INTELLIGENCE CYCLE IN THE FIGHT AGAINST TERRORISM WITH USAGE OF OSINT DATA

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Abstract

Today, intelligence work is unequivocally connected with national security and political stability. Therefore, governments and political leaders rely heavily on the work of intelligence services. The main task of these services is to collect information and data that are important for conducting the country's policy and undertaking various actions in war and peace in order to achieve political and state goals. Terrorism is the greatest threat to the security of the 21st century, but also a challenge in the economic, moral and cultural sense. Although the world has set itself the task of unconditionally dealing with terrorism, it has been shown that the set goal is not so easily achieved. There is no dispute about is that terrorism is a global problem and as such requires international cooperation and exchange of information. Information is a key resource that can help make the fight against terrorism easier. When it comes to information in the security sense, it is clear that intelligence work with the advancement of modern technologies has become extremely important for countering terrorism. For these purposes, there are several databases that record data related to terrorist attacks and terrorist organizations themselves. Publicly available, so-called OSINT data that can be used in the analysis of terrorism are also important. Considering that, the focus of this paper will be the intelligence cycle with reference to modern databases and modern technologies that can be significant in the fight against terrorism, such as the TANGELS platform.

Keywords: Terrorism, intelligence cycle, information, threat, database, OSINT, TANGELS.

JEL Classification: Z

1. Introduction

Ever since there have been relations between states, there has been intelligence work in some form. Hiding one's own confidential data and finding out someone else's - has always

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been an imperative of security prevention, but also of proactive action. Today, intelligence work is unequivocally linked to national security and political stability. Therefore, governments and the political leadership of countries rely heavily on the work of intelligence services. The main task of these services is the collection of information and data that are important for the conduct of the country's policy and undertaking various actions in war and peace in order to achieve political and state goals.

Intelligence activity, as one of the three key channels of information and an essential element of the national power of every modern state and its security system, in the most general sense implies purposeful, timely, planned, secret and organized collection and processing of intelligence information, which through the process of analysis, processing and integration turn into final intelligence knowledge about a given problem, phenomenon or event and, in the form of final intelligence documents, give it to end users.[3]

Therefore, everything that can be significant for the security of a country can also be the subject of interest of intelligence or security services. Thus, in the conditions of globalization, which has led to the expansion of the sphere of security both horizontally and vertically, the spectrum of intelligence work is also expanding. In modern conditions, there is a lot of data that is publicly available, and which may also have intelligence significance, the so-called OSINT data.

Terrorism is the greatest security threat of the 21st century, but at the same time a challenge in the economic, moral and cultural sense.[4] It is a complex phenomenon that has many forms and is characterized by dynamism and variability. Due to its actuality, terrorism has actually become the focus of interest of many intelligence services, and in this sense, it is assumed that in the fight against terrorism, the established intelligence cycle can be applied with certain specifics.

Given that terrorism is an extremely secret activity that relies on the surprise factor, there is no doubt about the importance of intelligence work in order to prevent it. In this sense, modern publicly available databases and OSINT data can also be used in the fight against terrorism.

2. Intelligence work

In theory, one often comes across views that intelligence activity is as old as human history. Those authors who want to determine more closely the beginnings of intelligence usually link it to the emergence of states and interstate relations. The attachment to the state as a creation that dictates and makes the most use of intelligence extends to modern states that

[3]Bajagić, M. Criminal Intelligence Activities, Review of Criminology and Criminal Law, Institute for Criminological and Sociological Research, 3/210:193-212 (2010), p. 194.
[4]Andrić, J., Kovač, M. Contemporary terrorism as a threat to security, Bezbednost, MUP (2/2021:107-118)(2021). P.110.

strive to obtain information about the secret plans, intentions and activities of other states, while at the same time hiding their own information. Intelligence services and the analytical sector play a significant role in that process. Thus, Stajić states that "the intelligence service creates the conditions for the country's leadership (political, military, etc.) to direct its activity only towards reliable, credible and accurate data."[5]

2.1. Theoretical definition of intelligence activity

As Joseph Nye states: power is the ability to accomplish our purpose or reach our goals. More precisely, it is the ability to influence others and achieve desired results. There are many factors that affect our ability to get what we want, and they vary depending on the context of the relationship.[6]In terms of these allegations, if one party has more information about the other party, it will be easier to induce it to do what the first party wants. In this way, intelligence activity can really be linked to the concept of power. Given that intelligence activity is an often-researched area in the theory of international relations, it is understood as a building block of the state's national power, but also as a means of directing the use of that power in the form of offensive force, or understanding one's environment and capabilities, and how to apply force or power and against whom. Therefore, intelligence activity must be understood as an indispensable category in the study of contemporary international reality, especially in the context of the new security environment of the XXI century.[7]

