EVIDENCE

Body:

EVIDENCE is a FP7 funded project with duration of 30 months. It aims at providing a road map (guidelines, recommendations, and technical standards) for implementing a missing Common European Framework for the systematic and uniform application of new technologies in the collection, use and exchange of evidence. The lack of a framework makes advancing technological developments difficult. EVIDENCE will close this regulatory gap and help modernize the methods of prosecuting authorities and jurisdictions in the European Union.

Motivation

All legal proceedings rely on the production of evidence in order to take place. Legislations on criminal procedures in many European countries were enacted before these new technologies appeared, thus taking no account of them and creating a scenario where criteria are different and uncertain. Regulations are not harmonized and aligned and therefore the exchange among member state jurisdictions (and at transnational level) is very hard to be realized. EVIDENCE should on the one hand enable policy makers to realize an efficient regulation, treatment and exchange of digital evidence, and on the other hand, support judges, prosecutors and lawyers practicing in the criminal field by guiding them with a standardized and harmonized European framework for dealing with treatment and exchange of digital evidence.

Challenges & Highlights

One of the challenges in this project will be the fact that there is no legal framework which governs the exchange of evidence between courts in Europe. Thus, the project will face different national regulations and views that have to be taken into account when searching for a solution that has to be compatible with the European Union. Additionally, the cooperation between prosecuting authorities may be more doubtful in light of the latest Snowden leaks. Ethical and social issues have to be considered as well.

Project abstract:

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