



Dear all,

The [RAN Centre of Excellence](#) will be organising two training seminars in Germany for civil society organisations on creating online counter and alternative narrative campaigns. These training seminars will take place at:

1. Facebook HQ in Berlin, on Thursday 31 of August.
2. Google HQ in Hamburg, on Wednesday 13 September.

Your organisation is active in the prevention of radicalisation and violent extremism. As a civil society organisation, you have the ability to be a credible voice in delivering alternative and counter narratives offline, and also online. We would like to invite you to nominate one representative of your organisation to take part in the training seminar.

Civil Society Empowerment Programme

The training seminar is part of the European Commission's Civil Society Empowerment Programme (CSEP). This programme aims to support and empower civil society organisations to become more active in the online domain. Part of the programme involves a series of one-day training seminars in the EU Member States in the period April – October 2017. At a later stage the commission intends to financially support development and implementation of effective campaigns across the EU by civil society partners.

Programme

The training seminars provide civil society organisations with a general, hands-on introduction to using social media as part of their prevention strategies. The seminars are designed to inspire workers and volunteers who want to improve their online communication and campaigning skills. They are built around success stories: online alternative and counter narratives that have proved effective. Participants will develop a better understanding of how their organisations can take full advantage of social media to voice credible alternatives to terrorist propaganda and violent extremism. At the end of the seminar, participants will have their own simple action plan ready, and they will have access to an online platform with supporting tools, materials and documents. More information on the training seminar can be found in the annex.

Applying for the training seminar

Applicants are requested to complete the registration form which can be found via <https://goo.gl/forms/eyckRFqDIVj9YAmI3>. The form needs to be filled out before the 24th of August. Please note that the form cannot be closed during the process. In that case your input will be lost. All information will be handled with care and will be treated as confidential. The selection will be made by the RAN Centre of Excellence based on:

1. You are either a credible voice in alternative and counter narratives yourself or able to deploy such voices, although not necessarily in the online sphere yet.

2. You can either be a first line practitioner, such as a teacher or youth worker, or be part of a community effort, such as a neighbourhood project or interfaith program. We welcome both NGOs and statutory practitioners, as long as you are positioned as a credible voice for the target group.
3. A track record of previous campaigning for alternatives to terrorist propaganda, or directly refuting such oratory, is an advantage, although not an absolute precondition to join.
4. A track record of previous online campaigning for societal issues is an advantage, although not an absolute precondition to join.
5. In general, we will not invite more than one person per organisation.
6. In selecting invitees, we will promote regional spread, and try to achieve participation by one organisation from each EU member state at least.
7. Overall, the group of invitees should reflect the specificities of tackling radicalisation and violent extremism in the different countries and regions of the EU, e.g. by both focussing on countering Daesh propaganda and addressing the rise in right-wing extremism.

You will receive notification on your participation maximum one week before the training seminar takes place.

This invitation is addressed to your organisation. As the training seminar is limited to a maximum of 15 participants, we can only invite *one representative per organisation*. Therefore, we kindly request you to please select the most suitable representative to attend the training seminar. If your organisation is not able to attend, the invitation can not be transferred to others without prior approval of the RAN Centre of Excellence. If you are not able to attend the seminar, please let us know in advance so we can invite another organisation.

Practical information

- The training seminar will be held in Berlin (Facebook) and Hamburg (Google). Additional details will follow once the participant selection has been made.
- Please note that the training programme is free (including lunch), but travel and hotel expenses can not be reimbursed.
- If you are a vegetarian or have any other food preferences, please inform us in advance by indicating this in the registration form.
- Please note, the event will be held in English (no interpretation will be available).

If you have any questions or remarks, feel free to contact me (j.krasenberg@radaradvies.nl) for further information.

Do you know civil society organisations who might be interested in this training seminar? You are free to forward this email!

On behalf of the RAN Centre of Excellence,