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EUROMED JUSTICE III PROJECT

COMPONENT I: ACCESS TO JUSTICE AND LEGAL AID

1st Training Seminar: “Introduction of technologies and statistics in the judiciary: the use of information and communication technologies in justice; Media and justice”

Budapest (HU), 1-3 October 2013

FINAL CONCLUSIONS

The 1st training seminar on the 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 1-3 October 2013 in Budapest (HU).

The participants were members of the delegations of the following Mediterranean Partners: Algeria, Israel, Lebanon, Palestine and Tunisia. The speakers came from Belgium, Hungary and Spain. One representative of the ENCJ - European Network of Councils for the Judiciary, and one representative of the DG Justice and Home Affairs Unit 2A - Judicial Cooperation in Civil Matters, Council of the European Union, also took part as speakers.

The training seminar was opened by Mr Zoltán Németh, Head of the Private International Law Department, Ministry of Public Administration and Justice, Hungary; and Mr Salcedo Velasco, Team Leader of the EuroMed Justice III Project, who welcomed the participants. The seminar was closed by Mr Dávid Guyás, Legal Adviser, Ministry of Public Administration and Justice, Department of International Judicial Cooperation, and National Focal Point for the Euromed Justice III project in Hungary; and by Andrés Salcedo.

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 Project Leader and the 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 concerning the influence of technologies and statistics for prosecutors' offices and courts in the ENPI South countries. IT, workload and undue delays at court.

Furthermore, five presentations were made during the seminar: “The work developed during the first phase of the project”, with special reference to the 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; “E-Justice and web portals: communication with citizens and professionals”; “Social Media (TV, Internet, Facebook, radio, etc) and Justice administration: The judicial news”; “Dealing with IT and statistics in the EU countries: statistics elaboration, internal and external collection of data in the field of justice, database build-up, internal and external communication”; “Judiciary institutions' support in management and administration in the field of the justice Administration: special reference to the techniques for the improvement of the circulation of legal materials and techniques for the measurement of the performance of justice administration”.

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. Lastly, during the seminar a practical case on “Social media (TV, Internet, Facebook, radio, etc) and Justice Administration: the judicial news” was examined and a workshop on “E-justice and web portals: the communication with the citizens and professionals“ was carried out.

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 further strengthen cooperation between Euro-Mediterranean Partners in the field of justice.
- To explore the means to further promote an exchange of knowledge, experience and best practices.
- To have a fruitful debate on the state of play in this field in the MEDA area and to present their respective experience and legal framework.
- To get a better insight into the current international framework related to how to introduce technologies and statistics in the judiciary: The use of information and communication technologies.
- To get a better insight into the current international framework related to media and justice.
- To discuss the main problems to be faced on this topic and future perspectives in this field.
- To have an in-depth discussion on and a practical approach to E-justice and web portals and its importance as instrument of communication and justice efficiency.
- To discuss the relationship between Social Media and Justice Administration, with special reference to the judicial news.
- To analyse from a theoretical and practical point of view the importance of the judiciary institutions’ support in management and administration in the field of the Justice Administration, with special reference to the techniques for the improvement of the circulation of legal materials and techniques for the measurement of the performance of justice administration.
- To be aware of the need to strengthen mutual trust by improving mutual understanding between judicial authorities and different legal systems, improving the quality of justice and promoting mutual knowledge as a cornerstone for improving efficiency of justice.

- 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 Hungary, host country, 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.

Budapest, 3 October 2013