RiskTrack

RiskTrack - Tracking tool based on social media for risk assessment on radicalisation is a project co-funded by the European Union's Justice Programme (2014-2020).

About the project

The RiskTrack project aims to respond to one of the most recent and challenging priorities of the European Union on successfully eradicating terrorist radicalisation and recruitment. This overall goal will be facilitated during the 24 month duration of the project through the identification of radicalisation online and in social media platforms, in particular. In this line, under the overall coordination led by the Universidad Autonoma de Madrid (UAM), the research undertaken by the project's consortium, divided into four (4) distinctive Work Packages, will identify and tackle those factors or indicators that raise a red flag about which individuals or communities are being radicalised online and recruited in the view to commit violent acts of terrorism.
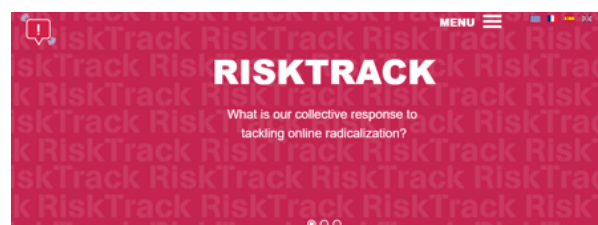
To effectively address the above mentioned overarching goal, the project aims to achieve the following objectives:
- To study indicators of radicalisation in terrorism in order to create a formal risk assessment methodology in this field;
- To develop a software tool with the ability to gather, represent, pre-process and analyse the information extracted from web sources;
- To enhance the cooperation, knowledge sharing and awareness raising among judges, prosecutors, LEAs and other actors in the fight against terrorism.
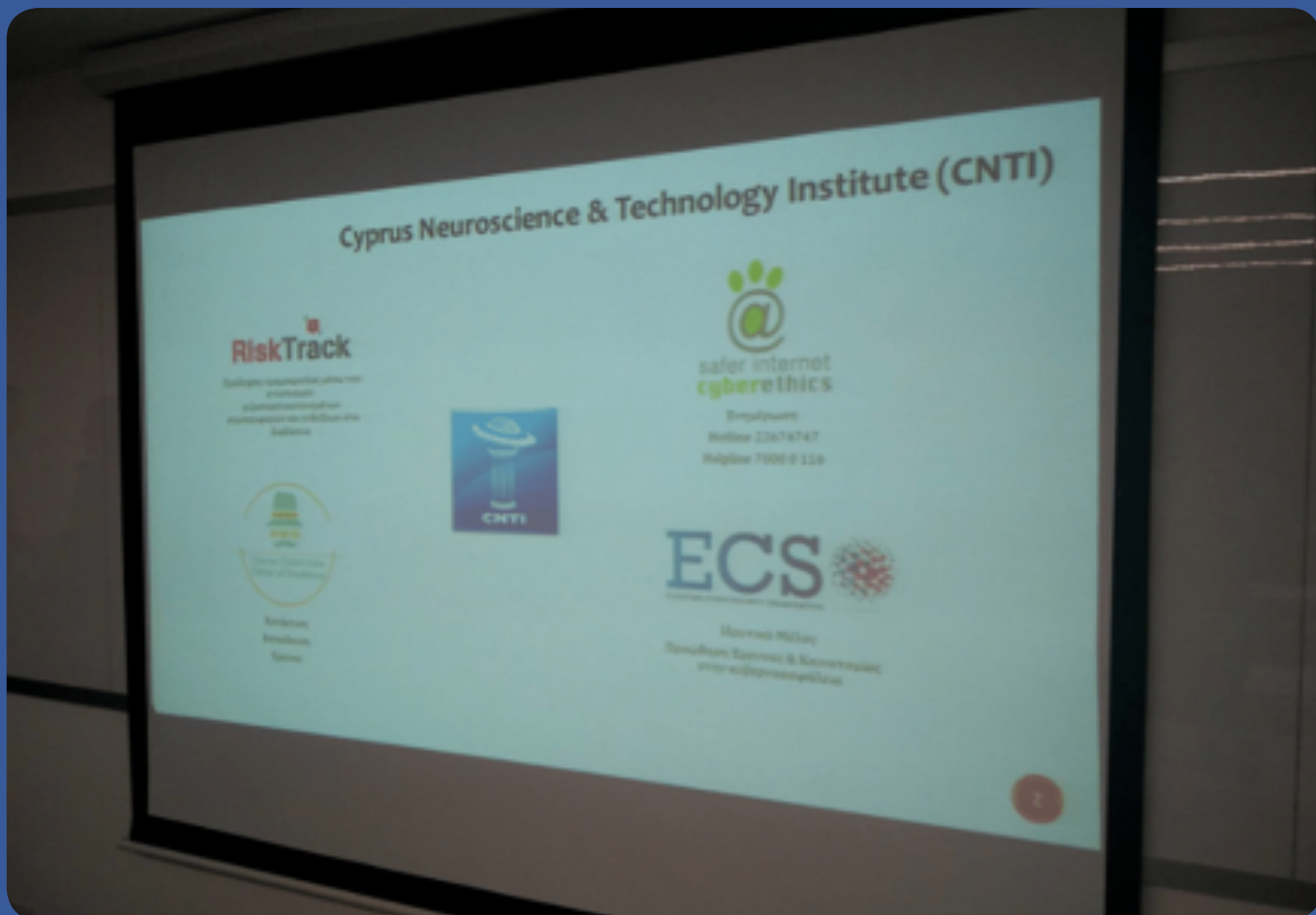
RiskTrack goes online