Although there is no generally accepted definition of intelligence activity, it can be said that in the most general sense it implies the purposeful, timely, planned, secret and organized collection and processing of intelligence information which, through the process of analysis, processing and integration, is transformed into final intelligence knowledge about a given problem, phenomenon or occur and, in the form of final intelligence documents, are given to end users.[8]

The above shows the importance of operability and practice when talking about intelligence activities, and therefore it is difficult to theoretically determine this term without a close connection with practical application. We can say that the theoretical framework of intelligence activity is based on practice. That is, based on the experiences of the intelligence services of modern countries. Different approaches in practice are, among others, one of the reasons why there is no generally accepted definition of this term.

[5]Stajić, Lj. Basics of the security system, Faculty of Law Novi Sad. (2008). P.224.
[6]Joseph S. Nye Soft power: the evolution of a concept, Journal of Political Power, DOI: 10.1080/2158379X.2021.1879572. (2021). p.2.
[7]Bajagić, M. Criminal Intelligence Activities, Review of Criminology and Criminal Law, Institute for Criminological and Sociological Research, 3/210:193-212. (2010). p.194.
[8]Bajagić, M. Criminal Intelligence Activities, Review of Criminology and Criminal Law, Institute for Criminological and Sociological Research, 3/210:193-212. (2010). p.195.

In the theoretical sense, intelligence activity means "discovering and successfully and fully presenting the real truth, that is, "noticing reality in its beginning". In the operational sense, intelligence activity serves to understand other entities or exert influence on them. The purpose of intelligence activity is primarily to inform the political leadership, but also to support the work of the army and the police and to contribute to the success of their operations. It is realized through several stages, and the ultimate goal is an intelligence product.

The theoretical framework of intelligence activity can be understood as multidisciplinary considering that it relies heavily on theoretical knowledge related to politics, international relations and security. The relationship between power and intelligence work has a special place in the theoretical framework of intelligence activity. In the modern context of technological and informational progress, the development of which has also created new types of warfare (cyber warfare), the relationship between intelligence, information and power is gaining importance.

2.2 Intelligence cycle

The intelligence cycle represents a type of model by which intelligence requirements are managed and the process of collecting and processing data and delivering the intelligence product to end users. The intelligence cycle consists of several dynamic phases and has a cyclical character because intelligence work requires continuity and permanent up-to-date activities. Therefore, the intelligence cycle is a process that is constantly repeated in the work of intelligence subjects.

The intelligence cycle consists of several phases that are separate but often overlap in practice. Different classifications of the stages of the intelligence cycle can be found in various documents, so five, six or more stages are mentioned somewhere. However, most authors agree that there are four key stages of the intelligence cycle: 1) Issuing tasks (orders), 2) Data collection, 3) Intelligence production - analytics, and 4) Delivering intelligence to users.[9]

[9]Forca, B., Anočić, B.Security Analytics, Union University "Nikola Tesla" - Faculty of Business Studies and Law.(2018).p.143.

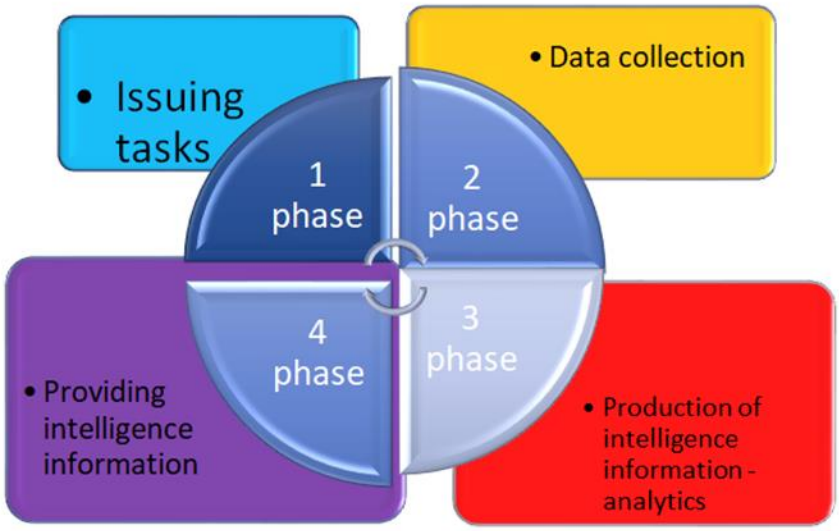


Figure 1.Graphic representation of the intelligence cycle

Finally, the so-called "feedback" should be mentioned. It is a notification from our superior, be he a political leader, a military commander, or a director of a manufacturing or financial corporation, about the impact of our information on a decision he has made or will make. The knowledge that our information was useful (in the broadest sense of the term) or that, on the other hand, we "completely missed the point", is very important for our further work and direction, both in terms of collection and capacity for the production of intelligence products, states Forca[10].

