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EVIDENCE2e-CODEX Linking EVIDENCE into e-CODEX for EIO and MLA procedures in Europe

Grant agreement No. 766468

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EVIDENCE2e-CODEX added value

EVIDENCE2e-CODEX Project is based upon the results and achievements reached by two EU-funded projects - **EVIDENCE** (www.evidenceproject.eu) and **e-CODEX** (www.e-codex.eu).

- EVIDENCE Project developed the **Road Map for harmonizing the exchange of electronic evidence** to chart the necessary actions and to build the future of electronic evidence exchange in Europe.
- e-CODEX family of projects is providing a **fast, easy and reliable connection between legal professionals** across Europe enabling them to efficiently and effectively handle cross-border legal cases using digital tools.

Merging the efforts under these two projects will contribute to a higher level of awareness throughout the pilot of the EVIDENCE2e-CODEX 'true to life' application. It will provide for implementing the exchange tool in all Member States, initiating the harmonization process of exchanging electronic evidence in a trusted and secure manner across the EU.

A **'true to life' example** is considered a substantial step in the modernization of **cross-border cooperation** in criminal law. It will allow the EVIDENCE2e-CODEX team to assess which are the **conditions, criteria and necessary impact measures** to be implemented from a **legal, technological and sociological perspective** towards connecting judges, prosecutors, LEA officers and other stakeholders to the e-CODEX infrastructure in a **user-friendly manner**. The foreseen actions will foster the harmonization of the framework and improve stakeholder awareness about the treatment and exchange of electronic evidence in **European Investigation Order (EIO)** and **Mutual Legal Assistance (MLA)**. Specific emphasis will be laid on the relationship and approach to be adopted when dealing with Internet Service Providers.

The EVIDENCE2e-CODEX application will be designed bottom-up, starting from the specific context of electronic evidence exchange and will pave the way towards an interconnected system without multiplying the systems and e-forms that are already in use.

The 'learning by doing' approach will be an added value for both EU institutions and Member States as the project's results will be developed and validated together with stakeholders and will contribute to establishing a reciprocal trust among them.

EVIDENCE2-eCODEX will increase awareness towards solutions aimed at furthering the exchange of electronic evidence in EIO and MLA context and extending their implementation to a Member State level. All stakeholders involved will be thoroughly informed and trained to **understand, accept and further promote** electronic evidence exchange.

An **awareness campaign** alongside an **open dialogue** with stakeholders and the realization of a concrete 'true to life' example will allow the EVIDENCE2e-CODEX team to assess and develop a **'tailor-made' methodology** for extending the secure electronic evidence exchange to all Member States.

EVIDENCE2e-CODEX focuses on

- Preparing the floor for piloting exchange of electronic evidence in all EU Member States and establishing the context for the implementation of secure and trusted exchange of electronic evidence in the specific scenarios of EIO and MLA procedures
- Raising awareness about potential solutions for secure exchange of electronic evidence on EU level
- Cross-fertilizing actors and procedures in the electronic evidence exchange framework and filling on existing challenges and gaps

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- Piloting a 'true to life' example of successfully linking the EVIDENCE and e-CODEX Projects' results in support of an EIO case
- Developing a theoretical approach for 'large file handling' and, if possible, a specification for the practical implementation considering the conditions, criteria and necessary impact measures from legal, technological and sociological point of view
- Initiating the harmonization of the legal and technological frameworks and the stakeholder awareness about the treatment and the exchange of electronic evidence in the EIO and MLA procedures
- Developing a methodology for extending the secure electronic evidence exchange to all Member States

EVIDENCE2e-CODEX outputs

- Comprehensive understanding of large file handling and identification of requirements and challenges towards secure electronic evidence exchange
- A standardized approach for representing and exchanging electronic evidence in support of an EIO/MLA cases, while ensuring interoperability and interconnection of existing systems and solutions
- A data protection framework for maintaining the security and integrity in the exchange of electronic evidence
- A 'true to life' electronic evidence exchange tool and an Action plan and guidelines for its EU-wide implementation
- Six workshops with legal and technical communities
- Final conference promoting electronic evidence exchange among all stakeholder groups