



Project funded by the  
European Union



## **EUROMED JUSTICE III PROJECT**

### **COMPONENT I: ACCESS TO JUSTICE AND LEGAL AID**

#### **Third Training Seminar: “Introduction of Quality Management in the Judiciary: Self-Assessment Instruments”.**

**Rome (IT), 25-27 February 2014**

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### **FINAL CONCLUSIONS**

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The third training seminar under component “Access to Justice and Legal Aid” of the EuroMed Justice III Project of the European Commission, funded by the European Union, was held on 25-27 February 2014 in Rome (IT).

The participants were members of the delegations of the following Mediterranean Partners: Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Palestine and Tunisia. The speakers came from Belgium, France and Spain and from the host country, Italy. An expert of the European Commission for the Efficiency of Justice of the Council of Europe, and Chairman of the Working Group on Quality of Justice, Geneva (CH), also attended the seminar as a speaker.

The training seminar was opened by Andrés Salcedo Velasco, Team Leader of the Project Team implementing the EuroMed Justice III project, who welcomed the participants. Mr Salcedo also made the closing session of the seminar.

The background, the context and the structure of the training seminar, including the overall approach and the main topics suggested for discussion, were introduced by the Team Leader and by Mr José María Fernández Villalobos, Course Manager of the Project Team implementing the EuroMed Justice III Project.

Then the participants took the floor to introduce themselves and to present the current situation in the ENPI South Partner countries as regards quality of justice and quality management of courts.

Furthermore, four presentations were made during the seminar: “Presentation of the work developed during the 1st phase of the project related to Justice and the use of new technologies.”; “What is TQM and why introduce it in the judiciary? Assessment approaches and methodologies: CEPEJ instrument, CAF, EFQM, LEAN”; “The quality of judicial decisions. Possible assessment and professional consequences”; and “Measuring Courts’ performance: How to use the results of (self) assessments to improve quality and effectiveness? The Italian experience”.

During these presentations, the speakers analysed the different approaches related to the topics being considered, especially from a practical point of view, as well as the legal international framework.

In addition during the training seminar two workshop took place, the first one on “Working with the CAF” and the second one on “Judicial Quality: standards regarding evaluation of professional performance”,

Considering the objectives of this training seminar and taking into account the debate and discussions held during the seminar, the participants had the opportunity:

- To examine over a period of three days, and from an international angle, the different topics on the agenda.
- To keep abreast of the current situation and future developments in each Mediterranean Partner regarding the topics covered by this seminar.
- To have a fruitful debate on the state of play in this field in the Euro-Mediterranean Partners’ area and to present their respective experience and legal framework.
- To receive a general overview related to the work developed during the first phase of the project, with special reference to the research report on “Procedural simplification in the ENPI South partner countries”.
- To analyse and discuss on the quality of justice in general and more particularly the quality of judicial decisions, and their possible assessment and professional consequences.
- To be updated on Total Quality Management (TQM) as well as on assessment approaches and methodologies such as the CEPEJ Instrument, the CAF, EFQM and LEAN.
- To have the opportunity to discuss the key system indicators and key performance indicators related to the structure and organisation of the justice administration.
- To learn about the Italian experience of measuring courts’ performance.
- To discuss how the evaluation of professional performance can contribute to the judicial quality and where the limits are in order to avoid any interference in the judicial independence.
- To discuss on the main problems to be faced on these topics and future perspectives in this field.
- To be informed of the TAIEX instrument and of the possibility that they, the participants, could suggest/propose to their NFP the gaps to be filled or the needs for further Technical Assistance requests, as a follow-up of this EuroMed Justice III Project training seminar, should they consider them useful and linked to the work developed during the seminar.
- To receive the suggested reading documentation list related to the topics examined as support to facilitate the discussion and debate during the training seminar.

Participants are grateful to the Italian Ministry of Justice, to the Directorate-General Development and Cooperation – EuropeAid, European Commission, and to the Project Team for organising this training seminar.

The participants present during the reading of this document approve the conclusions of this seminar.

Rome, 27 February 2014