



PROTON

Modelling the processes leading
to organised crime and terrorist networks

eNewsletter 2

September 2017 (M12)

D7.11 eNewsletter 2

WP7, T7.3



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



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Technical References

Project Acronym	PROTON
Project Title	Modelling the PRocesses leading to Organised crime and TerrOrist Networks
Project Coordinator	Ernesto Savona Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore ernesto.savona@unicatt.it  
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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)

Document history			
V	Date	Beneficiary	Author
1	31/03/2017	15 YOURIS	Silvia Raimondi, Elena Gaboardi



0 Summary

As the second release of the Deliverable regarding the newsletter of the PROTON project, the present document will follow closely the structure and the contents of the original one.

The main updates are mainly about the content structure of the newsletter, the numbers of the online community of the project and the statistics and reporting from the first issue of the newsletter.

With regard to the choices that have been made about the format and the distribution process of the newsletter, we refer the reader to the D7.4 "eNewsletter 1", that was released in March 2017.



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1 Objectives

In this second issue of the project newsletter, the principal aim of the mail-out is to highlight the advance in the project's work and to promote the project's events to its community of stakeholders.

The news related to the on-going activities of PROTON were issued by the PROTON consortium, while youris.com took care to adjust them and fit them for the newsletter format. As stated in the previous version of this deliverable, this procedure was set up in order to ensure that an appropriate level of detail and technicalities is employed, that will result in a better understanding and appreciation from readers.

2 Contents

The initial results of the PROTON project make up the main contents of the present newsletter issue, with a special focus on the events that the project organised in the past six months.

As in the first issue, in order to make the newsletter more appealing for readers and to provide valuable information regarding the broad topic of the project, a **small selection of external events** has also been included.

Below a list of the contents provided in the first issue of the newsletter:

1. **Editorial** – an introductory text, prepared by the project coordinator, that presents the main achievements of the past six months and introduces the events that will take place in the following period.
2. **News from the project** – two main news, originated from WP2 and WP3, originally provided by the partners and adapted by youris.com to the newsletter format.
3. **Media Room highlight** – the website media room, where users can download the project's public deliverables, is promoted.
4. **PROTON Past Events** – the three events organised by the project in the past six months are here presented, together with a short description.
5. **Events** – a selection of events due in the next six months, deemed relevant for the newsletter readers: three of them are external events, while one is organised by the project.
6. **Credits and disclaimers** – a number of official information is required at the end of the newsletter: a disclaimer, acknowledging the EC funding, and a footer for un-subscriptions for the html format.



