



## **Deliverable 2.1**

# **Training Materials Document**

<b>Project acronym:</b>	SAUFEX
<b>Due date of deliverable:</b>	Month 18
<b>Actual submission date:</b>	29-08-2025
<b>Work Package</b>	WP2
<b>Lead Beneficiary:</b>	DEB
<b>Dissemination level:</b>	PU
<b>Status:</b>	Issued



This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon Europe Framework Programme under grant agreement N° 101132494.

**Document history**

Revision	Date	Description
1	Aug 1, 2025	First draft
2	Aug 15, 2025	First issue and revision
3	August 25, 2025	Final version

# Table of Contents

Abbreviations and acronyms.....	1
Executive Summary.....	2
Brief overview of the training.....	2
Alignment with Saufex objectives.....	2
Intended impact on FIMI analysis capabilities.....	2
1. Rationale: Why OpenCTI Training for FIMI?.....	4
1.1 The evolving threat of FIMI.....	4
1.2 Analytical gaps and pain points among practitioners.....	4
1.3 The need for structured, scalable disinformation analysis.....	5
1.4 Why OpenCTI was selected for training.....	5
2. Training Objectives.....	8
2.1 What the training aims to achieve.....	8
2.2 Expected outcomes for participants.....	8
2.3 How this supports broader Saufex and Horizon Europe programme goals.....	9
3. Training Design and Methodology.....	10
3.1 The format of the training and pedagogical approach.....	10
3.2 Duration and pacing.....	11
3.3 Participant profile: who this is designed for.....	11
4. Curriculum Overview and Justification.....	13
4.1 Summary of core module sections.....	13
4.2 Assessment types.....	14
5. Delivery Plan.....	16
5.1 Proposed rollout timeline and milestones.....	16
5.2 Tools and platforms used.....	16
5.3 Evaluation and feedback mechanisms.....	17
6. Conclusions.....	17
Appendices.....	19

## Abbreviations and acronyms

Abbreviation	Meaning	Description
DISARM	Disinformation Analysis and Risk Management Framework	An open-source framework designed for describing and understanding the behavioural parts of disinformation/FIMI.
FIMI	Foreign Information Manipulation and Interference	Hostile information activities, often state-sponsored, aimed at undermining democratic processes and institutions.
OpenCTI	Open Cyber Threat Intelligence	Open-source platform for managing and analysing cyber and disinformation threat intelligence.
SAUFEX	Secure Automated Unified Framework for Exchange	EU Horizon Europe project focused on strengthening resilience against FIMI.
STIX 2.1	Structured Threat Information Expression (version 2.1)	Standardized data format for representing and sharing threat intelligence.

# Executive Summary

The **SAUFEX Training Materials document** (Deliverable 2.1) provides a foundational curriculum designed to equip analysts and practitioners with essential skills to address the growing challenge of **Foreign Information Manipulation and Interference (FIMI)**. This training focuses on the adoption and application of **OpenCTI**, an open-source cyber and disinformation threat intelligence platform that has been officially recognized by the EU and US as a central tool for structured, collaborative analysis.

## Brief overview of the training

The programme introduces participants to OpenCTI's core functions, including navigating the user interface, structuring intelligence using **STIX 2.1** and the **DISARM framework**, linking entities such as campaigns, narratives, and actors, and generating visualizations to get better understanding and analyze FIMI campaigns. Delivered initially through a **PowerPoint-based synchronous format**, the training is structured into modular units with short presentations, guided walkthroughs, and applied exercises. It is designed to be scalable into an **interactive e-learning course** hosted on the LearnWorlds platform, allowing for both live and asynchronous learning.

## Alignment with Saufex objectives

This training directly supports the SAUFEX project's mission to strengthen European resilience against FIMI by:

- **Harmonizing analytical practices** across national and institutional boundaries through the adoption of standardized frameworks.
- **Lowering the barrier to entry** for new users of OpenCTI, ensuring broader participation from analysts in government agencies, research institutes, media-monitoring bodies, and civil society organizations.
- **Fostering collaboration and interoperability** by creating a shared, structured knowledge base that facilitates effective cross-border information exchange.

