



Project Funded by the
European Union

EUROMED JUSTICE II PROJECT



WORKING GROUP 1 ACCESS TO JUSTICE AND LEGAL AID

1st MEETING

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Escuela Judicial – Meeting Room “Sala Anexa”
Carretera de Vallvidrera 43-45 – 08017 Barcelona
22 - 23 September 2008

AGENDA

Sunday 21 September 2008

19.30–21.00 Welcome dinner at the hotel for the representatives of the MEDA countries

Monday 22 September 2008

08.00 Departure from the hotel by bus for the Judicial School.

08.30–09.00 Registration of participants

09.00–09.30 Welcome speech.

Representative of the Spanish High Council for the Judiciary.

Gema ESPINOSA CONDE, Magistrate, Director of Selection and Training of the Spanish Judicial School.

Presentation of the Working Group and of the Project: *Anna ABARIOTOU*, Principal Administrator in charge of the EuroMed Justice II Project, EuropeAid Co-operation Office, European Commission.

Javier SANCHEZ CANO, Director of the European Institute of Public Administration (EIPA-ECR) (Lead firm of the Consortium implementing the EuroMed Justice II Project) (ES)

- 9.30-10.00 Definition of the overall approach; presentation of the general framework of this component, the main topics suggested for discussion, the working programme and the methodology to be followed during the meeting.
- José María FERNÁNDEZ VILLALOBOS*, Magistrate, Course Manager of the EuroMed Justice II Project, EIPA-ECR (ES).
- Self-presentation by the participants.
- 10.00-10.45 1st. Presentation on “The global framework of Access to Justice.”
- José DE LA MATA*, Magistrate, Legal adviser at the Spanish Constitutional Court. (ES).
- 10.45-11.00 Coffee break
- 11.00- 11.45 2nd Presentation on “The European Union and Council of Europe framework in the field of Access to Justice”
- Julien LHUILLIER*, Professor-Researcher at the Nancy Law University (FR), Scientific expert of the European Commission for the Efficiency of Justice (CEPEJ), Council of Europe, Strasbourg (FR).
- 11.45-13.30 Presentation of the current situation in this field in each country by the respective participants.
- 13.30-15.00 Lunch
- 15.00–16.30 Debate on the presentations made by the MP representatives and the international experts. International comparative approach.
- 16.30-16.45 Coffee break
- 16.45- 18.00 Debate on the presentations made by the MP representatives and the international experts. International comparative approach. (*continued*)
- End of the 1st day

Tuesday 23 September 2008

- 07.30 Departure from the hotel by bus for the Judicial School.
- 08.30–10.30 Debate. Main shortages identified under this topic that need to be improved in the MEDA region.
- 10.30–10.45 Coffee break
- 10.45-12.00 Debate. Specific proposals to improve access to justice in the Meda region.
- 12.00-13.30 Debate. Discussion on the recommendations and training activities to be adopted

- 13.30-15.00 Lunch
- 15.00–16.30 Working out the conclusions, recommendations and contributions related to the activities to be developed (including training activities and training packages) and the Policy Paper.
- 16.30–16.45 Coffee break
- 16.45-17.45 Working out the conclusions, recommendations and contributions related to the activities to be developed (including training activities and training packages) and the Policy Paper. (*continued*)
- Agreement on the WG meetings calendar and methodology to be followed during the WG meetings.
- 17.45-18.00 Operational Conclusions. Closure.
- End of the meeting.

GENERAL INTRODUCTION

Presentation

This meeting takes place under the first main component of the project: Access to Justice and Legal Aid. During this first meeting devoted to “The universal meaning of Access to Justice. Common elements” we are going to share the international experts’ opinion and the participants’ approach on this topic from their own perspective and respective competences. Through an in-depth and detailed discussion, we will know the current situation related to the topics under discussion and the priorities and needs to be faced through training activities and study visits. We will also define how to better focus training seminars and training packages on this component and what the major issues and what the elements to be taken into account are in order to achieve the objectives of this project. We will discuss the expected results related to this topic as well as the dates and venues of the activities and the profile of the participants and experts/speakers, while bearing in mind the above-mentioned expected results. In addition, some recommendations on this topic will be adopted and we will start working out the final document to be delivered by the working group: the Policy Paper.

Working Method

The starting point is that all the participants should be aware that they are the main players of the Working Group in order to provide the information required and to cooperate in defining the strategy and objectives to be achieved through this project.

