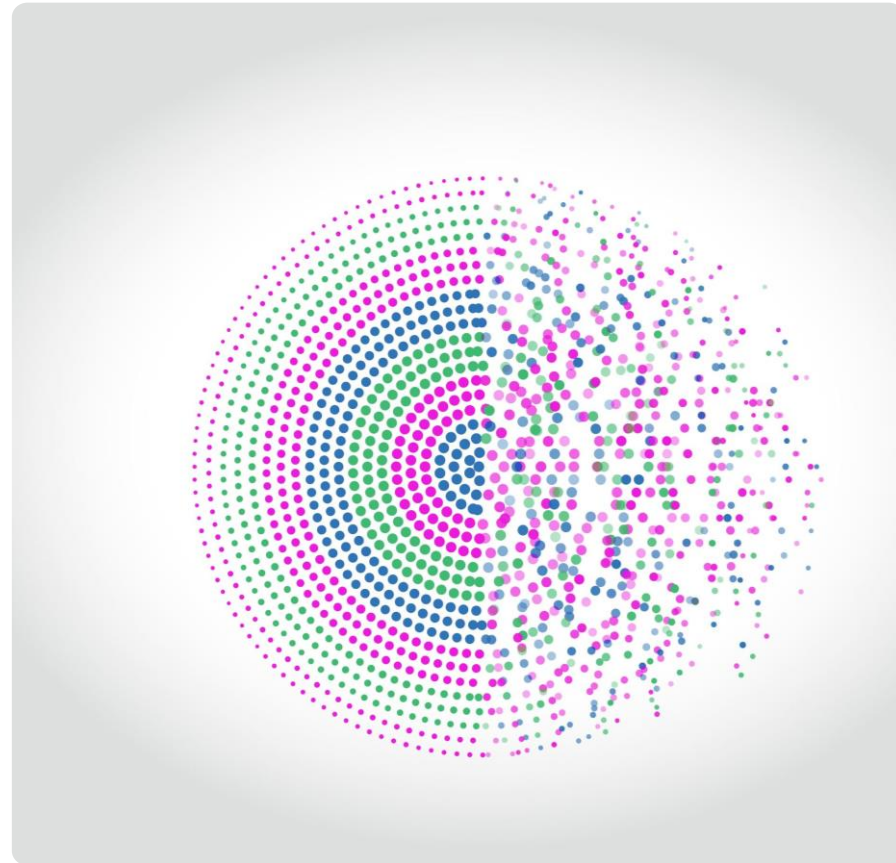




OSINT AND CULTURAL PROPERTY CRIMES

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Fernández

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Pandora operations
statistics reporting:

2017:

41,00 cultural objects
seized, 53 people
arrested, 200
investigations spanning 81
countries.

monitored online market
places and sales sites.



Pandora operations statistics reporting:

2018:

18,000 objects seized and 59 people arrested in operations spanning 29 countries

2020:

19,000 cultural objects seized, together with €5.5 million in cash, 101 people arrested, and 300 investigations opened in operations spanning 103 countries

Monitored online market places and sales sites during “cyber patrol week”.



Afghan Customs seized 971 cultural objects at Kabul airport.



2021: Within the framework of Operation Pandora V,

the Dutch National Police (Politie) organized a five-day cyber patrol week focusing on online markets.

Law enforcement from 15 countries, with the support of Europol, INTERPOL and WCO,

identified suspicious sales online, as a result of which 15 new investigations were opened.



Artefacts seized in Romania during Pandora V.



The illicit trade of cultural objects persists, even thrives, with continuing negative impact.



- We only have approximations of the size of the trade.
- Dark figure of crime
- Poor understanding how the trade is organized and operates.



Conclusions and recommendations that simply repeat those that have been produced before by other outsourced researchers.



