



Targeted study on the assessment of the Radicalisation Awareness Network (RAN practitioners and policy support)

Final Report

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List of abbreviations

CSO	Civil Society Organisation
DG HOME	Directorate-General for Migration and Home Affairs
EC	European Commission
ESCN	European Strategic Communications Network
EU	European Union
FTF	Foreign Terrorist Fighters
ICT	Information and Communication Technologies
MENA	Middle East and North Africa
MS	Member State
NPPM	Network of Prevent Policy Makers
P/CVE	Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism
PBC	Project-based Collaboration
RAN	Radicalisation Awareness Network
RAN Practitioners	Radicalisation Awareness Network Practitioners
RAN PS	Radicalisation Awareness Network Policy Support
ToR	Terms of Reference
UK	United Kingdom
US	United States
WB	Western Balkans
WG	Working Group

List of Member States

AT	Austria	IE	Ireland
BE	Belgium	IT	Italy
BG	Bulgaria	LT	Lithuania

CY	Cyprus	LU	Luxembourg
CZ	Czechia	LV	Latvia
DE	Germany	MT	Malta
DK	Denmark	NL	The Netherlands
EE	Estonia	PL	Poland
EL	Greece	PT	Portugal
ES	Spain	RO	Romania
FI	Finland	SE	Sweden
FR	France	SI	Slovenia
HR	Croatia	SK	Slovakia
HU	Hungary		

1 Introduction

This Final Report is the third deliverable for the “Targeted study on the Assessment of the Radicalisation Awareness Network (RAN Practitioners and Policy Support)” in relation to the Request for Service HOME-2021-ISF-TF1-FW-EVA2-0053. The study was carried out by EY on behalf of the European Commission, Directorate-General for Migration and Home Affairs (DG HOME).

The report is structured as follows:

- **Introduction**, presenting the objectives and scope of the study, and the methodological approach followed;
- **Overview of the Radicalisation Awareness Network (RAN)**, briefly describing the Network;
- **Results of the study**, presenting the findings stemming from the research activities conducted throughout the study;
- **Conclusions and recommendations**, including challenges identified, recommendations and further suggestions;
- **Appendices**, including the consultation tools, the main limitations encountered and solutions found, as well as a list of information sources relevant to the study.

Besides this main report, the **Annexes** are provided separately. The Annexes include two break-down analyses focused on inputs and information retrieved from consultations with policymakers and practitioners, respectively.

The data collection for this study was limited to field research, as detailed in section 1.2 below.

1.1 Objectives and scope of the study

This study aimed to **provide a comprehensive analysis of RAN’s activities and products in order to examine how they meet the needs of policymakers and practitioners** in the Member States, and to identify potential shortcomings. For the purpose of the present study, policymakers are meant as experts working in the Ministries responsible for preventing and combatting violent extremism (P/CVE) issues, including strategies and action plans, while practitioners are meant as representatives of public authorities working in the field of P/CVE at the local level (e.g. police, social workers, health care experts, teachers, representatives of civil society organisations (CSOs), etc.).

The results of this study will support the European Commission (hereinafter “the Commission”) with the necessary evidence to create an **EU Knowledge Hub on the prevention of radicalisation**.

The study covered both strands of RAN: RAN Practitioners and RAN Policy Support. In line with the Terms of Reference (ToR) (p.6), when considering the RAN Practitioners FWC before 2020, the study only covered activities targeted at practitioners, thus not taking into account those activities that targeted policymakers and researchers. In addition, as of 2021, RAN Policy Support (RAN PS) also included strategic communications support services that previously fell under the European Strategic Communications Network (ESCN),¹ which has now ceased its operations.

The **scope of the study** is shown in the figure below.

¹ The ESCN 2015-2019 was an EU-funded network of European countries, aimed at promoting the sustainable utilization of strategic communications in countering violent extremism. See at: [link](#).

Figure 1 – Scope of the study



Source: EY

1.2 Methodological approach

The methodological approach was developed to collect data that comprehensively address the seven strategic areas of inquiry. The evidence collected during the study was retrieved only from field data collection, including consultations with policymakers, practitioners and researchers. The consultations were conducted via an online survey and targeted interviews. Table 1 below provides an overview of the stakeholder consultation strategy implemented for this study.

Table 1 – Consultation strategy

Stakeholder	Online survey		Interviews	
	Target	Respondents	Target	Respondents
Policymakers	44	33	27	17
Researchers	13	5	3	3
Practitioners	2,000+ ²	220	20	9
TOT	2,057+	258	49	29

Source: EY

1.2.1 Limitations encountered and mitigation actions implemented

In the implementation of the study, a number of limitations were encountered. They are presented in the table below, together with the actions executed to address them.

Table 2 – Limitations encountered and mitigation actions taken

Activity	Limitations encountered	Mitigation actions implemented
Online survey	Respondents answering the wrong survey: Different survey questionnaires were targeted at specific categories of stakeholders, i.e. policymakers, practitioners and researchers. However, recipients of the survey link in turn shared it with colleagues, ending up with cases of stakeholders replying to the wrong questionnaire.	In agreement with the Commission, it was decided to keep all responses and to analyse them within the stakeholder category to which stakeholders actually belong. All survey questionnaires included indeed a starting question asking the respondent to identify him-/herself either as a policymaker, practitioner or researcher, hence it was possible for the study team to determine the specific constituency individual respondents belonged to
Online survey	Low number of responses to the survey for researchers: The survey targeted 13 researchers, but only five replied.	After sending several reminders to researchers who did not respond to the survey, it was decided, in agreement with the Commission, to close the survey for researchers with five responses and to triangulate the survey-based information with additional evidence stemming from the targeted interviews

² The questionnaire was sent to the list of participants of the latest RAN Practitioners events provided by the responsible contractor.

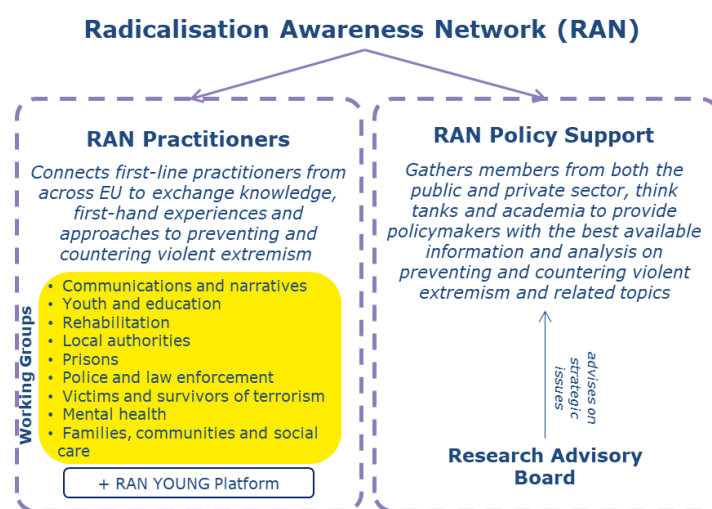
Activity	Limitations encountered	Mitigation actions implemented
Targeted interviews	Fewer interviews were conducted than originally planned: The original plan was to interview 26 policymakers and 20 practitioners, however, only 17 policymakers and nine practitioners accepted the invitation.	After sending several reminders to the stakeholders who did not respond to the invitation, it was decided, in agreement with the Commission, to limit the number of interviews with policymakers and researchers and to triangulate the interview-based information with additional evidence stemming from the online survey.

Source: EY

2 Overview of the Radicalisation Awareness Network

RAN is a cross-disciplinary and cross-border network supporting policymakers and practitioners in their effort to prevent and combat violent extremism across Europe. Established in 2011 by the Commission as a platform for practitioners to exchange experiences, the RAN was restructured in 2020 to include a second strand to support policymakers. The two strands, RAN Practitioners and RAN Policy Support (RAN PS), are guided by an annual programme. The latter is based on the EU level P/CVE priorities approved by the EU Steering Board on Radicalisation.³ The priorities – referred to as Strategic Orientations – set out the main policies to be implemented in the field of prevention of radicalisation.⁴ Each strand is supported and managed by a contractor consortium, led by RadarEurope and CiviPol, respectively.⁵

Figure 2 – Overview of the RAN



Source: EY based on RAN website

RAN Practitioners is a platform in which over 3,200 members connect and learn from one another.⁶ Members include social workers, teachers, healthcare professionals, local authority representatives, police officers, prison officers and civil society representatives, among others. Nine thematic Working Groups⁷ (WG) make up the backbone of RAN Practitioners, hosting up to four meetings per year. In addition, RAN Practitioners organises online and offline meetings, webinars and conferences to share the latest trends and encourage the exchange of first-hand experiences. RAN Practitioners' meetings are followed by conclusion papers. Other

³ Group of experts created to enhance EU efforts to prevent and counter radicalisation leading to violent extremism and terrorism and to improve coordination and cooperation between all relevant stakeholders. See at: [link](#).

⁴ European Union: European Commission, *Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the European Council, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions a Counter-Terrorism Agenda for the EU: Anticipate, Prevent, Protect, Respond*, 09 December 2020, COM(2020) 795 final, available at: [link](#).

⁵ The leader of the consortium managing the RAN Policy Support was involved in the study through interviews. On the other hand, the contractor managing RAN Practitioners did not respond to interview requests.

⁶ European Commission (undated), *Participant database*, web page, accessed 03 April 2023, available at [link](#).

3,200 refers to the number of participants in RAN Practitioners events and activities, while, based on direct exchanges with the Commission, it is acknowledged that the number of participants receiving the RAN newsletter is significantly higher (around 6,000).

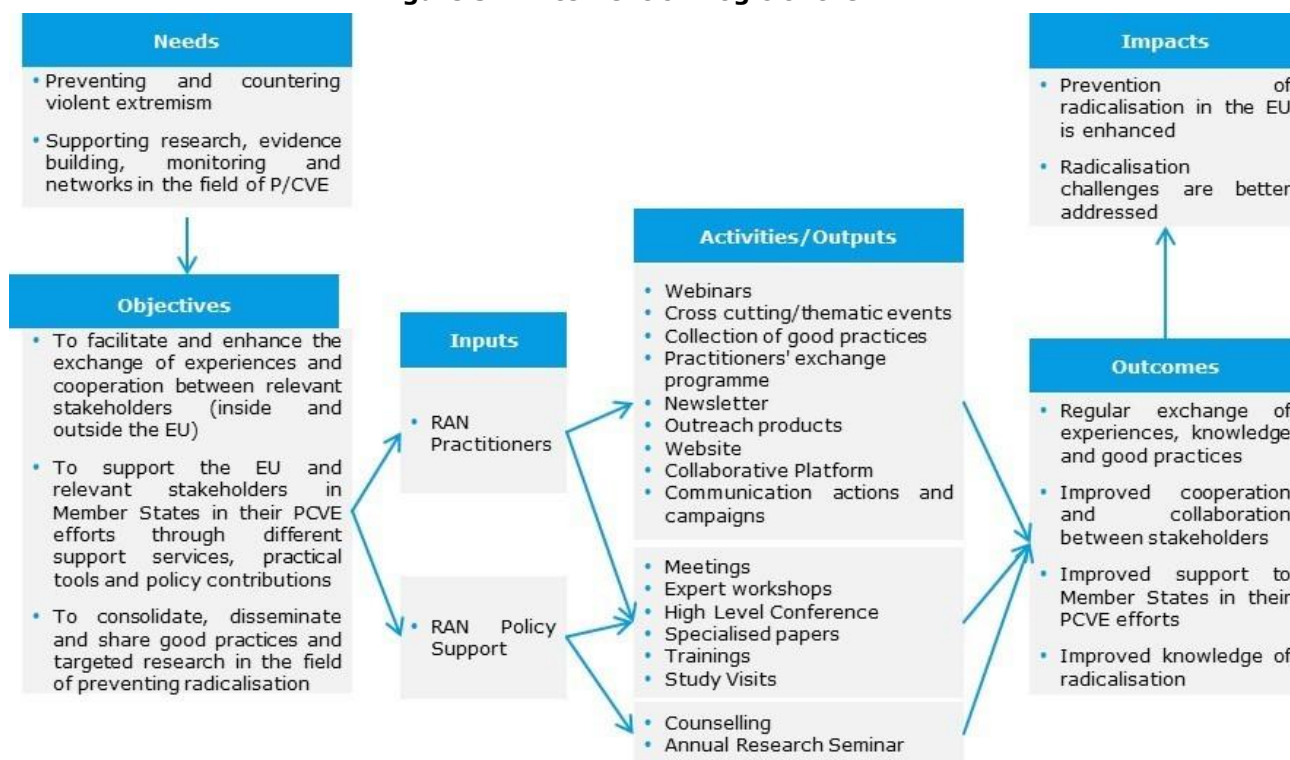
⁷ The nine working groups include: Mental Health Working Group (RAN HEALTH), Communication and Narratives working group (RAN C&N), Youth and Education working group (RAN Y&E), Rehabilitation (RAN REHABILITATION), Local authorities working group (RAN LOCAL), Prisons Working Group (RAN PRISONS), Police and law enforcement working group (RAN POL), Victims/survivors of terrorism working group (RAN VoT), Mental Health Working Group (RAN HEALTH), Families, communities and social care working group (RAN FC&S).

RAN Practitioners' products include practical manuals, guidebooks and the RAN Collection of inspiring practices, which contains over 200 practices and undergoes peer-review.⁸

RAN PS serves policymakers to connect with one another and with researchers to promote the transfer of knowledge based on a holistic and coordinated approach to prevent and combat violent extremism.⁹ Members of the Network of Prevent Policy Makers (NPPM), made up of representatives of all Member States and chaired by the Commission, are invited to RAN PS events and asked to disseminate invitations to their national policymaker networks. Nominated by the Commission, the Advisory Board of Researchers consists of 12 members from research institutions and universities from different Member States, who advise on strategic issues, such as orientation and research priorities at the EU level. RAN PS regularly offers seminars and workshops to discuss and exchange experiences on topics relevant to preventive policies, strategies and action plans. Member States can propose project-based collaborations (PBCs) that are led by Member States in collaboration with the Commission. The objective of the PBCs is to support interested Member States in the implementation of specific initiatives or policies in an agreed-upon priority area, as set out in the Strategic Orientations.¹⁰ RAN PS also offers Member States **tailored support** to consult on and integrate policies regarding radicalisation. This expands on the services previously offered by the European Strategic Communication Network from 2016 to 2020, which were merged into RAN PS competencies in 2021.

Figure 3 below presents the Intervention Logic of the RAN.

Figure 3 – Intervention Logic of the RAN



Source: EY

3 Findings and results of the study

This chapter presents the findings of the study. It is structured around the following seven areas of inquiry in the scope of the study:

⁸ European Commission (undated), *RAN Publications*, web page, accessed 03 April 2023, available at [link](#).

⁹ European Commission (undated), *RAN Policy Support*, web page, accessed 03 April 2023, available at [link](#).

¹⁰ Targeted interview with two policymakers.

- Relevance of RAN activities and products;
- RAN multi-stakeholder approach;
- Added value of RAN;
- Integration of research within RAN activities and products;
- Outreach of RAN activities and products;
- Implementation of the RAN Collection;
- Tailored support provided to the Member States.

