



PROTON

Modelling the processes leading
to organised crime and terrorist networks



Co-funded by the
European Union

eNewsletter 5

Date of document – March 2019 (M30)

D7.14 eNewsletter 5

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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Contributing beneficiary(ies)	
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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	28/03/19	15 YOURIS	Giulio Mazzolo, Elena Gaboardi



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1 Summary and objectives

This deliverable presents the fifth issue of the PROTON project eNewsletter. It follows the structure of the previous versions (D7.4, D7.11, D7.12 and D7.13). This document also reports more detailed data on the previous issue of the newsletter (outlined in D7.13), as results can now be presented in full.

The present eNewsletter includes the project's second journalistic article and the second interview, both written by the youris.com team of professional journalists, along with a number of other updates from PROTON. In particular, this issue advertises the project's press release on "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, which took place on the 18th of October 2018 in Vienna, Austria.

All versions of the issue presented in this document are accessible [here](#).

2 Contents

The structure of the fifth issue of the PROTON eNewsletter follows closely the one of the past releases. It consists of the following parts:

1. **Editorial** – an introductory text, prepared by the project coordinator, which gives an overview of the status of the project and the next steps.
2. **News from the PROTON project** – a list of press releases published by the project and highlighting the project's most important achievements in the last six months.
3. **Food for thoughts** – a section dedicated to the aforementioned journalistic production (article and interview). The title inspired by the fact that the two products explore broad topics and aim at stimulating the reader's thinking and curiosity.
4. **Events** – a selection of relevant upcoming events;
5. **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 from the newsletter.



3 Subscribers

The subscribers to the PROTON online community are gathered through a **sign-up form** that has been set in place when the website was launched 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 project's periodic communications. The registration to the community is only possible after the acceptance of the privacy policy of the project and publicly available on the website.

At the time of the present deliverable, the database consists of **120 subscribers**, who registered between M4 (launch of the website) and M30.

The following plot shows the registration trend. The spike in January 2017 follows the launch of the website and the subsequently generated traffic; the one in October 2017 is related to the distribution of the 2nd newsletter issue performed by the partners; the peak in March 2018 coincides with the project's review meeting; the one in October 2018 could have benefited from PROTON's side event of the Ninth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime.

Figure 1 – Subscriptions' trend (December '16 – March '19)