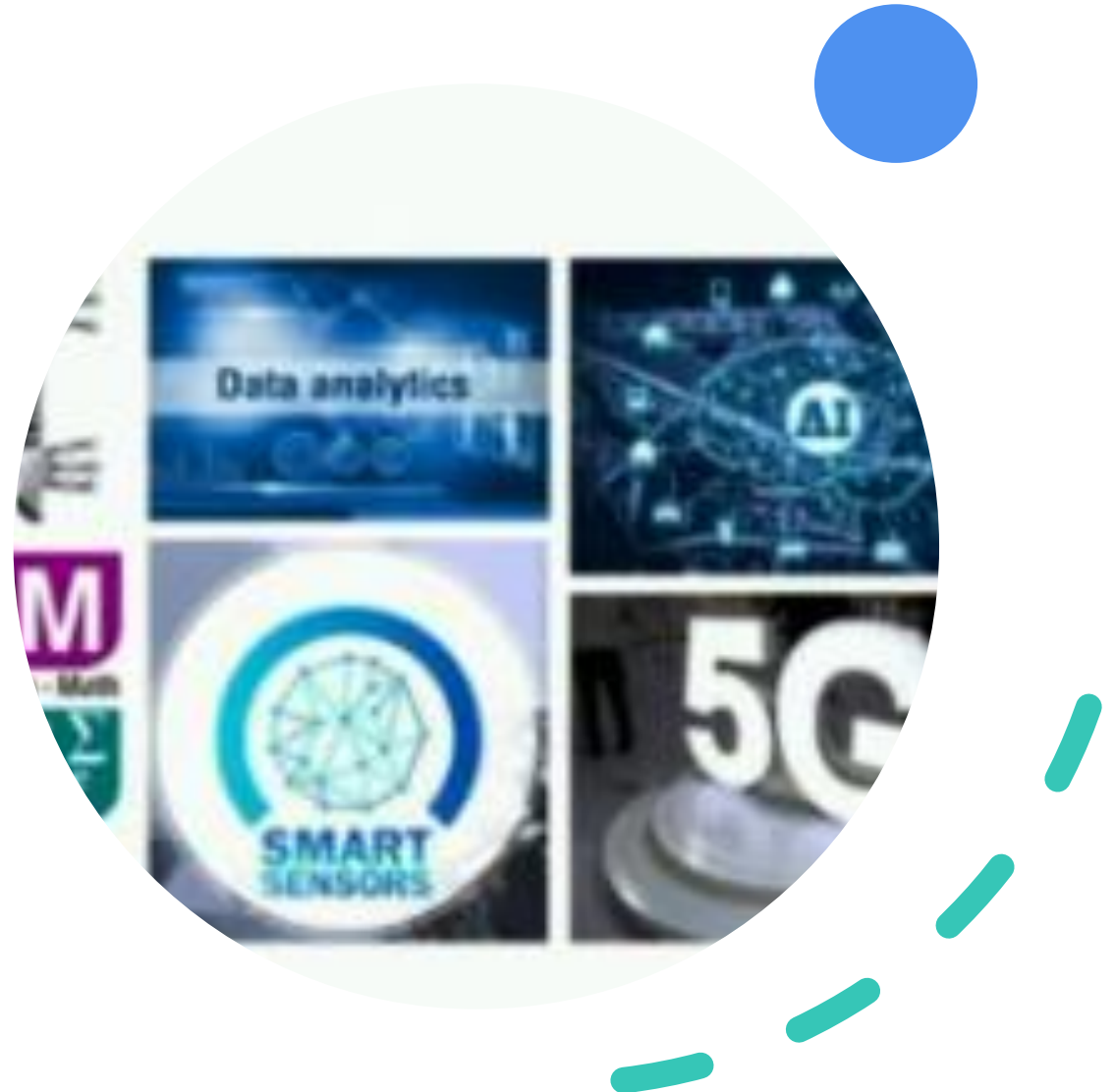
There is, for example, the vexatious claim that the illicit trade in cultural objects is valued at billions of dollars annually **and ranks with drugs and arms as one of the three most serious illicit trades.** The claim has been refuted many times , but never seems to go.

Da'esh was said to be making tens or hundreds of millions of dollars from the trade to bankroll its activities, and the policy makers were listening. But again, it has been impossible to verify these figures.
(Brodie, et al. 2022)



What action might be taken to diminish it ?

- New actions based on a holistic approach to new technologies.
- Develop of projects focusing on new technologies.
- Innovation (not always a priority) there must be knowledge transfer between academia and law enforcement agencies.



Beyond “Googling”- What can OSINT techniques can provide us?

- OSINT focused in organised property crimes has been identified as a prioritised training need in the “European Union Strategic Training Needs Assessment 2022-2025”
- We need evidences and figures to achieve a real understand of the problem (as we had seen previously).
- Take advactage of the knowledge of data provided by the internet thar was unthinkable before.

Examples

bellingcat

Investigations

Resources

Guides

Ukraine

Workshops



EN

Donate

Latest investigations

Israel Palestine

Unravelling the Killing of Shireen Abu Akleh



<https://www.bellingcat.com>

Latest resources

This New Tool Lets You Analyse TikTok Hashtags

May 11, 2022

Bellingcat is Banned in Russia. Here's How to Beat the Block

April 22, 2022

How to Archive Telegram Content to Document Russia's Invasion of Ukra...

March 8, 2022

Help Bellingcat Decide Which Open Source Tools to Build

February 17, 2022

Radar Interference Tracker: A New Open Source Tool to Locate Active Militar...

February 11, 2022

Tracking Russian Military Vehicles on the Move

Examples

FACEBOOK'S BLACK MARKET IN ANTIQUITIES

Facebook's "Groups" feature, which allows users to create and control a contained network of individuals with "shared interests," has become a facilitator for the expansion of antiquities trafficking networks. The Groups provide a seamless environment for digital interactions and cross-border networking between users interested in buying and selling antiquities, allowing them to communicate efficiently and discretely. The ATHAR Project's report covers nearly two-years of investigative research and incorporates a case study on Groups based in Syria.

ATHAR PROJECT 2019 REPORT BY THE NUMBERS

 **95**
FACEBOOK GROUPS TRACKED

 **3,539**
POSTS RECORDED

 **1,947,195**
GROUP MEMBERS MONITORED

 **+3,600**
IMAGES GATHERED



A screenshot from a video from a Facebook group devoted to looting and selling antiquities. A narrator speaking Syrian-accented Arabic describes an elaborate, Roman-era mosaic depicting mythological figures and animals believed to be in northwestern Syria – a conflict zone where there has been extensive looting of illegally excavated antiquities.

ATHAR Project/Screenshot by NPR



Screenshot of video on Facebook showing an Egyptian sarcophagus with mummy inside for sale. According to the ATHAR Project, the video is from an area known for extensive antiquities looting. Facebook bans trade in antiquities and human remains, but relies on user reports to flag suspect items. This post, reported by ATHAR using the Facebook system, was not deemed to violate Facebook's standards.

Additional point of view

As a method of adding alternatives when investigating the trafficking of cultural objects.

Aimed at local agencies or specialised research groups.

Specific cases.

