

# EX Post Paper

## RAN POL Points of Contact

### Summary

The Radicalisation Awareness Network Police and Law Enforcement (RAN POL) Working Group Points of Contact (PoCs) constitute an important link between RAN POL and police organisations across Europe. RAN POL used the first meeting of 2017 to optimise its working relationship with these PoCs and discuss future plans. The RAN POL PoCs help to identify and select suitable participants; in order to do so successfully, it is vital that they receive detailed profile descriptions as early as possible. RAN POL will send an attractive one-pager outlining the meeting's findings, to help PoCs disseminate these lessons learned.

Initial suggestions for topics in 2018 include evaluating police practices of countering violent extremism (CVE), exploring the links between radicalisation and mental health, dealing with 'lone wolves', considering the role of the police in tackling radicalisation on social media and learning lessons from crime prevention.

This paper is written by **Steven Lenos** and **Wessel Haanstra**, RAN Centre of Excellence.

The views expressed in this paper are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the RAN Centre of Excellence, the European Commission or any other institution or participant of the RAN POL working group.

## **Introduction**

The RAN POL Working Group provides a space for police to share experiences, present projects and discuss matters related to the role of the police in preventing radicalisation and violent extremism. Material presented in this working group will help police forces in European Member States to find local solutions.

National PoCs serve as vital lifeline between the RAN POL meeting room and police organisations. Collaboration between RAN POL and PoCs is crucial for the success of the working group. For this reason, the first RAN POL meeting of 2017 was completely devoted to optimising working processes and enhancing cooperation with PoCs.

This paper will consider the position of RAN POL within RAN and examine the possibilities and limitations of this framework, while revisiting some of RAN POL's past deliverables. Furthermore, working processes and related tasks for future RAN POL meetings are described in detail. This paper is primarily intended for the RAN POL PoCs, but will also be of interest to others involved in the RAN POL Working Group or the broader RAN family.

### **RAN POL and the RAN framework**

RAN POL is one of the nine working groups of the Radicalisation Awareness Network (RAN). In RAN working groups, frontline practitioners share their extensive knowledge and first-hand experience, and peer-review each other's practices. RAN also serves as a platform where practitioners, researchers and policymakers tackling radicalisation can pool their expertise.

RAN does not implement or fund projects directly. However, EU Member States can call upon the RAN Centre of Excellence (CoE) to provide tailored support for national efforts to tackle radicalisation leading to violent extremism <sup>(i)</sup>. Support is provided in three forms: train-the-trainer courses; workshops on a specific topic for a group of Member States; and deployment of a RAN advisory team. The European Commission covers the costs of these forms of Member State support.

For more details on the structure and objectives of RAN, see the video [Introducing RAN - Europe's Radicalisation Awareness Network](#) <sup>(ii)</sup>.

### **Selecting topics and deliverables for 2016**

RAN POL will focus on the most urgent and pressing topics challenging police forces in terms of the prevention of radicalisation and violent extremism. To ensure that the most relevant topics are selected, RAN POL drafts the programme of the following year during the RAN Plenary, in collaboration with practitioners and experts from the field. The RAN POL PoCs provide input for the following year's programme via a survey.

In 2016, the topics covered by RAN POL were 'Training programmes for police officers in Europe' <sup>(iii)</sup>, 'Successful and effective engaging with communities' <sup>(iv)</sup>, 'The collaboration between police officers and local authorities' <sup>(v)</sup>, and 'The role for police officers in multi-agency working and information sharing' <sup>(vi)</sup>.

