This project has received funding from the European Union’s Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No. 786894
PROPHETS - BACKGROUND

- EU funded with duration of 36 months (5/2018-4/2021)
- EU Contribution: 2,998,331.25 €
- The consortium consists of 15 academic, magisterial and police partners from ten EU member state

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PROPHETS - AIM

• Developing a coherent, EU-wide, adaptive security model concerning online behavioural radicalisation

  • Drawing upon the interplay of human factors within the new cyber ecosystem
  • Capable of addressing the four fundamental dimensions at the core of the online behavioral radicalisation:
    • Early identification of security threats
    • Investigations within a new public-private governance
    • Increased complexity of the response due to the expansion of the security perimeter towards new societal fields and the emergence of challenging jurisdictional problems
    • Perceptions of security and freedom among citizens, which requires a new communication strategy for LEAs and security policy makers

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PROPHETS – BASIC CONCEPTUAL ASSUMPTIONS

Behavioral radicalisation:

- “The process in which an individuals’ moral, ethical, logical and emotional societal norms and awareness are compromised, leading to an increased risk of supporting, or directly engaging in, illegal and anti-societal activities”.

- In the context of PROPHETS → Increased engagement with cybercrime and online aspects of terrorism

Online behavioral radicalisation:

- “Those processes that slowly desensitise, isolate and immortalise individuals towards either carrying out or supporting extreme acts”.

- PROPHETS’ main concern → Identification of online factors that lead to behavioral radicalisation, which could be used for predication of perpetuating acts of cybercrime and online terrorism
PROPHETS – RESEARCH METHODS

PROPHETS utilises a variety of research methods:

- Evidence based case studies
- Behavioural analysis reviews
- Policy research
- Ethical research
- Living labs
- Semi-structured interviews
- Internet-based surveys
- Secondary data analysis
- Meta-analysis

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PROPHETS – STRATEGIC OUTCOMES

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PROPHETS – CRITICAL OBJECTIVES

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OBJECTIVE 1 - ONLINE AWARENESS, CAPACITY & RESILIENCE BUILDING

- An examination of the emerging challenges of policing and securing the cyber ecosystem for countering behavioural radicalisation issues of internet usage from proactive and law enforcement agency perspectives

  - **End-result:** *Increased resilience of all parties would lead to through greater understanding of these topics*
OBJECTIVE 2 - UNDERSTANDING ONLINE MATERIAL

- Exploration of how manipulative behaviours and materials influence vulnerable individuals
  - Special attention will be paid to study what make them believable and evocative
OBJECTIVE 3 - UNDERLYING PSYCHOLOGICAL TRAITS

- Gaining understanding and remedying the broader underlying psychological traits that are feeding radicalisation problems
  - Both vulnerable and influential individuals will be examined
- End results:
  - Development of best-practices for anti-radicalisation and/or de-radicalisation of vulnerable individuals
  - Enhanced understanding of how to support citizens in detection of the influence of cybercrime on their life
  - Contributing to better processing of online behavioural radicalisation

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OBJECTIVE 4 - ETHICAL, MORAL AND LEGAL CONCERNS

- Focusing on mapping out the relevant legal, ethical, moral and socio-economic challenges, concerns and targets for PROPHETS

- Ensuring that the behavioural case studies are anchored to real world EU strategic concerns, including both the legal and judicial levels, but also of the wider public

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OBJECTIVE 5 - EXPLORING CYBERCRIME AS A SERVICE (CAAS)

- Exploring how *Cybercrime-as-a-Service (CaaS)* as it is:
  - Constitute a qualitative jump in the severity of cybercrime
  - Enabling lay individuals to commit serious acts of cybercrime

- Exploring the *relationships* of profiteering, online competition and the importance of reputation and customer satisfaction among cybercriminals
  - Special attention will be paid for examination how the economic and commercial success of CaaS may overcome moral and ethical values
OBJECTIVE 6 - POLICY SHAPING, TRAINING & PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

- Exploring how policy, training and public engagement can be undertaken within the project in order to decrease prospects of behavioural radicalisation

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OBJECTIVE 7 - TOOLS TO ENHANCE CAPABILITIES AND COUNTER RADICAL BEHAVIOURS

- Creation of three technical components constituting the PROPHETS platform
  - R&D of useful, practical applications for combatting online behavioural radicalisation

End results: Mature platform beyond the ‘proof-of-concept’/’prototype’ phase
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Thank you for your attention

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