3. Key aspects of the intelligence cycle in the fight against terrorism

Intelligence work is one of the pillars of national security. Covering a wide range of security challenges, risks and threats and responding to the demands of superiors, intelligence services play a major role in guiding the decisions of political, military and security leadership. One of the key threats to the national security of many countries as a form of political violence is terrorism. The fight against terrorism can be fought on two fronts, the first is preventive action, and the second is post-active. Both ways of dealing with terrorism as a threatening phenomenon are based on the possession of information.

3.1. Obstacles in confronting modern terrorism

[10]Forca, B., Anočić, B.Security Analytics, Union University "Nikola Tesla" - Faculty of Business Studies and Law.(2018).p.154.

Terrorism, as the biggest threat to security today, which has a transnational character, requires serious international cooperation in the matter of opposing it. No single country can tackle this global phenomenon alone. The characteristics of terrorism have forced both small and large states to join forces, exchange data and organize joint responses to terrorism. However, this type of cooperation is not ideal and is marked by various types of obstacles.

The first and basic obstacle is the lack of a generally accepted definition of terrorism. In order to be able to adequately fight against a phenomenon, we must first know what it is. Likewise, when it comes to terrorism, we must know how to recognize it, then determine what type of terrorism it is and what are the goals and motives of terrorists in different parts of the world. Given that there is no internationally recognized definition of terrorism, states respond differently to the question of whether a specific case is terrorism.[11]

A significant obstacle to international cooperation is legal and normative inconsistency. Laws and procedures regarding terrorism differ from country to country, which makes cooperation in this field difficult. Then non-compliance in practice. While police cooperation, official and covert, takes place through INTERPOL, it still depends on the individual will of states. Which means that the fight against terrorism can be conditioned by cooperation between two or more countries, and their interest in that fight is not the same.

The fight against terrorism requires a special exchange of data between the intelligence systems of different countries, but also the exchange of such data with international organizations and other similar actors. The problem is that intelligence agencies are not always interested in sharing such data. There are also often irregularities in the work of intelligence structures at the national level.

A characteristic of contemporary terrorism, in addition to extremist foundations, are new methods of both recruitment and combat. The battlefield is increasingly moving from the real world to the virtual world. Technologies used by terrorists are often more advanced than those used by those fighting terrorism. Thus, due to the lack of trained staff or the lack of compliance of the security system with new technologies, it is often difficult for fighters against terrorism to obtain significant information about potential terrorist attacks in a timely manner.

Timely information about potential terrorists and planned attacks is the first wall of defense, and when we talk about information, in addition to security-intelligence structures and the population, the media and various scientific research centers must be involved in this battle. The media and the Internet are the filter through which the messages that terrorists want to send to the primary and secondary victims of their activities pass.

[11]Forca, B., Anočić, B.Security Analytics, Union University "Nikola Tesla" - Faculty of Business Studies and Law.(2018).p.116.

3.2 Collection of information and data

An important stage of planning is the decision of the intelligence service which methods, that is, intelligence collection disciplines/procedures will be chosen (one or more of them), which will guarantee the successful collection of timely intelligence information with a high degree of accuracy, comprehensiveness and verification.[12]

All data collection methods, in principle, can be divided into the following categories:

• intelligence-operational work

• using technical means

• using open sources[13]

Intelligence-operational work in the field can be extremely demanding but also significant when it comes to terrorism. Given that terrorist organizations often act as intelligence services themselves. Although it does not have the attributes of institutionalization, the intelligence and security component of terrorist organizations applies similar methods to the intelligence and security services. The reasons for its existence and operation are the provision of maximum "information and action logistics" to specialized perpetrators of terrorist acts, that is, the security protection of a terrorist organization from "breaking in", cutting off terrorist activities and from arresting its members.[14]

In this sense, operational contact or infiltration into the ranks of terrorist organizations can be valuable. Terrorist organizations rely heavily on secrecy and anonymity to carry out their religious and politically driven agendas, and intelligence gathering and exploitation is best suited to stripping away this critical layer of protection, making them more vulnerable to infiltration, investigation and arrest.[15]

