

Together against radicalisation

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RAN 



On Wednesday and Thursday 21st – 22nd October 2020 RAN hosted its 9th annual RAN Plenary event, the one time in the year when RAN practitioners from all Working Groups come together to reflect on the year that has been and look ahead at the year to come. Due to the continued increasing restrictions surrounding the COVID-19 pandemic, it was the first time that the Plenary had been held online. Despite this, over 100 practitioners from the RAN network, representing all fields of work and from every corner of Europe, were able to participate, and, through an exchange of insights and views, together set priorities for our work in 2021. In this RAN Update we reflect on some of the highlights of the event and hear from some of those that participated, from the European Commission, to Working Group leaders and RAN practitioners.

RAN PLENARY

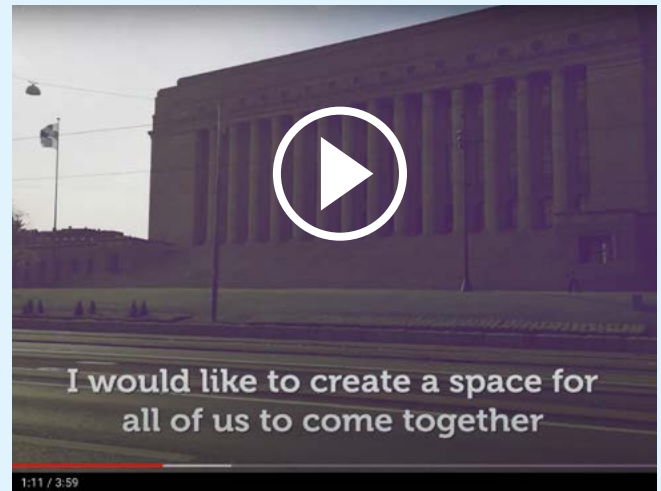
EU Commission – A vision for 2021

In her opening address at the RAN Plenary, EU Commissioner Ylva Johansson called upon the RAN network of practitioners to “make it our mission” in 2021 to build “social cohesion”. Reflecting on the current climate precipitated by the COVID-19 pandemic, Commissioner Johansson said that we must offer vulnerable young people a “sense of belonging” and “show them you are part of ‘us’ (European society) and not ‘them’ (terrorist and violent extremist groups)”. Read more about the opening address [here](#) ▶.



Working Group leaders – An introduction

In the summer of this year, RAN welcomed a new set of 18 Working Group leaders, tasked with leading the activity of nine new Working Groups into next year and beyond. The RAN Plenary represented the first opportunity for them to formally introduce themselves to the RAN network and together set priorities for 2021. A series of short videos – ‘18 people, 18 places’ – which introduced the Working Group leaders and the cities they are from, was shown at various moments throughout the Plenary. In these videos, each of the leaders talked about the work they do, why they wanted to become a Working Group leader and their ambitions for RAN. You can watch some of the videos [here ...](#) ▶



RAN network – A survey



In September this year, a survey was sent out in which practitioners were asked to provide insights that would help each of the RAN Working Groups and their new leaders to carefully plan their work for the coming year. Nearly 1 500 practitioners from the RAN network were asked to complete the survey, representing a fairly even subject matter and geographical spread. Given the current climate, it is no surprise that the impact of the ‘COVID-19 pandemic’ on P/CVE, ‘digital transformation’ and ‘conspiracy theories’ were just some of the topics of most concern to practitioners.

You can read more about the priorities for RAN in 2021 in an upcoming conclusions paper.

“ It was important for the new Working Group leaders to meet with practitioners as what we do and the choices we make will be to satisfy their needs. Coming together for the Plenary also gave a sense of cohesion and unity. Working Group leaders are not alone, the whole of RAN is marching along together!”

Jean-Philippe Fons,

Youth and Education Working Group leader

“ I would love for the group of victims to begin to see themselves not only as a group to commemorate anniversaries and tragic days. I would like it to be seen as a fundamental part of RAN, where victims and the professionals who work with them have an important voice to prevent radicalisation”

Ana Rodriguez,

Victims of Terrorism Working Group leader

“ Together with my fellow co-leader Milla Perukangas we are committed not only to give our best to engage Families Communities and Social Care professionals from all EU Member States, but also to create an environment for mutual learning and exchange of best practices.”

Angela Antonova,

Families Communities and Social Care Working Group leader

“ Sharing a space with all our colleagues from different Working Groups and practitioners from different countries gave me not only new consciousness and interests about P/CVE, but also the confirmation that we are working in the right direction”

Eva Jimenez,

Health Working Group leader

P/CVE in 2021 – New developments



While much has been done to address the P/CVE challenges over the past decade, we continue to see a host of new trends and developing challenges. The RAN Plenary explored three of these, namely the changing Islamist extremism, the growing violent right wing problem and the impact of COVID-19 on the P/CVE environment, particularly the proliferation of conspiracy theories, all of which is giving terrorists and extremists new opportunities to radicalise and recruit. The focus of this year’s Plenary was on how to best prevent and counter violent extremism in these challenging times.

[Read more here ...](#) ▶

UPCOMING EVENTS

Due to the global COVID-19 pandemic, RAN will continue to deliver all Working Group meetings in the coming months online. Further information will be published in future Updates.

NOVEMBER 2020

Victim's Day 2021 preparation

VoT | 3 November 2020

Dealing with the co-existence of formal and non-formal education

LOCAL, Y&E | 4-5 November 2020

Community policing and policing for all: Establishing sustainable trust in police

POL | 11-12 November 2020

Preventing polarisation in communities by creating a shared identity

FC&S, C&N, Y&E and LOCAL | 10-13 November 2020

Impact of strategy and interventions on local level

Webinar | 16 November 2020

Mental health support online

HEALTH | 18-19 November 2020

'The Impact of Conspiracy Theories on Violent RWE and LWE Narratives and how to counter them'

C&N | 24-25 November 2020

Youth isolation, how to get them out of it

Y&E | 26-27 November 2020

Please keep an eye on the [calendar](#) on the RAN website for up-to-date information.

PUBLICATIONS

Helplines and hotlines for preventing and countering violent extremism

A new paper provides insights for practitioners, particularly those working on hotlines/helplines, on the impact of COVID on their work, and details the skills, trainings and training methods that can support them in assessing calls and in staying abreast of developments in the field of P/CVE. The paper also provides tips for practitioners on effective communication, confidentiality rules and psychosocial support. The paper draws on the insights gathered from participants at the Families, Communities and Social Care (RAN FC&S) digital meeting held on 15 and 16 September 2020.

[Read more here ...](#) ▶



CONTACT

RAN is implemented by RadarEurope, which is a subsidiary of the RadarGroup:

Phone: +31 (0) 20 463 50 50 (office)

E-Mail: ran@radaradvies.nl

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