By ensuring analysts gain a minimum level of technical competence in OpenCTI, the training advances Horizon Europe's wider goals of capacity building, standardization, and sustainable innovation in countering disinformation threats.

## Intended impact on FIMI analysis capabilities

The training is expected to improve analysts' ability to conduct structured, evidence-based investigations into FIMI campaigns. Key anticipated impacts include:

- **Improved situational awareness** through structured data entry, visualization, and cross-case analysis.

- **Enhanced collaboration and knowledge retention** by standardizing reporting methods and minimizing fragmentation across organizations.
- **Greater operational efficiency**, enabling analysts to spend less time on manual data management and more on actionable intelligence generation.

In the long term, this training lays the groundwork for **continuous learning and advanced modules**, ensuring participants can progressively deepen their OpenCTI expertise and maintain alignment with the evolving needs of SAUFEX and the Horizon Europe programme.

# 1. Rationale: Why OpenCTI Training for FIMI?

The Foreign Information Manipulation and Interference (FIMI) threat landscape is evolving rapidly, with disinformation operations growing in scale, sophistication, and impact. FIMI analysts face persistent challenges in connecting fragmented clues, mapping narrative ecosystems and producing timely, actionable intelligence. OpenCTI, an open source platform allowing organizations to manage their cyber threat intelligence knowledge and observables, provides a structured, collaborative environment to address these challenges—transforming scattered observations into coherent, evidence-based threat assessments. It was originally co-developed by the French National Cybersecurity Agency (ANSSI) and CERT-EU. It is now maintained by Filigran, a company that provides open-source cybersecurity solutions in the areas of threat intelligence management, breach and attack simulation and cyber risk management.<sup>1</sup>

## 1.1 The evolving threat of FIMI

Foreign state and non-state actors increasingly deploy coordinated, multi-platform disinformation campaigns to manipulate public opinion and influence political outcomes. These operations often:

- Span **multiple languages, platforms, and regions**, targeting both domestic and foreign audiences.
- Leverage **cloned media sites, fake social media personas, and typosquatted domains** to mimic credible sources.
- Sustain messaging over **months or years**, adapting tactics to evade detection.
- Align with **strategic geopolitical objectives**, such as undermining trust in institutions or destabilising alliances.

A single campaign can involve dozens of interconnected assets—making it crucial for analysts to detect patterns across seemingly unrelated incidents.

## 1.2 Analytical gaps and pain points among practitioners

FIMI analysts face systemic challenges that hinder timely, high-confidence reporting:

- **Fragmented data sources:** Leads and clues are scattered across monitoring dashboards, partner reports, spreadsheets and ad-hoc notes.
- **Manual correlation:** Linking domains, narratives and actors requires repetitive,

---

<sup>1</sup> OpenCTI GitHub README (OpenCTI-Platform/opencti). *Introduction & Objective*. <https://github.com/OpenCTI-Platform/opencti>

error-prone cross-referencing.

- **Inconsistent terminology:** Without a shared taxonomy, reports lack comparability and collective analysis is harder to achieve.
- **Limited situational awareness:** Analysts struggle to see the “big picture” when evidence is siloed across teams and tools.

These pain points result in slower response times, duplicated work and missed opportunities for proactive disruption of FIMI incidents and campaigns.

## 1.3 The need for structured, scalable disinformation analysis

To meet the challenge, FIMI investigations require an environment that can:

- **Standardise** data into a common structure (e.g., STIX 2.1, DISARM framework) for interoperability.
- **Auto-link** related indicators, narratives, and actors in real time.
- **Visualise** campaign networks, infrastructure sharing, and narrative flows.
- **Facilitate collaboration** between analysts, enabling shared context and coordinated action.
- **Scale** from single-incident investigations to multi-year, cross-platform campaigns.

A structured, scalable approach shifts analysts from reactive, case-by-case work toward strategic, pattern-based intelligence.