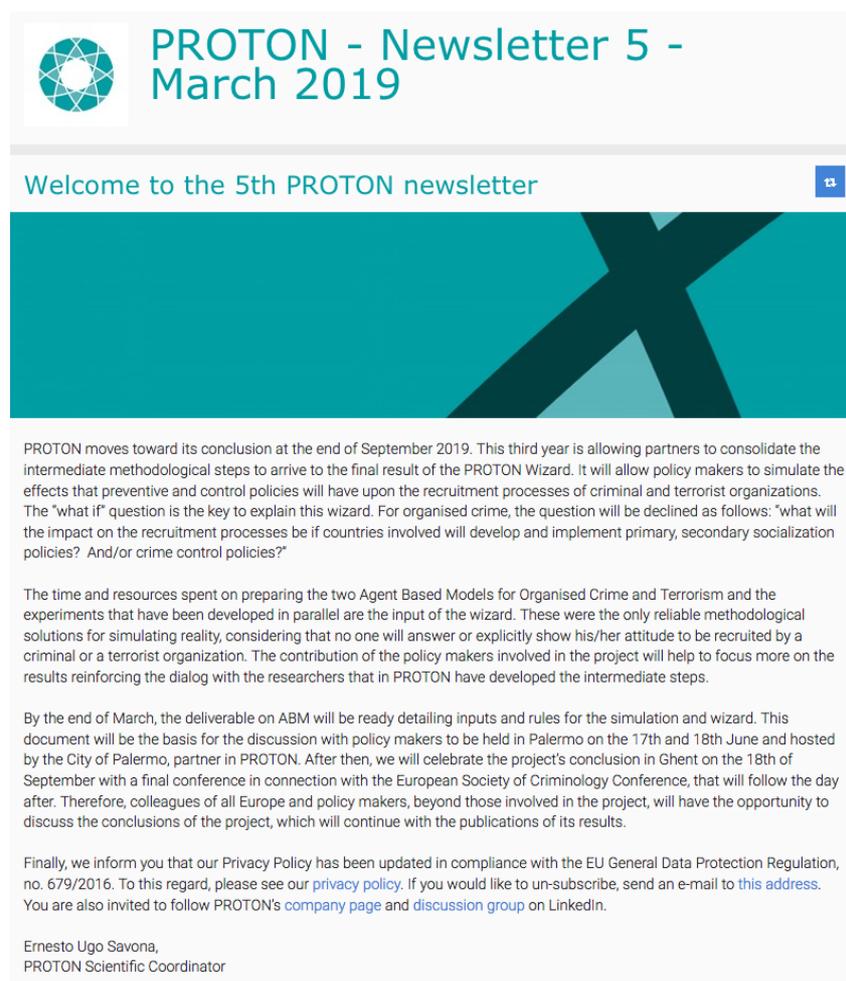
4 Technical implementation

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 newsletter release. The version on scoop.it of the issue presented in this document is accessible [here](#).

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



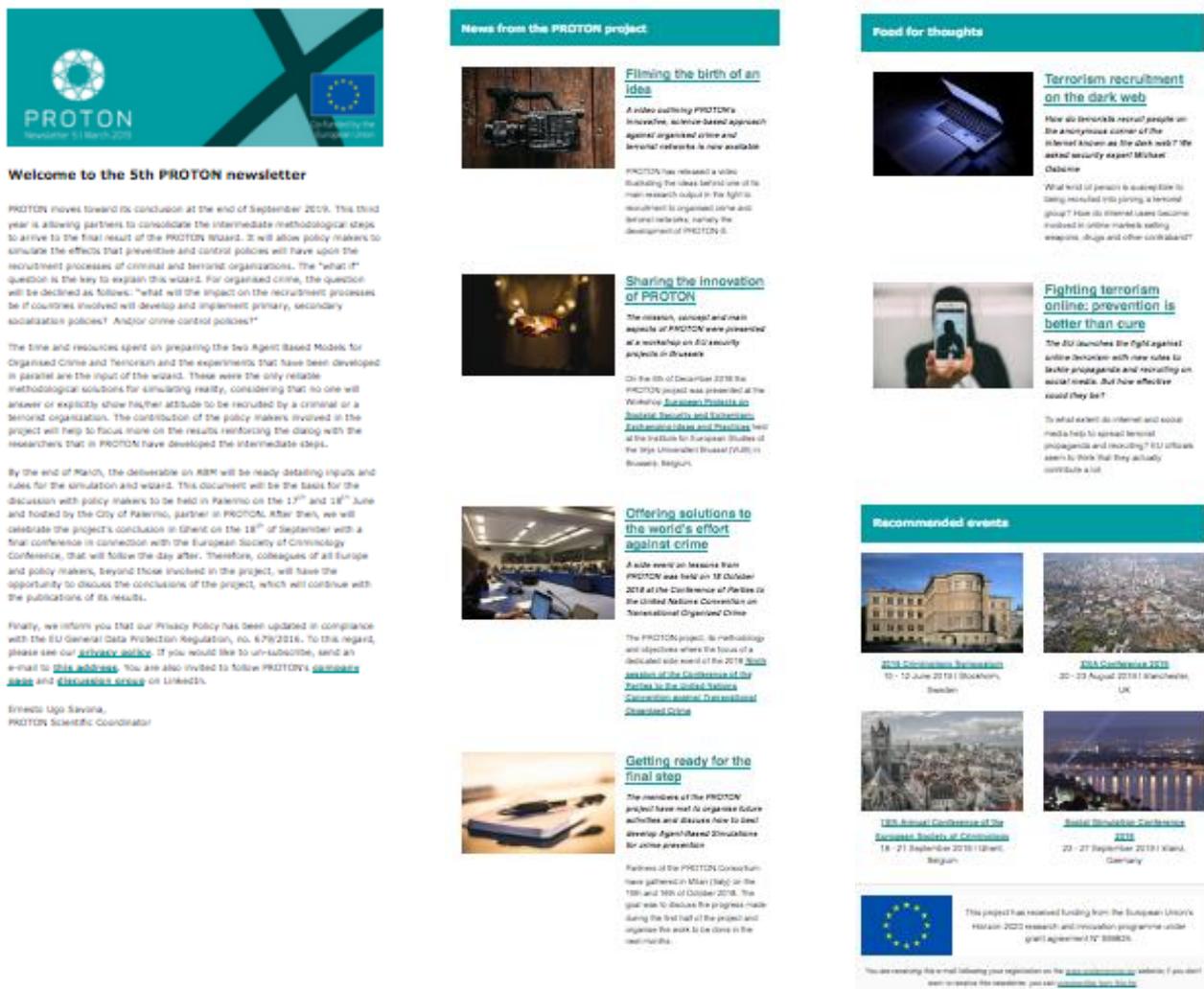
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4.2 Wordpress newsletter

