

Management Response and Action Plan

Project on Improving the Effectiveness of Family Courts: Better Protection of the Rights of Family Members

Name of Evaluation Report:	EXTERNAL EVALUATION OF THE PROJECT: “Improving the Effectiveness of Family Courts: Better Protection of the Rights of Family Members” in Türkiye		
Date of Evaluation Report:	31/08/2024	Date of Action Plan:	12/2024

Overall management response to the evaluation:

This evaluation comprehensively analysed the relevance, effectiveness, efficiency, and sustainability of the project, with a particular focus on possible improvements for new projects. The project team, Head of Türkiye Unit and Head of Co-operation Programmes Division have reviewed the four recommendations outlined in the evaluation report and had accepted them.

The accepted recommendations align closely with the insights received from the project team, partners, and individual meetings with national stakeholders during the implementation of the Project.

Overall, this evaluation process has served as a valuable tool for assessing project performance, identifying areas for enhancement, and informing strategic decision-making moving forward.

Dissemination plan for the evaluation: The report was shared internally, including with the donor and beneficiaries by email and was published on the relevant website – DIO [website](#). The Management response was prepared in close collaboration with the Council of Europe Ankara office, the Head of Türkiye Unit, and the Head of the Co-operation Programmes Division.

Management Decision ¹	Entity in Charge	Planned Actions ² (determined by Entity)	Justification ³ for Non-Acceptance	Target Date for Action	Person Responsible for Action
Recommendation 1: Focus on enabling a proper handover to the partner institutions in order to further transfer the ownership of the Projects results to the MoJ, Ministry of Family Affairs and to the Judiciary, and ensure the continuity of key actions necessary to improve family court proceedings, namely through further cooperation and information sharing.					
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Accepted <input type="checkbox"/> Rejected <input type="checkbox"/> Under consideration	Project team, DGI	<p>As part of the Final Project report, a handover and sustainability plan will be prepared and shared with key national partners. The handover plan will provide a structured approach to sustain the outputs and achievements of the Project, ensuring that the relevant institutions continue to apply the tools and knowledge developed. As a result, it is expected to ensure the continuation of the work done by the Project, and specifically to continue inter-agency dialogue and cooperation over family law issues. This will also contribute to ownership and sustainability of Projects' achievements.</p> <p>DGI will further seek opportunities to pursue its work related to the creation and functioning of the Family Law Evaluation Board.</p>		<p>31 March 2025</p> <p>In line with the DoA, the Final report is prepared within 6 months from the closing of the Project.</p>	HQ based Programme Manager

¹ The management decision is in relation to the Recommendation (Accepted, Rejected, Under consideration).

² For implementing accepted recommendations.

³ For recommendations that are rejected or under consideration.

Management Decision ¹	Entity in Charge	Planned Actions ² (determined by Entity)	Justification ³ for Non-Acceptance	Target Date for Action	Person Responsible for Action
Recommendation 2: Build on the expertise transferred to senior justice officials, experts and trainers to refine training sessions and materials and explore opportunities for continuing awareness raising and expanding training in other regions, to reach more justice professionals and experts involved in the family justice system.					
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Accepted <input type="checkbox"/> Rejected <input type="checkbox"/> Under consideration	DG1 and Ankara Office	Continued communication and cooperation with the national partner institution will be vital for ensuring persistence in disseminating information. Action will be focused on proper functioning of the distance learning platform created under the Project and supporting justice partners institutions and trainers to expand the training programmes to other regions. Major role in this work is expected from the Family Law Evaluation Board.		19 September 2025	Head of Türkiye Unit, Ankara Office hierarchy

Recommendation 3: Encourage partners to follow-up on coherent application of European standards for the protection of fundamental human rights in the daily work of family justice and social professionals.					
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Accepted <input type="checkbox"/> Rejected <input type="checkbox"/> Under consideration	DG1, Ankara Office	Regular meetings will be held with national partners with the goal to exchange on the progress of integration of good practices in daily work of professionals. The Family Law Evaluation Board (the Board) will have a significant role in this process. Through its planned support to the Board, the Council of Europe will encourage development of a guidance / criteria for monitoring progress and changes in family court proceedings.		19 September 2025	Head of Türkiye Unit, Ankara Office hierarchy
Recommendation 4: Advocate for progressive legislative and policy changes in family court proceedings in Türkiye, in line with European best practice models, considering amendments where feasibly adaptable and transferable and with a sensitive approach to the social, economic and cultural environment					
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Accepted <input type="checkbox"/> Rejected <input type="checkbox"/> Under consideration	DG1, Ankara Office	Emphasis will be put on ensuring that partner institutions effectively use assessment reports produced under the Project. Among other, the Project made available a Roadmap for Legislative and Policy-Level Amendments in Family Court Procedures, containing numerous		19 September 2025	Head of Türkiye Unit, Ankara Office hierarchy

		<p>recommendations for legislative changes. The Council of Europe will explore possibilities of supporting the work of the Family Law Evaluation Board whose role in this is seen as pivotal. In addition, it will focus on 1) Ensuring the follow-up and sustainability of the Roadmap; 2) Engaging youth and women's organisations to promote advocacy and raise awareness about necessary reforms in family justice; 3) Encouraging the Court of Cassation to incorporate the Project's guidelines and handbooks into court rules.</p>			
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