Research methodology from the ground up to larger structures.



Next to our
borders:

Case study:

Location: Ukraine

Subject: Looting of historical heritage
using metal detectors



Approach

Justification of actions:

- Socially accepted
- Exaltation of the historical heritage
- Lax prosecution of crime



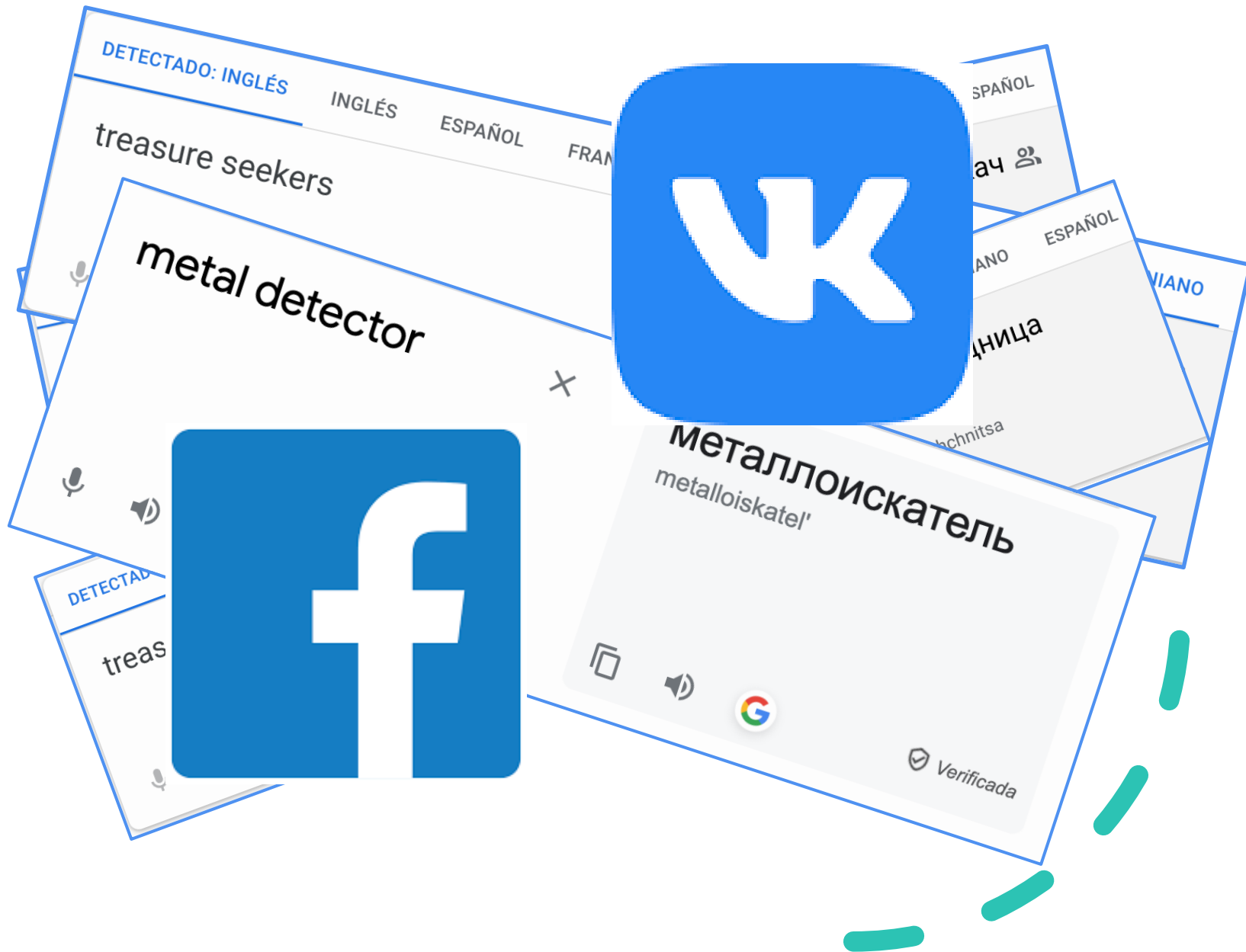
Considerations

Russian invasion favours:

- Economic needs that can be solved by the sale of looted historical heritage.
- Impunity in the looting of historical pieces and their transfer to Russia before accessing the black market.

