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"Dissemination of Model Prison Practices and Promotion of the Prison Reform in Turkey"

Description of the Project

Title	Dissemination of Model Prison Practices and Promotion of the Prison Reform in Turkey
Project area	Turkey
Budget	EUR 4 200 000
Funding	The European Union (EU)
Implementation	The Criminal Law Co-operation Unit of the Council of Europe
Duration	01/03/2009 - 30/08/2012 (43 months)

Description of the project:

The "Dissemination of Model Prison Practices and Promotion of the Prison Reform in Turkey Project" (hereinafter to be referred to as "the Project") was funded by the European Union (EU) under the 2007 programming of the Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance (IPA) Component 1: Transition Assistance and Institution Building. . The Beneficiary of the Project was the Directorate General of Prisons and Detention Houses (DGPDH) of the Ministry of Justice (MoJ). The Project was a Joint Programme (JP) of the EU and the Council of Europe (CoE). The Central Finance and Contracts Unit (CFCU) was the Contracting Authority of this Project. The Project was a continuation of the reform achieved under the Judicial Modernisation and Penal Reform in Turkey Project (JMPR), from which the DGPDH had benefited between 1 June 2004 and 30 April 2007.

The Project started on 1 March 2009, the day after the last party had signed the direct grant contract between the CoE and the CFCU, which was endorsed for financing by the EU as well. The Project was originally planned to end on 30 August 2011. In the meantime, the DGPDH and the CoE applied to the CFCU and the Delegation of the European Union to Turkey (EUD) for a one-year extension of the Project's duration and an extra budget allocation of € 1,200,000.00. After a long period of mutual consultations, the Addendum was communicated to the CoE by the CFCU on 28 March 2011 and then it was signed by the CoE on 05 April 2011. In August 2012, the Project was granted an additional one month, no-cost extension to leave time for the organisation of a Closing Conference and site visits to various prisons, which could not be

organised due to the tragic events in Sanliurfa Prison and the following unrest in other prisons. At the end, the Project's total duration reached 43 months with a total budget amounting to € 4.2 million.

The Project had two main components: The first component covered the establishment of training facilities and vocational training workshops in 90 medium and high security prisons and the provision of training materials and tools. The second component covered support for the sustainability of reform activities. The DGPDH and the CoE implemented activities on mutual cooperation and consultation in order to implement the second component. The first component was mainly under the responsibility of the DGPDH.

The Project aimed to provide assistance to the DGPDH's efforts to elevate the penitentiary system in Turkey to the level envisaged by the European Prison Rules (EPR) and other international standards through creating a professional, effective and efficient prison service, upgrading prison services and contributing to the improvement of detention conditions.

The target groups of the Project were prison staff in 90 medium and high security prisons in Turkey, staff of the DGPDH, prison prosecutors, perimeter security guards, members of prison monitoring boards and enforcement judges. The final beneficiaries of the Project are staff in all Turkish prisons, prisoners, civil society and the public.

The main activities of the Project included the following:

1. Training of prison staff on the EPR.
2. Training of prison governors on good prison management and leadership.
3. Training of prison teachers, health care staff and psycho-social services staff on the operational standards applicable to specific areas of prison management.
4. Development and updating of offending behaviour programmes (OBPs)
5. Establishment of educational facilities and vocational training workshops in 90 prisons and provision of training materials and tools to these facilities.
6. Training of existing and future lecturers of the newly opened Prison Staff Training Centres (PSTCs).
7. Training seminars for the DGPDH staff, prison prosecutors, perimeter security staff (the gendarmerie), enforcement judges and members of monitoring boards on the EPR and CPT recommendations in the penitentiary field.
8. Workshops with the NGO representatives on the development of an NGO strategy.
9. Production of visibility items and development of a PR Strategy for the penitentiary system.
10. Purchase of books for the research and development centre of the DGPDH and for the libraries of 90 prisons.

BASIC INFORMATION ON THE PROJECT

Project Title	Dissemination of Model Prison Practices and the Promotion of Prison Reform in Turkey
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Project Number	TR 0702.18-01/001
Beneficiary Country	Turkey
Beneficiary Institution	Republic of Turkey Ministry of Justice, Directorate General of Prisons and Detention Houses
Project Starting Date	01/03/2009
Contracting Authority	Central Finance and Contracts Unit
Funding	European Union
Project Duration	43 months
Implementing Organisation	Council of Europe (DG I - Human Rights and Rule of Law)
Project Budget	EUR 4.175.589
Date of Report	March 2013
Reporting Period	1 March 2009 – 30 September 2012
Overall Objective(s)	To contribute to the improvement of the penitentiary system in Turkey in line with the EPR and other international standards.
Project Purpose:	To create a professional, effective and efficient prison service through the dissemination of model prison practices and the promotion of prison reforms in Turkey by upgrading prison services and contributing to the improvement of detention conditions.
Estimated Results	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Rules and practices adopted and implemented regarding prison management and the treatment of prisoners, according to European standards. 2) Rehabilitation and training of prisoners ensured complying with international human rights and prison standards; detention conditions improved. 3) Two new Prison Staff Training Centres operational with the same level of professionalism as the other three training centres. 4) The role of the Monitoring Boards and of the enforcement judges enhanced. 5) Prison reforms promoted to the public and civil society. 6) The capacity of the DGPDH of the MoJ to further design and implement prison reforms increased.