Neapolis University Pafos

Jean Monnet Center of Excellence

AI-2-TRACE-CRIME

TRAINING HANDBOOK

Neapolis University Pafos, Cyprus

AI-2-TRACE-CRIME

Jean Monnet Center of Excellence

2024

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The Center of Excellence AI-2-TRACE-CRIME

The Jean Monnet Center of Excellence AI-2-TRACE-CRIME at Neapolis University Pafos (hereinafter: NUP) in Cyprus aims to become a focal point of knowledge, research, teaching, training, and outreach on the use of trustworthy Artificial Intelligence (hereinafter: AI) in the areas of asset recovery, anti-money laundering (hereinafter: AML) and the fight against crime in the European Union (hereinafter: EU) and a globalized world.

The coordinator / principal investigator (hereinafter: PI) of the project is Dr. G. Pavlidis, Jean Monnet Chair (2020-2023) and UNESCO Chair (2023-2027), Associate Professor of International and EU law at the School of Law, Department of Law of NUP.

The AI-2-TRACE-CRIME Center gathers the expertise and competences of high-level experts and fosters synergies between European studies and AI research. The Center is organized as a partnership among three participating Departments of our university: Department of Law, Department of Computer Science, Department of History, Politics, and International Studies.

A three-person Steering Committee, comprising the PI and two representatives of the other departments, is responsible for major policy decisions concerning the Center. The Steering Committee coordinates teaching, training, research and outreach by the Center and its members in the context of the thematic streams. An interdisciplinary Advisory Board, comprising 17 external experts from different countries and universities provides the Center with strategic advice on quality, training activities, networking, and effective dissemination.

Introduction to the Training Programs

The Jean Monnet Center of Excellence AI-2-TRACE-CRIME's is committed to advancing knowledge on AI, AML, and crime prevention, emphasizing training and skill development. The purpose of this Training Handbook is to guide participants and trainers through the training process, from admission to assessment. The Center will explore whether the training programs can be eligible for professional credits, especially for the Bar Association of Cyprus, aligning with relevant industry standards. The training activities, detailed in this Training Handbook, serve the following objective of the Jean Monnet Center of Excellence AI-2-TRACE-CRIME:

Key Objective	Description
Help develop specialized and useful skills for the future legal, IT and AI professionals, which will increase their employability, as well as the quality and impact of their work in the society.	The Center will organize three annual Intensive Executive Programs/Bootcamps for legal and IT professionals (lawyers, judges, prosecutors, AML compliance officers, IT professionals, AI experts, etc.). The Center will also support a specialized placement program, helping graduates from the Department of Law and Department of Computer Science to land a job that matches their skills and allows them to use the interdisciplinary knowledge developed by the Center. Incoming fellows may will be involved in the research, teaching, and outreach activities of the Center, sharing knowledge, and developing valuable skills.

Milestones for Training Activities

Milestones are fundamental markers that signify major accomplishments, pivotal events, or the completion of key deliverables within a project's timeline. The milestones that are related to the training activities of the Center are presented in the following table:

Project' Milestones that are relevant to Training	WP	Due Date	Means of Verification
Finalization of training Handbook	WP3	30 Apr 2025	Approval by the PI, the QA Office, and advice of the Advisory Board; dissemination of calls
Delivery of trainings (Y1)	WP3	31 Oct 2025	The Deans of the respective departments and PI verify delivery of training; issuance of certificates
Evaluation of trainings (Y1)	WP3	31 Oct 2025	Assessment of results by the PI, the QA Office, and the Advisory Board of the Center
Delivery of trainings (Y2)	WP3	31 Oct 2026	The Deans of the respective departments and PI verify delivery of training; issuance of certificates
Evaluation of trainings (Y2)	WP3	31 Oct 2026	Assessment of results by the PI, the QA Office, and the Advisory Board of the Center
Delivery of trainings (Y3)	WP3	31 Oct 2027	The Deans of the respective departments and PI verify delivery of training; issuance of certificates
Evaluation of trainings (Y3)	WP3	31 Oct 2027	Assessment of results by the PI, the QA Office, and the Advisory Board of the Center

Methodological Approaches for Training Activities

The training activities of the Jean Monnet Center of Excellence AI-2-TRACE-CRIME will be based on the following methodology, which emphasizes the interdisciplinary element, the quantitative and empirical element, the qualitative element and the comparative element:

