



Project funded by the
European Union



EUROMED JUSTICE III PROJECT

COMPONENT I: ACCESS TO JUSTICE AND LEGAL AID, WORKING GROUP JUSTICE AND NEW TECHNOLOGIES. PREPARATION OF A HANDBOOK

“Handbook describing approaches and best practices with regards to the use of technologies for the case management, circulation of materials, data collection in the legal field and communication of case law to the public.” Athens (EL), 10-12 July 2012

Press Note

In the framework of the Euromed Justice III Project, the first meeting of the working group on “Justice and new technologies” was held in Athens (Greece) on 10-12 July 2012 and was devoted to the “Preparation of a handbook describing approaches and best practices with regards to the use of technologies for the case management, circulation of materials, data collection in the legal field and communication of case law to the public”.

6 delegations from the ENPI South countries, namely Algeria, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, and Tunisia, one representative of the European Commission Representation in Athens and several representatives of the host country, Greece, attended the meeting.

The meeting was opened by the Secretary General of Transparency and Human Rights and National Focal Point of this project in Greece, and by the Team Leader of the EuroMed Justice III Project. The Chair of the Working Party on e-Law at the General Secretariat of the Council of the European Union, Mr. Pereira, focused his presentation on topics such as e-justice and e-law.

The work carried out during this first meeting has allowed the project to get a picture of the current situation in each country in this field, since such a comparative overview is not available elsewhere. The meeting gave the delegations present the opportunity to explain and present their current national situation in the field of e-justice and use of new technologies while comparing it to the situation of the rest of the participating countries, and hence to find out what kind of new technologies are being used in the region, what the implementation and development level is, not only among the beneficiary countries but also referring to the European standard outlined on the E-Justice portal. More concretely, the focus of the meeting was on the following topics: ICT steering and strategic development, technological level, level of ICT use, level of training on ICT, legal framework for the use of ICT, citizens ICT literacy level, access level for citizens, access level for professionals, citizens information portals/websites, protocols, harmonization of documents, electronic signature, common access centres, electronic file, justice administration registers, procedural schemes (workflows), use of audio and video technology, exploitation/data processing and decision by the judicial authority (e-justice). This allowed the delegations to make themselves familiar with new utilities and to identify services in other ENPI South partner countries that are targeted at citizens and professionals. As a result, participants are able to explore the potentialities of these new technologies and the current trends in the region in order to identify possible shortcomings in their catalogue of available services and consider possible changes and improvements that could be introduced to their own systems, whilst taking account of their own technical, financial, socio-economic and cultural possibilities.