LISBON

Dismantling Organised Crime
In Physical and Digital Environments
powered by phygital-oc

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EARLY SIGNALS, LAWFUL ACTION

Preventing youth recruitment into organised crime with accountable OSINT, AI and public-private cooperation

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PHYGITAL OC as a transferable cooperation model

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Youth recruitment starts before a criminal case

Online contact expands reach and speed, while early signals remain fragmented across institutions

1

Exposure

Public posts, ads and peer networks

2

Grooming

Trust, status, debt or emotional dependency

3

Tasking

Low-level errands, transport, sales or online support

4

Entrenchment

Coercion, violence, debt and group dependency

Prevention window The most actionable signals often appear before the legal threshold for coercive measures

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A fragmented signal landscape

No single actor sees enough. Weak signals gain meaning when they are lawfully structured and compared

1

Platforms

Repeated recruitment pages, account behaviour, rapid migration across channels

2

Financial actors

Small payments, recruitment fees, coercive debt and informal value-transfer patterns

3

Local services

School absence, neighbourhood changes, family concerns and vulnerability reports

4

OSINT analysts

Public posts, aliases, links, locations, narratives and temporal patterns

Shared grammar

Source, legality, person category, confidence, urgency, victim risk and recommended action

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The contribution of private analysts

Their role is to identify, preserve and explain indicators, not to investigate suspects

01 — **Lawful collection**

Use public or voluntarily provided information. Record the access method and legal basis.

02 — **Preservation**

Capture URLs, timestamps, screenshots and hashes before content disappears.

03 — **AI-assisted analysis**

Cluster narratives, resolve entities, translate content and surface patterns for human review.

04 — **Structured reporting**

Separate observed facts from inference. State confidence, uncertainty and potential harm.

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The PHYGITAL OC information cycle

A transferable five-layer model for accountable pre-investigative cooperation

1 OBSERVE

Private actors and civil society identify indicators

2 REPORT

A standard template records source, legality and risk

3 TRIAGE

A competent public unit validates and routes the input

4 ESCALATE

National thresholds govern investigative measures

5 LEARN

Anonymised feedback improves typologies and reporting

Public authority keeps control of validation, coercive measures, evidence and prosecution

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The pre-investigative report

A disciplined record replaces informal emails and uncontrolled data dumps

WHAT WAS OBSERVED

1. Source and collection
2. Legal basis or mission
3. Person category
4. Indicator category
5. Date and method

HOW IT SHOULD BE HANDLED

6. Reliability and confidence
7. Urgency and victim risk
8. Recommended protective action
9. Provenance and timestamps
10. Access and retention rule

Facts, analytical inferences and uncertainty remain separate fields

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AI can support triage without deciding guilt

The model organises weak signals. A trained human validates meaning, risk and lawful next steps

INPUT	AI SUPPORT	HUMAN REVIEW	PUBLIC DECISION
Public posts Structured alerts Preserved material	Translation Entity resolution Pattern comparison	Source check Context and bias Proportionality	**Discard** **Protect or prevent** **Seek lawful authority**

Mandatory record: data source, model version, prompt or query, result, reviewer, decision and correction

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Safeguards for accountable OSINT

The cooperation model must be safer than the informal alternatives it replaces

1 **Lawful sources**

No hacking, malware, covert coercion or unlawful impersonation

2 **Purpose limitation**

Document why collection and transfer are necessary and proportionate

3 **Data minimisation**

Avoid bulk collection and minimise information about bystanders

4 **Person categories**

Separate suspects, victims, witnesses, reporters and contextual persons

5 **Victim protection**

Use do-no-harm, consent where relevant and secure referral pathways

6 **Auditability**

Keep provenance, access logs, review dates, deletion triggers and responsibility

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Europol reform creates an opportunity and a control problem

Permanent interfaces can improve cooperation, but technical efficiency cannot replace legal authority

OPPORTUNITY

1. **Article 47: permanent exchange mechanism**
2. **Article 91: continuing relations with private parties**
3. **Article 96: conditions for personal-data exchanges**
4. **Article 50: shared cloud infrastructure**

CONTROL PROBLEM

1. **A private declaration does not verify the national legal basis**
2. **An API may normalise transfers that require judicial scrutiny**
3. **Cloud design affects confidentiality, keys, logs and defence access**
4. **Pre-analysis of raw data already constitutes processing**

The design question: who controls purpose, access, retention and escalation at each stage?

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The functional-control test

Server location matters, but control depends on the full legal and technical chain

1. Who is the controller?
2. What is the legal basis?
3. Which purpose is authorised?
4. How are datasets segregated?
5. Who controls keys and access?
6. Which logs and retention rules apply?
7. **Can the defence reconstruct origin and handling?**

If any answer is unclear, keep the signal outside the evidential chain until lawful validation

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A 90-day prevention pilot

A small, auditable test can connect local signals to competent authorities without building a parallel intelligence file

DAYS 1-30

Protocol and taxonomy

Select actors, lawful sources, youth-risk indicators, secure channel and retention rules

DAYS 31-60

Live reporting and triage

Private analysts submit structured reports. A public unit validates, rejects or routes each input

DAYS 61-90

Review and correction

Measure utility, false signals, timeliness, victim referrals, deletions and feedback quality

Pilot metrics Useful reports, time to triage, victim-protection referrals, rejected inputs, deletion compliance and analyst corrections

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THE POLICY CHOICE

EARLIER VISIBILITY WITH PUBLIC CONTROL

Private analysts can widen the field of vision. Public authorities must decide what becomes prevention, protection, intelligence or evidence.

Thank you

Discussion

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