Methodological Approach	Description
Interdisciplinary element	The interdisciplinary approach will guide all activities and deliverables horizontally, involving experts from the fields of computer science, legal sciences and other fields.
Quantitative and empirical element	The Center will use the quantitative / statistical method and, more broadly, empirical research, relying on experience and observation of i) AI industry trends, ii) trends and typologies of criminal activity, in particular money laundering, cybercrime, and AI-assisted crime. We will study the evolution of key data from the Cypriot Financial Intelligence Unit and the Cypriot Asset Recovery Office. Among key statistical data that we will use, we can mention the number of Suspicious Transactions Reports received by the Financial Intelligence Unit and the value of transactions; the number of AML/CFT-related mutual legal assistance requests made, received, processed, granted, and refused; the number of registered or licensed financial institutions, including Money or Value Transfer Services, and Designated Non-Financial Businesses and Professions; the number of AML regulatory breaches identified; the total number of sanctions and other remedial actions applied, etc. To identify critical data, we will apply the Guidance on AML/CFT-related data and statistics by the Financial Action Task Force (FATF), which is the key international standard-setting body in the field of AML.
Qualitative element	The Center will also promote qualitative research of law, involving the study of theoretical questions about the nature and role of norms in AI regulation, the relationship of AI norms to justice, ethics, and morality, especially in the context of AML and the fight against crime. Legal analysis (doctrinal and non-doctrinal) will cover relevant legislative instruments, regulatory guidance, and emerging case law in the field of AI and its applications in asset recovery, AML, and the fight against crime.
Comparative element	The Center will conduct comparative research, as a secondary research method, to facilitate the assessment of EU policies and their effectiveness by comparing norms and outcomes in jurisdictions, such as the US and the UK, which are also in the process of developing AI regulatory standards. This will enable a cross-cultural analysis of principles on AI, assist in harmonizing standards and practices, and help us evaluate AI risks by considering legal outcomes in various legal systems.

Key Trainers

To deliver the training activities, our team at NUP will assume the main tasks and roles as trainers, depending on their expertise and availability. The following team members will be involved in the project's training activities:

Name	Position in NUP	Role in the AI-2-TRACE-CRIME
Georgios Pavlidis	Associate Professor of International and EU Law, Jean Monnet Chair (2020) & UNESCO Chair (2023)	Principal Investigator
Chatzicristofis Savvas	Head of the Department of Computer Science at NUP, Professor of Artificial Intelligence	Senior Researcher, Steering Committee Member
Marios Panagiotis Efthymiopoulos	Head of the Department of History, Politics and International Studies at NUP, Associate Professor in International Security and Strategy	Senior Researcher, Steering Committee Member
Papanastasiou Thomas, Associate	Associate Professor of Public International Law, Coordinator of the Distance LLM (DLLM) in International & European Business Law, Director of the Legal Clinic	Researcher, Team member
Demetriades Georgios	Assistant Professor in Law, Coordinator of the Master (MA) in Financial Crime and Criminal Justice	Researcher, Team member
Savvidou Artemis	Assistant Professor in Criminal Law, Coordinator of LLB (Cypriot Law)	Researcher, Team member
Salomi Evripidou	Lecturer in Algorithms and Complexity NUP, Department of Computer Science	Researcher, Team member
Zach Anthis	Lecturer Artificial Intelligence and Data Analytics NUP, Department of Computer Science	Researcher, Team member
Eleni Gavriil	Lecturer in International Economic Law and Human Rights NUP, Department of History, Politics and International Studies	Researcher, Team member
Natia Anastasi	Head of the Research Office of the NUP	Assistant Project Manager
Administrative Staff	NUP, Administrative Staff Office of Quality Assurance	Assistant QA Officer

Calls and Criteria for Speakers

The Jean Monnet Center of Excellence AI-2-TRACE-CRIME operates with a clear and inclusive process for selecting speakers to deliver high-impact training and seminars. This process is designed to uphold the Center's commitment to interdisciplinary learning, quality education, and representation of diverse perspectives. Calls for speakers are issued periodically, targeting a wide pool of experts in law, artificial intelligence (AI), and crime prevention. These calls are disseminated through the Center's communication channels, including its website, social media platforms, and collaborations with partner organizations, ensuring wide visibility among potential applicants.

Issuing Calls for Speakers: Calls for speakers detail the thematic focus of upcoming training activities, key objectives, session formats, and expected outcomes. Each call specifies the qualifications and areas of expertise required from applicants, such as a demonstrated track record in AI and legal regulation, anti-money laundering (AML), asset recovery, or ethical dimensions of AI in crime prevention. By clearly articulating the scope and expectations of the programs, these calls aim to attract speakers who can provide meaningful and actionable insights. The Center's calls prioritize **transparency and inclusivity**. They emphasize equal opportunity and actively encourage participation from underrepresented groups, including women and professionals from diverse geographic and cultural backgrounds. This aligns with the Center's broader objective of fostering a multicultural and interdisciplinary learning environment.

