



Welcome to the 1st PROTON newsletter

On March 9th, [Europol](#) presented its [Serious and Organised Crime Threat Assessment Report](#) stating that European LEAs have reckoned 5,000 Organised Crime groups currently under investigation, **an increase of 1,400 groups in two years.**

More attention to the topic and/or more organised crime groups? The threat is changing face! Khalid Masood - 52 years old, a criminal carrier for petty crimes, British citizen and radicalised in

the UK - killed four people and injured many others in London on March 22nd. Organised crime has developed and changed dimension: it occurs more frequently and on a smaller scale. Terrorism threat develops through its traditional patterns in Europe: lone wolves.

Organised crime and terrorism are two different problems addressed by [project PROTON](#), which aims to answer the key questions of their recruitment. Citizens wonder who and where the next target will be, and we all want to know whether the recruitment process is inevitable or its patterns may be controlled and stopped. Can we predict both?

PROTON started on October 1st 2016 launching three literature systematic reviews on **psychological, economic and social factors driving individuals in organised crime terrorism and cybercrime as a cross-cutting third group**. WP1, 2 and 3 are already ongoing; their results will then be captured by those partners developing agent-based models for simulating the recruitment by organised crime and terrorist groups. The first meeting dedicated to these

developments is scheduled on April 3rd 2017.

Things move fast. PROTON is a complex scientific and policy challenge that needs robust data and deep analyses for producing excellent results. The two guiding Universities - [Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore-Transcrime](#) and the [Hebrew University of Jerusalem](#) - cooperate with the other partners in the achievement of this result. This newsletter will update the readers on the progress we make in this direction.

Ernesto Ugo Savona,
PROTON Scientific Coordinator

News from the PROTON project



The research activities of the PROTON project in the first six months of activity have been centered around three main areas:

1) Socio-economic factors in organized crime

To uncover causal effects of income inequality and social mobility on organised crime, the project is carrying out a research from an original dataset on crimes for the Italian Provinces, coupled with a dataset on inequality and social mobility.

Moreover, a novel method that uses surnames and economic outcomes is employed. Since for the vast majority of people, surnames are passed from parents to children, we can conclude that they travel across generations along with other characteristics that affect socioeconomic outcomes of individuals.

2) Risk factors for the recruitment to organised crime group

To complete a review of social, economic and psychological risk factors that lead to the recruitment of individuals to organised crime group, researchers are analysing thousands of studies gathered from different academic and scientific databases about the recruitment into specific criminal environments, such as mafias, drug trafficking organisations and gangs.

3) Criminal careers in mafias

Researchers are starting to examine criminal careers of mafia members convicted in Italy, to analyse recurring factors in terms of socio-demographic and criminal backgrounds of mafia members by applying statistical models, with a specific focus on mafia bosses.

These three tasks will help UCSC and CNR researchers in the designation and specification of the functioning rules of [PROTON-S agent-based simulations](#).



Impacts of Organised Crime and Terrorism policies in Europe

Another research stream of the PROTON team is the examination of the ethical and societal impacts of Organised Crime and Terrorism policies in Europe. Guided by this major challenge the work is organised in two main activities:

1. **mapping, analysing and evaluating the EU Member States policies and European policies** against Terrorism and Organised Crime, considering also their approach to human rights and their compliance with EU regulations.
2. **identifying, designing and testing a framework for assessment** of the social and ethical impact achieved by these policies through a literature review.

Recommended events



[Security and Counter Terror Expo](#)

3 - 4 May 2017 | London, UK



[Terrorism and Social Media](#)

27 - 28 June 2017 | Swansea, UK



[Infosecurity Europe](#)

6 - 8 June 2017 | London, UK



[Workshop on Inequality, Intergenerational Mobility, and Organized Crime](#)

6 - 7 July 2017 | Trapani, IT

[Register to the PROTON newsletter](#)



This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement N° 699824.