

RAN Update 19

February, 2015

This is an update on the activities of the Radicalisation Awareness Network (RAN). You receive this e-mail, as do some 1500 other people, if 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 and suggest others to subscribe.

RAN representation at White House CVE Summit

On 18-20 February 2015, the White House Summit to Counter Violent Extremism took place. On the first day, over one hundred representatives of civil society and practitioners, mainly from the US, gathered at the White House premises. Omar Ramadan, present on the first two days as the head of the RAN Secretariat, noticed a clear appetite among both US practitioners and authorities to supplement repressive policies with prevent strategies. Los Angeles, Boston and the twin cities Minneapolis-St. Paul presented practices such as community policing and engaging with the Somali diaspora. Academics stressed the need to include mental health, and explained the difficulty to counter extremist cells without a clear hierarchy. Representatives from the Internet industry flagged the necessity of a constructive tone and a credible messenger - i.e. not authorities - for narratives countering extremist propaganda. Successful counter narratives, such as www.abdullahx.com (www.youtube.com/abdullahx), were presented by Sasha Havlicek of ISD and Scott Carpenter of Google Ideas, who also chair the RAN @ working group.

The second day was a ministerial conference, attracting 60 ministerial delegations and some 50 academics, practitioners and representatives from the private sector and civil society. RAN working group leaders Magnus Ranstorp and Robert Örell were among the invitees, as were three other RAN members.

US President Barack Obama delivered interventions on both days, underlining the need to not only counter terrorism, but prevent radicalisation as well. He categorised the claim of the so-called Islamic State that the West is at war with Islam as a lie, and warned not to feed that claim by securitising the government's relation with Islamic communities. He considered formers and practitioners to be best placed in preventing radicalisation.

In a session on education, with ministers from Norway, Chad, Spain, Switzerland and Libya, Omar delivered an intervention on RAN's lessons learned regarding this issue. Matching the fabric of the RAN, he introduced five teachers and their experiences, instead of general recommendations:

- A French teacher, confronted with students joking about extremism, invited a victim of terrorism, who convinced his class that extremism can be lethal.
- In Greece, an extremist group stabbed a migrant student and plans to respond to this crime with further violence circulated the school. A teacher included democratic values, debating and negotiating in her lessons, and taught students alternatives to violent problem solving.

- A Danish teacher was trained to detect extremism at a very early stage, and succeeded in planting seeds of doubt in the minds of radicalised students.

Omar advised the high-level policy makers to invest in prevention, to remove the breeding ground out of which terrorism grows, and to take stock of the lessons learned by practitioners, such as these teachers. RAN was referred to by several other speakers.

Working Group activities since the last RAN Update

RAN Experts supported the Netherlands on narratives opposing jihadi recruitment

On 11 and 12 February 2015, the RAN Secretariat supported the Ministry of Security and Justice in the Netherlands in the organisation of a small scale expert session on “identifying potentially effective strategies and approaches to mobilise societal opposition and enhance resilience against radicalisation”, which is one of four priorities in the Dutch Action Programme to Combat Jihadism. The aim of the session was to collectively draft a roadmap for national capacities to support critical narratives and to identify potentially effective small scale local initiatives to support formal and informal key figures to oppose jihadi recruitment and radicalisation in targeted communities at risk. Based on the (theoretical) discussion on day one of the programme, several different initiatives were worked out that enabled the Ministry to draft a roadmap for future actions.

RAN Health focused on mental health and psychological state of radicalised people

After three regional meetings, the RAN Health working group organised a plenary meeting on 19 and 20 February 2015 to update the working group on the previous meetings, developments in the Member States and comment on the policy recommendations and deliverables. In this meeting the working group focussed on the mental health of radicalised people. Four researchers presented their vision on radicalisation, and the psychological state of radicalised people. Furthermore, the working group will produce a paper to illustrate the main needs for practitioners to further integrate, and provide an active role for the health sector in preventing radicalisation.

RAN Train-the-Trainer workshops delivered in Romania and Slovenia



At the end of January and the beginning of February, the RAN Train-the-Trainer workshop was delivered in Romania and in Slovenia. On 27-28 January 2015 the RAN Secretariat co-trained with Peter Walmsley in Bucharest. On 3-4 February 2015 Kelly Simcock was co-trainer in Ljubljana. The Train-the-Trainer workshop aimed to raise the practitioners’ awareness of radicalisation, and demonstrate what different practitioners can do to share information and recognise, prevent and counter radicalisation. The workshop is designed to enable participants to feel comfortable to deliver a workshop themselves. A fifth Train-the-Trainer workshop will be held in Avilla (ES) on 7-8 April.

Upcoming Activities

RAN @ will deliver a training on online counter-narratives

One of the main aims of the RAN @ working group is to empower practitioners to deliver effective counter-narratives. In this light, RAN @ will deliver a training to 20 practitioners from across Europe, who work with radicalised individuals and/or individuals at risk, and:

- are already active (online and/or offline) to spread an alternative message,
- have testimonies of their own experiences as powerful counter-narratives,
- want to take their counter-narrative work to a next level.

The programme of the 1-day training on 2 March 2015 in London consists of knowledge and insights from the RAN @ activities as well as practical, hands-on training from specialists at Google and YouTube on the delivery of counter-narratives.

