Federal Ministry of Education and Research

Recognition of radicalization signs from social media: right-wing extremism (Erkennung von Radikalisierung in Sozialen Medien: Rechtsextremismus, ERAME-REX)

Motivation

For years, the right-wing extremist scene has been using social media to spread propaganda. Recently, in the wake of the Corona pandemic, it was increasingly observed that the number of extremist posts and channels that can be found there is almost unlimited. However, since many social media providers have increasingly taken action against posts with such content, the scene has switched to less regulated networks. In this context, the platforms BitChute and Telegram are becoming increasingly popular.

Goals and procedure

The aim is to design an AI-supported monitoring and analysis process for right-wing extremist content on Telegram and BitChute. An automated keyword search is intended to enable the identification of digital content (groups, videos, channels or comments) that shows evidence of extremist movements, groups or individuals in compliance with data protection regulations and while respecting individual rights. In the area of digital forensics, the research results open up the potential to analyze larger amounts of data more quickly and in depth.

Innovativeness and potential

The methods developed in the project will result in a significant improvement in the monitoring of freely available and open data. With an early warning system, it will be possible to identify more quickly and classify right-wing extremist content on Telegram and BitChute according to its risk potential.
Given the constantly growing amounts of data available, AI-supported methods for analysis and evaluation of extremist content will become more and more important in the future as tools for the identification of radicalization processes at an early stage.

In the wake of the Corona pandemic, Telegram became one of the most important networking platforms for the right-wing extremist scene.

Program
Research for civil security
Program: „Civil security – research cluster for the early identification, prevention and combat of Islamic extremism – module 2“

Grant value
310 000 Euro

Project duration
April 2023 – September 2024

Project partners
- Institut für Sicherheitspolitik an der Universität Kiel gGmbH, Kiel
- Fraunhofer-Gesellschaft zur Förderung der angewandten Forschung eingetragener Verein – Fraunhofer-Institut für Intelligente Analyse- und Informationssysteme (IAIS), Sankt Augustin
- Albert-Ludwigs-Universität Freiburg – Centre for Security and Society, Freiburg im Breisgau

Associate partner
- Domestic intelligence services of the German state Baden-Württemberg (Landesamt für Verfassungsschutz Baden-Württemberg)