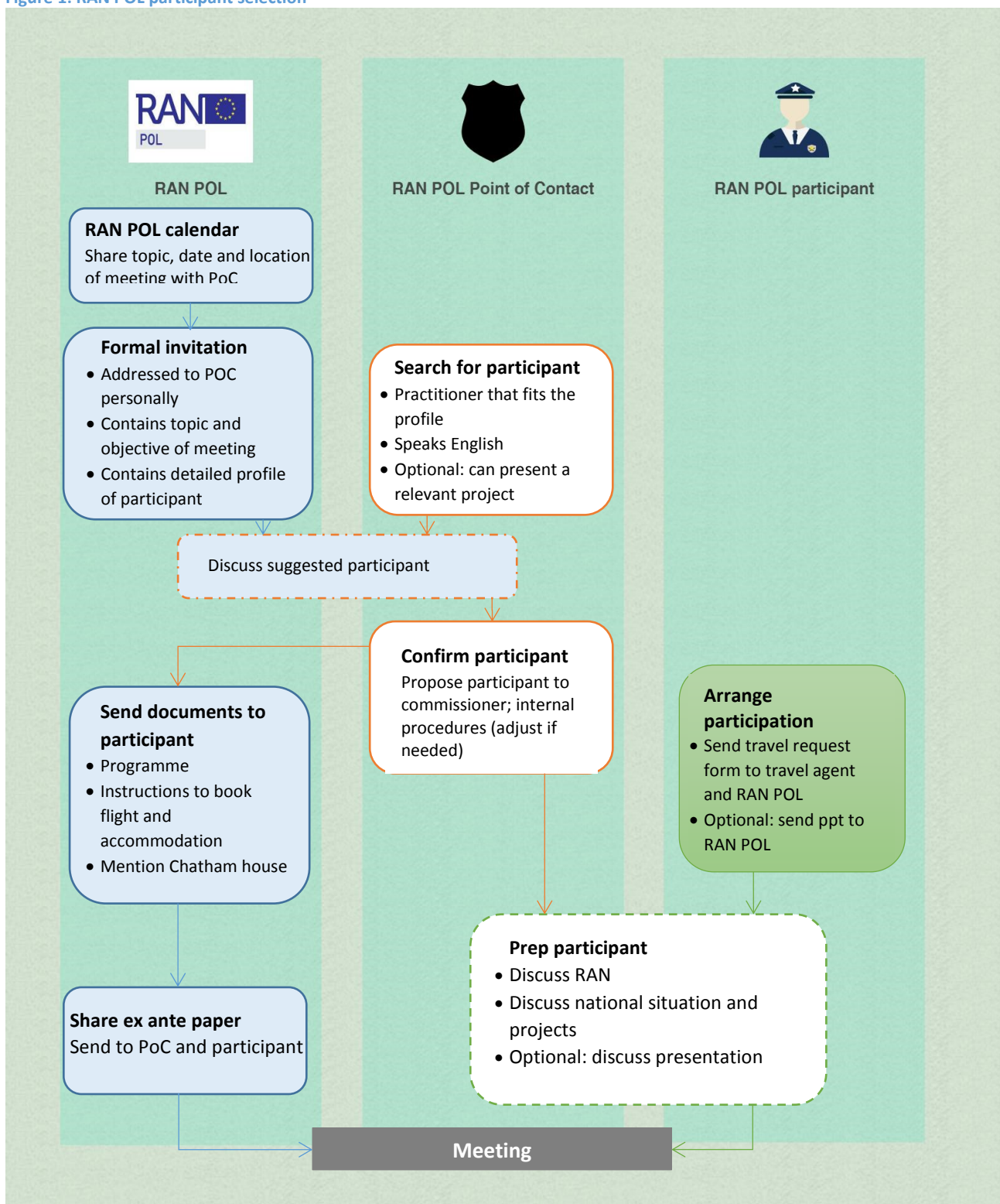
### **Initial proposals for topics in 2018**

Some of the first suggestions for 2018 to emerge are the evaluation of police CVE practices, the relationship between mental health and radicalisation, 'dealing with lone wolves', the role of the police in dealing with radicalisation on social media, and learning lessons from crime prevention.

## Selecting RAN POL participants

To best identify and select suitable participants, RAN POL and the PoCs follow the agreed working process shown in Figure 1.

