



Reform of public administration

Fostering Ethics in the Turkish Public Administration

Turkey

"The project is unique in terms of its objectives and activities. One of the most important aspects of our council's work covers developing and extending ethical culture in the public sphere. The EU-funded project Consolidating Ethics in the Public Sector will be launched in 2011 as a continuation of these efforts."

Bilal Eryılmaz – Professor PhD,
Chair of Council for Ethics in Public
Service

Project Partner

Council of Ethics for
Public Service

Facts and Figures

- Total budget: € 1.5 million
- EU Contribution: € 1.35 million
- Duration: December 2007 - November 2009

Context

Turkey has taken a number of important steps in combating corruption. In 2004 it joined the Council of Europe's Group of States against Corruption (GRECO). In 2004 the Council for Ethics in Public Service was established, and in 2005 the Regulation on the Principles of Ethical Behaviour for Public Officials was adopted. Despite all these steps, corruption remains a serious problem in Turkey. It constitutes one of the public's main concerns and has negative effects on state affairs and many areas in the public domain. Corruption reduces public confidence in the political system, political institutions and their leaders. To fight against it, comprehensive counter-measures must be taken, which is the aim of this project.

Objectives

- Strengthen democracy and the rule of law by improving ethics on preventing corruption in Turkey, in accordance with European and other international standards.
- Support the implementation of the Regulation on Principles of Ethical Behaviour across the public administration in line with GRECO recommendations.
- Develop principles of ethical behaviour for other categories of officials or holders of public office.
- Create systems to monitor the effectiveness of anti-corruption measures.
- Ensure coordination of anti-corruption measures.

Impact

- The institutional capacity of the Council for Ethics in Public Service was strengthened. The staff was trained on various areas (investigation of complaints, application of Principles of Ethical Behaviour in accordance with international standards, etc.). Study visits to Ireland and the Netherlands took place in order to observe the Council for Ethics in EU countries.
- Public officials are more aware now of the importance of ethics. Seminars on the application of the Code of Ethics and implementation of complaints procedures organised for governors, deputy governors, and district governors, members of the ethics commissions in provinces and municipalities, officials of central institutions and organisations responsible for ethics and senior managers of 81 provinces.
- Development of new strategies on combating corruption with the help of 10 academic studies determining corruption risks related to unethical behaviour. The studies approached topics such as public bidding and ethics, the shadow economy and ethics, ethics and customs services.
- New codes of conduct for elected office holders and the judiciary.
- Specific anti-corruption measures were discussed after the evaluation of the effectiveness of codes of conduct and anti-corruption legislation in Turkey (criminal law measures, Public Information Act, Regulation on the Principles of Ethical Behaviour etc.).