The character of conflicts, where core crimes are committed (crime of aggression, war crimes, crimes against humanity and genocide), requires a new approach to evidentiary law in criminal trial – due to large scale of events, numerous persons involved, the territory of events. In the case of such crimes the approach to evidence is and should be completely different than in trials concerning ordinary crimes and be based on digital evidence. The unique environment of evidence gathering requires posing new research questions and proposing solutions to the expected problems, in particular clear criteria and transparent rules of conduct of investigating and trial authorities, as well as a method of detecting mistakes. Quite differently than in the case of ordinary crimes cases the problem is not too little evidence but too much evidence, which requires unique methods to deal with this overabundance. The last examples of documenting core crimes verify the methods of gathering information. The Syrian Archive and the Commission for International Justice and Accountability have engaged in evidence collection, and has been collecting and preserving social media videos and other online content documenting the conflict, the International Criminal Court issues decisions basing on such evidence. In the case of crimes committed in Ukraine gathering of evidence took not only an unencountered scale – there are hundred thousand relations of potential witnesses recorded so far – but also an unencountered form. They are mostly gathered and processed in a digital form – by various NGOs (as Bellingcat, EyeWitness to Attocities, Conflict Observatory) and governmental authorities (Prosecutor General's Office of Ukraine).

The character and scale of such crimes not only require special forms of gathering evidence but also forces the use of this form: it would already take a whole year to watch the relevant video evidence and read all the information provided by the witnesses in the open sources. Such quality (digital) and quantity (abundance of evidence) – is a complete novelty and requires a new attitude: both when it comes to the type of evidence, their management and their admissibility. Technology is absolutely the key to the approach to evidence in such cases. Moreover, digital evidence in an investigation (but also their storing and securing, allowing for saving the chain of custody, and their verification with the use of digital tools, such as satellite or drone data and footage, chronolocation, shadow analysis, digital platforms) on core crimes requires tech-expertise from all the people taking part in trial. The question for the prosecuting authorities is how to harness this environment for the needs of criminal trial; the question for trial judges – how to assess and on what rules to admit evidence found in this particular environment.

We are witnessing the emergence of the digital evidence model of the "second generation". It responds to the needs that arise in core crimes investigations. Therefore it is necessary to propose how such a model is composed – what elements are of key importance and how it should be managed by the courts. The aim of the research project will be to design an integrated procedural response to the use of technology in criminal trial in the evidentiary proceedings and harness big-data analysis and algorithms in the task on the example of criminal proceedings into core crimes: to give procedural answer to the need of the „search for justice in a digital age". It should be underlined that proper administration of criminal justice (both national and international) requires digital evidence in all cases to be collected, analyzed, presented, and assessed in a forensically and legally proper manner as only a coherent method ensures that they have necessary quality as evidence.

At the same time the Polish Code of Criminal Procedure is designed specifically to investigate ordinary crimes with analogue means. It seems that this shape is not well-fitted for such large scale investigations. It is critical to change the paradigm – investigation on core crimes cannot be conducted basing solely on analogue means in the world that has become digital so fast. Dealing with such crimes, often committed also in digital forms or by the use of digital methods, without technology, although possible, makes the justice system stay behind and separates it from the rest of the world.