



Call for Expression of Interest: Research Studies

- Organisation:** Council of Europe, Directorate General of Human Rights and Legal Affairs
- Project:** Ethics for the Prevention of Corruption in Turkey (TYEC)
- Beneficiary Institution:** Council of Ethics for the Public Service, Turkey
- Deadline for applications:** 4 July 2008 (1700 hrs French time)

Within the framework of its project in Turkey "Ethics for the Prevention of Corruption in Turkey", the Council of Europe is interested to commission six research studies to outside researchers/think tank or other organisations. The aim of the research studies is to develop a greater understanding of various issues related to the development of public ethics in Turkey, the drivers/inhibitors of reform, the institutions involved and the role of the media and civil society. More specifically, the research is intended to increase the knowledge and implementation of ethical issues in order to facilitate and give some guidance to the work of the Ethics Council. It will seek to identify the roles of agencies and institutions, in the public and private sector and in civil society in addressing ethics, and to understand the dynamics of contexts and trends that may affect the future work of those dealing with public ethics. The general areas of the research studies and the types of findings that are sought to address are described below.

Study No. 1: Conflict of Interest in Public Administration

The study will assess how the public sector deals with conflict of interest, including:

- How is it defined;
- What is the legal framework and is it effective;
- What are the most common causes of conflict of interest;
- What rules and procedures are in place for the registration and disclosure of interests;
- What variations exist across the public sector or between national, regional and local governments;
- What is the role of the ethics boards and disciplinary boards;
- What is or should be the role of the Council of Ethics;

The study may give particular attention to the current role and responsibilities of the Council of Ethics, how it may liaise with and interact with other agencies, such as Ethics Commissions. It may assess how Turkey approaches and controls the conflict of interest in comparison to other European and international standards (EU and OECD).

Study No. 2: Public Bidding and Ethics

The study will review national, regional and local legislation, institutional framework, and procedures applied for capital, recurrent and maintenance (or works) under public sector contracts. The study may want to consider preventative measures throughout the lifecycle of a contract, procurement planning and the decision to procure/or not procure, including the preparation of operational-technical requirements; organisation and allocation of public procurement through open procedures (unless there are exceptional circumstances justifying alternative procedures) and the completion of contracts; and closure of the contracts through post-award performance and payment. It will identify risks, weaknesses and vulnerabilities in each area and in each type of contract. It is expected that the research study will provide proposals for the improvement of procedures, to minimise the possibility of corruption, including the use of e-government and other means of transparency, ethical conduct of those involved in procurement, the responsibilities of the private sector, and possible sanctions (including voiding of contracts, debarment, integrity pacts and so on). It may wish to compare and contrast Turkish procedures against international standards, such as the UNCITRAL Model Law, matters regarding personnel responsible for procurement, such as risk management, audit trails and record-keeping, specific appointments processes, specific codes of conduct and training requirements, and the role of inspectorates and audit. The study will identify those areas and procedures where the Council of Ethics may have a particular impact in terms of guidance, training and review.

Study No. 3: Planning at Local Level

The study will look at the legislative, institutional and procedural framework for dealing with planning applications and development at local level. It will consider such issues as the impact of planning on land values, on the policing of illegal building, on the development of area plans, on the relationship between developers, planners and politicians. The study will consider the expertise of the local public officials involved in planning, the pressures on planning procedures, the potential for corruption, the nature of ethical guidance and procedures for local public officials, and the procedures for the publicity, review and appeal of decisions. The study may consider the relationships between local, regional and national planning authorities, and the relationship between local public officials and the citizens in the planning process. The study may consider the wider environmental and conservation issues associated with planning at local levels. It is expected that the research study will provide recommendations for the improved ethical conduct of local public officials and the improved corporate social responsibility of individuals and companies involved in planning.

Study No. 4: Ethical Conduct in Law Enforcement

The study is expected to review the literature on law enforcement misconduct and corruption as a framework to compare and contrast the Turkish context. It may explore the types of misconduct and corruption involving the Turkish law enforcement agencies and review what training and other means are currently used to instil ethical behaviour and deal with breach of duty. The study will consider how far the nature of policing and the culture of the agencies provide the opportunities for misconduct and what measures could be taken to address this. The study will review the role of codes and related procedures and requirements in law enforcement agencies and compare them to the Interpol Code of Conduct and other procedural and institutional measures used to address misconduct and corruption.

