ENACT.
European Network Against Crime and Terrorism

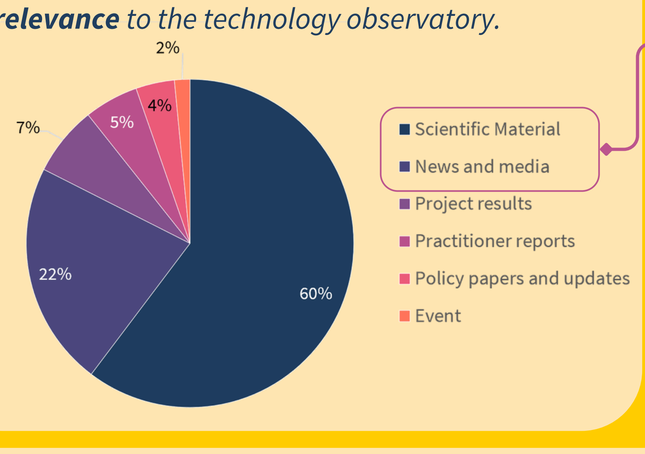
FCT Periodic Maps

Technology Observatory

2026
Mar 26 - Aug 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

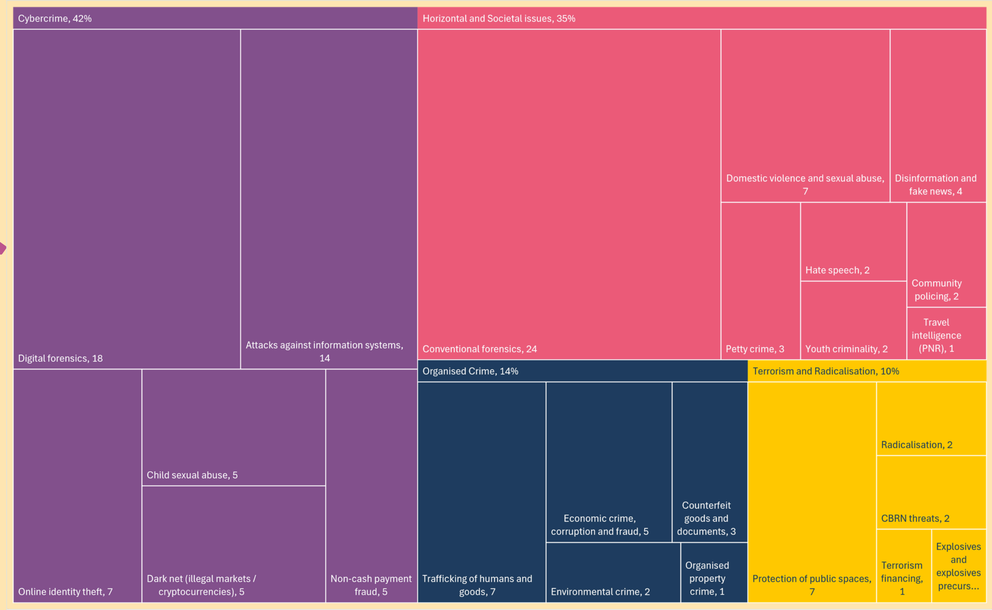
*Distribution of sources of observations with **high-relevance** to the technology observatory.*



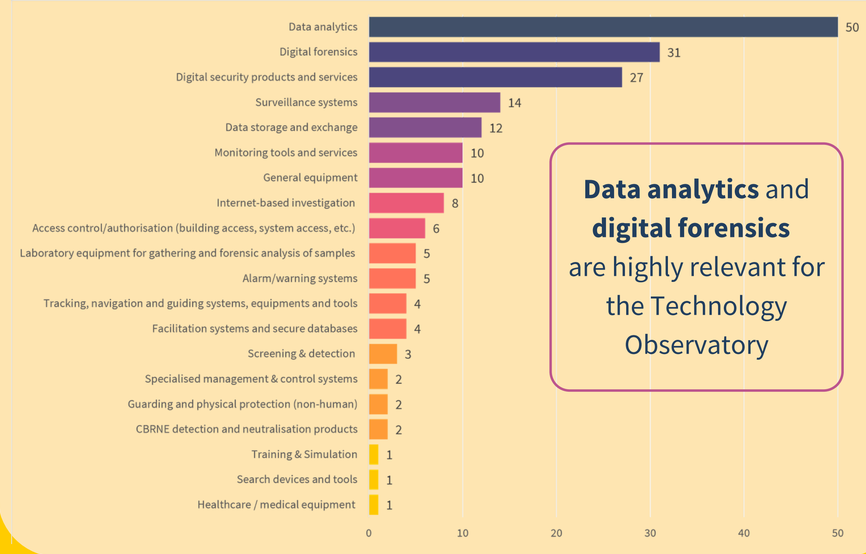
82% of observations from Scientific Material and News and Media,