We expect the experts participating in this working group to have a good and in-depth knowledge of the topics under discussion and to be able to provide us with a detailed vision of the current situation in their respective countries. We also expect them to have previously prepared themselves for the discussion in order to achieve the most fruitful results. In this context and to ensure a good preparation, the Project Team will provide the participants at least two weeks before the meeting with a draft programme as well as some suggestions of topics for discussion. Nevertheless, the participants should feel free to propose any other topics of their interest.

As the Working Group will only last 2 days, the preliminary preparation of the experts is more than welcome to achieve the objectives at such short notice.

Experts

The experts 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 four meetings planned per component, but more specifically, that between each meeting they have enough time to keep on working together and with 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.

The quality of the experts proposed is the main guarantee that our joint effort during the Working Groups meetings will result in a good analysis and diagnosis of the situation in each component, and in an exchange of useful, reliable and accurate information. This in turn will lead to a number of proposals for action being made by each WG.

Expected Results

1. To define the overall approach of the topics to be discussed by the international and MP experts.
2. To know the current situation related to access to justice in each MP.
3. To discuss more specifically how the work of the Working Group could contribute to reach the main goals of the project: a) help speed up access procedures, the handling of cases and processing of incoming requests; b) promote exchanges of experiences between the Mediterranean countries and the EU on methods for informing people involved in legal proceedings of their rights; c) support the use of alternative conflict-resolution methods such as mediation, other alternative dispute settlement methods and the appointment of a justice of the peace; d) help advance legislative reforms designed to ensure full respect for human rights, particularly the right to a defence; e) help to develop systems that will offer the possibility of free advice to people on low incomes; facilitate the exchange of views and experiences in respect to questions linked with the discrimination of women.
4. To define how to better focus the future activities to be developed under this component (including training activities and training packages) and what the major issues and elements to be taken into account are in order to achieve the objectives of this project.
5. To create a provisional list of possible actions/recommendations that could be developed/adopted in the MEDA region related to this component.
6. To start working out the Policy Paper.

Documentation

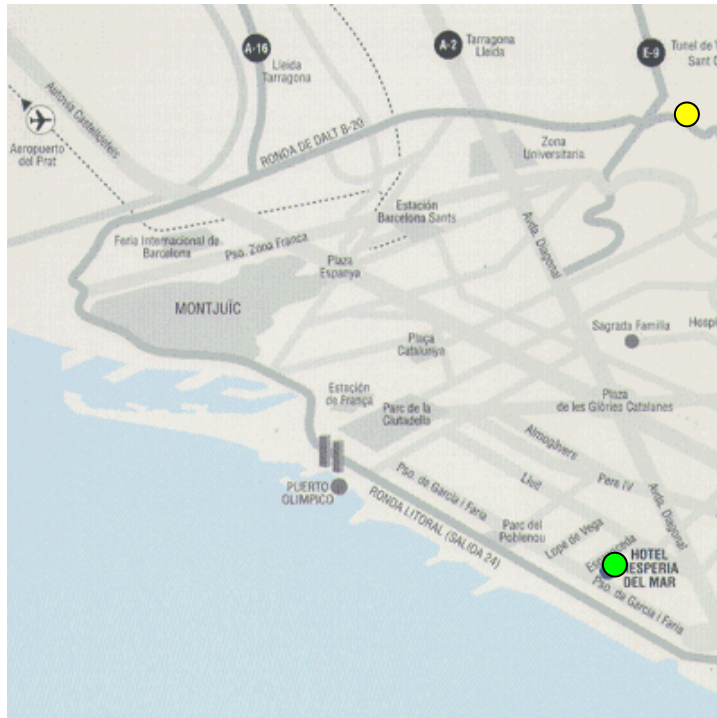
A list of the basic documentation will be discussed/provided by the Project Team at least two weeks before the Working Group meeting:

- Final document of the Opening Conference.
- Timetable of the Working Groups meetings.
- Relevant international documentation on the topic produced by the European Union, Council of Europe, United Nations, etc.
- Other documents, if any, to be provided by the participants.

Working languages

English and French. Simultaneous interpretation will be provided.

Venue and accommodation



The Meeting will be held at the:

- SPANISH JUDICIAL SCHOOL
Carretera de Vallvidrera 43-45
08017 Barcelona

MEDA Participants will be hosted at the:

- Hotel HESPERIA DEL MAR
c/ Espronceda 6
08005 BARCELONA
Tel: (+34) 93 502 97 00
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