PROTON

Modelling the processes leading
to organised crime and terrorist networks

Ethical and Societal Issues and Safeguards

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D6.1: Ethical and Societal Issues and Safeguards
WP6, T 6.1

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0 Summary

This document presents the main activities and preliminary findings of WP6 - T6.1, lead by UNIPV. It describes the methodology used to perform the ethical and social impact assessment of both the final output and the risk factors for the recruitment in Organized Crime and Terrorism Networks (OCTNs) identified in WP 1, 2 and 3. It also points out the main risk factors that could be encountered in PROTON project deliverables. The next societal and ethic assessment will explain how PROTON researchers have mitigated those risks.

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1 Introduction

In *Research Ethics for Social Scientists*[1]*,* Israel and Hay highlight four basic principles for the research in social sciences as derived from the biomedical field: informed consent, confidentiality, avoiding harm and doing good, research relationships and integrity. In the European context, the RESPECT *Code of Practice for Socio-Economic Research* is of particular interest for addressing ethical principles and values common to social science research and especially to the different subprojects in the PROTON project. The RESPECT Code provides guidelines intended "*to form the basis of a voluntary code of practice covering the conduct of socio-economic research in Europe*"[2]. The Code gathers those principles under three general areas: principles that guarantee the scientific standards, the compliance with the law, and the avoidance of social and personal harm. **The PROTON ethics research group will use the RESPECT Code of Practice as a framework to provide the ethical safeguards**[3].

Furthermore, in order to help the ethical self-assessment by the researchers, the **PROTON project includes information researchers and the experts of the Ethical and Legal Advisory Group (ELAG), about** societal and ethic in impact assessment **(Safeguard action).**

One threat arises from the possible stigma and discrimination deriving from the dissemination of the results, also because they might affect a whole community and not only the criminal offender, as largely demonstrated in sociological studies on labour market discrimination[4] and personal identity[5]. **The PROTON project will implement protective measures to avoid stigma and discrimination at every level, i.e. during the research phase and when results will be publicly disseminated (Safeguard action).**

By analysing the ethical and societal issues raised by the project, our research team aimed to ensure that PROTON research and outcomes in WP1, WP2 and WP3 complies with the European Charter of Fundamental Rights and the European Convention on Human Rights. **The selection of risk factors, among those identified by the researchers should be discussed also in the light of the compliance with the main charters and conventions on human rights at EU level (Safeguard action).**

2 Methods

2.1 Tool 16

To categorize the impacts of the different risk factors for the recruitment in Organized Crime and Terrorism Networks (OCTNs) identified in WP1, WP2 and WP3 we applied the *Tool 16/Identification and Screening of Impacts* by the European Commission[6]. We proceeded with a first general categorization to provide guidelines and ethical tools for the future selection of the risk factors to be included in the ABM simulations.

3 Results

The identified risk factors derive from the systematic review of the literature on OCTNs provided by the preliminary results of Wp1 Wp2 and Wp3. A number of risk factors have been identified. Although the different methodological approaches adopted in different tasks provide a heterogeneous framework, we attempted to classify risk factors according to the type of impact they might have following the categories described in Tool 16. The task in which each risk factor was identified is in brackets.

Table 1 – Organized crime risk factors: Societal Impacts

Area of impact (social)	Risk factor	Vulnerability and risk
Employment and labour markets	Logistic nodes (T1.3) Social capital and job-specific knowledge (T1.3) Unemployment (T1.2) Economic inequalities (T1.6)	Specific working positions in logistic nodes are related to an increased risk of recruitment in OC. Some skills could facilitate illicit traffic, and could be the target of intense police control. Policies for the development of employment could reduce recruitment in OC. Unemployment stigma could be increased.
Working conditions	Unemployment (T1.2) Having criminal contacts at workplace (T1.3)	Policies for the development of employment could reduce recruitment in OC. Non intentional contacts with

