



# PROPHETS

## MONITORING & SITUATIONAL AWARENESS TOOL

The Monitoring and Situational Awareness Tool, developed under the PROPHETS project, aims at improving the understanding of behavioural radicalisation online with a particular focus on the areas of online terrorist-related hate speech, online terrorist generated content, online terrorist recruitment and training, and online terrorist financing.

Several functionalities have been developed for the collection of publicly available material posted online in social media platforms and on the Surface web, the identification of its relevancy to the four areas of interest of the project as outlined previously, and its analysis, in order to gain insights into possibly ongoing radicalisation-related online activities.

Users should sign up in order to receive the necessary credentials, which will be used for their successful login. Depending on the assigned roles, different features are accessible by a user. In general, after the first login, users should create a case, under which they can operate several monitoring tasks. Each task is related to the way the online material is collected (which also dictates which analysis is applicable).

Three types of monitoring tasks are offered by the platform: social media, web crawling, and search engine monitoring tasks. The first relies on the collection of online material posted on social media platforms. The second uses an URL as a starting point in order to harvest the material contained in the respective websites. Finally, the last one exploits the power of the



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search engines. All the monitoring tasks adhere to the provisions set by the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR), including the pseudonymisation of the online social media users.

The collected material can be categorised in the four areas of interest of the PROPHETS project by applying a set of appropriately trained classifiers. In addition, this material is subjected to different types of analysis, such as:

- Monitoring of the temporal evolution of the posted messages (when the social media monitoring task is initiated) in different time scales.
- Evaluation of the sentiment and emotions content within the collected material, using properly trained classifiers, in a temporal and aggregated fashion.
- Identification of the most prominent topics and their associated keywords, exploiting both clustering and hashtag extraction modules; the latter is only applicable to content posted on social media platforms.
- Detection of the communities formed among online users and identification of the key actors in each of the uncovered groups, using social network analysis.
- Ranking the online users in terms of their activity.
- Locating the city/country of online users' posting activity.

The output of each analysis module can be used in isolation, to provide insights on certain aspects of the undergoing radicalisation process, as well as in combination. The latter is related to the computational estimation of the radicalisation-related vulnerability indicators identified by the social science research findings of the project. What is more, these indicators constitute the ground for the identification of threats and trends in the collected online material and the provision of early warnings when an escalation is observed. Novel visualisations supplement the analysis output.

**We analyse, assess, and fight online terrorism**

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