



PROTON

Modelling the processes leading
to organised crime and terrorist networks

ELAG's mission statement and agenda

March, 2017

D 6.3 ELAG's mission statement and agenda

WP 6, T 6.3

Author: Gabriella Bottini, Daniela Ovadia (UniPV)

Modelling the PRocesses leading to Organised crime and TerrOrist Networks
FCT-16-2015



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

Technical References

Project Acronym	PROTON
Project Title	Modelling the PProcesses leading to Organised crime and Terrorist Networks
Project Coordinator	<p>Ernesto Savona Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore ernesto.savona@unicatt.it</p>  
Project Duration	October 2016 – September 2019 (36 months)

Deliverable No.	D6.3
Dissemination level ¹	PU
Work Package	WP 6 – Legal, ethical and social implications of PROTON
Task	T 6.3 – Ethical and legal advisory group
Lead beneficiary	14, UniPV
Contributing beneficiary(ies)	
Due date of deliverable	March 31, 2017
Actual submission date	March 31, 2017

¹ PU = Public

PP = Restricted to other programme participants (including the Commission Services)

RE = Restricted to a group specified by the consortium (including the Commission Services)

CO = Confidential, only for members of the consortium (including the Commission Services)



Table of contents

1 FUNCTION	4
1.1 MISSION STATEMENT	4
2 IMPLEMENTATION	5
2.1 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS	6
2.2 CONFIDENTIALITY	6
3 OPERATIONAL PROCEDURES	7
3.1 LEADERSHIP	7
3.2 INTERNAL DECISIONS	7
3.3 WORKING PRINCIPLES	7
3.3.1 COMMUNICATION	7
3.3.2 MEETINGS	7
3.3.2 RELATIONSHIP WITH THE RESEARCHERS	8
3.4 DELIVERABLES AND REPORTS	8
REFERENCES	10



1 Function

The Ethics and Legal Advisory Group (ELAG) is an independent body that advises the PROTON Steering Committee and the PROTON researchers on specific ethical, social and legal issues raised by the research conducted within the PROTON project.

The ELAG has an advisory status: this implies that individual researchers and institutions will retain their legal responsibility in terms of local, national and international laws and regulations.

The ELAG will advise the researchers through the intermediation of the WP6/9 group of investigators and even directly, if necessary, about specific ethical and legal issues arising during the development of the project.

The ELAG will be allowed to suggest remedial actions to solve the potential issues raised by the project. Those remedial actions will be taken into account by the researchers.

1.2 Mission statement

As stated by the EC document "Roles and Functions of Ethics Advisors/Ethics Advisory Boards in EC-Funded Projects" (December, 2012) "the consideration of ethical issues, starting at the conceptual stage of a proposal, enhances the quality of research, increases its likely social impact, promotes research integrity, promotes a better alignment of research with social needs and expectations and, finally, supports the societal uptake of the fruits of research because high ethical standards generally merit public trust".

Securing the best interests of the general public and civil society is one of the main goals of ethics assessment.

The ELAG exist to offer guidance, advice, monitoring and recommendations for future work. Researchers and advisors should operate according to the mandate in the Grant Agreement and according to the operating procedures described in this document –neither dominating or obstructing each other unnecessarily.

The PROTON ELAG will be totally independent from the partners to protect its autonomy as the voice of the European public in the project, and to represent the public interests, with a special attention to fragile and vulnerable group (low literacy citizens, prisoners, cultural and religious minorities etc.). The main missions of this group will be to assess the relevance and the completeness of the ethical and legal work in PROTON conducted by the researchers involved in WP6 and 9 and to provide additional ethical and legal recommendations relatively to the overall project.

The ELAG will focus mainly on the following issues raised by the PROTON project:



- the possible impact of predictive criminology on individuals and social groups;
- the use of predictive criminology by policy makers;
- the opportunity and limits of Agent Based Modelling in criminology, especially on the study of criminal organizations;
- the impact of the PROTON project on fragile social groups and the risk of stigmatization (especially toward the Muslim communities in Europe and beyond);
- the possible dual-use of the PROTON outcomes and the possible remedial actions and protections;
- the Israeli-Palestinian conflict in regards to the construction of a model for terrorism in the PROTON project;
- the guidelines for an ethical communication and dissemination of the results of the project;
- the impact of the PROTON outcomes on the legal systems.

The WP6/9 investigators will engage with the ELAG by preparing documents and materials for review where necessary, and translating, when possible, feedback into recommendations for the project partners and work package activities.

By helping the WP6/9 team to perform the Ethical, Legal and Social Implications analysis, the ELAG will contribute to the discussion by establishing a set of core values and principles that should underlie the research activity and the development of the informatics tools that will be the major outcome of the PROTON project.

2 Implementation

The ELAG is composed by four unpaid members (see table 1), selected on the basis of their expertise in the field of ethics, criminology and law or on the basis of their representativeness as stakeholders (members of the Muslim community, representatives of the Palestinians). The ELAG composition respects gender balance.

The multidisciplinary nature of the PROTON ELAG is a guarantee for the citizens and the stakeholders and is a tool to bring the civil society voice directly into the project bodies and management.



