



PROTON

Modelling the processes leading
to organised crime and terrorist networks



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European Union

eNewsletter 4

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D7.13 eNewsletter 4

WP7, T7.3

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Modelling the PRocesses leading to Organised crime and TerrOrist Networks
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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)

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1 Summary and objectives

This deliverable presents the fourth issue of the PROTON project eNewsletter. It follows the structure of the previous versions (D7.4, D7.11 and D7.12). More detailed data about results are here presented regarding the previous issues of the newsletters, that can now be presented in full.

The present eNewsletter includes the project's second journalistic article written by the youris.com team, along with a number of interviews to project partners giving an insight into some of the most intriguing aspects of PROTON research lines. It also highlights "Changing Organized Crime: Lessons from EU Project PROTON", PROTON's side event of the Ninth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime taking place on the 18th of October 2018 in Vienna, Austria.

2 Contents

The structure of the fourth issue of the PROTON eNewsletter follows closely the one of the past releases. It starts with the point of view of the project's coordinator, followed by news published by youris.com in the past months. A small selection of thematic events is proposed right after.

Below a list of the contents:

1. **Editorial** – an introductory text, prepared by the project coordinator, that presents the main achievements of the past six months.
2. **Editorial news**– articles and news produced by the project and published in the last six months
3. **Events** – a selection of events due in the next months, deemed relevant for the newsletter readers;
4. **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

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



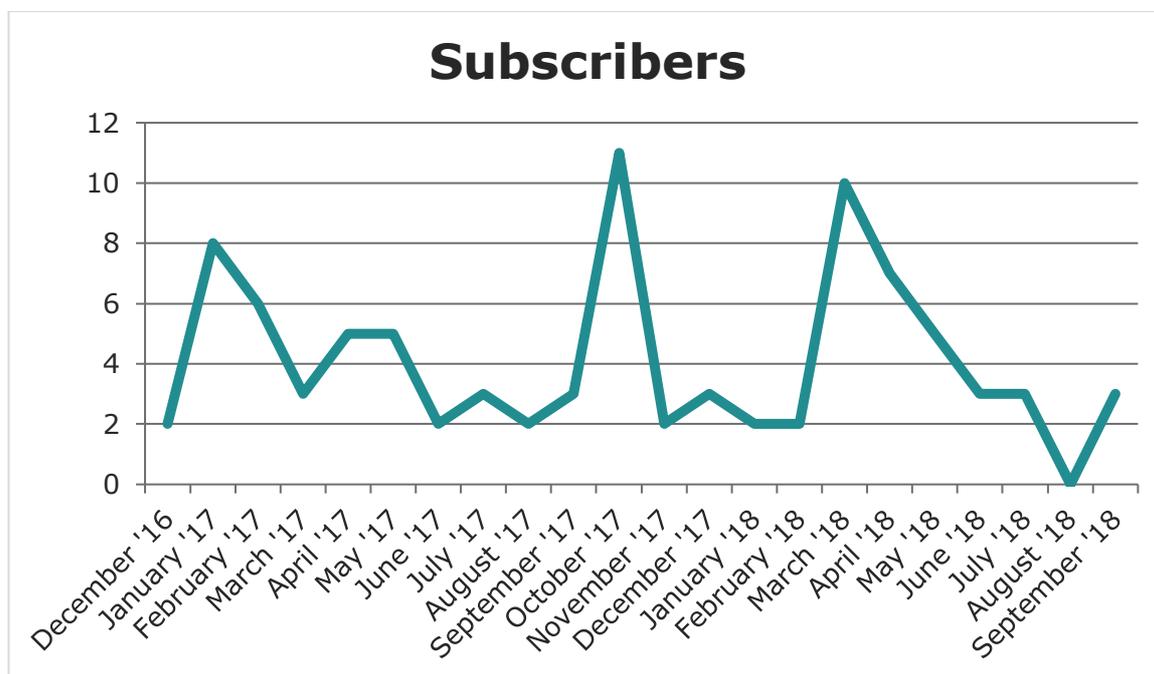
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communications from the project. The registration to the community is only possible following the acceptance of the privacy policy of the project.