Selection Criteria: Applications from potential speakers are evaluated based on their alignment with the Center's objectives, their professional credentials, and their ability to contribute to the program's educational and professional goals. Specific criteria include:

- *Expertise and Experience:* Speakers must demonstrate a deep understanding of their respective fields, supported by academic qualifications, published work, or practical experience. Expertise in interdisciplinary approaches particularly valued.
- *Relevance to Program Goals:* Applicants are assessed on their ability to deliver content that resonates with the program's objectives, such as advancing legal and technical knowledge, fostering ethical considerations in AI deployment, and enhancing AML and asset recovery practices.
- *Communication and Pedagogical Skills:* Speakers should possess strong communication skills and a proven ability to engage diverse audiences. Experience in interactive teaching methods, such as case studies, group discussions, and Q&A sessions, is an advantage.
- *Commitment to Diversity and Inclusion:* The Center evaluates applicants' commitment to fostering inclusive discussions and addressing diverse perspectives in their sessions. This is particularly critical in contexts involving AI fairness, human rights, and global regulatory approaches.

Evaluation Process: Applications are reviewed by an evaluation panel comprising members of the Steering Committee, representatives from the Center's partner departments, and, where relevant, external advisors from the Advisory Board. This multi-disciplinary panel ensures a balanced assessment of each application. To mitigate biases, applications are evaluated by multiple reviewers, and decisions are based on collective deliberations. The process includes:

- *Preliminary Screening:* Applications are checked for completeness and basic eligibility.
- *Detailed Review:* Panel members assess the applicant's qualifications, relevance of expertise, and alignment with the program's goals.
- *Shortlisting and Interview (if applicable):* For key sessions, shortlisted candidates may be invited to present their session outlines or discuss their proposed topics with the panel.

Commitment to Quality: Selected speakers receive detailed guidance on the program structure, participant profiles, and session expectations (See Deliverable 2.1: Training Manual). They are encouraged to incorporate interdisciplinary perspectives, practical case studies, and recent developments in their sessions. The Center provides logistical and academic support to ensure speakers can focus on delivering high-quality content.

Calls and Criteria for Participants

The Jean Monnet Center of Excellence AI-2-TRACE-CRIME will issue calls for training programs at specified intervals, providing ample time for interested candidates to apply. Calls will include program objectives, details on specific training sessions, dates, application instructions, and deadlines. The announcements will be shared across relevant university channels, partner networks, and social media platforms, ensuring wide reach among potential candidates. More specifically:

Criteria/procedures	Description
Eligibility Criteria	Eligibility for admission to the training programs is based on academic and professional prerequisites, ensuring that participants have a foundational understanding relevant to the program's interdisciplinary focus on law, artificial intelligence, and crime prevention. Applicants are expected to meet one or more of the following: **Educational Background:** A degree or ongoing studies in fields such as law, computer science, criminology, or AI. **Professional Experience:** Practical experience in roles related to AML, asset recovery, compliance, law enforcement, or AI. **Technical Skills:** Knowledge or expertise in legal frameworks, data analysis, programming, or other technical skills beneficial to AI and crime prevention.
Selection Criteria	Applicants will be assessed on several standards that align with the Center's mission and the program's objectives. These include: **Qualifications:** Academic and professional credentials that demonstrate readiness to engage with advanced content. **Relevance to the Field:** A strong connection between the applicant's background and the focus areas of the Center (AI, AML, and crime prevention). **Specific Skills:** Proficiency in areas such as data analysis, ethical AI, or legal frameworks, which will enrich both the individual and group learning experience.
Fairness, Equality, and Diversity	The Center is committed to an inclusive and non-discriminatory selection process. Applications will be evaluated based on merit, irrespective of race, gender, religion, nationality, or socioeconomic status. The Center actively encourages diverse representation and aims to foster a multicultural, interdisciplinary learning environment.
Evaluation Panel	Applications will be reviewed by a diverse panel, including members of the Steering Committee, representatives from partner departments, and potentially external advisors from the Advisory Board. The panel will ensure fair and impartial assessment, with each applicant's file being evaluated by multiple reviewers to mitigate potential biases.
Calls and notifications	The Center will issue calls for training programs at specified intervals, providing ample time for interested candidates to apply. Calls will include program objectives, details on specific training sessions, dates, application instructions, and deadlines. Successful applicants will be notified and provided with detailed information on program structure, expectations, and next steps.