Table 1 – ELAG members

Name	Institution	Position	Expertise
Dr Azrini Wahidin	Nottingham Trent University (UK), Department of Sociology, School of Social Sciences, College of Business, Law & Social Sciences	Professor in Criminology and Criminal Justice	Criminology, sociology, legal studies
Pr Lisa Claydon	The Open University, UK	Professor of Public and Criminal Law and Law, Society and Culture	Law, ethics, social impact of legal systems
Pr Ziad Abdeen	Faculty of Medicine, Al-Quds University, Abu Dies, West Bank	Director of the Al-Quds Nutrition and Health Research Institute, member of the Al-Quds Ethics review board	Stakeholders representative and bioethicist
Dr Ehsan Masood	Research Professional News (including Research Fortnight); Imperial College, London; The Muslim Institute	Science writer, journalist and broadcaster at Research Professional News; lecturer on International Science Policy at Imperial College, London; member of the board of trustees of The Muslim Institute	Stakeholders representative

2.1 Declaration of interests

ELAG members have to declare potential conflicts of interest. When issues are discussed that may involve conflict of interests, the affected member should recuse him/herself from the discussion. Conflicts of interested can be reported in oral or written form and should be mentioned in the minutes of the meeting.

2.2 Confidentiality

Due to the kind of information and data that could be shared within the PROTON project and the consortium, the ELAG members will have to sign a non-disclosure agreement.



3 Operational procedures

3.1 Leadership

The ELAG will elect a Chairperson within the group members. The role of the chairperson will be:

- to represent the ELAG to the PROTON partners and to external bodies;
- to participate (if requested) to the ethics and legal reviews;
- to collaborate with the WP6/9 researchers (Daniela Ovadia, UniPv) in setting the ELAG meetings and agenda;
- to ensure quality assessment of the ELSI reports.

3.2 Internal decisions

Decisions of the ELAG are made by consensus, if possible. If no consensus can be reached, majority decisions are applicable.

The WP6/9 leader will collect all the opinions (even the minority ones) and will forward them to the relevant partner or researcher.

3.3 Working principles

3.3.1 COMMUNICATION

The ELAG will use electronic mailing list to communicate. The mailing list master is the leader of WP6/9.

3.3.2 MEETINGS

As planned by the Grant Agreement, the ELAG members will have to attend four workshops during the development of the project, two virtual meetings and two face-to-face.

During the two face-to-face meetings they will also be involved with the local stakeholders for mutual learning processes. A workshop will be organised in each meeting for this purpose.

The goal of the workshops is to discuss specific issues concerning the project which require ethical and legal attention in view of preparation of the Societal Impact reports which will accompany the Interim Report during the mid-term review, as well as the Final Report during the final review.

The list and dates of the meetings are summarized in table 2.



Table 2 – ELAG Meetings

Meeting	Date	Purpose	Participants
1st Virtual Meeting	June 2017	Interaction with the researchers, first evaluation in the view of D 6.1 and D 9.4	ELAG members, WP6/9 researchers and leader, WP leaders, Tasks leaders
2nd Consortium Meeting (Milan)	October 2018	Interaction with the researchers, discussion of the first ethical and legal evaluation and suggestion of possible remedial actions; interactions with the stakeholders	ELAG members, PROTON Consortium representatives, stakeholders
2nd Virtual Meeting	June 2018	Interaction with the researchers, first evaluation in the view of D 6.5 and D 9.6	ELAG members, WP6/9 researchers and leader, WP leaders, Tasks leaders
3rd Consortium Meeting (Palermo)	June 2019	Interaction with the researchers for the Final report and ethical evaluation; interaction with the stakeholders	ELAG members, PROTON Consortium representatives, stakeholders

3.3.2 RELATIONSHIP WITH THE RESEARCHERS

In coordination with the WP6/9 leader, members of the ELAG can communicate with individual researchers and should enjoy open access to communication about the project within the Consortium.

ELAG members can have access to scientific and engagement data and results under the rules established by the Non-disclosure agreement.

The collaboration between the ELAG members and the Consortium is facilitated by the WP6/9 leader and investigators' team.

The ELAG members will have full access to all judgments from the Commission regarding the ethical evaluation.

3.4 Deliverables and reports

The ELAG members will be involved in the reviewing of the deliverables planned for WP6/9 following the calendar in table 3.



Each deliverable will be available in draft version at least two weeks before the deadline, to allow the ELAG members to comment and add suggestions. The ELAG members will also be consulted by the WP6/9 team by e-mail for specific requests and to establish the table of contents of each deliverable.

Table 3 – List of deliverables involving ELAG advice

WP	Task	Deliverable description	Deadline (month, date)	Dissemination level
6	6.1	D6.1: Ethical and social issues and safeguards: will address the societal and ethical issues raised by the selection of the factors leading to recruitment to OCTNs (WP1-2-3)	12, Sept 2017	Public
6	6.1	D 6.6 Ethical and social issues and safeguards: will address the societal and ethical issues raised by the selection of rules and inputs leading to PROTON simulations and PROTON Wizard (WP 4-5) and their possible effects within the decision-making processes concerned.	15, Dec 2017	Public
6	6.2	D 6.2 Legal Analysis of PROTON Simulations and PROTON Wizard	32, March 2019	Public
6	6.4	D 6.4 Interim and Societal Impact report	18, March 2018	Public
6	6.5	D 6.5 Final societal Impact report	36, Sept 2019	Public
9	9.4	D 9.4: Report on the potential implications of the data sets and tools developed in the project with regard to stigmatization and discrimination. Report on guidance for responsible communication of the findings of the research to avoid stigmatisation and	12, Sept 2017	Internal



		discrimination.		
9	9.6	D 9.6: Report assessing the potential impact of the data sets and tools developed in this project with regard to the use by military units. In the given context of the attention should also be paid to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.	24, Sept 2018	Internal

References

European Commission. Roles and Functions of Ethics Advisors/Ethics Advisory Boards in EC-funded Projects (2012).



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