RAN Prevent organises a big meeting for schools and educators

The RAN Prevent working group is organising a conference on 3-4 March 2015 in Manchester, titled *Holding Difficult Conversations, Empowering Educators and School*. The conference will focus on schools and their contribution to preventing radicalisation. The aim of the event will be the empowerment of teachers and schools to deal with and prevent radicalisation and violent extremism in classrooms. The focus will be on formal education in secondary schools and college (ages 12 to 19), but will include informal education as well. How can we support teachers and schools in their natural role to tackle the challenges that violent extremism causes in schools? How can they be empowered to hold difficult conversations? How can schools create a safe environment and safeguard the pupils from the risk of being recruited or scared? What role can teachers play in making the breeding ground for radicalisers less attractive? Teachers, principals and education professionals from most Member States will attend the event, as well as representatives of Education Ministries to inform national policies with the aim to better serve the needs of schools.

RAN POL focusses on police and community engagement in Madrid (ES)

On 11 and 12 March 2015 RAN POL will organise a plenary meeting on police and community engagement in Madrid. Day one will focus on trends in terrorism and radicalisation, and challenges concerning Foreign Fighters and Violent Extremist Jihadists. Moreover, approaches and lessons learned from different countries' perspectives on Foreign Fighters and Violent Extremist Jihadists will be shared. The second day of the programme will consist of interactive workshops on awareness training, the extreme right and hooliganism and conversation techniques, amongst others. The programme will be concluded with presentations and discussions on different approaches by the police before and after an event, specifically focussed on community engagement.

RAN Expertise will empower the awareness of Greek relevant actors how to tackle radicalization leading to terrorism and violent extremism

The Centre for Security Studies (KEMEA) in Greece, has asked RAN to give input to fulfill its role for research and awareness raising about radicalization and violent extremists at national, regional and international level. On 16 and 17 March 2015 in Athens, experts from the RAN network and the secretariat will be providing expertise for national stakeholders, focusing on prevention measures, deradicalisation methods and multiagency cooperation.

RAN VVT brings victims and formers together in Vienna (AT)

Both victims and formers are involved in programmes that prevent radicalisation to violent extremism. In some projects and countries there is cooperation between the two groups to bring a credible message to e.g. schools or general public. In other situations this does not happen for emotional reasons. On 23-24 March 2015, the meeting in Vienna will look at which good practices are available when it comes to strong messages of formers and victims as well as to the necessary prerequisites that should be met to guarantee safety and build mutual trust.

RAN INT/EXT will discuss successful de-radicalisation practices for Foreign Fighters

On 13 April 2015 the INT/EXT Working Group will convene in Amsterdam (NL). Focusses of the 1-day meeting are the typologies of returned foreign fighters and specific derad interventions and good practices that (have) work(ed) for the respective typology. The meeting is open to practitioners who currently provide derad interventions to returned foreign fighters.

RAN Derad will seek and empower de-radicalisation workers in the Baltics

Participants from Latvia, Lithuania, Estonia, Finland and Poland will gather for a regional meeting in Riga (LV) on 16-17 April 2015. Just as earlier meetings of this kind in other parts of Europe the goal is to identify local practitioners, connect them and let them share experiences on the challenges they meet in their work.

RAN Calendar

March	April
<p>RAN @ <i>Training “How to deliver online counter-narratives”</i> <u>Date and location:</u> 2 March, London (UK)</p> <p>RAN Prevent <i>Holding Difficult Conversations, Empowering Educators and Schools</i> <u>Date and location:</u> 3-4 March, Manchester (UK)</p> <p>RAN POL <i>Police and community engagement</i> <u>Date and location:</u> 11-12 March, Madrid (ES)</p> <p>RAN Expertise <u>Date and location:</u> 16-17 March, Athens (EL)</p> <p>RAN VVT <i>Victims and formers</i> <u>Date and location:</u> 23-24 March, Vienna (AT)</p>	<p>RAN Train-the-Trainer <u>Date and location:</u> 7-8 April, Avilla (ES)</p> <p>RAN INT/EXT <i>Derad Practices for Foreign Fighters</i> <u>Date and location:</u> 13 April, Amsterdam (NL)</p> <p>RAN Derad <i>Regional meeting for the Baltics</i> <u>Date and location:</u> 16-17 April, Riga (LV)</p>

RAN offers for MSs

Deployment of RAN expertise to Member States

- RAN deploys its expertise to Member States having expressed an interest, e.g. on a specific question or topic for which they request RAN's assistance. So far Sweden, Slovakia, the Netherlands and Greece successfully applied. As the RAN can support five Member States with such expertise, there is still the possibility for one national

authority to apply. You can submit an application at HOME-RAN@ec.europa.eu and o.ramadan@radaradvies.nl.

National networks of prevent practitioners

- The RAN Secretariat can offer limited support in setting up a national network in Member States. Support from the RAN Secretariat will be provided after a request by national authorities.

Contact details

The RAN Secretariat is executed by RadarEurope, which is a subsidiary of the RadarGroup:

RAN
Veemarkt 83
1019 DB Amsterdam
The Netherlands
+31 20 463 50 50
ran@radaradvies.nl

Follow the RAN on Twitter via [@RANEurope](https://twitter.com/RANEurope)

http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/home-affairs/what-we-do/networks/radicalisation_awareness_network/index_en.htm