At the present moment such database is composed of **94 subscribers**, who registered from the online of the website till now, from M4 and M24.

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, the one in October 2017 follows the distribution of the 2nd newsletter issue performed by the partners, the one in March 2018 coincides with the project's review meeting.

Figure 1 – Subscriptions' trend (December '16 – September '18)



4 Technical implementation

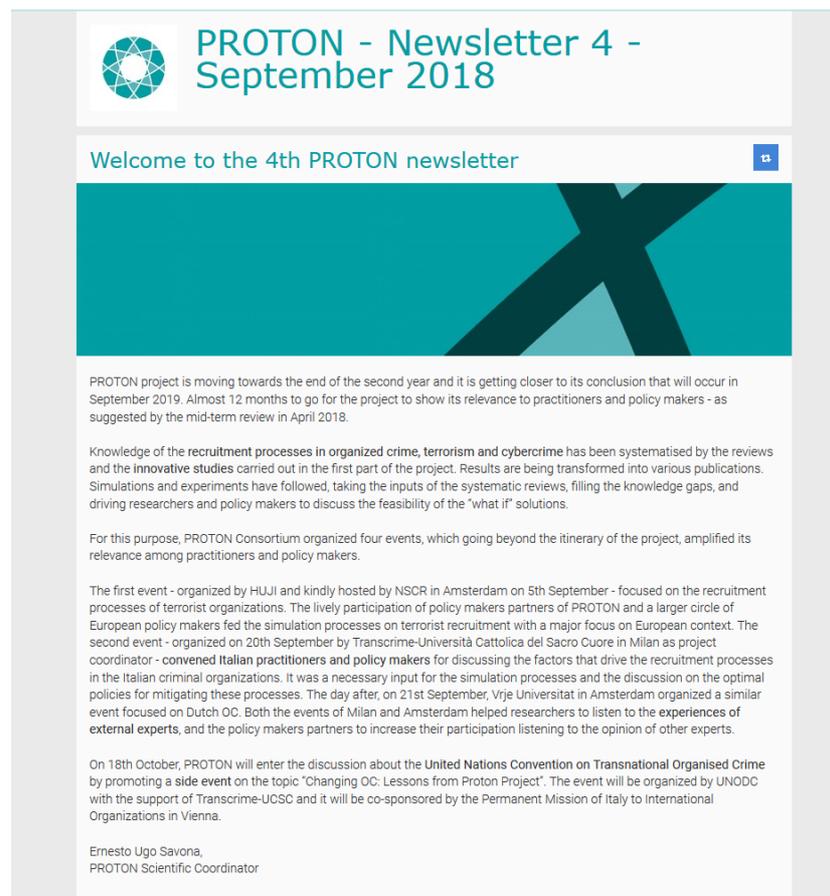
The design and implementation of the newsletter remains unchanged from the past releases, in a process that ensures the maximum possible distribution of the contents and at the same time safeguards the custody of the subscribers' personal data.



