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Advanced Tools for fighting Online illegal trafficking

D11.1 – ANITA Website

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**Law Enforcement Agencies (LEAs)**

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## Document History

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Definitions, Acronyms and Abbreviations

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Executive Summary

This report describes the ANITA website (content and structure) designed by project partners and published, with the support of screenshots and images taken from the online site and from the dissemination means. The website, available since M1 at the URL [http://www.anita-project.eu/](http://www.anita-project.eu/), is the main communication channel developed and used by the ANITA consortium to:

- ensure adequate presence of the ANITA project on the web;
- inform target groups and general public about aims and objectives of the project;
- disseminate project’s activities and initiatives;
- support the creation of synergies with similar projects to attract and concretely involve the relevant actors within the framework of counter terrorism;
- be the main tool to communicate, transfer knowledge and exchange information facilitating the collaboration between the potential users and the further extensions and adoption of the project outcomes.

The dedicated server hosting the ANITA website ensures flexibility to choose the most appropriate tools and technologies to support the website’s evolving requirements.

The dissemination pack prepared for the ANITA project includes: the official logo of the project, a brochure with the most relevant information about the project aims and benefits, and an official Poster of the Project.
1 Introduction

The official ANITA website timing release was foreseen at M3 but it was available since the beginning of the project (M1).

More in particular, the project website, available at the URL http://www.anita-project.eu/ since early May 2018 (M1) has been designed in order to present:

- target of the project aims and the benefits expected from the research and innovation activities carried on during the project lifetime;
- description of the project and in particular Objectives and ANITA’s Main Goals;
- general information about ANITA partners;
- updated news and events;
- info posted on Social Network (Twitter);
- section “Contact us”.
2 Project Overview

ANITA intends to design and develop an innovative knowledge-based user-centered cognitive investigation system for analysing heterogeneous (text, audio, video and image) online (Surface Web, Deep Web, Dark Nets) and offline (LEAs’ databases) resources for fighting illegal trafficking activities through an elegant combination of:

1. avant-garde data source analysis and blockchain technologies for the analysis of crypto-currency network and transactions (supporting the cases of Surface Web, Deep Web and Dark Nets);
2. advanced Big Data analytics tools for the automatic extraction and analysis of the vast amounts of multimodal multimedia content contained in the identified sources;
3. sophisticated methodologies for capturing, modelling, inferring, processing and storing knowledge in human understandable forms (e.g. expressive high-level semantic ontologies), including the case of connecting the connectionist learning paradigm with the symbolic learning one (i.e. extracting relevant and new knowledge from neural networks and formally storing it in the form of ontologies);
4. the development of a sophisticated, adaptive, cognitive user modelling framework that will capture, analyse, interpret, mimic and integrate key human cognitive and information processing functions for: i) incarnating the incorporation of human perception/cognition principles in the system processing pipelines (i.e. integrating the investigators/officers/practitioners ‘in-the-loop’ of the overall analysis process), and ii) facilitate the transfer of domain knowledge/expertise from the expert users to the novice ones;
5. domain-related and user-oriented intelligence applications, able to provide users with interactive dashboards to explore, reconstruct and identify patterns for spatial, temporal and causal correlations among illegal trafficking events, entities and activities and to support decision-making processes for countermeasures to undertake.

All the above functionalities will be coupled and reinforced by an in-depth interdisciplinary analysis of the online illegal trafficking phenomenon (including the study of reaction strategies and countermeasures) and a thorough analysis of the online resources with respect to social, ethical, legal and privacy issues of concern. The proposed system capabilities will be demonstrated in multiple relevant operational environments.
The primary goals of ANITA are:

1. **To boost the LEA’s investigation process and to significantly increase their operational capabilities**, by introducing a set of innovative tools for efficiently addressing online illegal trafficking challenges (namely online data source analysis, blockchain analysis, Big Data analytics, knowledge modelling, incorporation of human cognitive function in the analysis pipelines, user-oriented intelligence applications);

2. **To significantly facilitate the novice officers training process and to optimize the learning curve** (by collecting, integrating and re-using knowledge from multiple expert officers and through the development of a recommendation functionality to transfer the acquired ‘know-how’ to the new officers).
3 ANITA website structure

The ANITA website is available in English.

