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EUROMED JUSTICE III PROJECT
Component I
Access to Justice and Legal Aid
RR 1
Research Report

“Procedural simplification in the ENPI South partner countries”

Validation meeting

The Hague (NL), 11 February 2013

Press Note

The validation meeting for the Research Report 1 under the EuroMed Justice III Project took place in The Hague on 11 February 2013. This event was attended by representatives of 7 ENPI South partner countries, with 20 representatives in total attending the meeting.

The meeting was attended by representatives from:

Algeria (3), Egypt (3), Israel (3), Lebanon (3), Jordan (3), Morocco (2), and Tunisia (3)

The Syrian Arab Republic (formally part of the project even if there is a partial and temporary suspension of the EuroMed Justice III project in terms of Syrian participation), was not represented at this event. In addition, it was not possible to have Libya, as new ENPI South beneficiary country of the Project, send a representative to the meeting in spite of the efforts made by the Directorate-General Development and Co-operation EuropeAid. The same also applies to the Palestinian Authority. Furthermore, the meeting was also attended by the main short-term expert, Mr. Bernard Menut (FR), in charge of the Research Report.

In addition to the meeting agenda, relevant documentation and a general information leaflet and the pre-final version of the Research Report (the latter in English, French and Arabic versions) were handed out to the participants, and also sent to them prior to the meeting.

The agenda of the meeting included presentations made by the key experts of the Project Team. These presentations were made by the Team Leader (General presentation, overall approach and main topics suggested for discussion), and by the Course Manager and the Programme Coordinator (Work carried out and methodology applied since the launch meeting).

Regarding the profile of the participants, most of them were high officials of the Ministry of Justice, Vice-President of a Court of Cassation, Presidents of Courts, senior judges and public prosecutors, responsible of judicial training centre, Ministry of Justice central services, counsellors of the legal services of the Ministry of Justice, Lawyers, etc. A number of participants, besides being magistrates, are also engaged within certain departments of their respective Ministries of Justice.

All the participants were experts in the field covered by the meeting; many of them have a long-standing experience and they showed a deep interest in the different presentations and topics discussed.

The background, the context and the structure of the Research Report were introduced by the Project Team experts and will be further developed with the main short-term expert. More particularly, the focus was on: organisation of the judiciary, judicial time management, enforcement orders for uncontested claims, small claims procedures, labour disputes and other topics.

This presentation was followed by a lively and interesting discussion during which the participants had the opportunity to make useful comments and provide additional information in order to advance in the production of the final version of the research report. In addition, it was agreed that after the meeting the participants could send any additional comments/remarks related to the pre-final version of the report. The expert will then proceed to drawing up the Final Report taking into account the different comments and suggestions made by the participants. The Research Report will be presented on the occasion of the 2nd Regional Conference of the Euromed Justice III Project scheduled on 19 June 2013.

The Hague, February 2013