



The latest by AIDA Project

Third Edition of AIDA's Bi-Annual Newsletter

March 2022

Welcome to the third edition of AIDA's newsletter!

The AIDA project is now in its 19th month of implementation and already went through its first review. In these months, the consortium has achieved several milestones, as it has:

- Developed and tailored of AI tools and solutions;
- Annotated solutions in line with the functionalities;
- Analysed the legal environment relevant to the project;
- Conducted the analysis of citizens' security perceptions and impact of AI capabilities by LEAs on societal resilience
- Developed pilot scenarios in line with the use cases (cybercrime and terrorism);
- Defined the architecture of the AIDA system.

AIDA will equip Law Enforcement Authorities in Europe with AI-enabled tools to prevent, detect, analyse and combat criminal activities.

In the upcoming months, partners will focus on:

- The final development of tools for data acquisition and for AI actionable intelligence;
- Conducting pilots to test and train AIDA solutions.

Where we are: reflecting on the past year of Project AIDA

In January 2022, we started the year by reflecting on the path we have taken and the results achieved in 2021, a year in which the AIDA project has moved from an initial vision to the implementation of concrete activities that will enable, during the current year, the fulfilment of its mandate and the development of a TRL-7 integrated, modular and flexible framework including data mining and analytics tools and services specific for law enforcement that will be made available through a secure Sandbox for use in operational environments.

In particular, during the first year, the project focused both on management aspects, trying to ensure the achievement of the expected results in spite of the global crisis caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, and on technical aspects, mainly concerning the conceptualisation of the AIDA system, ensuring that user needs related to security and interoperability are met, and that the developed system respects human rights, in particular the right to privacy and data protection, and does not generate personal or social effects that are ethically undesirable.

This year also featured a part that really values in our research, which is about the analysis of the impact of the increased capabilities of LEAs in the context of Cyber Crime and Counter Terrorism on citizens' perception of security and how the technologies used can have an impact (positive/negative) on their daily lives. Preliminary results of this study were published in the paper presented at IKE'21 "Strategies for Countering Artificial Intelligence in Law Enforcement: Cross-Country Comparison Of Citizens In Greece, Italy And Spain" published in Springer Nature research book, while the overall study allowed us, just in the first year of the project, to assess the opinion of more than 200 citizens from each of the 10 member state involved in the project.

Most of the work related to the implementation of tools to find, acquire and manage relevant sources containing activities and content related to cybercrime and terrorism from the surface, the Deep Web and the Darknet has also been covered and this result leads AIDA directly to look to the future and to the testing and piloting activities that will concern first of all these tools and then the others that are being developed.

Today, the upcoming testing and piloting activities are in fact the project's main focus but also innovation and future adoption activities of the AIDA results are activities that will require great attention from the whole consortium in a perspective of reuse and sustainability of the results. As far as the former are concerned, four main phases are planned, one of which will take place in the spring and will include an initial validation of the data acquisition tools. In the summer, the second phase of testing and piloting of the data processing tools will take place and finally, in November, a third phase is planned for the validation of the tools dedicated to the investigative analysis. At the end of the project, a final validation phase is planned to test the entire platform.

Check out our [Web site](#) and [social media accounts](#) which contains the latest updates about the project.

AIDA enhanced collaboration with Sister Projects



AIDA has been active in engaging with Sister Projects, to enhance cooperation and to define synergies within the H2020 community.

As such, the AIDA-PREVISION Focus Group was organised as shared online event (February 5th, 2021) by AIDA and PREVISION partners (CENTRIC and KEMEA, respectively). Its objective was to bring together participants from law enforcement agencies, legal and ethical experts, IT experts, academics, and Advisory board members to reflect and expand on results from research into societal aspects in both projects. The event was co-moderated by CENTRIC and KEMEA and 26 participants took part.

The focus group discussed three themes: (1) citizens and technology, specifically focusing on how citizen expectations and reactions may impact on the design and usage of AI technologies, (2) measures and safeguards in relation to Artificial Intelligence and (3) societal resilience.

Participants did not see many particular concerns from a technological perspective in reacting to citizen expectations or apprehensions. As AI continuously improves, confidence in tools should increase as well. Also, most concerns should be addressed through methodology, i.e., adequate processing

of data. Although next to technological solutions, policies would be needed to ensure a balance between said policies and technologies.