The public area of the website has been developed with a CMS (Content Management System) that allows easily managing and updating of existing content and creating of new pages of the front end area (the public one) through a back end area accessible only by technicians appointed of the project website maintenance and updating.

The ANITA project website is composed by five main sections:

1. Home;
2. Project;
3. Events;
4. Partners;
5. Private Area (Key).

The sections from 1 to 4 belong to the "Public area" of the website, thus all the content and the functionalities available in these sections are accessible to all visitors. These sections can be reached through the main horizontal menu.

Section 5, "Private Area", links to a dedicated DMS (Document Management System) dedicated to project partners and advisory board members. Such a repository has the aim of providing the project consortium of a common space allowing them to share documents and relevant information of the project. This last section is available through e direct link at the top of any page of the website.
The website header includes highly evocative images of the subject of the project’s main purpose and content.

As stated at the beginning of this section, the ANITA website is composed by the home page and the other four main sections.

From the Home Page, visitors can use the menu, placed horizontally on the top of the page, just below the header, to access the different sections and subsections.

In the following paragraphs the contents of each section are described.

**Figure 2: ANITA Menu**
3.1 Home page

The Home Page clearly communicates the project’s target and the website's purpose and shows all major contents available on the website to the visitors. The home-page is the main landing page, thus its main purposes in the realization of this page are:

- to provide ANITA aims with a clear statement to visitors about the contents and results expected from the project itself;
- to provide a direct access to all other sections (Project – Main Goals – Objectives);
- social media access (twitter)

The Figure 3 shows the home page of ANITA Web Portal with the header, the main menu and the information areas of the body of the page.

At the end of this section is embedded the form with the Tweets generated with the Project Account: @AnitaProject.
Figure 4: ANITA Home — Tweets integrated with Twitter Platform
3.1.1 Section “Contact us”

The “Contact us” section includes a simple form where basic information is required. The data inserted in the form will be received by the consortium as an email to info@anita-project.eu account.

3.2 Section “Project”

The section “Project” has the aim of providing information about the project’s purpose and its most relevant benefits towards the target groups. It includes:

- a description of the project;
- Main Goals;
- Objectives;
- Download Brochure (PDF);

In this section, a vertical and local menu allowing the visitors to browse within this section is also provided in the left side of the web pages. The breadcrumbs below the header provide to the visitors information about the current page.

The next figures show the pages available in this section of ANITA Web Portal.

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Figure 5: ANITA project section – Project description
In the same page “Project” below the description of the ANITA project there are the subsections Main Goals and Objectives as is possible to see in the Figure 6.

In order to diversify the communication tools according to different contexts / events, people can download a brochure in A4 format, foldable in 3 parts,
Main goals

The primary goal is twofold:

- To boost the LEIC investigation process and to significantly increase their operational capabilities by implementing a set of innovative tools for efficiently addressing online illegal trafficking challenges, mainly online data source analysis, blockchain analysis, Big Data analytics, knowledge modeling, incorporation of human/centre function in the analysis pipelines, user-oriented intelligence application.

- To significantly facilitate the police officers’ training process and to optimize the learning curve by tailoring, integrating and re-using knowledge from multi-expert officers and through the development of a recommendation functionality to transfer the acquired know-how to the new officers.

Objectives

Over the recent years, online illegal trafficking activities have hugely reoriented and expanded so that to operate at goal level with economic supply chains, production facilities and administrative offices, while their legal, economic and social impacts are evident in violations and changing a significant cost of these efforts; which has been rewarded with training activities to equip officers and coordinators with the necessary knowledge and skills necessary to this emerging and continuously evolving criminal activity, as well as in establishing the organizational structures, the associated financial patterns, and their international interactions. It is of vital importance to collect and analyze all relevant open-source information in near real-time and to combine it with closed-source information provided by the LEICs. Another aspect that significantly adds to the complexity of the problem concerns the fact that other large political, religious and economic support networks support these online illegal trafficking activities, in order to secure funding for nothing that goes beyond or parts of it to political interest. For this reason, the analysis of the underlying economic rules and networks can help to identify hidden resiliencies, current strategies and emerging patterns in support of illegal activities, building on the distributed systems. Some crucial nodal changes in the illegal/exile online activities landscape need to be taken into account:

- Criminal actors are profilierting, e.g., individuals, unstructured and informal organized criminal groups, structured and hierarchical organized crime, crime-based organized crime, etc., by assessing a greater variety of crime types, a whole range of opportunities and resources, while maximizing benefits and minimizing risks.

