

Final evaluation of the European Union/ Council of Europe Project 'Supporting the Effective Implementation of Turkish Constitutional Court Judgements in the Field of Fundamental Rights'

Revised Draft Final Report to the Council of Europe

15 June 2026

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Executive Summary

This report presents the final independent evaluation of the European Union/ Council of Europe Joint Project “Supporting the Effective Implementation of Turkish Constitutional Court Judgements in the Field of Fundamental Rights” (SIAC II), implemented between September 2021 and June 2026.

Overview of the Project

The Project was implemented by the Council of Europe in cooperation with the Turkish Constitutional Court (TCC), with co-funding from the European Union (90%) and the Council of Europe (10%). With a total budget of EUR 5,500,000, the Project ran for 57 months from September 2021 to June 2026, including a nine-month no-cost extension. The Project builds on the project ‘Supporting the individual application to the Constitutional Court in Turkey’¹ (SIAC I) implemented by the Council of Europe and the EU between December 2015 and September 2019.

The overall objective of the Project was to contribute to the effective implementation of European human rights standards in Türkiye i) by strengthening the implementation of TCC judgments within the framework of the individual application mechanism, and ii) by improving awareness and understanding of TCC and European Court of Human Rights (ECtHR) case law among judicial actors and the wider public. To that end, the Project implementing a wide range of activities including capacity building and awareness raising, monitoring, coordination and communication.

Evaluation Objectives and Intended Audience

The purpose of this assignment was to provide an independent end-of-project evaluation with the main objective of identifying lessons learned from project implementation for potential future projects. To achieve this objective, the evaluation assessed the Project’s scope, objectives, outputs and expected results against the OECD-DAC criteria of relevance, effectiveness, efficiency and sustainability. It covered all activities implemented from September 2021 to May 2026, excluding activities that were finalised in the last month of the project cycle. The assignment itself was carried out between March and June 2026.

The primary users of this evaluation are:

- the European Union (EU) as donor and contracting authority;
- the Council of Europe Project team and the Directorate General Human Rights and Rule of Law; and
- the Turkish Constitutional Court (TCC) as the primary beneficiary.

Secondary beneficiaries include a broad range of judicial actors and institutions in Türkiye, including the Human Rights and Equality Institution of Türkiye (HREIT), the Ombudsperson Institution of Türkiye, all courts of the Turkish justice system, the Union of Turkish Bar Associations (UTBA), Bar Associations (BAs), the Justice Academy of Türkiye (JAT), the Council of Judges and Prosecutors (CJP), Ministries, Civil Society Organisations (CSOs), and wider Law Enforcement bodies.

Evaluation Methodology

The evaluation applied a theory-based, non-experimental mixed-methods approach, consistent with the Council of Europe Evaluation Guidelines, the Council of Europe Code of Conduct for Evaluations, and international evaluation standards (OECD-DAC, UNEG). A revised Theory of Change (ToC) was developed to assess the extent to which outputs

¹ See [Project website](#).

contributed to expected results through contribution analysis. All aspects of the methodology incorporated a human rights and gender-sensitive approach.

The evaluation relied on two primary data collection methods:

- **Documentation review:** An extensive review of Project documentation (progress reports, Steering Committee minutes, training evaluations) and monitoring data (activity statistics, log frame indicators) as well as external documentation (TCC annual reports, ECtHR statistics, EU progress reports on Türkiye, national reform strategies).
- **Semi-structured interviews:** A total of 34 interviews were conducted out of 40 interviews planned across primary and secondary Project beneficiaries, including Council of Europe staff, EU delegation, TCC representatives, higher courts, ministries, the Justice Academy, bar associations, trained trainers, and the HREIT. Interviews were conducted during a four-day field mission to Ankara and complemented with additional remote interviews.

Findings were triangulated across documentary and interview evidence. Qualitative interview data was analysed using thematic coding, with discrepant views triangulated against documentary evidence.

Key limitations included the unavailability of some stakeholders (the Ombudsperson Institution, CJP, and the CSO Association for Social Development and Aid Mobilization (ASAM) could not be interviewed), the politically sensitive context which may have constrained candour in some interviews, the exclusion of activities finalised in the last month of the Project, and weaknesses in log frame indicators which largely measured outputs rather than expected results. Mitigation measures included additional remote interviews, extensive triangulation with external documents, and supplementary analysis of outcome-level effects beyond log frame indicators.

Main Findings and Conclusions

Relevance

The Project was found to be highly relevant to the needs and priorities of the Council of Europe, the EU and the Turkish judiciary. Its objectives directly align with the Council of Europe's core mandate to advance fundamental rights protection, EU pre-accession priorities under the Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance, and the stated priorities of Türkiye's judicial reform agenda (notably the Human Rights Action Plan 2021 and the Fourth Judicial Reform Strategy 2025–2029). The Project addressed persistent and well-documented needs, including knowledge gaps among judicial actors caused in part by the mass dismissal of judges following the 2016 coup attempt, the absence of monitoring tools for TCC judgement execution, and recurring tensions between courts that affected the implementation of human rights rulings. Institutional ownership was particularly strong within the TCC, which actively contributed to project design and implementation. Ownership was also evident through the integration of project outputs into institutional practices and training structures.

Effectiveness

The evaluation concluded that the Project largely achieved its intended results despite operating in a complex environment. Three of the five expected results were fully achieved, while two were partially achieved:

- **Monitoring (Partially met):** The Project made a significant contribution to strengthening monitoring mechanisms for the implementation of TCC judgments, most notably through the development and deployment of a new IT-based monitoring tool. For the first time, a structured mechanism tracks implementation trends and increases transparency regarding the execution of TCC judgments. While this represents a major institutional achievement, its full embedding in the broader judiciary is yet to be seen.

- **Capacity building (Met):** The target of trained beneficiaries was met and more than 90% of participants reported increased knowledge of TCC and ECtHR case law. Participatory and simulation-based adult learning methodologies were particularly valued. The training-of-trainers approach, HELP courses and practical learning methodologies were widely regarded as effective and sustainable.
- **Addressing implementation gaps (Met):** A Roadmap for the better application of TCC judgements by ordinary courts was published, with 12 recommendations largely supported by Project activities. An internal Register on inconsistencies between TCC and ECtHR jurisprudence was established by the TCC Registry following study visits. Informal bilateral consultations between TCC and Court of Cassation rapporteurs also emerged as a direct result. In that regard, the Project contributed to restoring the working relationship between the TCC and the Court of Cassation following institutional tensions.
- **European cooperation and transfer of expertise (Partially met):** Knowledge exchange through placements at the ECtHR Registry and study visits to peer institutions proved effective at individual level. However, the target of at least 20 new institutional practices introduced as a direct result was not met (approximately 10 were documented), reflecting the time required for institutional change to be formalised.
- **Awareness raising (Met):** Outreach activities reached over 9 million views via TCC social media and communication platforms. Lectures were delivered to law students at universities, and workshops were held with public institutions. A public outreach and communication strategy was developed and endorsed.

Gender equality was meaningfully integrated into project design and overall participation rates were balanced (approximately 44–46% female). However, implementation was uneven: female representation was notably lower among judges and prosecutors, reflecting structural gender imbalances in the Turkish higher judiciary.

Although evidence strongly suggests positive effects on knowledge, cooperation and institutional practices, the evaluation finds that it is still too early to assess the full extent to which these achievements have translated into improved implementation of TCC judgments across the broader judicial system. The absence of comprehensive implementation data prior to the introduction of the new monitoring tool limits assessment of higher-level results.

Efficiency

The Project was implemented efficiently and demonstrated good value for money. The Council of Europe project team successfully managed a wide range of activities in a challenging operating environment marked by political tensions, leadership changes, elections and the 2023 earthquake. The Project demonstrated considerable flexibility by adapting workplans and implementation arrangements where necessary while maintaining overall strategic direction and achieving most intended results. The allocated budget of EUR 5.5 million was appropriate for the scale and complexity of the intervention. Synergies with previous initiatives, effective stakeholder coordination, use of online learning tools, and integration of complementary activities contributed to efficient resource utilisation.

Sustainability

The prospects for sustainability are generally positive. Several project outputs have been institutionalised, including the new IT monitoring tool, adapted HELP courses, training materials and strengthened judicial cooperation mechanisms. The strong ownership demonstrated by the TCC and other stakeholders was found to increase the likelihood that project results will continue beyond project completion. The training-of-trainers model created a pool of qualified trainers capable of continuing capacity-building efforts, while integration of materials into the Justice Academy curriculum supports longer-term sustainability.

At the same time, sustainability remains dependent on the broader institutional and political environment. Continued commitment by judicial institutions and ongoing support for judicial dialogue will be important to maintain and further develop the Project's achievements.

Main Recommendations

In light of the above finding and conclusions, the evaluation puts forward the following recommendations:

Recommendations

- **Recommendation 1 (High priority):** The Council of Europe should assess its continued support to the effective implementation of fundamental rights case law in Türkiye. While the Project was found to be highly relevant, there is room to further strengthen Türkiye's alignment with European standards. However, the complex political context constitutes a challenging environment in which to operate. The Council of Europe is well placed to continue working with the Turkish authorities to consolidate the protection of fundamental rights and could do so by continuing to implement capacity building for actors across the judiciary, including lawyers, supporting the judicial dialogue especially among the higher courts, and raising awareness among judicial actors and the wider public.
- **Recommendation 2 (High priority):** The Council of Europe should continue working with the TCC and other project stakeholders to further mainstream gender considerations in Project activities beyond disaggregated data collection. This could mean including additional stakeholders with specialist gender equality expertise (e.g. CSOs, academics and women's rights centres of Bar Association) in the planning, implementation and monitoring of activities, and/or including dedicated activities or publications focusing on gender issues. For instance, these could cover gender equality in light of the ECHR, a case law guide on gender equality in light of ECtHR judgements, and gender-sensitive guides for terms and concepts frequently used in the judicial system.
- **Recommendation 3 (Medium priority):** A detailed risk assessment should be conducted at the start of any subsequent project on fundamental rights in Türkiye to assess the project feasibility in such a complex political context and to establish a framework enabling the Project team to respond flexibly and promptly to changing circumstances. This could include considerations regarding the involvement of relevant stakeholders (e.g. CSOs), risks and challenges to their effective involvement and potential mitigation measures so as to help prepare the Project team for any potential developments impacting implementation.
- **Recommendation 4 (Medium priority):** The Council of Europe should continue strengthening the results-oriented approach to reporting results in future projects, so that both indicators and data collection efforts allow the measurement of change. This could include engaging in-house expertise to review the initial project log frame and make any required adjustments to the proposed indicators so as to better link them to expected results and accurately measure change. In addition, consistent use of terminology across project documentation should be ensured.
- **Recommendation 5 (Medium priority):** The Council of Europe should ensure that the volume and scope of planned activities in future projects are carefully calibrated against the proposed implementation context and timeline. Future projects should maintain the built-in flexibility in both budget and timeline to account for operational realities. They could further incorporate structured scheduling margins that allow the project team to absorb implementation setbacks without compromising quality

or completeness of delivery, thereby reducing reliance on no-cost extensions as a corrective mechanism.

- **Recommendation 6 (*High priority*):** The Council of Europe should consider encouraging and supporting the TCC and partner institutions in converting informal judicial dialogue networks into structured, institutionalised arrangements – such as formal agreements, joint working groups, or regular inter-court protocols – to reduce reliance on personal relationships and mitigate risks posed by leadership transitions. This would be especially beneficial between the TCC and the Court of Cassation, and could include both the technical as well as the higher leadership level.

1 Introduction

This document constitutes the Revised Draft Final Report prepared by the Centre for Strategy and Evaluation Services (CSES) for the Final evaluation of the European Union/ Council of Europe Project ‘Supporting the Effective Implementation of Turkish Constitutional Court Judgements in the Field of Fundamental Rights’ (hereafter ‘the Project’), also referred to as SIAC II.

1.1 Purpose and scope of the evaluation

The purpose of this assignment was to provide an independent end-of-project evaluation with the main objective of identifying lessons learned from project implementation for potential future projects. To achieve this objective, the evaluation assessed the Project scope and objectives, before providing a detailed examination of the Project deliverables (‘outputs’) and achieved results (‘outcomes’) indicated in the logical framework. In addition, the evaluation looked at the project design and identified strengths and weaknesses which may have affected the project’s success.

The evaluation scope covered all activities implemented within the Project from September 2021 until May 2026, excluding activities that were finalised in the last month of the project cycle. The assignment itself was carried out between March and June 2026.

This evaluation was foreseen as part of the funding agreement signed between the Council of Europe and the EU. The primary users of the evaluation are the EU as donor, the Council of Europe Project team, as well as the management of the Council of Europe Directorate General Human Rights and Rule of Law, and the main beneficiary of the Project, namely the Turkish Constitutional Court (TCC). In addition, secondary project beneficiaries benefitting from this evaluation include institutions in the realm of human rights in Türkiye, including the Human Rights and Equality Institution of Türkiye (HREIT), the Ombudsperson Institution of Türkiye, the Grand National Assembly of Türkiye, all courts of the Turkish justice system, the Union of Turkish Bar Associations (UTBA), Bar Associations (BAs), the Justice Academy of Türkiye (JAT), the Council of Judges and Prosecutors (CJP), Ministries, Civil Society Organisations (CSOs), and wider Law Enforcement bodies.

1.2 Methodological approach

The project was assessed against questions under the evaluation criteria of relevance, effectiveness, efficiency and sustainability, as summarised below:

- **Relevance** – i) To what extent do the Project objectives reflect the needs of Türkiye as defined by national strategies, policies, etc.? ii) To what extent was the ownership by institutional project partners ensured?
- **Effectiveness** – i) To what extent has the Project achieved its expected results? What have been the reasons for achievement and lack thereof? ii) To what extent has gender been mainstreamed in Project design and implementation?
- **Efficiency** – To what extent could alternative working methods have led to the achievement of comparable or better results with fewer resources?
- **Sustainability** – i) To what extent can it be expected that the TCC and all relevant stakeholders will continue to use the outcomes of the Project? ii) What is the likelihood that the benefits from the intervention will be maintained in the short-term (3-5 years) after the end of the Project? What would be required to ensure the sustainability of the results?

The evaluation framework comprised an evaluation matrix (Appendix A) and a theory of change (ToC) outlining the effects that the Project aimed to achieve (Appendix B). The evaluation matrix links the key evaluation questions relating to relevance, effectiveness, efficiency and sustainability to selected Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) and data sources.

All aspects of the methodology incorporated a human rights and gender-sensitive approach. The methodology is consistent with the Council of Europe Evaluation Guidelines² and the Council of Europe Code of Conduct for Evaluations³ while taking due account of international evaluation standards such as OECD-DAC and the United Nations Evaluation Group (UNEG) norms and standards.

The evaluation took a theory-based, non-experimental mixed-methods approach. This consisted of reviewing the ToC based on the Project's log frame and assessing the extent to which change had happened compared to the way it was expected to happen through contribution analysis. For that purpose, the evaluation relied on an extensive review of project documentation (see Appendix G) and a total of 34 semi-structured interviews conducted through a 4-day field mission to Ankara (13-16 April 2026, see Appendix H for the Mission programme) and remotely with different stakeholder groups (see Table 1 below). Qualitative interviews were analysed using a thematic coding approach that further coded feedback by evaluation dimension. Discrepant views were triangulated with project and external documentation and followed up in subsequent interviews where relevant. A full stakeholder map outlining the key role of each stakeholder group is provided in Appendix C.

Table 1: Overview of the interview programme

Stakeholder group	Target	Completed
Council of Europe project and management team	5	5 ⁴
Council of Europe staff (HQ and field office)	3	5 ⁵
European Union	2	1
Constitutional Court of Türkiye	6	7 ⁶
Selected courts of the Turkish justice system (Court of Cassation, Council of State, Regional Courts of Justice)	3	3 ⁷
Ministry of Justice (and other Ministries, e.g. Ministry of Foreign Affairs)	2	3 ⁸
Union of Turkish Bar Association	1	2
Human Rights and Equality Institution of Türkiye	1	2
Ombudsperson Institution of Türkiye	1	-
Justice Academy of Türkiye	3	2
Council of Judges and Prosecutors	1	-
Bar Associations	5	4
Civil Society Organisations (ASAM ⁹)	1	-
Trained trainers	6	Integrated above
Total	40	34

² See [Council of Europe Evaluation Guidelines](#).

³ See [Council of Europe Code of Conduct for Evaluation](#)

⁴ Including members of the Project team in the Council of Europe office in Ankara and in the Türkiye Unit (DGI) in the Council of Europe headquarters in Strasbourg.

⁵ Including the Registry of the European Court of Human Rights, the Department of Execution of Judgments, the HELP team within the Council of Europe.

⁶ Including 3 interviews with Administration SG, the IT Department and the Press Department, and additional ones with placed rapporteurs.

⁷ One with each Court.

⁸ Two with the Ministry of Justice and one with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

⁹ Association for Social Development and Aid Mobilization (ASAM).

