



COUNCIL OF EUROPE

PROGRAMME OFFICE IN ANKARA

20th Anniversary
of Council of Europe
Programme Office
in Ankara

COUNCIL OF EUROPE

1949 - 2024
CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

COUNCIL OF EUROPE & TÜRKİYE

CELEBRATING

20
YEARS
OF

CO-OPERATION

2004-2024

HUMAN RIGHTS

DEMOCRACY

THE RULE OF LAW

20th Anniversary
of Council of Europe
Programme Office
in Ankara



MOVING FORWARD FOR HUMAN RIGHTS DEMOCRACY THE RULE OF LAW



William MASSOLIN
Head of Office

Foreword

In celebration of the 20th anniversary of the establishment of the Council of Europe Programme Office in Ankara and the 75th anniversary of the Council of Europe, the Council of Europe Programme Office in Ankara is pleased to present its projects and achievements in close co-operation with its partners in Türkiye, during the last twenty years (2004-2024).

Türkiye and the Council of Europe collaborate on the projects and programmes implemented in co-operation with relevant national institutions, to strengthen the capacity of the Turkish authorities and to improve the application of European standards at the national level, in the fields of human rights, democracy and the rule of law.

Through joint programmes, the Council of Europe and the European Union facilitate the transfer of knowledge and skills to the national partners, paying special attention to ensuring local ownership and sustainability. These programmes are mostly co-funded by both organisations.

Voluntary contributions provided by the Member States of the Council of Europe also play an important role in supporting the co-operation programmes implemented in Türkiye.

The implementation of 44 projects in Türkiye with a total budget of nearly 95 million euros has enabled thousands of civil servants, academics and civil society representatives to gain insight into the principles and application of the European Convention on Human Rights, including the case law of the European Court of Human Rights, as well as the European best practices of judicial and democratic systems.

These activities, including training seminars, online training modules, study visits, placement, awareness raising actions, roundtables and a series of useful publications, most of which were translated into Turkish, have provided support to the Turkish institutions by addressing their needs.

The Council of Europe Programme Office in Ankara plays a pivotal role in enhancing existing close ties between the Council of Europe and key institutions and organisations in Türkiye. The Programme Office in Ankara and its staff continue to hold a strong commitment to sustain this role through its activities, today and in the future.

MOVING FORWARD FOR

HUMAN RIGHTS

DEMOCRACY
THE RULE OF LAW

States shall secure to everyone within their jurisdiction the rights and freedoms defined in the European Convention on Human Rights.



RIGHT TO A
FAIR TRIAL



RIGHT TO
LIBERTY AND
SECURITY



FREEDOM
FROM SLAVERY
AND HUMAN
TRAFFICKING



RIGHT TO
EQUALITY AND
FREEDOM FROM
DISCRIMINATION



RIGHT
TO FAMILY
LIFE



FREEDOM
OF SPEECH



FREEDOM FROM
TORTURE AND
ILL-TREATMENT



RIGHT TO
PRIVACY



RIGHT TO
PROPERTY



RIGHT TO
LIFE



FREEDOM OF
RELIGION
AND BELIEF



FREEDOM OF
ASSEMBLY



HUMAN RIGHTS
AND THE
ENVIRONMENT



FREEDOM
FROM VIOLENCE
AGAINST WOMEN



HUMAN RIGHTS
AND HEALTH

WHAT

are Human Rights?

Human rights are essential to protect and uphold the inherent humanity of each individual, thereby ensuring that every person can have a life of dignity. The European Convention on Human Rights, adopted in 1950 as the first Convention of the Council of Europe, safeguards the fundamental rights and freedoms. The European Court of Human Rights, set up as an international court in 1959, rules on individual or State applications alleging violations of the civil and political rights set out in the European Convention on Human Rights.

The Council of Europe Programme Office in Ankara has implemented 15 projects to support promotion and protection of human rights in Türkiye, covering a wide range of areas and beneficiaries including public institutions, academia and civil society. The total portfolio of the project budgets corresponds to **33.5 million euros**.

