **Uniting Policy and Practice**

The first of six RAN Policy and Practice Events took place on 4 April in Sofia, in close collaboration with the Bulgarian Presidency of the Council of the European Union. The events are a response to a call from both practitioners and national policy-makers for increased exchanges between the two groups. The main objective is to allow insights from practitioners to feed into national policies, as well as to have national policy guide and support the work of local practitioners.

The 4 April gathering attracted a group of some 150 policy-makers and practitioners from both European Union and Western Balkan countries to discuss common challenges in preventing and countering violent extremism (PCVE). The two regions share similar challenges. Whereas the first part of the event focused on effective and sustainable partnership between all actors involved (authorities, agencies, NGOs and communities), the second part highlighted the vulnerability of young children (pre-teens) in extremist environments.

Opening comments by Milko Berner, Bulgaria's Deputy Minister for the Interior, and a presentation by his colleague Denitsa Satcheva, Deputy Minister for Education, underlined Bulgaria's commitment to preventing radicalisation leading to violent extremism. Presentations by representatives of national authorities in Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Denmark, Germany, Finland, France, the Netherlands and Sweden enabled practitioners to comment and recommend enhancements. Similarly, presentations by practitioners and academics covered topics as varied as one imam's engagement in Vienna, a Bosnian referral mechanism set up to tackle the indoctrination of children by Daesh, and responses to child returnees in different countries. The International Organisation for Migration, UNODC, First Line and the Western Balkan Counter-Terrorism initiative were among the international organisations and projects present. In his closing comments, Olivier Onidi, Deputy Director General within the European Commission's Directorate-General Migration and Home Affairs (DG HOME) welcomed the first of these policy and practice events and looked forward to the forthcoming events - the next one will take place on 25 April in Madrid, and will address young people in counter and alternative narratives.

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

### **Joint event RAN YOUNG and C&N - Inspiring young people in effective campaigns, 23-24 April 2018, Madrid**

Counter and alternative narratives can be used as preventive tools to offer individuals multiple or different perspectives on societal challenges. When developing these narratives, it is crucial to determine the target audience, the credible messengers to deliver the narrative and the various dissemination options. Depending on this selection, involving young people as peers and credible messengers in the development and dissemination of the counter or alternative narrative is key.

The aim of the joint RAN C&N and RAN YOUNG meeting is to bring together young people and experts on communication and narratives to learn from each other's expertise. Young people will learn from experienced C&N practitioners about how to get their message across, and how young people could and/or should use their voice to generate impact. Communication specialists will learn about young people's perspectives. Ongoing campaigns and new campaign ideas will be tested for effectiveness.

Meeting participants will be experienced communication specialists, first-line practitioners such as youth or exit workers and employees of CSOs who develop (online) counter and alternative narratives campaigns, and RAN YOUNG participants. This latter group includes both young experts and youngsters who are specifically looking into creating alternative and counter messages to prevent radicalisation.

## **RAN Policy and Practice event - Involving young people in counter and alternative narratives, 25 April 2018, Madrid**

Violent extremists present a one-sided view of reality. These are tackled by alternative pictures of reality and societal challenges. An effective tool in the prevention of violent extremism is to offer multiple alternative or counter narratives. These narratives are however only effective when the messages and messengers are appropriate for the target audience. Often the target audience differs hugely in social context, interests and upbringing, but it is usually under the age of 25. This should be taken into account when developing counter and alternative messages.

Involving young people as peers, advisors and as credible messengers in the development and dissemination of the counter or alternative narrative will most likely make messages more acceptable and appropriate for the target audience. Young people understand the way their peers look at the world and what will grab their attention. They can help improve the effectiveness and outreach of interventions and narratives.

During this Policy and Practice event, we will look into the cooperation between governments, communications specialists and young people needed to develop effective counter and alternative narratives. We will focus on narratives aimed at young people as we seek to answer three questions together:

1. How can governments support and enhance the creation of effective alternative and counter narratives?
2. In which ways can young people be involved in the development of these narratives?
3. How can national authorities support young people - in criticising extremism and promoting inclusion - without prescribing their messages? How can they be sure that the campaigns are well designed?

Outcomes will be discussed and shared in the ex post paper of this meeting.