The sampling approach was designed with the support of the Project team and focused on ensuring a balanced representation among stakeholder groups engaged in the Project, as listed in the Description of Action (DoA) and finally involved throughout Project implementation. This included most of the stakeholders listed in the DoA as well as various relevant departments of key entities such as the Council of Europe (i.e. Registry of the ECtHR, the Department of Execution of Judgments, the HELP team) and the TCC (i.e. interviews with the Administration SG, the IT Department and the Press Department), and various ministries (i.e. Ministry of Justice and Ministry of Foreign Affairs). However, the Grand National Assembly of Türkiye was not included as it finally did not actively participate in the Project, and only one CSO was suggested due to the lack of meaningful involvement of others. Trained trainers from across stakeholders were selected to provide an extensive view on acquired knowledge. Regarding geographic coverage, a field trip to Ankara with additional remote interviews was considered to provide sufficient coverage given that the key judicial and institutional stakeholders (i.e. the TCC, the Court of Cassation and the relevant Ministries) are based there and that remote interviews allowed for consultation with stakeholders based elsewhere.

Finally, the recommendations were developed by the evaluation team based on the findings and conclusions of the evaluation, and feedback was provided by Project team and the Directorate of Internal Oversight of the Council of Europe. The final recommendations have integrated this feedback.

1.3 Limitations encountered and mitigation measures

A number of limitations have to some extent influenced the evaluation.

First, the evaluators did not get the chance to speak to all stakeholders initially envisioned to take part in the evaluation. While the team managed to speak to a large number of project beneficiaries in-person during the field trip, some stakeholders were not available during the trip or afterwards which meant that potentially not all views have been taken into account in the assessment. Nevertheless, the team carried out some additional interviews remotely to mitigate this, namely with the Court of Cassation and with an additional trained lawyer from the Edirne Bar Association. Yet, neither representatives of the Ombudsperson Institution, the CJP or the CSO Association for Social Development and Aid Mobilization (ASAM) were available for an interview (see Table 1 above).

Interviews were conducted with simultaneous interpretation to facilitate stakeholder participation. Nevertheless, given the political context in Türkiye, it may still have been the case that some interviewees, especially those from official institutions and higher courts, did not feel able to share their views freely. To mitigate this, the evaluators paid special attention to the review of both project as well as external documentation to triangulate findings and cross-reference any views with other data sources.

Furthermore, the assessment of the project so close to completion means that activities implemented in the last month of the project cycle were not within scope. While this was agreed with the Project team ahead of the evaluation (see previous section), it means that certain aspects such as the full utilisation of resources and the overall outcomes of the Project can only be partially assessed. In addition, some effects of the Project may take time to materialise further, making it difficult to observe and to consider them already at this stage. The evaluation did not assess the impact of the Project as this was not in scope¹⁰.

Finally, deficiencies in the log frame design and the choice of some indicators resulted in some data gaps, in particular in relation to the measurement of expected results ('outcomes'). Indicators in the log frame remain very much at output level, i.e. 'number of recommendations issued' rather than 'recommendations implemented' and 'number of respondents targeted by the campaign' rather than 'number of respondents reached'. As such, some outcome level

¹⁰ The evaluation did not assess the Project impact, though we included a high-level assessment of impact indicators as mentioned in the Project log frame in Appendix E as available to date for reference.

effects of the Project were not recorded. To mitigate this, the evaluators triangulated findings with external documentation where available and complemented the assessment with further evidence as outlined in the evaluation questions matrix.

1.4 Structure of the final report

The report is structured as follows:

- **Section 1: Introduction** – overview of the evaluation purpose, scope, and methodology, including limitations and mitigation measures.
- **Section 2: Background to the Project** – overview of the key features of the Project and the context in which it was implemented.
- **Section 3: Key evaluation findings** – an assessment of how the Project performed in relation to the four evaluation criteria.
- **Section 4: Conclusions and recommendations** – the conclusions and resulting recommendations and lessons learnt of the evaluation of the Project.

2 Project Overview

This section presents the main components of the Project.

The project ‘Supporting the Effective Implementation of Turkish Constitutional Court Judgements in the Field of Fundamental Rights’¹¹ aimed to contribute to the effective implementation of European standards in the field of human rights, including gender equality. More specifically, it aimed to ensure: (i) the effective implementation of TCC judgements in the field of human rights within the scope of the individual application mechanism; and (ii) better awareness of relevant stakeholders on TCC case law and the individual application mechanism.

The Project had an initial duration of 48 months (16 September 2021 to 16 September 2025) and was granted a nine-month no-cost extension to run until 16 June 2026 (57 months in total). The total budget was EUR 5,500,000. It was co-funded by the EU (90%) and the Council of Europe (10%) and implemented by the Council of Europe.

The Project builds on the project ‘Supporting the individual application to the Constitutional Court in Turkey’¹² (SIAC I) implemented by the Council of Europe and the EU between December 2015 and September 2019. This project aimed to contribute to supporting and strengthening the individual application system to the TCC – which had recently been introduced – by empowering the judiciary in Türkiye to act in line with the *acquis*, the rights and freedoms guaranteed under the system of the European Convention of Human Rights (ECHR).

The Project implemented a wide range of activities including capacity building and awareness raising, as well as monitoring, coordination and communication. The full list of activities is presented in Box 1 below. The ToC outlining the key outputs and explaining how the project intended to lead to change is presented in Appendix B.

Box 1: Overview of Project activities

- Act. 1.1: A **comparative study** with recommendations on the organisation of execution of judgements in European constitutional courts and the ECtHR;
- Act. 1.2: **Improvement of the existing IT platform and development of an IT Tool** and a data collection mechanism on the execution of TCC judgements;
- Act. 1.3: **12 Working group meetings** on methods for assessment of the effectiveness of the individual application system;
- Act. 2.1: **20 round tables** with the TCC, the Regional Courts of Appeals, and the Court of Cassation and the Court of State on specific issues related to individual application judgements;
- Act. 2.2: **30 training seminars** for lawyers and civil society on the TCC’s case law, admissibility of application before the TCC and issues related to the execution of the TCC judgements;
- Act. 2.3: **30 training sessions** for judges of courts of general jurisdiction and prosecutors on the ECHR and the TCC case law in selected areas;
- Act. 2.4: **Translation and adaptation of at least 2 HELP distance-learning courses** relevant to the issues identified in the TCC case law and organising at least 6 tutored courses;
- Act. 2.5: Development of a **training methodology** for continuous training of legal professionals on the execution of TCC judgements;
- Act. 2.6: **8 training-of-trainers (ToT) sessions** on the use of the methodology for continuous training on the execution of TCC judgements;
- Act. 2.7: **6 coordination meetings with Bar associations and the UTBA** on the development

¹¹ See [project website](#).

¹² See [project website](#).

of communication and visibility methodology to foster communication between lawyers and TCC;

- Act. 3.1: Development of a **roadmap for better application of the TCC judgements** by ordinary courts;
- Act. 3.2: **Qualitative assessment of the TCC case law's impact** on Türkiye's ECHR compliance, including a Strategy paper for necessary changes to be drafted and communication to all relevant stakeholders (one expert report);
- Act. 3.3: **14 roundtables for the TCC** with the participation of lawyers from the ECtHR Registry on ensuring the consistency of case-law;
- Act. 3.4: **Expert report on the best European practices** of reducing case-law backlog (including in constitutional and international courts);
- Act. 3.5: **2 Study visits of the TCC Secretariat** responsible for case management solutions to the ECtHR;
- Act. 4.1: **3-month placements for 60 rapporteurs/ relevant experts of the TCC Secretariat** to the ECtHR Registry, the Department for the Execution of Judgements of the ECtHR, the CPT, the Venice Commission and other CoE bodies and institutes in EU member states;
- Act. 4.2: **7 study visits** of TCC judges and Secretariat and representatives of different stakeholders to the CoE and peer institution in the EU;
- Act. 4.3: **Participation of TCC judges and rapporteurs to different thematic study visits** and international events (on selected aspects of the ECHR);
- Act. 4.4: **4 conferences on selected matters** related to the implementation of the TCC and the ECtHR judgements in Türkiye with the participation of the ECtHR judges and Registry lawyers;
- Act. 5.1: **Awareness-raising campaign** on the role and mandate of the TCC and its impact as a key institution for human rights protection in Türkiye, including the necessary changes in the legislation and administrative practices;
- Act. 5.2: **30 lectures for law faculty students** on human rights issues raised in the TCC judgements and the state of their remedy through legislation and/or administrative and judicial practices;
- Act. 5.3: Development of public outreach and **communication strategy and guidelines**;
- Act. 5.4: **10 workshops for the press officers** of the TCC and general jurisdiction courts on public outreach¹³;
- Act. 5.5: **20 workshops with public institutions**, where relevant, CSOs, involved in the execution of the TCC judgement or dissemination of information on the TCC and its case law.

Source: Description of Action

¹³ Activity 5.4 was finally removed from the DoA with Addendum 2, as press offices at Courthouses do not exist anymore. See Appendix D.

3 Key evaluation findings

This section presents the key evaluation findings for the Project assessment in relation to the criteria of relevance (3.1), effectiveness (3.2), efficiency (3.3) and sustainability (3.4).

3.1 Relevance

This section examines the extent to which the project was aligned with Türkiye's needs and priorities, as outlined in national strategies and priorities. It further assesses the extent to which the Project ensured ownership by institutional project partners.

To what extent do the Project objectives reflect the needs of Türkiye as defined by national strategies, policies etc.?

The project demonstrates a high degree of relevance across multiple dimensions: to the mandate of the Council of Europe, to EU pre-accession priorities, and to the needs of the Turkish judiciary and legal system more broadly.

Relevance to the Council of Europe and the European Union

The project's objectives are directly aligned with the Council of Europe's core mandate to advance the protection and effective enjoyment of fundamental rights. Indeed, the project objectives are closely aligned with the ECtHR, which guarantees the right to an effective remedy before a national authority (Art. 13), and is an important pillar of the cooperation between Türkiye and the Council of Europe¹⁴. In addition, more than one third of applications currently pending before the ECtHR concern Türkiye, a proportion projected to rise to fifty percent in the coming years¹⁵. The Project further addresses issues consistently highlighted by the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe since it placed Türkiye under monitoring procedure in 2017, such as, most recently, the need to urgently improve conditions for the rule of law, judicial independence, and compliance with court judgements¹⁶.

The Project is also in line with EU pre-accession priorities and is funded under the Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance. Rule of law reform and judicial independence have been identified as negotiating priorities since 2008¹⁷. The Project addresses longstanding calls to strengthen judicial interpretation of human rights standards in line with the ECHR and ECtHR case law, and further supports the creation of a political and legal environment that upholds judicial independence, strengthens the separation of powers, and ensures lower courts respect TCC rulings in line with ECtHR case law, as outlined in European Commission progress reports 2022, 2023, and 2024, and the EU's Revised Indicative Strategy Paper for 2014-2020. Nevertheless, the 2025 European Commission Enlargement Report highlighted that serious concerns persist regarding judicial independence, executive influence over the judiciary, and failures to implement Constitutional Court judgements.

Relevance to the Turkish needs and context

The Project is highly relevant and well-aligned with the priorities and needs of Türkiye's judicial system, the TCC as primary beneficiary and other judicial actors. Despite constitutional safeguards, political pressures and knowledge gaps continue to limit the ability of the judiciary to comply with European standards¹⁸. Lower courts have, on several occasions, delayed compliance with or disregarded rulings issued by the TCC, as was the case concerning Atalay in 2023, where the Court of Cassation refused to comply with the TCC's ruling (see box below). In addition, the large-scale dismissal of judges following the

¹⁴ ROM Report 2022

¹⁵ Stakeholder feedback

¹⁶ PACE Resolution of the 10th of October 2023

¹⁷ Council Decision 2008/157/EC of 18 February 2008 on the principles, priorities and conditions contained in the Accession Partnership with the Republic of Turkey and repealing Decision 2006/35/EC, OJ L 51, 4, Annex.

¹⁸ ROM Report 2024, stakeholder feedback.

coup attempt in Türkiye in 2016 and their replacement with new appointees lacking experience in human rights law resulted in a significant knowledge gap in the judicial system. Thus, Project activities aimed at building and strengthening the capacity of judicial actors, including judges, prosecutors and lawyers, responded to the wider needs of the sector, as stressed by all interviewees consulted. Across judicial actors, lawyers, trainers, and institutional representatives, interviewees consistently identified a need to strengthen awareness, understanding, and practical application of the jurisprudence of both the TCC and the ECtHR. Training activities were regarded as particularly relevant for first-instance courts and legal professionals outside major urban centres, where practical gaps in admissibility requirements, rights-based reasoning, and use of ECtHR and TCC case law were most acute¹⁹.

Box 2: Can Atalay Case (2023)

Human rights lawyer Can Atalay was sentenced to 18 years in prison in connection with the Gezi Park protest trial. While his appeal was ongoing, he was elected to parliament in May 2023, which under Turkish law should have entitled him to have his sentence suspended.

When the lower court refused to release him, his lawyers appealed to the TCC, which ruled in October 2023 that his constitutional right to be elected had been violated and ordered his immediate release. However, instead of following the TCC's ruling, the lower court refused to implement the ruling and referred the case to the Court of Cassation, which sought to revoke Atalay's immunity and filed criminal charges against TCC members. The case is currently pending before the ECtHR²⁰.

The case provoked condemnation from opposition parties, legal experts, and bar associations, who characterised the Court of Cassation's actions – ruling differently to the TCC – as an attempt to undermine the constitutional order.

Successful implementation of TCC rulings is further dependent on the political will and the collaboration between the TCC and other judicial bodies. In that sense, the Project fostered communication among judicial actors from across the sector, and facilitated dialogue also among the highest courts, despite political tensions. By bringing together judicial actors to discuss topics at technical level, the Project contributed to fostering communication and a shared understanding of human rights protection, helping to overcome tensions between high courts²¹. Interviewees from the TCC placed great value in such exchanges and considered the ongoing dialogue paramount to effective implementation.

The introduction of the individual application mechanism to the TCC provides a domestic remedy for rights and freedoms under the ECtHR, though challenges in the implementation of these rulings continue to constrain its effectiveness. Therefore, activities addressing the monitoring of implementation such as with dedicated IT tools were seen as directly relevant by TCC stakeholders consulted. Such activities further help to identify whether TCC judgements are effectively executed by lower courts and public authorities, detecting recurring patterns of non-compliance, and providing data on the practical impact of TCC case-law²². In addition, the large portion of the TCC's workload relating to applications concerning the right to a fair trial (80%) – and in particular the right to a trial within a reasonable time (74%) – signals a major knowledge gap, also addressed by some of the project activities carried out²³.

More broadly, the Project largely aligns with Türkiye's national judicial reform agenda.

For example, the Human Rights Action Plan, adopted by the Turkish government in March 2021, sets out a range of measures to ensure better implementation of judgements of the TCC and the ECtHR, and to improve awareness on human rights matters among the public, administration officials and legal professionals, among others. Similarly, the Fourth Judicial Reform Strategy 2025–2029 presents the protection and promotion of human rights as a key

¹⁹ Stakeholder feedback.

²⁰ ECtHR, *Şerafettin Can Atalay against Türkiye*, Application no. 11503/24.

²¹ This was also supported by a change in leadership in both Courts, see effectiveness section.

²² Stakeholder feedback.

²³ ROM Report 2024.

priority and seeks “to enhance awareness on human rights and ensure more effective protection of rights.” Its first target is to “strengthen judicial independence and impartiality” and “reinforce legal remedies”²⁴.

However, national reform documents remain largely unspecific regarding implementation of TCC decisions, and the political commitment underpinning these stated priorities is uneven. Several judicial practitioners noted that while the Project effectively addresses the technical and institutional dimensions of non-implementation, deeper structural factors – including concerns about judicial independence and executive influence over the judiciary – also constrain the effectiveness of implementation. These, however, lie beyond the project's remit.

To what extent was the ownership by institutional project partners ensured?

Institutional ownership of the project is assessed as strong at the technical and professional level, particularly with the TCC as primary beneficiary. The TCC was actively involved in the Project design and implementation, and contributed to shaping and finalising some of the activities, including by suggesting roundtable topics, amendments to meeting agendas and approaches to achieving results²⁵.

Notably, the Project was perceived by all stakeholders consulted as a collaborative process in which they participated meaningfully in implementation and, in some cases, also in the design phase. For example, representatives of the Justice Academy and judicial focal points confirmed that courts and national institutions were actively involved in tailoring training activities, selecting thematic priorities, and adapting materials to the Turkish legal context²⁶. This was the case also of the Union of the Bar Association, who contributed to tailoring the training content and topics to the needs of specific legal professionals, using relevant case law from the TCC and ECtHR²⁷. This ownership is further evidenced by the integration of project-developed training materials into the Justice Academy's regular curriculum, the incorporation of HELP modules into existing judicial education structures, and the co-development of the IT tool under the institutional stewardship of the TCC.

Beyond the TCC, the Project planned to engage institutional stakeholders to a different extent across the Project activities, which resulted in differing levels of involvement. Overall, judicial bodies such as the Judicial Academy, the HREI and the Ombudsman showed great level of commitment with the Project, as evidenced by their active participation in project activities. Judicial practitioners including judges, prosecutors and lawyers expressed a strong interest in improving their understanding of human rights standards and applying the jurisprudence of the ECtHR and the TCC²⁸. At higher level, the engagement was less consistent, as the Court of Cassation declined to participate in joint activities with the TCC during periods of institutional tension²⁹. While the Project team maintained continuous communication with project stakeholders, only some took part in quarterly Project Steering Committees, including the EU Delegation, the Council of Europe and the TCC, which reduced their opportunity to actively input into the implementation phase.

