



International  
Commission  
of Jurists



**ecre**

European Council  
on Refugees and Exiles

## **Fostering Access to Rights for Migrants, Refugees and Asylum-Seekers in Turkey**

The International Commission of Jurists (ICJ), the European Council on Refugees and Exiles, Refugee Rights Turkey, Mülteci-Der and the ICJ-European Institutions are undertaking a two-year project to enhance access to justice for migrants, refugees and asylum-seekers in Turkey and ensure protection of their rights, at the national and international levels. The project is co-funded by the European Union.

Currently, in Turkey, the low number and availability of lawyers adequately trained in international and national human rights and refugee law and on the use of international human rights mechanisms is one of the main obstacles in access to justice for migrants, refugees and asylum-seekers in Turkey. This situation is exacerbated by the complexity and novelty of the Turkish asylum system.

To enhance access to justice for migrants, refugees and asylum-seekers, the project partners will establish, equip and support a well-informed legal profession and CSO community in Turkey and link it with their counterparts in EU Member States to defend the rights of migrants, refugees and asylum-seekers. Lawyers and CSO legal practitioners are, in fact, the main point of entry of migrants, refugees and asylum-seekers to the justice system.

This action will empower Turkish lawyers and CSO legal practitioners through several tested methodologies such as capacity building, legal mentoring, advice and support for strategic legal interventions, and sharing of experiences and good practices through networking.

Specifically, under this project, the partners will create training modules and conducts local trainings on relevant human rights issues and international, EU and national legislation, including a practical training on the use of international human rights mechanisms. A EU-Turkey strategic litigation and advocacy workshop will be convened to allow trained legal practitioners from Turkey and EU Member States to meet and discuss strategies, collaboration and synergies. A final workshop on the future of legal aid for migrants, refugees and asylum-seekers in Turkey will bring together key stakeholders and interlocutors to strategize about the remaining gaps and needs and the next steps in this field. The project materials and outputs will be widely disseminated in Turkey, Europe and at the international level, including through short video clips.

At the end of the project, Turkish lawyers and CSO legal practitioners will be empowered to effectively use national and international law to protect the rights of migrants, refugees and asylum-seekers, and be connected with their EU Member State peers to coordinate advocacy towards the implementation of international standards in Turkey.

*This Project is supported by the European Union.*

*The European Union is made up of 27 Member States who have decided to gradually link together their know-how, resources and destinies. Together, during a period of enlargement of 60 years, they have built a zone of stability, democracy and sustainable development whilst maintaining cultural diversity, tolerance and individual freedoms. The European Union is committed to sharing its achievements and its values with countries and peoples beyond its borders.*