Success Story - EU/Council of Europe Joint Programmes to support the individual application mechanism in Türkiye: Since 2015, the capacity building efforts have increased the knowledge level of more than 8 000 judges, prosecutors and lawyers about individual application proceedings and fundamental rights. Since 2020, the European Union and the Council of Europe continue to bolster the knowledge of judges, lawyers and students across Türkiye on the impact of judgments issued by the Constitutional Court of Türkiye in the context of individual applications.

Support for Implementation of Human Rights Reform in Turkey	2006-2007
Cascaded Training for Turkish Lawyers on the European Convention on Human Rights	2006-2008
Training of Military Judges and Prosecutors on Human Rights Issues in Turkey	2010-2012
Freedom of Expression and the Media in Turkey: Facilitating the Execution of Judgments of the European Court of Human Rights	2012-2014
Supporting the Individual Application to the Constitutional Court in Turkey	2013-2015
Strengthening the Capacity of the Turkish Judiciary on Freedom of Expression	2014-2017
Supporting the Individual Application to the Constitutional Court in Turkey	2015-2019
Protection of Rights of Refugees and Migrants in Turkey	2017-2019
Strengthening the Capacity of Bar Associations and Lawyers on European Human Rights Standards	2018-2022
Horizontal Facility II - Supporting the Implementation and Reporting on the Action Plan on the Human Rights in Turkey	2019-2021
Horizontal Facility II - Strengthening the Human Rights Protection of Asylum Seekers, Migrants and Victims of Human Trafficking in Turkey	2019-2022
Enhancing the Effectiveness of Civil Monitoring Boards in line with European Standards	2019-2022
Improving the Effectiveness of Family Courts: Better Protection of the Rights of Family Members	2021-2024
Supporting the Effective Implementation of Turkish Constitutional Court Judgments in the Field of Fundamental Rights	2021-2025
Horizontal Facility III - Strengthening the Human Rights Protection in the Context of Migration in Türkiye	2023 -2025

MOVING FORWARD FOR HUMAN RIGHTS **DEMOCRACY** THE RULE OF LAW

Citizens' interests and needs should be the focus of every political decision-making process at different governance levels as this is the heart of democracy.



HOW

do we promote and strengthen democracy?

The Council of Europe invests in democratic security and the development of a democratic culture in Europe by:

- reinforcing democratic institutions and citizens' trust in them
- building inclusive societies free from discrimination, hate and violence
- empowering people to be engaged and confident in a common European future

The Council of Europe continues to support Türkiye through the projects implemented together with the European Union, with a particular focus on the needs of vulnerable groups in the Turkish society. Nine projects have so far been implemented in the field, with a total budget of **16.5 million euros**.

Success Story - EU/Council of Europe Joint Programmes to support the democratic citizenship and democracy education in the schools of Türkiye: Since 2011, in co-operation with the Ministry of National Education of Türkiye, the curriculum of the elective course "Human Rights and Democracy" for high schools was revised and a new compulsory course "Human Rights, Citizenship, and Democracy" was developed for the fourth grade of all schools in Türkiye. The immediate positive impact of democratic school culture implementation was acknowledged by the World Forum for Democracy and the project won the Democracy Innovation Award in November 2014. During 2018-2022, approximately 5 500 teachers and 49 000 students of the selected pilot schools of Türkiye have received training on developing the competences for democratic culture through the materials developed under the project.

Democratic Citizenship and Human Rights Education	2011-2015
ROMACTED Phase I - Promoting Good Governance and Roma Empowerment at Local Level	2017-2020
Strengthening Democratic Culture in Basic Education	2018-2022
Horizontal Facility II - Fostering a Comprehensive Institutional Response to Violence against Women and Domestic Violence in Turkey	2019 -2021
Horizontal Facility II - Fostering Women's Access to Justice in Türkiye Phase 1	2021-2022
ROMACTED Phase II - Promoting Good Governance and Roma Empowerment at Local Level	2021-2024
Horizontal Facility III - Pilot Project on Digital Citizenship Education in Türkiye	2023-2025
Horizontal Facility III - Fostering Women's Access to Justice in Türkiye Phase 2	2023-2026
Roma Integration III	2023-2026

MOVING FORWARD FOR HUMAN RIGHTS DEMOCRACY **THE RULE OF LAW**

Every member of the Council of Europe must accept the principles of the rule of law and of the enjoyment by all persons within its jurisdiction of human rights and fundamental freedoms.



