

# RAN Update 16

October, 2014

*This is an update on the activities 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 1300 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.*

## Working Group activities since the last RAN Update

### **RAN PREVENT prepared to reach out to education**

- The RAN PREVENT meeting on 26 and 27 June in Barcelona focussed on education and how to empower teachers of secondary/high schools (pupils 12-20 year old) to hold conversations with individuals or groups in tense, sensitive or even highly challenging classrooms. The meeting prepared for a big RAN PREVENT meeting in March 2015 when the working group will reach out and engage with the educational field. The preparatory meeting honed practices and principles and learnings from the RAN PREVENT legacy.

### **Professional exchange in South Eastern Europe with RAN DERAD**

- A RAN DERAD regional meeting was held on 17 and 18 July 2014 in Sofia. For this meeting RAN DERAD focussed on the local situation in Bulgaria, Greece and Rumania. Local practices and approaches were shared. One of the main subjects was sports. Sport grounds and stadiums can be places for recruitment or action for extremist organisations. But sporting events can also bring together people from different cultures and backgrounds and improve positive integration and social inclusion.

### **RAN Prison and Probation explores internal and external influences**

- On 16 September RAN P&P held a meeting in Oslo to discuss the upcoming plenary meeting on 11 and 12 December in Rome. The RAN P&P plenary meeting will focus on the 'internal' influences (prisoners society, prison order, staff relations) and 'external' influences (probation officers, imams, independent experts) on the radicalisation process of individuals in the system. In this regard, attention will also be paid to the challenge of foreign fighters coming into prisons. One of the speakers will be Alison Lieblich, Professor of Criminology and Criminal Justice at the University of Cambridge.

### **Mid year 3 RAN Steering Committee goes through the state of play**

- On 24 September the Steering Committee came together in Brussels to discuss the state of play of all eight working groups, the RAN offers to Member States, and the foreseen deliverables of RAN activities in year 3. The Commission gave an update on the ongoing work and priorities for the upcoming months. Other topics on the agenda were the RAN research proposals for Horizon 2020 and the RAN Collections of promising practices.

## RAN offers for MSs

### Deployment of RAN expertise to three Member States

- RAN deploys its expertise to Member States having expressed an interest; so far Sweden, Slovakia and the Netherlands successfully applied. Following an initiative by the former Minister for Democracy and EU-affairs Birgitta Ohlsson, RAN co-organized a conference on foreign fighters in Stockholm (Sweden) on 28 August. The conference, which focused on preventive measures, attracted over 100 practitioners from Swedish cities, NGO's and national agencies which deals with the problem on how to prevent Swedish citizens to take part in armed conflicts and in terrorist actions in Syria and Iraq. Several RAN experts from Denmark, the United Kingdom, Belgium, Sweden and the RAN Secretariat contributed by delivering presentations. The conference was very successful and highly appreciated among the Swedish participants.

Slovakia asked for RAN support on reviewing the current draft National Strategy on Countering extremism for 2015-2019. RAN experts from Spain, the Netherlands, the Czech Republic, the United Kingdom and the RAN Secretariat met with several Slovakian policy makers on 3 October in Bratislava.

Finally, the Netherlands will be supported by to be selected RAN experts to develop a communication and information strategy. A pilot city will be selected soon, to test such a strategy, which should result in providing affected communities and practitioners with factual government information on CVE related issues.

As RAN can support five Member States with such expertise, there is still the possibility for two national authorities to apply, preferably before the end of 2014.

### RAN Train-the-Trainer workshops

- Together with leading European specialists in the field of radicalisation awareness trainings, the RAN Secretariat developed a RAN Train-the-Trainer workshop. Workshops will be held in Portugal, Romania, the Netherlands, Slovenia and Spain between October 2014 and March 2015. These two-day Train-the-Trainer workshops will be delivered by experts from both RAN working groups and RAN Secretariat and are addressed to trainers from these 5 Member States. The workshop enlarges the awareness of radicalisation of practitioners and shows what different practitioners can do to recognise, share information, prevent and counter radicalisation. The first day of the workshop the participants will experience the workshop as participants. The workshop has got three pillars:

1. The phenomenon, the sense of urgency, the local threat (awareness raising)
2. The understanding of the process of radicalisation, recruitment, vulnerability and the factors that play a role. How to recognise?
3. Actions and interventions: what do practitioners need to do? Why is it necessary to share information and co-operate? How to act?

The second day is used to reflect on the workshop and then deconstruct the workshop and instruct the participants. The workshop is designed to enable participants to feel comfortable to deliver a workshop themselves.

### Three RAN Exit workshops

- RAN has the capacity to offer 3 exit workshops to in total twelve Member States. Following an expression of interest, delegations of the following Member States attended: Portugal, Belgium, Denmark, Spain, Cyprus, Slovenia, the Czech Republic, the Netherlands, Hungary, France, Finland and Estonia. The RAN Exit workshops took place on 6, 8, 9 October in Vienna and focussed on both disengagement programs, dissuading extremists from using violence, and de-radicalisation programs, leading to

the renouncing of both violence and underlying ideology. To meet these objectives, the workshop contains three building blocks:

1. An awareness raising function designed to increase participant's awareness of radicalisation and the policy options to address these.
2. An interactive function designed to engage senior managers in actively shaping the policy options through reflection on good practice.
3. An information function designed to suggest principles of good practice.

The aim of the workshops is to inform, inspire and empower attendees to develop and enhance exit strategies in their countries. As Member States face different challenges, the one -day workshops focus on different forms of radicalisation leading to violent extremism. On 6 October the focus was on Right-wing Violent Extremism and on 8 and 9 October the workshop discussed Islamic Violent Extremism and Foreign Fighters. RAN experts from the United Kingdom, Austria, Germany and the RAN Secretariat deliver their expertise.

#### **National networks of prevent practitioners**

- The RAN Secretariat can offer limited support in setting up a national network in 6 Member States. Belgium received such support, and had a first meeting to discuss the start-up of the national group last June. Practitioners in Spain, Italy, the Netherlands and France plan to set up national groups or have done so already. Support from the RAN Secretariat will be provided after a request by the national authorities.

## **Up-coming Activities**

#### **Tailor-made meeting for South Eastern Europe by RAN POL**

- The RAN POL regional South Eastern Europe meeting will be held in Zagreb, Croatia on 15 and 16 October 2014. The programme is based on the needs and initiatives as expressed by the participating countries: Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Croatia, Romania, Slovakia and Slovenia and Hungary. The national and regional situation of radicalisation will be presented and discussed. Furthermore the programme focuses on the subjects of right wing extremism, radicalisation awareness training, police engagement with education, lone wolves and self radicalisation.

#### **RAN HEALTH on tour in three EU regions**

- RAN Health is organising three regional meetings in order to provide more local support to Member States and increase the ability to network more closely with other members of the RAN Health working group. On 21 October, health practitioners from Baltic, Nordic and Western countries will meet in Amsterdam. On 22 October, the Eastern regional meeting will take place in Vienna. And on 23 October, the Southern regional meeting in Lisbon is planned.

#### **RAN VVT seeks cooperation with media**

- A RAN VVT meeting on 25 and 26 November in Berlin will deal with the media and how to steer victims to deliver their testimony. The meeting will also discuss how to motivate the media to focus more on victims or victims organisations instead of predators. The meeting will also discuss how to motivate the media to focus on victims instead of perpetrators. Journalists will be invited to participate.

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