LOCARD
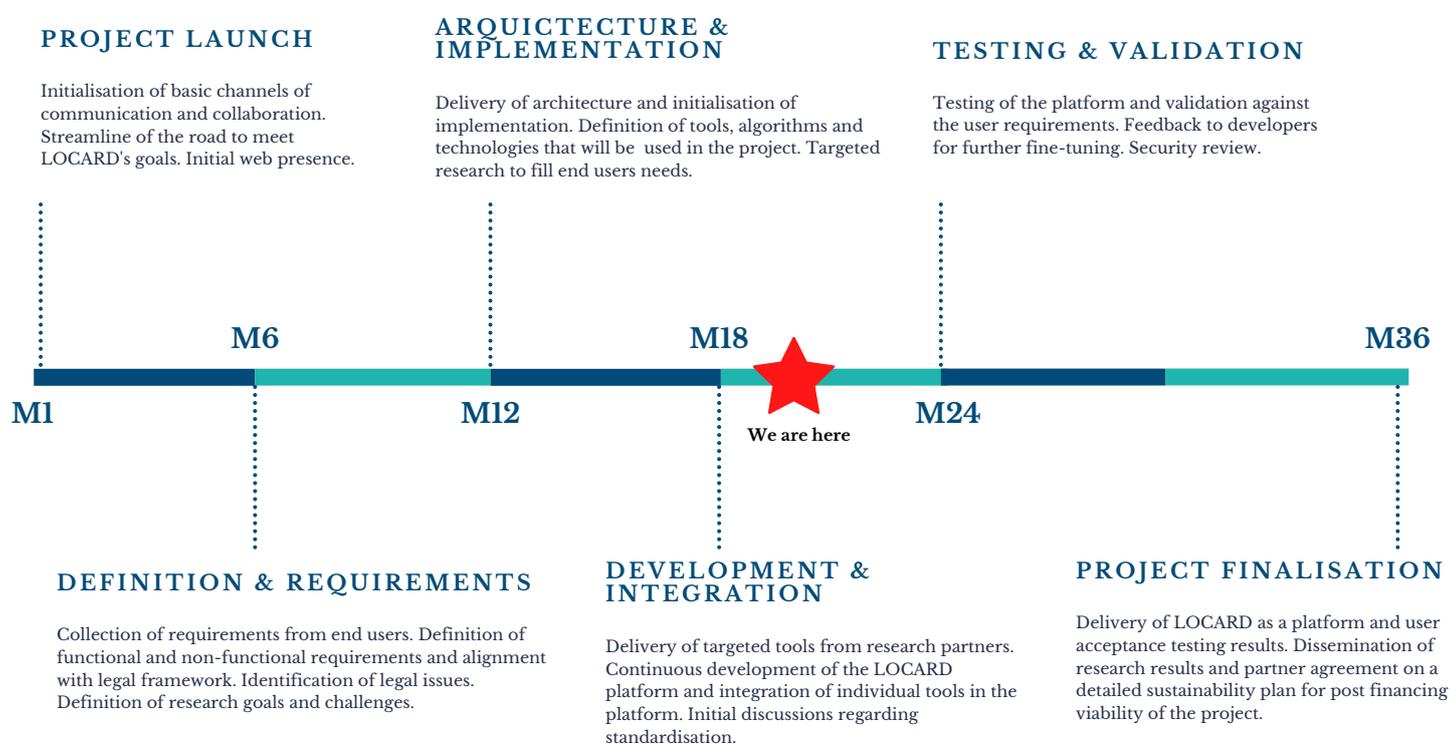
PROJECT SUMMARY

LOCARD is an ambitious project that aims to develop a collaborative and distributed platform to automate the collection and documentation of every digital evidence, presenting the ultimate solution of accommodating independent users, jurisdictions, territories and global regulation, together with high security demands. The project started in May 2019 (and will last until April 2022), is composed by 19 partners and has 7 million budget. As depicted in the following figure, LOCARD is currently at month 20.

PROJECT LAUNCH

Initialisation of basic channels of communication and collaboration. Streamline of the road to meet LOCARD's goals. Initial web presence.

ARQUICTECTURE & IMPLEMENTATION

Delivery of architecture and initialisation of implementation. Definition of tools, algorithms and technologies that will be used in the project. Targeted research to fill end users needs.

TESTING & VALIDATION

Testing of the platform and validation against the user requirements. Feedback to developers for further fine-tuning. Security review.

M6   M18   M36

M1   M12   M24

We are here

DEFINITION & REQUIREMENTS

Collection of requirements from end users. Definition of functional and non-functional requirements and alignment with legal framework. Identification of legal issues. Definition of research goals and challenges.

DEVELOPMENT & INTEGRATION

Delivery of targeted tools from research partners. Continuous development of the LOCARD platform and integration of individual tools in the platform. Initial discussions regarding standardisation.

PROJECT FINALISATION

Delivery of LOCARD as a platform and user acceptance testing results. Dissemination of research results and partner agreement on a detailed sustainability plan for post financing viability of the project.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF ACHIEVED AND FUTURE TASKS

During the first months of the project, different use case scenarios were defined taking into consideration all kinds of end users, such as Law Enforcement Agencies (LEAs), forensic investigators and security consulting companies, in order to properly decompose all functional and non-functional requirements. In parallel, due to the high sensitivity of the data handled, the social, ethical, legal and privacy aspects (SELP) of the methods proposed in the project were measured and assessed, developing, therefore, a SELP framework to ensure that LOCARD (and all its partners) was compliant with these requirements. Besides, state-of-the-art reports on blockchain technologies, trusted computing and deviant behaviour detection in social networks, among others, have been elaborated to analyse the latest research endeavours. After the first year, once all the requirements were clear, the architecture of the LOCARD platform was designed by describing the functionalities of all the LOCARD modules and the communication between these modules.

Moreover, at a higher view, the different tiers (or layers) of the platform were defined as well as the main tools and technologies to be used. Currently, LOCARD is under the development phase. Partners are putting many efforts to implement the different modules to make the LOCARD platform a reality. In a near future, the technical partners will focus their efforts on enhancing flows within the portal, and advance interconnectivity between the portal and the smart contracts. Although no real evidential data has been used, all data workflows, storage and analyses have been validated. To rapidly detect possible problems, a demo of the platform will be programmed during the next weeks and will be presented next February 23rd at the LOCARD webinar: "*A new common approach to manage cross-border digital evidence*". In a few months, the platform will be further tested and validated in realistic environments with the help of the end user partners of the consortium. Moreover, discussions about the creation of a standard to exchange the information among parties will start soon.

All public deliverables of the project are available at *https://locard.eu/outcomes/public-deliverables*.