

Risks and opportunities of using OSINT in the asylum context



István Ördög
Senior Asylum Processes Officer
AKC/ARCGU/APS

5th May 2022

Introduction

General trends

- **Increased computer literacy and digital footprints**
- **Social media presence reshaping communication**
- **Personal information and activity can be tracked**
- **Advanced technologies (AI) for large scale monitoring**

Asylum domain

- **Inequality of people in need of international protection**
- **Self expression of political, religious or gender-related subjects**
- **Governmental and non-governmental oversight – persecution**
- **Improved opportunities and increased risks**

Open-source intelligence (OSINT)

*practice of **passive** and **non-intrusive** **online** collection of **publicly available** information*

- does **not** cover the practice of data extraction from mobile devices requiring passcode/passwords
- use of new data sources e.g. social media can potentially fill-in **gaps** for traditional data sources and methods
- **accessibility** and timeliness makes the information attractive while being vulnerable to **theft**
- new technologies e.g. machine learning and Artificial Intelligence can facilitate **large-scale** information processing, while raising important **ethical questions** like security vs. privacy, **right to contradict**



EUAA's fields of interest regarding to OSINT

- **Country of origin information (COI) – strict methodology**
- **‘Forecasting asylum-related migration flows with machine learning and data at scale’**
- **Identity verification**
- **Credibility assessment**
- **Exclusion**



EUAA upcoming activities

Asylum Processes Network survey

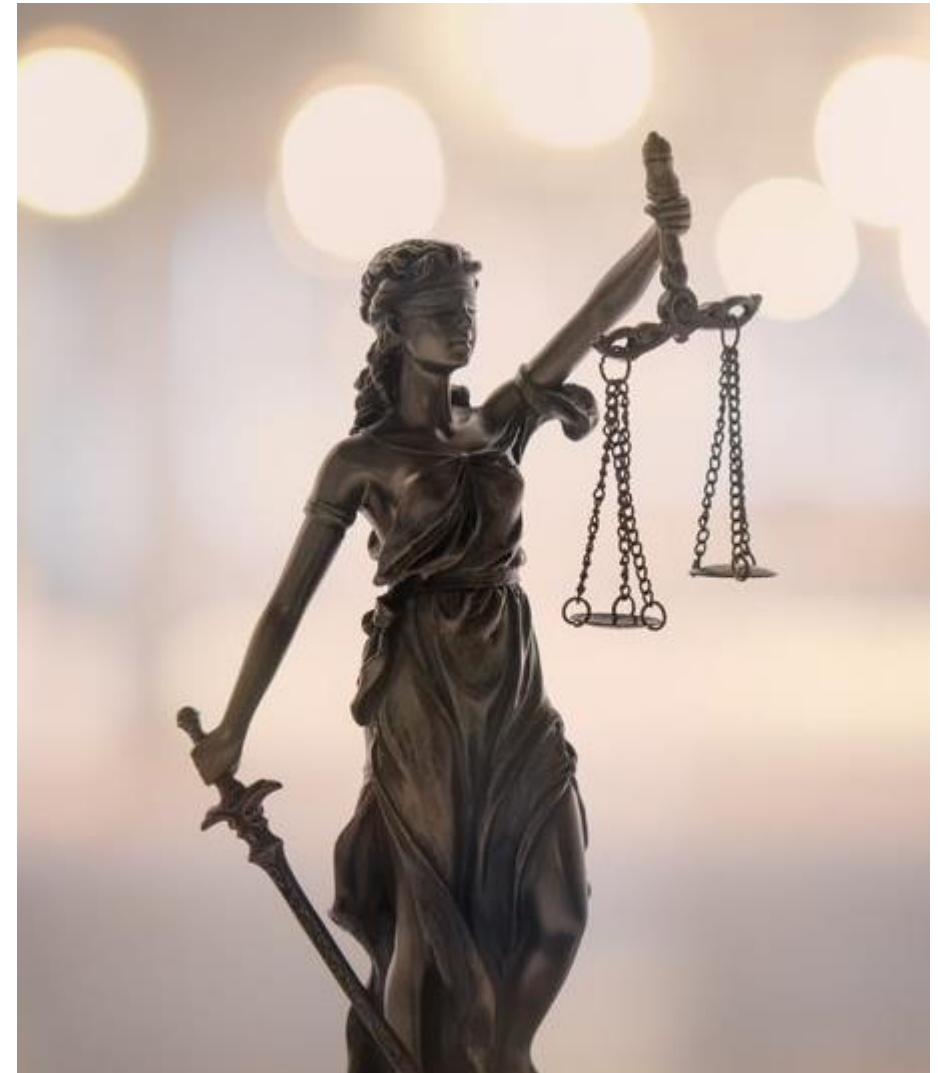
- setup and specialization
- national guidance, tools and training
- purpose (identity/credibility/exclusion)



EUAA thematic meeting in June 2022

Critical areas

- **When to apply?**
automated or subsidiary measure
- **How to apply?**
combination of AI with human intelligence
- **How to integrate with other tools?**
transliteration, facial and object recognition
- **How to ensure reliability?**
digital forensics
- **How to ensure accountability?**
transparency and ethical guidelines





Support is our mission

www.euaa.europa.eu