3.1 Relevance of RAN activities and products

Key findings:



Both **RAN activities and products contribute to increasing awareness and prevention of radicalisation** in the EU



Overall, **RAN activities are good opportunities to further enhancing the dialogue between different actor profiles** concerned with P/CVE across the Member States



RAN products are appreciated from a topic perspective, though longer format papers can be too time-consuming for busy policymakers and practitioners to read through

Overall, **RAN proved to contribute to a high extent towards the prevention of radicalisation in the EU.**¹¹ RAN has supported the Member States through its wide geographic, multidisciplinary scope and collaborative approach.¹² It has served as an important one-stop-shop providing extensive information on anti-radicalisation across the EU.¹³ RAN was particularly appreciated because it promotes the exchange and dissemination of knowledge and experiences, allowing policymakers and practitioners to be aware of both key issues relating to radicalisation in the EU and good practices adopted across the Member States.¹⁴ Participation in RAN activities has contributed to improving skills, knowledge and capabilities in preventing radicalisation across the Member States.¹⁵

Moreover, **RAN has provided a good opportunity to further enhancing the dialogue between different actor profiles across Member States**, especially in case of in-person events.¹⁶ For instance, during the WP meetings and the study visits, RAN practitioners benefit from connecting with colleagues in different countries and from other disciplines. With specific regard to policymakers, PBCs were considered the most valuable type of activity,¹⁷ engaging stakeholders on issues of particular relevance to them. The PBCs led to actual changes in some Member States' approaches to prevent and contract radicalisation, thus demonstrating their capacity to make a tangible impact.¹⁸ For example, following a PBC in 2022 on repatriated children, one Member State used the lessons learned from that activity to inform their own policymaking on children and youth returnees.¹⁹

The figure below shows the type of activities that emerged as most relevant to policymakers and practitioners, and how they meet their respective needs.

¹¹ Survey targeted at practitioners Q7.1 (closed), 73% (160 of 220); Survey targeted at policymakers Q8.1 (closed), 29 of 33; Targeted interviews with three practitioners.

¹² Survey targeted at policymakers Q8.2 (closed), 26 of 33.

¹³ Survey targeted at policymakers Q8.3 (open): two of ten; Targeted interviews with two practitioners.

¹⁴ Survey targeted at policymakers Q4.1 (closed): 31 of 33, Q8.3 (open): four of ten, Q4.10 (open): two of eight; Survey targeted at practitioners Q4.1 (closed): 90% (199 of 220), Q3.3 (open): three of 113; Q7.3 (open): 46 of 113; Targeted interviews with eight policymakers, six practitioners and two WG leaders.

¹⁵ Survey targeted at policymakers Q2.10 (closed), 94% (15 of 16); Survey targeted at practitioners Q7.3 (open): twelve of 113; Targeted interviews with one practitioner.

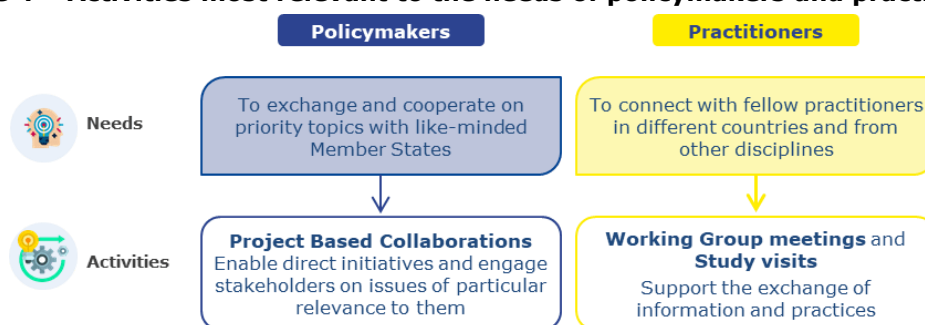
¹⁶ Targeted interview with seven practitioners; Survey targeted at practitioners Q3.3 (open): nine of 133.

¹⁷ Survey targeted at policymakers Q4.10 (open): one of eight, Q8.3 (open): one of ten; targeted interviews with five policymakers.

¹⁸ Targeted interviews with three policymakers.

¹⁹ Targeted interview with one policymaker.

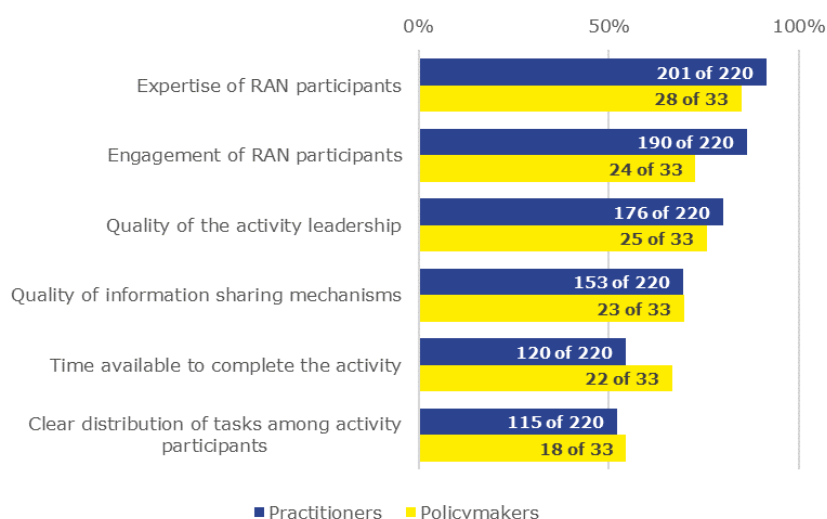
Figure 4 – Activities most relevant to the needs of policymakers and practitioners



Source: EY

Consulted stakeholders pointed to key **success factors** that contribute to **enabling the RAN activities to meet stakeholders needs** (see Figure 5).

Figure 5 – To what extent do you think that the following factors have been crucial in ensuring the success of the RAN activities you have participated in?²⁰



Source: EY surveys targeted at policymakers and practitioners

Despite the confirmed general satisfaction, stakeholders pointed to some areas for improvement. Firstly, while practitioners agreed that the number of annual WG activities is appropriate,²¹ they were **inundated with invitations to events that are not topically relevant to them**.²² Most policymakers consulted agreed that the number of communications relating to RAN events – almost weekly – is too high,²³ and creates an overload for the participants.²⁴ This issue is particularly relevant to Member States where there are only a few professionals working in the field of prevention of radicalisation, thus the same persons are responsible for managing daily tasks at the national level and being expected to attend RAN events.²⁵ Besides constraints in terms of time availability, the excessive frequency of RAN events sometimes results in overlapping activities. More specifically, various events focus on the same topics, leading to information overload and fragmented discussions among a limited number of participants.²⁶ This being said, some of the consulted policymakers considered the number of RAN events to be adequate.²⁷ One of them even positively emphasised the increase in the number of RAN activities

²⁰ Q2.9 (closed) of both survey targeted at policymakers and survey targeted at practitioners. Respondents who answered "completely" and "high extent".

²¹ Targeted interview with five WG leaders.

²² Survey targeted at practitioners, Q2.7 (open): 17 of 129.

²³ Targeted interviews with 11 policymakers.

²⁴ Targeted interviews with nine policymakers.

²⁵ Targeted interviews with three policymakers.

²⁶ Targeted interviews with four policymakers.

²⁷ Targeted interviews with six policymakers.

over the years, as more events allow more participants to attend the meetings, bringing more knowledge to stakeholders in the Member States.

Another challenge raised by the consulted policymakers and practitioners was the **absence of orientation for newcomers to the Network**.²⁸ Newcomers are not provided with on-boarding support or an explanation of the RAN and its full range of activities and products.

In the context of the Network's extensive geographical coverage across the Member States, it is worth mentioning that various RAN activities address challenges specific to certain countries, while others do not face those challenges. Two policymakers interviewed during the study highlighted the regional dimension of prevention issues. For example, regional events where countries with similar situations share their experiences could foster a shift in mindset within public administrations and raise awareness about the importance of prevention. Additionally, it was noted that Eastern Member States could be encouraged to participate more in the discussions.

RAN products provided information that would otherwise be difficult to obtain from academic research, for example, due to security issues or privacy protection reasons.²⁹ More specifically, the **conclusion papers following RAN activities were particularly relevant to stakeholders' needs**, as they provided a comprehensive synthesis of information that can be readily shared among policymakers in different Member States.³⁰ These follow-up conclusion papers produced after WG meetings were considered appropriate in length, style, and language used.³¹ Long-form and research papers are similarly deemed useful for deeper dives for participants with particular interests.³² However, the research papers were criticised as being too long and too theoretical to be useful for policymakers and practitioners who are often short on time.³³ Indeed, the RAN products longer than three-to-four pages are not always read in full. Instead those products, which are easily **read in 15 minutes** or less³⁴ and provide **'ready to use' material, were greatly appreciated**.³⁵

Topically, **RAN's products provided relevant information and analysis**, particularly on prison radicalisation³⁶ and foreign terrorist fighters.³⁷ Other relevant topics that are well-covered by RAN products include prison rehabilitation,³⁸ returning women and children,³⁹ polarisation⁴⁰ and new ideologies,⁴¹ local communities⁴² and strategic communications.⁴³ Finally, the majority of consulted stakeholders agreed that the online dimension of radicalisation is well addressed,⁴⁴ though its constant evolution renders it important for more investigation.⁴⁵

²⁸ Targeted interviews with two policymakers and two practitioners.

²⁹ Targeted interview with one WG leader.

³⁰ Targeted interview with one policymaker.

³¹ Targeted interviews with three WG leaders.

³² Targeted interview with one WG leader.

³³ Targeted interviews with four policymakers; targeted interviews with two practitioners.

³⁴ Survey targeted at practitioners Q4.8 (open): one of 107.

³⁵ Targeted interviews with four policymakers.

³⁶ Survey targeted at policymakers Q4.3 (closed), 25 of 33; Survey targeted at practitioners Q4.3 (closed), 121 of 220.

³⁷ Survey targeted at policymakers Q4.3 (closed), 26 of 33; Survey targeted at practitioners Q4.3 (closed), 134 of 220.

³⁸ Survey targeted at policymakers Q4.3 (closed), 23 of 33; Survey targeted at practitioners Q4.3 (closed), 107 of 220.

³⁹ Survey targeted at policymakers Q4.3 (closed), 23 of 33; Survey targeted at practitioners Q4.3 (closed), 107 of 220.

⁴⁰ Survey targeted at policymakers Q4.3 (closed), 20 of 33; Survey targeted at practitioners Q4.3 (closed), 145 of 220.

⁴¹ Survey targeted at policymakers Q4.3 (closed), 19 of 33; Survey targeted at practitioners Q4.3 (closed), 112 of 220.

⁴² Survey targeted at policymakers Q4.3 (closed), 18 of 33; Survey targeted at practitioners Q4.3 (closed), 119 of 220.

⁴³ Survey targeted at policymakers Q4.3 (closed), 17 of 33; Survey targeted at practitioners Q4.3 (closed), 95 of 220.

⁴⁴ Survey targeted at policymakers Q4.3 (closed), 22 of 33; Survey targeted at practitioners Q4.3 (closed), 147 of 220.

⁴⁵ Targeted interview with two policymakers.

3.2 RAN multi-stakeholder approach

Key findings:



The **RAN promotes a multi-stakeholder approach** to prevent radicalisation at the national level, as evidenced by the establishment of agreements between government agencies and relevant stakeholders in Member States



The **existing division between policymakers and practitioners hinders effective networking and knowledge exchange**, emphasising the importance of enhanced collaboration and dialogue



The **separation between policymakers and practitioners within RAN is seen as artificial and restrictive**, failing to reflect the operational reality on the ground, preventing effective information sharing and inhibiting practitioners' ability to raise pertinent issues for discussion during decision-making processes.

RAN has contributed to **encouraging Member States' adoption of a multi-stakeholder approach** to the prevention of radicalisation at the national level.⁴⁶ For instance, a policymaker interviewed during the study highlighted that RAN played a key role towards the setting up of an agreement between the Government Agency in charge of preventing and combatting violent extremism and the Prison Services in the Member State.⁴⁷ Another policymaker mentioned that the material exchanged during a RAN conference on national policies against radicalisation was used to further develop the national Prevent Network, an initiative to coordinate national authorities, academic institutions and CSOs in the field of prevention and anti-radicalisation.⁴⁸ A further policymaker indicated that the material collected during the participation in RAN activities was used to deliver internal training to local authorities in his Member State.⁴⁹

Yet, though all categories of RAN stakeholders (i.e. policymakers, practitioners and researchers) were involved in RAN activities,⁵⁰ the separation between policymakers and practitioners was considered artificial and rigid.⁵¹ **The current division between policymakers and practitioners was stated to have created siloes**,⁵² both in terms of networking and knowledge exchange.⁵³ Consulted stakeholders claimed that **separating the work of policymakers from practitioners at the EU level does not reflect the operational reality** on the ground.⁵⁴ Indeed, at the national level, policymakers and practitioners often work together in the prevention of radicalisation, and policymakers may work in social services, local or State agencies, etc.⁵⁵ Thus, having a Network composed of two separate strands prevents policymakers and practitioners from being informed and having access to each other's work.⁵⁶ In addition, the division has prevented practitioners from bringing issues of particular relevance to the attention of policymakers so that they can be discussed during decision-making processes.⁵⁷ Some practitioners and policymakers did highlight the importance of having a dedicated space to discuss ideas exclusively among their peers though.⁵⁸

Furthermore, one interviewee claimed that the fact that RAN PS's products remain classified restricts practitioners from accessing specific knowledge. The interviewee pointed to the need

⁴⁶ Survey targeted at policymakers Q4.10 (open): one of eight; Targeted interview with one practitioner.

⁴⁷ Targeted interview with one policymaker.

⁴⁸ Targeted interview with one policymaker.

⁴⁹ Targeted interview with one policymaker.

⁵⁰ Survey targeted at practitioners Q3.1 (closed), 70% (153 of 220); Survey targeted at policymakers Q3.1 (closed), 30 of 31.

⁵¹ Targeted interview with four WG leaders.

⁵² The current division of RAN in two strands has existed from 2021 onwards, when RAN Policy Support became operational.

⁵³ Targeted interview with four WG leaders.

⁵⁴ Targeted interviews with one policymaker.

⁵⁵ Targeted interviews with three policymakers.

⁵⁶ Targeted interviews with one policymaker.

⁵⁷ Targeted interviews with one policymaker.

⁵⁸ Survey targeted at policymakers Q3.3 (open): two of 17; Targeted interview with one policymaker.

for practitioners to have their voices heard by policymakers, a function that RAN once succeeded in, though the current structure prevents this.⁵⁹

3.3 Added value of the RAN

Key findings:



The main added value of RAN is its **wide geographic and multidisciplinary scope**, which **allows for an effective exchange of knowledge and enables the creation of cross-border networking opportunities**



The cross-border, multi-disciplinary nature of RAN **contributes to mutual learning and understanding in the field of prevention of radicalisation**, which **facilitates cooperation within and across Member States**

RAN has successfully spread awareness of Member States' policies on prevention of radicalisation, ultimately giving inspiration to policymakers across the EU. In this regard, RAN events helped provide context on how other countries implement their practices, which is critical to have a clearer picture of what participants might apply in their contexts of origin.⁶⁰ For instance, participants in RAN events gained an understanding of how other countries responded to the post-COVID-19 issues (e.g. new anti-vaccination and anti-government movements), as almost all countries were faced with these similar threats during the crisis.⁶¹ Some specific examples of policy developments adopted thanks to the RAN are presented in the box below.

