



# EVIDENCE PROJECT

European Informatics Data Exchange Framework for Courts and Evidence INTERPOL is participating in a European Union-funded research project which aims to develop a technical data exchange framework for courts and evidence. The 2.5 year project will be conducted by an international consortium of nine partners from law enforcement, the judiciary, research institutes and academia.



This project has received funding from the European Union's Seventh Framework Programme for research, technological development and demonstration under grant agreement N $^\circ$  608185.

# **EVIDENCE PROJECT**



## Concept

All legal proceedings rely on the production of evidence, and the types of evidence available to law enforcement are continuously evolving. The digitalization of our daily life produces vast amounts of electronic data which can potentially be used as evidence during pre-trial procedures and during court proceedings.

When acquired and exchanged, the integrity of this digital information must be maintained and proven. But in most countries, legislation on criminal procedures was enacted before digital technology appeared, creating a situation where regulations are different or uncertain, creating challenges to exchanging digital evidence between countries.

# **Objectives**

The Evidence Project aims at providing a road map for a common framework for the systematic and uniform application of new technologies in the collection, use and exchange of evidence.

This includes guidelines, recommendations and technical standards which would enable policy-makers to create efficient regulations for the handling and exchange of electronic evidence. Additionally, a network of law enforcement officers specialized in digital investigations and experts in digital forensics will be implemented to facilitate communication worldwide.

### INTERPOL's involvement

INTERPOL's role in the project is to report on the current status of the collection, analysis, preservation and exchange of electronic evidence within and among countries, as well as its presentation before courts. To this end, a questionnaire was circulated to the INTERPOL National Central Bureaus in each member country, and responses were received from around the world which will form the basis of the legal, operational and technical analyses of the current collection, use and exchange of electronic evidence.

INTERPOL will also report on the challenges encountered by law enforcement, including those imposed by outdated legislation and mutual legal assistance procedures which are no longer relevant for cases involving electronic evidence, as well as on best practices identified in the field.

The findings of the Evidence Project will influence developments in the area of electronic evidence and its secure transmission across member countries. Through this initiative, INTERPOL will continue to solidify its role as a global driver of innovation in the fight against transnational crime.

For more information on the EVIDENCE Project, visit www.evidenceproject.eu