WHY

is the rule of law essential?

The rule of law is a prerequisite for the protection of all human rights and fundamental freedoms and for ensuring human dignity. It depends on independent and efficient legal systems that ensure access to justice for all.

The Council of Europe cooperates closely with the judicial authorities in Türkiye, such as high courts, the Ministry of Justice and law enforcement agencies. Since its establishment in 2004, the Programme Office has implemented 20 projects with a total budget of **56.6 million euros** to promote the rule of law.

Success Story - Voluntary Contribution by the Swedish International Development Agency to develop mediation practices in civil disputes in Türkiye: During 2014-2017, the first mediation bureaus in the Turkish judiciary system were established by the Ministry of Justice in cooperation with the Council of Europe. By the end of the project, the number of mediations had increased from 85 to 13 470 and the number of registered mediators in pilot jurisdictions, from 483 to 4 209. Since 2020, the EU/Council of Europe Joint Programmes has continued to support effective and consistent implementation of mediation, conciliation and arbitration mechanism to further strengthen the alternative dispute resolution system in Türkiye.

Voluntary Contribution Project

EU/CoE Joint Programmes

Judicial Modernisation and Penal Reform Programme in Turkey	2004-2007
Support to Court Management System in Turkey	2007-2009
Ethics for Prevention of Corruption in Turkey	2007-2009
Dissemination of Model Prison Practices and Promotion of Prison Reform in Turkey	2009-2012
Enhancing the Role of the Supreme Judicial Authorities in respect of European Standards	2010-2013
Strengthening the Court Management System Phase 2	2011-2013
Improving the Efficiency of the Turkish Criminal Justice System	2012-2014
Strengthening the Coordination of Anti-corruption Policies and Practices in Turkey	2012-2014
Project on Consolidating Ethics in the Public Sector in Turkey	2013-2014
Developing Mediation Practices in Civil Disputes in Turkey	2014-2017
Strengthening Judicial Ethics in Turkey	2015-2017
Improving the Effectiveness of Investigation of Allegations of Ill-treatment and Combating Impunity	2017-2019
Improving the Effectiveness of the Administrative Judiciary and Strengthening the Institutional Capacity of the Council of State	2018-2021
Horizontal Facility II – Action against Economic Crime in South East Europe and Turkey	2019-2022
Strengthening the Criminal Justice System and the Capacity of Justice Professionals on Prevention of the European Convention on Human Rights Violations in Turkey	2019-2023
Strengthening the Institutional Capacity of Court of Cassation	2019-2023
Improving International Judicial Cooperation in Criminal Matters in Turkey	2020 –2024
Promoting Alternative Dispute Resolution in Turkey	2020-2024
Enhancing the Disciplinary and Reward Procedures for Prisoners in Türkiye	2022 –2025
Horizontal Facility III – Action against Money Laundering in Türkiye	2023- 2026

WHO ARE WE?

The Council of Europe Programme Office is currently implementing 11 projects, mostly funded under Joint Programmes of the European Union and the Council of Europe, with 40 staff members in Ankara and a number of project team members located in Strasbourg, at the Headquarters of the Council of Europe.



PLEASE CONTACT US

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2024



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The Council of Europe is the continent's leading human rights organisation. It comprises 46 member states, including all members of the European Union. All Council of Europe member states have signed up to the European Convention on Human Rights, a treaty designed to protect human rights, democracy and the rule of law. The European Court of Human Rights oversees the implementation of the Convention in the member states.

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