



OPEN SOURCE INTELLIGENCE

1. Intelligence and security

Intelligence is the best way to handle risks and threats, or identify opportunities. It does this by enabling a better understanding and assessment of the environment. This is very important in an enlarged European Union, as security is more and more a complex problem which does not recognise frontiers. A major challenge for the Commission is thence to enable Member States to collaborate despite their national security issues and fears of compromising sources and information.

2. Open source Intelligence (OSINT)

OSINT has emerged in recent years as a full part of the Intelligence process. OSINT involves the collection of intelligence from open (non-classified) sources including the Internet and public subscription databases. Many of the earliest indicators occur in the open sources and provide an essential foundation and targeting for other sources. Recent advances in information technology can greatly enhance the capabilities of human source collecting and analysis, and the detection of weak signals and emerging trends in huge amount of information. In 2005 a study of the CIA ("Re-examining the Distinction between Open Information and Secrets" - By S.Mercado) estimated the cost of OSINT system to about 1% of the global Intelligence budget. The same study revealed: "numerous surveys putting the contribution of open sources anywhere from 35 to 95 percent of the intelligence used in the (US) government".

3. OSINT and Europe

In the field of OSINT, Europe and Member States have to bridge a gap with the United States' advance on the tools and methodologies: the office of the Director of National Intelligence (DNI) announced in December 2005 the nomination of a Deputy Director of National Intelligence for Open Source, named Alexandre Jardines. The CIA has also recently announced the formal commissioning of an OSINT unit called the DNI Open Source Center. Due to its unclassified nature, OSINT can be shared extensively without compromising national security and is the ideal framework of collaboration in a multilateral context such as European border security. OSINT provides a means by which critical intelligence can be acquired and disseminated without the encumbrances imposed by classification. The United States is spending considerable sums of money on helping to integrate the various elements in the OSINT chain, so as to have different existing technologies function together. In Europe, however, organisations are only slowly reacting to the possibilities offered by OSINT, and there have been few attempts until now to link European technologies that can be employed in developing a complete situational analysis for security services – be they frontier protection, critical infrastructures, police, secret services or the military. There is however, a crucial dimension where the EU maybe has an advantage: the adoption of OSINT requires a new way of thinking that is transversal, and where cross-border thinking is especially valuable, as the interpretation of the raw information can be helpfully interpreted by different cultural sensitivities.



EUROSINT FORUM

Website: <http://www.eurosint.eu>

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European and action-oriented, the EUROSINT FORUM is a not-for-profit association (Belgian ASBL) dedicated to European cooperation and use of Open Source Intelligence to handle risks and threats to peace and security. The EUROSINT FORUM was founded in September 2006 by a group of individuals coming from

- European Institutions,
- Member States,
- European SMEs, highly specialised in Open Source Intelligence technologies (such as voice recognition, text mining, decision support tools)
- Providers of intelligence/analysis (consulting firms, information groups).

1. The objectives of the organisation

The EUROSINT FORUM seeks to:

- a) Provoke thought on Open Source Intelligence (OSINT) and its use within the European intelligence and security spheres by public and private organizations;
- b) Ensure that the public and private sectors in Europe can identify the best available OSINT methodologies, services and technologies;
- c) Stimulate the growth, integration, development and exploitation of OSINT provision by bringing European customers and providers together, offering a conversation and knowledge sharing space.

2. Board

To date, EUROSINT FORUM is working with volunteer resources for the organisation of activities, secretariat and management. The board has been elected in April 2008:

- **President: Gari OWEN (UK).** *President; Gari Owen. Since 2003, Gari has been a consultant to Government and Industry in the fields of Defense, Security and Program Evaluation. From 1973-2003, he worked for the UK Government in research and development, international programmes and identifying new requirements. From 1987-1990, he served as a science and technology liaison officer at the British Embassy, Washington DC*
- **Administrator - Secretary: Caroline Calvez (FR).** *Caroline is a Managing Partner of the CEIS - European Office, in Brussels and has 6 years experience as a Consultant in European Affairs. Caroline has a Master of European Affairs.*
- **Administrator - Treasurer: Axel Dyevre (FR).** *Axel is a Managing Partner of the CEIS - European Office, in Brussels. Previously, he was Senior Partner at Datops, an Intelligence software editor. Prior to that he served 7 years as Officer in the Army. Axel has a Business degree from ESCP.*

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3. The Members

At time being, EUROSINT FORUM **has more than 60 members** coming from about 40 different organisations. **60% of these organisations are from Public Sector:** EU Institutions, Member States Ministries and agencies, International organisations..

Associate Members (non paying) are individuals from public sector bodies who wish to be kept in the information loop. These are drawn from International, EU and National organisations such as:

- Ministry of Foreign Affairs (HU)
- Portugese Permanent Representation to EU
- OSCE
- JOINT RESEARCH CENTER
- Joint Situation Center (EU)
- Policia Judiciaria (PO)
- Presidencia do Conselho de Ministros - SIS (PO)
- Ministère de la Défense (FR)
- EMUE (EU)
- Frontex (EU)
- Customs Intelligence Center (NL)
- General Secretariat Swiss DoD
- SGDN (FR)
- DG JLS (EU)
- DG RELEX (EU)
- DG ENTR (EU)
- Permanent Representation of Romania to the EU
- Defence Forces (FI)
- Prime Minister's Office (FI)
- Border Guards (FI)
- EDA (EU)
- Ministry of Defence (UK)
- Ministry of Foreign Affairs (BE)
- OLAF (EU)
- Ministère de l'Intérieur (FR)
- United Nations
- Représentation Permanente de la France auprès de l'UE

Full members pay membership fees and are drawn from the private sector, not-for-profits, academia, and public sector.