When it comes to the application of technical means, it should be emphasized that a large number of terrorists possess extensive and professional knowledge when it comes to communication through technical means. In addition, they have the necessary technical means and are extremely resourceful when they need to communicate, convey a message or make a money transaction. There are well-known examples where terrorists communicated with each other through draft messages via e-mail, but also that they used video games in a much more complex way than one might think they are capable of. The

[12]Bajagić, M.Methodology of intelligence work, Criminal and Police Academy.(2015).p.169.
[13]Forca, B., Anočić, B.Security Analytics, Union University "Nikola Tesla" - Faculty of Business Studies and Law.(2018).p.149.
[14]Mijalković, S. Intelligence structures of terrorist and criminal organizations, Journal of Criminalistics and Law, Criminal and Police Academy, 2/2010:101-114. (2010).p.105.
[15]Hughbank, R., Githens, D. Intelligence and Its Role in Protecting Against Terrorism. Journal of Strategic Security 3, no. 1/2010:31-38 (2010). p35.

fact that they often turn to hacking and cyberwarfare, which requires serious skill, tells us how much the terrorists have kept up with technological progress.

However, data collection using technical means is a broad field of action, especially for large and rich countries that have highly developed, sophisticated technical means, i.e. sensors that record data (satellites, drones, photo and thermal imaging cameras, eavesdropping devices, hacking the Internet traffic, etc.).[16]

Using open sources is the way for intelligence services to obtain data in most cases. This method is also applicable when it comes to terrorism. Thus, a lot can be learned about potential terrorists or terrorism suspects through social networks. Open sources can also be various religious and propaganda websites that are used for the purpose of radicalizing the population. Also, banking systems may contain suspicious transactions related to the financing of terrorism. There are also several scientific databases that systematize knowledge about terrorism. They can also be a significant resource.

EXAMPLES OF DATA COLLECTION METHODS IN THE FIGHT AGAINST TERRORISM	
Intelligence-operational work	-monitoring -direct conversation - checking and searching the terrain -infiltration into terrorist organizations
Using technical means	- eavesdropping -recording -satellite tracking -application of technologies for monitoring internet communications
By using open sources	-visiting religious websites that are used to recruit new members -the media - open scientific databases on terrorism

Table 1. Examples of data collection methods in the fight against terrorism

[16] Forca, B., Anočić, B.Security Analytics, Union University "Nikola Tesla" - Faculty of Business Studies and Law.(2018).p.150.

In practice, the methods of data collection are most often combined and the data is obtained from several sources, which is often the case when it comes to terrorism.

4. Use of OSINT data in the fight against terrorism

Publicly available information that has potential intelligence value is also called OSINT data. Information that is publicly available is that which is found in the media, on the Internet and other similar sources that are intended for the general public and that are not difficult to access. Thus, "google" today is not only one of the ways in which people get information, but it has also become indispensable in the modern context.

However, the question arises, how is this data used for intelligence purposes? The first assumption is that social networks as platforms that contain a lot of data and are used for different types of communication are the starting point. In practice, it doesn't work that simple because you can't easily find potential terrorists among millions of social media users. If we exclude the specialized software used by the police to monitor such types of communication, how can we use open data to learn something about terrorists.

One way could be open scientific databases that already contain data on terrorist attacks and that have tools to sort through such data. Another way can be specially designed platforms that deal with the processing of publicly available data, such as the TANGELS platform.

4.1 Scientific bases on terrorists

We often seek to determine the spatial distribution of terrorist attacks, their consequences, lethality, origin, and financing of terrorist organizations, whether the reactions to those attacks were adequate and most importantly to predict where, when and how the next attack might occur. The predictive function of such analyzes is the reason why they are often performed under the assumption of urgency, curtly and incompletely. Such an analysis requires a significant amount of verified data, which is not easy to obtain, and that is the reason why it is necessary to wait for such data to be collected. For this purpose, there are several databases that record data related to terrorist attacks.