Box1 – Examples of institutional and policy developments adopted thanks to the RAN

Organisational set-ups:

- Inclusion of new lines of action in the National Action Plans (NAPs) against radicalisation⁶²
- Setting up of Monitoring Committees supporting national policies against radicalisation and violent extremism⁶³
- Implementation of new training courses targeted at policymakers in the field of prevention of radicalisation⁶⁴
- Development of information-sharing agreements among different stakeholders⁶⁵

Prison-related policies:

- Establishment of risk assessment tools in prison⁶⁶
- Setting up of rehabilitation programmes addressed to minors⁶⁷
- Adoption of agreements between prison institutions⁶⁸
- Design of new de-radicalisation and exit-programmes⁶⁹

Source: EY based on stakeholder consultations

At the same time, **RAN products and activities have had a positive impact in supporting the daily work of policymakers and practitioners** concerned with the prevention of radicalisation at the national level.⁷⁰ RAN provides insights that complement and update national preventive anti-radicalisation strategies and plans.⁷¹ The outputs and key messages from RAN events are shared and disseminated during relevant national meetings, further contributing towards a common understanding of radicalisation and related prevention mechanisms.⁷² The

⁵⁹ Targeted interview with one WG leader.

⁶⁰ Survey targeted at practitioners Q4.5 (open): 29 of 132; Targeted interview with one practitioner and two WG leaders.

⁶¹ Targeted interview with one policymaker.

⁶² Survey targeted at policymakers Q4.13 (open): one of six.

⁶³ Survey targeted at policymakers Q4.10 (open): one of eight.

⁶⁴ Survey targeted at policymakers Q4.13 (open): one of six.

⁶⁵ Survey targeted at policymakers Q4.13 (open): one of six.

⁶⁶ Targeted interview with one policymaker.

⁶⁷ Survey targeted at policymakers Q4.10 (open): one of eight.

⁶⁸ Survey targeted at policymakers Q4.13 (open): one of six.

⁶⁹ Survey targeted at policymakers Q4.13 (open): one of six.

⁷⁰ Survey targeted at practitioners Q4.5 (open): 124 of 132; Survey targeted at policymakers Q4.9 (closed), 89% (16 of 18).

⁷¹ Survey targeted at policymakers Q4.10 (open): two of eight; Targeted interviews with two policymakers.

⁷² Targeted interview with two policymakers.

guidelines, good practices⁷³ and updated information regarding emerging issues in the field of radicalisation are particularly relevant to practitioners.⁷⁴

3.4 Integration of research within RAN activities and products

Key findings:



Research is overall well integrated into RAN activities and products, with high collaboration between both policymakers and practitioners with researchers



Dissemination is not optimised as the research products are not included among event preparation materials



A lack of feedback loops and cooperation inhibits researchers' understanding of the actual impact of their research as well as their awareness of other researchers' work products

Overall, the study found that **research is highly integrated into RAN activities and products**,⁷⁵ with high collaboration between researchers and all RAN participant categories.⁷⁶ By guiding policy choices and practical implementation, RAN research has contributed to evidence-based policies and practices regarding new threats.⁷⁷ RAN research has inspired national initiatives against radicalisation, informing the design of training programmes and awareness-raising initiatives among stakeholders, including school and prison personnel.⁷⁸ RAN research has led Member States to adopt gender-specific approaches to radicalisation and polarisation and provides factual data to support rehabilitation programmes in prisons. For instance, in one Member State, research findings shared during one RAN WG meeting were used to improving the risk assessment for individuals during their probationary period following incarceration.⁷⁹ **However, the dissemination of RAN research has not been optimised:** relevant research is not circulated among participants prior to a related RAN activity, a missed opportunity for integration of research findings into RAN discussions.⁸⁰ Not providing participants with relevant RAN research materials prior to the discussion has limited the discussions' potential because of a lack of common foundations and a common framework within the group.⁸¹

Despite the high sentiment of integration, the **absence of feedback loops** between researchers and other RAN participants was a persistent challenge. Researchers were unclear on the extent to which RAN research products have contributed towards the adoption of national evidence-based practices and policies against radicalisation.⁸² As pointed out by one researcher, being better informed on this aspect of research development would be very useful to better serving policymakers and practitioners.⁸³ Another researcher specified that while research is largely integrated into the activities and products of RAN PS, RAN Practitioners has historically given less importance to research – so the impact of their work is unknown.⁸⁴ Regarding RAN products, there was no database wherein the research products are collated and made accessible to all researchers – inhibiting researchers from co-operating and building on the existing knowledge base.⁸⁵

⁷³ Survey targeted at practitioners Q7.3 (open): four of 113.

⁷⁴ Survey targeted at practitioners Q7.3 (open): nine of 133.

⁷⁵ Survey targeted at policymakers Q6.1 (closed), 26 of 33; Survey targeted at researchers Q5.1 (closed): five of five; Survey targeted at practitioners Q5.1 (closed): 56% (123 of 220).

⁷⁶ Survey targeted at policymakers: 19 of 33; Survey targeted at researchers Q3.1 (closed): four of five; Survey targeted at practitioners Q3.1 (closed) 141 of 220.

⁷⁷ Survey targeted at policymakers Q6.2 (closed), 11 of 33; Survey targeted at practitioners Q5.2 (closed), 42% (92 of 220).

⁷⁸ Survey targeted at policymakers Q6.3 (open): three of five; Targeted interviews with four policymakers.

⁷⁹ Targeted interview with one practitioner.

⁸⁰ Targeted interviews with four policymakers.

⁸¹ Targeted interview with one practitioner.

⁸² Survey researchers Q5.2 (closed), 3 of 5.

⁸³ Targeted interview with one researcher.

⁸⁴ Targeted interview with one researcher.

⁸⁵ Targeted interview with one researcher.

3.5 Outreach of RAN activities and products

Key findings:



Outreach of both RAN activities and products is limited, which is reflected in mixed levels of awareness of RAN



RAN activities' outreach is greatly limited by the **non-standardised invitation processes**, which lead to inconsistent outreach and delayed notification to potential participants, resulting in **short-notice and limited participation**



RAN products' outreach is constrained by the **RAN practitioners and RAN PS websites' non-user-friendly designs**, limited searchability, and inability to filter publication results



Both RAN activities and products' outreach are hampered by **language barriers**

The **outreach of RAN activities and products was perceived as limited**,⁸⁶ as also reflected in the **mixed levels of awareness of RAN**. More precisely, whilst most policymakers considered that their Member State is adequately involved in RAN activities,⁸⁷ awareness of RAN Practitioners varied across countries.⁸⁸ Notably, the transition to online activities as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic has contributed to enhancing member participation and awareness.⁸⁹

The **inconsistent, varied invitation processes for RAN activities** partly explained the limited success of RAN's outreach efforts. Often, invitations to both RAN Practitioners and RAN PS events were first sent by the RAN contractor to the NPPM members, who are often also the RAN's national contact points.⁹⁰ In turn, the NPPM members are in charge of sending the invitations either directly to policymakers and practitioners who they believe could attend or to other ministries, agencies and bodies that further disseminate them to other possible participants.⁹¹ Potential participants are identified by the NPPM members on a case-by-case basis, depending on the subject matter of the specific event⁹² – though the target audience⁹³ and level of discussion (broad vs. technical) is not identified. However, only a few policymakers reported receiving invitations from their NPPM member⁹⁴ or from the RAN national contact point.⁹⁵ Some Member States had specific contact points within the relevant institutions, who receive the invitations by the NPPM member and, in turn, are in charge of disseminating them further internally.⁹⁶ RAN Practitioners calls for participants can be published on social media, to which anyone can apply.⁹⁷ Invitations are mainly sent via e-mail, with only one Member State having a dedicated internal portal used to disseminate notices of RAN PS events.⁹⁸

This non-standardised approach sometimes resulted in **short-notice dissemination of invitations** to RAN activities. Relatedly, the main reasons why RAN members sometimes did not attend RAN activities are time constraints and conflicting schedules, including professional duties from their other roles outside of RAN.⁹⁹ For both strands of RAN, the short-notice limited engagement and participation in RAN activities, as the bureaucratic procedures to get the

⁸⁶ Survey targeted at policymakers Q4.7 (closed), 15 of 18.

⁸⁷ Targeted interviews with nine policymakers.

⁸⁸ Targeted interviews with three WG leaders.

⁸⁹ Targeted interviews with three WG leaders.

⁹⁰ Targeted interviews with 13 policymakers.

⁹¹ Targeted interviews with 13 policymakers.

⁹² Targeted interviews with 13 policymakers.

⁹³ Survey targeted at practitioners Q2.10 (open): 29 of 157.

⁹⁴ Survey targeted at policymakers Q2.2 (closed), five of 31.

⁹⁵ Survey targeted at policymakers Q2.2 (closed), four of 31.

⁹⁶ Targeted interviews with two policymakers. In March 2023, outside of the scope of this study, the Commission launched a pilot programme to include dedicated contact points within Member States' institutions to further disseminate invitations. The pilot initiative increased participation rates through personalized invitations, resulting in more policymakers attending the events. Lessons learned suggest using personalized invites alongside save-the-date notifications to encourage early registration and reduce costs. The proposed way forward involves reviewing and updating the list of policymakers annually, aligning it with the global agenda.

⁹⁷ Targeted interview with one practitioner.

⁹⁸ Targeted interviews with 13 policymakers.

⁹⁹ Survey targeted at policymakers Q2.8 (open): 14 of 24; Survey targeted at practitioners Q2.7 (open): 125 of 147; Targeted interview with five policymakers.

necessary approval of attendance are sometimes lengthy and complex.¹⁰⁰ The absence of a regular invitation schedule, such as a monthly or quarterly agenda, resulted in recipients' difficulty in responding to a last-minute, ad-hoc notice.¹⁰¹

Some differences emerged between RAN stakeholder groups. According to policymakers, overall RAN PS invitations were received with sufficient notice, which allowed policymakers to easily disseminate them among national stakeholders.¹⁰² Yet, some consulted policymakers complained that the timing of the invitation is insufficient to plan for their attendance and to present upcoming RAN events during regular internal meetings (i.e. monthly inter-ministerial meetings).¹⁰³ This challenge emerged as particularly relevant to those countries where there are few national policymakers concerned with prevention of radicalisation.¹⁰⁴

Similarly, RAN Practitioners' invitations were not received with sufficient advance notice - sometimes only two weeks¹⁰⁵ - thus limiting participants' time to organise their other professional responsibilities.¹⁰⁶ In particular, in-person events often required travel, which was difficult on short notice.¹⁰⁷ Indeed, despite their popularity, in-person events are much more time-consuming than virtual meetings, as participants come from all Member States and transport connections may not always be efficient. Hence, an event lasting a few hours sometimes required days of travel time.¹⁰⁸

Post-event follow-up was inadequate and there remained room for improvement. The content of conclusion papers impeded outreach as it often lacked adequate context to be understood by a reader who did not attend the event.¹⁰⁹

Other reasons why members did not participate in RAN activities were a **lack of prioritisation of prevention of radicalisation in the national policy agenda**. More specifically, in Member States where the threat of terrorism was not considered pressing (e.g. countries that have never experienced a terrorist attack on their territory), prevention of radicalisation was not always a top priority in the internal policy agenda, thus policymakers found RAN activities less/not relevant to their needs.¹¹⁰ Across both strands, awareness of the RAN national contact point was low and this further limited the participation in and outreach of the Network.¹¹¹ Finally, not all topics were relevant or interesting to the invitees,¹¹² thus individuals may not have been inclined to further disseminate information on events.

Regarding RAN products, the outreach was limited by the **non-standardised dissemination of RAN materials and the RAN websites**. In RAN PS, product dissemination at the national level mainly took place through informal channels, such as word-of-mouth among colleagues, e-mails or the sharing of notes.¹¹³ Only a few policymakers reported using official channels, such as government-run channels, either managed by the Ministry of Interior or the Department of Justice.¹¹⁴ On the other hand, practitioners disseminated the knowledge gained through the RAN to relevant stakeholders in their Member States who were not members of the Network. Dissemination took place through more varied tools than those used by policymakers, including both informal and formal channels, such as reports, workshops, and seminars.¹¹⁵

Relating to the limited context provided by the WG meeting conclusion papers, as described above, the follow-up materials from WG meetings were often only circulated among attendees, and the content was presented in such a way that non-attendees were unable to understand them.¹¹⁶ In one Member State, the written material from the RAN events and training was

¹⁰⁰ Targeted interviews with three policymakers; Survey targeted at policymakers Q2.7 (closed), six of 31.

¹⁰¹ Survey targeted at policymakers Q2.11 (open): seven of 13; Survey targeted at practitioners Q2.10 (open): four of 157; Targeted interviews with two policymakers.

¹⁰² Survey targeted at policymakers Q2.7 (closed), 23 of 31; Targeted interviews with 11 policymakers.

¹⁰³ Targeted interviews with two policymakers.

¹⁰⁴ Survey targeted at policymakers Q2.8 (open): four of 24; Targeted interview with five policymakers.

¹⁰⁵ Survey targeted at practitioners Q2.10 (open), one of 157; Targeted interview with one practitioner.

¹⁰⁶ Survey targeted at practitioners Q2.7 (open): 16 of 147; Survey targeted at practitioners Q2.10 (open), 47 of 157.

¹⁰⁷ Targeted interviews with two practitioners.

¹⁰⁸ Survey targeted at policymakers Q2.8 (open): two of 24.

¹⁰⁹ Survey targeted at practitioners Q2.10 (open): nine of 157.

¹¹⁰ Survey targeted at policymakers Q2.8 (open): three of 24; Targeted interview with two policymakers.

¹¹¹ Targeted interview with three practitioners.

¹¹² Survey targeted at practitioners Q2.7 (open): 28 of 147.

¹¹³ Survey targeted at policymakers Q4.8 (open): six of 11; Targeted interviews with eight policymakers.

¹¹⁴ Survey targeted at policymakers Q4.8 (open): three of 11.

¹¹⁵ Survey targeted at practitioners Q2.7 (open): 63 of 200.