Guidelines for the Trainers

The following guidelines must be followed by the trainers in the context of the training activities to be delivered by the Jean Monnet Center of Excellence AI-2-TRACE-CRIME

Responsibilities	Guidelines
Delivery of Training Program	Develop Content: Design and prepare training materials aligned with the program's objectives and topics. Emphasis should be placed on practical applications, case studies, and legal frameworks. Deliver Sessions: Conduct engaging and informative sessions, ensuring that participants are actively involved and encouraged to apply concepts in practical scenarios. Provide Assessments: Create assessment tools (quizzes, case analyses, practical exercises) to evaluate participants' grasp of the material. Feedback and Improvement: Collect and incorporate feedback from participants to continuously enhance session content and delivery. Coordinate with Program Coordinator: Maintain regular communication with the academic coordinator to ensure consistency, discuss challenges, and update session materials.
Session Content	Structure: Each session should have a clear introduction, main content, and conclusion. Include real-world examples, especially recent developments and case law where possible. Relevance: Content should be tailored to address legal, ethical, and practical implications of AI in crime prevention and law enforcement. Interdisciplinary Approach: Given the diverse audience, avoid overly technical or legalistic language, and incorporate interdisciplinary perspectives (e.g., ethics, criminology, technology). Interactivity: Encourage dialogue, Q&A sessions, and group work to foster active learning and application of concepts.
Assessment and Evaluation	Include periodic assessments to monitor participants' progress. Ensure assessments align with learning objectives. Participate in a final evaluation to reflect on training outcomes and propose enhancements for future sessions.
Ethical Standards and Code of Conduct	Confidentiality: Respect confidentiality related to participants' information, feedback, and discussions. Integrity and Objectivity: Present balanced viewpoints and foster critical thinking. Cultural Sensitivity: Recognize and accommodate diverse backgrounds among participants
Reporting Requirements	Trainers are expected to submit a summary after each session, highlighting participant feedback and areas for improvement. They must also submit a final report detailing session effectiveness, overall participant performance, and recommendations.
Support and Resources	Trainers will have access to teaching resources and materials provided by the university. They will also have support from the program coordinator for curriculum alignment and participant engagement strategies.

Terms of Reference for the Training Programs

This is a list of terms of reference for trainers, with brief descriptions to provide a foundational understanding of each concept within the context of AI, law, and crime prevention

Term	Definition
Artificial Intelligence (AI)	AI refers to computer systems capable of performing tasks typically requiring human intelligence, such as decision-making, problem-solving, and pattern recognition. In the legal and crime prevention context, AI systems are increasingly used for predictive policing, analysis of criminal patterns, and risk assessment.
AI Transparency	AI transparency involves making the processes, decisions, and criteria used by AI systems understandable to users and stakeholders. It is crucial for accountability in criminal justice, where opaque AI systems could lead to biases and a lack of trust in AI-assisted law enforcement.
Legal Regulation of AI	Legal regulation of AI encompasses laws and policies designed to govern the development, deployment, and ethical use of AI technologies. In crime prevention, these regulations aim to ensure AI tools respect privacy, human rights, and do not exacerbate social biases.
Supervision and Accountability in AI	Supervision refers to oversight mechanisms for monitoring AI systems, ensuring they operate within legal and ethical boundaries. Accountability frameworks are essential for identifying responsibility when AI systems contribute to unlawful or biased outcomes, particularly in public-sector AI applications.
Data Protection and Privacy	Data protection laws, like the GDPR in the EU, safeguard individuals' personal information. Privacy concerns are paramount in AI systems used for crime detection, as these often involve processing sensitive personal data. Trainers should cover how AI tools can align with these regulations.
Bias in AI	Bias in AI arises when models reflect existing prejudices or errors in training data, potentially leading to discriminatory outcomes. This issue is especially problematic in law enforcement, where biased AI tools could unfairly target certain groups. Trainers should emphasize strategies to mitigate bias.
Machine Learning	A subset of AI, machine learning (ML) enables systems to improve their performance by learning from data. In crime prevention, ML is applied to identify crime hotspots, forecast criminal activity, and analyze trends, though ethical concerns must be addressed regarding fairness and accountability.
Ethics in AI	Ethics in AI examines moral principles guiding AI use, emphasizing respect for human dignity, fairness, and autonomy. Trainers should focus on ethical implications of AI in law enforcement, where decisions significantly impact individuals' lives and freedoms.
Predictive Policing	Predictive policing uses AI algorithms to analyze crime data and predict potential future crimes or hotspots. While it aims to allocate resources effectively, trainers should discuss concerns regarding civil liberties, accuracy, and potential biases in these systems.
Algorithmic Fairness	Algorithmic fairness ensures AI systems do not perpetuate discrimination. Trainers should emphasize fairness considerations in the design and deployment of AI tools for crime control, where uneven outcomes could lead to distrust and potential legal issues.
AI and Surveillance	AI-driven surveillance, such as facial recognition, raises privacy and civil liberty issues. While effective for tracking suspects or gathering evidence, trainers must address potential abuses and legal frameworks that govern surveillance activities.
Risk Assessment Algorithms	Used in criminal justice to evaluate an individual's likelihood of reoffending, risk assessment algorithms aim to support sentencing and parole decisions. Trainers

should explore accuracy, transparency, and fairness concerns, particularly with vulnerable populations.