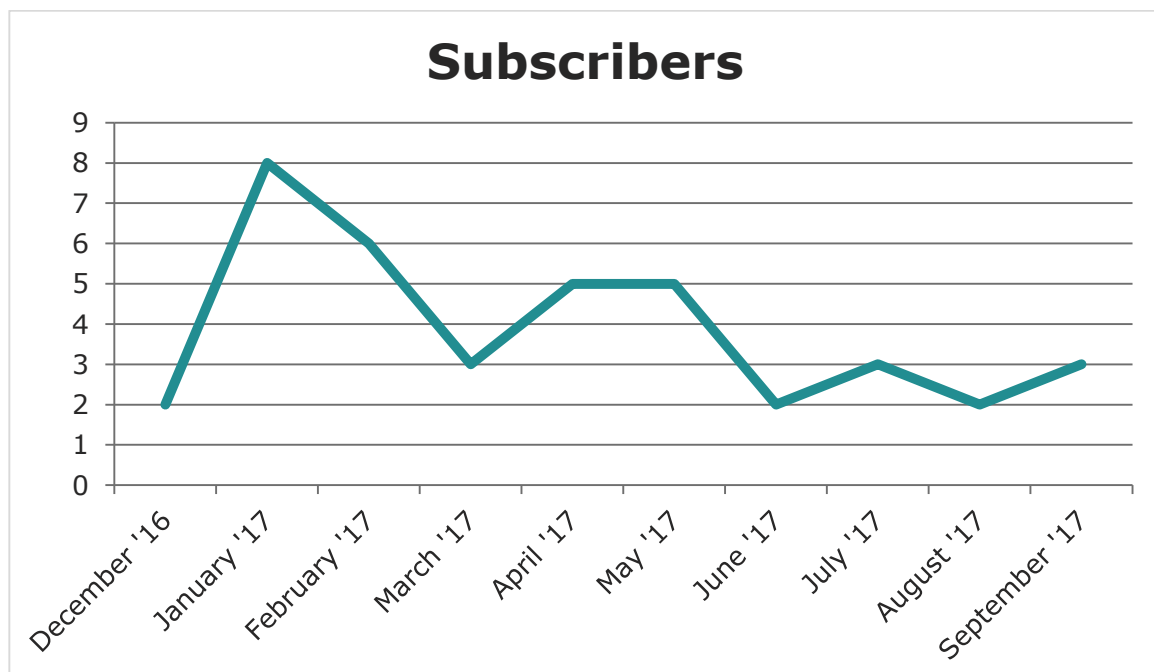
3 Subscribers

As mentioned in the previous version of the present deliverables, the subscribers to the PROTON online community are gathered through a **sign-up form** that has been set in place at the moment of the website online. This form allows users to register their e-mail address and so doing to become part of the PROTON stakeholders' community and receive the periodical communications from the project. The registration to the community is only possible following the acceptance of the privacy policy of the project.

Till this moment, **the database of users was built on a voluntary basis**: so far, no specific actions have been put in place in order to increase the registrations, but as the first year of the project approaches its end, it is foreseen that they will be undertaken.

At the present moment such database is composed of **39 subscribers**, who registered from the online of the website till now, from M4 and M12. Below a graph shows the trend in registration for the past months: the spike in January 2017 follows the website online and the subsequent traffic generated.

Figure 1 – Subscriptions' trend (December '16 – September '17)



4 Technical implementation

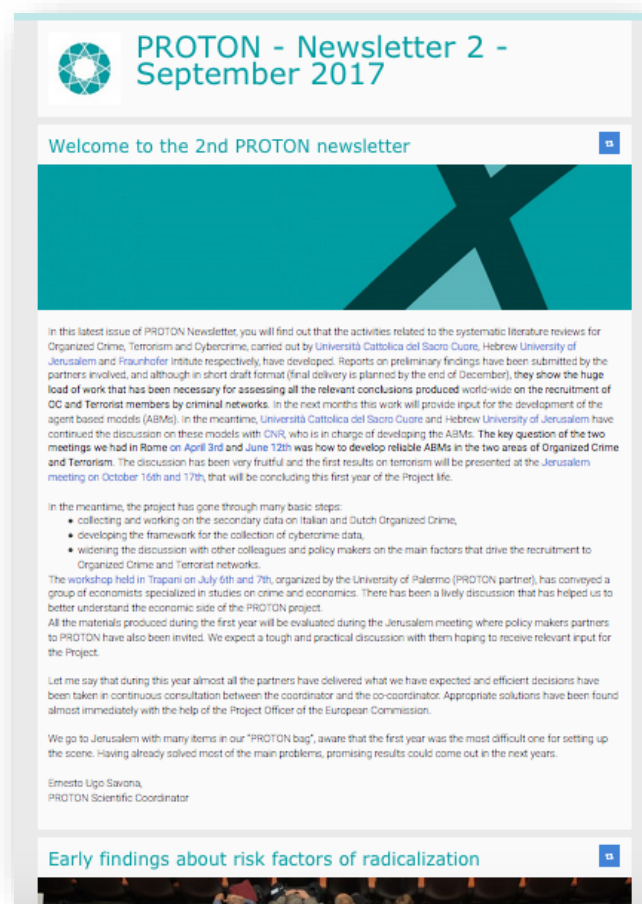
The design and implementation of the newsletter follows the steps illustrated in the first version of this deliverable, in a process that ensures the maximum possible distribution of the contents and at the same time safeguards the custody of the subscribers' personal data.