## 1.4 Why OpenCTI was selected for training

FIMI refers to hostile influence campaigns – often state-sponsored disinformation operations – that target public opinion, media, or political processes. Although OpenCTI was originally developed for cyber threats, it has recently been **embraced by the disinformation analysis community** as well, thanks to adaptations that make it suitable for modeling and tracking FIMI threats. In fact, the European Union and United States have jointly adopted a *structured approach* for exchanging FIMI threat intelligence that centers on OpenCTI: their agreed common standard consists of the DISARM framework (an open-source framework designed for describing and understanding the behavioural parts of disinformation/FIMI), STIX 2.1 data format, and the OpenCTI platform as the sharing mechanism.<sup>2</sup> This means OpenCTI is officially

---

<sup>2</sup> European External Action Service. “Annex 3 – FIMI: EU-US TTC Ministerial Joint Statement.” May 2023. [https://www.eeas.europa.eu/sites/default/files/documents/2023/Annex%20-%20FIMI\\_29%20May.docx.pdf#:~:text=that%20the%20European%20Union%20and,approach%20that%20can%20be%20used](https://www.eeas.europa.eu/sites/default/files/documents/2023/Annex%20-%20FIMI_29%20May.docx.pdf#:~:text=that%20the%20European%20Union%20and,approach%20that%20can%20be%20used)

recognized as a key tool for FIMI analysis and information sharing, due to its advanced capabilities in organizing and disseminating threat knowledge.

OpenCTI allows FIMI analysts to map out the ecosystem of a disinformation campaign: from the actors and channels involved, to the false narratives they push, to the targeted audiences and objectives of the campaign. Crucially, OpenCTI serves as a **central knowledge repository and collaboration platform** for the FIMI analyst community. Multiple public agencies, NGOs, and research groups have already adopted OpenCTI to store and share their findings on disinformation incidents. The platform is considered “one of the most advanced and performant” solutions for FIMI defenders to efficiently share information and analytical findings.<sup>3</sup> By using OpenCTI, FIMI analysts can collaboratively build a shared library of known propaganda campaigns, actor profiles, and misleading narratives, all in a consistent format. This addresses a key challenge in the counter-disinformation field: the need to **efficiently disseminate and exchange intelligence** about influence operations across organizational and national lines.

Empowering analysts who track foreign influence campaigns with a tool like OpenCTI can significantly enhance their effectiveness. Providing technical training on OpenCTI to FIMI analysts offers several clear benefits:

- **Improved Threat Analysis:** Analysts trained in OpenCTI can perform deeper and more structured analysis of influence operations. The platform’s graph model helps in revealing connections between disparate pieces of information. This leads to better attribution and understanding of adversary tactics. OpenCTI also enables tracking key indicators and trends over time (e.g. the evolution of a narrative or the frequency of certain tactics), providing a comprehensive view of the FIMI threat landscape for decision-makers.<sup>4</sup> The end result is a higher quality of analysis – with insights grounded in evidence, context and connections – compared to ad-hoc or manual tracking in spreadsheets.
- **Data Enrichment and Contextualization:** Training on OpenCTI teaches analysts to take advantage of its numerous data enrichment features. Rather than looking at a piece of disinformation in isolation, an analyst can use OpenCTI to automatically pull in context: e.g. enriching a suspicious domain or account with WHOIS info, geolocation or prior malicious activity via connectors. This kind of enrichment means that when the data is shared or handed off (to policymakers or other teams), it’s immediately actionable and trustworthy (for example, a misleading social media campaign entry might come with notes on its origin, confidence level and related FIMI techniques, all in one place). In short, OpenCTI training helps analysts efficiently turn raw information into well-contextualized intelligence.

---

<sup>3</sup> Hassine, S. “How OpenCTI helps to fight disinformation and foreign interferences.” Filigran Blog, May 21, 2023. <https://filigran.io/how-opencti-helps-to-fight-disinformation-and-foreign-interferences/#dd55>

<sup>4</sup> Ibid.