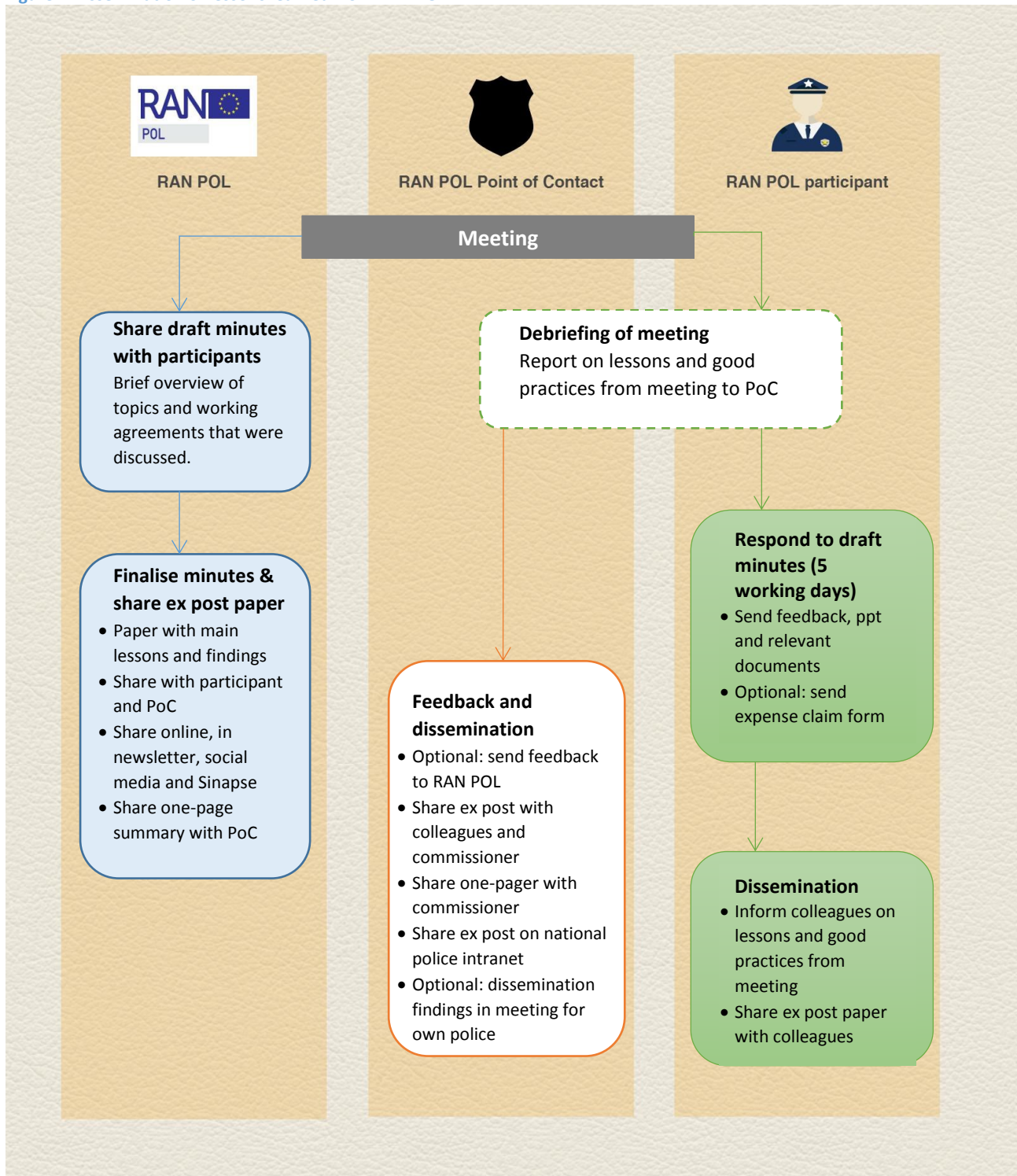
Figure 1: RAN POL participant selection



## Disseminating RAN POL lessons learned

The exchange between experts in RAN POL meetings generates valuable knowledge. However, this information should not be limited to meeting participants. It is key to disseminate these findings throughout the EU: this process involves RAN POL, PoC's and the participants.