Human Rights and AI	AI systems must align with human rights principles, especially in criminal justice, where there is potential for infringement on privacy, freedom, and equality. Trainers should cover frameworks that balance innovation with rights protections.
Explainable AI (XAI)	Explainable AI refers to AI models whose inner workings are interpretable by humans. XAI is essential in legal contexts to justify decisions made by AI systems in policing or sentencing, ensuring transparency and accountability.
Automated Decision-Making	AI-driven decisions without human intervention, or automated decision-making, are becoming prevalent in policing and judicial processes. Trainers should address the legal and ethical need for human oversight to prevent errors and biases in critical decisions.
Facial Recognition Technology	AI-based facial recognition is used to identify or verify individuals by analyzing facial features. While useful for identifying suspects, trainers must discuss concerns over privacy, consent, and the technology's accuracy across diverse demographics.
AI-Driven Sentencing	AI tools are sometimes used to support judges in determining sentences. Trainers should examine the benefits and risks of AI in sentencing, including potential biases and the importance of judicial oversight to uphold fairness and justice.
AI in Digital Evidence Analysis	AI aids in managing and analyzing large volumes of digital evidence, such as text, images, and videos, in criminal investigations. Trainers should cover how AI helps identify relevant information quickly, while adhering to evidentiary standards.
Cybercrime and AI	AI is used both as a tool to combat cybercrime and, unfortunately, by cybercriminals to enhance attacks. Trainers should cover AI's role in cybersecurity, exploring defensive measures, legal considerations, and ethical implications.
Trustworthy AI	Trustworthy AI encompasses systems designed to be ethical, reliable, and transparent. For AI in law enforcement, trustworthiness ensures that systems respect laws, are free from harmful biases, and maintain public trust.

Continuous Learning Resources

Trainers and trainees can consult the following list for further reading materials, research journals, policy briefs, and OERs for continued learning on AML and asset recovery.

Key Policy Documents and Reports:

- European Commission, EU Strategy to tackle Organised Crime 2021-2025, COM(2021) 170 final

- European Commission, Action Plan for a comprehensive Union policy on preventing money laundering and terrorist financing, OJ C 164, 13.5.2020, p. 21–33.

- European Commission, Asset recovery and confiscation: Ensuring that crime does not pay, COM(2020) 217 final

- European Commission, Towards better implementation of the EU's anti-money laundering and countering the financing of terrorism framework, COM(2019) 360 final

- European Commission, Supranational risk assessment of the money laundering and terrorist financing risks affecting the Union, COM(2019) 370 final

- European Commission, Report assessing the framework for cooperation between Financial Intelligence Units, COM(2019) 371 final

- European Commission, Report on the interconnection of national centralised automated mechanisms, COM(2019) 372 final

- European Commission, Report on the assessment of recent alleged money laundering cases involving EU credit institutions, COM(2019) 372 final

- European Commission, Analysis of non-conviction based confiscation measures in the European Union, Commission Staff Working Document, SWD(2019) 1050 final

- European Commission, Comprehensive Assessment of EU Security Policy, Commission Staff Working Document, SWD(2017) 278 final

- European Commission, The European Agenda on Security, COM(2015) 185 final

Binding EU instruments as of November 2024

Following the adoption of Council Decision 2007/845/JHA, National Asset Recovery Offices (AROs) help in depriving criminals from their criminal profits. They identify assets that have been illegally acquired on their territories and facilitate the exchanges of relevant information at European level.

In 2024, the European Parliament and the Council adopted Directive 2024/1260 on asset recovery and confiscation, which sets minimum rules for the freezing, management and confiscation of criminal assets. Member States are obliged to transpose its provisions into national law by 23 November 2026.

Moreover, Regulation (EU) 2018/1805 on the mutual recognition of freezing and confiscation orders facilitates cross-border asset recovery and make the freezing and confiscation of criminal assets across the EU quicker and simpler. It applies to all freezing and confiscation orders issued within the framework of proceedings in criminal matters, thus including conviction and non-conviction based confiscation.