- **Enhanced Collaboration and Knowledge Sharing:** OpenCTI serves as a common workspace where multiple analysts (even across organizations) can collaborate. Training analysts to use the platform's collaborative features – like shared workspaces, access control, and standardized reporting – greatly improves teamwork in countering FIMI. All analysts speak the same language (STIX objects and definitions) in OpenCTI, which “*standardiz[es] informational threat modeling across analysts*” and ensures consistency in how incidents and actors are described.<sup>5</sup> This reduces miscommunication and duplication of work. Providing OpenCTI training also “*enhanc[es] the efficiency of data sharing among stakeholders involved in the defensive ecosystem against FIMI (governments, researchers, media, NGOs, etc.)*”.<sup>6</sup> It creates a shared knowledge hub where everyone contributes and draws from the same well-organized pool of information, which is vital in confronting a problem as distributed as FIMI campaigns.
- **Operational Efficiency and Knowledge Retention:** Introducing OpenCTI to FIMI analysts, accompanied by proper training, leads to more efficient operations. OpenCTI may help with automation of time-consuming tasks, such as cross-referencing data across different sources and spreadsheets, extracting relevant information from different sources by ingesting and linking information within a unified knowledge database. This automation and centralization free up analysts to focus on analysis and response, rather than data management. It also helps “*minimiz[e] strategic knowledge loss over time*”<sup>7</sup> – all insights are captured in the system and remain available even if individual team members move on. It improves the day-to-day productivity of the analysts. The teams can handle more data with less effort, ensure continuity of knowledge, and respond faster to emerging FIMI threats.

OpenCTI ultimately allows research teams to “*be more efficient in producing threat intelligence knowledge*” by speeding up the creation, enrichment, and dissemination of intelligence.<sup>8</sup> This is why it has quickly become a popular choice among FIMI analysts and why investing in technical training for teams to use OpenCTI can greatly enhance their capabilities. For an analyst, being trained on such a platform translates to a higher throughput of quality intelligence and more impactful operations overall.

---

<sup>5</sup> SGDSN (Viginum). “*Leveraging OpenCTI for FIMI Threat Knowledge Capitalization.*” Doctrine document, Apr 2025.

[https://www.sgdsn.gouv.fr/files/2025-04/20250415\\_NP\\_SGDSN\\_VIGINUM\\_DoctrineOpenCTI\\_versionENG.pdf#:~:text=TKC%20with%20OpenCTI%20offers%20several,informational%20threat%20modeling%20across%20analysts](https://www.sgdsn.gouv.fr/files/2025-04/20250415_NP_SGDSN_VIGINUM_DoctrineOpenCTI_versionENG.pdf#:~:text=TKC%20with%20OpenCTI%20offers%20several,informational%20threat%20modeling%20across%20analysts)

<sup>6</sup> Ibid.

<sup>7</sup> Ibid.

<sup>8</sup> Hassine, S. “*How OpenCTI helps to fight disinformation and foreign interferences.*” Filigran Blog, May 21, 2023. <https://filigran.io/how-opencti-helps-to-fight-disinformation-and-foreign-interferences/#b621>

## 2. Training Objectives

This training module is designed to provide FIMI analysts with a **basic introduction to the OpenCTI platform** and the foundational skills needed to incorporate it into their daily work. The emphasis is not on advanced analysis but on building familiarity with OpenCTI's core functions, such as navigating the interface, structuring findings using STIX 2.1 and creating simple visualizations of FIMI campaigns. By focusing on essential tasks and standards, the training lowers the barrier to adoption, promotes consistency across analysts and ensures that even at an introductory level participants can contribute to a **shared, structured knowledge base**. In doing so, the training directly supports the broader objectives of the Saufex project and Horizon Europe programme by harmonizing practices, encouraging collaboration and laying the groundwork for more advanced capacity-building in the future.

### 2.1 What the training aims to achieve

The purpose of the training is to give participants a **foundational introduction to OpenCTI** and the basic skills required to use it in their day-to-day work on countering FIMI. Rather than focusing on advanced analytical techniques or complex integrations, the program is designed to ensure that analysts gain a solid grasp of the platform's core features and can confidently apply them in simple, practical scenarios.

Through the training, participants will learn how to navigate the OpenCTI interface, understand its knowledge-graph approach and perform essential tasks such as entering information, linking basic entities (e.g. campaigns, narratives and actors) and visualizing relationships. The goal is to build familiarity with the platform so that analysts can begin to **structure their findings consistently** and store them in a standardized format.