²⁴ See *Judicial Reform Strategy, Century of Türkiye, Century of Justice*, 33, <https://cdn.uyap.gov.tr/yrsportal/strategydocument/lwTey8la/VWeqh7C5q.pdf>

²⁵ ROM Report 1281 (2024), stakeholder feedback.

²⁶ Stakeholder feedback.

²⁷ ROM Report 1281 (2024).

²⁸ ROM Report 2024, stakeholder feedback

²⁹ ROM Report 2024.

3.2 Effectiveness

This section outlines the extent to which the Project managed to achieve its intended effects. In doing so, a distinction is drawn between Project ‘outputs’ (deliverables), ‘expected results’ (intended effects/outcomes), and ‘impacts’ (higher-level objectives)³⁰. The analysis focuses on how Project outputs contributed to expected Project results.

To what extent has the Project achieved its expected results? What have been reasons for achievement and lack thereof?

The Project has been largely successful in achieving its stated expected results as described in the ToC. This has been the case across all five intended results, albeit to varying extents.

The assessment was based on triangulation of project documentation and interview feedback, which made it possible to assess progress towards the indicators, expected results and targets achieved as detailed in the project log frame and evaluation matrix. The assessment suggests that three out of five expected results have been achieved in full while the other two have been partially met (see Table 2). Below we analyse the extent to which each of the five expected results has been achieved and the contributing factors. Appendix E provides a detailed assessment of the achievement of individual expected result, in line with the log frame indicators and targets.

Table 2: Overview of achieved expected results

Expected results	Assessment
Expected result 1: Monitoring mechanism for execution of judgements of the TCC is strengthened in line with the EU best practices, and the stakeholder platform has improved monitoring.	Partially met
Expected result 2: Judges, prosecutors, relevant public officers and lawyers are aware of the case law of the ECtHR and TCC and able to implement those judgements in similar cases.	Met
Expected result 3: Inadequate implementation of TCC judgements and other systemic human rights lacunas detected via TCC’s case law are effectively addressed	Met
Expected result 4: The transfer of the EU expertise and cooperation between Turkish courts and relevant stakeholders with the European and Member States institutions/courts, and the European Court of Human Rights are enhanced	Partially met
Expected result 5: Awareness of the general public and public institutions on the role of the TCC in the protection of fundamental rights through its judgements is increased	Met

Source: Own assessment based on triangulation of findings

Expected result 1: Monitoring mechanism for execution of judgements of the TCC is strengthened in line with EU best practices, and the stakeholder platform has improved monitoring.

The high-level monitoring of the execution of TCC judgements has been strengthened, mainly through the implementation of improvements to the functioning of the TCC’s monitoring unit, as well as through a set of concrete tools for judgement monitoring by

³⁰ Individual effects expected at outcome level are referred to as ‘expected results’ in the ToC, though they are also referred to as ‘outputs/expected results’ in the DoA and the progress reports. For consistency and clarity, the evaluators have chosen to refer to them as ‘expected results’ throughout the evaluation. The term ‘outcomes’ is only used to refer to all ‘expected results’ at aggregate level, in line with the use made in the ToC (see Appendix B). This includes both ‘immediate outcomes’ and ‘intermediate outcomes’ commonly used in Council of Europe evaluations.

the TCC. A Comparative Study³¹ produced by the Project put forward a set of recommendations on how the TCC could improve the functioning of its monitoring unit based on best practices of European courts, namely the German and Spanish constitutional courts, and the ECtHR.

Of the nine key recommendations, at least seven have been implemented (see Appendix E). For example:

- **Recommendation 2** suggested more streamlined judicial decision-making in cases where constitutional standards are well established, among others by introducing friendly settlement and unilateral declaration procedures, empowering TCC Sections to quickly resolve individual applications. In response, the TCC established a compensation commission in March 2024, which created a legal remedy for individuals to submit compensation claims to the TCC for violations of the right to a trial within a reasonable time³².
- **Recommendation 8** suggested the collection and publication of information on the enforcement and implementation of judgements. Since, the TCC has produced several thematic publications, for example on property right, and has made information on the enforcement and implementation of its judgements available through a new IT Tool³³.

Besides, the Project has contributed to making improvements to the existing IT platform and helped develop a new IT Tool for tracking and analysing the execution of TCC judgements, which was formally rolled out in April 2026.³⁴ Representing one of the Project's most institutionalised outputs, the new IT Tool introduced a structured and publicly accessible mechanism for tracking implementation trends related to TCC judgements for the first time in Türkiye.

TCC stakeholders reported the new Tool will make TCC judgements easily available to the relevant courts, and will help keep records of the steps taken by courts and public bodies responsible for execution. Notably, before the Project, there were no publicly available statistics on the implementation of individual application judgements. The new IT Tool fills this gap by strengthening the TCC's existing database within the remit of its mandate, serving as a long-term transparency and monitoring mechanism. The strategic value of the tool is further reinforced by the fact that the IT Tool has been co-created - and is owned - by the TCC. This has been reported as an important factor for institutionally embedding the Tool in the TCC. However, as it was only recently launched, the extent to which it will be embedded into the working arrangements of the broader Turkish judiciary and incorporate gender segregated data also for individual application statistics remains to be seen.

Expected result 2: Judges, prosecutors, relevant public officers and lawyers are aware of the case law of the ECtHR and the TCC and are able to implement those judgements in similar cases.

The Project contributed to increasing the level of knowledge of relevant Turkish stakeholders to understand and apply the case law of the TCC and the ECtHR. A total of 4,067 judges, prosecutors, lawyers and other judicial stakeholders were reached through round tables (Act 2.1), training sessions (Act 2.2, 2.3, 2.6), and the adapted HELP e-learning courses (Act 2.4). Combined with the number of students reached through the Project (3,289), this means that the Project exceeded its target of 5,000 members of the judiciary to be trained³⁵. Data shared by the Project team shows that over 90% of training participants

³¹ Comparative Study on the Organisation of Judgements of the German and Spanish Constitutional Courts and the European Court of Human rights (Act 1.1), completed and presented in 2022. The study identified best practices that promote the implementation of human rights standards in European constitutional courts and provided the Turkish Constitutional Court with a set of recommendations on how to improve the functioning of its monitoring unit based on identified best practices.

³² This required amendment of the Law on the Constitutional Court. See: Log frame Results September 2025.

³³ Thematic publications are available on <https://www.anayasa.gov.tr/tr/yayinlar/diger-yayinlar/>

³⁴ Stakeholder feedback.

³⁵ Description of Action, Project documentation (SIAC2 - Activity-Statistics-Participants Oriented)

reported that the training increased their knowledge on the case law, nature and execution of TCC and ECtHR judgements throughout 2022 to 2025³⁶.

Trained trainers interviewed for this evaluation consistently praised the trainings delivered under the Project for their quality, reach and relevance. In particular, the use of participatory, simulation-based training methodologies rooted in adult learning principles was highlighted as very effective in building lasting knowledge on real TCC and ECtHR judgements by trainers, as was the use of practical examples and case-law discussions in translating legal theory into applied knowledge. Similarly, the two HELP courses translated and adapted under the Project were reportedly widely used by stakeholders, including before in-person sessions to improve understanding of technical topics³⁷. Indeed, in-person sessions, specialised training and accessible learning materials were highlighted as important factors supporting the effectiveness of the training sessions delivered³⁸. Box 3 below provides some examples from stakeholders on how they benefited from the training sessions and how they apply the learnings in practice.

Box 3: Examples of applied Project learnings

- A regional court judge stated that his understanding of the right to property had been expanded to include insolvency through the Training of Trainers (ToT) sessions. He reflected that he might have ruled differently in the past and would certainly do so in the future. The right to property has been the second most common right brought up in TCC IA judgements since 2020.
- A lawyer reported there was a huge interest in the technical implementation of human rights in Türkiye among lawyers since 2016, but limited understanding of the relatively new individual application mechanism. Her training sessions focused on how to file an individual application form and access relevant TCC case law. Since then, trainees have reportedly felt confident in their ability to file individual applications with the TCC, or they have contacted her for advice.
- Another lawyer shared that she has applied the adult learning methodology from the ToT sessions in her work as a trainer in the Project and beyond, noting that she now delivers private training sessions on fundamental rights, constitutional rights, and the individual application mechanism to lawyers and interns at Bar associations.

Source: Stakeholder feedback

The training format fostered wider knowledge exchange beyond the individual activities and helped support the implementation of knowledge in practice. In that sense, the training of trainer's cascade model targeting both lawyers (Act. 2.2) and judges and prosecutors (Act. 2.3) contributed to building a pool of specialised trainers on topics such as property rights, the right to a fair trial, and the right to life. This approach proved beneficial for both trainers and trainees: trainees gained greater awareness of TCC and ECtHR case law relevant to their work, as well as informal contacts they could consult on individual applications in future, while trainers strengthened both their expertise on specific rights and their adult training skills, which they could apply beyond the Project³⁹.

In addition, the Project contributed to strengthening judicial dialogue across courts and at the highest level by bringing together stakeholders in regional roundtables. By creating a platform for communication and exchanges between stakeholders across the judicial sector, the Project played a sustained facilitation role that helped resume relations

³⁶ Project Log frame September 2025. Feedback reported through pre- and post-training test performances and feedback forms.

³⁷ The original HELP e-learning courses selected to be translated and adapted for the Project were a HELP Course on "Judicial Reasoning and Human Rights" and "Hate Crimes and Hate Speech", though the latter was swapped for "Ethics for Judges, Prosecutors, and Lawyers" due to internal delays updating the course on Hate Crimes and Hate Speech in the Council of Europe HELP Department. In addition, the Project facilitated the participation of 188 judges and prosecutors in 5 HELP course launched between September 2024 and September 2025, in close cooperation with the Justice Academy of Türkiye and the Council of Europe HELP Division.

³⁸ Stakeholder feedback.

³⁹ Stakeholder feedback, internal training evaluations.

between the TCC and the Court of Cassation, a substantial challenge to the implementation of TCC judgements in recent years⁴⁰. Indeed, the roundtables helped reinforce the binding force of TCC judgements after tensions between both courts following the politicised third *Can Atalay* judgement in 2023 (see relevance section)⁴¹. The Project not only brought representatives of both courts together again, ensuring continuity of engagement, but also, through the revised roundtable format, enabled a public statement by the Court of Cassation President in Diyarbakir calling on judges to implement TCC decisions in line with the Constitution⁴². This signalled a shift in the Court of Cassation's attitude towards the TCC and publicly reaffirmed the TCC's authority to the judiciary and the wider Turkish public. This change in attitude was made possible, among others, by the change in leadership in both the TCC and the Court of Cassation, and was facilitated by the flexibility of the project team who resumed activities between both courts once they saw the opportunity to do so⁴³. In this regard, the facilitation role of the Project team in maintaining the dialogue at technical level between the TCC and the Court of Cassation in periods of institutional tensions was an enabling factor for enhanced judicial dialogue.

The extent to which increased technical capacity and awareness led to greater implementation of relevant TCC case law in similar cases is less clear. Until the recent implementation of the IT tool, there was no publicly available database that tracked the implementation of TCC or ECtHR judgements on fundamental rights, and stakeholders were not able to comment on the extent to which this would have been facilitated through the Project. Available data shows that the total number of pending cases against Türkiye before the Committee of Ministers fell by 28.7% during the Project lifetime, while new leading cases declined only slightly, from 149 in 2020 to 143 in 2025⁴⁴. The Project's contribution to these changes remains difficult to fully assess at this stage, and additional time is needed to observe and assess developments beyond the Project lifetime.

Expected result 3: Inadequate implementation of TCC judgements and other serious human rights lacunas detected via TCC's case law and effectively addressed.

The Project is likely to have contributed to the improved implementation of TCC judgements in the field of human rights by detecting and addressing issues with the execution of TCC judgements, though evidence remains high-level. As widely reported by stakeholders from the different High Courts⁴⁵ in Türkiye, the Project managed to increase the understanding of TCC judgements among the judiciary and set out a clear path to action with the publication of the 'Roadmap for Better Application of Judgements of the TCC' (Act. 3.1). The roadmap issued 12 broad recommendations for better TCC judgement application in ordinary courts, for which implementation was largely supported by Project activities. For example:

- **Recommendation 1 ('Ensure that the formulation of matters specifically required for execution is sufficiently clear and specific')** was addressed through study visits and placements (Act. 3.5, 4.1-4.4), as well as the new IT tool (Act. 1.1) which monitors the implementation of TCC judgements.
- **Recommendation 2 ('Raise awareness of the specific requirements for execution in judgements through press releases and social media')** was supported through the

⁴⁰ Stakeholder feedback

⁴¹ Şerafettin Can Atalay (2) [Plenary], no. 2023/53898, 25 October 2023

⁴² This speech received wide media coverage in Turkey. See Emre Basaran (20 October 2025). Supreme Court President Kerkez: When the Constitutional Court issues a ruling on a violation, the entire judiciary must comply. Euronews. Available at: <https://tr.euronews.com/2025/10/20/yargitay-baskani-kerkez-aym-bir-ihlal-karari-verdiginde-tum-yargi-uymali>

⁴³ Stakeholder feedback

⁴⁴ Council of Europe Committee of Ministers (2025). 19th Annual Report of the Committee of Ministers. Available at: <https://www.coe.int/en/web/execution/annual-report-2025>

⁴⁵ High Courts refers to the Turkish Constitutional Court, the Court of Cassation, and the Council of State.

outreach and communication strategy developed under Act. 5.1-5.5.

The Project also put forward a set of 15 recommendations related to the case law backlog through a further expert report (Act. 3.4). However, the extent of implementation of these recommendations is unclear, as no monitoring or follow-up procedure was conducted⁴⁶.

Overall, the extent to which the Project has been able to plausibly contribute to better implementation of TCC judgements and effectively identify gaps in human rights protection cannot be assessed in full: while interview feedback highlighted a positive contribution by the Project, indicators in the log frame remain very much at output level (i.e. number of recommendations issued rather than recommendations implemented), there is no public data on the implementation of TCC judgements, and additional time is needed to assess the extent to which the Project has been able to plausibly contribute to better implementation of TCC judgements ('impact' level).

Nevertheless, stakeholders from different High Courts reported changes in practice as a direct result of awareness created by the Project and by its various activities. For example, following exchanges with the ECtHR lawyers during a study visit to Strasbourg, the TCC Registry created an internal Register on inconsistencies in its own judgements with ECtHR case law⁴⁷. This Register consolidates areas of inconsistencies (on both technical and substantive matters) and makes recommendations on how to address them. Recommendations on technical inconsistencies are shared with the rapporteurs and implemented, while principal inconsistencies are presented to TCC judges for consideration. In addition, interviewees reported TCC and Court of Cassation rapporteurs had started to meet informally as a result of the Project to discuss TCC judgements that may affect Court of Cassation case law and seek common ground before rulings are published. As the courts initiated these meetings themselves, they show strong ownership and integration into institutional practice.

At capacity building level, roundtables with the ECtHR Registry (Act. 3.3), involving 543 stakeholders from the TCC and ECtHR Registry, strengthened technical capacity to identify inadequate implementation of TCC judgements and other human rights lacunas. The meetings supported technical skill development on topics such as interpretation techniques and ECtHR filtering methods to ensure common understanding. Interviewees further noted that the meetings allowed the TCC and ECtHR Registry to explain their judgements to each other, improving mutual understanding of human rights case law.

Expected result 4: The transfer of EU expertise and cooperation of Turkish courts and relevant stakeholders with the European and Member State institutions/courts are enhanced.

Successful collaboration and exchanges between the Turkish, European and Member State institutions and courts facilitated the transfer of EU expertise, even if this resulted in limited numbers of reported new practices and amended rules within the TCC and other higher courts. The TCC and other high courts reported amending or introducing up to 10 new practices over the project lifetime as a direct result of exchanges with European counterparts, falling short of the ambitious target of at least 20 by the end of the project (see Appendix E)⁴⁸. Some examples of the newly introduced TCC measures, which are expected to help increase the number of individual applications on some topics, include the decision of the TCC on annulment of the clause related to the surname of the married woman (April 2023) or the decision of the TCC not to examine compensation claims (July 2023)⁴⁹.

Nevertheless, exchanges of knowledge at individual and institutional level happened through study visits and placements, among others. On the one hand, study visits of the

⁴⁶ No monitoring or assessment of recommendation implementation was made or mentioned in project documentation.

⁴⁷ Log frame Results September 2025, stakeholder feedback.

⁴⁸ This shortcoming may be explained by the nature of the indicator itself, as new institutional practices take time to be implemented and may not be possible to assess as the Project is ongoing.