One of the bases that is often used for various reports is the Global Terrorism Index of the Institute for Economics and Peace in New York. The Global Terrorism Index (GTI) is a comprehensive study analyzing the impact of terrorism for 163 countries covering 99.7 per cent of the world's population. The GTI report is produced by the Institute for Economics & Peace (IEP) using data from the Terrorism Tracker and other sources. The GTI produces a composite score so as to provide an ordinal ranking of countries on the impact of

terrorism. The GTI scores each country on a scale from 0 to 10; where 0 represents no impact from terrorism and 10 represents the highest measurable impact of terrorism."[17]

RANK	COUNTRY	SCORE	RANK CHANGE
1	Afghanistan	8.822	↔
2	Burkina Faso	8.564	↑ 2
3	Somalia	8.463	↔
4	Mali	8.412	↑ 3
5	Syria	8.161	↑ 1
6	Pakistan	8.160	↑ 3
7	Iraq	8.139	↓ 5
8	Nigeria	8.065	↓ 3
9	Myanmar (Burma)	7.977	↑ 1
10	Niger	7.616	↓ 2
11	Cameroon	7.347	↑ 1
12	Mozambique	7.330	↓ 1
13	India	7.175	↔
14	Democratic Republic of the Congo	6.872	↑ 2
15	Colombia	6.697	↓ 1
16	Egypt	6.632	↓ 1
17	Chile	6.619	↑ 1
18	Philippines	6.328	↓ 1
19	Chad	6.168	↔
20	Kenya	6.163	↔
21	Iran	5.688	↑ 5
22	Yemen	5.616	↓ 1
23	Türkiye	5.600	↔
24	Indonesia	5.502	↔
25	Israel	5.489	↑ 5
26	Thailand	5.430	↓ 4
27	Togo	4.915	↑ 49

RANK	COUNTRY	SCORE	RANK CHANGE
29	Sri Lanka	4.839	↓ 4
30	United States of America	4.799	↓ 2
31	Greece	4.793	↓ 2
32	Libya	4.730	↓ 5
33	Palestine	4.611	↓ 1
34	France	4.419	↑ 2
35	Germany	4.242	↓ 4
36	Nepal	4.134	↓ 2
37	Algeria	4.083	↑ 3
38	Tanzania	4.065	↓ 3
39	Burundi	4.051	↓ 6
40	Tunisia	3.989	↓ 1
41	Peru	3.856	↓ 3
42	United Kingdom	3.840	↓ 5
43	Bangladesh	3.827	↓ 2
44	Djibouti	3.800	↑ 52
45	Russia	3.799	↓ 1
46	New Zealand	3.776	↓ 4
47	Côte d'Ivoire	3.747	↓ 4
48	Uganda	3.599	↓ 3
49	Norway	3.514	↑ 31
50	Tajikistan	3.438	↓ 3
51	Venezuela	3.409	↓ 5
52	Lebanon	3.400	↔
53	Italy	3.290	↓ 3
54	Canada	3.275	↓ 6
55	Central African Republic	3.194	↑ 12

RANK	COUNTRY	SCORE	RANK CHANGE
56	Ethiopia	3.044	↓ 7
57	Argentina	2.875	↔
58	Slovakia	2.784	↑ 38
59	Belgium	2.763	↑ 11
60	Spain	2.712	↓ 5
61	Austria	2.677	↓ 8
62	Japan	2.398	↑ 12
63	South Arabia	2.387	↓ 9
64	Sweden	2.307	↑ 7
65	Switzerland	2.205	↓ 9
66	Ecuador	2.198	↓ 8
67	Netherlands	2.120	↓ 8
68	Jordan	2.033	↓ 8
69	Australia	1.830	↓ 8
70	Uzbekistan	1.731	↑ 26
71	Paraguay	1.605	↓ 7
72	Mexico	1.578	↓ 10
73	Ukraine	1.535	↓ 10
74	Cyprus	1.392	↓ 8
75	Malaysia	1.357	↓ 7
76	United Arab Emirates	1.241	↑ 20
77	Senegal	1.108	↓ 5
78	Eswatini	1.058	↓ 5
=79	Bahrain	0.826	↓ 14
=79	Rwanda	0.826	↓ 3
=79	South Africa	0.826	↓ 3
=79	Uruguay	0.826	↓ 4

Figure 2.GTI list (taken from GTI report for 2023)