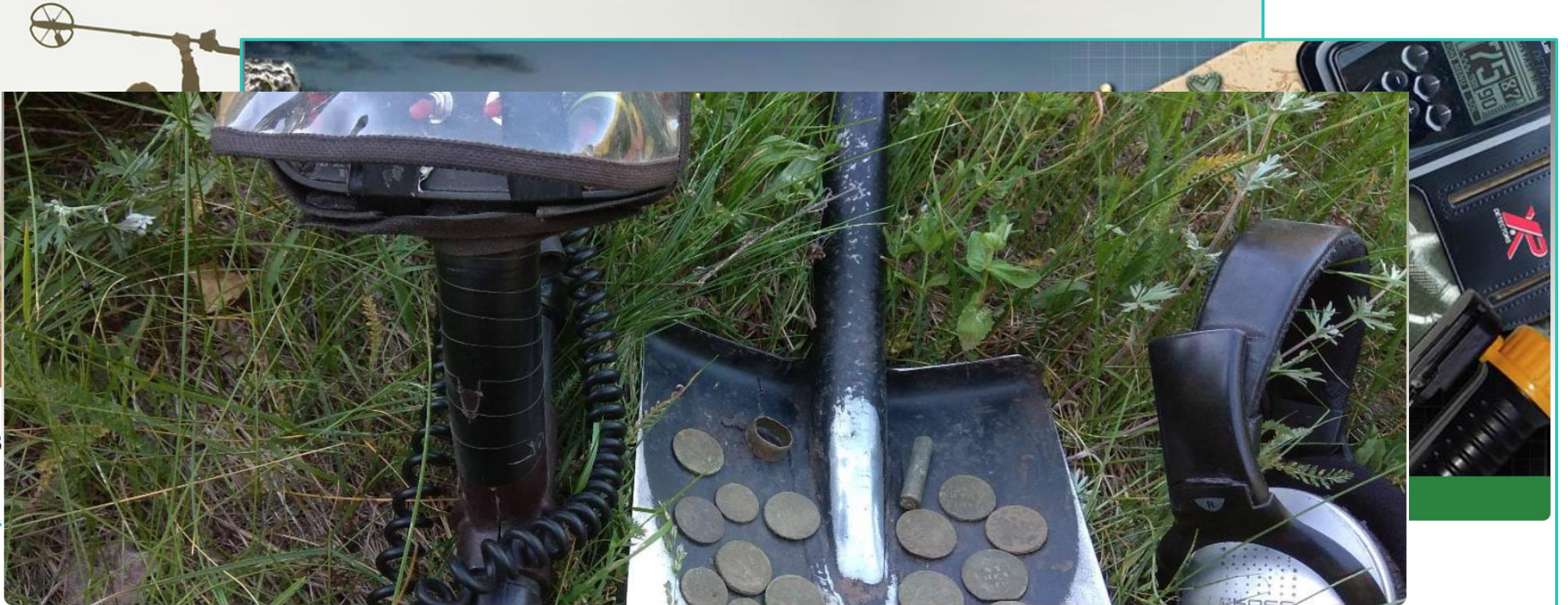


Knowledge of the environment





ПРОДАЖ МЕТАЛОШУКАЧІВ КОТУШОК ТА АКСЕСУАРІВ



Grupo de Интернет магазин

Хобі пошук з

📍 Grupo pública · 126,5

бу металлоискатель, металлошукач

📍 Public group · 15.1K members

[Join Group](#)




[invite](#)




Information gathering

Good day community ! Point me in the cross ! Thank you !
[See original](#) · [Rate this translation](#)



Direct




3 comments

27 7 comments

Like Comment Share

All comments ▾

 **Николай Ткачук**
Catholic Kiest of the 17th century. Have one of these in my collection
Like Reply Share [See original \(Russian\)](#) 3 d

Sources gathering

Тарас [redacted]
14 May at 08:31 · 🌐
Слава Україні , на оцінку ... Дякую Артур [redacted] за гарну роботу !

Артур [redacted] [redacted] металошукачем!
11 May at 11:04 · 🌐
Congratulations, the restoration of the Southern Alpska

Message
...
Filters
...
Message
Message

Артур [redacted]
Message Add Friend

Group posts

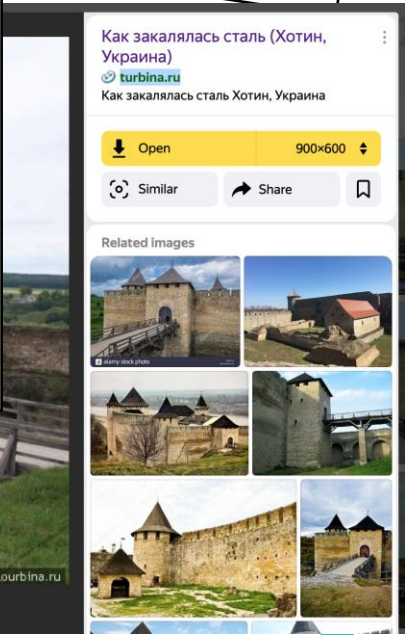
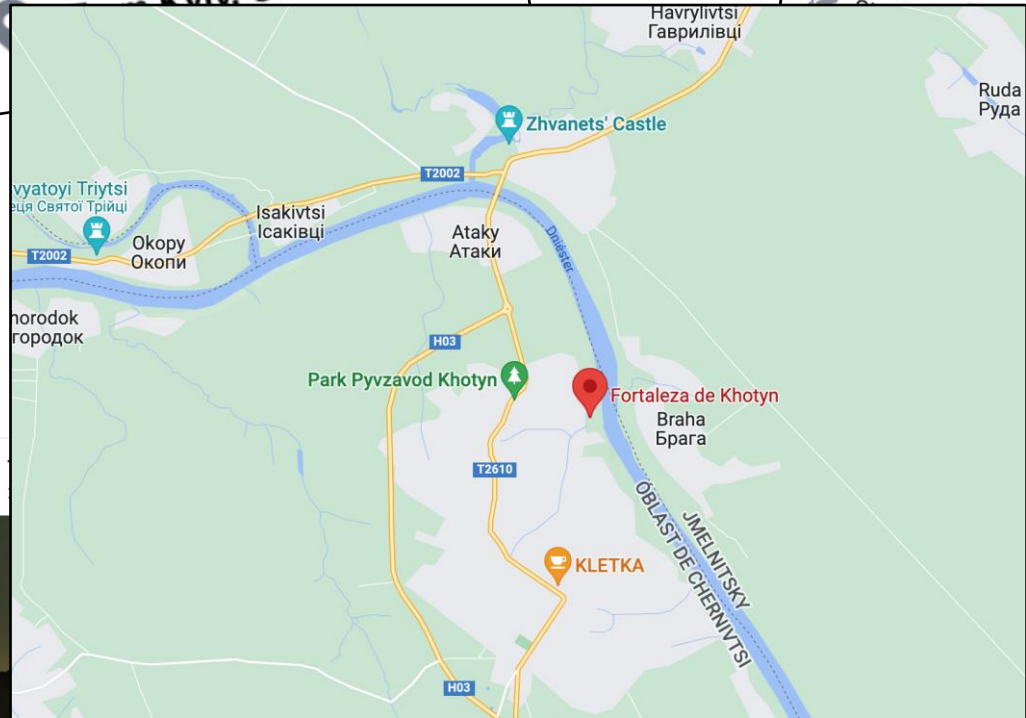
Intro
Member of [redacted] металошукачем! since 8 November 2019

