

Anti-FinTer

Versatile artificial intelligence investigative technologies for revealing online cross-border financing activities of terrorism

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Project info

- **Anti-FinTer:** Versatile artificial intelligence investigative technologies for revealing online cross-border financing activities of terrorism
- Program: ISFP-2020-AG-TERFIN
- Topic: Countering terrorist financing associated with activities in the Dark Web, crypto-assets, new payment systems and darknet marketplaces
- Duration: 2 Years (January 2022 – December 2023)
- Consortium: 10 Partners



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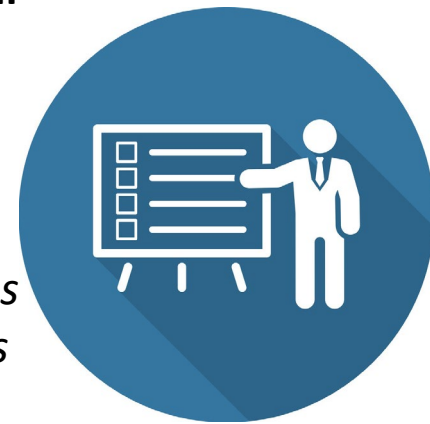
Problem statement

“Some EU countries are among the best in the world at implementing technical recommendations to combat money laundering ... only 1.1 percent of estimated illicit proceeds are seized by authorities.” Source: *POLITICO: The world’s dirty money by the numbers, May 19, 2020*

“Despite enforcement actions over the last six years that led to the shutdown of about half a dozen sites ... there are still close to 30 illegal online markets, according to DarknetLive...” (Source: *The New York Times: Dark Web Drug Sellers Dodge Police Crackdowns, June 11, 2019*)

“The hacking group created online platforms to sell user login credentials known as ‘combos’ ... project managers distributed subscriptions against cryptocurrency payments.” (Source: *Europol press release: Hacker group selling databases with millions of user credentials busted in Poland and Switzerland, May 5, 2020*)

“... the terrorism threats have continued to evolve ... funds flow cross-border to providing resources for nationally designated organizations, and many jurisdictions continue to suffer from persistent attacks from small cells and radicalized lone actors...” (Source: *Financial Action Task Force (FATF): Terrorist Financing Risk Assessment Guidance, July 2019*)



Financial investigation strategy

- Goals of financial investigation
 - Analysis of the origin of the money/capital
 - Examination of how it has been transferred
 - Inspection of how it has been used
- Currently established methodologies
 - **“Follow the money”** approach
 - ✓ Formalized and documented by “Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe” (OSCE)
 - ✓ Fundamental principle: Tracking the flow of money will very likely lead to the detection and identification of the suspects behind the illicit activities
 - Concept of **“parallel financial investigations”**
 - ✓ Introduced by “Financial Action Task Force” (FATF) ‘Recommendation 30’
 - ✓ Basic conceptualization: Conducting a financial investigation alongside, or in the context of, a (traditional) criminal investigation into money laundering, terrorist financing and/or predicate offence(s)



Financial investigation strategy

- Proposed “follow the actor” approach

- Key observations

- ✓ Reported by Europol in “Internet Organised Crime Threat Assessment” (IOCTA) ‘21
- ✓ Tendency of Organized Crime Groups (OCGs) to **fragment their business and activities**, in an attempt to confront LEAs operations
- ✓ Regarding Dark Web, OCGs maintain **multiple online profiles** (on multiple platforms), in order to operate as multiple distinct individuals rather than a single entity