⁴⁹ Log frame Results September 2025

TCC rapporteurs to European constitutional courts (Act. 4.2), notably to Spain and France, facilitated the learning of best practices and the establishment of personal relations with European counterparts⁵⁰. In addition, these exchanges further created precedent for reciprocal visits as an unexpected result not initially foreseen as part of the Project⁵¹. On the other hand, placement participants to the ECtHR Registry and the Department for the Execution of Judgements of the ECtHR (Act. 4.1), among others, consistently reported having expanded their knowledge and valued being assigned to departments relevant to their roles, as this allowed them to apply lessons in their institutions in Türkiye⁵². Participants also gained practical insight through real cases and discussions on structural challenges with experienced colleagues. For example, one placement participant highlighted learning the importance of lower courts applying fundamental rights judgements as a best practice for executing TCC judgements during his time at the ECtHR Execution Department. Box 4 provides examples of how participants later applied these lessons.

Box 4: Examples of how placement participants are implementing knowledge

- After participating in the placement, a TCC rapporteur realised that there were issues with how the TCC was writing its inadmissibility decisions, as ECtHR lawyers were not able to fully understand them. By formulating them slightly differently, ECtHR lawyers could comprehend them more easily, potentially reducing workload of the ECtHR⁵³.
- *“The insights I acquired regarding the execution of judgements and the role of the Committee of Ministers will enable me to better assess the broader implications of individual applications and to contribute to ensuring the effectiveness of remedies in Türkiye.”* - TCC rapporteur judge
- *“Working closely with the Department for the Execution of Judgements helped me see the “second half” of human rights protection – the part that begins after the judgement is delivered. Seeing it from the inside has given me a much richer perspective. [...] This will help me approach individual applications with a more complete picture.”* – TCC rapporteur judge

Source: Stakeholder feedback, Steering committee meeting minutes.

While feedback from both the placement reports and interviews suggests some participants viewed the duration of the 3-month placement as too short (e.g. placements would end shortly after participants began performing substantive tasks), this format also facilitated the participation of up to 50 rapporteurs. Interviewees noted they may very well contact colleagues from their placements with questions in the future, and placement feedback forms suggest several participants intended to organise internal sessions to share their newly acquired learnings with their colleagues.

Expected Result 5: Awareness of the general public and public institutions is increased on the role of the TCC in the protection of fundamental rights through its judgements.

Overall, the Project plausibly contributed to raising public and institutional awareness of the TCC’s role and mandate to some extent, notably through its high profile and visibility, despite challenges in activity implementation. Through the multi-channel communication campaign (Act. 5.3), which included press releases, social media, promotional films, and updated TCC handbooks, the Project managed to exceed its target and reach a total of 113,413 individuals across activities and social media platforms⁵⁴. The campaign addressed commonly misunderstood aspects of the TCC and its judgements through activities such as press conferences (Act. 5.4), law faculty lectures (Act. 5.2), and videos on the TCC’s

⁵⁰ Stakeholder feedback. A member of the Constitutional Court in France also visited the President of the TCC on 31 March 2026. See: <https://www.anayasa.gov.tr/en/news/news-and-events/president-of-the-constitutional-court-mr-kadir-ozkaya-received-delegation-from-the-constitutional-council-of-france/>

⁵¹ Stakeholder feedback

⁵² End of year placement reports, 2022-2026.

⁵³ Steering Committee Meeting minutes 29.04.25

⁵⁴ Target was 9,100. Total views include the YouTube channel of the TCC and that of the HREIT as well as on Twitter / X.

role (Act. 5.1), which accumulated over 98,220 views by February 2026⁵⁵. Several Project events were also streamed on YouTube, including the conferences marking the 10th and 12th anniversaries of the individual application mechanism, which attracted over 1,000 and nearly 3,000 views respectively. Nevertheless, some activities were only partially implemented, such as the lectures at law faculties, which were put on hold after the 2023 Türkiye-Syria earthquake as in-person education was paused, or not implemented, such as the workshops with TCC press officers (Act. 5.4)⁵⁶. And yet, stakeholders stressed the high visibility of the Project, most notably linked to the wide coverage of Project activities in Turkish media outlets⁵⁷. The project team recorded a total of over 100 articles published across media outlets covering the Project activities between 2024 and February 2026⁵⁸.

Beyond the TCC, awareness was also raised around fundamental rights protection more broadly. This development was noted by human rights institutions, which hosted workshops on topics in human rights under Act. 5.5. These workshops increased topical awareness on different topics related to fundamental rights and maximised their reach through social media. Further, the Constitutional Research Centre facilitated promotional opportunities beyond the mandate of the TCC, for example, additional presentations at universities⁵⁹.

To what extent has gender been mainstreamed in Project design and implementation?

Gender equality considerations were substantially embedded into the Project design, though varied considerably in the implementation stage as the active integration of gender was largely dependent on partner institutions. Gender equality considerations were built into the Project from the design stage, in particular through the Report on Gender Equality Mainstreaming, which outlined practical implementation suggestions on how to mainstream gender across Project activities⁶⁰. Although a focus on gender equality was not the primary objective of the Project and despite a lack of comprehensive gender-disaggregated data in the log frame⁶¹, the Project made efforts to substantially promote gender equality: the Project team received gender mainstreaming training, considered gender when selecting international consultants, and encouraged partners to apply a gender lens in their selection of activity participants⁶².

While the Project did collect gender disaggregated data across events and participatory activities, it fell short of consistently mainstreaming gender also in other Project activities, as suggested in the above-mentioned Report (e.g. through reports dedicated to gender issues or with the involvement of specialist gender equality bodies). Nevertheless, some efforts in that direction meant that the Project engaged the TCC on insight into methods of gender-sensitive monitoring of judgements and gender-sensitive stock taking methods. On their part, the TCC prepared a list of key case-law gender related issues and shared a brief report on the TCC's approach to gender equality⁶³.

Overall, Project data indicates that the average female participation across all activities was approximately 33% with important variation across activities⁶⁴. Indeed, in practice, implementation of gender equality considerations was uneven across activities and partners:

⁵⁵ 'Turkish Constitutional Court Introductory Video'. Source: project documentation.

⁵⁶ Activity 5.4 was removed from the DoA with Addendum 2 in light of closure of physical press rooms in Turkish courts.

⁵⁷ Activities attended by the TCC President such as roundtables were routinely covered.

⁵⁸ Project documentation.

⁵⁹ The activities of the Constitutional Research Centre (AYAM) are published annually in the annual reports of the TCC. For example, over the period of 23 October – 30 December 2024, AYAM promoted the TCC's in multiple engagements, including at law school faculties, reaching a total of 1570 students in 28 different groups. See: <https://ayam.anayasa.gov.tr/en/the-research-center-for-constitutional-justice/>

⁶⁰ Zehra Tosun (2021). Supporting the Effective Implementation of Turkish Constitutional Court Judgements in the Field of Fundamental Rights: Report on Gender Equality Mainstreaming (IPA/2021/424-050).

⁶¹ Gender disaggregated data was consistently collected for participants of Project activities, though the log frame does not include gender specific indicators nor does it disaggregate data by gender.

⁶² Stakeholder feedback, Project documentation.

⁶³ ROM Report (2022).

⁶⁴ The ROM report 2024 indicates that women made up to 46% of all Project participants, though the evaluation team's calculations suggests a slightly lower percentage.

activities involving students, lawyers, and civil society – such as training sessions, university lectures, and workshops with public institutions – achieved greater gender balance (ranging from 46-60%) than activities involving judges and prosecutors, as outlined in the table below (see Appendix F for more details). In the latter, women's participation ranged from 14-35% only. A reason behind this, as stated by interviewees, is the fact that men comprise a large proportion of the judicial sector in Türkiye, especially at highest level⁶⁵. In addition, participant selection largely depended on Project partners, who prioritised selection criteria differently. For example, the UBTA considered gender equality in trainer selection, while the Justice Academy reportedly prioritised diversity in professional experience and legal expertise⁶⁶.

Table 3: Overview of gender balance by project activity type

Category	Activities (select)	Gender balance
Activities involving students, lawyers, and civil society	• Trainings (Act. 2.2, 2.3, 2.4) • University lectures (Act. 5.2) • Workshops with public institutions (Act. 5.5)	• Women: 46-60% • Men: 44-54%
Activities involving judges and prosecutors	• Working group meetings (Act. 1.3) • Roundtables (Act. 2.1, 3.3) • Study visits (Act. 3.5, 4.3) & placements (Act 4.1) • Conferences (Act. 4.4)	• Women: 14-35% • Men: 65-86%

Source: Project documentation (SIAC2 – Activity-Statistics-Participants Oriented)

Overall, the Project maintained a non-discrimination and open, equal access approach for all judicial community members. In this regard, the Project's continuous communication and emphasis on engaging a great variety of stakeholders across the judicial sector is in line with the human rights principles and European standards.

3.3 Efficiency

This section presents the efficiency assessment, namely the extent to which the project made use of its resources in the most appropriate way to maximise results. The assessment considers value-for-money, delivery efficiency and working arrangements.

How efficient was the Project implemented in terms of working arrangements (management), value-for-money, and timely delivery?

The Project was implemented by the Council of Europe, which was responsible for project management and fund administration, while the EU Delegation (EUD) acted as donor and Contracting Authority (CA). In this capacity, the EUD assumed responsibility for contracting, overall project supervision, the review and final approval of reports, and financial management, while the Council of Europe project team was tasked with the Project day-to-day implementation. The active involvement of the TCC as the main beneficiary, for example through the General Secretary and Head of Execution Department, contributed to shaping and smoothly implementing project activities. Good collaboration with other stakeholders, such as the Ministry of Justice, the Academy of Justice and the Union of the Bar Association, further helped tailor training content and topics to the needs of specific legal professionals, for example regarding relevant case law from the TCC and ECtHR⁶⁷.

Use of resources

The Project disposed of adequate financial and human resources to support the successful implementation of its activities. The total budget of EUR 5,500,000 is overall

⁶⁵ Data published by the General Directorate on Criminal Records and Statistics indicates that, as of 2025, men make up the majority of lawyers in Türkiye (106,663 men to 100,015 women). Data disaggregated by gender for prosecutors and judges is currently unavailable. See: <https://adlisicil.adalet.gov.tr/Home/SayfaDetay/adalet-istatistikleri-yayin-arsivi>

⁶⁶ Stakeholder feedback.

⁶⁷ ROM Report 1281 (2024), stakeholder feedback.

commensurate with the scope and high volume of activities planned (24 activities of different nature, size and reach) and delivered. In addition, the flexibility built into the initial budget allowed the Project team to make some adjustments to budget lines as needed in the early stages of the Project, for example by reducing the number of days of the study visits, thereby accurately reflecting the expected costs.

The project team comprised one Project Manager, supported by one project officer and three project assistants – a team size in line with Council of Europe standards for a project of this budget and duration. The breadth of activities, however, resulted in a reported heavy workload for the Project team; and yet, their previous experience with Council of Europe projects and established stakeholder relationships contributed to the successful implementation of the Project⁶⁸. Indeed, the implementation capacity of the project team, which successfully navigated the politically complex environment and managed to implement the broad range of nationwide activities while coordinating with a large range of stakeholders, was key in the project delivery. Nevertheless, the initial ambitious targets of some activities were lowered during the implementation phase, reflecting the need to adjust the workplan to the realities on the ground⁶⁹. This was the case, for example, of the workshops with public institutions involved in the execution of the TCC judgement or dissemination of information on the TCC and its case law (Act. 5.5). The initial target set at 20 workshops was lowered to 15 at a later stage, motivated by the decision to implement workshops once the ToTs (Act. 2.6) were completed to involve newly trained trainers, which meant they could only be implemented later on in the workplan⁷⁰. Similarly, the number of rapporteurs to take place in placements (Act. 4.1) was lowered from 60 to 50 to account for delays caused by the elections and management changes at the TCC between 2023 and 2024⁷¹.

Regarding budget allocation, human resources represent the largest expenditure category, amounting to EUR 2,411,562, equivalent to 44% of total costs. Of this amount, EUR 2,147,676 was spent or committed by September 2025, representing 39% of the overall budget. Other budget lines included travel (6% of total budget), local office expenses (2%), and a range of other costs – encompassing publications, conferences, seminars, software development and IT tools – which together account for 41% of the total budget. In addition, a 7% levy was foreseen in accordance with Committee of Ministers decision CM(2013)123. A detailed breakdown of budget line utilisation as of October 2025 is provided in Table 4. At that point, the project was on track to fully utilise its allocated resources, with a remaining margin earmarked to cover activities scheduled for implementation between November 2025 and May 2026. An assessment of overall status by activity is provided in Appendix D.

Table 4: Interim financial report (covering the period 17 Sept. 2021 to 16 Sept. 2025)

Description	Budget (EUR)	Spent and Committed (EUR)
Human Resources	2,411,562.00	2,147,676.00
Travel	345,522.00	326,173.00
Equipment and supplies	-	-
Local office	129,618.00	109,054.00
Other costs ⁷²	2,253,485.00	1,635,595.00
Levy of 7% ⁷³	359,813.00	295,295.00
Total	5,500,000.00	4,513,793.00

Source: Council of Europe Interim financial report (BH 4908 PMM 2520)

⁶⁸ Stakeholder feedback

⁶⁹ This was the case for Activity 2.7, 4.2 and 5.5. See Appendix D for more details.

⁷⁰ Progress Report 1

⁷¹ Progress report 4

⁷² Includes publications, studies and research, expenditure verification, evaluation costs, financial services (i.e., bank guarantee costs), conferences and seminars, visibility actions and IT tools.

⁷³ Levy applied in accordance with CM Decision (CM(2013)123) and adjusted in line with the actual expenditure presented in the Interim Financial Report.

Project documentation and stakeholder feedback confirm that the Project has been implemented efficiently, maximising available resources where possible. Synergies with the first phase of the project (SIAC I) and with other Council of Europe / EU projects implemented in Türkiye helped to optimise the use of resources already from the design phase by focusing on leveraging existing training material (see Box 5 below). Besides, HELP courses also made it possible to reach professionals located in remote areas, thereby overcoming geographic constraints, while events were organised in parallel where possible to minimise costs. This was the case, for example, of trainings with the Justice Academy and university seminars, which were organised in the same cities⁷⁴.

Box 5: Examples of synergies with other Council of Europe / EU projects

- The Project revised and **updated training material used during the first phase of the project (SIAC I)** on, among others, the right to a fair trial, the right to property and on how to submit an individual application for lawyers (admissibility criteria).
- The Project also revised **training modules used for the Criminal justice project** previously implemented in Türkiye⁷⁵ and **some HELP courses**, using them in capacity building activities.
- The Project further **involved the in-house trainers from the Union of Turkish Bar Association (UTBA)**⁷⁶ and paired them with newly trained trainers to benefit from the existing knowledge while further expanding the pool of trainers.

Source: Project documentation, stakeholder feedback

Overall, the project represented high value for money: activities were varied and complementary in nature, and project outputs – including conferences and seminars, training sessions and training materials, and study placements – were widely regarded as high quality by stakeholders. Indeed, activities were perceived as planned and organised efficiently, with the project team demonstrating flexibility and adaptability in response to changing external circumstances and operational challenges⁷⁷.

Timely implementation

Despite a slow start and accumulated delays throughout the Project, a large number of activities had been completed by the time this evaluation was carried out. Indeed, the late deployment of the Council of Europe project team and its pool of international and national experts⁷⁸ meant the Project started later than initially planned, and further delays accumulated due to the university summer break, the judicial recess, and pauses during the general electoral season and elections at key beneficiary institutions, including the TCC. Out of the 24 activities planned, 17 had been completed, 6 had been partially completed with scope to still reach their targets, and 1 – namely the workshops for press officers of the TCC (Act. 5.4) - had not been implemented (see Appendix D for details on individual activities).

Given the limited margin built into an otherwise demanding workplan, the original timeline had to be revised and some activities pushed back, including into a nine month no-cost extension period that provided additional time for implementation. In other cases, most notably in activities aiming to increase public and institutional awareness of the TCC's role in protecting fundamental rights through its judgements (Expected result 5), implementation challenges were directly linked to political developments in Türkiye. As such, some of the awareness

⁷⁴ Steering Committee Meeting minutes 29.04.25

⁷⁵ See 'Strengthening the Criminal Justice System and the Capacity of Justice Professionals on prevention of the European Convention on Human Rights Violations in Turkey', details available [here](#).

⁷⁶ Possible through the existing partnership between the Council of Europe and the UTBA under the European Programme for Human Rights Education of Legal Professionals (HELP). See ROM Report (2022).

⁷⁷ For example, changes in seating arrangements and other logistical aspects were required due to protocol when the TCC president or other high-level personalities joined Project events last minute.

⁷⁸ No further details for this delay are provided in Project documentation, though the delay is described as being justifiable and reasonable. See Steering Committee Meeting Minutes (26.5.22).

raising efforts were put on hold due to the tensions between the TCC and the Court of Cassation, and, in agreement with the TCC, only resumed once the relationship had improved.

Working arrangements

Overall, project management and coordination were smooth, supported by regular Project Steering Committee (PSC) meetings held on a quarterly basis⁷⁹. Initially envisioned to include a wider range of stakeholders, the PSC ended up including only the core members, namely the EUD, the Council of Europe, the TCC and the Directorate for EU Affairs of the Turkish Ministry of Foreign Affairs (DEUA). Despite the Project team's efforts, representatives of other judicial institutions, such as the Court of Cassation or the Council of State, did not participate in the majority of PSC meetings due to political developments⁸⁰. While this did not significantly impact coordination, it did have some reported bearing on the internal monitoring system⁸¹ and on activity implementation, with tensions impacting the organisation of, for example, regional roundtables with stakeholders from across the judicial system (Act. 2.1)⁸².