¹¹⁶ Targeted interview with three policymakers.

disseminated via e-mail to the national Network for prevention of extremism and radicalisation, thus allowing for the dissemination of knowledge to colleagues who were not able to attend.¹¹⁷ However, most dissemination took place informally between colleagues, such as with other RAN products described above.¹¹⁸

The **RAN PS and RAN Practitioners websites were reported to be cumbersome, difficult to navigate, and inadequate for users' needs.** Having two separate websites for RAN PS and RAN Practitioners made navigation and searches for materials complicated and confusing, particularly as many members participate in activities of both strands.¹¹⁹ Further complicating the usability, neither of the two sites had an adequate search function or filterable list of results.¹²⁰

Moreover, the RAN PS website was a restricted-access 'wiki' that requires a procedure involving multiple log-in credentials, creating access problems for some users.¹²¹ Upon entry into the wiki, papers are presented as a single list on the website (i.e. not clustered by topics).¹²² One policymaker also pointed out that the absence of notifications when new material was uploaded to the website results in a considerable use of resources to constantly monitor the site.¹²³ From the view of the researchers, most of the research products were uploaded to the restricted RAN PS website, while only a few were made public. As pointed out during an interview with a researcher, such a system raised concerns as researchers cannot access the RAN research products once they are uploaded on the tool.¹²⁴ Indeed, researchers did not have access to the RAN PS website, which is restricted to policymakers participating in the RAN PS. Access restrictions were, however, necessary since the wiki includes confidential information, which cannot be made publicly available.

With specific regard to the RAN Practitioners website, consulted practitioners noted that there was a lack of any filtered search option on the Commission's website, and no possibility to find specific papers or publications via online search engines (i.e. searching the name of a paper on Google will not display results as it is blocked by the EU domain).¹²⁵ Presentation of various WG meetings on their respective pages made it cumbersome for a user to find activities interesting to them, or to forward along to other possible participants.¹²⁶

Finally, the outreach of both RAN activities and products are greatly hampered by language barriers, as many meetings are held in and reports are written in English, and not offered in other Member State national languages.¹²⁷ Policymakers and practitioners are not always proficient in English, thus they may not be able to understand and explain their work. Similarly, the fact that most RAN products are in English makes them less usable by national policymakers.¹²⁸

¹¹⁷ Survey targeted at practitioners Q2.8 (open): one of 200; Targeted interview with one practitioner.

¹¹⁸ Survey targeted at practitioners Q2.8 (open): 26 of 200.

¹¹⁹ Targeted interviews with two policymakers.

¹²⁰ Targeted interviews with five policymakers.

¹²¹ Targeted interviews with four policymakers.

¹²² Targeted interviews with five policymakers.

¹²³ Targeted interview with one policymaker.

¹²⁴ Targeted interview with one researcher.

¹²⁵ Targeted interview with five WG leaders.

¹²⁶ Targeted interview with one practitioner.

¹²⁷ Survey targeted at practitioners Q2.10 (open): four of 147; Survey targeted at practitioners Q4.4 (open): one of 88; Survey targeted at practitioners Q4.8 (open): one of 108; Survey targeted at practitioners Q4.11 (open): one of 106; Survey targeted at practitioners Q4.13 (open): five of 106; Survey targeted at practitioners Q5.3 (open): one of 68; Survey targeted at practitioners Q6.3 (open,open): one of 116; Survey targeted at practitioners Q6.4 (open,open): one of 116; Survey targeted at practitioners Q2.10 (open,open): four of 147; Targeted interview with six policymakers and four practitioners.

¹²⁸ Targeted interview with six policymakers.

3.6 Implementation of the RAN Collection

Key findings:



Despite policymakers and practitioners being generally aware of the RAN Collection of approaches and practices, **transferring such practices to country/local contexts and operationalising them is considered challenging**



More could be done to increase the dissemination and uptake of the Collection, including its format, which is considered quite burdensome

Despite the limitation further explained below in this section, **the RAN Collection of Approaches and Practices serves as a resource for stakeholders to connect and consult with other individuals and organisations** in the field of prevention.¹²⁹ The specificity of the good practices (methods, country, context) is helpful and allows practitioners to obtain knowledge from countries with similar challenges or similar societies, as they otherwise often do not have adequate time to research the practices and understand their transferability.¹³⁰ For instance, the Danish Aarhus model,¹³¹ which has been identified as a RAN good practice for the prevention of radicalisation through co-operation between civil society and the public sector, was mentioned as a source of inspiration for the adoption of such a model across the Member States. More specifically, it inspired the establishment of one Member State's unit for the prevention of radicalisation and family support. Moreover, in the same Member State, policymakers concerned with the implementation of the national approach on prisoners and probation were contacted by colleagues from another Member State in order to receive guidance on how such a model could be adopted in their own country.¹³²

Multi-stakeholder mechanisms have also resulted from the implementation of practices adopted from the RAN Collection, specifically the establishment of regular communications between different actors, as well as the development of standard operating procedures.

Other RAN good practices mentioned during consultations as inspiring national practices concern exit programmes, returnee-related programmes, safety house programmes, and reintegration programmes.¹³³ Finally, the RAN good practices relating to prison and probation systems were also valued by practitioners,¹³⁴ such as guidelines for countering radicalisation in prisons.

Although some good practices in the RAN Collection have been replicated across the Member States, overall the **adoption of practices contained in RAN's Collection of approaches and practices is a challenge** for both policymakers and practitioners.¹³⁵ National good practices are difficult to replicate as their success highly depends on the specific features of national implementation contexts. Differences in legal systems,¹³⁶ structural differences in governance¹³⁷ or differences in culture and mindsets¹³⁸ limit the practical implementation of policies or practices from other contexts. Hence, what works in one Member State may not work one-to-one in others.¹³⁹ Also, as anecdotal evidence, an interview with a policymaker pointed to the lack of political will in adopting practices that proved successful in other Member States.¹⁴⁰

Mixed awareness and dissemination of the RAN Collection between the stakeholder categories limit the utility and implementation of the practices and policies described therein. As

¹²⁹ Survey targeted at practitioners Q6.2 (open): 45 of 82; Targeted interview with one WG leader.

¹³⁰ Targeted interview with one practitioner and one WG leader.

¹³¹ The Danish Aarhus model is a tax-funded government practice which entails a multi-agency intervention in the form of a collaboration between a municipality (Aarhus municipality) and the local Police (East Jutland Police). It also involves the University of Aarhus, the Ministry of Social Affairs and the Danish Intelligence and Security Service as external partners. More information can be found at [link](#).

¹³² Targeted interview with one policymaker.

¹³³ Survey targeted at practitioners Q6.2 (open): nine of 37.

¹³⁴ Survey targeted at practitioners Q6.2 (open): four of 37.

¹³⁵ Survey targeted at policymakers Q7.2 (closed), 13 of 16.

¹³⁶ Survey targeted at practitioners Q6.4 (open): eight of 84.

¹³⁷ Survey targeted at practitioners Q6.4 (open): four of 84.

¹³⁸ Survey targeted at practitioners Q6.4 (open): five of 84.

¹³⁹ Survey targeted at policymakers Q7.5 (open): five of eight; Survey targeted at practitioners Q7.2, "high extent": 2 of 16, "medium extent": 7 of 16, "low extent": 6 of 16; Targeted interviews with three policymakers.

¹⁴⁰ Targeted interview with one policymaker.

to practitioners, their awareness of the RAN collection is fairly widespread.¹⁴¹ Dissemination of RAN good practices takes place during in-person activities, such as practitioners' training,¹⁴² meetings,¹⁴³ events¹⁴⁴ and informal discussions with colleagues.¹⁴⁵ Occasionally, good practices from the Collection are referenced when drafting written documents, such as papers, articles and reports.¹⁴⁶ However, there is a lack of awareness among policymakers, further contributing to the limited adoption of good practices,¹⁴⁷ although consulted policymakers confirmed that RAN good practices are disseminated through both formal channels, such as during training sessions or via the Ministry of Interior, and via informal channels, including word-of-mouth, discussions with colleagues and e-mails.¹⁴⁸

Moreover, the **RAN Collection of good approaches and practices is not optimised for usability or accessibility**,¹⁴⁹ particularly regarding the limited searchability via search engines (i.e. Google), language barriers and due to the provision of outdated information.¹⁵⁰ As a single PDF document, **the RAN Collection's format is not practical** for either policymakers or practitioners.¹⁵¹ Newly-added good practices of the RAN Collection are not mentioned in the newsletters, and searching through the document or monitoring the website is not efficient.¹⁵²

Stakeholders also pointed out that the exchange of inspirational practices takes place more effectively in connection with meetings, e.g. in the context of PBCs,¹⁵³ as it is easier to further investigate experiences of interest in a dynamic context.¹⁵⁴ To illustrate this, a WG leader interviewed during the study pointed out that national practitioners took one year to develop a digital tool for determining pathways of support for individuals who are at risk of radicalisation in their Member State – and only after did they learn that such a tool already existed at the EU level. Despite being actively involved in RAN, and this tool having been identified as a good practice, the country had never found any information on it.¹⁵⁵

3.7 Tailored support provided to the Member States¹⁵⁶

Key findings:



Member States are reluctant to use tailored support, due to low awareness and a limited understanding of what the support services entail



Member States' lack of understanding leads to a **lack of confidence** in the utility of requesting tailored support

Up until the end of 2022, **Member States seem to have been reluctant to use tailored support services**.¹⁵⁷ **Awareness is low** due to the novelty of this instrument compared to the previous support service provided by the ESCN, introduced along with the birth of RAN PS,¹⁵⁸ or insufficient promotion.¹⁵⁹ There is **no clear idea of what exactly tailored 'support' entails**, including *what* is offered as part of such services, *who* provides them (e.g. their field of expertise) and *how* the consulting is done (e.g. if the consulting takes place remotely or if experts come to

¹⁴¹ Survey targeted at practitioners Q6.1 (closed), 49% (107 of 220)

¹⁴² Survey targeted at practitioners Q6.3 (open): 12 of 73.

¹⁴³ Survey targeted at practitioners Q6.3 (open): nine of 73.

¹⁴⁴ Survey targeted at practitioners Q6.3 (open): eight of 73.

¹⁴⁵ Survey targeted at practitioners Q6.3 (open): eight of 73.

¹⁴⁶ Survey targeted at practitioners Q6.3 (open): eight of 73.

¹⁴⁷ Survey targeted at policymakers Q7.1 (closed), Survey targeted at practitioners Q6, 24 of 31.

¹⁴⁸ Survey targeted at policymakers Q7.3 (open): three of seven.

¹⁴⁹ Survey targeted at practitioners Q6.4 (open): 25 of 85; Targeted interviews with three policymakers.

¹⁵⁰ Targeted interviews with two WG leaders.

¹⁵¹ Targeted interviews with three policymakers.

¹⁵² Survey targeted at policymakers Q7.3 (open): three of six.

¹⁵³ Targeted interviews with one policymaker.

¹⁵⁴ Targeted interviews with two policymakers.

¹⁵⁵ Targeted interview with one WG leader.

¹⁵⁶ Please note that this section covers only policymakers, as RAN tailored support services are offered through RAN PS.

¹⁵⁷ Survey targeted at policymakers Q5.1 (closed): ten of 16.

As reported by the Commission, in the first months of 2023, three Member States requested tailored support services.

¹⁵⁸ Targeted interview with one researcher.

¹⁵⁹ Targeted interview with one researcher.

the country concerned, how long the consulting inquiry lasts, etc.).¹⁶⁰ Despite being limited, the most frequent requests for RAN consulting services concern support towards the development of national multi-agent co-operation networks, national risk assessments and monitoring procedures, as well as support preparing to host a PBC.¹⁶¹

Driving the low engagement, there is a **lack of confidence that RAN tailored services are capable of meeting policymakers' needs**.¹⁶² The successful provision of relevant tailored support requires a deep knowledge of the local dimension, and **there is scepticism that an extra-national organisation would have the appropriate level of insight** or be able to achieve the necessary level of understanding during a three-day visit.¹⁶³ Particularly in federal States, prevention is a competence of the regional level, thus the federal government itself already provides a form of 'external' and comprehensive view, and there is the belief that this task could hardly be fulfilled by a structure unfamiliar with the intimacies of the regional structures.¹⁶⁴

The low engagement with tailored support is also driven by a **perception that similar benefits are achieved through other RAN activities**. Participation in PBCs, for example, allows policymakers to develop sufficient specific knowledge and tailored approaches without spending extra on requesting ad-hoc consulting.¹⁶⁵

4 Conclusions and recommendations

This section includes the conclusions of the study on the seven key priority areas of inquiry. Following the conclusions, the main issues identified within each of the priority areas are presented. The section concludes with new recommendations linked to the identified issues, as well as further recommendations to actions that were implemented during the course of this study.

4.1 Conclusions

4.1.1 Relevance of RAN activities and products

The study found that **RAN makes a unique contribution to EU and Member State efforts in prevention and counter-radicalisation**, serving as a mechanism for cross-disciplinary cross-border co-operation. Overall, RAN's activities and products meet the need expressed by policymakers and practitioners to exchange and disseminate knowledge and experiences in the area of prevention of radicalisation, contributing to improving skills, knowledge and capabilities across Member States.

Key **success factors** that contributed to enabling the relevance of RAN activities to the needs of the Network's members are the regular exchange and dissemination of knowledge and experiences, the enhanced dialogue between different actor profiles across Member States, and the provision of relevant information and analysis.

However, **some issues remain, such as the absence of onboarding support** for newcomers to the Network **as well as the lack of common understanding** among RAN participants regarding the RAN structure and operations, as well as the services and products offered.

4.1.2 RAN multi-stakeholder approach

RAN events are highly appreciated as a space for professionals to connect, collaborate and share experiences. **However, there is a need for more collaboration and dialogue between policymakers and practitioners**. Indeed, the current separation between the two Network's strands is considered artificial and rigid, preventing both groups from accessing each respective work and bringing relevant issues to the attention of each other's group.

¹⁶⁰ Survey targeted at policymakers Q5.7 (open): four of 16; Targeted interview with one policymaker.

¹⁶¹ Survey targeted at policymakers Q5.6 (open): two of four; Targeted interview with one policymaker.

¹⁶² Survey targeted at policymakers Q5.3 (closed), 12 of 16.

¹⁶³ Targeted interview with one researcher and one WG leader.

¹⁶⁴ Targeted interview with one policymaker.

¹⁶⁵ Targeted interview with one policymaker.

4.1.3 Added value of RAN

RAN is **successful in spreading awareness of Member States' policies on the prevention of radicalisation**. There are many examples of policy developments adopted thanks to the RAN, such as new lines of action in relevant National Action Plans, the implementation of new training courses, the establishment of risk assessment tools in prison, the setting up of rehabilitation programmes for minors, and the adoption of agreements between prison institutions.

However, to further address the need for cross-disciplinary and cross-border information exchange and collaboration, **there is a need for more cross-cutting events and mixed activities** between RAN Practitioners and RAN PS.

4.1.4 Integration of research within RAN activities and products

RAN has successfully integrated research into its activities and products, and there is a good level of collaboration between researchers and the other RAN participant categories. The study found that RAN **research contributed to evidence-based policies and practices** regarding new threats, and that national initiatives against radicalisation have been inspired by RAN research. However, **some challenges remain, especially regarding the absence of feedback loops** between researchers and other RAN participants.

4.1.5 Outreach of RAN activities and products

Though highly valued in content, **RAN activities and products have a limited outreach**. The inconsistent, varied procedures for disseminating invitations partially explain the limited success of RAN's outreach efforts. Participants' time constraints and conflicting schedules and lack of prioritisation of prevention of radicalisation in the national policy agenda are some reasons why members do not participate in RAN activities. The dissemination of RAN products is also limited, occurring mostly through informal channels, such as word-of-mouth among colleagues, e-mails, or the sharing of notes. Finally, the websites of RAN PS and RAN Practitioners are cumbersome, difficult to navigate, and inadequate for users' needs.