Group posts
Артур [redacted] металошукачем!
24 May at 08:50 · 🌐

Targeting individuals

Lives in Kyiv, Ukraine
Kyiv, Ukraine

Чёрный копатель
Went to
Went to

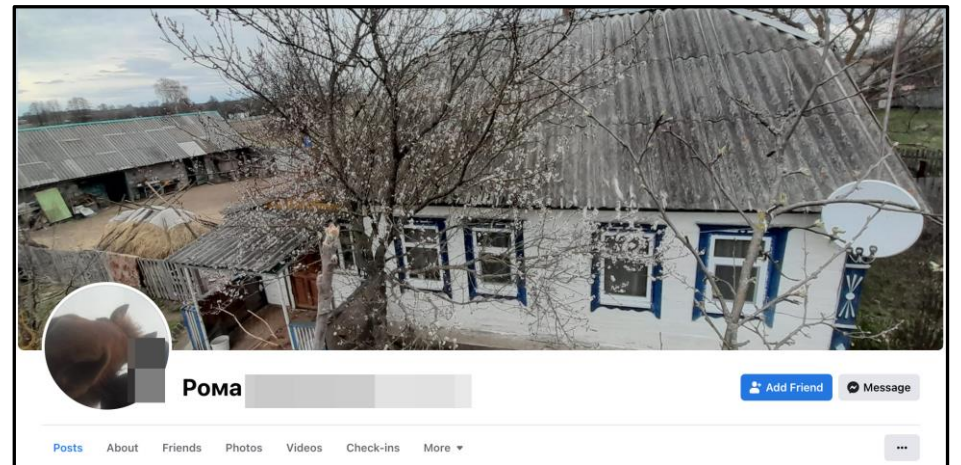


28

Targeting individuals



Eriys / SellerFB



Seller Name : Рома
Seller ID : 9481414
Total items : 101

Location(s) Korosten
Delivery type ['IN_PERSON']
Rating average 0 && Number of five stars : 0

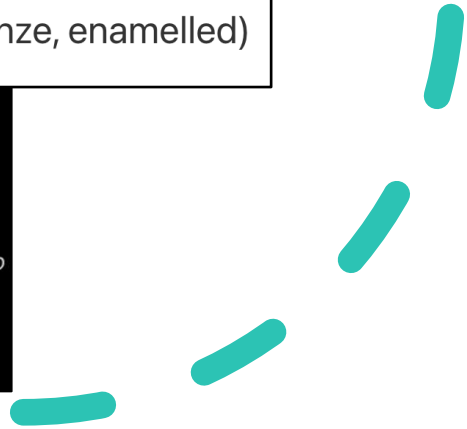
Good Attributes:

Bad Attributes:

