

# A ROADMAP FOR THE USE OF IMAGE AND VIDEO EVIDENCE IN THE AI ERA

## 1. Raise Awareness

Photos and videos are the most common and powerful types of evidence. They could be key to solving a crime, but they are often mishandled or underutilized. Recognizing their immense value and applying forensic rigor is crucial for trust in investigations and justice.

## 3. Address AI's Impact on Evidence

AI raises issues like deepfakes, manipulated photos, and false claims of AI interference. AI-generated images and videos can have an impact on misinformation and radicalization even when we know they aren't real.

## 5. Leverage AI's Potential

AI provides unprecedented capabilities: accelerating investigations, enabling previously impossible analyses, and supporting the well-being of forensic practitioners. Used responsibly, it may improve efficiency and accuracy.

## 7. Follow and Contribute to Regulatory Safeguards

EU laws like the AI Act and GDPR help ensure that AI and sensitive data are used responsibly. Compliance enhances the safety of investigations, reduces the risk of miscarriages of justice, and upholds fundamental EU rights and values. Stay updated and contribute to regulatory improvements to balance innovation and security.

## 2. Ensure Proper Education and Tools

Forensic processing and analysis require properly collected evidence, trained professionals, and reliable tools. A rigorous and scientific forensic workflow allows for the faster solving of crimes and the reduction of wrongful convictions.

## 4. Combat AI-Generated CSAM

AI-generated Child Sexual Abuse Material (CSAM) is a growing and often overlooked issue that wastes investigative resources, normalizes and commercializes exploitation, and often relies on training done on real images of children. Urgent action is needed.

## 6. Mitigate AI's Risks

AI introduces challenges such as lack of transparency, inherent biases, and automation bias in human operators. AI should be used as a decision-support tool, not a substitute for expert judgment.

## 8. Commit to a Future of Security, Justice, and Democracy

The future of image and video forensics depends on our collective efforts. Policymakers, law enforcement, forensic experts, and technologists must work together to establish transparent, ethical, and effective solutions. By embracing innovation while maintaining rigorous standards as in other forensic disciplines, we can enhance security, strengthen justice, and uphold democratic values, ensuring that truth prevails in the AI era.