4.1.6 Implementation of the RAN Collection

The RAN Collection contains specific approaches and practices from various countries that can be helpful for RAN participants to obtain knowledge from countries with similar challenges or similar societies. It mainly serves as a resource for stakeholders to connect and consult with other individuals and organisations in the field of prevention. Although some good practices in the RAN Collection have been replicated across the Member States, **overall the adoption of practices contained in RAN's Collection of approaches and practices is a challenge** for RAN participants due to differences in legal systems, structural differences in governance, culture and mindsets that limit the practical implementation of policies or practices from other contexts. Additionally, the RAN Collection of good approaches and practices is not optimised either for usability or for accessibility, particularly regarding the limited searchability via search engines and cluttering with outdated information.

4.1.7 Tailored support provided to the Member States

Member States are hesitant to use tailored support services provided by the RAN PS. This is partly due to low awareness and insufficient promotion, resulting in a lack of understanding of what tailored support services entail, who provides them, and how consulting is done. Another reason for low engagement is a lack of confidence that RAN tailored services can meet policymakers' needs, as providing relevant tailored support requires a deep knowledge of the national and local dimension. Policymakers are also concerned that confidential information could be leaked. Furthermore, policymakers perceive that similar benefits can be achieved through other RAN activities, such as participation in PBCs, which allow them to develop sufficient specific knowledge and tailored approaches without requesting ad-hoc support.

4.2 Recommendations

This section presents the recommendations stemming from the study, which are directly linked to issues affecting the RAN's functioning, operations and participation experiences. An overview

of all these issues is presented in the table below. Some of these issues have been partially addressed by recent developments to the RAN that took place in parallel to the execution of this study. Yet, further enhancements identified during this study as presented in Table 4. In addition, specific recommendations have been developed for all the other issues (see Section 4.2.2).

Table 3 – Overview of all issues collected in the report

No.	Issues
Relevance of RAN activities and products	
1	Excessive number of communications relating to RAN events
2	Insufficient orientation for newcomers
3	Stakeholders lack time to read through and/or read full-length research papers
4	RAN research papers are sometimes too theoretical or lack clear links with policy and/or practices
RAN multi-stakeholder approach	
5	The division between policymakers and practitioners has created siloes
Integration of research within RAN activities and products	
6	The dissemination of RAN research is sub-optimal
7	There is a lack of feedback loops between researchers and other stakeholders
Outreach of RAN activities and products	
8	RAN activities and products have limited outreach
9	Invitation processes for RAN activities are inconsistent
10	Dissemination of invitations suffers from short-notice
11	Post-event follow-up is inadequate
12	The RAN Practitioners website is cumbersome, difficult to navigate, and inadequate for users' needs
13	The RAN PS wiki is difficult for users to access and navigate
14	Language barriers hamper the outreach of RAN activities and products
Implementation of the RAN Collection	
15	There is a lack of understanding of the transferability of practices
16	There is low awareness and dissemination of the RAN Collection
17	The RAN Collection of good approaches and practices is not optimised for usability or accessibility
Tailored support provided to the Member States	
18	There is low awareness of the existence of tailored support
19	Member States have no clear idea of what tailored support entails
20	There is scepticism that an extra-national organisation would have the appropriate level of insight to give appropriate support
21	There is perception that similar benefits are achieved through other RAN activities

Source: EY

In the following sections, both actions already taken by the RAN and actions recommended by the study team are presented in detail.

4.2.1 Actions recently taken to addressing some issues emerged from the study

Table 4 below provides a full list of the issues that emerged as part of this study along with actions taken while the study was being conducted.

Table 4 – Recommendations under implementation

Solution under implementation	Issue	Further Suggestions
Recommendations to optimise participation in RAN		
Following the 24 April 2023 update to the website, the May 2023 newsletter opens with a “spotlight” section with specific topics or special announcements, followed by sections dedicated to new additions to the Collection of good practices, upcoming events and new publications. The letter closes with contact information of the RAN contractor.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Issue 1</u>: Excessive number of communications relating to RAN events • <u>Issue 9</u>: Invitation processes for RAN activities are inconsistent • <u>Issue 10</u>: Dissemination of invitations suffers from short-notice • <u>Issue 16</u>: There is low awareness and dissemination of the RAN Collection • <u>Issue 18</u>: There is low awareness of the existence of tailored support • <u>Issue 19</u>: Member States have no clear idea of what tailored support entails • <u>Issue 20</u>: There is scepticism that an extra-national organisation would have the appropriate level of insight to give appropriate support • <u>Issue 21</u>: There is perception that similar benefits are achieved through other RAN activities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A.1. The table of contents is only visible on the web browser version of the Newsletter. Adding a table of contents also to the email would allow the reader to access their preferred content more quickly (i.e. “Jump to Events”, “Jump to Publications”, etc.) • A.2. Rather than acting as simply a source of information, the “Events” section of the Newsletter could serve as a “sign up” page, upon which the readers could select which upcoming events they are interested in and would like to receive an invitation for. This would reduce the number of events received by RAN members and instead present them with only the invitations they have expressed interest in • A.3. The information provided on upcoming events should include information on the “Target Audience” and “Level of Discussion” (e.g. technical, general audience, etc.). • A.4. The update to the Newsletter includes a clear section on the Collection, though it is not communicated that the featured practices are new additions. This could be clarified by labelling the section “New additions to the Collection” • A.5. Links to RAN’s social media pages could be added to the Newsletter (Twitter, Facebook and LinkedIn)
Recommendations to improve the outreach of RAN products		
As of 24 April 2023, an updated version of the website has been published with a new layout, structure, and colour scheme. A more focussed structure highlighting the most importance resources has been implemented. In particular, the homepage opens to a carousel of five pages: first presenting a mosaic picturing over 60 members, a link to the 2022 Year in Review publication, followed by three slides showing RAN reports,	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Issue 12</u>: The RAN Practitioners website is cumbersome, difficult to navigate, and inadequate for users’ needs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • B.1. The website could include an introductory page on RAN, with an analogous structure to the proposed “Welcome Package”, including information on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ RAN’s mission, explaining the objective and scope of the Network ○ RAN’s structure, including an organigram showing both strands of the Network and how they are related

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Solution under implementation	Issue	Further Suggestions
<p>manuals, and news stories. Below the carousel, there is a presentation of the most recent RAN updates and a six-squared panel displaying: Topics and Working Groups; Participants database; Collection of inspiring practices; Civil Society Empowerment Programme; RAN in the Western Balkans; RAN Practitioners Media. Below this grid, the new presentation of the upcoming events addressed the request of the interim report to improve the calendar of events and make them more accessible. The layout is clear and the graphics make the page easy to navigate.</p> <p>As regards the searchability of the RAN products, the RAN Publications page has been re-designed to include a search function and filter functions. The filters include Publication Type (Expert opinion, General publications, Council conclusions, Factual summary report of the public consultation), Country, Publication Type (Conclusion paper, Manual, Overview paper, Readout, Specialised paper), Publication Topic, Working Group and Year</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Information on the roles of the Commission and the RAN contractors regarding their respective functions in the management of RAN and who is to be contacted for issues and questions, together with contact information of the representatives of both The list of activities and products of each respective strand and how to access and use them; The contact information of the new member's respective National Contact Point A special section would be dedicated to explaining tailor-made support services, including what they entail, who can request them, who provides the support as well as two examples of previous requests and their outcomes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> B.2. The RAN Publications page is one of eight-squared panels, which are already nested into the RAN Media page. Considering the importance of the RAN publications, it is recommended to include the 'RAN Publications' page as a clickable link on the homepage, combined with the 'RAN Collection'. This would present the publications as forefront and quickly accessible to visitors of the homepage, rather than clicking through other pages to access them B.3. The functionality of the search feature and the Search Engine Optimisation process for search engines such as Google should be further enhanced
<p>In recent months, several training and feedback sessions were organised to assist Member States with how to navigate the restricted access RAN PS wiki. This training included bringing several features to the attention of Member States, including a notification alert option per page when new material appears on the wiki. Efforts have also been made to simplify the layout of the website, to make it easier for users to find the section of the wiki with a navigation page containing links to RAN materials based on each topic.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <u>Issue 13</u>: The RAN PS wiki is difficult for users to access and navigate 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> C.1. Instructions on how to navigate the wiki could in addition be provided in the form of a step-by-step guide, in PDF form, which is circulated among the RAN PS members upon joining C.2. The presentation of the wiki content could be aligned with the newly updated RAN Practitioners 'Publications' page, which includes a search function and filter functions. The applicable filters for the RAN PS wiki could be: Publication Type (Expert opinion, General publications, Council conclusions, Factual summary report of the public consultation), Country, Publication Type (Conclusion paper, Manual, Overview paper, Readout, Specialised paper), Publication Topic, Working Group and

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Solution under implementation	Issue	Further Suggestions
		Year. This would allow policymakers to efficiently browse and search for papers relating to their relevant needs
Recommendations to improve the multi-stakeholder approach		
The 'EC Research e-Library on Radicalisation' presents a searchable online database of general research on the topic of radicalisation. The two aims are to "strengthen researcher exchange and facilitating/increasing researcher-policy maker interactions." ¹⁶⁶	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Issue 7</u>: There is a lack of feedback loops between researchers and other stakeholders 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • D.1. The database itself serves as a bank of general research, versus those products specifically produced by and/or for the Network. A filter for specifically RAN-produced papers could be offered in the list provided. Furthermore, it is not clear whether there are RAN PS research papers included in the directory of products
Recommendations to improve the implementation of the RAN Collection of approaches and practices		
The 26 April 2023 update of the RAN Practitioners website includes a web page dedicated to the Collection, with a link to the Collection's PDF as well as a searchable database of the good practices. The searchable database is filterable by Country, Key Themes, Peer Reviewed (Yes/No), Target Audience (i.e. Authorities, Educators/academics, Families, First responders or practitioners, Formers, General public, Health practitioners, Law enforcement officers, Local community organisations/NGOs/Online community, Prison/probation, Victims of terrorism, Violent extremists, Youth/pupils/students) and Year. The searchable database addresses the challenge identified during the study of navigating the Collection to identify appropriate or comparable practices, which has inhibited and discouraged RAN members from engaging with the Collection or implementing the practices identified.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Issue 17</u>: The RAN Collection of good approaches and practices is not optimised for usability or accessibility 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • E.1. The RAN Collection could be to include a list of countries in which each practice has been implemented (in-full or in-part). In the 'RAN Collection practice template', a new section could be inserted, titled 'Related practices in other countries', below the 'Linked to other EU initiatives or EU funding'. The country and the name of the practice and/or responsible authority would be included

Source: EY based on information collected

¹⁶⁶ European Commission (undated), *RAN Policy Support*, web page, accessed 10 May 2023, available at: [link](#).

4.2.2 Actions recommended to address persisting issues

The study team identified four categories, including seven multi-step recommendations that would complement actions under implementation by the Network (see Table 4).

Table 5 – Recommendations from the study

No.	Title
Participation in the Network	
1	Providing an onboarding 'Welcome Package' for new members
Outreach of RAN activities and products	
2	Providing a one-page summary of research papers and conclusion papers
3	Circulating relevant RAN products prior to RAN events
RAN multi-stakeholder approach	
4	Running annual joint kick-off meetings with break-out sessions per each RAN strand
5	Running annual WG meetings involving members from both RAN strands
Implementation of the RAN Collection	
6	Dedicating a section to detail Member States that have implemented respective practices

Source: EY based on information collected

For each recommendation, details are provided below regarding the related issue, recommended actions and addressees, as well as the expected benefits. Whenever relevant, links between recommendations are highlighted in order to support an integrated understanding of - and approach to - the study's recommendations and their cumulative expected impact.

Recommendation to optimise participation in the RAN

Action recommended	Issues	Addressee	Priority level
1. Providing an onboarding 'Welcome Package' for new members	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <u>Issue 2</u>: Insufficient orientation for newcomers <u>Issue 18</u>: There is low awareness of the existence of tailored support <u>Issue 19</u>: Member States have no clear idea of what tailored support entails 	RAN Contactor(s)	High

Source: EY based on information collected

1. Providing an onboarding 'Welcome Package' for members

The entrance process into the Network involves being referred to an event, either by an existing member or simply someone with knowledge of the event, and sending a brief application. Upon acceptance, the applicant is then considered a 'member'. Yet, without a formal introduction to the Network, members are left to take the initiative themselves to discover the extent of RAN opportunities, e.g. via the website, RAN newsletter or their colleagues. This non-standardised process is reflected by a scattered understanding of the Network, contributing to a mixed representation across Member States and missed opportunities to further connect RAN members, thus limiting the Network's overall added value.

Moreover, some of the services provided by RAN are not fully known and used by stakeholders. For example, in the case of tailored support, policymakers lack a strong understanding of exactly what this entails, resulting in hesitancy to utilise such services.

It is recommended that the RAN contractor(s) introduce a formal onboarding experience to ensure that members share a foundational understanding of the RAN and are all aware of the full extent of its possibilities. This onboarding procedure could take the form of a 'Welcome package', i.e. an e-mail that would be sent automatically to first-time participants following acceptance to an event. The e-mail could e.g. embed:

- A brief '**Welcome Video**' of about 5-7 minutes, in English, linked to the participant's respective strand's YouTube Channel. Both strands' Welcome Videos could cover:
 - RAN's mission**, explaining the objective and scope of the Network;

- **RAN's structure**, including an organigram showing both strands of the Network and how they are related;
- Information on the **role of the Commission** (e.g. coordinating activities) **and services provided by the RAN contractors** regarding their respective functions in the management of RAN (e.g. organising travel and accommodation, managing the website) and who is to be contacted for issues and questions, together with contact information of the representatives of both;
- The **list of activities and products** of each respective strand and **how to access and use them**, including for instance clear instructions on how to participate in events, navigate the websites, access the publications. Further, the RAN researcher selection process would be elaborated upon to ensure that members are informed of the Commission and Member States' involvement and role in said process. In the case of new members of RAN PS, this part of the video should include information on the **tailored support services** and what they entail, explaining the whole process, including information on procedures to request the service, how the service is provided, as well as how the providers are selected. One or two good practices should also be included in the video, to illustrate the potential impact of utilising such services.
- A link to a web page that will provide the same **information** as included in the video, in written format, on the RAN website;
- The **contact information of** the new member's respective **National Contact Point and the Prevent team in the Commission**;
- Links to **RAN's social media pages** (Twitter, Facebook and LinkedIn).

This onboarding e-mail would be sent following a new participant's registration to their first event. To this end, when registering for an activity, applicants would be asked to select whether this is their first RAN event, with first-timers then receiving such an e-mail.