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



4.2 Wordpress newsletter

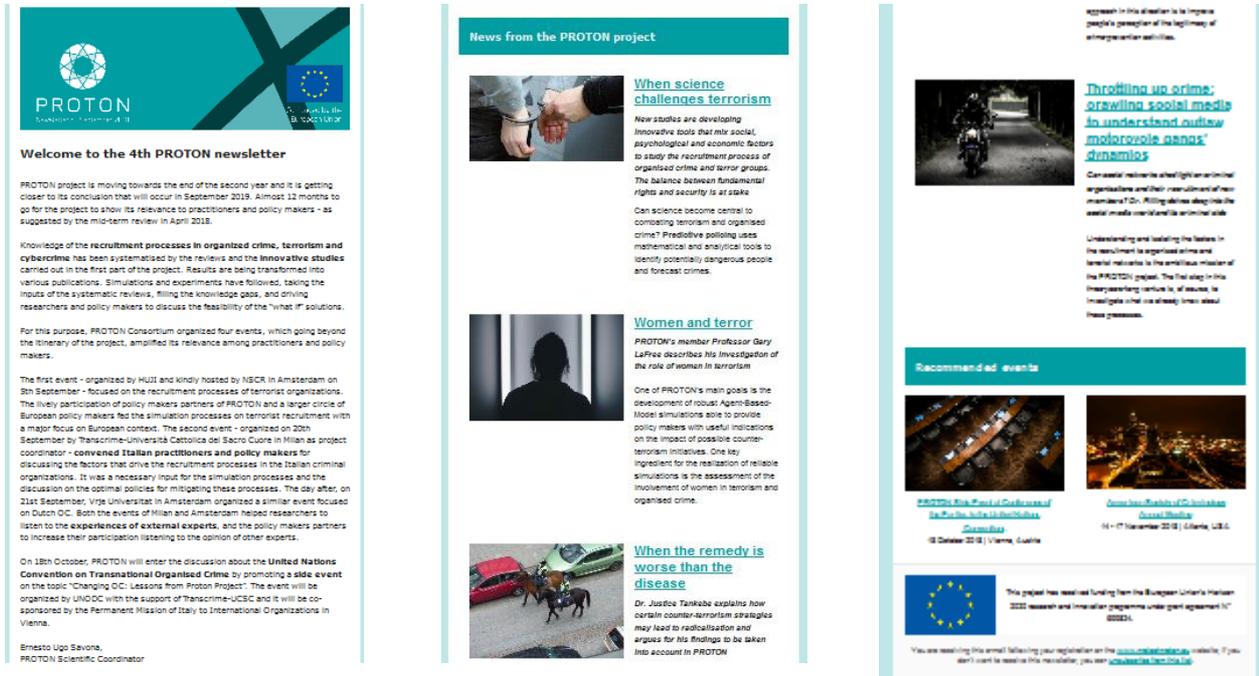
After the creation of the Scoop.it e-zine, the newsletter is then **adapted into an html file that can be sent out to subscribers through a mailing engine** implemented through the website CMS, Wordpress. This adaptation is performed by youris.com through different instruments, but starting from the materials and formats used for the Scoop.it e-zine.



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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.

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.



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Figure 4 – PDF version of the PROTON newsletter

Welcome to the 4th PROTON newsletter

PROTON project is moving towards the end of the second year and it is getting closer to its conclusion that will occur in September 2019. Almost 12 months to go for the project to show its relevance to practitioners and policy makers - as suggested by the mid-term review in April 2018.

Knowledge of the recruitment processes in organized crime, terrorism and cybercrime has been systematised by the reviews and the **innovative studies** carried out in the first part of the project. Results are being transformed into various publications. Simulations and experiments have followed, taking the inputs of the systematic reviews, filling the knowledge gaps, and driving researchers and policy makers to discuss the feasibility of the "what if" solutions.

For this purpose, PROTON Consortium organized four events, which going beyond the itinerary of the project, amplified its relevance among practitioners and policy makers.

The first event - organized by HUIJ and kindly hosted by NSCR in Amsterdam on 5th September - focused on the recruitment processes of terrorist organizations. The lively participation of policy makers partners of PROTON and a larger circle of European policy makers fed the simulation processes on terrorist recruitment with a major focus on European context. The second event - organized on 20th September by Transcrime-Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore in Milan as project coordinator - **convened Italian practitioners and policy makers** for discussing the factors that drive the recruitment processes in the Italian criminal organizations. It was a necessary input for the simulation processes and the discussion on the optimal policies for mitigating these processes. The day after, on 21st September, Vrije Universiteit in Amsterdam organized a similar event focused on Dutch OC. Both the events of Milan and Amsterdam helped researchers to listen to the **experiences of external experts**, and the policy makers partners to increase their participation listening to the opinion of other experts.

