

Improving the efficiency of the Turkish criminal justice system

Project summary

Project title	Improving the efficiency of the Turkish criminal justice system
Country	Turkey
Budget	3 996 323.53 €
Funding	EU/CoE Joint Programme
Duration	30 months (1 January 2013 – 30 June 2015)
Partners and beneficiaries	the Ministry of Justice (MOJ), the Justice Academy (JA), the High Council of Judges and Prosecutors (HCJP), the Union of Turkish Bar Associations (TBB), the Telecommunication Authority, the Forensic Medicine Institute, the Ministry of Interior (for the Law enforcement agencies) as well as judges and prosecutors, forensic medicine experts, lawyers and law enforcement officials (police and gendarmerie).
Main objective	to improve the application of European human rights standards in the Turkish criminal justice system and to increase its efficiency.
Outputs and results	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The capacity of the judiciary and prosecution services to apply the ECHR in the delivery of criminal justice was strengthened: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - a comprehensive report based on a needs assessment analysis was prepared and published with recommendations to improve the system (including regarding the legislation), - 7 study visits to the CoE and EU member states for 115 participants and 12 placements of trainers in the CoE, the ECtHR and in EU member states were organised to facilitate the exchange of best practices and improve the capacity of the legal professionals to apply the ECHR standards. 2. The training capacity of the JA on criminal justice and European human rights standards was strengthened: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - development of several training modules for the Justice Academy and the HCJP (preventive measures, effective investigations, fair trial, terror and organised crime, cybercrime) and publication of

26 000 copies. The modules were integrated into the JA curricula in 2014.

- creation of a pool of 300 trainers for the Justice Academy and the HCJP
- training of 510 candidate judges and prosecutors

3. International judicial co-operation in criminal matters was strengthened:

- a draft law on international judicial cooperation in criminal matters/ mutual legal assistance was drafted and international expertise was provided
- 5 study visits were organised to exchange best practices with EU member states
- a guidebook on mutual legal assistance was developed and published for legal practitioners
- 183 judges/prosecutors and 63 court registrars were trained.

4. The capacity of practicing lawyers to play an active role in the criminal justice system and to apply European Human Rights standards in their daily work was enhanced:

- 4 practical handbooks for lawyers were developed and published in 7000 copies
- 10 regional workshops were organised for 1.130 lawyers