ESSENTIAL Summer School

Big Data Exercise – Finding the needle in the haystack – Surveillance in Europe

Topic: Use of surveillance systems by LEAs and SIS in Europe

Methodology:

- Split students into 2 groups of equal size
- Each of the groups is given a series of questions, which they need to answer by collecting information from Open Sources and analysing it
- The answers would then be used to prepare: (1) a 10 page analysis and (2) a 20 minutes groups presentation

Methodological assumptions:

- Resources allocated to this exercise are very limited - however this will enable students to better grasp the volume of information, use of OSINT methodology and complexities of Big Data Analytics

Stage 1 – Data collection

Students are encouraged to document the entire process of collecting the information (e.g. make comments on tools employed, time spent, challenges encountered, data sets used etc.) as well as any assumptions they make throughout this exercise

Group 1

Key questions to answer:

- Who are the main suppliers for surveillance systems used by LEAs and SIS in Europe?

Type of information expected: Both organizations and key personnel should be identified. Information should include names, images, commercial indicators, geographical distribution, biographical information

- What are the types of surveillance systems most used?

Type of information expected: names, brief description of functionality and geographical distribution

Group 2

Key questions to answer:

- Who are the main opponents to the use of surveillance systems by LEAs and SIS in Europe?

Type of information expected: Both organizations and key personnel should be identified. Information should include names, images, commercial indicators, geographical distribution, biographical information

- Which are the most relevant legal cases/decisions related to this subject in Europe?

Type of information expected: which courts, references to the those decisions, short description of content

Stage 2 – Data analysis

- Use Microsoft Excel or similar tools to present a statistical overview of the information collected in Stage 1
- Use data visualization tools to produce materials, which will then be incorporated into a 10 pages analysis

Stage 3 – Communicating the results

- Each team will deliver a 20 min presentation of their work

Resources:

- Guide on collecting information from the Internet
- Examples of free data visualization tools