ENACT.
European Network Against Crime and Terrorism

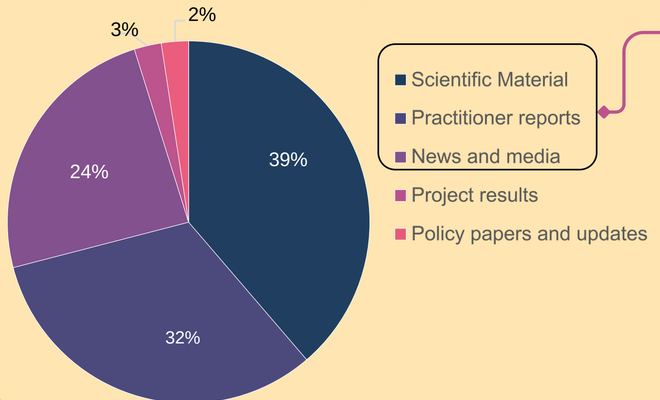
FCT Periodic Maps

Technology Observatory

2026
Sept 25 - Feb 26

The Technology Observatory monitors the current state-of-the-art of technology products and services including on-going research, scientific research and those solutions (being) developed in EU-funded projects.

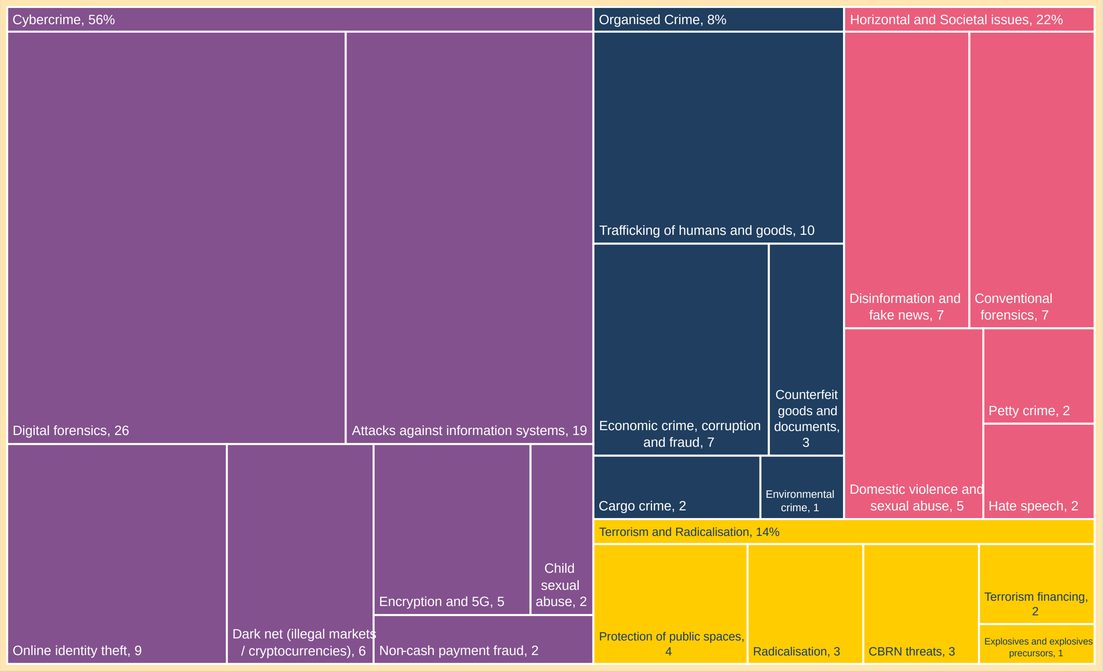
*Distribution of sources of observations with **high-relevance** to the technology observatory.*



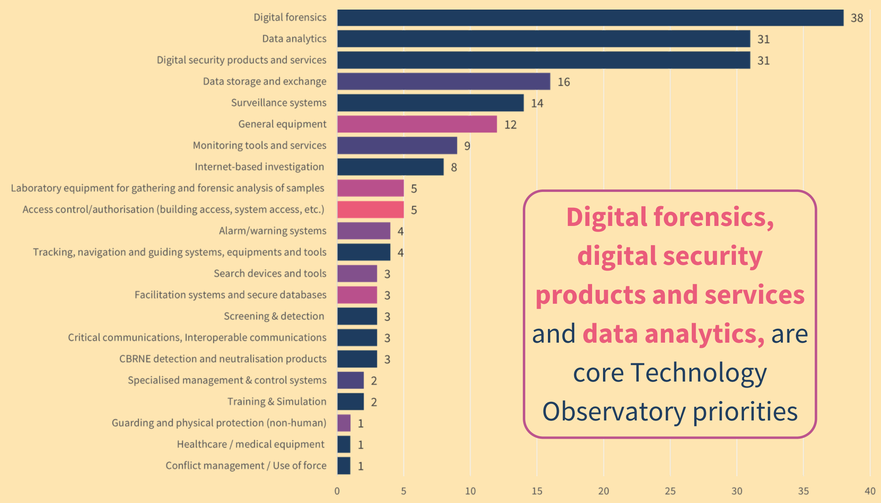
95% of observations from Scientific Material, Practitioner Reports and News and Media