Another key aim is to introduce participants to the idea of **harmonized analysis** using STIX 2.1 and other recognized frameworks. At this stage, the objective is not deep mastery but awareness: participants will learn how intelligence items should be represented in OpenCTI and why following a common structure helps align their work with that of colleagues and partner organizations.

Ultimately, the training aims to lower the barrier to adoption by equipping participants with just enough technical knowledge to use OpenCTI confidently for their core tasks. By focusing on **basic operations and first-level use cases**, the program lays the groundwork for consistent practice across the team and sets the stage for more advanced and hands-on training in the future.

### 2.2 Expected outcomes for participants

By the end of the training, participants will have a **working familiarity with the OpenCTI platform** and the confidence to carry out essential tasks. They will know how to log into the system, navigate the interface, and use the most relevant functions for

their role. This includes creating simple entries, linking basic entities such as campaigns, narratives, or channels and applying STIX 2.1 objects at a **practical introductory level**.

Participants will also gain the ability to produce straightforward visualizations of data in OpenCTI, which will help them begin to map FIMI campaigns and see how different elements connect. While they will not yet be expected to perform advanced analysis or complex modeling, they will leave with enough skills to contribute to the team's knowledge base, input their findings consistently, and share them in a structured format. In short, the outcome is a **solid first step into adopting the tool** as part of everyday workflows.

## 2.3 How this supports broader Saufex and Horizon Europe programme goals

Although the training provides only basic skills, it contributes meaningfully to the overarching objectives of the Saufex project and its alignment with the Horizon Europe programme. According to the grant agreement, Saufex seeks to **strengthen Europe's resilience against foreign information manipulation and interference (FIMI)** by fostering structured knowledge exchange, supporting analytical harmonisation and promoting collaboration across national and institutional boundaries.

This introductory training supports those aims by ensuring that analysts gain the **minimum technical competence** required to adopt OpenCTI as a common platform. Even basic usage—such as ingesting narratives, mapping simple campaign relationships, and applying STIX 2.1 structures—contributes to the creation of a **shared, standardized knowledge base**. This directly advances Saufex's goal of harmonising methodologies and reducing fragmentation across the European FIMI analyst community.

From a Horizon Europe perspective, the training addresses the programme's broader priorities of **capacity building, interoperability and sustainability** in research and innovation. By teaching analysts to use an open-source tool built on widely accepted standards, the programme not only broadens participation but also supports **open science and collaboration across disciplines**. The skills acquired, while basic, are foundational to scaling up knowledge exchange and ensuring that outputs from different actors can be integrated into a larger European response framework.

In short, this training module supports Saufex and Horizon Europe programme by **lowering the barrier to entry**, ensuring analysts can begin contributing structured data into a collective system and laying the groundwork for more advanced capacity-building and analytical innovation in the future.

### 3. Training Design and Methodology

This training programme is built to give participants a **clear and structured learning pathway** into OpenCTI. It focuses on providing a straightforward format that can be delivered consistently, while leaving room for the course to evolve into a more interactive online version later on. The approach combines explanation with practice, ensuring that participants not only understand the platform's basic functions but also apply them directly in simple exercises. By balancing clarity, accessibility, and hands-on engagement, the training is designed to introduce analysts to OpenCTI in a way that is both approachable and effective, setting the groundwork for future digital expansion of the curriculum into the e-learning course format.

#### 3.1 The Format of the training and pedagogical approach

The training curriculum is **initially developed as synchronous training material<sup>9</sup>**, with a trainer's script included in the presenter notes of a PowerPoint-format document. This approach ensures that the material can be delivered consistently in classrooms, workshops or online webinars, while also serving as a foundation for the **future development of an interactive e-learning course** on the LearnWorlds platform.

It is worth noting that the OpenCTI training material was not developed entirely from scratch. On 26–28 March 2024, Debunk.org conducted an **Information Operations Threat Analysis** training using the FIMI methodology on OpenCTI. The training involved 16 participants: 13 from the Saufex consortium and 3 from the sister project Adac.io. It was held in Vilnius at the **National Crisis Management Centre (NCMC)**, under the Office of the Government of Lithuania (Gedimino Ave. 11, LT-01103 Vilnius).