Besides, the political context meant that the Project did not manage to engage the Grand National Assembly of Türkiye as planned, neither in the PSC nor in the wider workplan, despite the Project team's efforts. Similarly, the involvement of CSOs was limited; the IHOP platform participated in some activities but did not end up taking on the monitoring role of TCC judgements the Project initially envisioned⁸³. Beyond that, the team maintained good and ongoing communication with beneficiaries and stakeholders, particularly the TCC.

3.4 Sustainability

This section assesses the sustainability of project results, understood as the likelihood of stakeholders continuing to use the Project outputs beyond the project lifetime and the likelihood of the project benefits being maintained in the short-term.

To what extent will Project outcomes continue beyond Project completion?

The Project was designed with sustainability at its core, and there are reasonable grounds to conclude that its effects are likely to endure beyond project closure. Primary ownership rests with the TCC (see relevance section), while the breadth of stakeholders involved at the regional, national and international levels is conducive to lasting results. Several activities were explicitly oriented towards sustainability, notably the development of a roadmap for better application of TCC judgements by ordinary courts, as well as the ToT and cascade training sessions, which have supported continued capacity-building among judicial professionals. Besides, key deliverables, including HELP courses and the new IT platform, are institutionally anchored – owned and maintained – by the respective relevant Turkish institutions and will remain accessible for use following Project completion⁸⁴. In fact, stakeholders reported that the IT Tool is expected to be developed further by the TCC in coordination with the contracted IT company. Similarly, other deliverables, such as harmonised training materials and established pools of trained trainers, will remain available for ongoing professional development beyond the project's lifetime.

Support to the TCC and the individual application mechanism is expected to be sustained also in the medium term, given the substantial amount of capacity development provided to the TCC through the Project. The training of a combination of

⁷⁹ The PSC is the governing structure of the Project, in charge of taking relevant decisions, supervising its implementation and addressing any major risks and problems during the implementation. ROM Report (2022).

⁸⁰ Representatives from the Court of Cassation and the Council of State attended two PSC meetings (21 January 2022 and 5 December 2025). See ROM Report (2022).

⁸¹ ROM Report (2022)

⁸² ROM Report 1281 (2024), stakeholder feedback.

⁸³ ROM Report 1281 (2024). It remains unclear why this was the case though may be explained by the fact that the Court of Cassation as key partner preferred a limited involvement of CSOs in the Project.

⁸⁴ ROM Report 1281 (2024)

younger and more experienced trainers, together with the reported relatively low staff turnover across institutions suggest that the acquired knowledge will continue to be implemented.⁸⁵ In that regard, Project beneficiaries, including TCC rapporteurs and other placement participants, widely reported applying knowledge and skills acquired through project activities in their work (see effectiveness section). In addition, many stated they would hold presentations and share briefings with colleagues at their home institution, increasing the Project's reach and further contributing to its sustainability⁸⁶. Box 6 below presents some additional practices supporting the sustainability of the Project results.

Box 6: Promising practices supporting the Project's sustainability

- The Project involved the Justice Academy of Turkey and the UTBA in the revision and updating of training materials, which have since been integrated into their regular curricula.
- Training material produced by the Project has been made available to stakeholders to be used in future trainings, also in other regions.
- Trainers of the Bar Associations reportedly expressed a desire to continue delivering trainings to lawyers after the project ended, including at different levels such as for bar associations in different regions and in private practices.

Source: Stakeholder feedback

The judicial dialogue facilitated by the Project, involving professionals from different courts and institutions, is expected to continue and further contribute to the effective implementation of ECtHR and TCC judgements on fundamental rights. Regional roundtables provided an opportunity for judges from the lower and higher courts to meet in person and discuss individual cases, while peer-to-peer roundtables enabled national judiciary to interact with international counterparts from Constitutional Courts in other countries, as well as from the ECtHR. As such, the Project contributed to strengthening a culture of professional relationships in which judicial practitioners tend to consult colleagues on unfamiliar or sensitive topics. Judges and prosecutors reportedly continue reaching out to focal points with questions via informal communication channels, as do training participants, to discuss issues they faced in their work⁸⁷. By creating networking opportunities, the Project helped establish new connections that interviewed beneficiaries described as very useful to their roles⁸⁸.

Nonetheless, the long-term sustainability of results remains subject to certain risks and can only be assessed to some extent. While beneficiaries consulted have broadly expressed an intention to continue applying knowledge and to maintain the judicial dialogue, it is too early to draw firm conclusions, as consolidation of practices requires time. Connections made across the judiciary, while most often informal and at a personal level, could further drive the judicial dialogue and contribute to strengthening inter-institutional collaboration. However, those same relations could fade over time. The lack of institutionalised and formalised channels makes them more vulnerable to changes in leadership and to staff turnover. In that regard, some indications of formalisation, for example the Memorandum of Understanding to be signed between the TCC and the UTBA and the one to be signed with the Spanish constitutional court, suggest these interactions, including trainings and study visits, are likely to continue in the future.

Finally, the relationship between higher courts, particularly between the TCC and the Court of Cassation, remains fragile. While the Project contributed to improving the relationship by facilitating exchanges at technical, as well as at a higher level, relations could be adversely affected by shifts in leadership (e.g. the TCC president is expected to retire soon, leading to new elections) or developments in the broader political context in Türkiye. Both courts have

⁸⁵ ROM Report (2022)

⁸⁶ End-of-year placement reports.

⁸⁷ Stakeholder feedback.

⁸⁸ Stakeholder feedback.

stressed their intention to continue the judicial dialogue⁸⁹, and bilateral consultations held at their own initiative ahead of finalising judgements suggest communication has indeed been institutionalised to some extent⁹⁰. As such, continued bilateral technical exchanges not only serve as a channel for continued communication but are further positive signs of medium-term sustainability. However, the changing political context constitutes a structural risk to the sustainability of the Project.

The Project team is expected to prepare a Sustainability Strategy covering both the institutional and operational levels to be included as an attachment to the Action Final Report⁹¹. While not yet available, this document will further contribute to the sustainability of the Project results and could be used to facilitate the discussion with key stakeholders around measures to ensure these are sustained in the future. No financial measures have been reported that would ensure the continuation of services beyond the project's end date⁹²; however, the observed integration of practices by judicial practitioners as well as the active ownership of stakeholders reflects their intention to continue benefitting from the Project well beyond its completion.

⁸⁹ Progress Report 4, stakeholder feedback

⁹⁰ Stakeholder interviews.

⁹¹ Description of Action.

⁹² ROM Report (2022)

4 Conclusions and recommendations

This section presents the conclusions of the evaluation of the SIAC II Project and the resulting recommendations for the Council of Europe. It also contains lessons learnt from the evaluation.

4.1 Overall conclusion

The Project addressed key issues related to the implementation of TCC judgements in the field of fundamental rights in Türkiye despite a highly political context. By doing so, the evaluation indicates that the Project contributed to strengthening the knowledge and the capacity of judicial actors on TCC and ECtHR case law and fostered communication, both at technical and at the highest level, among courts, achieving most of its expected results. Although the political developments impacted the implementation of some activities, the Project was efficiently managed and its embedded sustainability suggests its effects are likely to continue in the near future.

4.2 Specific conclusions and recommendations

The Project is highly relevant to the Turkish judiciary and to the broader rule of law agenda in Türkiye. Its design and objectives are directly aligned with EU pre-accession and Council of Europe priorities, as well as to Turkish initiatives of judicial reform and address knowledge gaps among judicial actors. Nonetheless, the politicised context in which it is implemented and a degree of friction with national political agendas warrants continued attention in future programming to ensure complementarity, avoid counterproductive dynamics and unrealistic expected results. In that regard, the TCC's institutional ownership and commitment to the Project reflects its value.

Recommendation 1 (High priority): The Council of Europe should assess its continued support to the effective implementation of fundamental rights case law in Türkiye. While the Project was found to be highly relevant, there is room to further strengthen Türkiye's alignment with European standards. However, the complex political context constitutes a challenging environment in which to operate. The Council of Europe is well placed to continue working with the Turkish authorities to consolidate the protection of fundamental rights and could do so by continuing to implement capacity building for actors across the judiciary, including lawyers, supporting the judicial dialogue especially among the higher courts, and raising awareness among judicial actors and the wider public.

Overall, the Project has proven to be an effective intervention that has largely achieved its expected results of promoting judicial dialogue and building capacity. It helped resume the working relationship between the TCC and the Court of Cassation, a development of considerable significance given pre-existing tensions, and brought together actors from across the judiciary fostering a common understanding of TCC and ECtHR case law and implementation. However, the extent to which enhanced capacity has translated into measurable improvements in the implementation of judgements at the broader judicial level and contributed to strengthening the implementation of European human rights standards within the Turkish judiciary remains difficult to assess due to lack of data, and additional time is needed to observe potential links to the Project.

Gender equality was meaningfully integrated into project design and achieved reasonable overall balance in participation, though implementation was uneven, with notably lower female representation in activities involving judges and prosecutors – a structural challenge reflective of the broader composition of the Turkish higher judiciary.

Recommendation 2 (High priority): The Council of Europe should continue working with the TCC and other project stakeholders to further mainstream gender considerations in Project activities beyond disaggregated data collection. This could mean including additional stakeholders with specialist gender equality expertise (e.g. CSOs, academics and women's rights centers of Bar Association) in the planning, implementation and monitoring of activities, and/or including dedicated activities or publications focusing on gender issues. For instance, these could cover gender equality in light of the ECHR, a case law guide on gender equality in light of ECtHR judgements, and gender-sensitive guides for terms and concepts frequently used in the judicial system.

Factors affecting Project implementation mostly related to external circumstances and the politically sensitive context in Türkiye. Tensions between the high courts, which delayed some activities, were successfully overcome, largely thanks to changes in leadership in both courts. In addition, challenges involving selected actors, such as CSOs and the Grand National Assembly, while not resolved, did not substantially affect the achievement of Project results. Indeed, the ownership and commitment of the TCC, the high quality of training sessions and training material, supported by the interactive, adult training methodology, as well as the in-person engagements fostering informal inter-personal communication were among the enabling factors contributing to the success of the Project.

Recommendation 3 (Medium priority): A detailed risk assessment should be conducted at the start of any subsequent project on fundamental rights in Türkiye to assess the project feasibility in such a complex political context and to establish a framework enabling the Project team to respond flexibly and promptly to changing circumstances. This could include considerations regarding the involvement of relevant stakeholders (e.g. CSOs), risks and challenges to their effective involvement and potential mitigation measures so as to help prepare the Project team for any potential developments impacting implementation.

The Project team conducted extensive performance monitoring throughout the Project implementation, including gender disaggregated data for activities and pre- and post-training surveys. This allowed the team to continuously monitor progress and get a good understanding of project reach. However, measurement of the extent to which expected results have been met remains a challenge. Some of the log frame indicators remain at output level – for example, looking at availability of recommendations rather than actual implementation –, constituting a missed opportunity to measure actual change. In addition, inconsistent use of terminology across project documentation (e.g. individual outcomes are referred to as 'outputs' and 'expected results' across documents) could further hinder thorough data interpretation.

Recommendation 4 (Medium priority): The Council of Europe should continue strengthening the results-oriented approach to reporting results in future projects, so that both indicators and data collection efforts allow the measurement of change. This could include engaging in-house expertise to review the initial project log frame and make any required adjustments to the proposed indicators so as to better link them to expected results and accurately measure change. In addition, consistent use of terminology across project documentation should be ensured.

The Project was implemented efficiently overall, making good use of its allocated resources and offering high value-for-money, delivering a high volume and quality of outputs relative to its total budget. Strategic synergies with the predecessor project (SIAC I) and other Council of Europe initiatives in Türkiye allowed the project team to leverage existing materials and expertise, thereby optimising resource use from the outset. In addition, the flexibility built into the Project budget and timeline allowed for timely adjustments in response to operational

realities (e.g. judicial recess, summer break), helping to overcome accumulated delays, including through a no-cost extension. Nevertheless, the highly ambitious number of activities in a changing environment meant that some targets had to be adjusted to account for implementation challenges, mostly linked to the political context. Working arrangements were generally effective, supported by continuous good communication with key stakeholders.

Recommendation 5 (Medium priority): The Council of Europe should ensure that the volume and scope of planned activities in future projects are carefully calibrated against the proposed implementation context and timeline. Future projects should maintain the built in flexibility in both budget and timeline to account for operational realities. They could further incorporate structured scheduling margins that allow the project team to absorb implementation setbacks without compromising quality or completeness of delivery, thereby reducing reliance on no-cost extensions as a corrective mechanism.

The Project demonstrates a solid foundation for sustainability, with primary ownership vested in the TCC and key deliverables – including the IT platform, HELP courses, and harmonised training materials – institutionally anchored within relevant Turkish institutions. Capacity building through training activities, combined with relatively low staff turnover, supports the continued application of acquired knowledge. However, long-term sustainability remains subject to meaningful risks: inter-institutional relationships, particularly between the TCC and the Court of Cassation, rely heavily on informal and personal connections vulnerable to leadership changes and political shifts. The absence of formalised channels and dedicated financial mechanisms for continuing services beyond the project's end date further limits confidence in the durability of results.

Recommendation 6 (High priority): The Council of Europe should consider encouraging and supporting the TCC and partner institutions in converting informal judicial dialogue networks into structured, institutionalised arrangements – such as formal agreements, joint working groups, or regular inter-court protocols – to reduce reliance on personal relationships and mitigate risks posed by leadership transitions. This would be especially beneficial between the TCC and the Court of Cassation, and could include both the technical as well as the higher leadership level.

4.3 Lessons learnt

The lessons learnt identified throughout the course of this evaluation are outlined below.

Overview of Lessons Learnt

- The experience of this project underscores the **value of embedding structural flexibility into project design** as a deliberate and forward-looking planning principle, especially in complex and evolving environments. Built-in adaptability proved instrumental in sustaining implementation quality in the face of unforeseen circumstances, ranging from natural disasters and political disruptions to institutional tensions and electoral cycles, enabling the project team to adapt their approach without compromising the overall integrity of the intervention.
- **In-person engagements were conducive to fostering understanding and building relations in a politically challenging context.** In-person events focusing on technical questions and implementation issues allowed the project to bring together actors from across the judicial sector, including judges, prosecutors and lawyers. This approach helped build bridges in an otherwise challenging environment and contributed to fostering relations also at the highest level.

- **At the same time, the various training formats contributed to reaching a wide audience while also setting the foundation for further judicial capacity development.** On the one hand, the HELP courses, available online and open to the wider public also after project completion, allowed the project to overcome geographic constraints and reach also those located in remote areas. On the other hand, the organisation of ToT sessions and cascade trainings, prioritising the establishment of a pool of trainers comprised of more junior and experienced trainers, reflects the sustainability dimension of the project and is conducive to lasting effects.
- **It could be beneficial to involve wider Council of Europe departments, including the HELP team, in activities aiming to share best practices and expertise in other projects in Türkiye and beyond.** Within the placements conducted in the context of this Project, a participant joined the Council of Europe HELP team and assisted in managing and coordinating the online methodology. This proved helpful in contributing to the acquisition of knowledge of the HELP course methodology itself and further promoted the courses as a solution to training requirements without requiring lots of resources from them.

Appendix A – Evaluation matrix

The below table presents the revised evaluation matrix. This has been updated after an initial review of the project documentation.