Recommendations to improve the outreach of RAN products

Actions recommended	Issue	Addressee	Priority level
2. Providing one-page summaries of research papers and conclusion papers, translated in all EU languages	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Issue 3</u>: Stakeholders lack time to read sort through and/or read full-length research papers • <u>Issue 4</u>: RAN research papers are sometimes too theoretical or lack clear links with policy and/or practices • <u>Issue 6</u>: The dissemination of RAN research is sub-optimal • <u>Issue 7</u>: There is a lack of feedback loops between researchers and other stakeholders • <u>Issue 8</u>: RAN activities and products have limited outreach • <u>Issue 11</u>: Post-event follow-up is inadequate • <u>Issue 14</u>: Language barriers hamper the outreach of RAN activities and products 	RAN Contactor(s)	Medium
3. Circulating relevant RAN products prior to RAN events	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Issue 3</u>: Stakeholders lack time to read sort through and/or read full-length research papers • <u>Issue 6</u>: The dissemination of RAN research is sub-optimal 		Low

Source: EY based on information collected

2. Providing one-page executive summary of research products and conclusion papers

Policymakers and practitioners often lack the time to read long RAN publications. In particular, RAN members are often unable to engage with RAN research products despite that they would have liked to, given the time that it would take to read them. Furthermore, the knowledge presented in research papers is sometimes too theoretical, thus policymakers and practitioners do not always obtain a clear idea of the practical implementation of the research findings. Following the 24 April 2023 update of the website, a brief 'description' of each publication appears upon clicking on the publication's thumbnail image. However, when browsing the publications, the description might not be immediately apparent to the user. Furthermore, information on the publication's practical implications and takeaways is not provided.

Besides research papers, similar issues have also been identified with regard to the WG conclusion papers. Such papers recap WG meeting activities and are used by participants to present the RAN experience to their national colleagues. Generally six-to-nine pages in length, the papers include key outcomes, local examples and recommendations. However, for those who have not attended the event, the lack of details on the relevant context of reference inhibits full appreciation of the content of the paper.

It is recommended that research papers and WP conclusion papers are always accompanied by a one-page summary in all 24 EU languages.

As regards **research papers**, what is currently presented as the 'description', could be the basis for such a summary and could include: (i) an overview of the research topic and why it is relevant; (ii) information on the research methodology; (iii) countries and/or regions concerned with the publication topic and findings; and (iv) the practical implications of the research findings, allowing the reader to decide whether reading the full-length article is relevant. Including key 'takeaways' and the practical implications of RAN publications will increase the value-added from engaging with RAN publications. Amidst professional duties and responsibilities, policymakers and practitioners often lack the time to consider how evidence or theory-based research could directly assist them. Illustrating some potential applications of the publications' findings would greatly enhance the utility of the RAN products, thus further enhancing the overall impact of RAN products.

With regard to **WG conclusion papers**, similar executive summaries could provide details on the relevant context and the key outcomes of the meeting. The current 'Key outcomes' section in the conclusion papers is roughly two paragraphs in length and could be used for the summary, supplemented by a brief section providing the context and purpose of the meeting. This would help readers prioritise the most relevant materials.

Providing a clear, concise summary of RAN publications will enable the time-constrained audience to engage with more RAN contents, on a surface level, and to prioritise reading the relevant full-length papers. Including information on the publication's takeaways will save RAN participants' time from sifting through and deciding which articles are worth their full attention.

Translations of the one-page summaries will expand RAN products' reach to participants from different Member States, extending to audiences that include non-English speaking professionals. A translation of the one-page summary would be sufficient to give non-English speaking audience access to the product's topic and purpose. This would allow English-speaking RAN participants to circulate the native-language executive summary among non-English speaking colleagues.

3. Circulating relevant RAN products before RAN events

Research has been well-integrated into the activities and products of RAN, though there remain opportunities for further integration. In particular, RAN research inquiries and topics are guided by similar trends to those determining the topics of events held by both RAN PS and RAN Practitioners. It is also true that many WG and other RAN events cover similar topics, thus producing conclusion and follow-up papers with material that is topically related. However, RAN participants are not always aware of these related publications, an existing, ready-to-use knowledge bank.

Upon being accepted to participate in an event, it is recommended that a **confirmation e-mail includes links to related RAN products and publications**. Circulating the existing RAN knowledge and products to participants registering for related events is a simple, effective way to spread awareness of RAN publications to audiences with an expressed interest in the topic. For example, persons registering for a PBC on foreign terrorist fighters would be an appropriate audience for the latest RAN research paper on the topic. Further, they might subsequently disseminate the RAN research to their own network.

Providing participants with relevant RAN research materials and publications prior to the discussion would enable more informed discussions and encourage greater participation among members. Each individual brings a unique perspective to each discussion, though having a common framework heading into the conversation would allow more time to be devoted to diverse experiences and analyses. For example, the WG on prisons may have held a meeting during the previous year on rehabilitation, thus circulating the conclusion paper prior to this year's meeting on the topic could serve both as an orientation for new participants and as a refresher for returning participants.

Recommendations to improve the multi-stakeholder approach

Actions recommended	Issue	Addressee	Priority level
4. Hosting an annual kick-off plenary with break-out meetings per strand	• <u>Issue 5</u> : The division between policymakers and practitioners has created siloes	• Commission • RAN contractor(s) • Steering Committee	• <i>High</i>
5. Offering one mixed WG meeting among the four to include members from both strands	• <u>Issue 5</u> : The division between policymakers and practitioners has created siloes		• <i>Medium</i>

Source: EY based on information collected

4. Hosting an annual kick-off plenary with break-out meetings per strand

The current division between the two strands of RAN PS and RAN Practitioners leaves members with little exposure to members of the other group, creating information siloes and inhibiting collaboration. The on-the-ground reality is that policymakers and practitioners work very closely together, and in some cases even fill overlapping roles, thus it is important that the Network adjust its operations to reflect close symbioses.

It is recommended that the Commission and both contractors organise an **annual kick-off plenary**, which includes both RAN PS and RAN Practitioners. During the plenary sessions, members from both groups would have the opportunity to learn about the broader strategic priorities as well as understand the opportunities afforded by participation in the RAN. Topical or project-based presentations could be jointly prepared and presented by attendees from different categories, providing another chance for collaboration between members. Beyond the plenary sessions, breakout meetings per strand could be offered to allow space for specific discussions and networking among professionals of similar disciplines.

5. Offering one mixed WG meeting among the four to include members from both strands

Policymakers and practitioners are satisfied with the topics covered by RAN, though the overlap between the two groups in their roles and responsibilities outside of RAN means that communication on these topics is critical. The structure of the RAN hosting separate activities throughout the year does not reflect the on-the-ground reality in that there is a need for collaboration and networking among policymakers and practitioners on speciality topics, too.

It is recommended that the contractors of both strands and the Steering Committee organise **one mixed WG meeting** out of the four offered per year, per group, encouraging members from RAN PS to participate. Which event to be organised as "mixed" could be decided by the Steering Committee, in consultation with the Commission and both RAN contractors, and upon approval of RAN participants during the annual kick-off plenary. Following this decision and

approval, the selected meetings would be formalised in the annual agenda. Acknowledging that WGs are normally a function of RAN Practitioners, and thus designed principally for practitioners, some members of RAN PS would be among the selected experts leading the discussions to ensure a balanced dialogue.

Recommendations to improve the implementation of the RAN Collection of approaches and practices

Actions recommended	Issue	Addressee	Priority level
6. Include a section in the Collection dedicated to Member States where the practice has been implemented	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• <u>Issue 15</u>: There is a lack of understanding of practices transferability	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• RAN contractor(s)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Low

Source: EY based on information collected

6. Dedicating a section to detail Member States that have implemented respective practices

The implementation of practices contained in RAN's Collection of approaches and practices is a challenge for RAN participants due to differences in legal systems, as well as structural differences in governance, culture and mindsets that limit the practical implementation of policies or practices from other contexts. The document principally serves as a source of inspiration or a means to find contact points in other Member States.

It is recommended that the Collection includes the contact information for the Member States, and responsible authorities, where the practice has been implemented. This would facilitate connection among professionals working in the field of radicalisation upon reading the Collection, should they wish to seek further information or guidance on implementing a practice in their own territory. This could also inspire professionals from other Member States to better understand the applicability of certain approaches or practices to their own situation. For example, a professional from a Southern European Member State may be more inclined to consider a policy pioneered by a Northern European Member State should they see that it has been introduced by another Southern European Member State as well.

5 Appendices

5.1 Appendix 1 – Data collection tools

5.2 Online surveys questionnaires

Survey targeted at policymakers

No.	Question	Answer options	Response type
Section 1 – General information			
1.1	Your first name		Free text
1.2	Your last name		Free text
1.3	Your country	List of EU27 Member States	Multiple choice (one answer)
1.4	The type of organisation/institution you belong to	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> National authority Regional authority Local authority Other (please, specify) 	Multiple choice (one answer) + free text for the option "other (please, specify)"
1.5	Name of the organisation/institution you belong to		Free text
1.6	Are you a member of the Network of Prevent Policy Makers (NPPM)?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Yes No 	Free text
1.7	Your email address		Free text
1.8	Since which year have you been involved in RAN activities?	List of years (2011-2022)	Multiple choice (one answer)
Section 2 – Participation in the network			
2.1	How were you first included in the RAN community?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Answering a call received directly from the RAN Invited by another RAN participant Invited by someone you know Other (please, specify) 	Multiple choice (multiple answers)

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No.	Question	Answer options	Response type
2.2	Usually, how do you receive invitations to RAN activities?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Directly from RAN • From the NPPM member in your country • From other RAN participants • Other (please, specify) 	Multiple choice (multiple answers)
2.3	On an annual basis, how many RAN activities have you on average participated in?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 0 • 1-3 • 3-10 • >10 	Multiple choice (one answer)
2.4	In what role have you participated in RAN activities? Please indicate the yearly average number of events for each role	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participant • Speaker • Other (please, specify) 	Free text boxes for each option
2.5	To what extent do you think that policymakers from relevant policy areas in your country are aware of RAN activities?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No extent • Low extent • Medium extent • High extent • Completely • I don't know 	Multiple choice (one answer)
2.6	To what extent do you think that policymakers from relevant policy areas in your country are participating in RAN activities?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No extent • Low extent • Medium extent • High extent • Completely • I don't know 	Multiple choice (one answer)
2.7	In general, do the invitations to RAN activities reach the relevant policymakers in your country with sufficient notice?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yes • No • Don't know 	Multiple choice (one answer)
2.8	Are you aware of any reasons why participants invited to RAN activities did not ultimately take part? If yes, what are the main reasons?		Free text
2.9	To what extent do you think that the following factors have been crucial in ensuring the success of the activities you have participated in?	<u>Rows</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expertise of RAN participants • Engagement of RAN participants • Quality of the activity leadership • Quality of information sharing mechanisms • Clear distribution of tasks among activity participants • Time available to complete the activity 	Matrix (one answer per row)

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No.	Question	Answer options	Response type
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Other (please, specify) <u>Columns</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No extent Low extent Medium extent High extent Completely I don't know 	
2.10	To what extent do you think the participation to RAN activities allowed relevant policymakers to improve skills, knowledge and capabilities to prevent radicalisation in your country?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No extent Low extent Medium extent High extent Completely I don't know 	Multiple choice (one answer)
2.11	Please provide any concrete examples of how the involvement of your country in the network could be improved (e.g. by receiving invitations more in advance, receiving more detailed information, improving the outreach, etc.)?		Free text
Section 3 – Multi-stakeholder approach			
3.1	Based on your experience, to what extent do RAN activities reflect a multi-stakeholder approach (i.e. the activities involved policymakers, practitioners, researchers)?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No extent Low extent Medium extent High extent Completely I don't know 	Multiple choice (one answer)
3.2	To what extent are you satisfied with the collaboration and dialogue between different RAN participants (i.e. policymakers, practitioners, researchers)?	<u>Rows:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Between practitioners and policymakers Between researchers and practitioners Between policymakers and researchers Among all three categories <u>Columns:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No extent Low extent Medium extent High extent Completely 	Matrix (one answer per row)

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No.	Question	Answer options	Response type
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> I don't know 	
3.3	Could you please provide further details (e.g. identify possible areas for better collaboration, identify ways to improve collaboration and dialogue between different actor profiles, etc.)?		Free text
Section 4 – RAN products			
4.1	To what extent do you think that RAN products have met the needs of policymakers from relevant policy areas in your country?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No extent Low extent Medium extent High extent Completely I don't know 	Multiple choice (one answer)
4.2	Are there any specific needs which are not adequately addressed?		Free text
4.3	To what extent do you think that the following topics have been adequately addressed by RAN products?	<p><u>Rows:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> New ideologies Polarisation Prison radicalisation Prison rehabilitation Foreign terrorist fighters Returning women and children Online dimension of radicalisation Strategic communications Local communities Resilience building Priority third countries (e.g. MENA Region Countries) <p><u>Columns:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No extent Low extent Medium extent High extent Completely I don't know 	Matrix (one answer per row)
4.4	Could you please explain your answer (e.g. mention other topics that should be considered in more depth, etc.)?		Free text

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No.	Question	Answer options	Response type
4.5	Please rate the extent to which you believe RAN products would benefit from the following aspects?	<p><u>Rows:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tailored guidelines • Tailored training • Additional funding • Regular training assessment • Peer-review • Regular monitoring • Regular evaluation • Better collaboration with media/ICT providers • Gender-sensitive approach • Other (please, specify) <p><u>Columns:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No extent • Low extent • Medium extent • High extent • Completely • I don't know 	Matrix (one answer per row)
4.6	Could you please provide concrete examples of how RAN products can be improved?		Free text
4.7	To what extent do you think that RAN products adequately reach policymakers from relevant policy areas in your country?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No extent • Low extent • Medium extent • High extent • Completely • I don't know 	Multiple choice (one answer)
4.8	Can you describe how (i.e. through which mechanisms) RAN products have been disseminated within your country?		Free text
4.9	To what extent do you think that RAN products have had a tangible positive impact on the work of relevant policymakers in your country?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No extent • Low extent • Medium extent • High extent • Completely • I don't know 	Multiple choice (one answer)
4.10	Could you please provide concrete examples of how RAN products have supported policymakers in your country?		Free text

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No.	Question	Answer options	Response type
	Are there any products where RAN has had more positive impacts than others?		
4.11	To what extent have RAN products been integrated into national practices and/or policies adopted to prevent radicalisation in your country?	<u>Rows:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policy papers • Specialised research papers • Research e-library • Other (please, specify) <u>Columns:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No extent • Low extent • Medium extent • High extent • Completely • I don't know 	Matrix (one answer per row)
4.12	To what extent do you think that RAN products have contributed towards the adoption of new practices and/or policies to prevent radicalisation in your country?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No extent • Low extent • Medium extent • High extent • Completely • I don't know 	Multiple choice (one answer)
4.13	Could you please provide concrete examples of new practice and/or policy adopted due to RAN products in your country?		Free text
4.14	To what extent do you think that RAN products had a tangible positive impact in terms of ensuring the following aspects?	<u>Rows:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support to victims • Support to victims' families • Support to families of radicalised individuals • Engagement of communities • Engagement of families • Engagement of children • Monitoring of extremist movements • Other (please, specify) <u>Columns:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No extent • Low extent • Medium extent • High extent 	Matrix (one answer per row) + free text for the option "please, specify"

Targeted study on the Assessment of the Radicalisation Awareness Network (RAN Practitioners and Policy Support)

