



Project funded by the
European Union



EuroMed Justice III Project

**COMPONENT I: ACCESS TO JUSTICE AND LEGAL AID
WORKING GROUP 1.2-3: JUSTICE AND NEW TECHNOLOGIES
Third Meeting**

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.

Madrid (ES), 12-14 March 2013

INFORMATIVE NOTE

The 3rd meeting of the Working Group 1.2 Justice and New Technologies: “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”, under component “Access to Justice and Legal Aid” of the EuroMed Justice III Project of the European Commission, funded by the European Union, took place on 12, 13 and 14 March 2013 in Madrid.

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

The main topics suggested for discussion during this meeting were introduced by the Project Team experts and the main short-term expert, in charge of the output of this Working Group.

One presentation was made during the meeting on “Justice Administration and the use of new technologies: the host country’s experience”. During her presentation the expert explained the Spanish experience related to Justice and the use of new technologies and some European instruments in this field, such as the Electronic judicial file, LexNet (Electronic document servicing system) and e-CODEX, the Hearing systems (video recordings, videoconferencing and telepresence); the Inspection systems: Road-map; ORFILA (System of Forensic Institute for file management), SIRAJ (Integrated system of registers to support judicial activity); ECRIS: European Criminal Records Information System, or the use of e-Apostille, etc. This presentation was followed by an open debate.

The presentation of the draft handbook was followed by a lively and interesting discussion during which the participants had the opportunity to make useful comments and provide additional information on the various issues addressed by this handbook.

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 last meeting gave them the opportunity:

- a) To validate the contents obtained during the first and second meeting and to make progress in identifying criteria that can be translated into best practices in the field of access to Justice and new technologies, and that were accepted by general consensus by the experts attending this third meeting.
- b) More concretely, participants had the opportunity to have an in-depth discussion on approaches and best practices on justice and the new technologies, more particularly with special reference to: Common Offices and Judicial Architecture. Centralisation of courts' tasks. ICT functioning in judicial premises. Procedural schemes (Workflows). Introduction of schemes for non binding procedures. Mandatory nature of the use. Use of audio and video technology. Implementation of audiovisual means according to the court. Typology of judicial acts. Protection of privacy. Exploitation / Data processing and decisions by the judicial authority (eJustice). Statistical modules oriented towards decision-making, statistical modules according to the rank of the judicial authority. Time management, checking expiry of procedural acts, detecting delays in procedures, delays and time of hearings. Judicial statistics. Courts' Bulletins and Reports. Use of management applications to obtain statistical processing. Satisfaction level and Quality control. Audit, types of audits. Introducing security systems. Protection measures regarding critical data of the IT system. Performance assessment. Change management. Use ICT as institutional strengthening. Efficiency of courts' staff. Coordination between the Ministry of Justice and the High Council for the Judiciary. Interoperability of administration.
- c) To discuss on the above-mentioned topics in order to identify the main necessities/problems in this field in the ENPI South partner countries attending the meeting.
- d) To promote mutual understanding and knowledge of the different judicial systems regarding the use of new technologies in the field of justice in the different countries taking part in the meeting.
- e) To further strengthen cooperation among the Euro-Mediterranean Partners in the field of justice.
- f) To reach an agreement on the contents of the handbook.

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

Madrid, 14 March 2013