INTERPOL

MAPPING
PROJECT

Managing Alternatives
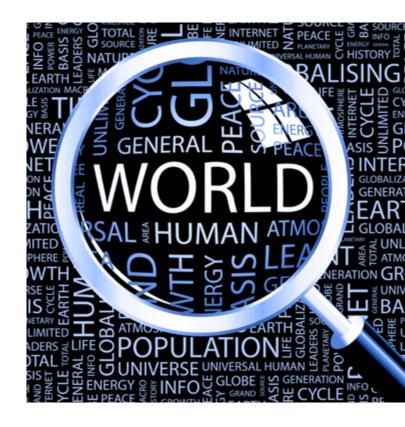for Privacy, Property and
Internet Governance

INTERPOL is participating in a European Union-funded project establishing a forum for stakeholders to engage in high-level expert discussions on the move towards a digital society and the challenges this has created for the individual and society at large. The MAPPING Project is conducted by 13 partners from law enforcement, private industry, research institutes and academia.

Concept

The MAPPING Project was conceived as a forum to bring together a diverse range of stakeholders to consider issues related to the digital transition. The project aims at creating a common understanding of the many economic, social, legal and ethical aspects of the recent developments of the Internet and the potential consequences for the individual and society.

To this end, the project focuses on three regulatory domains:

- Internet governance;
- Human rights, including the right to privacy;
- Intellectual property rights.

Challenges

Privacy and transparency on the Internet and their role in Internet governance has been the subject of heated debate in recent years and appears to be moving into a new phase of intensification. New national developments affecting some major Internet actors could have a significant impact on the way global norms will develop during the coming years.

▶

▶ *Internet governance*

The Internet largely developed organically and outside the jurisdiction of any one country or legal system. Law and policy-makers are still struggling with many of the developments brought on by the advent of the Internet, but the lack of physical characteristics of the Internet make it extremely difficult to regulate.

The Internet has evolved into a communication infrastructure which does not come under the direct responsibility of any single government. This clearly presents a range of challenges for law enforcement agencies involved in online investigations. Furthermore, the use of encryption and anonymization tools exacerbates these challenges by hindering the identification and location of suspects, as well as the collection and analysis of digital evidence.

▶ *Privacy*

The advent of the Internet has led to the creation of a multi-billion Euro business sector which collects and uses personal data. The increase in social and economic activity online has also led to an increase in the availability of such personal data.

This data can also be of value for law enforcement investigations and may contain important evidentiary information. The transfer of personal data between the private and public sectors, including law enforcement, currently goes unregulated and needs an appropriate legal framework.

▶ *Intellectual property rights*

The Internet has facilitated new forms of crime. Cybercrime involves billions of Euros and affects individuals worldwide, while intellectual property rights are threatened through identity theft, fraud and misappropriation. In the case of corporate cyber espionage, it has been reported that cybercriminals have stolen intellectual property from businesses worldwide worth up to EUR 1 trillion.

Objectives

- Providing a forum for stakeholders;

- Internet governance: analysing the current situation and offering a platform for discussion on new developments which meet amongst others the needs of law enforcement;

- Discussing privacy considerations in the development of business models largely based on personal data, as well as creating a legal framework regarding the transfer of such data between sectors;

- Intellectual property rights: balancing exclusive rights with the interests of growth and innovation.

For more information on the MAPPING Project, visit www.mappingtheinternet.eu.

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