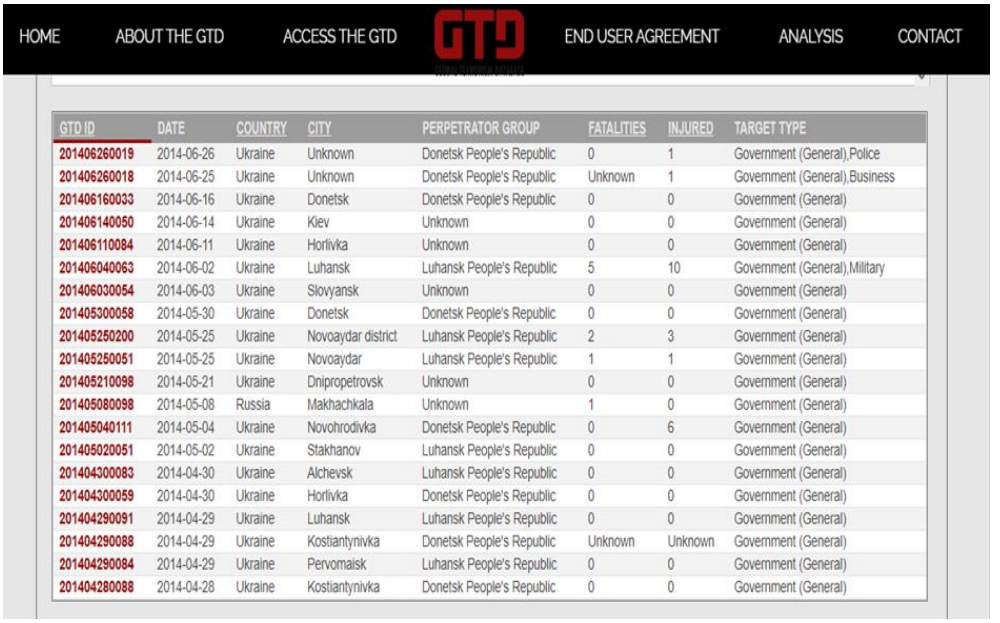
Also, on this site you can find special reports that professionally process data related to terrorism. "The GTI report is produced by the Institute for Economics & Peace (IEP) using data from TerrorismTracker and other sources. TerrorismTracker provides event records on terrorist attacks since 1 January 2007. The dataset contains almost The GTI report is produced by the Institute for Economics66,000 terrorist incidents for the period 2007 to 2022."[18]

Another important database is the database of terrorist events in Europe. This is an academic-scientific base belonging to the University of Bergen in Norway. „The Global Terrorism Database™ (GTD) is an open-source database including information on terrorist events around the world from 1970 through 2020 (with annual updates planned for the future). Unlike many other event databases, the GTD includes systematic data on domestic as well as international terrorist incidents that have occurred during this time period and now includes more than 200,000 cases."[19]

The database of terrorist activities should also be taken for analysis. The academic database belonging to the University of Maryland, College Park, is specific in that, among other things, it contains data on how and why terrorist groups are formed and covers the period

[17] https://www.visionofhumanity.org/maps/global-terrorism-index/#/-The GTI score. 25.03.2023.
[18] https://www.visionofhumanity.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/GTI-2023-web-270323.pdf - THE GTI report. 26.03.2023
[19] https://www.start.umd.edu/gtd/-Global Terrorism Database. 26.03.2023.

from 1970 to 2018. Searching for terrorist attacks directed against governments in the period 2013-2018. 122 terrorist attacks took place in Western Europe, most of which took place in Greece. Applying the same search criteria in this database for Eastern Europe yields data on 145 attacks, most of which took place in Ukraine.



GTD ID	DATE	COUNTRY	CITY	PERPETRATOR GROUP	FATALITIES	INJURED	TARGET TYPE
201406260019	2014-06-26	Ukraine	Unknown	Donetsk People's Republic	0	1	Government (General),Police
201406260018	2014-06-25	Ukraine	Unknown	Donetsk People's Republic	Unknown	1	Government (General),Business
201406160033	2014-06-16	Ukraine	Donetsk	Donetsk People's Republic	0	0	Government (General)
201406140050	2014-06-14	Ukraine	Kiev	Unknown	0	0	Government (General)
201406110084	2014-06-11	Ukraine	Horlivka	Unknown	0	0	Government (General)
201406040063	2014-06-02	Ukraine	Luhansk	Luhansk People's Republic	5	10	Government (General),Military
201406030054	2014-06-03	Ukraine	Slovyansk	Unknown	0	0	Government (General)
201405300058	2014-05-30	Ukraine	Donetsk	Donetsk People's Republic	0	0	Government (General)
201405250200	2014-05-25	Ukraine	Novoaydar district	Luhansk People's Republic	2	3	Government (General)
201405250051	2014-05-25	Ukraine	Novoaydar	Luhansk People's Republic	1	1	Government (General)
201405210098	2014-05-21	Ukraine	Dnipropetrovsk	Unknown	0	0	Government (General)
201405080098	2014-05-08	Russia	Makhachkala	Unknown	1	0	Government (General)
201405040111	2014-05-04	Ukraine	Novohrodivka	Donetsk People's Republic	0	6	Government (General)
201405020051	2014-05-02	Ukraine	Stakhanov	Luhansk People's Republic	0	0	Government (General)
201404300083	2014-04-30	Ukraine	Alchevsk	Luhansk People's Republic	0	0	Government (General)
201404300059	2014-04-30	Ukraine	Horlivka	Donetsk People's Republic	0	0	Government (General)
201404290091	2014-04-29	Ukraine	Luhansk	Luhansk People's Republic	0	0	Government (General)
201404290088	2014-04-29	Ukraine	Kostiantynivka	Donetsk People's Republic	Unknown	Unknown	Government (General)
201404290084	2014-04-29	Ukraine	Pervomaisk	Luhansk People's Republic	0	0	Government (General)
201404280088	2014-04-28	Ukraine	Kostiantynivka	Donetsk People's Republic	0	0	Government (General)

