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CONSOLIDATING ETHICS IN THE PUBLIC SECTOR IN TURKEY (TYEC2)

TECHNICAL PAPER

DRAFT TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR A PLATFORM FOR ETHICS

Prepared by
Mr Gary Hickey, TYEC 2 Long Term Advisor
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For any additional information please contact:
Economic Crime Unit
Information Society and Action against Crime Directorate
Directorate General I - Human Rights and Rule of Law
Council of Europe
F-67075 Strasbourg Cedex FRANCE
Tel +33 388 41 29 76/Fax +33 390 21 56 50
Email: lado.lalovic@coe.int
Web: www.coe.int/economiccrime

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1. Introduction

TYEC2 project seeks to promulgate ethics throughout the public sector in Turkey. This will be achieved, broadly, via a combination of awareness raising and the development and sharing of knowledge and ethics products.

During the course of this project much knowledge, experience and expertise will be gained. For example, the project involves the development of training, research and the development of an island of integrity. The ethics platform will be a key mechanism for ensuring that this knowledge and expertise on ethics issues is captured and shared rather than lost. It will be a mechanism for promoting products developed as part of the project. It will be a means of bringing together a community of practitioners/experts on ethics to discuss challenges and develop solutions within a mutually supportive environment. Finally, via its activities, the platform will help raise awareness of ethics issues amongst institutions and individuals.

Below is proposed terms of reference for the Platform including scope and membership. This is followed by a list of proposed activities with a consideration of resource implications

2. Terms of reference for the Platform for Ethics

This platform brings together a range of organisations on a voluntary basis which are dedicated to enhancing collaboration in the field of ethics and the promotion of good ethical practices. The platform will develop various communities of experts/practitioners and aims to become a centre of expertise for policy makers, practitioners and stakeholders.

3. Scope

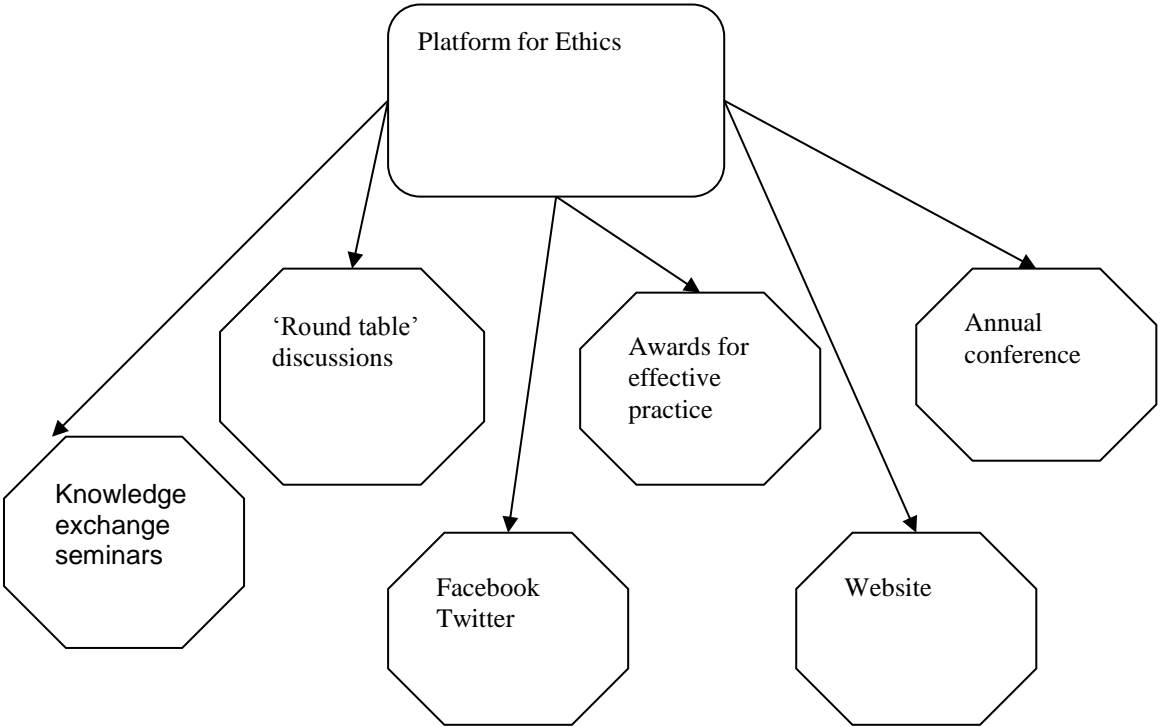
This platform brings together stakeholders to:

- Exchange and increase knowledge of, and good practice in, ethics within organisations
- Promote ethics within public sector organisations and beyond
- Raise awareness of the importance of ethics amongst the public
- Act as a forum for the development of ethics projects and research
- Be a support tool for ethics commissions
- Be a support tool for trainers
- Provide expertise and comment on ethics policy

The platform will, for the first 18 months, be administered by the project team working on the project 'Consolidating Ethics in the Public Sector in Turkey'. In the long term it is anticipated that the Platform for Ethics will have a 'life' beyond the project and that other members of the platform will take ownership and responsibility of the activities of the platform.

Below is a diagram which summarises the key activities of the Platform. Further information on the activities is provided in the section 'activities of the Platform for Ethics'.

4. The key activities of the Platform for Ethics



5. Membership of the Platform for Ethics

It is suggested that representatives from the following organisations be invited to join the platform:

- Council of Ethics (Chair)
- The General Directorate of the Land Registry
- Ministry of Interior
- Ministry of National Education
- Ministry of Finance
- The Council of Higher Education
- NGOs
- Approximately three academics

The intention is that the representatives of these organisations will form a management committee/steering committee who will determine the terms of reference of the group, its programme of work and agenda for meetings etc. The Platform will be administered by the Council of Ethics.

