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Project PROTON
Overview

- Funded by the **Horizon 2020 Research Programme** of the European Commission
- Started on 01/10/2016, **3 years** duration
- **Project Leader:** Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore (UCSC)
- **Co-coordinator:** Hebrew University Jerusalem (HUJI)
- **Partners:**
Objectives 1/2

1. Identify social/psychological/economic aspects of processes leading to organized crime - and cyber related offenses - and terrorist networks (OCTN)

2. Develop PROTON-S
   - an agent-based modelling (ABM) simulations
   - made by virtual societies in a computer laboratory
   - to study the effects of societal/environmental changes on individuals’ recruitment to OCTN
Objectives 2/2

1. Develop PROTON Wizard
   - user-friendly software tool embedding results of ABM simulations
   - first support tool for policy makers at the international, national and local level

PROTON’s impact will improve the quality of prevention policies on OCTN.
Structure

9 Work Packages (WPs)

1. & 2. Identify the social, psychological and economic factors leading to OCTN
3. OC & Terrorism in Cyberspace
4. Input Selection & Integration with Experiments
5. Final outputs → PROTON-S and PROTON Wizard
6. Legal, Ethical & Societal Implications of PROTO
7. Dissemination & Communication
8. & 9. Management and Ethics requirements
WP1 and 2: Social, psychological and economic factors leading to OCTN

OC Leader UCSC; Terrorist networks Leader HUJI

- **Systematic Review** of social/psychological/economic factors leading to OCTN
- Ethical and societal impacts of OC and terrorism policies

*Innovative studies, factors:*

- **Social** → Careers of OC/terrorist offenders in context; recruitment into mafias; impact of counter-terrorism on radicalisation and recruitment
- **Psychological** → emotional and cognitive determinants of OC and terrorism involvement
- **Economic** → socio-economic inequalities and OC and terrorism involvement
WP3: OC & Terrorism in Cyberspace

Leader Fraunhofer

- Systematic review of cyber-related OC and terrorist activities, and technological means for their study

Innovative studies

- Finding the Dark Web signposts
- Online visibility and social media impact of gangs
- Radicalisation in cyberspace and radical social media networks
- Terrorist-related contents in cyberspace
WP4: Input Selection & Integration with Experiments

Leader UCSC

- **Discussion** of the results from WP1-3
  
  *Internal workshop for discussion of results and organisation of work leading to PROTON-S and PROTON Wizard*

- **Operationalisation** of the results into input for ABM simulations and identification of information gaps

- Filling the gaps through selected **experiments**
  
  *Experiments whose results will fill the possible gaps that cannot be examined using ABM*
WP5: Final outputs - PROTON Simulations & Wizard

Leader CNR

- Development of **ABM simulations** of OCTNs
  *Detect the processes of recruitment into different crime careers and the probabilities of crime events in defined conditions*

- Development of **PROTON Wizard**
  *User-friendly visualisation tool to present the results of PROTON simulation models → the tool will enable users to configure, visualise and compare the results*

- **Recommendations** for the prevention of the recruitment to OCTNs
  *Based on the results of the innovative studies conducted in WP1-3 and of the analyses enabled by PROTON-S*
WP6: Legal, Ethical & Societal Implications of PROTON

Leader University of Pavia (UNIPV)

- **Ethical and societal issues** and safeguards
  
  Societal and ethical issues → selection of the factors leading to recruitment to OCTNs and rules/inputs leading to PROTON-S and PROTON Wizard

- Analysis of **legal implications** of PROTON simulations and PROTON Wizard
  
  Evaluate legal issues related to use of PROTON outcomes (WP5) by policy makers

- **Ethical & Legal Advisory Group**
  
  Ethical and Legal Advisory Group (ELAG) → key experts outside Consortium → review activities and final outputs of the project
WP7: Dissemination & Communication

Leader YOURIS

- Dissemination & Communication Plan
- Project website and online community
- Dissemination & communication materials
- Dialogue with the stakeholders and the public
WP8 and 9: Management and Ethic Requirements

Leader UCSC

- **WP8**: to guarantee the smooth and correct implementation of the project’s activities and the achievement of its objectives

- **WP9**: sets out the 'ethics requirements' that the project must comply and ensure compliance with them