Figure 3. Global terrorism database search for terrorist attacks against governments in Eastern Europe for the period 2013-2018. Source: https://www.start.umd.edu/gtd/

World databases of criminal information are a pillar of the fight against international terrorism. INTERPOL is a multi-use platform for such databases, as it contains databases of names, and special databases on international fugitives and suspected terrorists. Then data on fingerprints, weapons, stolen or missing travel documents and many others, all databases are constantly available through Interpol's secure global communication system. Finally, it should be noted that Serbia also participated in the creation of a similar base. It is the TOK database[20] whose purpose is to search for terrorists and terrorist organizations.

4.2 Web Investigation Platform

A characteristic of contemporary terrorism, in addition to extremist foundations, is that it is also characterized by new methods of both recruitment and combat. The battlefield is increasingly moving from the real world to the virtual world. Technologies used by

[20]http://www.tocsearch.com- TOC database. 30.03.2023.

terrorists are often more advanced than those used by those fighting terrorism. The asymmetry of terrorism as a threat is also complicated by the increasing inclusion of women, minors and children as fighters. The methods of recruitment and radicalization are both complex and follow modern aspects of life, so young people are increasingly recruited through social networks and the use of the Internet.

Considering that there is a lot of data that is on the Internet and that is publicly available in the modern context, it is not easy to sort, correlate and finally use such data in order to obtain intelligence. Especially the data that can be linked to terrorism. That is why there are special platforms or software solutions that process such data for us.

For example, extremism and hate speech are something that is easily spread via the Internet, which can consequently lead to terrorist acts. Thus, through social networks, religious websites and even through the official media, such ideas can be marketed and attract and radicalize new people. However, in order to group such data and put it in a common context, we need web investigation platforms. Such platforms allow us to monitor, for example, how often the word "terrorism" is mentioned on social networks. What is important to point out is that such platforms can only track those posts on social networks that are public. So, if someone has made his post available only to those he is connected to on social networks, he will not be included in that statistic. Also, such platforms can monitor how much that word is mentioned in a certain geographical area or in a certain period of time.

One such platform is TANGELS[21]. „ The leading AI-powered, user-friendly search engine for deep, automated web investigations. Extract critical, intelligent insights with ease and efficiency from social media, surface & deep web data sources. Gain unmatched situational awareness with real-time intelligent insights generated via online content monitoring. Cobwebs' platform assists analysts in identifying new threats, while uncovering potential profiles and groups across the web using automated, advanced search capabilities. Users gain deep insights and substantial intelligence, including locations, context, internal relations, group structures, hierarchies, and more."[22]

[21]Access to Tangles has been given to the Research Centre for Defence and Security by AGENFOR INTERNATIONAL for research purposes. Reports using OSINT can be found at their website https://www.agenformedia.com/publication/antisemitism-in-italy/

[22]https://www.g2.com/products/tangles-web-investigation-platform/reviews–review of tangels platform. 26.03.2023.

