Presentation title:

Financing of right-wing extremism through cryptocurrency and crowdfunding

Speaker: Maria Jofre (Crime&Tech, Italy)

In recent years, terrorism and extremism have adjusted to the rapid global digital transformation by incorporating new technologies into their portfolio of financing tools. In particular, it is claimed that right-wing extremists systematically exploit vulnerabilities in these new technologies, mostly cryptocurrencies, in order to circumvent restrictions on traditional financial instruments and benefit from greater anonymity. Since empirical evidence is scant to support these claims, we aim to address this knowledge gap using blockchain analysis. In doing so, we track account and transaction information for over a hundred addresses associated with far-right extremists as collected by the Southern Poverty Law Center (HateWatch), providing insights into the different types of entities involved (exchange, mixer, gambling, donation, darkweb), and amounts and frequency of transfers, among others (CTC Project - ISFP GA 101036276).