		criminals involved in OC could lead to disclosure of personal information to other entities/people without consent and unauthorised access to personal data.
Effects on income distribution and social inclusion	Neighbourhood (T1.2) Migration (T 1.2) Bonds – family and job-related ties to members of OC (T.1.3) Bad financial condition (T1.3) Financial setbacks (T 1.3) Economic inequalities (T1.6)	Living in a neighbourhood at risk and/or a personal history of migration could bring to discrimination. The lack of social and economical safeguards for financial setbacks and economical inequalities increase the risk of recruitment in OC.
Governance, participation and good administration	Turf control (T1.2) Policies oriented to network disruption more than prevention (T1.2)	Excess of turf control by the police; discrimination based on the living area. Lack of preventive measures.
Public health and safety	Biological predisposition to crime (T1.5) Risk seeking personality (T1.3)	Prejudice in courts (reduced personal responsibility in crimes).
Crime terrorism and security	Prisons organization (T1.2) Restrictive measures in prison not oriented to re-socialization and integration to society (T1.2)	Lack of preventive measures. Inhumane treatment during detention.
Access to and effects on social protection, health and educational systems	Financial setbacks (T 1.3) Low educational level (T 1.2) Poor educational offer (T1.2) Intergenerational social mobility (T1.6)	Lack of social and economical protective network. Lack of personal opportunities for social mobility. Need of policies to increase school attendance and educational opportunities.
Cultural	Being part of a subculture (T1.3)	Cultural discrimination. Disruption of personal identity.

Table 2 – Organized crime risk factors: Human Rights Impacts

Area of impact (human rights)	Risk factor	Vulnerability and risk
Dignity	Unemployment (T1.2) Economic inequalities (T1.6) Neighbourhood (T1.2) Migration (T 1.2) Bad financial condition (T1.3) Financial setbacks (T 1.3)	Effects on individual self-esteem, social dignity.
Individuals, private and family life, freedom of conscience and expression	Social capital and job-specific knowledge (T1.3) Having criminal contacts at workplace (T1.3) Neighbourhood (T1.2) Bonds – family and job-related ties to members of OC (T.1.3) Being part of a subculture (T1.3)	Violation of privacy. Stigma and discrimination. Interference with freedom of movement.
Personal data	Having criminal contacts at workplace (T1.3) Bonds – family and job-related ties to members of OC (T.1.3)	Violation of privacy.
Asylum and protection of removal, expulsion or extradition	Migration (T 1.2)	Discrimination of asylum seekers.

Property rights and the right to conduct a business.	Logistic nodes (T1.3) Economic inequalities (T1.6) Having criminal contacts at workplace (T1.3) Neighbourhood (T1.2) Bad financial condition (T1.3) Financial setbacks (T 1.3)	Interference with the right to conduct business. Stigma and discrimination.
Gender equality, equality treatment and opportunities, non-discrimination, and rights of persons with disabilities	Unemployment (T1.2) Economic inequalities (T1.6) Neighbourhood (T1.2) Being part of a subculture (T1.3)	Lack of opportunities in business. Low social mobility. Stigma and discrimination.
Rights of the child	Poor educational offer (T1.2) Intergenerational social mobility (T1.6)	Lack of social mobility. Access to education and need of policies to avoid school drop-out.
Good administration/ Effective remedy/ Justice	Neighbourhood (T1.2) Migration (T 1.2) Turf control (T1.2) Policies oriented to network disruption more than prevention (T1.2) Prisons organization (T1.2) Restrictive measures in prison not oriented to re-socialisation and integration to society (T1.2)	Poor administration of justice. Lack of re-socialisation opportunities.

