

# RAN Update 13

# RAN



April, 2014

*This is an update on the progress of the Radicalisation Awareness Network (RAN). You have participated in a RAN working group activity, or you have registered your interest in the network. Therefore you receive this e-mail, as do some 800 other people. 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.*

## Making RAN more beneficial for Member States

In addition to the benefits of working group activities for the Member States, RAN will provide direct profit for Member States in year 3 (April 2014 - March 2015).

### *Deployment of RAN expertise at the request of Member States*

The Commission promotes the deployment of RAN expertise at the request of national authorities. In the coming year, five such deployments of RAN experts are budgeted. Requests should be submitted to the Commission who will assess and decide on which requests will be authorised. The RAN Secretariat will coordinate the actual deployment of expertise. Conditions are that the topic is targeted at radicalisation leading to terrorism or violent extremism, and that appropriate RAN experts are available to deliver this support. Up to four RAN experts will visit the Member State once or twice. Also, during a limited period of time, the RAN experts will provide their expertise by email exchange. National strategies, policy and project plans may be reviewed, concrete questions may be answered, etc.

### *Supporting 6 national (RAN) groups*

National groups of RAN practitioners have already gathered in a limited number of Member States. The RAN Secretariat will support 6 national RAN groups. At the request of a national authority, the RAN Secretariat will connect RAN practitioners from that Member State with the national authority. One or two national group leaders, to be recruited by the national authority, are needed to assist in setting up such a group. The RAN Secretariat will provide limited assistance and guidance to the national group leader(s), providing documents, contact databases and suggestions in setting up a secretariat.

## RAN DNA Train-the-trainer courses

As local and sectorial circumstances are crucial in training practitioners, there is no 'one size fits all' training. Effective training needs to be tailored to national and perhaps even local circumstances, taking the sectors of the involved practitioners in mind. Therefore, RAN will not develop a blueprint training set in stone, but is tasked to conduct a train-the-trainer course.

The Commission budgeted the conducting of the RAN DNA Train-the-trainer course in five Member States. National authorities requesting the course to be deployed in their country, are requested to recruit 10-15 trainers. They don't have to be full time trainers, but can also be engaged practitioners with training skills and experience. The RAN DNA Train-the-trainer course will be delivered in English, but all training material will be available in the national language too, allowing trainers to tailor the training to

national and sectorial circumstances and conduct it themselves to practitioners. The RAN DNA Train-the-trainer course can be offered between September 2014 and March 2015, as the coming months are used to develop it, by harvesting the many experiences several RAN working groups have with offering radicalisation awareness trainings.

## Workshops on exit strategies

Even with excellent prevent work, not all radicalisation and violent extremism can be prevented, and de-radicalisation and/or disengagement of extremists remains a necessity. In several Member States exit strategies have proven to be successful in specific cases. RAN will organise three workshops on both disengagement programmes, dissuading extremists from using violence, and de-radicalisation programmes, leading to the renouncing of both violence and underlying ideology. These three workshops will be organised in cooperation with Member States who wish to attend them. At each workshop some 20 attendees will participate, to be selected by both the involved Member States and the relevant RAN working groups. The working language will be English. The reports of the workshops will be translated in the languages of the participating Member States. RAN will provide travel and accommodation of all attendees to the workshops.

