



## Newsletter n.4

Dear Reader,

In this Newsletter, you will find the latest updates about the project's research, relevant news from our sister projects, and information about our upcoming events.

In the previous number we have published an interesting contribution by VIAS Institute, this time we report an article by Research Centre on Security and Crime (RiSSC) with the first results of their analysis.

### The criminological analysis in the Anita Project: approach and initial findings

The criminological analysis envisaged in the Work Package 2 of the Anita Project aims at exploring different aspects of the online trafficking of illicit goods, namely, falsified medicines, New Psychoactive Substance (NPS) and illicit drugs (Use Case 1), as well as firearms and weapons (Use Case 2). It considers both the surface and the deep-dark Web, and takes into consideration the connections with the same illicit phenomena taking place offline. The analysis also investigates the online financing of terrorist groups and activities (Use Case 3), while also looking at the possible connections between the financing activities and the illicit trafficking on the Internet. Its main objective concerns the improvement, through the criminological analysis, of the operational knowledge on the different phenomena and their cross-cutting elements, and at the same time the provision, to the technological partners involved in ANITA, of practical inputs for the development of the technical tools.

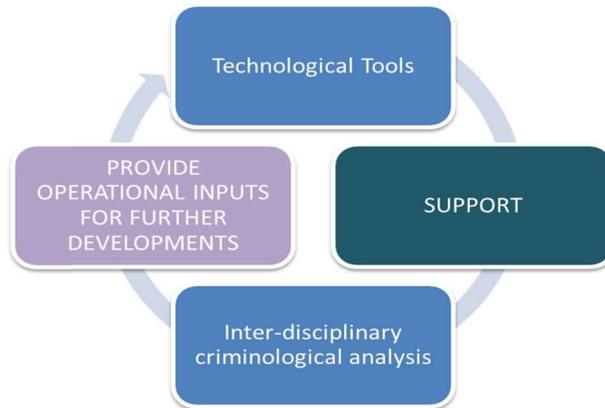
More specifically, the research approach applied to the ANITA project is built on a circular process: the criminological analysis provides initial inputs to the technological development, based on the state of the art of the criminal phenomena of interest for the ANITA project. Furthermore, the single technological tools and the ANITA platform support the analysts in managing and analysing huge sets of data, as well as in testing new hypothesis. The findings of the inter-disciplinary analysis, in turn, provide additional operational inputs to the technological development, and contribute to the fine-tuning of the different tools and the overall ANITA platform, based on the needs of the enforcement actors.



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ENFORCEMENT



Research approach to the ANITA project: synergies among research, technology and enforcement

A specific task, foreseen in the Work Package 2, focuses on the **criminal human factor**, specifically considering the actors involved in the online illegal trafficking in illicit goods (falsified medicines, NPS, illicit drugs, firearms and weapons) and the terrorist financing activities.

The analysis of the criminal human factor allows looking more in-depth into the possible inter-relations among different criminal activities (illegal trafficking of several types of licit and illicit goods), and thus finding possible connections among individuals and networks. It also shed the light on how the role of the technology is modifying the modus operandi of new and old criminal groups, with a specific focus on the role of the Internet and its different dimensions (Surface, Deep and Dark-web) and how it affects the development of the new criminal scenarios.

The analysis of different criminal phenomena through the lenses of the human factor allows outlining some initial but relevant evolutions in the criminal modus operandi. In fact, on one side traditional organized criminal groups are generally keen to exploit those areas where legal loopholes or technological developments bring them higher profits vs lower risks of being detected (eg. 3D printing, use of cryptocurrencies, use of dark web markets etc.). On the other side, individuals and small groups can take advantage of the same ‘criminal opportunities’ to expand their portfolio of products and services and reach a wider sector of the market. The concept of crime-as-a-service seems to be moving from the area of cybercrime to a broader area of different illicit activities committed online – where criminal differentiate their offer and can target the products and services they propose to the needs of their customers. Additional analyses in this field are needed, as criminal strategies evolve as fast as technological developments affect human societies.





## COMMUNICATION AND DISSEMINATION EVENTS

### RAMSES Final Conference

On the 20<sup>th</sup> of November ANITA was presented by AoC in the context of the Final Conference of RAMSES, It took place in Lisbon, Portugal, hosted by the Portuguese Polícia Judiciária. There was a great participation from Portugal, Spain, Italy, Romania, Basque Country, Bulgaria, Belgium, France, Macedonia, Serbia, and Switzerland!. Many attendees have expressed their interest in following the future ANITA activities



### Workshop on research data in fighting crime and terrorism

On the 12 of January 2020, ANITA attended to the workshop on research data in fighting crime and terrorism, held in Brussels, Congress Centre Albert Borschette.



### MILIPOL 2019

ANITA project has participated to MILPOL 2019 hold in Paris the 19-22 of November. Project activities and outcomes have been presented by SYSTRAN during the 3 days.



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Many end-users have visited the booth to discuss the more details about the functionalities offered by the ANITA solutions.



An updated list with all dissemination activities is available here: <https://www.anita-project.eu/events.html>

## UPCOMING EVENTS

ANITA will be present at Security & Policing event 3-5 March in UK, Farnborough where Home Office will host a H2020 paviljon. Details: <https://www.securityandpolicing.co.uk/>

SYSTRAN will organize the next workshop OPENNMT technology on April 27<sup>th</sup> where ANITA's progresses will be presented. Details: <https://forum.opennmt.net/t/save-the-date-2nd-opennmt-workshop-on-april-27-2020-in-paris-france/3420>

*Keep up to date! To subscribe the newsletter or to receive more information please go to the project:*

**website** <https://www.anita-project.eu/>

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## Recent news relevant to ANITA

### Italian police shut down darkweb Berlusconi market and arrested admins

Italian financial police “Guardia di Finanza” shut down the ‘Berlusconi market’ black market hosted on the Tor network and arrested three administrators.

<https://www.ilsole24ore.com/art/la-gdf-blocca-supermarket-italiano-dark-web-ACb9lLx>

<https://www.quicosenza.it/news/italia/323400-lincredibile-mercato-nero-del-dark-web-la-finanza-chiude-il-berlusconi-market>

### EU LAW ENFORCEMENT AND JUDICIAL AUTHORITIES JOIN FORCES TO DISRUPT TERRORIST PROPAGANDA ONLINE

Between 21-24 November, law enforcement and judicial authorities in Europe launched a joint action against the so-called Islamic State (IS) to disrupt the online activities of this terrorist organisation.

<https://www.europol.europa.eu/newsroom/news/eu-law-enforcement-and-judicial-authorities-join-forces-to-disrupt-terrorist-propaganda-online>

### AI can help find illegal opioid sellers online. And wildlife traffickers. And counterfeits.

The government is investing in an AI-based tool that could help catch illegal opioid sales on the internet. But the same approach could find lots of other illicit transactions.

<https://www.vox.com/recode/2020/1/21/21060680/opioids-artificial-intelligence-illegal-online-pharmacies>



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