



This Project is funded by the European Commission

Technical Assistance for Better Access to Justice – Turkey ('BAJ') - EuropeAid/123555/D/SER/TR*

Technical Assistance for Better Access to Justice – Turkey Project Overview

The European Commission sponsored project “**Technical Assistance for Better Access to Justice – Turkey**” (EuropeAid/123555/D/SER/TR) is led by ADR Center, a Rome-based firm working with a consortium of partners including, the Centre for Effective Dispute Resolution (UK), IBF International Consulting (Belgium), Istanbul Bilgi University (Turkey), and Pricewaterhouse Coopers Danışmanlık Hizmetleri Ltd. Şti (Turkey).

Overview & Purpose

The overall objective of the Project is to strengthen the rule of law in Turkey and provide all citizens access to justice in line with EU *acquis* standards. The project has Legal Aid, ADR and IT components. The Legal Aid component aims at improving access to justice by increasing the utilization of the Legal Aid system with trainings of lawyers, promotion of service itself and checking the service qualities. The ADR component focuses on making ADR more applicable in the Justice system, strengthening the functioning of the judiciary, and increasing awareness of both the legal community and general public to the existence and benefits of ADR and “Mediation” in particular. The IT training component has the purpose of training professionals of the Turkish Ministry of Justice to use the technical infrastructure.

Target Groups

The primary target group is citizens, who need Legal Aid and ADR services, lawyers, other Turkish judicial system’s members, judges, prosecutors, officials and other institutions responsible for practical implementation of the judicial *acquis* and for management of EU and other funded judicial infrastructure projects. The project covers the whole of Turkey.

Responsible Body & Beneficiaries

The Central Finance and Contracts Unit (CFCU) is the Contracting Authority. The Consortium works closely with the beneficiary institutions in Turkey: the Ministry of Justice acts as the leading beneficiary organization, while the Union of Turkish Bars and Ankara Bar act as the co-beneficiaries.

Key Activities in the ADR Component

Public Awareness Activities:

Posters and ADR demo CD’s are developed and distributed among Local Bars, judges and lawyers. The CD’s will provide background information, model mediation samples as well as video demonstrations.

Training for Lawyers:

Intensive awareness raising trainings on ADR will be organized for 1000 lawyers. Trainings for 400 lawyers have already been completed.

International Symposia:

Major international symposia on ADR will be organized in Istanbul and Ankara, involving numerous speakers from EU and Turkey.

Study Visit:

Staff of the Ministry of Justice and representatives of the Ankara Bar will participate in a study visit to The Netherlands.

Nationwide Survey:

A nationwide survey will be designed and conducted to evaluate the success of the project.

Key Activities in the LA Component

Legal Aid Committee:

Legal Professionals from MOJ, UTB and academicians from different Universities formed the Legal Aid Committee to prepare an “Advice Report” based on their research and experiences.

Public Awareness Activities:

Posters, Brochures, TV programs and advertisement through different channels.

Training for Lawyers:

Intensive awareness raising trainings on LA will be organized for 800 lawyers in 8 major cities of Turkey. Trainings for 600 lawyers have already been completed.

International Symposia:

An international symposium on LA will be organized in Istanbul, involving numerous speakers from EU and Turkey.

Nationwide Survey:

A nationwide survey will be designed and conducted to measure the success of the project.