Open Source Intelligence Dissemination Conference, Rome, Wednesday 8th July 2015

A welcome from the Ministry of the Interior - National Fire Corps:

We would like to formally welcome you to the Open Source Intelligence Dissemination Conference. The National Fire Corps is proud to co-host an event filled with a coalition of successful, determined and relentless stakeholders, who are collectively working to bring greater security to individuals, organisations and governments. We have recognised the importance of these projects, and particularly their potential for greatly improving and advancing the safety and security of civilians, from a divergent range of threats, from natural disasters, to organised crime. Today's increasingly interconnected world presents many new threats to the worlds citizens, yet technology also holds enormous potential to reform existing methods of civil protection and rescue. In particular, the recent development of open source intelligence has brought many new exciting and rewarding opportunities. As such, working alongside our conference hosts, we are transforming the way we operate to continuously improve our ability to protect and serve society.

The Department of firefighters, public rescue and civil defense (Dipartimento dei Vigili del Fuoco, del Soccorso Pubblico e della Difesa Civile) is composed of eight central directorates, eighteen regional offices and one hundred provincial commands, with around eight hundred stations throughout the country. National Fire Corps is part of the Department that depends on the Ministry of the Interiors. The NFC has the duty to assure the urgent technical rescue, even in events in which non-conventional substances are involved and to carry out fire prevention services. It operates all over Italy, except Valle d'Aosta region, Bolzano and Trento provinces, with around 35.000 professional and volunteer units. According to the national law, the National Fire Corps is the key part of the civil protection system. The Corps also carries out rescue services abroad, within the framework of international agreements on people rescue in case of emergencies.

Conference Background:

This event is the convergence of a number of EU (both FP7, Horizon 2020 and DG-Home Affairs funded security projects, focused on the application of open-source intelligence (OSINT) in order to enhance the ability and knowledge of stakeholders in appreciating its utility across a number of security focused disciplines such as crisis management and the detection of crime threats.

The event brings together European research projects and security domain stakeholders to share experiences, best practices, and legal and ethical challenges associated with OSINT through a two day event, consisting of a conference and interactive expert workshop.

The event is joint hosted by the ATHENA, Emergent and ePOOLICE EU FP7 Projects.

Conference Project Information:

www.projectathena.eu

The Athena Project aims to develop technical applications or 'apps' for smart phones and mobile digital media devices, which will capture real-time information from the public during crisis situations. It is co-ordinated by West Yorkshire Police and will be delivered by a consortium of international partners.

The public are often the first to arrive at the scene of an incident and are well placed to relay vital information during those early stages. While this live intelligence is increasingly captured on mobile phones in particular, it has yet to be fully exploited for its advantages in incident management. Athena seeks to make the public part of the crisis team and will explore the use of mobile applications as a means of sharing information and advice between the authorities and the public. As well as using their mobile devices to communicate what is happening around them, the public will be able to assist crisis managers by informing the operational response of the emergency services.

www.fp7-emergent.eu/

The overall objective of EmerGent is to understand the positive and negative impact of social media in emergencies in order to:

- enhance the safety and security of citizens before, during and after emergencies,
- Strengthen the role of European companies supplying services and products related to EmerGent's results.

Wherever emergencies or crises occur, ad-hoc communities are built through existing social media channels. These communities are often not connected at all or perhaps are weakly to the emergency management services. Systematic research project concerning the effective identification and integration of valuable and reliable information from social media into emergency management processes is needed.

www.epoolice.eu/

The ePOOLICE project aims to—in close collaboration with law enforcement partners, as well as criminological and legal experts—develop a prototype of an environmental scanning system implementing solutions applying the most promising technological advances and breakthroughs as provided by the RTD partners. The solutions will be tested an evaluated through running realistic use case scenarios that are developed by our user partners.

The main objective of the project is to develop solutions that support:

- Detection of organized crime
- Detect the existence of criminal activities typically run by organized crime.
- Discover organized crime and underlying criminal organizations as early as possible to prevent further formation of stronger, more resilient criminal systems.
- Prediction of the evolution of organized crime. This requires environmental scanning system for analysing and developing scenarios of possible threats in the future.

Wednesday 8th July - Conference

The aim of this one day conference is to provide information on FP7 and Horizon 2020 projects which focus on open source information for crisis management and horizon scanning to congregate and share:

- Project Overviews
- Best practice, policy and operating guidelines
- Obstacles and methods used to overcome
- Next steps

Attendees will be given the opportunity to network and knowledge exchange between Technical and end-user partners. Presentations will also be given from open source domain experts, providing knowledge, current practices, legal and ethical considerations and future challenges.

The conference will be held in Rome (see address below) and there are some funded places available, please contact us for more information.

Agenda

10:30 Arrival and Coffee

11:00 Welcome West Yorkshire for Innovation

11:05 Welcome by the Chief of the Italian Fire Brigade

11:15 Athena:

- **Overview**
- **Technical**
- **End User**

11:35 ePOOLICE

- **Overview**
- **Technical**
- **End User**

11:55 Coffee and Networking

12:15 Emergent

- **Overview**
- **Technical**
- **End User**

12:35 Project consortium Panel Q and A

13:00 Lunch and Networking

14:00 Gerrie Smits - "*The Future is agile, why we need to prepare for an age of uncertainty*"

14:20 Babak Akhgar (CENTRIC) and Fraser Sampson (WY-OPCC) - "*Big Data and Crisis Management*"

14:40 Iggy Ostanin & Aric Toler (Bellingcat) - "*Investigation of the downing of MH17*"

15.10 Anna Donovan (Trilateral Research & Consulting) - *"Big data and social media mining in crisis and emergency management"*

15:30 Project discussion in groups with coffee

15:50 - Alessandro Zanasi – (Zanasi & Partners) *"SOTERIA and Social Media Intelligence. From crisis management to crime threat detection"*

16:10 Dr Sally Johnson – *"Forensics and Open Source Intelligence*"

16.30 Tamara Schotte (Europol) - "*Serious Crime Threat Assessment*"

16:50 Giuseppe Vaciago - "*The use of Big data during the Investigation: Reasonable Doubt vs. Reasonable Suspicion*"

17:10 Andrew Staniforth (WYP) - "*West Yorkshire for Innovation*"

17:30 Closing remarks

Venue Location:

Ministry of the Interiors
National Fire Corps
National Fire Academy (Istituto Superiore Antincendi)
Via del Commercio, 13 - 00154 Roma

For further information or to book your place on the conference please email Helen Grantham