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**. The engine is implemented through the website Wordpress Content Management System. This adaptation is performed by youris.com through different instruments, but it relies on 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



Welcome to the 5th PROTON newsletter

PROTON moves toward its conclusion at the end of September 2019. This third year is allowing partners to consolidate the intermediate methodological steps to arrive to the final result of the PROTON Wizard. It will allow policy makers to simulate the effects that preventive and control policies will have upon the recruitment processes of criminal and terrorist organizations. The "what if" question is the key to explain this wizard. For organized crime, the question will be defined as follows: "what will the impact on the recruitment processes be if countries involved will develop and implement primary, secondary socialization policies? And/or crime control policies?"

The time and resources spent on preparing the two Agent Based Models for Organized Crime and Terrorism and the experiments that have been developed in parallel are the input of the wizard. These were the only reliable methodological solutions for simulating reality, considering that no one will answer or explicitly know whether someone to be recruited by a criminal or a terrorist organization. The contribution of the policy makers involved in the project will help to focus more on the results reinforcing the dialog with the researchers that in PROTON have developed the intermediate steps.

By the end of March, the deliverable on ARM will be ready detailing inputs and rules for the simulation and wizard. This document will be the basis for the discussion with policy makers to be held in Palermo on the 17th and 18th June and hosted by the City of Palermo, partner in PROTON. After that, we will celebrate the project's conclusion in Ghent on the 18th of September with a final conference in connection with the European Society of Criminology Conference, that will follow the day after. Therefore, colleagues of all Europe and policy makers, beyond those involved in the project, will have the opportunity to discuss the conclusions of the project, which will continue with the publications of its results.

Finally, we inform you that our Privacy Policy has been updated in compliance with the EU General Data Protection Regulation, no. 679/2016. To this regard, please see our [privacy policy](#). If you would like to un-subscribe, send an e-mail to [this address](#). You are also invited to follow PROTON's [facebook page](#) and [LinkedIn page](#) on LinkedIn.

Ernesto Lugo Savaria,
PROTON Scientific Coordinator

News from the PROTON project

Filming the birth of an idea
A video outlining PROTON's innovative, science-based approach against organized crime and terrorist networks is now available.
PROTON has released a video illustrating the ideas behind one of its main research output in the fight to recruitment in organized crime and terrorist networks, namely the development of PROTON's...

Sharing the Innovation of PROTON
The mission, concept and main aspects of PROTON were presented at a workshop on EU security projects in Brussels.
On the 6th of December 2018 the PROTON project was presented at the Workshop: [European Security and Innovation: Policy, Security and Innovation](#), held at the Institute for European Studies of the Vrije Universiteit Brussel (VUB) in Brussels, Belgium.

Offering solutions to the world's effort against crime
A side event on lessons from PROTON was held on 18 October 2018 at the Conference of the Heads of the United Nations Commission on International Organized Crime.
The PROTON project, its methodology and objectives were the focus of a dedicated side event of the 2018 [Agenda of the Conference of the Heads of the United Nations Commission on International Organized Crime](#).

Getting ready for the final step
The members of the PROTON project have met to organize future activities and discuss how to best convey Agent-Based Simulations for crime prevention.
Members of the PROTON Consortium have gathered in Milan (Italy) on the 15th and 16th of October 2018. The goal was to discuss the progress made during the first half of the project and organize the work to be done in the next months.

Food for thoughts

Terrorism recruitment on the dark web
How do terrorists recruit people on the anonymous corner of the Internet known as the dark web? The latest security expert thinks.
What kind of person is easiest to be recruited into joining a terrorist group? How do internet users become involved in online markets selling weapons, drugs and other commodities?

