ABSTRACT

The research is developed in connection with the HORIZON EUROPE project EITHOS - European Identity Theft Observatory System. Call: HORIZON-CL3-2021-FCT-01

EITHOS will develop a new system that will enable European citizens, law enforcement agencies and policy makers to further contribute to the prevention, detection and investigation of online identity theft crimes.

The fieldwork will consist of qualitative interviews and a questionnaire with mostly open-ended responses. The researcher will investigate the social impact of online identity theft in terms of consequences for victims and legal implications for experts. In this regard, the researcher will carry out a qualitative analysis to investigate case studies and experts' experiences on the topic; and a quantitative analysis to find common attitudes and behavior among victims.

The results will contribute to enhancing the digital knowledge and awareness of European citizens and law enforcement agencies, responding to the needs and challenges of European society and authorities. Data will be analyzed using content and data analysis software.

ACTIVITIES

Two main tasks will be carried out.

The first task is based on the collection of data through: (a) qualitative interviews with experts and key informants, persons who, due to the role played, have information that may be useful for the investigation of the issue of online identity theft; (b) online questionnaire with predominantly open-ended questions to victims of identity theft. In the second phase, the researcher will undertake the analysis and coding of the data and content as well as the interpretation of the results by using research support software. Finally, in the third phase, the researcher will undertake the writing of the research report and the scientific presentation of the research results.

The second task will have a long-term aim, in which it will be analyzed how the social impact of identity theft can be emphasized within the EITHOS system as well as the scientific implications that emerged from the research. Furthermore, also through this second task, the socio-cultural benefits and obstacles of the final output (identity theft observatory) EITHOS considering its social impact (awareness, prevention, support...) among citizens, authorities and policymakers, will be assessed. The researcher must be able to communicate in institutional settings in English.