Finally, Directive 2019/1153 grants law enforcement authorities and Asset Recovery Offices with direct access to bank account information for the purposes of fighting serious crime and aims to improve the cooperation between law enforcement authorities and Financial Intelligence Units and facilitate the exchange of information between Financial Intelligence Units.

Past initiatives

- Council Framework Decision [2001/500/JHA](#) of 26 June 2001 on money laundering, the identification, tracing, freezing, seizing and confiscation of instrumentalities and the proceeds of crime

- Council Framework Decision [2005/212/JHA](#) of 24 February 2005 on Confiscation of Crime-Related Proceeds, Instrumentalities and Property

- Council Framework Decision [2006/783/JHA](#) of 6 October 2006 on the application of the principle of mutual recognition to confiscation orders

Europol documents and reports

- Europol, [Malicious Uses and Abuses of Artificial Intelligence](#), 6 December 2021

- Europol, [European Union Serious and Organised Crime Threat Assessment](#), 12 April 2021.

- Europol, [European Union Terrorism Situation and Trend Report (TE-SAT) 2020](#), 23 June 2020

- Europol, [Enterprising Criminals – Europe's Fight against the Global Networks of Financial and Economic Crime](#), 5 June 2020

On the establishment of the new EU Anti-Money Laundering Authority

In July 2021, the European Commission tabled a proposal to establish a new EU authority to counter money laundering and the financing of terrorism (AMLA). This was part of a legislative package aimed at implementing the 2020 action plan for a comprehensive Union policy on preventing money laundering and the financing of terrorism.

The AMLA, established in 2024, will be the Center of an integrated system composed of the authority itself and the national authorities with an AML/CFT supervisory mandate. It will also support EU financial intelligence units (FIUs) and establish a cooperation mechanism among them.

- [Regulation (EU) 2024/1620](#) of the European Parliament and of the Council of 31 May 2024 establishing the Authority for Anti-Money Laundering

- Georgios Pavlidis, [The birth of the new anti-money laundering authority: harnessing the power of EU-wide supervision](#), Journal of Financial Crime, 2023 (open access)

- European Parliament, [Anti-money-laundering authority (AMLA): Countering money laundering and the financing of terrorism](#), Briefing 15-05-2023.

- European Commission, [Proposal to establish a new EU authority to counter money laundering and the financing of terrorism (AMLA)](#), COM (2021) 421 final.

- European Commission, [Impact Assessment accompanying the AML package](#), SWD (2021) 190 final.

On the deployment of Artificial Intelligence for AML and asset recovery

As part of its digital strategy, the EU wants to regulate artificial intelligence (AI) to ensure better conditions for the development and use of this innovative technology. AI can create many benefits, including in the areas of AML and asset recovery. In April 2021, the European Commission proposed the first EU regulatory framework for AI, which was adopted in 2024. According to the new Regulation, AI systems that can be used in different applications are classified according to the risk they pose to users. The different risk levels will mean more or less regulation.

- Regulation (EU) 2024/1689 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 13 June 2024 laying down harmonised rules on artificial intelligence

- Georgios Pavlidis, Deploying artificial intelligence for anti-money laundering and asset recovery: the dawn of a new era, Journal of Money Laundering Control, 2023 (open access)

- European Parliament, EU AI Act: first regulation on artificial intelligence, Briefing 08-06-2023

- European Commission, Proposal for Proposal for a Regulation on AI, COM (2021) 206 final

On the adoption of the 6th Directive on AML/CFT and the new AML Regulation

Directive (EU) 2024/1640, known as the 6th AML Directive, replaces the existing Directive 2015/849/EU and contains provisions that will be transposed into national law, such as rules on national supervisors and financial intelligence units in Member States.

- Directive (EU) 2024/1640 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 31 May 2024 on the mechanisms to be put in place by Member States for the prevention of the use of the financial system for the purposes of money laundering or terrorist financing,

- Regulation (EU) 2024/1624 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 31 May 2024 on the prevention of the use of the financial system for the purposes of money laundering or terrorist financing

- European Parliament, New EU measures against money laundering and terrorist financing, Press Release, 28-03-2023

- European Commission, Proposal for a Directive on the mechanisms to be put in place by the Member States for the prevention of the use of the financial system for the purposes of money laundering or terrorist financing and repealing Directive (EU) 2015/849, COM (2021) 423 final

On the new Directive on Asset Recovery and Confiscation

On 25 May 2022, the European Commission presented a proposal for a new Directive on Asset Recovery and Confiscation, building upon previous legislation, i.e. the 2014 Confiscation Directive. The new Directive was adopted in 2024, providing a new comprehensive set of rules that addresses asset recovery from beginning to end – from tracing and identification, through freezing and management, to confiscation and final disposal of assets.