Sub-question	Measure(s)/ Indicator(s)	Data collection instrument(s)	Data Source(s)	Data analysis
Relevance – What is the relevance of the Council of Europe actions in connection with the implementation of the Project?				
To what extent do the Project objectives reflect the needs of Türkiye as defined by national strategies, policies etc.?	- Extent of alignment of the Project with national priorities as reflected in national strategies and policies - Extent of coverage of national priorities by individual Project activities - Stakeholder perception of the relevance of the Project	Documentation review Interviews	- National strategies, policies and priorities including the Judicial Reform Strategy, Action Plan on the Prevention of ECHR Violations, Action Plan on Human Rights, etc. - EU and Council of Europe assessments of Türkiye (e.g., 2020 Turkey Report) - Project documentation (activities, progress reports, etc.), disaggregated by groups where available - Interviews with key beneficiaries	Document review and content analysis to assess degree of correspondence between project objective and national priorities; triangulate with needs assessments Disaggregate mapping by equity dimension to assess whether the coverage extended to disadvantaged/ vulnerable groups
To what extent was the ownership by institutional project partners ensured?	- Number and nature of mechanisms, processes and procedures ensuring institutional ownership from project design to project completion - Frequency and quality of high-level coordination meetings and joint planning documents - Level of satisfaction of institutional partners (TCC, EU) with level of Project ownership	Documentation review Interviews	- Project documentation (meeting reports, joint planning documents, etc.) - Interviews with institutional partners, including the Turkish Constitutional Court and the EU	Qualitative assessment of participation level by project partner across the project lifecycle through document review and stakeholder feedback
Effectiveness – To what extent has the Project achieved its stated objectives?				
To what extent has the Project achieved its expected results? What	Extent to which the expected outputs and results as outlined in the Project log frame have been met	Documentation review	Project documentation (progress reports, ROM reports, individual feedback	Comparison of planned vs. achieved outputs/outcomes using results framework; gap analysis to

Sub-question	Measure(s)/ Indicator(s)	Data collection instrument(s)	Data Source(s)	Data analysis
have been reasons for achievement and lack thereof?	- Decreased number of the ECtHR cases against Turkey under the supervision by the Committee of Ministers - Decreased number of violation judgements rendered by TCC - Stakeholder perceptions on contributions of the Project to changes in the execution of judgements of the TCC - Number and percentage of beneficiaries (judges, prosecutors, lawyers, legal officers and students) stating they have increased their knowledge on the case law, nature and the execution of the TCC and the ECtHR judgments through Project trainings and activities - List of positive factors influencing the outcomes of the Project, including those contributing to successes and best practices - List of negative factors influencing the outcomes of the Project, including those contributing to gaps and challenges	Interviews	forms as available, etc.), disaggregated by group where available - TCC annual reports and TCC statistics - Database and statistics of ECtHR, monitoring and evaluation reports from other international organisations on legislative developments - Interviews with the Project team, beneficiaries (e.g., trained trainers), national authorities - Cases showcasing outcomes attributable to the Project	assess shortfalls and underlying causes Contribution analysis to explore in what ways and how the project has led to change. Apply bottleneck analysis to assess structural or systemic barriers to inclusive change Qualitative analysis of stakeholder satisfaction levels, disaggregated by group (e.g., men vs women) to examine perceived equity of outcomes; qualitative review of strengths and areas for improvement reported by stakeholders
To what extent has gender been mainstreamed in Project design and implementation?	- Number and nature of activities designed explicitly to address gender equality at project design phase - Inclusion of gender-sensitive indicators in the Project log frame - Number and nature of explicit mentions of women as target groups, participants and beneficiaries of the Project in project documentation - Gender perspective is incorporated to the new tools and resource (IT tool and communication strategy) (i.e. gender-sensitive language, use of images and targeted messaging as relevant)	Documentation review Interviews	- Project documentation (activity statistics, progress reports, event count, feedback forms, etc.), disaggregated by group where available - Project outputs, including communication strategy and IT tool - Interviews with the Project team and Project beneficiaries	Document review to assess degree of inclusion of a human-rights approach and gender mainstreaming i.e. data disaggregation and targeting vulnerable groups in the design and implementation of the project Qualitative analysis of stakeholder feedback, identifying examples and gaps in the use of a human-rights approach and gender mainstreaming in the design and implementation of the project

Sub-question	Measure(s)/ Indicator(s)	Data collection instrument(s)	Data Source(s)	Data analysis
	Level of meaningful participation of women in Project activities throughout the Project			Analysis of disaggregated participation and benefits data
Efficiency – How efficient was the Project implemented in terms of working arrangements (management), value-for-money, and timely delivery?				
To what extent could alternative working methods have led to the achievement of comparable or better results with fewer resources?	- Stakeholder and Project team perceptions on the quality and efficiency of the Project coordination mechanisms, including whether they support equitable access and practices - Perception of the Project team on the quality of collective efforts - Resources available vs resources utilised for delivering the Project, including how resources were allocated to reach women - Extent of synergies with other Council of Europe/ EU projects implemented in Türkiye⁹³ - Comparison of planned vs. actual implementation timelines to identify delays, bottlenecks, and responsiveness - Stakeholder perception on the quality and timeline of the Project outputs - Extent and nature of effective measures implemented to overcome operational challenges	Documentation review Interviews	- Project documentation (Project Gantt chart, progress reports, Steering Committee Meeting Minutes, ROM reports, etc.), disaggregated by group where available - Interviews with the Project team, the Project Management team, the EU and key beneficiaries	Comparison of planned vs. actual implementation timelines to identify delays, bottlenecks, and responsiveness Cost analysis comparing actual costs against planned budgets Efficiency gains analysis through qualitative review of tools and procedures used to coordinate and implement the project Process analysis to identify efficiency gains or losses from working arrangements (i.e. shared resources and joint activities with other projects) and examine whether coordination has integrated/ improved efficiency of equity-focused initiatives
Sustainability – To what extent will Project outcomes continue beyond the Project completion?				
To what extent can it be expected that the Constitutional Court of Türkiye and all relevant stakeholders will continue to use outcomes of the	- Development of Project documentation including e.g., roadmaps, guidelines, recommendations, etc. that can be used beyond project completion - Development of a Sustainability Strategy report	Documentation review Interviews	- Project documentation (activities, progress reports, etc.), disaggregated by group where available - Interviews with Project	Document review for qualitative assessment of sustainability actions planned by the project Participation analysis to assess evidence of engagement by key

⁹³ E.g., EU/CoE joint programme on 'Strengthening the Capacity of Bar Associations and Lawyers on the Human Rights Standards'; EU/CoE joint programme on 'Strengthening the Criminal Justice System and the Capacity of Justice Professionals on prevention of the European Convention on Human Rights Violations in Turkey'; Action under the EU/CoE joint programme: Horizontal Facility for the Western Balkans - Phase II.

Sub-question	Measure(s)/ Indicator(s)	Data collection instrument(s)	Data Source(s)	Data analysis
Project?	covering institutional and operational aspects - Project tools and guidelines (e.g. monitoring mechanism) are officially endorsed by the TCC leadership and other stakeholders, and reflected in medium-term institutional strategy - Institutionalised knowledge transfer mechanisms, i.e. training modules are incorporated into judicial training curriculum and train-the-trainers system established - Ongoing collaboration mechanisms established during the Project are continued - Stakeholder views on Project sustainability and sustainability planning		beneficiaries	partners (e.g., influence on decisions, institutional commitment) Institutionalisation analysis to assess extent to which project outputs are institutionalised and include references to European standards, by stakeholder category Qualitative analysis of stakeholder feedback, identifying application of knowledge
What is the likelihood that the benefits from the intervention will be maintained in the short-term (3-5 years) after the end of the Project? What would be required to ensure the sustainability of the results?	- Observable behavioural change among judges/ staff / wider Project beneficiaries - Indication of commitment at all levels of the beneficiaries and close cooperation with the relevant stakeholders. - Institutionalisation of Project practices, tools and results, including training curricula and activities - Continued consultations, including high-level discussions, between the CoE/ EU and Turkish authorities (e.g., in the framework of the Turkey-EU dialogue) - Stakeholder views on factors and measures contributing to the sustainability of the Project results in the short-term	Documentation review Interviews	- Project documentation (progress reports, ROM reports, individual feedback forms as available, etc.), disaggregated by group where available - Interviews with Project beneficiaries	Institutionalisation analysis to assess extent to which project outputs are institutionalised and include references to European standards, by stakeholder category Qualitative analysis of stakeholder feedback, identifying use of European standards in judicial decisions Qualitative case analysis identifying examples of legal professionals continue applying standards promoted by the project Qualitative assessment of sustainability enablers (e.g., institutional ownership, continued demand for trainings on European standards) and risks (e.g., staff turnover, absence of formal adoption of project outputs, limited follow-up mechanisms)

Appendix B – Revised Theory of Change

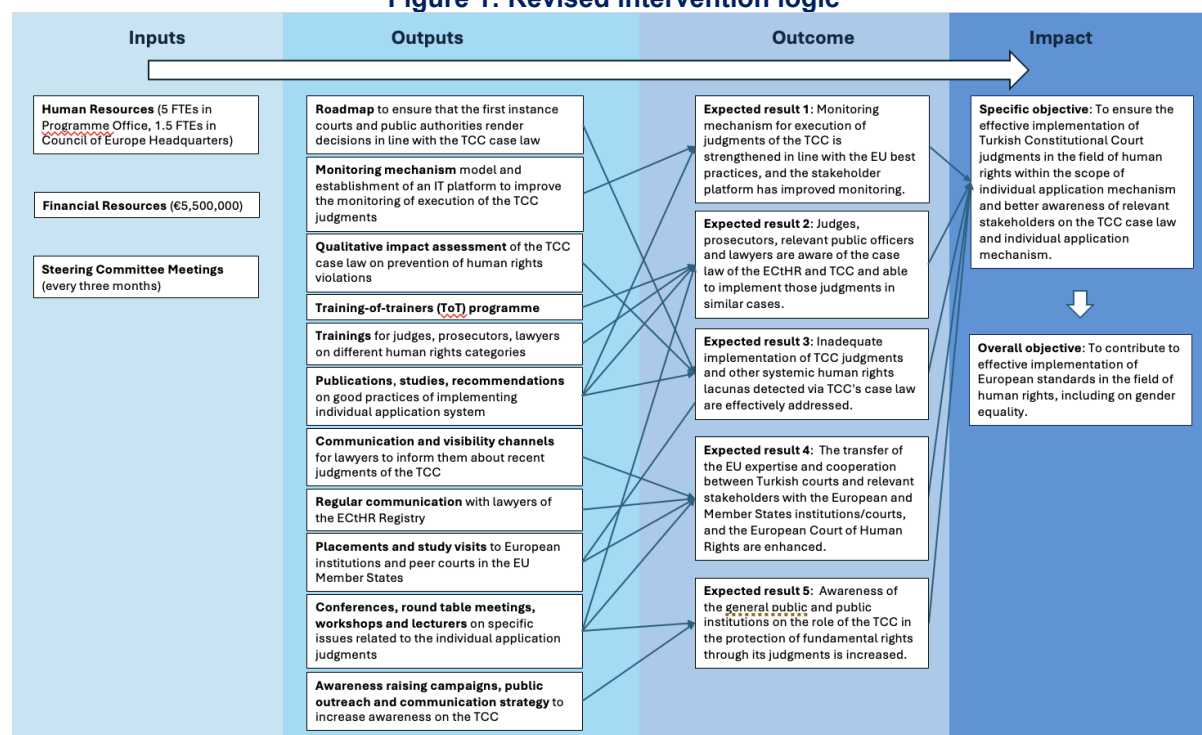
This section presents the Theory of change (TOC) based on the Project's log frame and the Project documentation.

Theory of change

The Project has access to both human and financial resources (**inputs**). For the whole duration of the project, the financial resources available were of EUR 5,500,000 and the team comprised of 5 team members: one project manager, one project officer and three project assistants.

Using these inputs, the Project carried out a total of 24 different activities (**outputs**), which aimed to contribute to one of the five **expected results** and ultimately to the expected **impacts**. The Project's intervention logic below illustrates how change was expected to occur, with arrows from outputs to expected results and from expected results to impacts illustrating their contribution.

Figure 1: Revised intervention logic



Source: CSES own elaboration based on project log frame and other project documentation

As outlined above, the **overall objective** of the SIAC II Project was to contribute to the effective implementation of European standards in the field of human rights, including gender equality. It aimed to do so by ensuring the effective implementation of the TCC's judgements in the field of human rights within the scope of the individual application mechanism and ensuring better awareness of relevant stakeholders on the TCC's case law and individual application mechanism (**specific objectives**).

The ToC described above is based on a set of assumptions, understood as conditions that must hold true for the intervention to succeed, and an understanding of potential risks, understood as factors that may hinder the progress.

Assumptions

SIAC II was designed around several broad assumptions, which distinguished between factors the project team can influence and external factors that lie beyond their control⁹⁴. Overall, the assumptions stated in the Description of Action recognised the importance of stakeholder commitment, as well as the availability of qualified experts and necessary equipment. The assumptions were as follows:

- Full commitment of relevant institutions to ensure protection of rights and freedoms in line with ECtHR and TCC case law, as well as EU standards and practices.
- Availability of IT tools for video conferencing and e-learning, particularly in light of the Covid 19 pandemic.
- Stakeholders' dedication to participate and cooperate throughout the process; implementation arrangements require strong, reliable, and committed partners among Turkish institutions.
- Ministries and other relevant public institutions lend high-level support for the measures.
- Strong commitment of the beneficiaries and close cooperation with the relevant stakeholders. Necessary financial sources after the implementation of the Action will be allocated to ensure sustainability.
- All stakeholders collaborate closely.
- The availability of in-house know-how and/or staff with necessary competencies.

In addition, the log frame identified **assumptions linked to specific expected results**. These similarly emphasised the importance of having qualified experts available and the political will to implement reforms, including the sharing of information and data. For example, Expected Result 4 assumed both the availability of qualified experts and the willingness of duty bearers to share relevant information and data.

Risks

A set of risks that could prevent the success of the project were built into the theory of change. These risks were initially ranked from low to high in the Project Description of Action as follows⁹⁵:

- The workload of the beneficiary (low).
- Contradicting interests between different institutions (medium).
- Lack of cooperation, common goals and priorities among the stakeholders (medium).
- Lack of effective communication among the stakeholders (medium).
- The Covid-19 pandemic and various limitations imposed by national authorities across Europe, including Türkiye in order to contain its spread, pose a potential risk to the implementation of Action activities which would require travel and face-to-face meetings (high).

Periodic Progress Reports prepared by the project team in Ankara also included sections on assumptions and risks. These sections reassessed and re-ranked the risks facing SIAC II over time. For example, COVID-19, which had previously been identified as a high-level risk, was removed after September 2022, while ineffective communication among stakeholders was identified as a recurring risk with varying levels of severity. The risks presented across the four project progress reports were as follows:

⁹⁴ DOA, Log frame, Progress Reports 1-4

⁹⁵ DOA

- The workload of the beneficiary (low – medium – medium – medium)
- Conflicting interests between different institutions (medium – medium – medium – medium)
- Lack of effective communication among the stakeholders (medium – high – medium – high)
- The Covid-19 pandemic and various limitations imposed by national authorities across Europe, including Türkiye (high)

Mitigation Measures

The Project team adopted a flexible and adaptive approach to mitigate and respond to implementation challenges since the early stages of the Project. Initially, the following mitigation measures were identified:

- High level discussions in the framework of the Turkey-EU dialogue.
- Regular consultations, including high-level, between Council of Europe and Turkish authorities.
- Peer-to-peer exchanges between judges of the ECtHR and the TCC.

These measures aimed to effectively address the political risks that had the potential to influence the implementation of the Project by breaking down communication and/or cooperation between the relevant judicial institutions. Through the Project's lifecycle, the Project team adopted additional mitigation measures, including:

- Re-arranging the activity calendar in light of forthcoming elections (judicial and national).
- Organising high-level meetings between the TCC and the Court of Cassation in light of tensions between the courts.

Appendix C – Stakeholder map

The table below provides an overview of the stakeholders involved and outlines their primary role and accountability relationship.

Stakeholder groups	Category	Primary role	Accountability
Council of Europe project and management team	Implementer	Delivery/ Coordination	- Accountable to the European Union for contractual compliance, results delivery, financial management, reporting, and achievement of project objectives. - Accountable to the Council of Europe management structures for adherence to organisational standards and procedures.
Council of Europe staff (HQ and field office)	Oversight body	Participation/ Oversight	Accountable to Council of Europe management for quality assurance, strategic guidance, and compliance with organisational policies.
European Union	Donor/ Contracting authority	Funding/ Oversight	Accountable to EU institutions (and taxpayers) for the effective and efficient use of funds and achievement of intended development and governance outcomes.
Constitutional Court of Türkiye	Final beneficiary	Delivery/ Participation	Accountable for actively participating in Project activities, applying acquired knowledge and tools where relevant, and contributing to the achievement of Project expected results.
Selected courts of the Turkish justice system (Court of Cassation, Council of State, Regional Courts of Justice)	Partner/ Stakeholder	Participation	Accountable to the Council of Europe for meaningful participation in Project activities.
Ministry of Justice (and other Ministries, e.g. Ministry of Foreign Affairs)	Partner/ Stakeholder	Participation	Accountable to the Council of Europe for meaningful participation in Project activities.
Union of Turkish Bar Association	Partner/ Stakeholder	Participation	Accountable to the Council of Europe for meaningful participation in Project activities.

Stakeholder groups	Category	Primary role	Accountability
Human Rights and Equality Institution of Türkiye	Partner/ Stakeholder	Participation	Accountable to the Council of Europe for meaningful participation in Project activities.
Ombudsperson Institution of Türkiye	Partner/ Stakeholder	Participation	Accountable to the Council of Europe for meaningful participation in Project activities.
Justice Academy of Türkiye	Partner/ Stakeholder	Participation	Accountable to the Council of Europe for meaningful participation in Project activities.
Council of Judges and Prosecutors	Partner/ Stakeholder	Participation	Accountable to the Council of Europe for meaningful participation in Project activities.
Bar Associations	Partner/ Stakeholder	Participation	Accountable to the Council of Europe for meaningful participation in Project activities.
Civil Society Organisations (ASAM ⁹⁶)	Partner/ Stakeholder	Participation	Accountable to the Council of Europe for meaningful participation in Project activities.
Trained trainers	Partner/ Stakeholder	Participation	Accountable to their respective institutions for meaningful participation in Project activities.

⁹⁶ Association for Social Development and Aid Mobilization (ASAM).

Appendix D – Status overview of Project activities

The table below provides an overview of the status of individual activities planned under the Project until May 2026.