- Organized crime groups are continuously exploiting the interdependencies among the criminal activities they are already involved in, but they are also exploiting in specific types of emerging crimes or even in specific niches of the criminal supply chain (e.g., luxury goods, fashion). In particular, the analysis of the organized illegal networks is ongoing and is expected to expand business activities by informing the police about new economic activities in online markets, in a global scale.

- Surface Web, Deep Web and Dark Web can be regarded as key sources of data. They offer new opportunities to the organized crime groups, allowing them to reduce the number of intermediaries and to increase their efficiency, anonymity (e.g., anonymity software such as Tor and P2P) and security. Although classified, it is evident that criminals are using them to manage crime business-to-business (B2B) and business-to-consumer (B2C) activities; with anonymous online payments through virtual currencies (e.g., Bitcoin); control and protect their laundered money in a multitude of online illegal activities, while developing online criminal and to expand the crime-to-crime activities and the related business (e.g., Silk Road on the Deep Web).

Among the most emergent, emerging, large-scale and continuously evolving aspects of online illegal trafficking are the cases of:

- counterfeit/software patents (CPTM), drugs, novel psychoactive substances (NPS),
- explosives and firearms,
- terrorism funding.

The respective support networks are using different techniques to prevent them from being unravelled. The first strategy is to prevent them as early as possible, i.e., as early as possible, in a more effective, efficient, anonymous way, e.g., by using countermeasures, which are mainly aimed at the disruption of illegal drugs. The second strategy is to deal with the law enforcement, which is the most effective and efficient way to prevent illegal drugs, and this strategy is also followed by some specific measures, which are community based, in that they target the local authorities. Enforcement activities for terrorism organizations. The second strategy is to build up an environment where risk identification and awareness are improved, through the use of legal compliance, the next generation of black markets will provide an infrastructure to a wide audience of companies, with a wide range of various, anonymous management, and the illicit platforms. The differences between the illicit activities concerning counterfeit pharmaceuticals, drugs and chemicals, e.g., firearms and explosives, and terrorism are characterized as an emerging trend that, in the short term, could lead to new organized crime arrangements as well as in an increasingly complex illegal market. Additionally, the aforementioned online trafficking activities will be further boosted by the next generation of illegal networks that will serve as a standard payment Caldera for illegal and illegal services, provided in the dark web. They are expected to prove as a more resilient and less expensive alternative (Darknet) to anonymous payment systems.

Figure 6: ANITA Project section – Main Goals and Objectives
3.3 Section “Events”

The section “Events” has the aim of providing information about the project’s dissemination activities carried out during the project (conferences, exhibits, industrial fairs, workshop etc.) interesting for project partners for disseminating ANITA results.

The next figures show the pages available in this section of ANITA Web Portal.

Figure 7: ANITA Event section

3.4 Section “Partners”

In the section “Partners” the information of the partners of the ANITA project is reported. In the first level of the page, logos and names of the organizations partners are reported (Figure 8). Clicking on their logos or on their names for exploring details of all partners.
For each organization the following information is included:

- the name and the country of the organization;
- the logo of the organization;
- a link to the website homepage of the partner. Clicking on the link, a new window is opened with the target website;

The next figure shows the ANITA Partners page.
Figure 8: ANITA Partners list
3.5 Section “Private Area”

The Private Area (Key) is accessible only to ANITA partners and advisory board to share documents and information.

![Figure 9: ANITA Private area link](image)

It consists in a web repository based on the Openness platform made available by the ANITA project coordinator in the set of tool available for the management and linked directly by a button at the top of all pages.

![Figure 10: ANITA Private - OPENNESS](image)
4 Conclusions

The public website has been developed and published at the address http://www.anita-project.eu within month 3 (as planned in the DOA). The website contains updated information about the project description, Main Goals and Objectives.

From the website it is possible to download the brochure of ANITA Project.

The website is the backbone communication channel for the project and it will be used as reference to address people to get more information about the project, making also available to download the ANITA dissemination material that will be produced in the project lifetime.

The ANITA Web Site will be constantly updated with information and news, to keep people interested and updated about the project progress, and other information such as the list of the other projects collaborating with ANITA.