For Saufex project partners, participation in this training was mandatory in order to conduct research for the D3.1 FIMI Narratives Report. The training lasted three days, with the second and third days primarily focused on OpenCTI—ranging from an introduction to the platform to practical sessions and recommendations. The current training material was developed based on this live training conducted in 2024 and on the feedback received from participants afterward. The PowerPoint version of the training material will be uploaded and made available on the **Saufex website**.

Currently, Debunk.org is developing additional e-learning courses hosted on LearnWorlds, which you can view here: [Debunk.org Digital Literacy and Training Program](#). The plan is to create a similar interactive course for OpenCTI training to be delivered asynchronously<sup>10</sup> in the future.

Once the PowerPoint training material and script are finalized, the e-learning platform Articulate 360 is used to create the online course. Articulate provides all the tools

---

<sup>9</sup> Training that happens in real time, with the trainer and participants interacting at the same time.

<sup>10</sup> Training that does not happen in real time. Learners access materials and complete activities at their own pace.

needed to streamline course creation from start to finish. It is widely used for developing e-learning content because it combines ease of use with professional-quality output, offering powerful features such as interactive quizzes, branching scenarios and multimedia integration that transform static content into engaging learning experiences. Another key advantage is collaboration: with Articulate 360 stakeholders can review and provide feedback directly on draft courses, which significantly speeds up development and revisions. This has already proven very helpful in previous e-learning courses developed by Debunk.org. The finalized e-learning course is then hosted on the LearnWorlds platform—a comprehensive, cloud-based learning management system (LMS) designed for creating, delivering and marketing online courses.

The pedagogical approach of this training curriculum emphasizes **active learning in both offline and online environments**. Sessions combine short presentations, guided tool walkthroughs and hands-on practice with OpenCTI. During live training participants will be given access to OpenCTI and encouraged to explore all the features covered, engage in group discussions, solve small case-based exercises, and reflect on practical scenarios.

While live training relies more on practical sessions, case studies and a hands-on approach, the e-learning course will include additional quizzes, interactive exercises and videos to foster similar engagement and reinforce learning. The current version of the training material (PowerPoint slides with accompanying script) is designed with digital transition in mind, ensuring that interactive elements can be seamlessly integrated during the e-learning development process.

## 3.2 Duration and pacing

The training curriculum is organized into **modular units**, each covering a specific aspect of OpenCTI fundamentals. Depending on the delivery format, the modules can be delivered as a single one-day workshop or spread across multiple shorter sessions in an e-learning environment. Each module consists of a short presentation (10–15 minutes), followed by a practical walkthrough and an applied exercise (20–30 minutes). This pacing ensures that participants are not passive recipients of information but instead consolidate their learning through immediate application. The overall program is designed to provide essential skills within a manageable timeframe, keeping the workload light while still ensuring practical outcomes.

## 3.3 Participant profile: who this is designed for

The training is designed for **analysts and practitioners engaged in monitoring and countering FIMI**, particularly those in government agencies, research institutes, media-monitoring and civil society organizations. It will also be relevant for **journalists, fact-checkers and policy staff** who need a practical introduction to how OpenCTI can support structured knowledge capture and sharing. Since this is a beginner-level curriculum, no prior technical expertise is required. The intention is to make OpenCTI accessible to a broad audience of professionals working in the FIMI

space, ensuring they can perform basic tasks such as inputting data, mapping simple campaign structures and visualizing relationships.

## 4. Curriculum Overview and Justification

The curriculum is structured to provide participants with a **progressive introduction to OpenCTI**, combining conceptual grounding with practical exercises. Through a sequence of core modules, participants are first introduced to the role of OpenCTI in countering FIMI and the frameworks it builds upon, before moving into hands-on tasks such as uploading data, creating links and visualizing campaign structures. Each module is designed to build essential operational skills while reinforcing understanding through simple assessments and applied exercises.