The steps for the implementation are explained in the following chapters.

4.1 Scoop.it e-zine

Scoop.it has been selected as a suitable tool, thanks to its specific feature that facilitates the access to the contents from users that don't necessarily know of the project or of the release of the newsletter.

Figure 2 – Scoop.it e-zine of the PROTON newsletter



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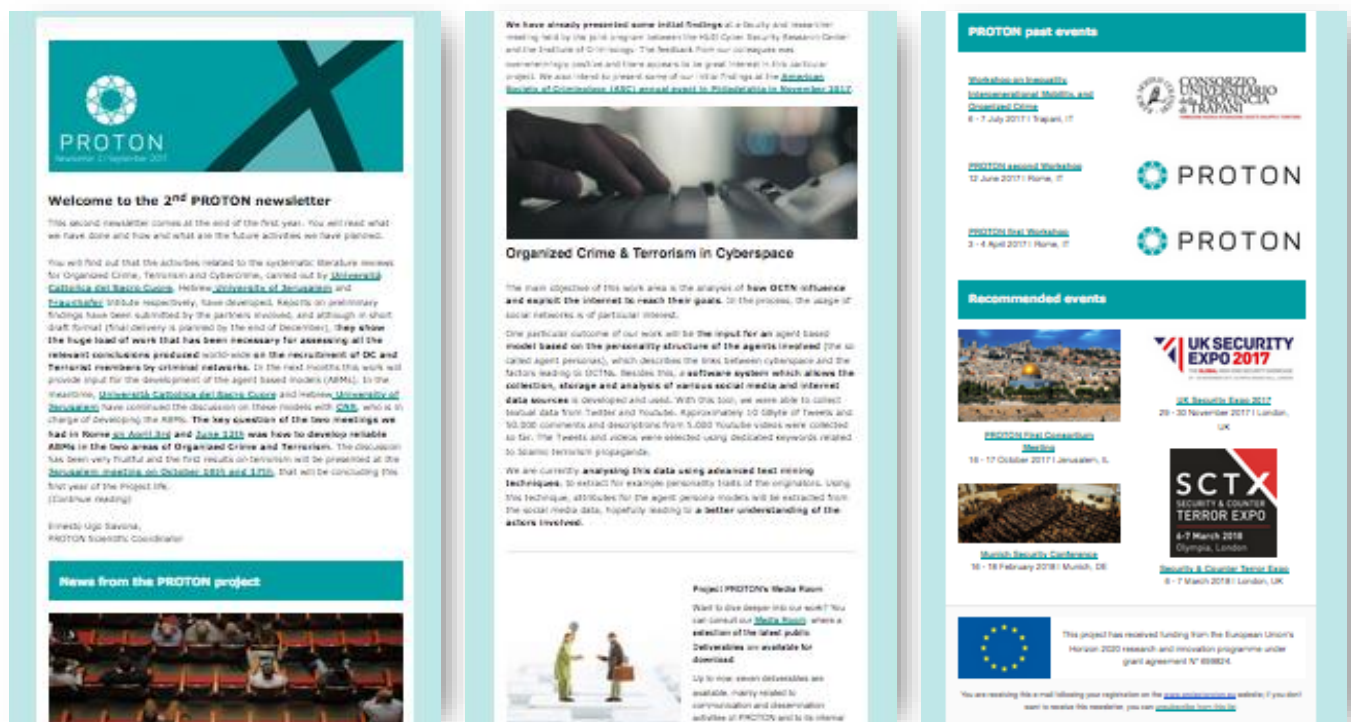
4.2 Wordpress newsletter

After the creation of the Scoop.it e-zine, the newsletter is then **adapted into an html file that can be sent out to subscribers through a mailing engine.**

This adaptation is performed by youris.com through different instruments, but starting from the materials and formats used for the Scoop.it e-zine.

