

**Contribution for the 8th session of the Universal Periodic Review (UPR)
on the human rights situation in Turkey
(as regards human rights capacity building)**

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21 October 2009

The Council of Europe's (CoE) capacity-building activities in Turkey were carried out for key professional groups including judges and prosecutors, inspectors, governors, deputy governors, the Police and Jandarma officers, officials of the Human Rights Presidency and the Human Rights Boards and lawyers.

The "Support for the implementation of human rights reforms in Turkey", a joint programme of the European Commission and the Council of Europe, which was conducted between 30 November 2006 and 30 November 2007, targeted the Human Rights Presidency (HRP), the Human Rights Boards (HRBs), the Ministry of Justice and the Ministry of the Interior. Its overall objective was to ensure that Turkish citizens and civil society as a whole enjoyed full compliance with human rights, including their principles, standards and practices in accordance with the ECHR.

Officials of the Human Rights Presidency and the Human Rights Boards

The objective of this component was to strengthen the HRP and the HRBs and to strengthen dialogue and cooperation between the HRP/HRBs and civil society in order to consolidate domestic mechanisms for preventing and providing a remedy for human rights violations. The CoE organised 12 training seminars, 8 study visits and placements for five experts of the HRP, launched a symposium, 4 round tables, the publication and dissemination of human rights materials and arranged for the development of a professional PR strategy for the HRP and the HRBs.

Judges and Prosecutors

The objective of this component was to improve the knowledge of judges and prosecutors as regards the ECHR and the case law of the ECtHR, as well as their skills in using these in their daily work. The CoE organised 9 training seminars, two study visits and the publication and dissemination of human rights materials. The study visits to the CoE, including the ECtHR, helped the judges and prosecutors to familiarise themselves with wider European human rights practices and issues.

Governors, Deputy Governors, Sub-Governors, Police and Jandarma officers

The objective of this component was to improve the knowledge of Governors, Deputy Governors, Sub-Governors, Police and Jandarma officers on the ECHR and the case-law of the ECtHR, by training the former as trainers to carry out inspections of places of detention and the latter simply as trainers.

The CoE organised 17 training seminars, 20 training-of-trainers courses and 9 study visits. The study visits helped the participants to familiarise themselves with wider European human rights practices and issues.

Lawyers

The “Cascaded Training of Turkish Lawyers on the European Convention on Human Rights”, a European Commission/Council of Europe Joint Programme was launched on 19 December 2006 and ended on 30 November 2008. Its overall objective was to improve the functioning of the Turkish judiciary system with respect to human rights and fundamental freedoms. The Project’s purpose was to enhance the effective application of the ECHR lawyers during proceedings before the courts, by increasing their knowledge of human rights concepts and the case-law of the ECtHR. More than 100 trainers were trained under the project, 68 of which effectively trained their peers. More than 9,000 lawyers were trained by these trainers across the country in every bar of Turkey, except one. In addition, an annotated version of the new Turkish Criminal Procedure Code was created by a team of international and local scholars.