No.	Question	Answer options	Response type
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Completely • I don't know 	
4.15	Can you please provide possible areas for improvement in the dissemination and uptake of RAN products?		Free text
Section 5 – Consulting services			
5.1	How many times has your country requested and received consulting services by RAN since 2021?	<u>Rows:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Requested consulting services • Received consulting services <u>Columns:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 0 • 1-3 • 3-10 • >10 	Matrix (one answer per row)
5.2	Can you please describe the key services that your country has received?		Free text
5.3	To what extent do you think that RAN consulting services have met the needs of relevant policymakers in your country?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No extent • Low extent • Medium extent • High extent • Completely • I don't know 	Multiple choice (one answer)
5.4	Could you please explain your answer (e.g. mention why RAN consulting services are adequate or not adequate to the needs of policymakers in your country)?		Free text
5.5	To what extent do you think that RAN consulting services contributed towards the adoption of new anti-radicalisation practices and/or policies in your country?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No extent • Low extent • Medium extent • High extent • Completely • I don't know 	Multiple choice (one answer)
5.6	Could you please provide concrete examples of new practices and/or policies adopted due to RAN consulting services?		Free text

Targeted study on the Assessment of the Radicalisation Awareness Network (RAN Practitioners and Policy Support)

No.	Question	Answer options	Response type
5.7	To what extent do you think that RAN consulting services could be improved?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No extent Low extent Medium extent High extent Completely I don't know 	Multiple choice (one answer)
5.8	Could you please provide concrete examples of how to improve RAN consulting services?		Free text
Section 6 – Research			
6.1	To what extent do you think that the research component has supported RAN activities?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No extent Low extent Medium extent High extent Completely I don't know 	Multiple choice (one answer)
6.2	To what extent has RAN research products contributed to evidence-based practices and policies in your country?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No extent Low extent Medium extent High extent Completely I don't know 	Multiple choice (one answer)
6.3	Could you please further elaborate on your answer (e.g. explain how research has been integrated into national practices, mention any limitation in the integration process, etc.)?		Free text
Section 7 – Good practices			
7.1	To what extent do you think that relevant policymakers in your country are aware of RAN good practices?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No extent Low extent Medium extent High extent Completely I don't know 	Multiple choice (one answer)
7.2	To what extent have RAN good practices been adopted by relevant policymakers in your country?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No extent Low extent Medium extent 	Multiple choice (one answer)

Targeted study on the Assessment of the Radicalisation Awareness Network (RAN Practitioners and Policy Support)

No.	Question	Answer options	Response type
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High extent • Completely • I don't know 	
7.3	Can you describe how (i.e. through which mechanisms) good practices have been disseminated within your country?		Free text
7.4	To what extent have RAN good practices implemented in your country been adopted by other Member States?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No extent • Low extent • Medium extent • High extent • Completely • I don't know 	Multiple choice (one answer)
7.5	What are the most important challenges when implementing RAN good practices?		Free text
7.6	Can you please provide possible areas for improvement in the dissemination and uptake of RAN good practices?		Free text
Section 8 – Concluding questions			
8.1	Overall, to what extent do you think that RAN has made a positive contribution towards the prevention of radicalisation in your country?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No extent • Low extent • Medium extent • High extent • Completely • I don't know 	Multiple choice (one answer)
8.2	To what extent do you think RAN has a clear added value compared to other mechanisms available in your country towards prevention of radicalisation?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No extent • Low extent • Medium extent • High extent • Completely • I don't know 	Multiple choice (one answer)
8.3	Could you please provide concrete examples in terms of added value brought by RAN?		Free Text
8.4	Have you seen any tangible improvements in the functioning of RAN since you joined? If yes, could you provide concrete examples?		Free Text

Targeted study on the Assessment of the Radicalisation Awareness Network (RAN Practitioners and Policy Support)

No.	Question	Answer options	Response type
8.5	What are your suggestions for the improvement of RAN?		Free Text
8.6	Please add any additional comments relevant to the topics of the study		Free Text

Survey targeted at practitioners

No.	Question	Answer options	Response type
Section 1 – General information			
1.1	Your first name		Free text
1.2	Your last name		Free text
1.3	Your country	List of EU27 Member States and UK	Multiple choice (one answer)
1.4	The type of organisation/institution you belong to	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EU institution • Social media company • International organisation • Permanent representation and diplomacy • Education institution • Academia • First response body • Law enforcement agency • Judicial authority • Prison/probation institution • Civil Society Organisation • Other (please, specify) 	Multiple choice (one answer) + free text for the option "other (please, specify)"
1.5	Name of the organisation/institution you belong to		Free text
1.6	Your role	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Practitioner • Researcher • Other (please, specify) 	Multiple choice (one answer)
1.7	Your email address		Free text
1.8	Since which year have you been involved in RAN activities?	List of years (2011-2022)	Multiple choice (one answer)

Targeted study on the Assessment of the Radicalisation Awareness Network (RAN Practitioners and Policy Support)

No.	Question	Answer options	Response type
Section 2 – Participation in the network			
2.1	How were you first included in the RAN community?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Answering a call received directly from the RAN • Invited by another RAN participant • Invited by someone you know • Other (please, specify) 	Multiple choice (one answer)
2.2	Do you know who the contact point of RAN in your country is?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yes • No 	Multiple choice (one answer)
2.3	Usually, how do you receive invitations to RAN activities?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Directly from RAN • From the contact point of RAN in your country • From other RAN participants • Other (please, specify) 	Multiple choice (multiple answers)
2.4	On an annual basis, how many RAN activities have you on average participated in?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 0 • 1-3 • 3-10 • >10 	Multiple choice (one answer)
2.5	In what role have you participated in RAN activities? Please indicate the yearly average number of events for each role	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participant • Speaker • Other (please, specify) 	Free text boxes for each option
2.6	In general, do the invitations to RAN activities reach you with sufficient notice?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yes • No • Don't know 	Multiple choice (one answer)
2.7	Could you please indicate any reasons why you did not ultimately take part in RAN activities you have been invited to?		Free text
2.8	Did you learn something in RAN activities? How did you disseminate knowledge?		Free text
2.9	To what extent do you think that the following factors have been crucial in ensuring the success of RAN activities you have participated in?	<u>Rows</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expertise of RAN participants • Engagement of RAN participants • Quality of the activity leadership • Quality of information sharing mechanisms • Clear distribution of tasks among activity participants • Time available to complete the activity • Other (please, specify) 	Matrix (one answer per row)

Targeted study on the Assessment of the Radicalisation Awareness Network (RAN Practitioners and Policy Support)

No.	Question	Answer options	Response type
		<u>Columns</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No extent Low extent Medium extent High extent Completely I don't know 	
2.10	Could you please provide any concrete examples of how participation of your professional category in RAN could be improved (e.g. by receiving information/invitation longer in advance, receiving more detailed information, improving the outreach, etc.)?		Free text
Section 3 – Multi-stakeholder approach			
3.1	Based on your experience, to what extent do RAN activities reflect a multi-stakeholder approach (i.e. the activities involved policymakers, practitioners, researchers)?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No extent Low extent Medium extent High extent Completely I don't know 	Multiple choice (one answer)
3.2	To what extent are you satisfied with the collaboration and dialogue between different RAN participants (i.e. policymakers, practitioners, researchers)?	<u>Rows:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Between practitioners and policymakers Between researchers and practitioners Between policymakers and researchers Among all three categories <u>Columns:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No extent Low extent Medium extent High extent Completely I don't know 	Matrix (one answer per row)
3.3	Could you please provide further details (e.g. identify possible areas for better collaboration, identify ways to improve collaboration and dialogue between different actor profiles, etc.)?		Free text

Targeted study on the Assessment of the Radicalisation Awareness Network (RAN Practitioners and Policy Support)

No.	Question	Answer options	Response type
Section 4 – RAN products			
4.1	To what extent do you think that RAN products have met your needs?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No extent • Low extent • Medium extent • High extent • Completely • I don't know 	Multiple choice (one answer)
4.2	Are there specific needs which are not adequately addressed?		Free text
4.3	To what extent do you think that the following topics have been adequately addressed by RAN products?	<p><u>Rows:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New ideologies • Polarisation • Prison radicalisation • Prison rehabilitation • Foreign terrorist fighters • Returning women and children • Online dimension of radicalisation • Strategic communications • Local communities • Resilience building • Priority third countries (e.g. MENA Region Countries) • Other (please, specify) <p><u>Columns:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No extent • Low extent • Medium extent • High extent • Completely • I don't know 	Matrix (one answer per row)
4.4	Could you please explain your answer (e.g. mention other topics that should be considered in more depth, etc.)?		Free text
4.5	Could you please provide concrete examples of how RAN products have supported your work? Are there any products where RAN has had more positive impacts than others?		Free text

Targeted study on the Assessment of the Radicalisation Awareness Network (RAN Practitioners and Policy Support)

No.	Question	Answer options	Response type
4.6	Could you give an example of a paper you found useful and made use of it in your own practice?		Free text
4.7	Please rate the extent to which you believe that RAN products would benefit from the following aspects	<u>Rows:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tailored guidelines • Tailored training • Additional funding • Regular training assessment • Peer-review • Regular monitoring • Regular evaluation • Better collaboration with media/ICT providers • Gender-sensitive approach • Other (please, specify) <u>Columns:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No extent • Low extent • Medium extent • High extent • Completely • I don't know 	Matrix (one answer per row)
4.8	Could you please provide concrete examples of how RAN products can be improved?		Free text
4.9	To what extent do you think that RAN products have been integrated into anti-radicalisation practices relevant to your work?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No extent • Low extent • Medium extent • High extent • Completely • I don't know 	Matrix (one answer per row)
4.10	To what extent do you think that RAN products have contributed towards the adoption of new anti-radicalisation practices relevant to your work?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No extent • Low extent • Medium extent • High extent • Completely • I don't know 	Multiple choice (one answer)
4.11	Could you please explain your answer (e.g. identify any new practice and/or policy adopted due to RAN activities)?		Free text

Targeted study on the Assessment of the Radicalisation Awareness Network (RAN Practitioners and Policy Support)

No.	Question	Answer options	Response type
4.12	To what extent do you think that RAN products had a tangible positive impact in terms of ensuring the following aspects?	<u>Rows:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support to victims • Support to victims' families • Support to families of radicalised individuals • Engagement of communities • Engagement of families • Engagement of children • Monitoring of extremist movements • Other (please, specify) <u>Columns:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No extent • Low extent • Medium extent • High extent • Completely • I don't know 	Matrix (one answer per row) + free text for the option "please, specify"
4.13	Can you please provide possible areas for improvement in the dissemination and uptake of RAN products?		Free text
Section 5 – Research			
5.1	To what extent do you think that the research component has supported RAN activities?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No extent • Low extent • Medium extent • High extent • Completely • I don't know 	Multiple choice (one answer)
5.2	To what extent has RAN research products contributed to evidence-based practices relevant to your work?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No extent • Low extent • Medium extent • High extent • Completely • I don't know 	Multiple choice (one answer)
5.3	Could you please further elaborate on your answer (e.g. explain how research has been integrated into practices, mention any limitation in the integration process, etc.)?		Free text

Targeted study on the Assessment of the Radicalisation Awareness Network (RAN Practitioners and Policy Support)

No.	Question	Answer options	Response type
Section 6 – Good practices			
6.1	To what extent are you aware of RAN good practices?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No extent • Low extent • Medium extent • High extent • Completely • I don't know 	Multiple choice (one answer)
6.2	Are you aware of any RAN good practices that has been adopted in your country? And of any good practices implemented in your country that has been adopted in other Member States?		Free text
6.3	Can you describe how (i.e. through which mechanisms) good practices have been disseminated within your professional category?		Free text
6.4	In your view, what are the most important challenges when implementing RAN good practices?		Free text
6.5	Can you please provide possible areas for improvement in the dissemination and uptake of RAN good practices?		Free text
Section 7 – Concluding questions			
7.1	Overall, to what extent do you think that RAN products have made a positive contribution towards the prevention of radicalisation?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No extent • Low extent • Medium extent • High extent • Completely • I don't know 	Multiple choice (one answer)
7.2	To what extent do you think RAN has a clear added value compared to other mechanisms available towards prevention of radicalisation?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No extent • Low extent • Medium extent • High extent • Completely • I don't know 	Multiple choice (one answer)
7.3	Could you please provide concrete examples in terms of added value brought by RAN?		Free text

Targeted study on the Assessment of the Radicalisation Awareness Network (RAN Practitioners and Policy Support)

No.	Question	Answer options	Response type
7.4	Have you seen any tangible improvements in the functioning of RAN since you joined? If yes, could you provide concrete examples?		Free text
7.5	What are your suggestions for the improvement of RAN?		Free Text
7.6	Please add any additional comments relevant to the topics of the study		Free Text

Survey targeted at researchers

No.	Question	Answer options	Response type
Section 1 – General information			
1.1	Your first name		Free text
1.2	Your last name		Free text
1.3	Your country	List of EU27 Member States	Multiple choice (one answer)
1.4	Name of the organisation/institution you belong to		Free text
1.5	Your role		Free text
1.6	Your email address		Free text
1.7	Since which year have you been involved in RAN activities?	List of years (2011-2022)	Multiple choice (one answer)
Section 2 – Participation in the network			
2.1	On an annual basis, how many RAN activities have you on average participated in?	<u>Rows</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> List of years (2011-2022) <u>Columns</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 0 1-3 3-10 >10 	Multiple choice (one answer)

Targeted study on the Assessment of the Radicalisation Awareness Network (RAN Practitioners and Policy Support)

No.	Question	Answer options	Response type
2.2	In what role have you participated in RAN activities? Please indicate the yearly average number of events for each role	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participant Speaker Other (please, specify) 	Free text boxes for each option
2.3	Are you aware of any reasons why participants invited to RAN activities did not ultimately take part? If yes, what are the main reasons?		Free text
2.4	To what extent do you think that the following factors have been crucial in ensuring the success of the activities you have participated in?	<p><u>Rows</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Expertise of RAN participants Engagement of RAN participants Quality of the activity leadership Quality of information sharing mechanisms Clear distribution of tasks among activity participants Time available to complete the activity Other (please, specify) <p><u>Columns</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No extent Low extent Medium extent High extent Completely I don't know 	Matrix (one answer per row)
Section 3 – Multi-stakeholder approach			
3.1	On average, how many of the RAN activities you have participated in involved policymakers? How many involved practitioners?	<p><u>Rows:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Policymakers Practitioners <p><u>Columns:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 0% 1-5% 6-10% 11-20% 21-50% >50% 	Matrix table (one option per cell)
3.2	To what extent are you satisfied with the collaboration and dialogue between different RAN participants (i.e. policymakers, practitioners, researchers)?	<p><u>Rows:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Between practitioners and policymakers Between researchers and practitioners Between policymakers and researchers 	Matrix (one answer per row)

Targeted study on the Assessment of the Radicalisation Awareness Network (RAN Practitioners and Policy Support)