The training material was developed based on the initial **Information Operations Threat Analysis** training, which used the FIMI methodology on OpenCTI and took place on 26–28 March 2024 in Vilnius for the Saufex and Adac.io projects' partners. Following feedback received after this training, the material was updated and improved with additional modules, explanations and technical use cases.

By the end of this training, participants will not only acquire **foundational knowledge of the platform** but will also be able to demonstrate minimum proficiency through knowledge checks and a final quiz.

### 4.1 Summary of core module sections

The training is organized into six core modules that introduce participants to the essential functions of OpenCTI and their relevance for FIMI analysis. Each module builds progressively, starting with the rationale for using OpenCTI in this field and moving through the practical steps of data entry, analysis and visualization. The sequence is designed to balance conceptual grounding with hands-on practice, ensuring that participants acquire a **basic but operational understanding** of the platform.

- **OpenCTI: why it matters for FIMI?**

This module explains the role of OpenCTI as a centralized platform for structuring and analyzing information manipulation campaigns. It introduces the benefits of using a standardized, collaborative tool to capture evidence of disinformation and foreign interference, with emphasis on how it supports consistency, interoperability and resilience across Europe.

- **Modeling FIMI in STIX 2.1 & DISARM framework**

Participants are introduced to the principles of structured threat intelligence using STIX 2.1 and the DISARM framework. The focus is on how to represent campaigns, narratives, actors, and dissemination channels in a way that allows systematic analysis and sharing, using OpenCTI's built-in modeling capabilities.

- **Uploading data into OpenCTI**

This module provides a step-by-step introduction to inputting data into the platform. Participants will practice creating objects, linking them and ensuring correct

metadata is applied, while learning how to avoid common mistakes in structuring information.

- **Analysis and visualisation**

Here, the training shifts to exploring OpenCTI's analytical functions. Participants learn how to use the graph view to map relationships between entities, identify patterns in disinformation campaigns and generate visual representations that can support both internal assessments and external reporting.

- **Dashboards for disinformation trends**

This module introduces dashboards as a way of tracking emerging narratives, campaign intensity and actor activity. Participants will gain basic skills in reading and interpreting dashboards to monitor disinformation trends over time and produce insights for decision-makers.

- **Quiz / test**

To consolidate learning, the training concludes with a short quiz or test. This not only reinforces key concepts but also allows participants to self-assess their grasp of the material. It serves as both a confidence check and a stepping stone for further, more advanced training in the future.

## **4.2 Assessment types**

Assessment within the training is designed to serve two main purposes: to **reinforce learning** throughout the modules and to **gauge participant progress** at the end of the course. Since this is an introductory curriculum, the assessments are intentionally lightweight and practical, focusing on consolidating basic knowledge rather than testing advanced analytical expertise.

During the modules, **formative assessments** are integrated into the learning process. These include short knowledge checks, discussion prompts and small hands-on exercises where participants apply newly introduced skills, such as entering a STIX 2.1 object in OpenCTI or creating a simple visualization. These activities help participants immediately put theory into practice and give trainers a way to confirm understanding in real time.

At the conclusion of the training, a **summative assessment** is carried out in the form of a short quiz or test. This final activity focuses on core concepts such as the role of OpenCTI in countering FIMI, the basics of STIX 2.1 modeling and the ability to carry out simple tasks within the platform. The quiz is primarily designed as a self-evaluation tool, allowing participants to measure their grasp of the essentials and identify areas for further improvement.

Taken together, these assessment types ensure that participants not only absorb information but also **demonstrate a minimum operational proficiency** with the tool. They also provide a structured basis for future training iterations, where more

advanced assessments—such as case-based evaluations or scenario simulations—can be introduced once the e-learning course is developed.

## 5. Delivery Plan

The delivery plan outlines how the training will be rolled out, the tools and platforms that will support its implementation, and the mechanisms used to evaluate its impact. The approach balances **immediate readiness**—with a PowerPoint-based curriculum delivered through interactive tools like AhaSlides—with a **longer-term vision** of scaling into a fully interactive e-learning programme hosted on LearnWorlds. Built-in evaluation and feedback processes ensure that each phase of delivery remains adaptable, responsive to participant needs and aligned with the wider goals of Saufex and Horizon Europe programme.