The html version of the newsletter includes also an **un-subscription option** for users who do not want to receive project's communications anymore, in accordance with EU privacy regulations.

Figure 3 – Html version of the PROTON newsletter



4.3 Website embed


The PROTON newsletter is also made available to the visitors of the website, in order to encourage them to register and receive the next issues of the newsletter. The Scoop.it e-zine allows youris.com to **embed the newsletter posts into a webpage**, while retaining all the functionalities and most of the graphic elements of the original platform.



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Users also have the chance to **download the newsletter as a PDF file**; this format allows the consortium to easily share the newsletter with other contacts and to include it into their own newsletters and communications.

Figure 4 – PDF version of the PROTON newsletter




Welcome to the 2nd PROTON newsletter

This second newsletter comes at the end of the first year. You will read what we have done and how and what are the future activities we have planned.

You will find out that the activities related to the systematic literature reviews for Organized Crime, Terrorism and Cybercrime, carried out by [Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore](#), [Hebrew University of Jerusalem](#) and [Fraunhofer](#) Institute respectively, have developed. Reports on preliminary findings have been submitted by the partners involved, and although in short draft format (final delivery is planned by the end of December), **they show the huge load of work that has been necessary for assessing all the relevant conclusions produced world-wide on the recruitment of OC and Terrorist members by criminal networks.** In the next months this work will provide input for the development of the agent based models (ABMs). In the meantime, Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore and Hebrew University of Jerusalem have continued the discussion on these models with [CNR](#), who is in charge of developing the ABMs. **The key question of the two meetings we had in Rome on April 8th and June 13th was how to develop reliable ABMs in the two areas of Organized Crime and Terrorism.** The discussion has been very fruitful and the first results on terrorism will be presented at the [Jerusalem meeting on October 16th and 17th](#), that will be concluding this first year of the Project life. [\(Continue reading\)](#)

Ernesto Ugo Savano,
PROTON Scientific Coordinator


News from the PROTON project



Early findings about risk factors of radicalization

Over the last six months, project PROTON at Hebrew University has made significant progress in its work. This period has seen the involvement of a number of research students from both criminology and law, as well as post-doctorate and doctorate researchers. The research team, which includes a number of Arabic speakers, have been working hard to carry out the data collection and extraction. Our initial analysis of this data has already led to some interesting findings, such as **important differences in the pooled effects of a range of risk factors of radicalization, including education, discrimination, and relative deprivation.** These findings will eventually lead to the development of measures which will ultimately feed into the agent based models (ABMs). To this end, the HUIJ team also traveled to Rome this year and met with PROTON partners to discuss and plan the design and methodology of the ABMs and how the individual PROTON studies can be used to construct inputs for the ABMs. We believe that this strong sense of collaboration will lead to a well developed and specified model.

Additionally, in the area of cyber, **we are seeing indications that radicals who post online may increase their online activities in the days preceding a violent attack.** We presented some of these initial findings at a faculty and researcher workshop held by the joint program between the HUIJ Cyber Security Research Center and the Institute of Criminology. The feedback from our colleagues was overwhelmingly positive and there appears to be great interest in this particular project.



Organized Crime & Terrorism in Cyberspace

The main objective of this work area is the analysis of **how OCTN influence and exploit the internet to reach their goals.** In the process, the usage of social networks is of particular interest.


One particular outcome of our work will be **the input for an agent based model based on the personality structure of the agents involved** (the so called agent personas), which describes the links between cyberspace and the factors leading to OCTNs. Besides this, **a software system which allows the collection, storage and analysis of various social media and internet data sources** is developed and used. With this tool, we were able to collect textual data from Twitter and Youtube. Approximately 10 GByte of Tweets and 50.000 comments and descriptions from 5.000 Youtube videos were collected so far. The Tweets and videos were selected using dedicated keywords related to Islamic terrorism propaganda.