- Jane's (UK)
- Lexis Nexis (NL)
- Factiva (UK)
- Sail Labs Technology AG (AU)
- Oxford Analytica (UK)
- CEIS (FR)
- Open source Intelligence Training (BE)
- Columba Global Systems Ltd (IR)
- Russian and Eurasian Security Network (RES) (CH)
- International Relations and Security Network (ISN) (CH)
- Templeton Thorp Limited (UK)

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- Russian and Eurasian Security Network (RES)
- International Relations and Security Network (ISN)
- Université Libre de Bruxelles (BE)
- i2s (CZ)

4. Activities

To date, the activities of the EUROSINT FORUM have included:

1. **Annual conferences:**

- 20 September 2006: Launch event in Brussels (Supported by DG JLS); Over 60 attendees: international organisations, Commission and European agencies/Institutions, Member States agencies, corporations

“... EUROSINT, the European Open Source Intelligence forum, attracted an audience that one rarely sees in the same room in this city: intelligence specialists from national defence and interior ministers; the European Defence Agency; the European Commission; prime ministerial cabinets; the EU Military Staff and Situation Awareness Centre; Europol, the pan-EU police network; Interpol; and a scattering of defence companies, nongovernmental organizations and think tanks.”

Source: “Defense News” – Oct 2007

- 17-18 April 2007 Annual Conference (supported by Cabinet Frattini and DG JLS); “What Does Open Source Intelligence Mean for Those Handling State Security?”. Over 100 attendees: international organisations, Commission and European agencies/Institutions, Member States agencies, private corporations.

2. **Workgroups, regrouping between 20 and 50 people each time;**

- a) **15 December 2006 - Brussels: Technological Gaps WG** - DG JLS’ Detection Green Paper (Supported by DG JLS)
- b) **18 January 2007 - Brussels: Best Practices WG** - Establishing a European OSINT School (Supported by DG RELEX)
- c) **5 February 2007 - Vienna: Technological Gaps WG:** Establishing a complete end-to-end OSINF collection process (Supported by Action against Terrorism Unit - OSCE)
- d) **3-4 July 2007: Triple pack:** Violent Radicalisation workshop, Training Providers meeting, and Metadata Formats Session. The EUROSINT FORUM is organising a “triple pack” of activities in Brussels that are intended to be short, small and highly interactive meetings which are focused on delivering concrete results.
- e) **20-21 September 2007: Best Practices WG** - Zürich, Switzerland (Supported by ISN). Key subjects discussed:
 1. Get the input of OSINT experts from across Europe and further afield on the draft syllabus prepared by working group members.
 2. Based on their input, reappraise the syllabus and further define areas for discussion and improvement.

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- f) **19 December 2007: Brussels: OSINT Speed Dating** (Supported by DG JLS). The Technological Gaps Working Group has organised a session to allow providers of technology and open source intelligence to display their products and services to potential customers and each other in a "speed dating format" (rapid overview of each, allowing later time to go back and talk in more detail).
- g) **24 January 2008 – Brussels: meeting of the "government only working group"** of the EUROSINT FORUM. With the official opening of the Hungarian State Secretary, Dr. Marta Feksz, Horvathne and chaired by Ambassador János Budai, of the Hungarian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, who is also the initiator of the associated OSINT Budapest Club.
- h) **14 April 2008 – Brussels: Best Practises WG - "OSINT & EU operations"**. How can OSINT enhance co-operation, information sharing and interoperability between different actors (Member States, EU Institutions, other organisations) involved in civil and military EU operations? (Supported by DG RELEX)
- i) **15 April 2008 – Brussels: Best Practises WG - "Training"** - To present the findings of the past year regarding best practices in open source intelligence training. To identify gaps to be filled.
- j) **23 January 2009 – Brussels: Best Practises WG - "Defining the Training Needs of Intelligence Analysts: The Process of Effective Intelligence Analysis"**

5. Involvement in European Project

In accordance with the decisions of the AGM in April 2008, the EUROSINT FORUM has been engaged in two proposals for European projects in 2008. According to the minutes of the AGM: "There is clearly a need to improve the structure of the EUROSINT FORUM. Recruiting a Project Manager to animate and develop the EUROSINT FORUM would be the best solution. At this time, the EUROSINT FORUM is only seeking to gain revenue from memberships. A better solution should be to obtain european funding, in the framework of one or several EU calls for projects."

1 - Proposal in the framework of the JLS Call ISEC 2008 ("OSINT - Open Source Intelligence in the fight against Organised Crime"): The aim of the project is to better define and to promote how to use Open Source Intelligence (OSINT) solutions and methods for the prevention and the reduction of serious crime at the European level.

Role of the EUROSINT FORUM in this proposal: organisation of 16 events in two years with end-users and experts.

2 - Proposal in the framework of the FP7 Security Call 2 ("VIRTUOSO Project"): The aim of the project is to developed an OSINT multiformat and multilingual technological platform, adapted to Border Security needs.

Role of the EUROSINT FORUM in this proposal: organisation of 20 workshops in three years with end-users and experts.

6. Plans moving forward

The general objective of the EUROSINT FORUM is to continue and extend its activities in

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order to promote the emergence of a European policy in Intelligence, based on the use of OSINT.

Planned upcoming activities for 2009:

- 20 February : Speed Dating, Brussels
- 20 March : Workshop on Radicalisation, Brussels
- 9-10 April : Annual Conference + AGM, Possible location: Paris
- 18-20 May : Workshop on Training & Best Practices, Possible location: Geneva
- 26 June : Workshop on Technological Gaps, Possible location: Vienna

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