On 18th October, PROTON will enter the discussion about the **United Nations Convention on Transnational Organised Crime** by promoting a **side event** on the topic "Changing OC: Lessons from Proton Project". The event will be organized by UNODC, with the support of Transcrime-UCDC and it will be co-sponsored by the Permanent Mission of Italy to International Organizations in Vienna.

Ernesto Ugo Savona,
PROTON Scientific Coordinator

News from the PROTON project

When science challenges terrorism

New studies are developing innovative tools that mix social, psychological and economic factors to study the recruitment process of organised crime and terror groups. The balance between fundamental rights and security is at stake

Can science become central to combating terrorism and organised crime? Predictive policing uses mathematical and analytical tools to identify potentially dangerous people and forecast crimes.

Women and terror

PROTON's member Professor Gary LaFree describes his investigation of the role of women in terrorism

One of PROTON's main goals is the development of robust Agent-Based-Model simulations able to provide policy makers with useful indications on the impact of possible counter-terrorism initiatives. One key ingredient for the realization of reliable simulations is the assessment of the involvement of women in terrorism and organised crime.

When the remedy is worse than the disease

Dr. Justice Tankebe explains how certain counter-terrorism strategies may lead to radicalisation and argues for his findings to be taken into account in PROTON

The prevention of radicalisation and recruitment of new members is a critical aspect of the fight against terrorism. One approach in this direction is to improve people's perception of the legitimacy of crime-prevention activities.

Throttling up crime: crawling social media to understand outlaw motorcycle gangs' dynamics

Can social networks shed light on criminal organisations and their recruitment of new members? Dr. Rilling delves deep into the social media world and its criminal side

Understanding and isolating the factors in the recruitment to organised crime and terrorist networks is the ambitious mission of the PROTON project. The first step in this three-year-long venture is, of course, to investigate what we already know about those processes.

Recommended events

PROTON Side Event at Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention
19 October 2018 | Vienna, Austria

American Society of Criminology Annual Meeting
14 - 17 November 2018 | Atlanta, USA

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5 Results

A number of data are presented below to show the results of the previous eNewsletter issues. They refer to all formats of the newsletter and aim at evaluating the performances of each issue. Full data will be presented in the next release of the deliverable.

Figure 5 – Performances of the first Newsletter issues

Mail-out date and time	Delivery rate	Open rate	Click rate	Scoop.it views	Visits to website	Web-pages visits	Un-subscriptions
28/03/17 18:00	17/17	76,47%	29,41%	206	19	151	0
29/09/17 13:00	39/39	64,10%	30,77%	228	14	148	0
28/03/18 14:00	69/69	55,07%	13,04%	112	16	73	0
Total or average	-	65,21%	24,41%	546	49	372	-

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 mis-spelt 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 to 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;
- **Web-pages visits** – number of visits to the website pages where the newsletter is embedded. They differ from the previous data due to the fact that these pages are accessible from the website navigation, also to



users who are not registered and could not receive the newsletter in their inbox;

- **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

Four out of the six PROTON eNewsletters have been released. Next issues will be released in M30 and M36.

Although until month 30 a deliverable is associated with each eNewsletter issue, we foresee that a final eNewsletter will be issued at the very end of the project, in order to disseminate further the latest results of PROTON. The results of this last release will be included in the D7.8 Final Report on Dissemination and Communication activities, due in M36, instead of a dedicated deliverable.

The structure of the Newsletter is planned to remain overall constant, but, as seen for the present release, adjustments and additions will be evaluated by youris.com and the consortium in order to best accommodate the contents that will need to be distributed.

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	March 2018	D7.12 PROTON eNewsletter 3	M18
eNewsletter 4	September 2018	D7.13 PROTON eNewsletter 4	M24
eNewsletter 5	March 2019	D7.14 PROTON eNewsletter 5	M30
eNewsletter 6	September 2019	D7.8 Final Report	M36