- Directive (EU) 2024/1260 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 24 April 2024 on asset recovery and confiscation

- European Commission, Proposal for a Directive on asset recovery and confiscation, COM (2022) 245 final

- European Commission, Confiscation and asset recovery, Briefing 2022 (contains a summary of the key points of the proposal)

- European Commission, Study on freezing, confiscation and asset recovery – what works, what does not work, Final report, January 2021

Communications Plan for Training Activities

This communication plan aims to promote the Center's activities, maximize their impact, and ensure the visibility of EU funding. We have selected the most appropriate dissemination channels for each target audience, considering their interests, preferences, and access to information. We will also use a mix of offline and online channels to reach a wider audience.

Communication Channels for Training Activities	Description
Website	The Center's website will be the main platform for disseminating information about its work, including research findings, working papers, policy recommendations, OERs, etc. The website will be set up in the beginning of the project; it will be maintained, updated, and enriched throughout the project's duration and even after the project's completion.
Press releases	Press releases will be issued to announce major developments and achievements of the Center.
Social media	The Center will have a dedicated social media presence on Twitter, Facebook, and LinkedIn to share news, events, and resources. We will also leverage our network of partners and their presence in social media (e.g the social media and social network community of COST Action CA21133 "Globalization, Illicit Trade, Sustainability and Security", the FinReg Blog of the Duke University, the CDBF blog of the University of Geneva, the Blog of the EU AI Alliance, etc.)
Leveraging our collaboration media and other partners	We will work together with newspapers, online news websites, and TV channels to disseminate information about our activities, especially the events. Similarly, we will ask our partners (Bar Association, Cyprus Computer Society, etc.) to inform their members about our forthcoming activities.

Target Audiences for Training Activities

The Jean Monnet Center of Excellence AI-2-TRACE-CRIME communication and dissemination activities will target the following audiences: Undergraduate students from participating departments, doctoral students participating in the doctoral workshops, early-career researchers (fellows), lawyers, judges, prosecutors, AML Compliance Officers, IT / AI Professionals, local stakeholders, such as local administration, policymakers, and the public.

Target Audience	Description
Students	Students, including undergraduate, postgraduate, and doctoral candidates, benefit from interactive workshops and multidisciplinary sessions that enhance their understanding of AML and AI. These activities provide foundational and advanced knowledge tailored to their academic level, preparing them for meaningful contributions to research and professional fields.
Researchers	Researchers gain access to advanced insights, theoretical frameworks, and opportunities for interdisciplinary collaboration. The training fosters academic dialogue, supports the development of novel research ideas, and drives innovation in AML practices and AI-related studies.
Legal professionals	Legal professionals, including lawyers, judges, prosecutors, and AML compliance officers, acquire practical, actionable knowledge through tailored workshops and case law analysis. These sessions help them stay updated on regulations, enhance compliance strategies, and integrate AI tools into their practice effectively.
IT / AI Professionals	IT and AI professionals receive targeted training on building compliant systems, understanding AML legal frameworks, and addressing ethical dimensions of AI. These activities bridge the gap between legal and technical fields, fostering collaboration and innovation in designing responsible technologies.
Local stakeholders	Local stakeholders, such as policymakers and administrators, benefit from seminars and policy-oriented discussions that provide actionable recommendations and insights into AML governance. This engagement strengthens policymaking and enhances regional and national resilience against financial crimes.
General public	The general public is engaged through accessible public debates that simplify complex AML and AI topics. These events raise awareness of societal impacts and foster a culture of vigilance and understanding, broadening the outreach of AML and AI initiatives.

Visibility of EU funding

The Center will ensure that the visibility of EU funding is clear and consistent throughout all communication and dissemination activities. This will be achieved by: i) Including EU logos and branding on all offline and online materials, according to the conditions of the grant; ii) Providing clear and prominent acknowledgment of EU funding in all communications and publications, including a waiver that "*The European Commission support for the production of the publication does not constitute an endorsement of the contents which reflects the views only of the authors, and the Commission cannot be held responsible for any use which may be made of the information contained therein*".

Quality Assurance for Training Activities

Training activities will follow the project's QA principles and procedures of the AI-2-TRACE-CRIME project. These QA principles and procedures are designed not only to manage risks but to foster a culture of excellence, continuous improvement, and accountability across the project' activities, including training activities. The QA plan leverages existing institutional QA procedures, while introducing specialized processes suited to the interdisciplinary, high-stakes nature of this project.