42% of observations concern Cybercrime policy areas

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

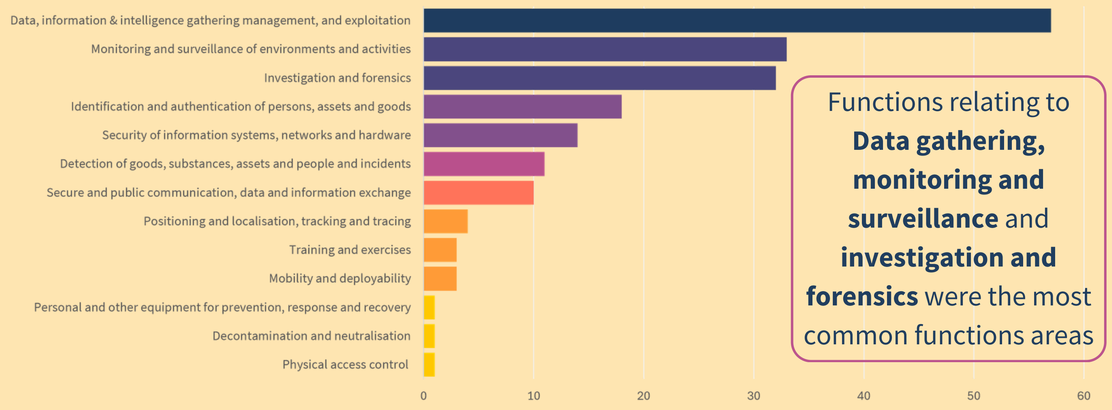


*Distribution of observations according to the EUCS Taxonomy **Technology Areas** in FCT*



Data analytics and **digital forensics** are highly relevant for the Technology Observatory

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



Functions relating to **Data gathering, monitoring and surveillance** and **investigation and forensics** were the most common functions areas

Trends in the Technology Observatory

News

43% of news and media coverage is primarily associated with **Cybercrime** and then **Horizontal & Societal Issues (36.3%)**, reflecting attention towards cyber threats, digital investigations and emerging societal challenges.

Reporting frequently highlights **attacks against information systems**, **online identity theft** and **digital fraud**, confirming the growing visibility of cyber-enabled criminal activities.

Media attention increasingly focuses on **Artificial Intelligence, information integrity, deepfakes and AI-generated content**, reflecting concerns around trust, security and the societal impact of emerging technologies.

Technology

19% **Conventional Forensics**, **Digital Forensics** (14.5%) and **Attacks against Information Systems** (11.3%) represent the most prominent technology domains observed

Artificial Intelligence and **advanced analytics** continue to enhance data processing, threat detection, investigative support and security operations.

31% coverage makes **Data, Information and Intelligence Gathering, Management and Exploitation** the dominant functional area, followed by **Monitoring & Surveillance of Environments and Infrastructures** (18%) and **Investigation & Forensics** (17%).

The landscape highlights strong demand for technologies that support **information exploitation**, **operational awareness**, **evidence collection**, **digital investigations**, and **intelligence-led decision-making**.

Science

Scientific research increasingly focuses on **Artificial Intelligence, large language models (LLMs), digital forensics, and advanced data analytics**, reflecting the growing role of data-driven investigations across the FCT domain.

Research activities place strong emphasis on **trustworthy AI, explainability, transparency and ethical governance**, supporting the implementation of the EU AI Act and responsible innovation principles.

Significant attention is devoted to **information exploitation, digital evidence processing and intelligent decision-support systems**, aimed at improving investigative effectiveness and operational awareness.

Projects

Research and innovation activities increasingly prioritise **digital forensics, trustworthy AI, cyber resilience and advanced analytical capabilities** supporting law-enforcement operations.

A significant proportion of project activities focus on **AI-enabled investigations, cybersecurity, information sharing and intelligence exploitation**.

The project portfolio demonstrates a growing shift towards **operationally deployable, intelligence-driven and data-centric** security solutions.

Technology Evolution

The trend reflects **technological maturation**; usefulness is judged by technical **performance**, **explainability**, evidential reliability, **transparency**, and the ability to operate **securely** within established investigative processes.

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