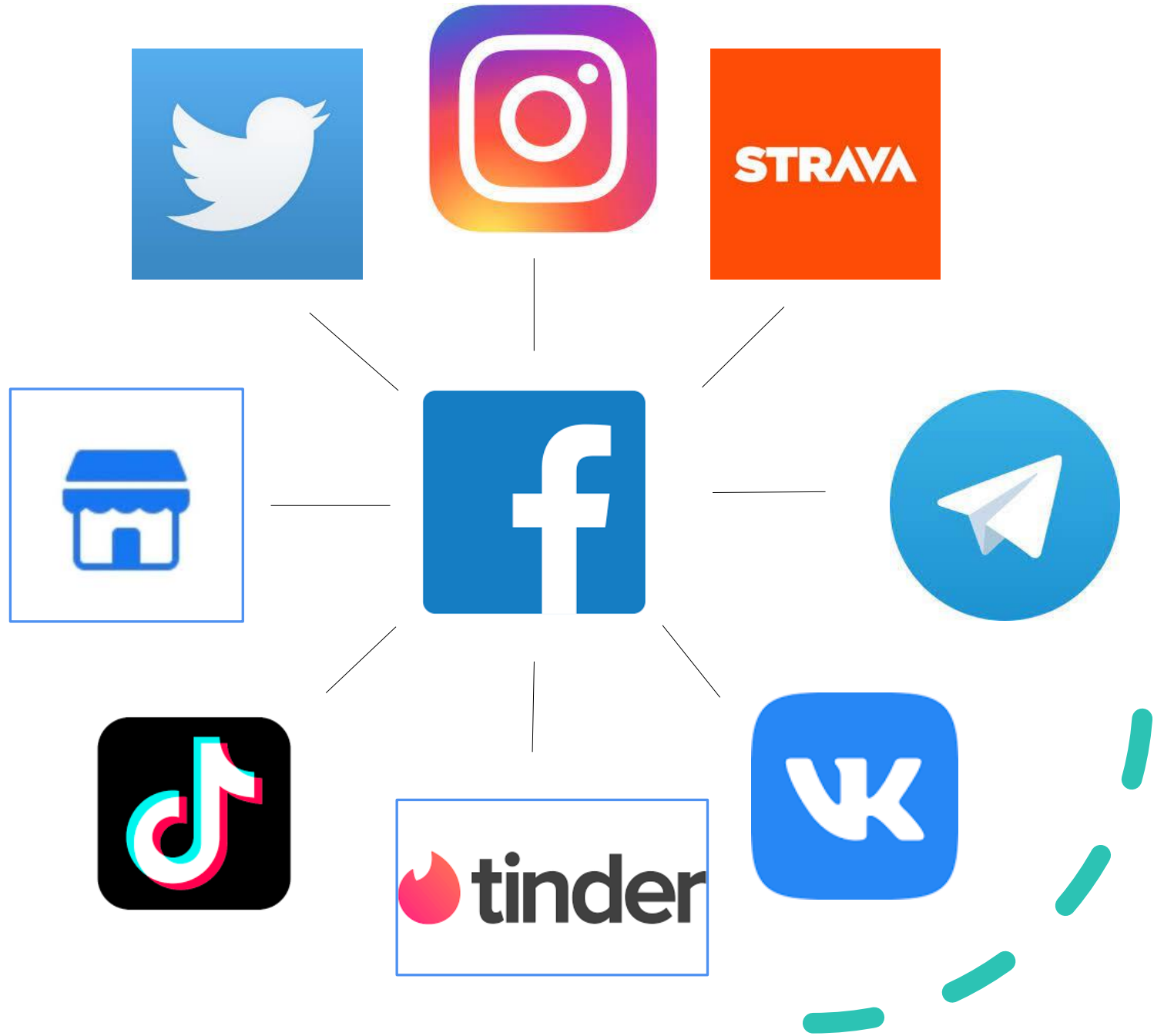
Public Group's member :
Name : ПРОДАМ- && Group ID : 11474475
Name : Озерное && Group ID : 206011
Name : ДЕШЕВШЕ Group ID : 65202
Name : Львів, && Group ID : 1388174
Name : (продажа, покупка книг) && Group ID : 7539433
Name : && Group ID : 5116948

Selling digging finds (axes, hammers, horseshoes and other metal objects and parts of them)

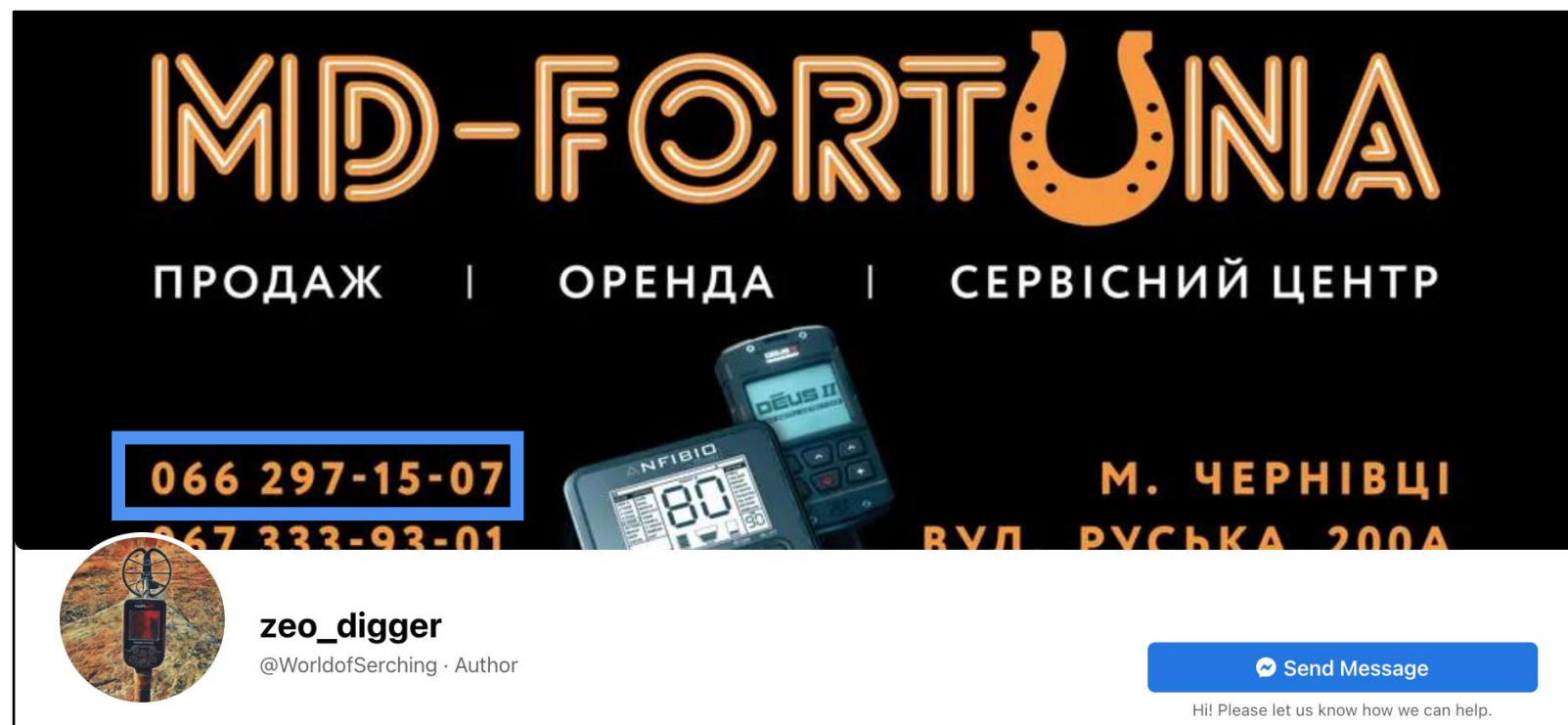
Antique tablet (bronze, enamelled)