No.	Question	Answer options	Response type
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Among all three categories <u>Columns:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No extent • Low extent • Medium extent • High extent • Completely • I don't know 	
3.3	Could you please provide further details (e.g. identify possible areas for better collaboration, identify ways to improve collaboration and dialogue between different actor profiles, etc.)?		Free text
Section 4 – RAN products			
4.1	To what extent do you think that your work contributed to the design of effective products (e.g. identification of the right topics to be prioritised)?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No extent • Low extent • Medium extent • High extent • Completely • I don't know 	Multiple choice (one answer)
4.2	To what extent do you think that the following topics have been adequately addressed by RAN products?	<u>Rows:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New ideologies • Polarisation • Prison radicalisation • Prison rehabilitation • Foreign terrorist fighters • Returning women and children • Online dimension of radicalisation • Strategic communications • Local communities • Resilience building • Priority third countries (e.g. MENA Region Countries) • Other (please, specify) <u>Columns:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No extent • Low extent • Medium extent • High extent 	Matrix (one answer per row)

Targeted study on the Assessment of the Radicalisation Awareness Network (RAN Practitioners and Policy Support)

No.	Question	Answer options	Response type
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Completely • I don't know 	
4.3	Could you please explain your answer (e.g. mention other topics that should be considered in more depth, etc.)?		Free text
4.4	To what extent do you think that RAN products reflect the needs of RAN participants?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No extent • Low extent • Medium extent • High extent • Completely • I don't know 	Multiple choice (one answer)
4.5	To what extent do you think that RAN products can be adjusted according to evolving needs of RAN participants?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No extent • Low extent • Medium extent • High extent • Completely • I don't know 	Multiple choice (one answer)
4.6	Could you please provide concrete examples of how RAN products reflect/can be adjusted to the needs of participants?		Free text
4.7	Please rate the extent to which you believe that RAN products would benefit from the following aspects?	<p><u>Rows:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tailored guidelines • Tailored training • Additional funding • Regular training assessment • Peer-review • Regular monitoring • Regular evaluation • Better collaboration with media/ICT providers • Gender-sensitive approach • Other (please, specify) <p><u>Columns:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No extent • Low extent • Medium extent • High extent • Completely • I don't know 	Matrix (one answer per row)

Targeted study on the Assessment of the Radicalisation Awareness Network (RAN Practitioners and Policy Support)

No.	Question	Answer options	Response type
4.8	Could you please explain your answer (e.g. mention other areas that should be considered in more depth, if the coverage of this area is adequate to your needs, etc.)?		Free text
4.9	Could you please provide concrete examples of how RAN products can be improved?		Free text
4.10	To what extent do you think that RAN products adequately reach policymakers and practitioners in the EU Member States?	<u>Rows:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policymakers • Practitioners <u>Columns:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No extent • Low extent • Medium extent • High extent • Completely • I don't know 	Matrix (one answer per row) + free text for the option "please, specify"
4.11	To what extent do you think that RAN products had a tangible positive impact on the work of policymakers and practitioners?	<u>Rows:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policymakers • Practitioners <u>Columns:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No extent • Low extent • Medium extent • High extent • Completely • I don't know 	Matrix (one answer per row) + free text for the option "other (please, specify)"
4.12	Could you please provide concrete examples of how RAN products have supported the work of policymakers and practitioners? Are there any products where RAN has had more positive impacts than others?		Free text
4.13	To what extent have RAN products been integrated into national anti-radicalisation practices and/or policies?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No extent • Low extent • Medium extent • High extent • Completely • I don't know 	Multiple choice (one answer)

Targeted study on the Assessment of the Radicalisation Awareness Network (RAN Practitioners and Policy Support)

No.	Question	Answer options	Response type
4.14	To what extent do you think that RAN activities and products have contributed towards the adoption of new anti-radicalisation practices and/or policies?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No extent Low extent Medium extent High extent Completely I don't know 	Multiple choice (one answer)
4.15	Could you please concrete examples of new practice and/or policy adopted due to RAN activities)?		Free text
4.16	To what extent do you think that RAN products had a tangible positive impact in terms of ensuring the following aspects?	<p><u>Rows:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support to victims Support to victims' families Support to families of radicalised individuals Engagement of communities Engagement of families Engagement of children Monitoring of extremist movements Other (please, specify) <p><u>Columns:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No extent Low extent Medium extent High extent Completely I don't know 	Matrix (one answer per row) + free text for the option "please, specify"
4.17	Can you please provide possible areas for improvement in the dissemination and uptake of RAN products?		Free text
Section 5 – Research			
5.1	To what extent do you think that the research component has been adequately considered as part of RAN activities?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No extent Low extent Medium extent High extent Completely I don't know 	Multiple choice (one answer)
5.2	To what extent has RAN research products contributed to evidence-based anti-radicalisation practices and policies?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No extent Low extent Medium extent 	Multiple choice (one answer)

Targeted study on the Assessment of the Radicalisation Awareness Network (RAN Practitioners and Policy Support)

No.	Question	Answer options	Response type
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High extent • Completely • I don't know 	
5.3	Could you please further elaborate on your answer (e.g. explain how research has been integrated into national practices, mention any limitation in the integration process, etc.)?		Free text
Section 6 – Concluding questions			
6.1	Overall, to what extent do you think that RAN has made a positive contribution towards the prevention of radicalisation?		Free text
6.2	To what extent do you think RAN has a clear added value compared to other mechanisms available in your country towards prevention of radicalisation?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No extent • Low extent • Medium extent • High extent • Completely • I don't know 	Multiple choice (one answer)
6.3	Could you please provide concrete examples in terms of added value brought by RAN?		Free Text
6.4	Overall, what have been the most significant challenges or failures of RAN and why?		Free Text
6.5	Have you seen any tangible improvements in the functioning of the network since you joined? If yes, could you provide concrete examples?		Free Text
6.6	What are your suggestions for the improvement of RAN?		Free Text
6.7	Please add any additional comments relevant to the topics of the study		Free Text

5.3 Interview guidelines

Interview guidelines for policymakers

N	Question
Background	
1.	Please, briefly describe your current position/role.
2.	How long have you been involved in RAN?
Participation in the network	
3.	Based on your experience, is the annual number of RAN activities you are invited to sufficient to ensuring an adequate involvement of your country in the network? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> In your experience, is there any overlapping activity? In your experience, is there any need for additional activities?
4.	Do you think that the overall number of participants from your country is sufficient? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> How are RAN policymakers from relevant policy areas identified/selected in your country? Could you name three main limitations encountered in involving relevant policymakers your country in the network?
5.	How and when do you receive invitations to RAN activities? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Do you consider that invitations are sent with sufficient notice ahead of the event date? What are main channels used to disseminate invitations to RAN events in your country? Is the information contained in RAN invitations sufficient (e.g. clear, exhaustive)?
6.	Overall, do you think that your country has been adequately involved in RAN activities? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> In which ways could your country be better involved?
7.	How do you assess the level of awareness of RAN activities in your country?
RAN products	
8.	Overall, to what extent are RAN products relevant to the needs of policymakers in your country? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Are there any products that have shown to have greater effects in supporting your country? Are there any topics that should be prioritised in RAN products in the forthcoming years? Could you mention any needs not adequately addressed by RAN products? How could these needs be addressed?
9.	How do you assess the dissemination of RAN products in your country? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> What are main outreach mechanisms used to disseminate RAN products? How could outreach and dissemination of RAN products be improved?
Consulting services	
10.	Please, describe the key consulting services that your country has requested and received from RAN. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> If your country has not requested consulting services, what are the main reasons for that? In your view, what is the added value of RAN consulting services as compared to other similar services available in your country (e.g. services provided by private companies)?
11.	Based on your experience, have RAN consulting services met the needs for which support was requested? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Are there any tailored services that should be considered to better supporting your country?
12.	Do you think that RAN consulting services have contributed to the implementation of new policies and practices against radicalisation in your country? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> If yes, could you provide concrete examples?
Multi-stakeholder approach	
13.	How do you assess the collaboration and dialogue between the different RAN participants? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Has RAN contributed towards enhanced dialogue between policy, practice and research in your country? Do you find the separation between policymakers and practitioners useful, or should there be more activities common for both groups? Has research been adequately considered in RAN activities and products? Has research contributed to the adoption of evidence-based practices and/or policies in your country? Can you describe any illustrative examples?
14.	How could collaboration and dialogue between policy makers, practitioners and researchers be improved in the context of RAN?

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N	Question
Good practices	
	Overall, how do you assess the level of awareness of RAN good practices in your country?
15.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> What are main mechanisms used to disseminate RAN good practices in your country? To what extent have RAN good practices been transposed or inspired similar practices in your country?
16.	What kind of support is needed to implement good practices and methods developed by RAN?
17.	Are there possible areas for improvement in the uptake of RAN good practices?
Closing questions	
18.	Do you have any additional comments relevant to the topic of the study?

Interview guidelines for practitioners

N	Question
Background	
1.	Please briefly describe your position/role.
2.	For how long have you been involved in the RAN?
3.	How did you first get involved in RAN?
4.	How many activities do you attend per year, on average?
Relevance of the RAN	
5.	Overall, how would you assess your participation in RAN? Have the RAN met your needs and expectations? (e.g. RAN offered you practical training, allowed to network with colleagues at events, give you an international perspective on your own challenges and possible actions to mitigate them, etc.)
6.	What types of activities (e.g. Working Group meetings, study visits, trainings) have you found more relevant to your needs? Are there any other types of activities that you think should be implemented by the RAN?
7.	What about the relevance and usefulness of RAN products (e.g. papers, manuals and handbooks)?
8.	How could RAN products and activities be improved (e.g. more tailored guidelines for practitioners, regular monitoring and evaluation of RAN activities, establishment of peer-review processes, provision of additional funding for RAN activities and products, etc.)?
Support provided by RAN	
9.	Can you provide some examples of how participation in the RAN has supported your work as a practitioner?
10.	Are you aware of other instruments aimed at preventing radicalisation at the international and national levels? If yes, what are key advantages of the RAN as compared with those alternative instruments?
Multi-stakeholder approach	
11.	Do you think that research is sufficiently integrated in RAN activities and products? Have you seen any changes (e.g. better capacity to integrate research in the RAN) after the separation between RAN PS and RAN Practitioners?
12.	Can you provide some examples of how the research contributed to the implementation of evidence-based practices against radicalisation?
13.	How do you think research could be better supportive of practitioners' needs?
Outreach	
14.	Are you satisfied with the RAN outreach and invitation system?
15.	Have you ever learnt about RAN events after-the-fact (e.g. you were not informed of a relevant Working Group meeting that would have interested you)?
16.	How did you learn about RAN good practices (e.g. on boarding, during RAN event, dissemination channels)?
17.	Are you aware of the RAN Collection of good practices? Have you ever used it in order to identify possible solutions to a problem you have encountered as practitioner? If yes, can you provide an example? (if it is a sensitive subject, just the topic) If no, is there a reason? (e.g. topics are not relevant, context is too specific, understanding the good practices is a challenge)
18.	Are there specific obstacles preventing good practices to be implemented in your country (e.g. lack of political will, limited relevance of the practices selected)?
19.	Do you know of other good practices from the Collection that have been implemented elsewhere? Are there examples of good practices you feel are left out this database?

N	Question
Closing questions	
20.	What is the main added value of the RAN network for you?
21.	What are key areas for improvement?
22.	Do you have any additional comments relevant to the topic of the study?

Interview guidelines for researchers

N	Question
Background	
1.	Please, briefly describe your current position/role.
2.	How long have you been involved in RAN?
Participation in the network	
3.	Overall, how do you assess the involvement of researchers in RAN? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Do you think that you have been adequately involved, as a researcher, to participate in RAN activities? In which ways could researchers be better involved?
Multi-stakeholder approach	
4.	How do you assess the collaboration and dialogue between the different RAN participants? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Has RAN contributed towards enhanced dialogue between policy, practice and research? Do you find the separation between policymakers and practitioners useful, or should there be more activities common to both groups? Has research been adequately considered in RAN activities and products?
5.	How could collaboration and dialogue between policymakers, practitioners and researchers be improved in the context of RAN?
RAN products	
6.	Overall, to what extent did the work of researchers contribute to the design of effective RAN products? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Are there any topics that should be prioritised in RAN products in the forthcoming years? Could you mention any needs not adequately addressed by RAN products? How could these needs be addressed?
7.	To what extent do you think that RAN products reflect the needs of RAN participants? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> How do you think that RAN products can be adjusted according to the evolving needs of participants?
8.	How do you assess the impact of RAN products on the work of policymakers and practitioners? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Are you aware of any new practice and/or policy adopted in the Member States due to RAN activities?
9.	Overall, how could RAN products be improved?
Research	
10.	Overall, to what extent do you think that the research component has been adequately considered as part of RAN activities? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Did RAN research products contributed to evidence-based anti-radicalisation practices and policies? How has research been integrated into national practices? What were the main limitations in the integration process?
Closing questions	
11.	Do you have any additional comments relevant to the topic of the study?

5.4 Appendix 2 – List of interviewees

5.5 Interviews with policymakers

MS	NPPM member	Institution
AT	No	Ministry of Interior
BE	Yes	Federal Public Service Interior - Coordination Unit for the Threat Analysis
CZ	Yes	Security Policy Department Ministry of the Interior of the Czech Republic
DE	Yes	Ministry of Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth Ministry of Interior
DK	Yes	National Center for Prevention of Extremism

MS	NPPM member	Institution
EE	No	Ministry of the Interior, Institute of Internal Security
EL	No	State Security Division
ES	Yes	Strategic Planning and Prevention of Terrorism and Radicalization Area (CITCO)
FI	Yes	Ministry of the Interior, Police Department
FR	Yes	General Secretariat of the Interministerial Committee for the Prevention Of Delinquency And Radicalization (SG-CIPDR)
HU	Yes	Constitution Protection Office, Hungary
IT	Yes	State Police
LT	Yes	Public Security and Migration Policy Department of Ministry of the Interior of the Republic of Lithuania
MT	Yes	Malta Police Force
NL	Yes	Counter Terrorism Department, National Coordinator for Counter Terrorism and Security, Ministry of Justice and Security, The Netherlands
PL	Yes	Terrorism Prevention Centre of Excellence
SE	Yes	Ministry of Justice, Unit for Crime Policy

5.6 Interviews with practitioners

WG leaders

Working Group	MS	Organisation
RAN C&N	DE	Exit Germany Zentrum Demokratische Kultur
RAN FC&S	FI	The Network for Religious and Traditional Peacemakers, Finn Church Aid
RAN HEALTH	FR	University of Paris 8 Vincennes-Saint-Denis
RAN LOCAL	DE	Finnish Institute of Health and Welfare (THL)
RAN POL	PL	Polish Platform for Homeland Security
RAN PRISON	IT	Papa Giovanni XXIII Association
RAN Rehabilitation	SE	Transform

Other practitioners

MS	Organisation
AT	Vienna Association of Youth Centres
DK	East Jutland Police
FR	Seine Saint Denis Prison
HR	Elementary schools Milan Munjas and Rajko Mihailović and technical high school Ub
IE	Coiste na nIarchimí
MT	Foundation for Social Welfare Services (FSWS)
PT	Judiciary Police
RO	Timis County Probation Service - Romanian National Probation Department
SE	Swedish Police

5.7 Interviews with researchers

Organisation
RAN PS Advisory Board
European Foundation for Democracy (RAN PS consortium)
International Centre for the study of Radicalisation (RAN PS consortium)