The role of law came up repeatedly during discussions. Legal developments were seen as slow compared to the speed of technological developments and "mostly general" due to a lack of experience and case rules. In contrast, legal systems should optimally be proactive and use consultations. Law makers were moreover seen as crucial in ensuring that there is "control and transparency" in AI systems for legal guarantees. According to some participants, legislators play a particular role in cases where algorithms cannot be explained.

An important part of the discussion was to understand which safeguarding measures participants considered relevant. To obtain a more systematic understanding, participants were asked to rank how important they considered ten specific safeguarding measures. These ten measures were collected from interviews with citizens conducted in AIDA as part of WP4 (societal aspects). As most important measure (based on mean rank) emerged the option for the "prohibition of AI use by police if it leads to discrimination", followed by the request to "only use data when necessary and there is a valid reason" and "ensur[ing] a balanced and unbiased approach". As the least important measures emerged the suggestion to "limit use of AI capabilities to AI specialists (no access to other police staff)" and "open information sharing with the public (purposes, tools, data)".

Asked about the opportunities of AI to enhance Societal Resilience, experts emphasized that public confidence in policing is key. AI use can be a way to show citizens that the police is "moving forward" and demonstrate that police is keeping up with relevant innovations.

A fuller picture of the focus group results was reported in PREVISION, as part of a Project Deliverable, and will be reported in AIDA Deliverable D4.4.

AIDA consortium always welcomes the opportunity to cooperate with other H2020 projects. By working together, we will guarantee the delivery of solid solutions built on synergy and collaboration.

AIDA foresees everything...Almost

<CyberSeComics>

AIDA



Pluribus One

WALLO & FRIENDS

CyberSeComics is a comic series produced by Pluribus One, partner of the AIDA project.

Wallo is a character from the world of Wallo & Friends. Together with his partner Wallina, he recently took a plunge into the world of Cybersecurity and Pluribus One is following his adventures at home and at work.

From an idea by Matteo Mauri, Dissemination & Communication manager at Pluribus One, subject and concept by Matteo Mauri and Mirko's Scribbles, storyboard and drawings by Mirko's Scribbles. All the CyberSeComics are available in the Pluribus One blog, in English ([here](#)) and in Italian ([here](#)).

This episode is produced in collaboration with the AIDA project. In this episode, Wallo heard about the AIDA's feature that helps LEAs in the crime prevention and he is curious about this technology enhancement. Let's see if Wallo understood everything the right way.

In the next issue of the Newsletter an article will go into details of the AIDA feature to prevent cybercrime and terrorism.

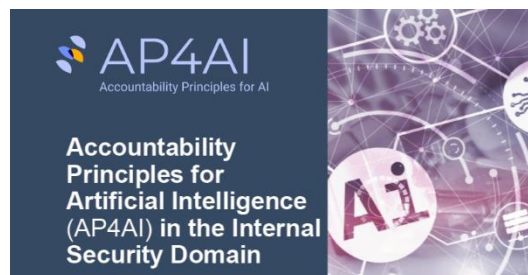
News and opportunities:



Europeans show support for digital principles

According to a special Eurobarometer survey conducted in September and October 2021, an overwhelming majority of EU citizens think that the Internet and digital tools will play an important role in the future.

[Read more](#)



Citizens' counter-strategies to the use of AI by the police

Accountability Principles for Artificial Intelligence (AP4AI) in the Internal Security Domain. Read about the latest results of this project involving AIDA partners CENTRIC and Europol.

[Read more](#)



The exceptional COVID-19 crisis has fuelled the increase of cybercrime in all its forms, while grey infrastructure serves to facilitate the proliferation of crime: IOCTA 2021 is out! The 2021 Internet Organised Crime Threat assessment (IOCTA) outlines the features, facts, figures and trends concerning cybercrime in the EU in the past year.

[Read more](#)



Debunking common myths on the criminal use of cryptocurrencies

Europol's new report Cryptocurrencies: tracing the evolution of criminal finances offers insights into how criminals are using cryptocurrencies today.

[Read more](#)



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