Following the commencement of the project, a dedicated quadrilingual Web Portal accessible at www.risk-track.eu has been launched with the aim to provide the interested stakeholders and the public with concise information about the mission and the objectives of the project. Functioning as a dynamic tool, the project website will receive frequent updates covering the progress of the project along with the consortium's engagement and dissemination activities to ensure the vivid promotion and visibility of the project. The RiskTrack Web Portal is divided into five (5) distinctive sections, namely, Home, About, Team, News and Library with a contact section providing the audience with adequate information on how to reach us. To this vein and aiming to actively engage the public and the research community with the progress of the project, dedicated Social Media accounts on Facebook, Twitter and ResearchGate have been established. You are invited to Like and Follow our accounts by clicking on the icons at the Social Media Section of our Web Portal.

KICK-OFF MEETING

The kick-off meeting of the RiskTrack project took place at the Universidad Autónoma de Madrid between the 7th and 8th of November, 2016. During the intensive meeting, representatives from the four partners exchanged different points of view, ideas and knowledge to facilitate the next steps to be taken and thus securing the smooth and successful implementation of the project.

"THE LANGUAGE OF CRIME"

Andreas Andreou, forensic linguist at the Cyprus Neuroscience & Technology Institute (CNTI), presented the key elements of the project RiskTrack at the seminar "The language of crime" which was co-organised by the Constanteion Institute of Criminology and Forensic Sciences and the CNTI. The presentation entitled "The language as evidence in the investigation of the crime: Introduction to Forensic Linguistics" provided an overview to the audience, comprised of LEAs and lawyers, of the field of Forensic Linguistics emphasizing how linguistic knowledge and methodology can be valuable in the investigation and combating of crime. The seminar was held at the European University Cyprus on November 25, 2016.

RISKTRACK AT AFCAI2016

The UAM team presented the RiskTrack project in the AfCAI2016 workshop with a conference paper. The AfCAI2016 is a two-day international workshop, hosted by the Universidad de Murcia (Spain), about Affective Computing, a novel and multidisciplinary computing paradigm that builds on the results of artificial intelligence, biomedical engineering and psychology to allow computer systems to detect, use, and express emotions. The paper is accessible and downloadable here.

