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EUROMED JUSTICE III PROJECT



**1st MEETING OF THE DIRECTORS OF THE
EURO-MED JUDICIAL TRAINING CENTRES**

**EUROMED JUSTICE III PROJECT:
Training in the Euromed region: Overview of the current situation.
Interaction with the EuroMed Justice III Project**

Lisbon (PT), 7-8 May 2013

FINAL CONCLUSIONS

The 1st meeting of the Directors of the Euro-Med Judicial Training Centres held under the EuroMed Justice III Project of the European Commission, funded by the European Union, was held on 7 and 8 May 2013 in Lisbon, Portugal.

The participants were members of the delegations of the following Mediterranean countries: Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Palestine and Tunisia.

The meeting was opened by Ms Fernanda VIDAL, Legal Adviser, International Affairs Department/Directorate General for Justice Policy, Ministry of Justice, and National Focal Point for the EuroMed Justice III Project in Portugal; by Mr Alexandre BAPTISTA COELHO, Representative of the European Judicial Training Network (EJTN), Director of the International Relations Division of the Judicial School of Portugal; and by Mr Andrés Salcedo Velasco, Team Leader of the EuroMed Justice III Project, who welcomed the participants. The meeting was closed by Ms Sara CAMPINOTI, Programme Manager, European Commission Directorate-General Development and Co-operation – EuropeAid, Unit F4 - Regional programmes Neighbourhood South.

The Project Team made a general presentation on the EuroMed Justice III Project and held a session on the exploitation of the work developed during the first phase of the project. During this session, the Project Team presented to the participants some of the provisional results reached during the first phase of the project, both in the Research Reports and the Handbooks developed under the various project components, while suggesting that they could possibly be included in the curricula of training programmes or research activities of the training centres.

This issue will be discussed again - once the said texts have been approved - during the second meeting of the Directors of Judicial Training Centres or equivalent institutions.

Four thematic presentations were made during the meeting. Two of them were introduced by Mr Alexandre BAPTISTA COELHO.

The first one was on “Evolution of the training of judges and prosecutors: present and future. EU and ENPI South partner countries’ perspective”. During this presentation, the expert explained the nature of the institution, a private non-profit international organisation registered under Belgian Law, as well as the main activities developed by this organisation (it produces authoritative judicial training standards and curricula, plans and executes its own training activities, manages the judicial exchange programme and coordinates other judicial training programmes, and it promotes exchange of information and best practices between judicial training institutions and their trainers, etc).

The second presentation by Mr Coelho was on “Training of judges and prosecutors: the Portuguese experience”. In this respect the speaker introduced as main topics, among others, the judicial division of Portugal, the work developed by the CEJ (Centre for Judicial Studies), the procedure to be admitted into the CEJ and its internal and administrative organisation, while highlighting the competencies of the Director of the School, the General Council and the Pedagogical Council. In addition, he introduced the candidates’ requisites, the ways of admission, the detailed admission procedure, etc.

The third thematic presentation was a workshop on the use of e-learning to strengthen cross-border cooperation between judicial training institutions and judiciaries, and was made by Mr *Peter GOLDSCHMIDT*, Director of the European Centre for Judges and Lawyers, EIPA Luxembourg. During this presentation the speaker introduced how e-learning can be used to strengthen cross-border cooperation between judicial training institutes and judiciaries. In this respect, he explained, among other aspects, the differences, advantages and disadvantages between e-learning, online learning and blended learning; the requisites to develop an appropriate e-learning system, why e-learning and online learning are very useful tools or how to develop online tuition and online tools.

On the second day of the meeting Ms Sara CAMPINOTI presented an overview of the current situation regarding EU Cooperation programmes in the Euromed region linked to the Judicial Training Centres. She also introduced the general policy of the EU in this field, the different programmes or projects and the different actions carried out by the EU in this area, the cooperation in the justice sector, and more specifically related to cooperation in training activities.

In this respect the participants introduced the main international cooperation activities related to training in which their institutions are involved.

Before the end of the meeting, the Project Team presented the second phase of the EuroMed Justice III Project that will consist of training sessions and study visits.

Alls these presentations were followed by a lively debate.

Considering the objectives of this meeting and taking into account the recommendations made during the working sessions and the debate, the participants are of the opinion that this meeting has reached the expected results, i.e. it has given the opportunity:

1. To express their satisfaction for having been able to meet, strengthening in this way the links uniting them through their professional activity, work and duties.
2. To provide to the participants an overall approach concerning the EuroMed Justice III Project. This approach was mainly focused on the work developed during the 1st phase of the project.
3. To reaffirm the usefulness of promoting this kind of meetings which allow for a quality exchange and reflection between all those who are in charge of managerial duties directly related to selection and training of judges.
4. To reinforce existing and create new contacts between judicial training institutions of the region and the European Judicial Training Network.
5. To discuss more specifically how the work of the judicial training centres (or comparable institutions) could contribute to reach the main goals of this project and to the building process of the Euro-Mediterranean area of justice.
6. To discuss on how the work developed by the different judicial training centres (or comparable institutions) could be improved through the different networks devoted to training, how to take advantage of the use of new technologies and how to improve interaction among themselves.
7. To have the opportunity to propose some suggestions related to the topics that will be addressed during the training sessions to be held during the second phase of the project.
8. To appreciate the information given to them resulting from the recommendations adopted during the first phase of the project and pertaining to judicial training issues, while recognising the importance of such recommendations.
9. To consider that the work carried out by Judicial Schools and Judicial Training Centres in the Euro-Mediterranean area can bring a relevant contribution to consolidating a Euro-Mediterranean Justice area in the framework of the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership, in particular in the thematic areas addressed by the EuroMed Justice III Project.
10. To believe that judicial training centres can play an active role in implementing the above-mentioned recommendations, by incorporating them progressively in their institutional, pedagogical and operative action.
11. To state that interaction with the EuroMed Justice III project is a positive factor and that they will pay due attention to the development and results of the second phase of this project.

Participants agree with the conclusions of this meeting.

Participants are grateful to the Portuguese Ministry of Justice, to the Directorate-General Development and Co-operation-EuropeAid, European Commission, and to the Project Team for organising this meeting.

Lisbon, 8 May 2013