



EUROPEAN UNION-COUNCIL OF EUROPE JOINT PROJECT

**“STRENGTHENING THE CAPACITY OF TURKISH JUDICIARY ON
FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION”**

FACTSHEET

**WHAT WAS THE PROJECT ABOUT?
WHAT HAS BEEN ACHIEVED WITH THE PROJECT?**



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WHAT WAS THE PROJECT ABOUT?

The European Union -Council of Europe Joint Project "Strengthening the Capacity of the Turkish Judiciary on Freedom of Expression" was implemented from 2 September 2014 to 31 March 2017. Its main beneficiary was the Justice Academy of Turkey and the other beneficiaries included the Constitutional Court, the Court of Cassation, the Council of State, the High Council for Judges and Prosecutors and the Ministry of Justice

The objective of the Project was to contribute to a better protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms, especially the right to freedom of expression, in Turkey. Its activities concentrated on two areas:

- 1) building the capacities of the Justice Academy of Turkey in training on freedom of expression, and
- 2) raising awareness of judiciary on the issue.

WHAT HAS BEEN ACHIEVED WITH THE PROJECT?

A. Capacity-Building

Development of New Training Curricula and Tools

- Innovative adult training techniques, inspired by UNESCO's Socrates approach and the Council of Europe's HELP methodology, have been introduced to the training of judges and prosecutors on freedom of expression.
- Customised pre-and in-service training modules have been designed addressing the needs of specific target groups, including judges and prosecutors dealing with press-related cases, criminal and civil defamation complaints, terrorism crimes and administrative law disputes.
- An online course (Defamation and Freedom of Expression) has been developed for the first time to support the Justice Academy in reaching out large numbers of judges and prosecutors in a more cost efficient and practical manner.

Creation of a Pool of Trainers

- A pool of trainers have been created with 75 judges and prosecutors working in the fields of criminal law, civil law and administrative law at both first instance courts and high courts.
- The trainers have become the pioneers of new adult education approaches to judicial training on human rights, including freedom of expression.

Publication of Training Materials and Resource Guides

Five user-friendly and practical training publications have been produced both in print and online:

- A Tool Kit for Pre-Service Trainers
- A Tool Kit for In-Service Trainers
- A Resource Guide on the Jurisprudence of the European Court of Human Rights (ECtHR)
- A Resource Guide on the Turkish High Courts' Jurisprudence
- A Resource Guide on the Summary of Constitutional Court Judgments

More books for the Human Rights Library of the Justice Academy

Purchasing 267 books on various aspects of freedom of expression, the Project enriched the Human Rights Library of the Justice Academy.

B. Awareness-raising

Increase in Pre- and In-service Training for Judges and Prosecutors

- Approximately 3,000 judges and prosecutors received pre- and in-service training, including through an online course, on freedom of expression and media freedom.
- The length of pre-service training course on freedom of expression at the Justice Academy increased from 8 hours to 12.

Enhanced Judicial Dialogue

In four international workshops, judges and legal experts from the high courts of other European countries and the ECtHR came together with the members of Turkish high courts, with a view to enhance judicial dialogue on specific issues concerning freedom of expression.

Mutual Understanding among Different Stakeholders

Mutual understanding between right-holders and duty-bearers has been increased in the field of freedom of expression, by bringing the members of civil society organisations together with the representatives of different judicial and public institutions at ten roundtable meetings.

Reach-out through Publications

Books translated into Turkish, editorial publications and brochures have been widely circulated to judges and prosecutors at first instance courts and high courts and other relevant public institutions (such as Ombudsperson, High Council of Radio and Television, and Information and Communication Technologies Authority), lawyers, universities and civil society organisations

What is new in the training on freedom of expression?

- Peer-to-peer training, instead of training by a lecturer
- Interactive two-way communication, instead of monologues
- Facilitated by two co-trainers, instead of only one
- Promotion of critical thinking in a safe environment, instead of imposing one side of the story
- Problem-based, instead of subject-based
- Learner-oriented, instead of trainer-oriented
- Practical, instead of theoretical



PUBLICATIONS

Books translated into Turkish

Josep Casadevall, Egbert Myjer, Michael O'Boyle and Anna Austin (Eds), Freedom Of Expression: Essays In Honour Of Nicolas Bratza, President Of The European Court Of Human Rights, (Strasbourg: 2012).

Wolfgang Benedek and Matthias C. Kettmann, Freedom of Expression and the Internet, (Strasbourg: 2014).

Editorial publications

Special Edition of Journal of Justice Academy on Freedom of Expression, February 2016, Ed. 25.

Essays on Freedom of Expression: A Contribution to the International Symposium on Freedom of Expression, March 2017.

Thematic Brochures

Freedom of Expression/ Internet Freedom / Safety of Journalists/ Say No to Hate Speech



Should you require further information, please visit our Project webpage:

<http://ifadeozgurulu.taa.gov.tr/>