AFCAI2016

FIRST DRAFT REPORT OF RESULTS ON RISK FACTORS ON RADICALISATION

A confidential report on the risk factors on radicalisation has been drafted as part of the 2nd Work Package of the RiskTrack project, Risk assessment research on radicalisation. The deliverable aims to collect the state of the art in research on jihadist radicalisation and risk assessment in this field, as well as to present information about radicalisation indicators obtained from literature, fieldwork and expert knowledge. In particular, the deliverable explores the radicalisation phases employed by individual terrorists in the view to recruit new members in their activities while discussing the profiles of the recruits in terms of their gender, behavioural strategies and personality traits to include some.

NEW COLLABORATION BETWEEN UAM AND UCBL1 TEAMS

A paper entitled "Measuring the Radicalisation Risk in Social Networks" related to the first results on social networks information analysis obtained from the project has been submitted to the prestigious journal IEEE Access.

The research presented on this paper focuses on vulnerability factors to become a jihadist radical, such as socio-economic and demographic conditions, by studying, understanding and identifying them on the Internet. The article presents a set of radicalisation indicators and a model to assess them using a dataset of tweets published by several Islamic State of Iraq and Sham sympathizers. Results show that there is a strong correlation among the values assigned by the model to the indicators.

RISKTRACK AT ICHSA 2017

A Tutorial on Knowledge Extraction from Social Networks was presented at "3rd International Conference on Harmony Search Algorithms" past 22 February 2017 in Bilbao, Spain. In this tutorial, a short presentation related to the main goals and objectives of RiskTrack project was presented to the attendees of this conference.

Coming next

Establishment of the Advisory Board
The Advisory Board will be composed by a set of highly renowned professional from several areas as Computer Science, Psychology, Risk Assessment and Counter-Terrorism.

RiskTrack Meeting "Knowledge Representation"
One of the project goals, in order to create the RiskTrack tool, is to develop an adequate and efficient knowledge representation, based on semantic and ontology technologies, to handle the indicators provided from Work Package 2 and the related relevant information extracted from web sources. The meeting, which attendees will be the software engineer experts, will be focused on discussing the designing of the knowledge representation. This meeting will be held in Madrid next May 2017.

Keynote Invitation to a workshop regarding possibilities to detect online radicalisation May 9-10 2017 (Stockholm)
In this workshop, the possibilities to detect online radicalisation will be discussed and evaluated.
The workshop will bring together researchers, practitioners, and stakeholders from SMEs, government agencies, universities, and law enforcement in order to discuss issues related to if and how radicalisation can be detected using computer support, and how such techniques can be evaluated. Precisely, the aims of the workshop are the following: To survey existing tools and techniques that can be used to detect and analyse online radicalization; to reach an understanding of what type of components are available, and how they can be used by stakeholders in real-world analysis scenarios; to discuss issues related to evaluation and quality assurance of such techniques.

The 1st International Workshop on Advanced ICT Technologies for Secure Societies (AICTSS 2017)
The 1st International Workshop on Advanced ICT Technologies for Secure Societies, which seeks to explore recent developments in the area of combating radicalisation and extremism, will be held in Lyon, France, on 31 August 2017. Among the organisers and program committee of the workshop, David Camacho, Coordinator of RiskTrack project, and Mahmoud Barhamgi, Noura Faci, Djamal Benslimane, Antonio González-Pardo and Raúl Lara-Cabrera, partners of the project from UCBL1 and UAM, are included.

This workshop will be hosted within the 28th International Conference on Database and Expert Systems Applications (DEXA 2017).
For more information, please visit the workshop website or the conference website.

THE CONSORTIUM OF THE PROJECT

Universidad Autónoma de Madrid (UAM) - Coordinator

Universite Claude Bernard Lyon 1 (UCBL)

Parc Sanitari Sant Joan de Deu (PSSJD)

Cyprus Neuroscience & Technology Institute (CNTI)