

The Radicalisation Awareness Network



The Radicalisation Awareness Network – a practitioners’ network

The Radicalisation Awareness Network (RAN) connects first-line practitioners around Europe working daily with those vulnerable to radicalisation, as well as those who have already been radicalised. As teachers, social workers, community police officers, etc. they are engaged in preventing and countering radicalisation and violent extremism in all its forms, or in reintegrating violent extremists. Since it was founded in 2011, RAN has attracted over 2 000 professionals from all EU Member States.

RAN Centre of Excellence – a knowledge hub

The RAN Centre of Excellence (CoE) acts as a hub for connecting, developing and disseminating expertise. It supports and coordinates RAN, and fosters an inclusive dialogue between practitioners, policy-makers and academics. The CoE develops state-of-the-art knowledge, and supports both the European Commission – which funds RAN – and the EU Member States. It also helps shape the Commission’s research agenda, and liaises with those implementing ‘prevent’ initiatives inside and outside the EU.

RAN Working Groups – sharing, supporting, learning

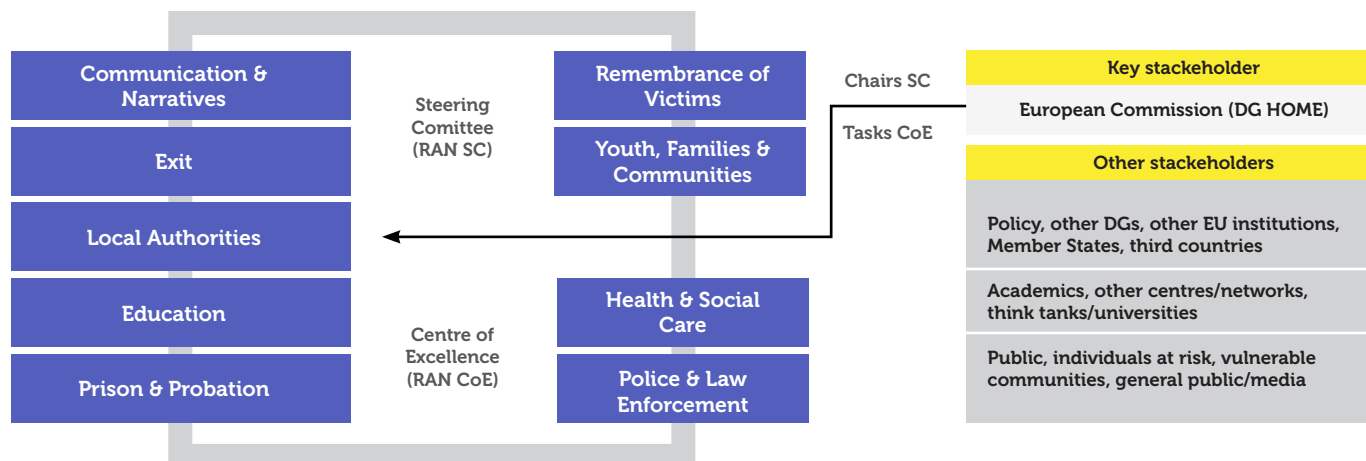
First-line practitioners gather to address local challenges or specific issues related to violent extremism, and exchange with experts on new insights into tackling radicalisation. In Working Groups they meet peers from around Europe, build up new, long-lasting relationships, draw inspiration from one another and peer review best practices.

Communication and Narratives (RAN C&N) – formulating and delivering on- and offline communication tools challenging extremist propaganda and/or providing alternatives to extremist ideas.

Education (RAN EDU) – equipping and empowering teachers and the education sector to deal with radicalisation.

EXIT (RAN EXIT) – focused on deradicalisation and disengagement programmes that help individuals to move from a radicalised and violent mind-set towards mainstream society.

Youth, Families and Communities (RAN YF&C) – examining how best to support and engage youth, families and communities confronted with radicalisation.



Local Authorities (RAN LOCAL) – sharing information between local authorities on local multi-agency approaches and strategies.

Prison and Probation (RAN P&P) – analysing the effects of prison regimes, reintegration programmes and tailor-made interventions for convicted terrorists.

Police and Law Enforcement (RAN POL) – identifying effective police approaches, including training, the use of social media and the forging of trust-based relationships with families and communities.

Remembrance of Victims of Terrorism (RAN RVT) – maintaining a network of victims of terrorism and organising the 11 March European Day of Remembrance for Victims of Terrorism.

Health and Social Care (RAN H&SC) – raising awareness among health and social workers on their role in identifying and supporting those vulnerable to radicalisation.

The RAN Working Groups are each chaired by two frontline practitioners. They join the CoE and the European Commission to form the RAN Steering Committee. Chaired by the Commission, the Steering Committee guides the network and its CoE.

RAN Collection – sharing best practices

The RAN Collection provides insights into the network's expertise and experiences. It presents seven approaches to preventing and countering radicalisation leading to violent extremism – such as 'alternative narratives' and 'family support'. For each approach, the Collection presents the methodology, concrete practices and lessons learned.

First-line practitioners and policy-makers can draw inspiration from this practical, evolving and growing tool, find examples to adapt to their local/specific context, and identify counterparts with whom to exchange prevention experiences.

Policy advice – papers and High Level Conference

Practitioners are not the only beneficiaries of RAN. Responding to the needs of policy-makers and national authorities, the RAN CoE consolidates expertise in accessible Policy and Issue Papers – on the role of gender and online counter narratives, for example – that are also published online.

Ministers and other high-level policy-makers also attend the annual High Level Conference to discuss the prevention of radicalisation with practitioners and other experts.

Supporting EU and non-EU countries – training, workshops and counselling

The wealth of knowledge and practices collected within RAN can be tailored to support national authorities upon request through training, workshops or counselling.

In specific circumstances, similar support may also be available to non-EU countries.

Guiding research – linking practitioners and policy-makers with academics

The RAN CoE editorial board feeds RAN with academic insights into (the prevention of) radicalisation leading to violent extremism. The aim is to disseminate new research findings to practitioners and policy-makers, and to address gaps in the supply of academic research.



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