

Hochschule Mittweida – University of Applied Sciences
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19 partners from 15 countries: University of Applied Sciences Mittweida coordinates project for forensic evaluation of mobile devices.

Forensic evidence chains on mobile devices. The Mittweida University of Applied Sciences coordinates the Horizon2020 project "FORMOBILE". The smartphone is the most important lead in many criminal proceedings - the European research project FORMOBILE will help to improve smartphone forensic investigation. Over the next three years, 19 partners from 15 nations will work to ensure that evidence from mobile devices can be evaluated in a court of law. Detailed information on the project can be found at <https://formobile-project.eu/>

Launched in May 2019 in Mittweida, "FORMOBILE" stands for the project title: "From Mobile phones to court – a complete FOREnsic investigation chain targeting MOBILE devices". FORMOBILE's goal is to establish a complete end-to-end forensic investigation chain for mobile devices. Mobile devices, especially smartphones, represent a unique challenge for law enforcement. Criminals use phones to communicate, coordinate, organize and execute criminal activities. This applies in particular to organised crime and terrorist organisations. This development poses new challenges to law enforcement, and it is critical that law enforcement agencies are given access to the data stored on mobile devices following a court order to use them trustworthily and reliably as evidence.

The project was applied for in August 2018 by Dr. Christian Hummert and his team from the Faculty of Applied Computer and Biosciences. It was anchored in the call for proposals "Secure Societies – Protection of the Freedom and Security of Europe and its Citizens".

With a funding volume of almost 7 million euros, the project brings together a total of 19 partners from 15 nations, including seven security authorities, four universities and colleges, three private companies, a standards institute, a research institute, two foundations and an association. The project started on 1 May 2019. The kick-off meeting with representatives of all project partners took place on 9 and 10 May at the Mittweida University of Applied Sciences.

FORMOBILE is now picking up speed

Questionnaires to security authorities and forensic institutions are currently being prepared to collect the conditions for successful investigations in connection with mobile terminals. Common guidelines in an international context will be collected and reviewed in order to create a new standard for investigative work based on these devices. The first clone mobile phones were examined. The project will be presented at several conferences in Europe in

the coming months. Current information on the project can be found on the project website at <https://formobile-project.eu/>

The Consortium

The consortium consists of 19 partners and is accompanied by 12 external consultants. Coordinator of the project is the Mittweida University of Applied Sciences. Besides Dr. Christian Hummert, Prof. Dr. Dirk Pawlaszczyk, Prof. Dr. Dirk Labudde and Prof. Dr. Alexander Knauer are involved in the project. The group around Dr. Hummert will deal with anti-forensics in smartphones and the analysis of mobile malware. In Prof. Pawlaszczyk's group, mobile phone data in the cloud will be researched and Prof. Labudde's group will deal with the semantic analysis of text messages. Prof. Knauer represents the university on the so-called Exploitation Board and is responsible for the exploitation of the research results.

One of the project partners is the Dutch Forensic Institute (NFI), which conducts top European research in the field of forensics. To ensure that the research results are applied directly, various European police authorities are partners in the project: The Home Office (HO) (United Kingdom), the Spanish National Police (ESMIR), the Malta Police Force (MPF), the Portuguese Judicial Police (PJ) and the Polish Police Regional Headquarters in Poznan (KWPP). An important industrial partner is Micro Systemation AB (MSAB) from Sweden, the second largest manufacturer of mobile forensic systems in the world. In the project, the Mittweida University of Applied Sciences cooperates with three universities: The University of Patras, the Delft Technical University and the Bishkek State Technical University in Kyrgyzstan. Other important partners are the Austrian Standards Institute A.S.I., the Greek Foundation for Research and Technology Hellas (FORTH), the Norwegian Ministry of Justice and Public Safety (NMPS), Law and Internet Foundation (LIF) in Bulgaria, the Polish Platform for Homeland Security (PPHS), as well as the companies time.lex from Belgium and Strane Innovation from France. The "FORMOBILE" project is funded under grant agreement No. 832800 from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme.

The University of Mittweida

The University of Applied Sciences Mittweida is the largest university for applied sciences in Saxony with about 7000 students. Applied Computer Science is one of four main research areas. Mathematicians and computer scientists develop, among other things, efficient algorithms for practicable solutions in the fields of big data, bioinformatics and digital forensics. In recent years, the university has built up an excellent reputation and sharpened its research profile in the fields of IT forensics and IT security. The competence in research benefits courses such as the Bachelor's degree course "General and Digital Forensics", which is unique in Germany, the distance learning course "IT Forensics/Cybercrime" and the Master's degree course "Cybercrime/Cybersecurity" as well as continuing education courses in the field of cyber security for governmental and private-sector organisations.

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