

Euro-Mediterranean Cooperation in the Field of Justice fostered by the EuroMed Justice Project

With the objective of contributing to the development of a Euro-Mediterranean area of cooperation in the field of justice and of effective, efficient and democratic justice systems, the European Union, alongside the Project's Partner Countries from the Southern Neighbourhood, concretely: the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria, the Arab Republic of Egypt, Israel, the Kingdom of Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, the Kingdom of Morocco, the Palestinian Authority and the Republic of Tunisia, the Syrian Arab Republic's participation being suspended by decision of the EU, have begun work on the next phase of the **EuroMed Justice process** (2016-2018).

The Opening Conference, held on 1st February in The Hague (NL), brought together the most relevant stakeholders in the field of justice, including representatives from the South Partner Countries (SPCs), the European Commission, the EU Member States, as well as other relevant EU and international and organisations active in the judicial sector.

This EuroMed Justice Project is focused on **judicial cooperation in the field of criminal law**, in coordination with Eurojust and the European Judicial Network (EJN), as well as in the field of **civil law** (particularly family law, with the support of The Hague Conference), **independence of justice** (with special emphasis on High Judicial Councils, in partnership with the Council of Europe) **and access to justice** (mainly legal aid frameworks).

Taking into account the rise in organised crime, terrorism and cybercrime in an ever globalised world, in which criminals know no borders, the project's core focus will be on criminal matters. A cooperation mechanism will facilitate working together in criminal law. This mechanism will consist of national and regional platforms directly connected with, and sustained by, Eurojust and the European Judicial Network, key stakeholders in EuroMed Justice. Some of the project activities will also be developed in cooperation with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Executive Directorate, the Council of Europe (in particular, the European Committee on Crime Problems), and the International Association of Prosecutors.

EuroMed Justice's objectives and activities are carried out following new, bottom-up and flexible, approaches, which will be supported by the Technical Assistance Facility (TAF). The TAF, which will be activated by future requests from South Partner Countries and the identification of common needs, will provide the SPCs with tailor-made activities.

The Project will promote the sharing of best practices, such as the use of judicial networks for exchanging information, and will be structured around working groups on criminal matters, conferences, technical training sessions, and study visits.

The Project is managed by a consortium led by the **Fundación Internacional y para Iberoamérica de Administración y Políticas Públicas – FIIAPP** (Spain) with its Partners from the **Center for International Legal Cooperation – CILC** (the Netherlands), the **European Institute of Public Administration – EIPA** (the Netherlands) and **Justice Coopération Internationale – JCI** (France).

Further information can be obtained from the Project Management Team at: info@euromed-justice.eu and the Project Coordinator, Ms. Dania Samoul: daniasamoul@euromed-justice.eu, tel. +34 93 245 0903.