



Project funded by the
European Union



EUROMED JUSTICE III PROJECT

Access to Justice and Legal Aid

WG 1.1.1

PREPARATION OF A HANDBOOK

Handbook which identifies and describes possible approaches and best practices to improve access to justice and legal aid

Paris (FR), 17-18-19- April 2012

Hotel Provinces Opéra

Rue de l'Echiquier 36 – 75010 Paris

AGENDA

Monday, 16 April 2012

Arrival of the participants at the hotel. Contact with the members of the Project Team.

Tuesday, 17 April 2012

09.00 – 09.15 **Registration of participants**

09.15 – 09.30 **Welcome speech**

Andrés SALCEDO VELASCO, Team Leader of the EuroMed Justice III Project,

09.30 - 09.45 Presentation of the participants

09.45 - 10.30 **General presentation of the project. Background and summary of the work carried out during previous EuroMed Justice Projects related to this Component "Access to Justice and legal Aid".**

Andrés SALCEDO VELASCO

Debate

- 10.30 - 11.00 Coffee break
- 11.00 - 11.30 **Working group on Access to Justice and Legal Aid. Working programme, timing and methodology.**
José María FERNÁNDEZ VILLALOBOS, Course Manager of the EuroMed Justice III Project.
- 11.30 - 12.00 **Scope of general contents of the debates during the sessions of this Working Group.**
Georges ASSAF, Main Short-Term Expert
- 12.00 - 12.30 **Questions/debate and clarifications on the previous topics**
- 12.30 - 14.00 Lunch
- 14.00 - 15.30 **Current situation related to access to access to justice and legal aid in the ENPI South partner countries (I)**
ENPI South partner countries (4 delegations)
Dania SAMOUL, Project Coordinator of the EuroMed Justice III Project.
Debate
- 15.30 - 16.00 Coffee break
- 16.00 - 16.45 **Legal Aid: international approach and the French experience.**
Thierry PITOIS-ETIENNE, Head of the Department of Legal Aid, Service of the Access to Law and Justice and of the Assistance to the Victims, Ministry of Justice.
- 16.45 - 17.30 Debate
End of the 1st day

Wednesday, 18 April 2012

- 09.30 - 11.00 **Current situation related to access to access to justice and legal aid in the ENPI South partner countries (II)**
ENPI South partner countries (4 delegations)
Dania SAMOUL
Debate
- 11.00 - 11.30 Coffee break
- 11.30 - 12.30 **Approaches and best practices on legal aid. Discussion (I)**
Georges ASSAF

- Project Team*
- 12.30 - 14.00 Lunch
- 14.00 - 15.30 **Approaches and best practices on legal aid. Discussion (II)**
- Georges ASSAF*
- Project Team*
- 15.30 - 16.00 Coffee break
- 16.00 - 17.30 **General presentation on “Access to Justice and Legal Aid, more specifically for underprivileged social groups”.**
- Miri SHARON.* UNODC. Drug Control and Crime Prevention Officer, Justice Section, Division for Operations, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime. Covering: Standards and Norms in crime prevention and criminal justice, in particular Access to Legal Aid, Human Rights issues (e.g. death penalty), UN Rule of Law Training.
- Project Team*
- Debate
- End of the 2nd day

Thursday, 19 April 2012

- 09.30 – 10.45 **Approaches and best practices on legal aid. Discussion (III)**
- Georges ASSAF*
- Project Team*
- 10.45-11.00 **Presentation of the support offered by the project website.**
- José María FERNÁNDEZ VILLALOBOS*
- 11.00 - 11.30 Coffee break
- 11.30 - 13.00 **Approaches and best practices on legal aid. Discussion (IV)**
- Georges ASSAF*
- Project Team*
- 13.00 - 14.30 Lunch
- 14.30 - 16.00 **First conclusions, recommendations and contributions related to the Handbook.**
- 16.00 - 16.30 Coffee break
- 16.30 - 17.00 **Preparing the intermediate work and next meeting.**

Dania SAMOUL

Coordinatrice Projet Team

17.00 – 17.30 **Conclusions and closure of the meeting**

Eric MAITRPIERRE

Director

International Judicial Cooperation Bureau

French Minister of Justice

Andrés SALCEDO VELASCO

Team Leader

Sara CAMPINOTI, Programme Manager, Unit F4 Regional Programmes Neighbourhood South, Directorate-General Development and Co-operation – EuropeAid

End of the meeting

GENERAL INTRODUCTION

This meeting takes place under the first main component of the project: Access to Justice and Legal Aid. The objective of this activity will be to prepare a handbook which identifies and describes possible approaches and best practices to improve access to justice and legal aid. This is the first of 5 meetings devoted to this issue. Methodology for the preparation and delivery of the handbook: the Working Groups (WGs) will function as real think-tanks in the field covered and will be an opportunity to exchange information and debate on various topics. The results of the work of the WGs will be of paramount importance to obtain a real knowledge of the legal systems and have in-depth discussions on the topics concerned. In addition, the handbook will also be able to be used as a practical guide. The handbook will be prepared in time to be presented during the Intermediate Regional Conference in the course of the second year of the project.

During this first meeting, we are going to explain the general and specific content, timing and methodology of the activity, having the opportunity of discussing the expected results related to this topic as well as the planning of the work to be developed.

In addition, we will have the opportunity to share the international experts' opinion and the participants' first approach on the main topics to be discussed from their own perspective and respective competences. Through an in-depth and detailed discussion, we will have a deep discussion on the main topic addressed during this first meeting,

The Beneficiaries countries' experts' profiles

Three participants maximum for each ENPI South partner country: senior, high-level officials from the Ministry of Justice or other relevant public authority, members of the judiciary and other legal professionals, academics and representatives from civil society with a solid experience of the topics covered by this WG (Timeframe for judicial proceedings, Cooperation between judges and Bars to cope with the length of the procedure, facilitation of the accessibility of justice for citizens, in particular with regards to mechanisms such as "one-stop-shop" offices, access to justice for underprivileged groups, legal aid, etc); prior participation in relevant EuroMed Justice I or EuroMed Justice II project activities will be an advantage; availability for and readiness to the intensive work schedule involved by the WG activity and researching, preparing for WG meetings, contributing to finding documentation and to the drafting of the handbook; ability to understand and express themselves orally and in writing in English and/or French (at least the written communications/contributions should be in French or English). Due attention will be paid to ensuring that persons taking part in activities related to exchanges of experience and good practices hold strategic positions in the national institutions and that, in this capacity, they will be likely to share with their colleagues and staff lessons learned from such activities.

The experts (3) should have the appropriate profile, a comprehensive knowledge and vision, a sound experience in this field and willing to make an effective contribution to the working group. This will require not only that their country of origin allows them to have enough time available to attend the five meetings planned for this activity, but more specifically, that between each meeting they have enough time to keep on working together and with the main short-term expert in charge of working out the handbook and the Project Team, virtually ,through the project website and/or other means (email, etc.) so as to allow for the continuity of the work and an exchange of information, documentation and ideas with each other. For this reason, it would be highly desirable that the same persons attend all the WGs meetings or at least that the head of delegation be the same for each meeting.

Documentation

A list of suggested reading documents related to the topics addressed will be provided by the Project Team ahead of the meeting.

Working languages

English, French and Arabic, with simultaneous interpretation.

Venue and accommodation



The meeting will take place at the:

Hôtel Provinces Opéra

Rue de l'Échiquier, 36

75010 Paris (FR)

Tèl : 00 33 (0)1 56 54 20 03

Fax : 00 33 (0)1 56 54 21