Fighting terrorism online: prevention is better than cure
The EU launches the fight against online terrorism with new rules to better prosecute and recruit on social media. But how effective could they be?
To what extent do criminal and social media help to conduct terrorist propaganda and recruiting? EU officials seem to think that they actually contribute a lot.

Recommended events

EU Commission Symposium
10 - 12 June 2019 | Stockholm, Sweden

EU Conference 2019
20 - 23 August 2019 | Manchester, UK

10th Annual Conference of the European Society of Criminology
18 - 21 September 2018 | Ghent, Belgium

8th European Conference
23 - 27 September 2018 | Mainz, Germany

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You are receiving this e-mail following your registration on the [PROTON website](#). If you don't want to receive this newsletter, you can [unsubscribe here](#).



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4.3 Website embedding

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. 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.

Figure 4 – PDF version of the PROTON newsletter



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Ernesto Ugo Savona,
PROTON Scientific Coordinator

News from the PROTON project



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PROTON has released a video illustrating the ideas behind one of its main research output in the fight to recruitment to organised crime and terrorist networks, namely the development of PROTON-S.



Sharing the innovation of PROTON

The mission, concept and main aspects of PROTON were presented at a workshop on EU security projects in Brussels

On the 5th of December 2018 the PROTON project was presented at the Workshop [European Projects on Societal Security and Extremism: Exchanging Ideas and Practices](#) held at the Institute for European Studies of the Vrije Universiteit Brussel (VUB) in Brussels, Belgium.



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Offering solutions to the world's effort against crime

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The PROTON project, its methodology and objectives were the focus of a dedicated side event of the 2018 [Ninth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime](#).



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Food for thoughts



Terrorism recruitment on the dark web

How do terrorists recruit people on the anonymous corner of the internet known as the dark web? We asked security expert Michael Osborne

What kind of person is susceptible to being recruited into joining a terrorist group? How do internet users become involved in online markets selling weapons, drugs and other contraband?



Fighting terrorism online: prevention is better than cure

The EU launches the fight against online terrorism with new rules to tackle propaganda and recruiting on social media. But how effective could they be?

To what extent do internet and social media help to spread terrorist propaganda and recruiting? EU officials seem to think that they actually contribute a lot.

Recommended events



[2019 Criminology Symposium](#)
10 - 12 June 2019 | Stockholm, Sweden



[ESA Conference 2019](#)
20 - 23 August 2019 | Manchester, UK



[19th Annual Conference of the European Society of Criminology](#)
18 - 21 September 2019 | Ghent, Belgium



[Social Simulation Conference 2019](#)
23 - 27 September 2019 | Mainz, Germany



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5 Results

The following table summarises the performance of the previous issues. The data evolution from M31 to M36 will be reported in the next release of the deliverable (D7.8).

Table 1 – Performance of the first Newsletter issues until M30

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%	29%	226	19	156	0
29/09/17 13:00	39/39	64%	31%	244	14	156	0
28/03/18 14:00	69/69	55%	13%	138	19	85	0
28/09/18 11:20	90/90	53%	12%	67	15	42	0
Total or average	-	62%	21%	675	67	439	-

Variables in the table are defined as follows:

- **Mail-out date and time** – date and time when the html version of the newsletter was sent to the subscribers;
- **Delivery rate** – the percentage of subscribers that actually received the newsletter; this could be less than 100% in case some of the addresses in the database have been de-activated or were mis-spelt during 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;
- **Web-pages visits** – number of visits to the website page where the newsletter is embedded. This variable differs from the previous one in



this list as the 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 opt out.

The data is collected by youris.com via disparate instruments: Google Analytics, Scoop.it Insights and Wordpress.

6 Next issues

Five out of the six PROTON eNewsletters have been released. The next and last issue will be distributed in M36 and will contribute to the dissemination of PROTON's final results. The related report will be included in D7.8 "Final Report on Dissemination and Communication activities" (due in M36), instead of a dedicated deliverable.

The structure of the eNewsletter is expected to remain overall unchanged. However, adjustments and additions could be considered to best accommodate the distributed contents.

Figure 5 – Timeline of the next issue 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