Study No. 5: Ethical Conduct in the Health Services

The study will provide the opportunity to assess the ethical conduct of those within the health services and the relation between the health services and its suppliers, particularly the pharmaceutical industry. The study is expected to review the separation of responsibilities and interests between the Ministry of Health, its subordinate units, state and private suppliers of healthcare products, healthcare professionals and the public and any conflict of interest is managed. The study will explore the role and responsibilities of health professionals, their professional standards, and the potential for misconduct and corruption. It will consider the ethical framework surrounding the system of delivery of, use of, and payment for, pharmaceutical and other products. The study is expected to review how national and international private sector companies approach their roles and responsibilities in terms of ethical contracting and relations with public officials and health professionals.

Study No. 6: Ethical Standards and Title/Land Registry

The study provides the opportunity to study in detail the legal, institutional and procedural framework of a single institution/ministry. The study will explore the complexities of service delivery, the risks and vulnerabilities associated with it. It will be able to explore possible reforms that will address the provision of a more efficient public service, particularly using modern technology, while also seeking to design out the opportunity and incentive for misconduct. The study is expected to interview public officials working within the proposed institution/ministry by identifying the work and the role of ethics in guiding their decision-making process. The study should give the Council of Ethics guidance on perceptions of the role and importance of ethics, of an awareness and understanding of the Code, among a range of public officials.

Overall Methodology (for all Studies)

The Council of Europe wishes intending applicants to note the following:

- The studies must, as far as possible, be grounded in empirical work, engage as far as possible with the institutions indicated and not rely solely on secondary research or desk reviews;
- The methodology to be used should be clearly outlined at the application stage in a separate information sheet in order to obtain a solid evidence base to underpin the credibility of the findings;
- Applications should also explain the reasons for the choice of methodology and the experience of the researcher(s) in using these.

Application Requirements (for all Studies)

Applicants can be individuals, institutions, and/or consortia may apply for more than one study. Applicants should demonstrate that they have relevant knowledge of their field and a proven track record in both quantitative and qualitative research. They also need to have experience of carrying out analysis and are very well familiar with issues related to project management and of good governance reforms. Intending applicants will be assessed under the standard Council of Europe rules and procedures. Applications that fail to contain or submit in time the necessary and required information as instructed will not be taken into consideration. Each application package must contain strictly and in the given order the following information:

- The name(s) of the researcher(s), and/or organisation or proposed consortia, including full contact details;
- Experience and background information on the researcher(s), research team, (including each researcher CV);
- Methodology Description (the research method to be used 2-3 pages);
- Working and Delivery Timetable with clear indication of each stage of the Study;
- Name and contact details for two referees (organisations and/or persons);
- Estimated Budget of Research in Excel Sheet (calculated in Euro and between 8000 and 15000 Euros depending on the methodology to be used). In addition, provide costs with a breakdown of major elements including VAT and if daily rates are used the number of days, the rate and the annual salary from which this derives, likely administrative expenses, and any institutional overhead included in the price);
- Information/List of (similar or related) projects undertaken by the researcher(s)/organisation and/or consortia;
- Statement that only the researchers named in the proposal will undertake the work;
- Statement that the research will be original and no copyright legislation shall be violated;
- Account information where payment could be made;
- Statement that no fiscal legislation in the country of residence shall be violated while submitting invoices to the Council of Europe for those services that may be provided.

Completion of Studies and Procedures

All applicants will be checked for provision of the requirements and then evaluated by a panel comprising by representatives of the Council of Ethics, Council of Europe and representatives of a given Ministry in Turkey. The procedure will be carried out according to the Council of Europe rules and procedures. Once an applicant has been successful selected, they will meet with members of the Secretariat of the Ethics Council and of the TYEC project to discuss the proposed work and timetable. A service contract will be signed then between the Council of Europe and the successful applicant[s]. All successful applicants will be required to submit a statement of progress and an interim report approximately half way during the agreed timescale. Upon the completion of all studies and acceptance of the delivered study report by the Council of Europe, there will be two public workshops which will be held to announce, evaluate and disseminate the outcome of the studies. It is expected that both interim and final reports will be submitted in Turkish and English language. Upon the countersignature of the contract between the selected applicant and of the Council of Europe, the disbursement of funds will be done as follows: 50% upon the signature of the contract; and 50% upon the delivery and acceptance.

All Research Study Timelines and Contact Details

Deadline of submitting the full Application Package:	4 July 2008 (1700 hrs-French time)
Commencement of Contracts:	1 August 2008
Draft of Study Interim Report (English & Turkish):	24 November 2008
Final Study Report (English & Turkish):	22 December 2008

Each application package shall include: 1 original and 2 copies and shall be in a sealed envelope marked externally: **“Research Study (TYEC): indicating the title and number of study”**.

APPLICATIONS should be sent for the attention of:	A COPY should also be sent or emailed for the attention of :
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