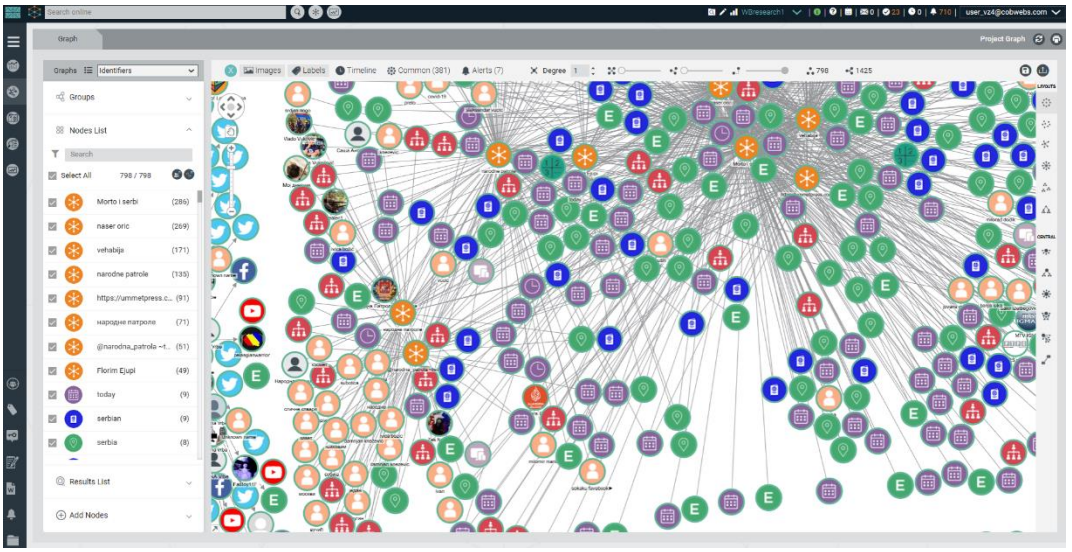


Figure 4. Tangels screenshot

Tangles is a powerful OSINT tool that uses Big Data technologies that are collecting open-source data in both surface web and deep web, while having ability to analyze and monitor specific data in the ocean of information. It can search, analyze, monitor, and even track geodetic with Web Location. When searching for a term that can be put in a dictionary for example “Kill” or a specific person “Petar Peric” it will give a broad search and analyst that is using this platform will need to pursue its aim by analyzing search results. The second step would be to find either target persons, term, organization, or other info that would then be sent to advanced analysis which will thoroughly search for those specific results. Monitoring options gives you the ability to track specific targets in a specific region in a specific timeframe, which will immediately give you results on the terms you want to follow on up. Analysis results are built in minor reports that contain everything in open-source data that can be found and ready to analyze. While the analyst/operator is searching and filling dictionaries, monitors, target persons etc. Tangles create network charts (seen in picture above), that makes it easier to, “connect the dots” and find a specific target. This solution is also not limited to a surface net, it can also go deep inside servers underneath and find any open data, on the deep web forums, communication platforms using specific software for data gathering.

This makes Tangles very convenient to find sources of extremism, intelligence activity, crime, and similar security threats as it can easily find the patterns, trace of GPSs, hate speech focal points etc. This powerful tool is also in line with law, and data protection laws in Europe and wider.

Therefore, such platforms can be an excellent tool for exploiting all the potential of publicly available data. They can find their application in the scientific community but also in

operational intelligence work that can improve the prevention of terrorist threats. For example, with the help of these platforms, it is possible to observe increased activities of certain extremist organizations in a certain space and time, which can be an indication that a terrorist attack is being prepared in a certain area. This may be of particular importance to those engaged in operational counter-terrorism.

5. Conclusion

Terrorism as a dynamic and complex phenomenon, and at the same time unevenly defined, requires extraordinary efforts from all those who participate in its suppression. Although the world has given itself the task of dealing with terrorism without reserve, it has turned out that the set goal is not so easily achievable. Many obstacles stand in his way, from the lack of a generally accepted definition to different legislation and double standards in international relations. However, what is not disputed is that terrorism is a global problem and as such requires international cooperation and information exchange.

It is information that is a key resource that can contribute to making the fight against terrorism easier. When we talk about information in terms of security, it is clear that intelligence work is extremely important for countering terrorism. Intelligence work has existed for a long time throughout history, but it seems that with the emergence of complex challenges, risks and threats today, which includes terrorism in particular, it is gaining more and more importance.

In intelligence work, the central concept is the intelligence cycle as a process that is repeated continuously in order to protect national security. Depending on the author, the intelligence cycle has more or less phases, but by looking at the literature from this domain, four phases can be distinguished: 1) Issuing tasks (orders), 2) Data collection, 3) Production of intelligence information - analytics, and 4) Delivery of intelligence information to users.

When we look at these stages, we can conclude that terrorism as a threat to national security can be treated through the same process. The intelligence cycle in countering terrorism is not only applicable but also extremely important. Where there is room for further progress is the additional development of analytical methods specialized for working with terrorism-related data. In particular, it is necessary to improve the phase of data collection about terrorists, their organizations and planned activities. For this purpose, in the intelligence cycle in the data collection phase, it is necessary to include publicly available data that can help not only the scientific community, but also those who deal with the fight against terrorism in an operational way.

Less exploited but extremely important tools that can be used to collect data on terrorist organizations, actors and trends are publicly available scientific databases related to theorizing and platforms for researching publicly available data on the Internet. The

assumption is that the full potential of such tools will still be expressed and that their application will be the subject of new research.

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