### 5.1 Proposed rollout timeline and milestones

The training will be introduced in **phased steps** to ensure smooth implementation and room for refinement. The initial milestone is the **completion and validation of the PowerPoint-based synchronous training curriculum**, which serves as the baseline version for immediate delivery. Following this, pilot sessions will be organized with a small group of FIMI analysts to test content clarity, pacing and exercises. Feedback from these pilots will inform minor adjustments before wider rollout. The PowerPoint version of the training materials will also be uploaded and made available on the **Saufex website**.

In parallel, development of the **e-learning version** on LearnWorlds is planned as a future milestone, leveraging the finalized curriculum as its foundation. The long-term goal is to make the training scalable and accessible across multiple countries and stakeholder groups.

### 5.2 Tools and platforms used

For the initial rollout, the training materials will be delivered by **uploading the PowerPoint slides to AhaSlides**—an interactive presentation platform that enhances audience engagement with live polls, quizzes, word clouds, and more. These materials can be used in classroom settings, workshops or virtual webinars.

In the next phase, the slide-based curriculum will be transformed into a fully interactive online course using tools such as **Articulate 360**. Once developed, the online course will be hosted on the **LearnWorlds platform**, giving participants asynchronous access to training material, quizzes, multimedia resources, and other interactive features. For live delivery, standard platforms such as Google Meet, Zoom or Microsoft Teams may be used, depending on the preferences of the host organization.

## 5.3 Evaluation and feedback mechanisms

Evaluation is integrated into the delivery process to ensure continuous improvement. After live training in AhaSlides participants will be invited to complete a short feedback form covering aspects such as content clarity, pacing, slide design, trainer performance, and the most useful takeaway from the session. Trainers will also collect informal feedback during workshops to identify areas requiring further clarification. The final quiz at the end of the training will serve both as a learning check and as a way to measure immediate outcomes.

For the e-learning version, additional features such as integrated polls, interactive quizzes and progress tracking will provide more detailed insights into learner engagement and comprehension. For example, the LearnWorlds platform can track and measure various indicators of participation and engagement, including:

- **Quiz and test scores** – built-in quizzes and exams, with averages and per-question analysis.
- **Number of enrolled users / course enrollments** – tracking how many participants register.
- **Course starts** – measuring how many learners begin at least one activity.
- **Progress metrics (“Viewer” vs. “Completed”)** – showing how many participants view versus fully complete each section or activity.
- **Total and average study time** – recording how long learners spend on courses or activities.
- **Per-user engagement data** – including time spent on the course, number of completed activities, completion dates, certificate/exam results, and average scores.

LearnWorlds does not track **confidence improvement** (changes in self-reported confidence before and after the course) or **participant feedback ratings** (satisfaction with clarity, relevance and delivery). These indicators will instead be measured separately through a feedback survey integrated in the e-learning course. The survey will ask participants to rate overall course quality, clarity and organization, effectiveness of interactive elements, relevance and usefulness of the content, changes in confidence of the participants before and after the course, and to identify their most valuable takeaways and how they plan to apply them.

This feedback loop will enable trainers and programme managers to assess whether the training is meeting its objectives and to identify areas for improvement in future iterations. It also ensures that the curriculum continues to evolve in line with participant needs while staying aligned with the goals of Saufex and Horizon Europe programme.

## 6. Conclusions

This deliverable has presented a structured training programme designed to introduce analysts to the use of OpenCTI for countering **FIMI**. By focusing on core functions, standardized frameworks, and practical exercises, the training ensures participants can apply consistent methodologies and contribute to a shared knowledge base.

The programme directly supports the objectives of **SAUFEX** and the **Horizon Europe programme** by promoting harmonization, interoperability, and capacity building across the FIMI analyst community. Its phased design—beginning with trainer-led modules and evolving into scalable e-learning—provides both immediate applicability and long-term sustainability.

Overall, this training programme lays the foundation for a common analytical culture, enhances collaboration across stakeholders, and strengthens Europe's overall resilience against FIMI.

# Appendices

Appendix 1: *OpenCTI Training for FIMI Analysts* (PowerPoint-format document)