56% of observations concern Cybercrime policy areas

*Distribution of observations according to the EUCS Taxonomy **Policy Areas** in FCT*

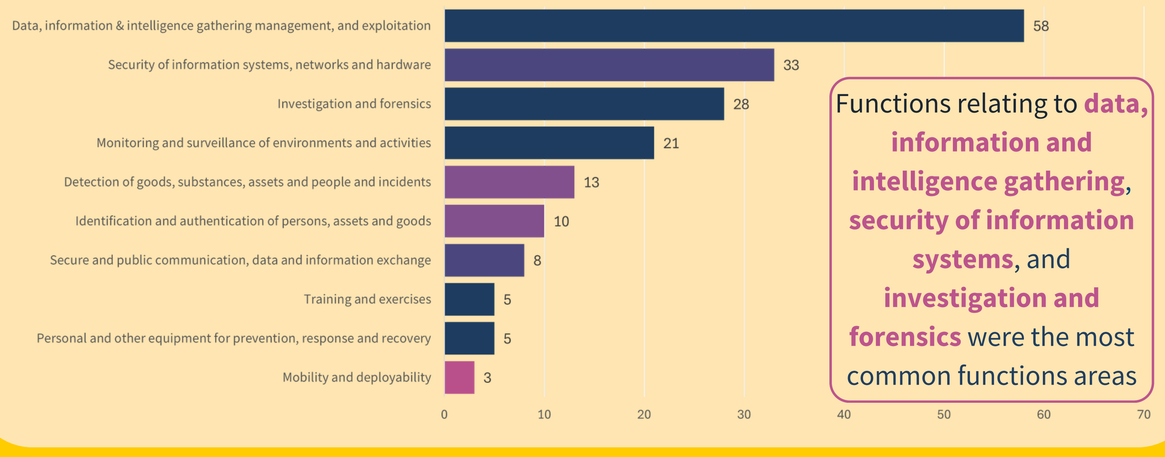


*Distribution of observations according to the EUCS Taxonomy **Technology Areas** in FCT*



Digital forensics, digital security products and services and **data analytics,** are core Technology Observatory priorities

*Distribution of observations according to the EUCS Taxonomy **Functions Areas** in FCT*



Functions relating to **data, information and intelligence gathering**, **security of information systems**, and **investigation and forensics** were the most common functions areas

Trends in the Technology Observatory

News

Media coverage is dominated by **Cybercrime (63%)**, especially **Attacks against information systems** and **Online identity theft**, reflecting media concern around systemic digital vulnerabilities.

News articles also highlight **Horizontal and Societal Issues (30%)**, especially the **ethical regulation of surveillance and AI**.

A growing news trend focuses on **Counter-UAS technologies**, particularly their **dual-use nature** and the **legal challenges** of deploying interceptive technologies in public spaces to prevent radicalisation-related incidents.

Technology

30% of technology observations focus on **Digital forensics** making it the dominant technology area. This is followed by **Digital security** and **Data analytics**, which represent 25% of the activity each.

The main function area is **Data, Information & Intelligence Gathering**, where current trends prioritise the extraction of **actionable intelligence** from large datasets.

Technical functions are increasingly concentrated on the **security of information systems**, which now accounts for **26%** of the technical focus in direct response to the high volume of reported cyber-attacks.

Surveillance technologies make up **11%** of the current tech stack, shifting from standalone units toward **integrated Counter-UAS (C-UAS)** platforms. Notably, **75%** of these new deployments now incorporate **Automated Threat Detection and AI** to identify and manage non-cooperative aerial targets.

Science

Research is evenly split between policy and technical areas, with **Horizontal and Societal Issues** leading at **31%**, followed by **Cybercrime** and **Organised Crime**, each at **27%**.

Academic efforts are primarily directed toward **Investigation and Forensics**, with a growing body of work on the **ethical governance of AI** in law enforcement.

Scientific publications are exploring **multi-modal sensor fusion** (radar, acoustic, and thermal) to improve the reliability of **Counter-UAS systems** in complex environments

Projects

Current and emerging projects are strongly centred on **Digital Security Products and Services**, with a focus on **Security of information systems, networks and hardware** to counter systemic hybrid threats.

There is a strong push toward the p**ractical application of AI** in humanitarian missions, missing persons identification, and child protection.

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Funded by the European Union.