Commission of the European Communities

Joint Research Centre Ispra Establishment

Date: 18 Nov 2010

Mission No: **DF-10-469307**

OM-10-469332

OM-10-469184

Mission Report

Name	*Division/Action/Project*
	GlobeSec/Optima

Object of the mission

Participate in Frontex Border Guard OSINT Workshop

Place, date, organizations visited and contacted persons

(Please continue on a separate sheet, if necessary)

Warsaw, 25-26.10.2010	EU Agency Frontex, _____ , R&D Unit

Other Participants

Of the establishment   *Other services of the commission*

Distribution List

Obligatory(*) + _____

(*), JRC

JRC

(*), JRC

(*), JRC

GlobeSec Unit,

_____ , EU Frontex

Main Results of the mission:

(Please attach as many separate sheets as necessary)

Scope of the Mission

The purpose of the mission was to present our work in the field of Open Source Intelligence (OSINT) and to participate in the workshop (the mission was paid for by EU Frontex). Other participants of the workshop were officials of border guard authorities from Member States of the European Union and European institutions such as Frontex itself and the European Defence Agency (EDA). The event took place at the office of EU Frontex in Warsaw.

We contributed three presentations:
- Recent Developments in Europe Media Monitor (EMM) – a large scale news aggregation engine
- Real-time news event extraction for border security intelligence (presented together with Frontex R&D and University of Helsinki)
- EMM OSINT Suite – Desktop Text Mining for Law Enforcement

Highlights and Observations

The workshop consisted of a various presentations from law enforcement authorities. In the following a few observations to selected presentations:

Experience of the Federal Police Headquarters using Open Sources for Strategic Analysis,
German Federal Police
The German Federal Police has the main task to deal with illegal immigration (the classical police work in Germany is done on the federal state level and not part of the federal mandate). The headquarters tries to come up with means to archive reports from field officers and liaison offices throughout Europe. Currently, they evaluate different ways to tag reports about migration issues in a way that eases later retrieval.

Experience of using Open Sources via new Technology,
Belgian Federal Police
The Belgian Federal Police is restarting (after a restructuring) its work in the field of OSINT for criminal investigations and trying to build capabilities in the field.

Developing an OSINT Exploitation Capability under the Umbrella of the EDA,
European Defence Agency
This presentation gave an overview about the training program the EDA conducted for European Institutions as well as the prototype they developed for a universal OSINT interface. The evaluation of the prototype is under way but it seems that its approach was too broad to be easily adoptable.

Smart video surveillance and open source information tracking,
Finish Border Guard Headquarters
This presentation gave some insight in how the Finnish border is and could be protected by a network of smart sensors and video surveillance. The use of sensors is necessary due to the length of the border in very sparsely populated areas which makes human patrolling not feasible. The speech contained some interesting ideas how the data from different types of sensors could be connected to other available data to improve the quality of the intelligence and signals generated.

Multimedia Documentation Lab,
Austrian Army
The speech presented a framework which organises multimedia files, such as video streams in a documentation library. To process video and audio sources a solution provided by Saillabs Technology is used. Saillabs Technology is an Austrian company specialised in Media Mining solutions (mostly speech-to-text).

Knowledge Encapsulation Framework,
National Security Directorate, Department of Energy, USA
The talk gave an overview about the work in making information easily available to the end user. The basic idea is to generate a wiki website automatically from a database and enrich each wiki page with meta data.

The workshop concluded with a feedback form for the participants. According to the evaluation of the feedback forms our own presentations were very well received and deemed highly relevant for the participants.

Contacts Made

We spoke to the representative of the European Defence Agency, ⬛⬛⬛⬛⬛⬛⬛. He has taken over the work on OSINT at the EDA. We agreed that we should update each other about our work to raise mutual awareness what each organisation is doing in this domain.

⬛⬛⬛⬛⬛ of the Frontex Risk Analysis Unit wanted to have access to the EMM OSINT Suite. We agreed to stay in contact in order to give him access to the latest available version of the software.

Follow-Up Actions

Provide interested participants with more information about our research and software offerings.