QA Objectives	**Ensure Research Excellence:** Establish rigorous processes to maintain high quality in all research outputs. **Promote Educational Quality:** Develop materials and modules that meet standards for accuracy, relevance, and accessibility. **Support Effective Dissemination:** Guarantee that all outreach activities are transparent, credible, and impactful. **Foster Collaboration:** Promote consistency and synergy among the project's diverse team members, external advisors, and stakeholders.
Core QA Principles	**Transparency and Accountability:** QA processes will involve clear documentation, accessible records, and open reporting to ensure accountability. **Continuous Improvement:** The project emphasizes ongoing refinement through periodic reviews, feedback loops, and corrective actions. **Inclusivity and Diversity:** Ensuring that the team's work reflects diverse perspectives and interdisciplinary collaboration is essential to the project. **Compliance with Ethical Standards:** All procedures will align with institutional ethical guidelines and applicable legal standards, particularly in AI-related research.
QA Roles and Responsibilities	**Principal Investigator (PI):** Oversees QA across all activities, ensuring compliance and fostering a quality-oriented culture. **Assistant QA Officer:** Responsible for coordinating QA reviews, facilitating feedback from the Advisory Board, and ensuring adherence to QA procedures. **Advisory Board:** Provides strategic guidance and peer review of materials, especially those intended for public dissemination, such as the MOOC and Open Educational Resources (OERs). **Team Members and External Experts:** Contribute to peer reviews and participate in QA activities as needed to maintain project standards.
QA Procedures for Key Deliverables	**Peer Review of Academic Materials:** All training materials, research outputs, and educational resources undergo peer review by relevant team members or external experts. Reviews focus on relevance, clarity, and alignment with project objectives. Feedback is documented, and adjustments are made accordingly. **Call for paper/call for speakers:** Clear criteria and deadlines at the project's website. **Advisory Board Consultation:** For materials intended for broad dissemination (e.g., syllabi, training handbooks, policy briefs), input from the Advisory Board is critical. Their guidance ensures that the content is accurate, relevant, and tailored to stakeholder needs. **Satisfaction Surveys and Focus Groups:** After events, training sessions, and workshops, participants are asked to complete satisfaction surveys. Additionally, focus groups with stakeholders provide insights into the perceived quality of project outputs, allowing for adjustments in future iterations.

Risk-Based QA Approach	**Risk Assessment Matrix:** This matrix categorizes risks associated with different deliverables based on likelihood and impact. High-risk items, such as policy briefs or technical workshops, receive additional QA attention. **Pre-Event QA Checks:** For training events or workshops, pre-event QA checks confirm that all materials are ready, presenters are briefed, and facilities meet quality standards. **Contingency Planning:** The project maintains contingency plans for major events and deliverables, which include backup personnel, alternative venues, and virtual participation options if in-person events are disrupted.
QA for Open Access Resources	**Open Education Resources (OERs):** A dedicated review process for OERs and MOOCs ensures that these resources are accurate, up-to-date, and accessible to a broad audience. Specific QA measures include accessibility testing, language and clarity assessments, and alignment with learning objectives. **Expert Consultation on Open Access:** The UNESCO Chair in Open Education, Prof. Fawzi Baroud, provides expertise on the design and dissemination of open-access materials. This collaboration ensures the material meets international standards and achieves maximum accessibility.
Regular QA Monitoring and Evaluation	**Quarterly QA Audits:** These audits review all ongoing activities and deliverables, evaluating compliance with QA policies, progress against milestones, and overall quality. Any issues identified are addressed through corrective action plans. **Annual QA Review:** An in-depth annual QA review assesses the effectiveness of QA policies and practices, taking into account feedback from team members, external experts, and stakeholders. Findings from the review inform adjustments to QA procedures for the following year. **Stakeholder Feedback Mechanisms:** Stakeholders are invited to provide feedback on project activities, materials, and outcomes, particularly in outreach and educational initiatives. Their input is critical to understanding the project's real-world impact and informing QA improvements.
Collaboration and QA in Training and Education	**Pre-Training Needs Analysis:** Assessing the needs of participants before training events ensures that content is aligned with expectations. The needs analysis is conducted through questionnaires and initial consultations with stakeholders. **Continuous Improvement in Training:** Feedback collected after each session is analyzed and used to refine future training. This iterative approach promotes continuous improvement and helps maintain the training's relevance and quality. **Accreditation and Certification:** For training programs eligible for professional credits (e.g., Bar Association accreditation), the project consults with certifying bodies to ensure that content meets required standards.
Documentation and Record-Keeping	**QA Logs:** Detailed records of QA checks, including reviewers' comments, action plans, and resolutions. **Satisfaction Surveys and Reports:** Summary reports of satisfaction surveys and focus group findings. **Risk Management Documentation:** Records of risk assessments and mitigation actions related to QA.