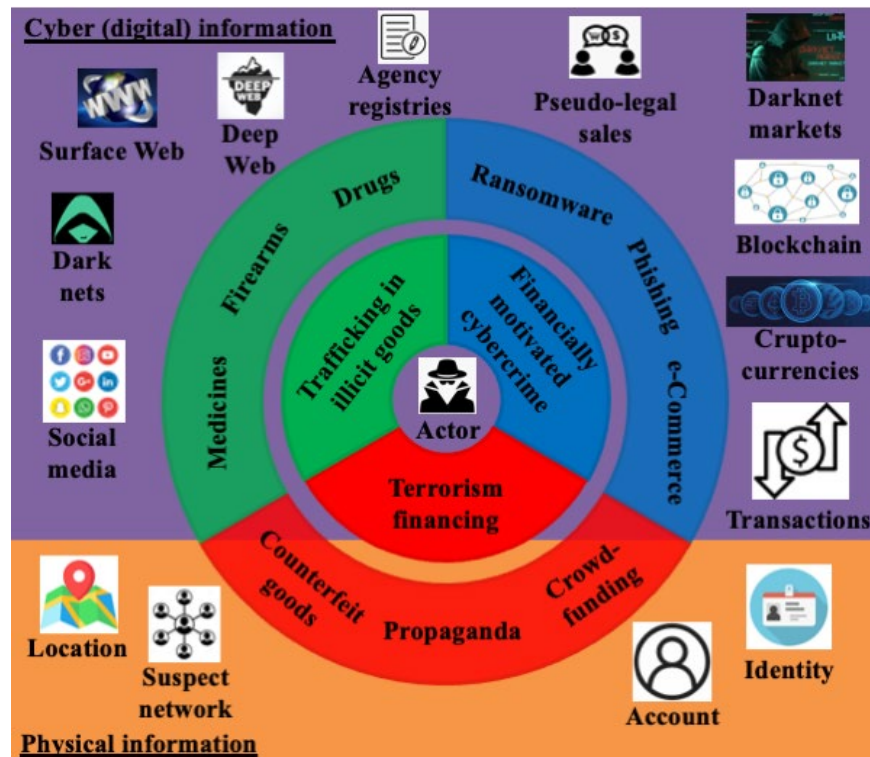
- Fundamental principle

- ✓ Focus on jointly analyzing **multiple financial investigations/cases** (of the same or different criminal activity areas), in order to reveal the identities of the exact same (group of) actors that are behind all these incidents



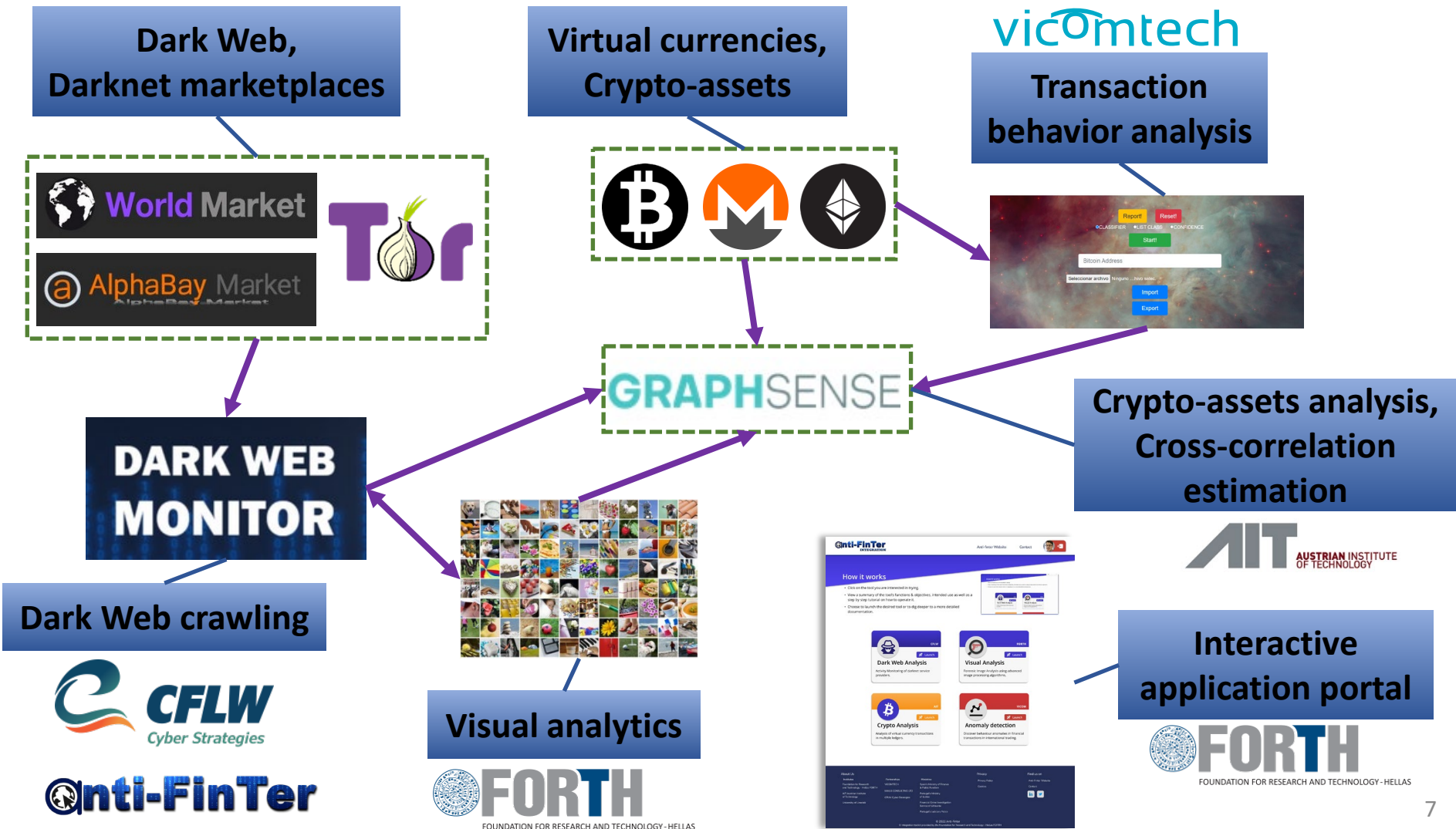
Financial investigation strategy

- **Fundamental conceptualization** of the “follow the actor” strategy
 - Analyze **multiple** co-occurring and inter-related **crimes**
 - Investigate and cross-correlate **multiple/different application fields**