Activity	Status	Progress & reach	Notes
Expected result 1: Monitoring mechanism for execution of judgements of the TCC is strengthened in line with EU best practices, and the stakeholder platform has improved monitoring.			
1.1 A comparative study with recommendations on the organisation of execution of judgements in European constitutional courts and the ECtHR	Complete	Submitted and presented in 2022	-
1.2 Improvement of the existing IT platform and development of an IT Tool and a data collection mechanism on the execution of TCC judgements	Complete	IT platform deployed, made public on 27 April 2026.	-
1.3 12 Working group meetings on methods for assessment of the effectiveness of the individual application system	Partially complete	4/12 working group meetings held	No activities held in late 2023 to mid-2024 due to the earthquake and to political tensions between the TCC and the Court of Cassation, activities resumed after leadership changes on TCC and Court of Cassation in May-June 2024 ⁹⁷ .
Expected result 2: Judges, prosecutors, relevant public officers and lawyers are aware of the case law of the ECtHR and the TCC, and are able to implement those judgements in similar cases			
2.1 20 round tables with the TCC, the Regional Courts of Appeals, and the Court of Cassation and the CoST on specific issues related to the individual application judgements	Partially complete	16/20 large-scale round tables delivered, total of 1,691 participants	Activity was paused due to tensions between the TCC and the Court of Cassation, resumed in October 2025 once constructive relations were re-established ⁹⁸ .
2.2 30 training seminars for lawyers and civil society on the TCC's case law, admissibility of application before the TCC and issues related to the execution of the TCC judgements	Complete	30/30 ToT sessions delivered, total of 798 participants	-
2.3 30 training sessions for judges of courts of general jurisdiction and prosecutors on the ECHR and the TCC case law in selected areas	Complete	30/30 training sessions delivered, total of 981 participants	-
2.4. Translation and adaptation of at least 2 HELP distance-learning courses relevant to the issues identified in the TCC case law and organising at least 6 tutored courses	Complete	2/2 HELP courses adapted and translated; provision of 9 HELP courses	-
2.5 Development of a training methodology for continuous training of legal professionals on the execution of TCC judgements	Complete	Drafted and finalised in 2022	-
2.6 8 training-of-trainers (ToT) sessions on the use of the methodology for continuous training on the execution of TCC judgements	Complete	8/8 ToT sessions delivered, total of 236 participants	-

⁹⁷ Progress Report 4.

⁹⁸ Progress Report 4.

Activity	Status	Progress & reach	Notes
2.7 6 coordination meetings with Bar associations and the UTBA on the development of communication and visibility methodology to foster communication between lawyers and the TCC	Partially complete	2/3 meetings held Third meeting expected in May 2026 as signing ceremony of final protocol ⁹⁹ .	Target adjusted during the project from 6 to 3 coordination meetings ¹⁰⁰ , no further details provided.
Expected result 3: Inadequate implementation of TCC judgements and other serious human rights lacunas detected via TCC's case law are effectively addressed			
3.1 Development of a roadmap for better application of the TCC judgements by ordinary courts	Complete	Finalised and presented in 2023	-
3.2 Qualitative assessment of the TCC case law's impact on Türkiye's ECHR compliance, including a Strategy paper for necessary changes to be drafted and communication to all relevant stakeholders (one expert report)	Complete	Finalised and presented in 2022	-
3.3 14 roundtables for the TCC with the participation of lawyers from the ECtHR Registry on ensuring the consistency of case-law	Complete	14/14 roundtables delivered	-
3.4 Expert report on the best European practices of reducing case-law backlog (including in constitutional and international courts)	Complete	finalised and presented in 2022	-
3.5 2 Study visits of the TCC Secretariat responsible for case management solutions to the ECtHR	Complete	2/2 study visits completed	-
Expected result 4: The transfer of EU expertise and cooperation of Turkish courts and relevant stakeholders with the European and Member State institutions/courts are enhanced			
4.1 3-month placements for 60 rapporteurs/ relevant experts of the TCC Secretariat to the ECtHR Registry, the Department for the Execution of Judgements of the ECtHR, the CPT, the Venice Commission and other CoE bodies and institutes in EU member states	Complete	50/50 rapporteurs/ experts	Target adjusted during the project from 60 rapporteurs to 50 ¹⁰¹ . Delivery impacted by election process and management changes at the TCC in 2023-2024.
4.2 7 study visits of TCC judges and Secretariat and representatives of different stakeholders to the CoE and peer institution in the EU	Complete	7/7 study visits delivered	-
4.3 Participation of TCC judges and rapporteurs to different thematic study visits and international events (on selected aspects of the ECHR)	Complete	104/ 80 participants (Spain, France)	-
4.4 4 conferences on selected matters related to the implementation of the TCC and the ECtHR judgements in Türkiye with the participation of the ECtHR judges and Registry lawyers	Complete	4/4 conferences delivered	-
Expected result 5: Awareness of the general public and public institutions is increased on the role of the TCC in the protection of fundamental rights through its judgements			
5.1 Awareness-raising campaign on the role and mandate of the TCC and its impact as a key institution for human rights protection in Türkiye, including the necessary changes in the legislation and administrative practices	Partially complete	2/5 videos, a handbook (distributed to 1,040+ people), and 2 press briefing (2024, 2025) reaching 111 journalists	Campaign stated to have been initially delayed in agreement with the TCC due to political tensions

⁹⁹ Narrative report for the 13th Steering Committee Meeting

¹⁰⁰ Progress Report 4.

¹⁰¹ Progress Report 4.

Activity	Status	Progress & reach	Notes
		and 46 members of national media	with other courts ¹⁰² . No further details provided across project documentation.
5.2 30 lectures for law faculty students on human rights issues raised in the TCC judgements and the state of their remedy through legislation and/or administrative and judicial practices	Partially completed	22/30 lectures delivered, 3,289/4,000 participants	Delivery impacted by the earthquake as in-person education in universities was paused.
5.3 Development of public outreach and communication strategy and guidelines	Complete	Delivered and finalised	Strategy recommendations implemented to varying extent ¹⁰³ .
5.4 10 workshops for the press officers of the TCC and general jurisdiction courts on public outreach	N.a.		Activity required completion of the communication strategy (activity 5.3) to be implemented and was initially postponed ¹⁰⁴ ; it was finally removed from the DoA with Addendum 2, as press offices at Courthouses do not exist anymore ¹⁰⁵ .
5.5 20 workshops with public institutions, where relevant, CSOs, involved in the execution of the TCC judgement or dissemination of information on the TCC and its case law	Partially complete	14/15 workshops	Target adjusted during the project from 20 to 15 workshops¹⁰⁶ . Delays – and lowering of targets - linked to the decision to implement workshops once the ToTs (Activity 2.6) were completed to involve newly trained trainers ¹⁰⁷ .

Sources: DOA, SIAC II Progress Reports 1-4, Narrative report for the 13th Steering Committee meeting

¹⁰² Stakeholder interviews.

¹⁰³ Progress Report 4.

¹⁰⁴ Progress Report 3.

¹⁰⁵ Project team feedback.

¹⁰⁶ Progress Report 4.

¹⁰⁷ Progress Report 1

Appendix E – Achievement of log frame targets

The tables below provides an overview of progress towards the Project's stated outcomes (and individual expected results) and objectives (impact). The latter was not in scope of the evaluation and is included as a second table below for reference. In both cases, the assessment was based on the baseline and target indicators, as defined in in the Project's log frame, and consulted project documentation and external documentation. In both cases, the assessment also classified progress towards log frame indicators using a colour-coded system to distinguish between targets that were "Met", "Partially met", and "Not met" (see legend below).

Colour coding legend	
Met	Achievement against the log frame target reached or exceeded
Partially met	Achievement against the log frame target reached at least 50%
Not met	Achievement against the log frame target was below 50%

Outcome	Indicator	Baseline	Target	Assessment
Expected result 1: Monitoring mechanism for execution of judgements of the TCC is strengthened in line with the EU best practices, and the stakeholder platform has improved monitoring.	• Number of recommendations on the organisation of execution of judgements based on best practices	• No recommendations available	End of action: 30% • At least 7 recommendations are available and at least 3 recommendations are implemented	• Met: 9 recommendations available (Act 1.1), of which at least 7 have been implemented. • Examples of recommendations <u>not</u> implemented: ◦ Rec 3: requires legislative change (Art 49 Law of the Constitutional Court) ◦ Rec 4: oral hearings are not the norm for IAs, limited evidence that this has changed significantly since 2020 ¹⁰⁸
	• Number of communication tools and resources created	• No communication tools available	• End of action: At least 2 resources or tools are created (data base and communication methodology)	• Met: IT tool in final stages of development and roll out ¹⁰⁹ and communication strategy finalised (Act 5.3)
	• Gender perspective incorporated in IT tool and communication strategy	• Gender sensitive data not available or accessible	• End of action: Gender disaggregated data is available for all Project events. Gender disaggregated data is available for of the IT tool and individual application statistics.	• Partially met: Gender disaggregated data available for all Project activities. Gender disaggregated data anticipated to be included in IT tool. Gender disaggregated data not yet available for IA statistics. ¹¹⁰
Expected result 2: Judges, prosecutors, relevant public officers and lawyers are aware of the case law of the ECtHR and TCC and able to implement those judgements in similar	• Number of judges, prosecutors, lawyers, legal officers and students whose level of knowledge on the case law, nature as well as the	• 27 members of the judiciary	• End of action: At least 5,000	• Met: 4,067 (without students); 7,356 (with students) ¹¹¹

¹⁰⁸ Log frame results: September 2025, SIAC 2 – Act 1.1 Comparative Study), stakeholder feedback, Code on the establishment of the rules of procedure of the constitutional court (30 March 2011), available at: <https://www.anayasa.gov.tr/en/legislation/law-on-constitutional-court/>

¹⁰⁹ Stakeholder feedback.

¹¹⁰ The evaluation team was not able to assess the new IT tool or updated TCC database as they are not yet publicly available

¹¹¹ SIAC 2 – Activity-Statistics-Participants Oriented

Outcome	Indicator	Baseline	Target	Assessment
cases.	execution of the TCC and ECtHR judgements have been improved			
	Percentage of increase in level of knowledge on the case law, nature as well as execution of the TCC and the ECtHR judgements	0%	End of action: 30% increase	Met: 2022: 96,4%, 09.2023: 96% 09.2024: 96%, 09.2025: 95%
Expected result 3: Inadequate implementation of TCC judgements and other systemic human rights lacunas detected via TCC's case law are effectively addressed	A road map for necessary changes is drafted and communicated to all relevant stakeholders	Roadmap not available	2022: Roadmap available	Met: Roadmap completed in 2023¹¹²
	Number of recommended legislative or regulatory amendments addressing the problems pointed by the case law of the TCC	2021: 0	End of Action: at least 10	Met: 12 broad recommendations made in Roadmap (Act 3.1) and 15 recommendations made in relation to case law backlog (Act 3.4)
Expected result 4: The transfer of the EU expertise and cooperation between Turkish courts and relevant stakeholders with the European and Member States institutions/courts, and the European Court of Human Rights are enhanced	Number of new practices/amended rules (as regards the organisation of the Registry, case management, etc.) implemented within the TCC and other high courts, after exchanges with European counterpart	2021: 0	End of action: at least 20	Partially met: 10 new practices/ amended rules documented.¹¹³
Expected result 5: Awareness of the general public and public institutions on the role of the TCC in the protection of fundamental rights through its judgements is increased	Number of respondents targeted by the campaign (journalists, students, public)	2021: 0%	100 journalists, 4000 students and 5000 general public targeted by the campaign	Met: 116,813 respondents reached¹¹⁴; - Latest breakdown available¹¹⁵: 2,629 students; 158 journalists; 91,746 general public

Sources: DOA, Log frame Results (September 2025), SIAC 2 – Act.5.1 - Event Count, SIAC 2 – Act.5.1 - Target Count, SIAC 2 – Activity Statistics Participant Oriented.

¹¹² The roadmap was delivered in 2023, rather than 2022, as the Project team decided to begin its development after the finalisation of three expert reports under Act 1.1, 3.1 and 3.4. This was done to ensure the roadmap could take the recommendations of other experts into consideration. Source: Project documentation (Progress Report 1)

¹¹³ Log frame results: September 2025), stakeholder feedback

¹¹⁴ SIAC 2 – Activity Statistics Participant Oriented

¹¹⁵ Log frame Results September 2025. Lower total number than the overall reported in the Activity statistics as additional activities were implemented after the log frame results were recorded.

Impact	Indicator	Baseline	Target	Assessment on targets met
Overall objective: To contribute to effective implementation of European standards in the field of human rights, including on gender equality	• Decreased number of the ECtHR cases against Turkey under the supervision by the Committee of Ministers	Number of cases under the CM supervision against Turkey in 2020: 624	Decrease in number of applications to the ECtHR against Turkey: -10%	• Met: 28.7% decrease: 2020: 624; 2025: 445 ¹¹⁶
	• Decreased number of violation judgements rendered by TCC	Number of violation judgements by TCC in 2020: 5658	Decrease the number of violation judgements by TCC year to year: -10%	• Partially met: number of violation judgements decreased by between 68-13% in 2023, 2024, and 2025 ¹¹⁷ ; 2020: 362% increase from 2019 ; 2021: 109% increase from 2020; 2022: 199% increase from 2021 ; 2023: 68% decrease from 2022 ; 2024: 52% decrease from 2023 ; 2025: 13% decrease from 2024
	• Positive assessment of the situation of human rights by international and domestic stakeholders	Serious backsliding reported in 2021	Positive assessment reported	• Not met: i) International stakeholders report backsliding and doubts on the impartiality of judicial proceedings in 2025 ¹¹⁸ , ii) Concern that certain domestic stakeholders are not independent from the executive ¹¹⁹
Specific objective: To ensure the effective implementation of Turkish Constitutional Court judgements in the field of human rights within the scope of individual application mechanism and better awareness of relevant stakeholders on the TCC case law and individual application mechanism	• The increased compliance rate of inferior courts by the judgements of the TCC	2020: 80%	90% by end of action	• Met: 99.69% by September 2025 ¹²⁰
	• Percentage of full execution of TCC judgments in the field of fundamental rights	2018: 53	Year to year: 100%	• Not met: 100% target year to year narrowly missed: 2020: 99.47%; 2021: 86.96%, 2022: 99.99%; 2023: 99.99%; 2024: 99.31%; 2025: 99.80% ¹²¹
	• Percentage of decrease in individual applications before the TCC with non-execution claims	Number of applications in 2020: 3	10% decrease by the end of action	• Not met: percentage fluctuated throughout Project, ending at a 400% increase in 2025 • Number of applications by year: 2020: 3; 2021: 4; 2022: 8; 2023: 19; 2024: 9; 2025: 15 ¹²²
	• Percentage of TCC judgements with the outcome of reopening of legal proceedings (trials) fully executed	52.94% covering the years 2013-2019	Year to year: 90%	• Met: year to year decrease ranging from 98-100%: 2020: 99.69%; 2021: 97.98%; 2022: 100%; 2023: 98.82%; 2024: 99.94%; 2025: 99.69% ¹²³
	• Percentage of TCC judgements with the outcome of reopening of investigations fully executed	37.66% covering the years 2013-2019	Year to year: 90%	• Met: year to year decrease ranging from 97-100%: 2020: 99.69%; 2021: 97.98%; 2022: 100%; 2023: 98.82%; 2024: 99.94%; 2025: 99.69% ¹²⁴
	• Percentage of inadmissible individual applications	2018%: 88.4%	60%	• Not met: percentage of inadmissible IAs ranged from 79-89% :2020: 89%; 2021: 86.5%; 2022: 79.5%; 2023: 81.6%; 2024: 82.7%; 2025: 83.7% ¹²⁵

Sources: Project documentation (Log frame results: September 2025), Annual Reports of the TCC (2020-2025), Publications of international organisations (OHCHR)

¹¹⁶ Committee of Ministers (2025). 19th Annual Report of the Committee of Ministers. Available at: <https://www.coe.int/en/web/execution/annual-reports>

¹¹⁷ TCC Annual Report 2025, statistics on individual applications involving a violation of at least one right (including the right to a trial within a reasonable time and joined cases. Available at: <https://www.anayasa.gov.tr/en/publications/annual-reports/>

¹¹⁸ Directorate General for Enlargement and Eastern Neighbourhood (November 2025). Türkiye Report 2025. Available at: https://enlargement.ec.europa.eu/turkiye-report-2025_en

¹¹⁹ Compilation of information prepared by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (2025). Available at: <https://www.ohchr.org/en/hr-bodies/upr/tr-index>; Committee against Torture Concluding observations on the fifth periodic report of Türkiye (2024). Available at: <https://digitallibrary.un.org/record/4059747?v=pdf>

¹²⁰ Log frame results: September 2025

¹²¹ Log frame results: September 2025

¹²² Log frame results: September 2025

¹²³ Log frame results: September 2025

¹²⁴ Log frame results: September 2025

¹²⁵ Annual reports of the TCC 2020-2025

Appendix F – Overview of gender balance in Project activities

The table below presents the participation data disaggregated by gender as collected by the Project team where available.