Pivoting




Targeting groups



MID-FORTUNA
ПРОДАЖ | ОРЕНДА | СЕРВІСНИЙ ЦЕНТР

066 297-15-07
067 333-93-01

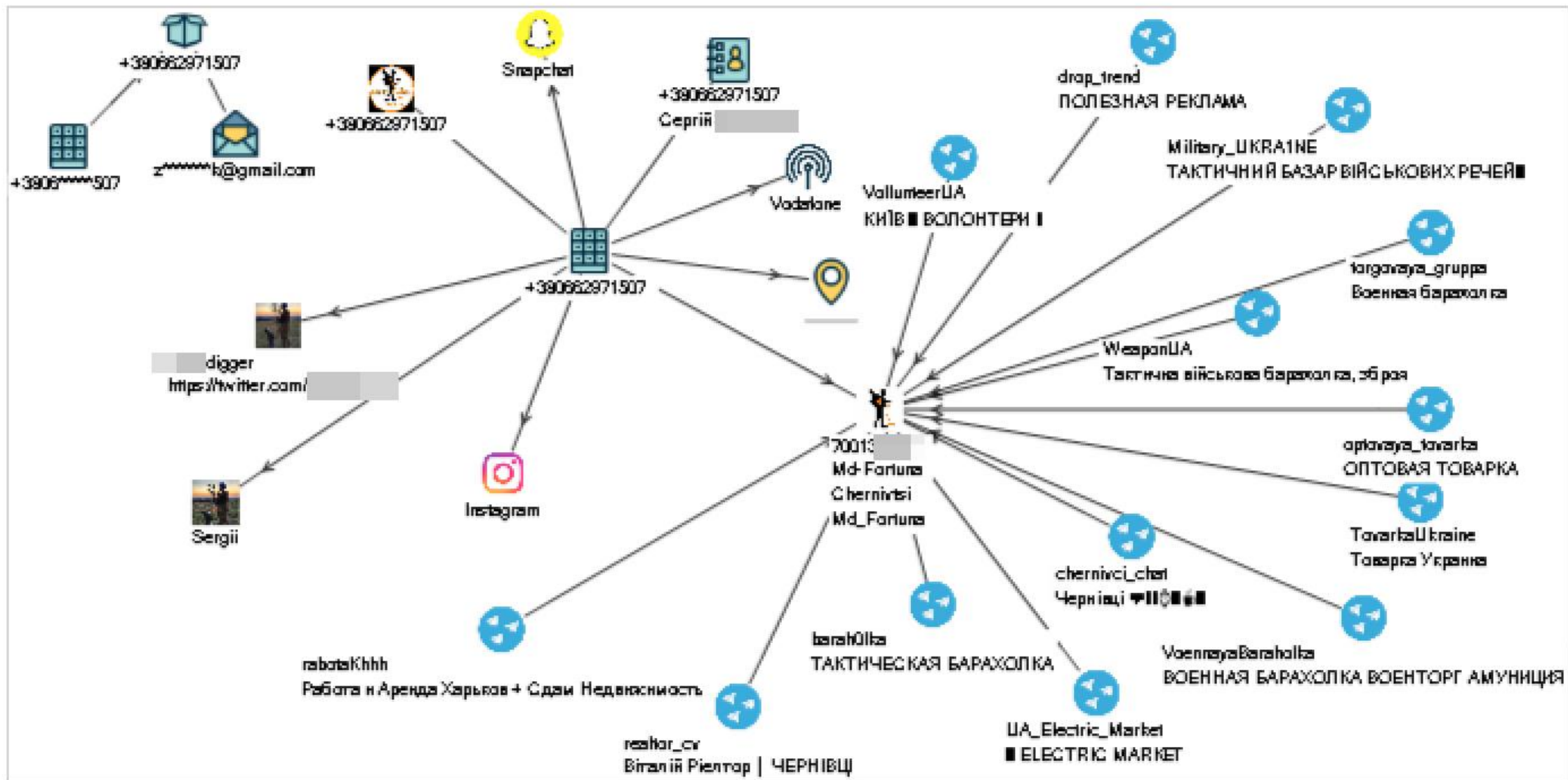
М. ЧЕРНІВЦІ
ВУЛ. РУСЬКА, 200А

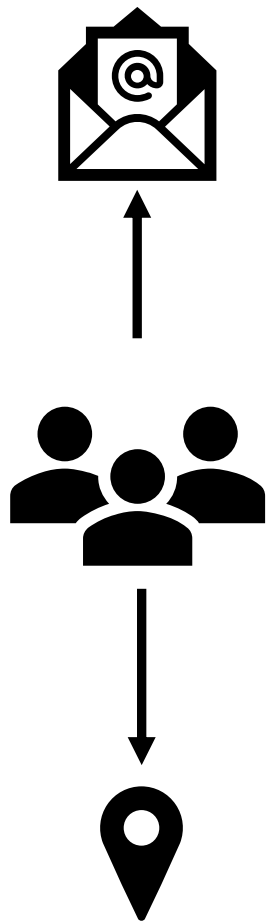
 **zeo_digger**
@WorldofSerching · Author

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www.antykvar.com.ua

📍 Україна, м. Тернопіль, бульвар Шевченка, 25
Ternopil, Ternopil Oblast, Ukraine 46001

🌐 <http://www.antykvar.com.ua/>

Weaponry.co
History museum

Сторінка приватного онлайн музею "Weaponry". На цій сторінці демонструватимемо унікальну зброю давно забутих часів та культуру.