6. Activities of the Platform for Ethics

6.1 Round table discussion

These will be relatively formal events where the panel and other invited guests (eg experts and/or other interested parties) will discuss and debate ethics issues. The event will be chaired by a neutral party skilled in facilitating debate. All participants will sit around a table and, following short prepared speeches by one or two of the attendees, participants will be invited to share their views and experiences. There is no expectation that the group reach a consensus but rather that all views and opinions are heard.

Media will be invited to attend and report on the debate. The intention is that the media coverage that accompanies these discussions will help keep ethics on the agenda, promote the importance of ethics and raise the profile of ethics issues and the Council of Ethics. The conversation will also be included on the website (see section on website).

Possible issues for discussion:

- The key components of an ethical environment
- The benefits of an ethical environment

6.1.1 Resource implications

It is anticipated that the Council of Ethics has suitable premises for organising such events. Refreshments would be required, media organised and someone would need to 'write up' the event for the website.

6.2 Knowledge exchange seminars

These seminars could take one of two broad forms. One way would be a 'meeting' in which attendees would be asked to provide updates on ethics related developments in their organisations/field of expertise. A second way would be more formal presentations by one or two attendees followed by a more general discussion.

These seminars will provide an opportunity for members of the platform to share: knowledge and experiences relating to the promotion of ethics in their organisations and beyond; updates of projects and research on ethics. Such a forum will ensure that knowledge and information is shared rather than lost; help keep ethics issues on the agenda of organisations, be a source of information and a means of mutual support for participants as they seek to promote ethics in their organisations. These discussions and any solutions will be reported on via the website (see below).

Possible issues for discussion:

- Codes of Ethics
- The role of the Council of Ethics
- The role of ethics commissions
- Ethics training
- Raising awareness of ethics
- Addressing breaches of Codes of Ethics
-

6.2.1 Resource implications

It is anticipated that the Council of Ethics has suitable premises for organising such events. Refreshments would be and someone would need to 'write up' the event for the website.

6.3 Development of a website

The website will be a mechanism for:

- capturing and sharing the work and outcomes of the Platform for Ethics
- sharing effective practice
- provide information to the wider public and public officials on ethics and how to make a complaint
- developing and hosting virtual communities of practitioners

The website will be a mechanism for promoting the outcome of research, sharing information from round table discussions and knowledge exchange seminars, and sharing training tools including e-learning materials and any ethics events. It will also be a mechanism for sharing effective practice on ethics identified via research and also an annual competition to identify effective practice (see section on 'awards for effective practice.' Information will also be targeted at the public, for example information on how to make a complaint as well as a proposed broadcast aimed at the public. In these ways the website will be a mechanism for promoting ethics and many of the products and tools developed as part of this project.

In the longer term it is intended that the website develop two communities of practitioners; one for trainers and one for ethics commissions. The intention is that each would have their own section, complete with personal log in details, where they could exchange knowledge, share problems and solutions and generally use the community as a forum for supporting each other.

The website could also include links to other organisations with an interest in ethics, for example Transparency International.

6.3.1 Resource implications

A STE will be employed to work with the Platform on establishing the website. The maintenance of the website would then be the responsibility of the Platform. In addition, it would be useful for the communities of interest to be monitored a) to gain an insight into key issues and concerns (which could inform any training tools and conference workshops) and b) to correct any obviously poor advice/suggestions proffered by anyone. Consideration should also be given to the extent to which the Platform wants to provide a telephone/email advice service to the public and/or other stakeholders.

6.4 Annual conference

The target audience for the annual conference would be ethics commissions and trainers. It may also be useful to invite policy makers/opinion informers. The media would also be invited in to report on the event.

This conference would be a one day event and include some key note sessions as well as a range of workshops.

The event would bring together key stakeholders – in particular those responsible for ethics within ministries on a day to day basis – and provide an opportunity for them to learn, network and exchange knowledge and experiences. It would also help establish an 'ethics community' providing much needed support and status to trainers and ethics commissions.

6.4.1 Resource implications

Invitations to delegates could be sent electronically. Some time may need to be developing a programme, securing speakers and developing sessions. Speakers may require paying

and conference materials eg programmes and visibility materials provided. A suitable venue would need to be found, refreshments provided and the conference administered. A photographer would be required to ensure that good publicity photographs are obtained. Again, details of the conference would need to be written up for the website.

6.5 Facebook and Twitter

Facebook and Twitter are means by which an increasing number of people, especially young people. Share information and keep abreast of developments. It would be a low cost way for the Platform for Ethics to promote awareness of the website and ethics issues and developments.

6.5.1 Resource implications

Occasional tweets and status updates would need to be provided. These would, by necessity be short.

6.6 Awards for effective practice

Each year organisations would be ask to submit written examples of good practice in the maintenance of ethical environments and/or the promotion of ethics beyond their organisation. Evaluation criteria would need to be developed. Evaluation of these submissions would be undertaken by a group from the Platform of Ethics and awards presented at the Annual Conference. Clearly, and in the interests of publicity, it would be beneficial if the awards were presented by a relatively high profile person. Consideration should also be given to having the awards (co)sponsored by a journal or organisation(s) with an interest in public administration.

The winners of the awards would have their effective practice shared on the website.

6.6.1 Resource implications

Examples of effective practice would need to be sent out to the judging panel and their deliberations would need to be recorded and put on the website. (It will be important that the competition is seen as a fair and transparent process).

The effective practice would also need to be written up and put on the website. This would include visits to the various 'winners' to gain further information on the 'story' as well as photographs.