Table 3 – Terrorism risk factors: Social Impacts

Area of impact (social)	Risk factors	Vulnerability and risk
Employment and labour markets	Individuals embedded in social networks of radical peers or family members (T2.5) Work/school-related adversity (T2.7) Unemployment (T2.7)	Discrimination of family members of terrorists in the labour market. Unemployment effects on the personal identity, the role of the person in the family and in society. Stigmatization of work/school-related adversities within the society and impact on self-esteem.
Working conditions	Individuals embedded in social networks of radical peers or family members (T2.5)	Discrimination against members of Muslim communities.
Effects on income distribution and social inclusion	Radicalization of belief (T2.1) Implementation of counter terrorism policies in Muslim community (T2.2 and T2.4) Individuals embedded in social networks of radical peers or family members (T2.5) Work/school-related adversity (T2.7)	Stigmatization against Muslims and the consequent exclusion from society and from working and educational opportunities.
Governance, participation and good administration	Lack of involvement of Muslim communities in the development of counter-terrorism policies (T2.2 and T2.4)	Distrust of the institutions. Policies fostering stigma and discrimination.
Public health and safety	Mental illness (T2.5)	Stigma and discrimination toward patients. Risk of non consensual or compulsory medical treatment.
Crime terrorism and security	Implementation of counter terrorism policies in Muslim community (T2.2 and T2.4)	Discrimination against members of Muslim communities. Risk of being targeted by police controls and

		measures
Access to and effects on social protection, health and educational systems	Mental illness (T2.5) Implementation of counter terrorism policies in Muslim community (T2.2 and T2.4) Individuals embedded in social networks of radical peers or family members (T2.5) Work/school-related adversity (T2.7) Unemployment (T2.7) Low education (T2.7)	Stigmatization against Muslims and the consequent exclusion from society and from working and educational opportunities.
Cultural	Religious fundamentalism, religious identity (T2.1) Radicalization of belief (T2.1) Religiousness, mosque attendance, prayer frequency (T2.1) Individuals embedded in social networks of radical peers or family members (T2.5)	Stigmatization against Muslims and the consequent exclusion from society and from working and educational opportunities. Discrimination against members of Muslim communities.

Table 4 – Terrorism risk factors: Human Rights Impacts

Area of impact (human rights)	Risk factor	Vulnerability and risks
Dignity	Unemployment (T2.7) Work/school-related adversity (T2.7)	Unemployment affects the personal identity, the role of subject in the family and in society Work/school related adversities are stigmatized within society and could have an impact on self-esteem.
Individuals, private and family life, freedom of conscience and expression	Religiousness, mosque attendance, prayer frequency (T2.1); Individuals embedded in social networks of radical peers or family members	Restrictions on right to assembly and association and discrimination on religious basis. Members of the Muslim community are

	(T2.5) Religious fundamentalism, religious identity (T2.1)	vulnerable even if they have no relation with terrorism. Family members of terrorist can suffer the social stigma but also restriction of personal freedom.
Personal data	Implementation of counter terrorism policies in Muslim community (T2.2 and T2.4)	Disclosure of personal Information without consent. Unauthorised access to personal data.
Asylum and protection of removal, expulsion or extradition	Implementation of counter terrorism policies in Muslim community (T2.2 and T2.4)	Equality before the law. Discrimination of asylum seekers.
Gender equality, equality treatment and opportunities, non–discrimination, and rights of persons with disabilities	Implementation of counter terrorism policies in Muslim community (T2.2 and T2.4) Work/school-related adversity (T2.7)	Equality before the law. Equality of opportunities in the labour market and education.
Rights of the child	Work/school-related adversity (T2.7)	Stigma and discrimination on ethnic and religious basis in schools and workplaces.

The tables show that the identified risk factors have multiple impacts on societal areas and human rights. The most relevant human rights are those **protecting private and family life, freedom of conscience and expression, equality treatment and non-discrimination**. In particular, those risk factors referring to religion (T2.1: religiousness, mosque attendance, prayer frequency; religious fundamentalism, religious identity) need to be considered in the light of **freedom of conscience and expression** that is a fundamental right granted within the EU. On the other hand, risk factors such as living in high risk neighbourhood (T1.2) or having criminal contacts at work place (T1.3), that could lead to an easier recruitment in OC, have to be considered in the light of **freedom of movement** and **privacy respect**. Consequently, any measures that affect the above-mentioned risk factors need to respect those freedoms.