We are currently **analysing this data using advanced text mining techniques**, to extract for example personality traits of the originators. Using this technique, attributes for the agent persona models will be extracted from the social media data, hopefully leading to **a better understanding of the actors involved.**

Project PROTON's Media Room

Want to dive deeper into our work? You can consult our [Media Room](#), where a selection of the latest public Deliverables are available for download.

Up to now, seven deliverables are available, mainly related to communication and dissemination activities of PROTON and to its internal organisation.




PROTON past events

[Workshop on Inequality, Interpersonal Mobility, and Organized Crime](#)
6 - 7 July 2017 | Trapani, IT

[PROTON second Workshop](#)
12 June 2017 | Rome, IT

[PROTON first Workshop](#)
3 - 4 April 2017 | Rome, IT



Recommended events


[UK Security Expo 2017](#)
29 - 30 November 2017 | London, UK

[PROTON First Consortium Meeting](#)
16 - 17 October 2017 | Jerusalem, IL

[Munich Security Conference](#)
16 - 18 February 2018 | Munich, DE

[SCTX Security & Counter Terror Expo](#)
6-7 March 2018
Olympia, London

[Security & Counter Terror Expo](#)
6 - 7 March 2018 | London, UK



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5 Results

The results presented below refer mainly to the first issue of the newsletter, since at the present moment a period of six months has elapsed from the original release. The data regarding the second issue are to be considered provisional and will be presented in full in the next release of the deliverable.

Figure 5 – Performances of the Newsletter first issue

Mail-out date and time	Delivery rate	Open rate	Click rate	Scoop.it views	Visits on website	Un-subscriptions
28/03/17 18:00	17/17	76,47%	29,41%	138	39	0
29/09/17 13:00	39/39	46,15%	20,51%	N.A.	N.A.	0

Below a small explanation of the variables analysed:

- **Mail-out date and time** – the moment in which the html version of the newsletter was sent to subscribers;
- **Delivery rate** – the percentage of subscribers that actually received the newsletter; this could be less than 100% in the case that some of the addresses in the database should be de-activated, or full, or misspelt at the moment of registration;
- **Open rate** – the percentage of recipients that opened the newsletter in their inbox;
- **Click rate** – the percentage of recipients that clicked onto a link in the newsletter from their inbox;
- **Scoop.it views** – the number of visits to the Scoop.it e-zine of the newsletter, either on the Scoop.it platform or on the website embed;
- **Visits on the website** – number of visits to the website that were originated from the newsletter mail-out: this is tracked via the tracking code explained in section 4.2 of the present document;
- **Un-subscriptions** – the number of users that, after receiving the newsletter, requested to be removed from the database and to avoid receiving the newsletter in the future.

These variables are monitored and quantified by youris.com through different instruments: Google Analytics, Scoop.it Insights, Wordpress.



6 Next issues

The PROTON project will release **5 issues of the newsletter overall**, that are being released every six months. While the main **design and production process of the newsletter will remain mainly unvaried** throughout the whole project, youris.com and the partners will evaluate how to best integrate the original layout and contents structure for each release.

In the case of the present second issue some elements have been added, such as the project's past events or the focus on the Media Room. It is expected that the same adjustment will take place in the next releases as well.

Regarding timings, each issue of the newsletter is associated with a project deliverable and from this schedule also descends the schedule of the mail-outs.

Figure 6 – Timeline of next issues of the Newsletter

Release number	Release date	Relative deliverable	Deliverable due date
eNewsletter 1	March 2017	D7.4 PROTON eNewsletter 1	M6
eNewsletter 2	September 2017	D7.11 PROTON eNewsletter 2	M12
eNewsletter 3	February 2018	D7.12 PROTON eNewsletter 3	M18
eNewsletter 4	September 2018	D7.13 PROTON eNewsletter 4	M24
eNewsletter 5	February 2019	D7.14 PROTON eNewsletter 5	M30