Activity	Data availability	Gender balance (%)
1.1 A comparative study with recommendations on the organisation of execution of judgements in European constitutional courts and the ECtHR	N.A	
1.2 Improvement of the existing IT platform and development of an IT Tool and a data collection mechanism on the execution of TCC judgements	N.A	
1.3 12 Working group meetings on methods for assessment of the effectiveness of the individual application system	Yes	- Women: 35% - Men: 65%
2.1 20 round tables with the TCC, the Regional Courts of Appeals, and the Court of Cassation and the CoST on specific issues related to the individual application judgements	Yes	Data set 1: - Women: 28% - Men: 72% Data set 2: - Women: 22% - Men: 78%¹²⁶
2.2 30 training seminars for lawyers and civil society on the TCC's case law, admissibility of application before the TCC and issues related to the execution of the TCC judgements	Yes	- Women: 56% - Men: 44%
2.3 30 training sessions for judges of courts of general jurisdiction and prosecutors on the ECHR and the TCC case law in selected areas	Yes	- Women: 46% - Men: 54%
2.4. Translation and adaptation of at least 2 HELP distance-learning courses relevant to the issues identified in the TCC case law and organising at least 6 tutored courses	Yes	- Women: 48% - Men: 52%
2.5 Development of a training methodology for continuous training of legal professionals on the execution of TCC judgements	N.A	
2.6 8 training-of-trainers (ToT) sessions on the use of the methodology for continuous training on the execution of TCC judgements	Yes	- Women: 31% - Men: 69%
2.7 6 coordination meetings with Bar associations and the UTBA on the development of communication and visibility methodology to foster communication between lawyers and the TCC	Yes	- Women: 25% - Men: 75%
3.1 Development of a roadmap for better application of the TCC judgements by ordinary courts	N.A	
3.2 Qualitative assessment of the TCC case law's impact on Türkiye's ECHR compliance, including a Strategy paper for necessary changes to be drafted and communication to all relevant stakeholders (one expert report)	N.A	
3.3 14 roundtables for the TCC with the participation of lawyers from the ECtHR Registry on ensuring the consistency of case-law	Yes	- Women: 31% - Men: 69%
3.4 Expert report on the best European practices of reducing case-law backlog (including in constitutional and international courts)	N.A	
3.5 2 Study visits of the TCC Secretariat responsible for case management solutions to the ECtHR	Yes	- Women: 20% - Men: 80%
4.1 3-month placements for 60 rapporteurs/ relevant experts of the TCC Secretariat to the ECtHR Registry, the Department for the Execution of Judgements of the ECtHR, the CPT, the Venice Commission and other CoE bodies and institutes in EU member states	Yes	- Women: 31% - Men: 69%
4.2 7 study visits of TCC judges and Secretariat and representatives of different stakeholders to the CoE and peer institution in the EU	Yes	- Women: 21% - Men: 79%

¹²⁶ There are 2 sets of data due to the modified format of activity. First data set is for roundtable meetings in Ankara between 7 Feb -24 Oct 2022. The second dataset is for regional meetings from 14 Feb 2022- 21 Oct 2025.

Activity	Data availability	Gender balance (%)
4.3 Participation of TCC judges and rapporteurs to different thematic study visits and international events (on selected aspects of the ECHR)	Yes	• Women: 14% • Men: 86%
4.4 4 conferences on selected matters related to the implementation of the TCC and the ECtHR judgements in Türkiye with the participation of the ECtHR judges and Registry lawyers	Yes	• Women: 28% • Men: 72%
5.1 Awareness-raising campaign on the role and mandate of the TCC and its impact as a key institution for human rights protection in Türkiye, including the necessary changes in the legislation and administrative practices	Yes	• Women: 23% • Men: 77%
5.2 30 lectures for law faculty students on human rights issues raised in the TCC judgements and the state of their remedy through legislation and/or administrative and judicial practices	Yes	• Women: 60% • Men: 40%
5.3 Development of public outreach and communication strategy and guidelines	N.A	
5.4 10 workshops for the press officers of the TCC and general jurisdiction courts on public outreach	N.A	
5.5 20 workshops with public institutions, where relevant, CSOs, involved in the execution of the TCC judgement or dissemination of information on the TCC and its case law	Yes	• Women: 50% • Men: 50%

Source: SIAC2 – Activity-Statistics-Participants Oriented

Appendix G – References

The below list presents the documentation consulted for this evaluation.

Council of Europe documents – confidential

- Budget
- Annex 1: Description of Action
- Annex 1: DOA Addendum 1
- Annex 1: DOA Addendum 2
- Action Plan Gantt Chart
- Log Frame (Sept 2025)
- SIAC2 Progress Report 1 (Sept 2021-Sept 2022)
- SIAC2 Progress Report 2 (Sept 2022 - Sept 2023)
- SIAC2 Progress Report 3 (Sept 2023 - Sept 2024)
- SIAC2 Progress Report 4 (Sept 2024-Sept 2025)
- SIAC 2 ROM Report 2022
- SIAC 2 ROM Report 2024
- End of Year Placement report: Dec 2022 (6 docs)
- End of Year Placement report: April 2023 (8 docs)
- End of Year Placement report: July 2023
- End of Year Placement report: Dec 2023 (5 docs)
- End of Year Placement report: Sept 2024 (3 docs)
- End of Year Placement report: April 2025 (6 docs)
- End of Year Placement report: July 2025 (4 docs)
- End of Year Placement report: Dec 2025 (5 docs)
- End of Year Placement report: May 2026
- SIAC 2 Comparative Study
- SIAC 2 Roadmap
- SIAC 2 Impact Assessment
- SIAC 2 Reducing case law backlog
- SIAC 2 Public Outreach Communication Strategy
- SIAC 2 Gender Mainstreaming Report
- Steering Committee Meeting Minutes (27.1.22)
- Steering Committee Meeting Minutes (26.5.22)
- Steering Committee Meeting Minutes (6.9.22)
- Steering Committee Meeting Minutes (6.1.23)
- Steering Committee Meeting Minutes (30.3.23)
- Steering Committee Meeting Minutes (19.7.23)
- Steering Committee Meeting Minutes (16.11.23)
- Steering Committee Meeting Minutes (21.03.24)
- Steering Committee Meeting Minutes (10.7.24)
- Steering Committee Meeting Minutes (19.11.24)
- Steering Committee Meeting Minutes (29.4.25)
- Steering Committee Meeting Minutes (2.12.25)
- Evaluation of Lawyers' Cascade Trainings
- Evaluation of Judges and Prosecutors Cascade Trainings
- Evaluation of Training of Trainers Programme
- SIAC2 Activity Statistics-Participants Oriented
- SIAC-2 Act.5.1 - Target Count
- SIAC-2 Act.5.1 - Activity Count

External documents

- TCC Annual Report 2020
- TCC Annual Report 2021
- TCC Annual Report 2022
- TCC Annual Report 2023
- TCC Annual Report 2024
- TCC Individual Application Statistics 2012-2025
- TCC Constitutionality Review Statistics 2012- 2025
- Action Plan on Human Rights: Free Individual, Strong Society; More Democratic TURKEY
- Commission Staff Working Document: Turkiye 2020 Report
- Commission Staff Working Document: Turkiye 2023 Report
- ECtHR Annual Report 2025
- Judicial Reform Strategy 2025-2029
- Judicial Reform Strategy and Judicial Independence Nov 2019
- Turkey National Action Plan on Prevention of ECHR Violations
- Revised Indicative Strategy Paper for Turkey

Appendix H – Mission programme

The table below presents the interviews held during the field mission to Ankara (13-16 April 2026) as well as the additional remote interviews conducted the following week.

Day, modality	Institution	Time
Monday, 13 April		
In-person	Constitutional Court	10.00-15.00
In-person	Regional Court of Appeals (trainer)	16.00
Tuesday, 14 April		
In-person	MoJ, Human Rights Dept (placement)	10.00
In-person	EUD (contracting authority)	11.30
In-person	Human Rights and Equality Institution	14.00
In-person	Bar Association (trainer)	15.00
In-person	Bar Association (trainer)	16.00
In-person	Bar Association (trainer)	17.30
Wednesday, 15 April		
In-person	Justice Academy	09.00-11.00
In-person	Ministry of Justice	14.00
Thursday, 16 April		
In-person	CoE Programme Office in Ankara	09:00
In-person	Ministry of Foreign Affairs	10.00
In-person	Council of State	11.15
In-person	Union of Bars	16.00
Wednesday, 22 April		
Online	Court of Cassation	10.30
Online	Edirne Bar Association (trainer lawyer)	14:00

Appendix I – Interview checklists

Below we present the main interview checklists used. These were customised as relevant for individual stakeholders and interviews.

I.1 Questionnaire for the Council of Europe Project team

Your involvement in the Project

Kindly provide some background on the nature and extent of your participation and involvement in the Project to date:

1. Please explain your role in the Project and in what ways you have been involved in it.

Key Evaluation Issues

We would be grateful for your opinion on general issues relating to the Project as a whole:

2. In your opinion, to what extent are the objectives and activities of the Project relevant to the TCC? What are the needs of the TCC and how are these addressed by the Project?
3. How has ownership been ensured among the different stakeholders involved in the Project? And with the TCC in particular?
4. How efficiently has the project been implemented and to what extent have key stakeholders (CoE, EU, TCC, other Turkish authorities) fulfilled their expected roles?
5. To what extent has the Project contributed to strengthening the collaboration between the TCC and first instance courts, high courts and Regional Courts of Appeals? What is the current relationship between them?
6. Has the Project achieved its objectives (or to what extent is it achieving its objectives) of ensuring the effective implementation of TCC judgements in the field of human rights within the scope of individual application mechanisms? And of better awareness of stakeholders on the TCC case law and individual application mechanism?
7. If so, what have been enabling factors? What challenges have hindered or affected implementation? Could these have been foreseen and have they been addressed?
8. How effective have the communication strategy and other awareness raising activities and efforts been?
9. Overall, how successful has the Project been? What are the lessons that can be learnt for the future of the project and other similar schemes, including project design and implementation?
10. What measures (at design and throughout the project implementation) have been taken to ensure the sustainability of the Project beyond its completion? How do you expect the TCC and other relevant stakeholders to continue using the project outcomes?
11. Are there any other issues relating to the Project that you would like to discuss?

I.2 Questionnaire for the Turkish Constitutional Court

Introduction to the evaluation

The Centre for Strategy and Evaluation Services is conducting the an independent evaluation of the European Union/ Council of Europe Project ‘Supporting the Effective Implementation of Turkish Constitutional Court Judgements in the Field of Fundamental Rights’ (hereafter ‘the Project’).

For that purpose, the evaluation team is interviewing stakeholders to gather their views on the relevance of the Project, how efficiently it has been implemented, the extent to which it has achieved its stated objectives (effectiveness), and how sustainable its outcomes are towards the future.

We are grateful for your time and for your contribution with your views to the evaluation. All your responses will remain anonymous and will be reported in aggregate format. No personal details nor individual responses will be shared.

Your involvement in the Project

Kindly provide some background on the nature and extent of your participation and involvement in the Project to date:

1. Please elaborate on your role within the Turkish Constitutional Court (TCC).
2. Please explain your role in the Project and in what ways you have been involved in it.

Key Evaluation Issues

We would be grateful for your opinion on general issues relating to the Project as a whole:

3. In your opinion, to what extent are the objectives and activities of the Project relevant to the TCC? What are the needs of the TCC and how are these addressed by the Project?
4. To what extent is the ownership of the Project with the TCC? Did the TCC contribute to shaping the design and implementation of the Project activities?
5. To what extent have the monitoring mechanisms (e.g., IT platform) and other project outputs (e.g., roadmap for first instance courts and public authorities, qualitative impact assessment of the TCC case law) helped identify and address inadequate implementation of TCC judgements? To what extent have they been embedded in the working methods of the TCC?
6. How useful have capacity building activities been in raising the knowledge around the case law of the TCC and of the European Court of Human Rights? Have trainings and other capacity building activities addressed the main knowledge gaps?
7. In your view, to what extent have awareness raising activities contributed to strengthening the awareness of the mandate and role of the TCC and of its judgements among the general public and public institutions?
8. In what ways have the Project activities helped the effective implementation of the TCC judgements in the fields of human rights?
9. To what extent has the Project contributed to strengthening the collaboration between the TCC and first instance courts, high courts and Regional Courts of Appeals? What is the current relationship of the TCC with other courts?
10. What factors have contributed to the successful implementation of the Project overall? What challenges have hindered or affected implementation?
11. Are there any other issues relating to the Project that you would like to discuss?

I.3 Questionnaire for key beneficiaries

Introduction to the evaluation

The Centre for Strategy and Evaluation Services is conducting the an independent evaluation of the European Union/ Council of Europe Project 'Supporting the Effective Implementation of Turkish Constitutional Court Judgements in the Field of Fundamental Rights' (hereafter 'the Project').

For that purpose, the evaluation team is interviewing stakeholders to gather their views on the relevance of the Project, how efficiently it has been implemented, the extent to which it has achieved its stated objectives (effectiveness), and how sustainable its outcomes are towards the future.

We are grateful for your time and for your contribution with your views to the evaluation. All your responses will remain anonymous and will be reported in aggregate format. No personal details nor individual responses will be shared.

Your involvement in the Project

Kindly provide some background on the nature and extent of your participation and involvement in the Project to date:

1. Please explain your role in the Project and in what ways you have been involved in it.

Key Evaluation Issues

We would be grateful for your opinion on general issues relating to the Project as a whole:

2. If you participated in Project activities (conferences, roundtables, workshops, study visits and placements), please comment on how useful they were in terms of improving your knowledge of the case law of the European Court of Human Rights and the Turkish Constitutional Court (TCC) and how well they were organised.
3. Will continue implementing the knowledge / tools / learnings from the project beyond the project lifetime and in what ways will you do so?
4. To what extent have the Project activities helped the effective implementation of the TCC judgements in the fields of human rights? Please provide examples.
5. To what extent have awareness raising activities contributed to strengthening the awareness of the mandate and role of the TCC and of its judgements among the general public and public institutions? Please provide examples.
6. What do you think have been factors enabling the success of the Project? What challenges have hindered or affected implementation (of specific activities, of the Project as a whole, etc.)?
7. To what extent has the Project contributed to strengthening the collaboration between the TCC and first instance courts, high courts and Regional Courts of Appeals? Are the other courts increasingly rendering decisions in line with the TCC case law?
8. Overall, how successful has the Project been? What are the lessons that can be learnt for the future of the project and other similar schemes?
9. Are there any other issues relating to the Project that you would like to discuss?

I.4 Questionnaire for the European Union

Introduction to the evaluation

The Centre for Strategy and Evaluation Services is conducting the an independent evaluation of the European Union/ Council of Europe Project 'Supporting the Effective Implementation of Turkish Constitutional Court Judgements in the Field of Fundamental Rights' (hereafter 'the Project').

For that purpose, the evaluation team is interviewing stakeholders to gather their views on the relevance of the Project, how efficiently it has been implemented, the extent to which it has achieved its stated objectives (effectiveness), and how sustainable its outcomes are towards the future.

We are grateful for your time and for your contribution with your views to the evaluation. All your responses will remain anonymous and will be reported in aggregate format. No personal details nor individual responses will be shared.

Your involvement in the Project

Kindly provide some background on the nature and extent of your participation and involvement in the Project to date:

1. Please explain your role in the Project and in what ways you have been involved in it.

Key Evaluation Issues

We would be grateful for your opinion on general issues relating to the Project as a whole:

2. In your opinion, to what extent are the objectives and activities of the Project relevant to the TCC? What are the needs of the TCC and how are these addressed by the Project?
3. How does the Project contribute to Türkiye's EU accession process? And to national strategies and priorities?
4. How efficiently has the project been implemented and to what extent have key stakeholders (CoE, EU, TCC, other Turkish authorities) fulfilled their expected roles? Could alternative approaches or working methods have led to the same results with fewer resources?
5. How have the management arrangements with the Council of Europe worked? In your view, how efficiently and successfully has the Project been implemented?
6. To what extent have key stakeholders (Council of Europe, TCC, other Turkish authorities) fulfilled their expected roles?
7. How has ownership been ensured among the different stakeholders involved in the Project? And with the TCC in particular?
8. Has the Project achieved its objectives (or to what extent is it achieving its objectives) of ensuring effective implementation of TCC judgements in the field of human rights within the scope of individual application mechanisms and better awareness of stakeholders on the TCC case law and individual application mechanism?
9. If so, what have been enabling factors? What challenges have hindered or affected implementation? Could these have been foreseen and how have they been addressed?
10. How effective have the communication strategy and other awareness raising activities and efforts been?
11. In your view, how well has the cooperation between members of the Turkish courts and EU institutions/ courts and the European Court of Human Rights worked? What are the key learnings?

12. Overall, how successful has the Project been? What are the lessons that can be learnt for the future of the project and other similar schemes, including project design and implementation?
13. Are there any other issues relating to the Project that you would like to discuss?

Appendix J – AI Tool Questionnaire

The use of artificial intelligence in Council of Europe texts

The Council of Europe recognises the utility of artificial intelligence (AI) applications as tools for research, translation and drafting, and at the same time strives to respect intellectual property rights. In the interest of transparency, and in accordance with publishing industry standards, the use of these tools must be clearly stated by authors and any passages drafted or translated by generative AI must be indicated, with the name of the tool used.

Please indicate the use of AI in the work for which you have been contracted by the Council of Europe. Have you used AI tools in the drafting of your document. Yes ___ No ☒ ___

If yes, please provide the following information.

Name of the AI tool	How it was used in the drafting process and where
N.a.	N.a.