Most factors related to terrorism are likely to foster stigma and discrimination towards Muslims, thus threatening the respect of the principles of **equality treatment and non-discrimination**. For instance, the implementation of

counter-terrorism policies promotes the discriminatory targeting of Muslim communities as "suspect communities" and their consequent criminalization, enhancing a feeling of prejudice within the rest of society. Moreover, Muslims feel attacked because the preventive measures are mainly directed to their communities (e.g. police "stop and search" interventions are much more frequent in some neighbourhoods where the presence of Muslims is massive). Some of the identified risk factors are relevant in the **labour market and employment** area, which also involves the right to **dignity**. Work-school related adversity (T2.4 and T2.7), poor educational offer (T1.2), unemployment (T1.2, T2.7) and intergenerational social mobility (T1.6) are risk factors that might facilitate the recruitment of people in OCTNs, particularly when other factors are present (i.e. marginalisation, socio-economic deprivation or meeting a radical person). In order to reduce the impact of these elements, programs and activities promoting social inclusion, educating young people, and facilitating the access to the labour markets need to be supported and spread. Moreover, family members of individuals embedded in social networks of radical peers (T2.5) might be discriminated and even kept out from the labour market. Stigmatization of the family members has negative effect in the socio-economic situation of the family, also in OC (T1.3): family members suffer from isolation, police brutality, undignified treatment, financial hardship, and emotional and psychological difficulties[7].

Social inclusion is probably the most affected area by the identified risk factors concerning terrorism, since they contribute to increasing stigmatization against Muslims and the consequent exclusion from society. The implementation of counter terrorism policies in Muslim community (T2.2 and T2.4), that is fundamental to prevent terrorist attacks (**crime terrorism and security**), has the side effect of criminalizing the whole community that feels isolated from and stigmatised by the rest of society[8]. This may create resentment and push people into radicalization and terrorism (T2.2 and T2.4). In order to avoid this form of discrimination, counter terrorism measures should protect the Muslim communities within society and promote a "good portrait" of them, to highlight the difference between Muslim communities and terrorists. These communities are not always taken into account when designing and implementing the policies and feel more and more excluded. This might affect the **Governance, participation, and good administration** level. The opposite direction is the one to follow: initiatives involving the communities need to be promoted and the dialogue between them and the rest of society needs to be supported, in order to foster the cooperation against radicalisation and terrorism. In the area of **good administration of justice** in the field of OC, the analysis of policies identified as risk factor for recruitment and recurrence the restrictive measures in prison not oriented to re-socialization and integration to society (T1.2).

4 Conclusions

Our analyses of WP1, WP2 and WP3 highlight the ethical and societal impacts of the risk factors leading to recruitment to OCTNs and identify some important safeguards to ensure the compliance of the researches with the standards set by the ethical rules.

5 References

[1] Israel M., I. Hay, *Research Ethics for Social Scientists: between ethical conduct and regulatory compliance*, London Sage Publications, 2006, p. 23.

[2] RESPECT Project, The RESPECT Code of Practice. http://www.respectproject.org/code/ (last access 28th September 2017).

[3] http://www.respectproject.org/ethics/guidelines.php (last access 28th September 2017). For the full document see http://www.respectproject.org/ethics/412ethics.pdf (last access 28th September 2017).

[4] King E. B., Ahmad A. S., *An experimental field study of interpersonal discrimination toward Muslim job applicant,* in *Personnel Psychology*, 2010, 63(4), pp. 881-906.

[5] Khosravi S., *White mask/Muslim names: immigrants and name-changing in Sweden,* in *Race and Class*, 2012, 53(3), pp. 65-80.

[6] http://ec.europa.eu/smart- regulation/guidelines/tool_16_en.htm (last access 28th September 2017).

[7] Guru S., *Under siege: Families of counter-terrorism*, in *British Journal of Social Work, 42(6),* 2012, pp. 1151-1173.

[8] Alam Y., Husband C., *Islamophobia, Community Cohesion and Counter-Terrorism Policies in Britain*, in *Pattern of Prejudice,* 47 (3), 2013, pp. 235 – 252.