Figure 2 Dissemination of lessons learned from RAN POL



## Annexes and additional reading

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(<sup>i</sup>) Tailored RAN support for Member States:

European Commission. (2017, May 3). RAN and Member States. Retrieved from [https://ec.europa.eu/home-affairs/what-we-do/networks/radicalisation\\_awareness\\_network/ran-and-member-states\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/home-affairs/what-we-do/networks/radicalisation_awareness_network/ran-and-member-states_en)

Member state support leaflet 2017:

Radicalisation Awareness Network. (n.d.). Member State support 2017. Retrieved from [https://ec.europa.eu/home-affairs/sites/homeaffairs/files/what-we-do/networks/radicalisation\\_awareness\\_network/ran-news/docs/member\\_state\\_support\\_leaflet\\_en.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/home-affairs/sites/homeaffairs/files/what-we-do/networks/radicalisation_awareness_network/ran-news/docs/member_state_support_leaflet_en.pdf)

(<sup>ii</sup>) Introducing RAN - Europe's Radicalisation Awareness Network:

Radicalisation Awareness Network Centre of Excellence. (2016, October 13). Introducing RAN - Europe's Radicalisation Awareness Network [Video file]. Retrieved from <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Z8Vy7wxQ-ik>

(<sup>iii</sup>) RAN POL's Guide on training programmes for police officers in Europe:

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(<sup>iv</sup>) RAN POL ex post paper: Successful and effective engaging with communities:

Radicalisation Awareness Network. (2016). RAN POL ex post paper: 'Successful and effective engaging with communities'. Retrieved from [https://ec.europa.eu/home-affairs/sites/homeaffairs/files/what-we-do/networks/radicalisation\\_awareness\\_network/about-ran/ran-pol/docs/ran\\_pol\\_ex\\_post\\_paper\\_oslo\\_en.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/home-affairs/sites/homeaffairs/files/what-we-do/networks/radicalisation_awareness_network/about-ran/ran-pol/docs/ran_pol_ex_post_paper_oslo_en.pdf)

(<sup>v</sup>) RAN POL ex post paper: Joint meeting RAN POL & RAN LOCAL 'Who is in charge?':

Radicalisation Awareness Network. (2016). RAN POL ex post paper: 'Joint meeting RAN POL & RAN LOCAL: Who is in charge?'. Retrieved from [https://ec.europa.eu/home-affairs/sites/homeaffairs/files/what-we-do/networks/radicalisation\\_awareness\\_network/ran-papers/docs/joint\\_meeting\\_ran\\_pol\\_and\\_local\\_berlin\\_20-21\\_october\\_en.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/home-affairs/sites/homeaffairs/files/what-we-do/networks/radicalisation_awareness_network/ran-papers/docs/joint_meeting_ran_pol_and_local_berlin_20-21_october_en.pdf)

(<sup>vi</sup>) RAN POL ex post paper: The role for police officers in multi-agency working and information sharing:

Radicalisation Awareness Network. (2017). RAN POL ex post paper: 'The role for police officers in multi-agency working and information sharing'. Retrieved from [https://ec.europa.eu/home-affairs/sites/homeaffairs/files/what-we-do/networks/radicalisation\\_awareness\\_network/about-ran/ran-pol/docs/ran\\_pol\\_role\\_for\\_police\\_officers\\_utrecht\\_212016\\_en.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/home-affairs/sites/homeaffairs/files/what-we-do/networks/radicalisation_awareness_network/about-ran/ran-pol/docs/ran_pol_role_for_police_officers_utrecht_212016_en.pdf)