### **Speaking with (former) extremists in an exit setting**

The second Exit Academy will focus on ways of engagement with and types of communication appropriate for exit workers and (formerly) radicalised individuals. It will touch upon conversation techniques, the issue of responsibility and the important notion of trust. While it is important that the probationer takes responsibility for his/her own disengagement plan, including in designing it, the probation officer remains responsible for the client for at least the very first months of the disengagement programme. How should probation officers deal with this responsibility? Trust building is important and how to manage this depends on how the interaction between probationer and probation officer evolve, including on how language and conversation shape themselves. In a highly interactive peer-to-peer setting, lessons learnt will be shared and challenges will be discussed: participants will try to answer these and related questions on the basis of their first-hand experience with violent extremist offenders. The Exit Academy will be organised in close cooperation with International Cultic Studies Association (ICSA).

## **Non-RAN events**

### **Second International Criminal Justice Summer Course**

The Criminal Justice Platform Europe (CJPE) will hold the second International Criminal Justice Summer Course in Barcelona (3-6 July 2018). A combination of workshops, plenary sessions and

field visits will bring together participants with a background in prison, probation and restorative justice from a variety of European countries.

The main theme for 2018 is radicalisation & violent extremist offenders. CJPE members will address this topic from different but complementary angles in workshop sessions:

- The European Organisation of Prison and Correctional Services (EuroPris): the characteristics of violent extremist offenders (VEO) arriving prison, particularly in terms of definition, assessment, management and reintegration.
- The Confederation of European Probation (CEP): alternatives to detention, including concrete activities and practices that help to develop understanding and competences for working with VEOs.
- The European Forum for Restorative Justice (EFRJ): reimagining violent extremism (restoratively). Attention will be given to stories and involving victims as a response to understanding radicalisation.

Participants will also have an opportunity to join local field visits, for example to the women's prison, the institution for young offenders, the city of justice in Barcelona or other two prisons outside the city. The course is limited to a maximum of 60 participants! Check the [draft programme](#) and [register here](#).

### VOX-Pol conference

The VOX-Pol conference on 'Violent Extremism, Terrorism, and the Internet: Present and Future Trends' will be hosted by the University of Amsterdam (the Netherlands) from 20 to 21 August 2018.

You can register and find more information [here](#).

## New publications

The following issue papers and ex post papers were recently published on the RAN website:

- [RAN YOUNG - Policy Recommendations, March 2018](#)
- [RAN YF&C Discussing Taboos and Controversial Issues - Practical guidelines for youth workers](#)
- [Enhancing the resilience of victims after terrorist attacks, March 2018](#) also available in in [German](#) and in [French](#)
- [RAN EDU Free speech, extremism and the prevention of radicalisation in higher education, Manchester 08-09 February 2018](#)
- [RAN C&N Checklist of relevant mental biases and mechanisms for developing counter or alternative narratives, Vienna 07-08 February 2018](#)
- [RAN LOCAL The right training programme - preventing & countering radicalisation & violent extremism, Berlin 07-08 December 2017](#)

- [RAN POL How to foster closer engagement with families and family workers, and why, Lisbon 12-13 October 2017](#)

## New RAN Videos

Our three videos on “Holding difficult conversations” are now online! Watch them through our [playlist](#), or separately:

- [The classroom](#)
- [Youth work](#)
- [Mental health work](#)

## RAN Calendar

April 2018	May 2018
<p>RAN YOUNG and RAN C&amp;N Workshop on inspiring young people in effective campaigns <u>Date and location:</u> 23-24 April: Madrid (Spain)</p> <p>RAN YOUNG and RAN C&amp;N Making the voice of young people heard <u>Date and location:</u> 25 April, Madrid (Spain)</p> <p>RAN EXIT Speaking with (former) extremists in an exit setting <u>Date and location:</u> 25-26 April, Rotterdam (Netherlands)</p>	<p>RAN LOCAL Learning from adjacent fields (hooliganism, sects, criminal youth gangs, schools) <u>Date and location:</u> 15-16 May, Lisbon (Portugal)</p> <p>RAN YF&amp;C The evaluation of family support projects <u>Date and location:</u> 17 May, Amsterdam (Netherlands)</p> <p>RAN EDU – RAN RVT Boosting youth resilience by bringing strong voices into the classroom <u>Date and location:</u> 24-25 May, Madrid (Spain)</p> <p>Steering Committee <u>Date and location:</u> 23 May, Brussels (Belgium)</p>
<p>The full calendar for 2018 is available online</p>	

If you are interested in attending a forthcoming 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? 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)