Project DTECH Pilot (DIGITAL TERRORIST CONTENT HUB)

Project DTECH Pilot (DIGITAL TERRORIST CONTENT HUB) aims to set up an analytical repository enabling the exploitation of digital terrorist content provided by Member Countries and Regional Organizations, readily applicable under the current INTERPOL legal framework.

Description of the Project

The overall goal of Project DTECH Pilot is to improve the facial identification of foreign terrorist fighters. Project DTECH Pilot (DIGITAL TERRORIST CONTENT HUB) aims to set up an analytical repository enabling the exploitation of digital terrorist content provided by Member Countries and Regional Organizations, readily applicable under the current INTERPOL legal framework.

DTECH Pilot will bring in a face identification and extraction algorithm allowing the recording of individuals' pictures, in order to perform a systematic cross-checking and matching of faces into the existing INTERPOL Facial Recognition System (IFRS). This requires a technical software solution to enable much greater volume of data to be analyzed more effectively and efficiently. Through this project, INTERPOL would be in position to issue timely media content notifications to relevant member countries in order to update Diffusions and/or Notices. Further, this could lead to the identification of evidence against FTF suspects allowing INTERPOL to assist member countries in prosecutions of said terrorist suspects.

The specific objectives of the project are:

Objective 1: Preserve digital terrorist content – images/videos/files of persons related to terrorism/FTFs shared by Member Countries will be preserved for analysis;

Objective 2: Detect, extract and analyze digital terrorist content components – matching of suspects' faces with known terrorist profiles in INTERPOL databases in support of Member Countries' investigations;

Objective 3: Locate foreign terrorist fighters (FTFs) and returnees, assess risk profiles and identify new perpetrators - facilitate identification and location of suspects, and curb their mobility.

The Project will closely follow INTERPOL's Rules on the Processing of Data so as to guarantee compliance with privacy laws and other sensitive regulations linked to the processing of data.

Rationale

The foreign terrorist fighter (FTF) landscape has been changing dramatically over the past years. The dissemination of media content developed in conflict zones onto global online platforms, remains a key component of terrorist propaganda, radicalization, recruitment and material/financial support, as further recognized by UNSCR 2396 (2017).

Outcomes

This project seeks to achieve the following outcomes:

Outcome 1: Enhanced automatized detection and extraction of individual faces;

Outcome 2: Develop a CT/Social Media repository of online terrorist content for systematic exploitation and analysis to process, collect and store sensitive information;

Outcome 3: Prevent propagation of digital terrorist content and gain better understanding of evolution of communication, propaganda and recruitment strategy by major transnational groups improving the detection and location of terrorists.

Outputs/Indicative Activities

The project will implement the following indicative activities:

Year I   Inception period
Component 1: Project management and logistics
Component 2: Setup of Infrastructure
- Design of SOPs, data transmission, archiving and storage procedures Data source outreach missions
- Development of comparison tool INTERPOL Facial Recognition System (IFRS) and crosscheck of images

Year II   Integration of the repository
Component 3: Setup of Institutional structure
- Design of a cooperation framework between DTECH-Pilot and G7 beneficiary countries
- Promoting missions within the umbrella of projects FIRST, Mi-Lex, Social Media,
- Watchmaker Set up of the partnership with regional organizations and existing terrorist-content referral initiatives
Component 4: Access roll-out to member countries
- Design of collaboration procedures with partner institutions
- Integration of the repository into the INTERPOL policing capabilities landscape
- Preparation of analytical reports for the beneficiary countries

Any potential flow-on risk on the respect of human rights will be monitored and mitigating measures implemented.

Human Rights Mainstreaming

INTERPOL will comply with its institutional core values on the protection of human rights, good governance and the rule of law. This project will work towards the reinforcement of the capacities of government agencies with a relevant role in counter-terrorism and terrorism-related crimes. This action will contribute to a better security stability in the beneficiary countries in the short/medium/long term, while facilitating economic development, good governance, social stability, human rights and the rule of law. A human rights perspective will be incorporated throughout the different stages of the project cycle on the basis of the operational guidance developed by the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, and aligned with the Human Rights Due Diligence Policy. Any potential flow-on risk on the respect of human rights will be monitored and mitigating measures implemented. The Project will closely follow INTERPOL's Rules on the Processing of Data so as to guarantee compliance with privacy laws and other sensitive regulations linked to the processing of data.

Gender Mainstreaming

Women in law enforcement and security in some beneficiary countries can sometimes be underrepresented. Throughout the implementation of the project, INTERPOL will stress the relevance of the participation of women law enforcement in our planned activities; INTERPOL will propose to Member Countries the participation of at least a minimum quota of women to ensure gender balance. The project will incorporate in an effective manner a gender mainstreaming component in activities foreseen in this action. Gender considerations will therefore be mainstreamed into the delivery of all project outputs and activities, thus ensuring that nothing in the project prevents equal access to the foreseen outputs and activities.

Budget
$3,000,000.00

Pillar
Pillar II -Measures to prevent and Combat Terrorism

Project Status
Concept

Implementation Period
2021-2023

UN Org
INTERPOL

UN Global CT Compact Partners

Countries

Current Donors
This project is currently unfunded.

United Nations Global
COUNTER-TERRORISM
Coordination Compact

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT
ct-mya@un.org