## Working Group activities since the last RAN Update

- On **27 February** RAN POL had a one-day preparatory meeting in **Bucharest (Romania)** to prepare the regional meeting for Central-Eastern European Member States in June. The preparatory meeting focussed on the situation, challenges and needs of those Member States. All the participating countries described similar situations and challenges. The main subjects on the agenda for the regional meeting were right wing extremism (often affiliated with football hooligans), lone wolves, awareness training for police officers and education and radicalisation awareness raising programmes.
- RAN INT/EXT was invited by the Portuguese authorities to come to **Lisbon** on **12 March** to provide them with information on the RAN, the RAN Collection of Practices and the phenomenon of foreign fighters. Some 80 practitioners attended the meeting. After presentations by DG Home, the RAN Secretariat and the INT/EXT Working Group leaders on the above mentioned topics, there was a lot of room for discussion with the practitioners on the Portuguese situation. The meeting provided a stepping stone for the Portuguese to develop a national strategy.
- On **9-10 April** in **Paris**, RAN VVT discussed how organisations of victims of terrorism can disseminate messages that prevent terrorism and violent extremism by using internet and social media. In contrary to the situation where victims speak in class rooms (testimony videos), the target audience and the impact of the communication of victim organisations via the Internet is unknown. The current appearance on the web and social media from victims organisations and other organisations that try to influence society by social media and Internet were studied. First results of the session will be put in a 'do's and don'ts document', which will be an ongoing document to be further updated during working group meetings to come.
- On **23 and 24 April**, RAN P&P had a meeting in **Bucharest** with a focus on training prison and probation staff. Competences to respond to radicalised prisoners is a big challenge. Therefore the training of staff is an important recommendation in preventing and countering radicalisation in the prison and probation setting. Apart

from several presentations of training approaches of different Member States, a large part of the meeting consisted of break out sessions in which participants worked together to get a clearer understanding of the need, prerequisites, content, form and target group of training. The aim of the meeting was to work towards practical and concrete recommendations about training in a prison and probation setting.

## Activities coming up

- **RAN@** will discuss the results of a counter narrative pilot campaign during a meeting on **1 May** in **London**. The purpose of the meeting is to focus on how to review the 4-week pilot campaign of a counter-narrative video. This will be partly based on the parameters set at the end of year 2 and in the preparatory meeting on 29 January in terms of views, likes, etc., but will also focus on some general lessons learned based on this first campaign. Based on these lessons, the meeting will be used to decide what this means for the RAN@ strategy and actions during year 3.
- The **RAN Steering Committee** will come together on **15 May** in **Brussels**. On the agenda are the preparations for the RAN Plenary and the High Level Conference in June, the ISF Police funding of CVE projects, Horizon 2020 and the nominations for the 3<sup>rd</sup> edition of the RAN Collection of practices.
- On **21 and 22 May**, the RAN Secretariat and involved RAN members will hold a small meeting in **London** to gather input for building blocks in the development of the **RAN DNA Train-the-trainer** course that will be offered to Member States.
- **RAN INT/EXT** will hold a meeting on **26-27 May** in **Berlin** on reintegrating foreign fighters with a focus on family support structures. The aim of the meeting is to create a workable model for reaching out to families, a de-radicalisation methodology and aspects of healthcare. This will bring together and summarise all the previous knowledge accumulated on the topic of foreign fighters and how these good practices and lessons learned should be implemented.
- On **3 and 4 June**, **RAN POL** will have a regional meeting for Central-Eastern and Southern Europe in **Zagreb**. RAN POL will present and discuss the current situation in the region and the Member States (Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Croatia, Hungary, Poland, Romania, Slovakia and Slovenia) from the police perspective.
- The **RAN Plenary** will take place on **16 June** in **Brussels**. Each of the eight working groups will select a delegation and discuss the lessons learned in year 2 and foreseen dilemmas in year 3. The Plenary will be a platform for knowledge exchange across the different working groups. On **17 June** Commissioner Cecilia Malmström will host a **High-Level Conference** in **Brussels**. Similar to the High Level Conference organised in January last year, this second conference - "**Strengthening the EU's response to violent extremism: From ideas to action**" - will bring together policy makers and practitioners to discuss ways to effectively tackle the current challenges of radicalisation towards terrorism and violent extremism. These discussions will take place against the background of the Commission's recent Communication on Preventing Radicalisation (COM (2013)941 of 15 January 2014) and the forthcoming revision of the EU Strategy on Combating Radicalisation and Recruitment to Terrorism.

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