🌐 <http://weaponry.co/>

👍 954 people like this

Антикварио - нумизматика, монеты
Community

«АнтиквариО» - собиратель древностей!

📍 Адмирала Лазарева 36
Moscow, Russia

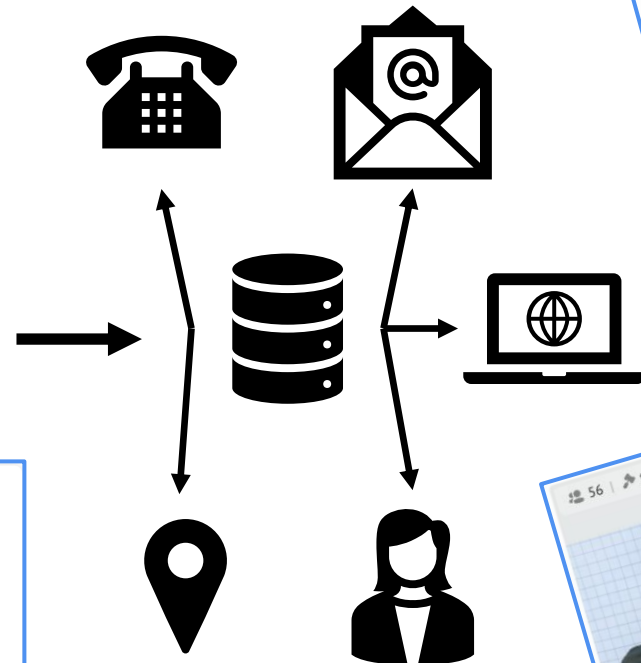
🌐 <https://www.antiqario.ru/>

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👍 225 people like this



A collage of social media posts. The top post shows a rusted metal cross on a grid background with the caption "Saint". The middle post shows a silver coin on a wooden surface with the caption "Septimius Severus Denarius (10)". The bottom post shows a spearhead on a grid background with the caption "Spearhead, Hoya culture, 15th-13th centuries BC photo in the comments".

Process information and develop hypotheses

Максим [redacted]
металлоискателем, г [redacted]
25 April · 🌐

Дозвіл на коп)

Licensed to a cop)

Hide Translation · Rate this translation



219 4 comments 13 shares

Detailed description: A screenshot of a social media post. The post is from a user named 'Максим' who identifies as a 'металлоискателем' (metal detectorist). The post is dated '25 April' and is in Ukrainian. The main content is a photograph of a person in military camouflage gear using a metal detector in a trench. The person is standing on a wooden pallet. The background shows a trench with earthen walls and a blue sky with clouds. Below the photo, there are engagement metrics: 219 likes, 4 comments, and 13 shares.

7 | two

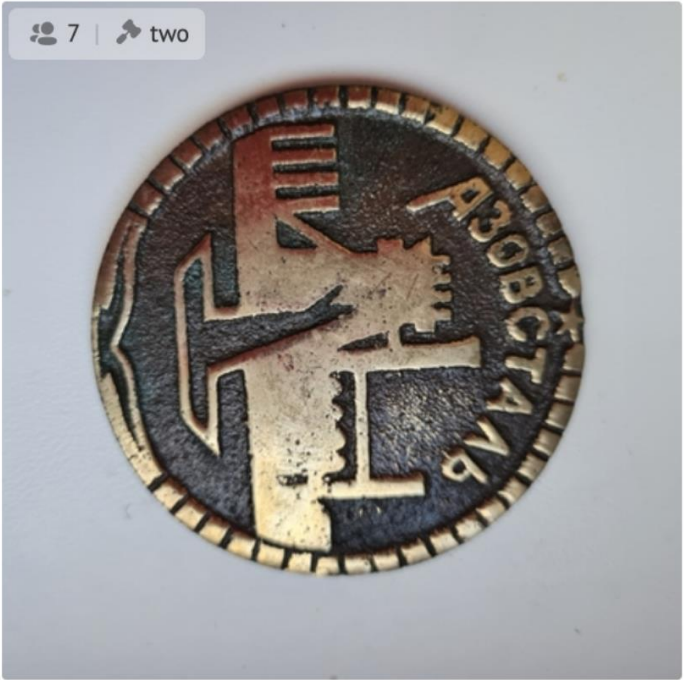


Table medal Azovstal

1\$

Ending 11.06.2022, 21:00:00

Detailed description: A screenshot of an online auction listing. At the top, it shows '7' people and 'two' items. The main image is a close-up of a circular metal medal. The medal features a hammer and pickaxe symbol in the center, with the word 'АЗОВСТАЛЬ' (AZOVSTAL) written around the perimeter. Below the image, the item is identified as 'Table medal Azovstal'. The price is listed as '1\$'. At the bottom, the auction ends on '11.06.2022, 21:00:00'.

Thank you for your attention!

Francisco José Rufián Fernández



Agustín Constante