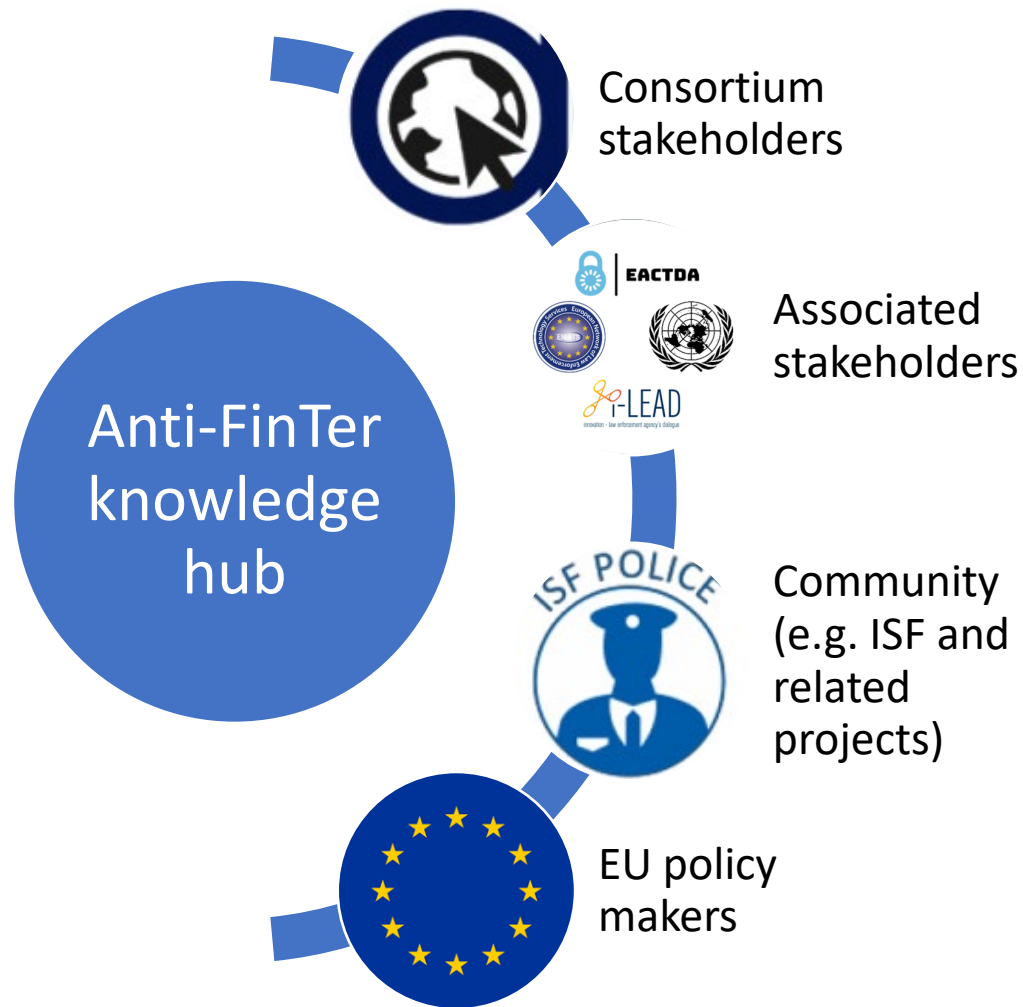


Financial investigation strategy

- Overview of developed **AI-empowered technologies**



Knowledge hub creation

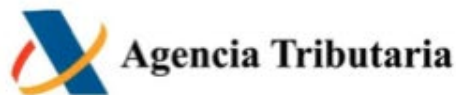


Consortium

Partner	Short Name	Country
AIT Austrian Institute of Technology GmbH	AIT	AT
IDRYMA TECHNOLOGIAS KAI EREVNAS	FORTH	EL
Fundacion Centro de Tecnologias de Interaccion Visual y Comunicaciones Vicomtech	VICOM	ES
University of Limerick	ULIM	IE
IANUS Consulting Ltd	IANUS	CY
CFLW Cyber Strategies BV	CFLW	NL
FINANSINIU NUSIKALTIMU TYRIMO TARNYBA PRIE VIDAUS REIKALU MINISTERIJOS	FCIS	LT
AGENCIA ESTATAL DE ADMINISTRACION TRIBUTARIA	AEAT	ES
Ministério da Justiça	MJPJ	PT
GLAVNA DIREKTSIA BORBA S ORGANIZIRANATA PRESTUPNOST	GDCOC	BG

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