



Call for Expression of Interest: Research Studies (2)

- 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:** 24 October 2008 (1700 hrs French time) (Extended until 14 November 2008)

Within the framework of its project in Turkey "Ethics for the Prevention of Corruption in Turkey", the Council of Europe is interested in commissioning six further research studies to outside researchers/think tank or other organisations. Potential applicants should familiarise themselves generally with the project objectives and workplan (see www.coe.int/tyec.) 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: Public Bidding and Ethics (re-advertisement)

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. 2: Ethical Conduct in the Health Services (re-advertisement)

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 supplies 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. 3: The Shadow Economy

The shadow economy (or the informal or cash economy) is often used as an indicator of corruption, or at least as evidence of a lesser developing economy or society in which exchange or cash is the basis of economic activity. Not only does this work outside the formal tax and customs framework, denying the state revenue, but it allows illicit accumulation of wealth and assets often used in influence trading and corruption. It instils an anti-state attitude and encourages covert relations between public officials and the private sector. The study will explore how far the informal economy has decreased or increased in recent years and in which sectors it is more prevalent, and why. It may review the work of the tax and other revenue agencies and consider what threats its existence poses to an ethical environment in the public sector.

Study No. 4: Professional Associations and Ethics

The study would survey all those professional bodies in Turkey for their developments of Codes of Conduct, how they were constructed, implemented and enforced. Distinctions may be made between professional and generic ethical contents, which in turn may be compared and contrasted with the Council of Ethics' Code. Questionnaires and interviews may be undertaken as to the perceptions of professional associations in complementing the work of the Council of Ethics and working toward generic themes across codes, in the provision of training and in the raising of awareness of ethical standards. Particular attention may be given to those professional associations whose members are also public officials and governed by more than one code (such as health professionals).

Study No. 5: Ethics and Custom Services

The study may wish to review the literature on misconduct and corruption in the customs service, particularly the work of the World Customs Organisation (WCO), as a framework to compare and contrast the Turkish context. It may explore the types of misconduct and corruption involving the Turkish customs service. The study will be used to compare and contrast issues identified in similar agencies. The study will explore the nature of recruitment, promotion, management arrangements, the management of risk, review of training and other means are currently used to instil ethical behaviour and deal with breaches.

Study No. 6: Ethics, Culture and Society

The study is envisaged as possibly taking two approaches in seeking to establish the social and cultural context – ranging from where public officials develop sustain their ethical standards to the public's perceptions of the conduct of public officials. The study may make a broad review of the development of ethical standards in the Turkish context, how it may be developed through faith, family, education and other influences. Drawing on the extensive literature, it may wish to consider how the approach to, and view of the role of, ethics, has developed in different sectors in the public and private sectors in order to where social and cultural attitudes may complement or contradict the development of an ethical environment in the public sector. In particular the study may be able to provide the Council on Ethics with guidance on those areas where training should reinforce ethical standards and where it may need to address areas of potential conflict (for example, in relation to family or regional ties and nepotism). The study would also consider in details trends and attitudes expressed in public opinion polls and other quantitative surveys to assess how public perceptions of misconduct and corruption involving public officials has changed. Of particular interest are any assessments on why some ministries may appear more corruption-prone than others and what the public expect from public officials. Comparisons with the various articles in the Code may give the Council on Ethics guidance on perceptions of the relative importance of each. The study may make a broad review of the development of ethical standards in the Turkish context, how it may be developed through faith, family, education and other influences. Drawing on the extensive literature, it may wish to consider how the approach to, and view of the role of, ethics, has developed in different sectors in the public and private sectors in order to where social and cultural attitudes may complement or contradict the development of an ethical environment in the public sector. In particular the study should look at the current and future roles of education, media, and NGOs in promoting ethics and how they may work with the Council. The study should provide the Council on Ethics with guidance on those areas where training should reinforce ethical standards and where it may need to address areas of potential conflict (for example, in relation to family or regional ties and nepotism). The study would also consider in details trends and attitudes expressed in public opinion polls and other quantitative surveys to assess how public perceptions of misconduct and corruption involving public officials has changed. Of particular interest are any assessments of which ministries or activities may be seen as more susceptible to abuse than others and what the public expect from public officials. Comparisons with the various articles in the Code may give the Council on Ethics guidance on perceptions of the relative importance of each.

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). 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 and applicants should also explain the reasons for the choice of methodology and the experience of the researcher(s) in these;
- 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 provided¹.

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.

¹ A model of Estimated Budget and declarations are enclosed with this announcement.

All Research Study Timelines and Contact Details

Deadline of submitting the full Application Package: **24 October 2008 (1700 hrs-French time)**

Commencement of Contracts : **1 December 2008**

Draft of Study Interim Report (English & Turkish) : **6 March 2009**

Final Study Report (English & Turkish) : **2 May 2009**

Each application package shall be submitted in English and Turkish and shall include: 1 original and 1 copy 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 emailed or sent for the attention of :
Ms Colette HEITZ (Corruption and Fraud Unit) Economic Crime Division Directorate of Co-operation, (DGHL) Council of Europe – Strasbourg, France Fax: +33 3 90 21 56 50; Email: colette.heitz@coe.int	Mr Alan DOIG (TYEC Project) Council of Europe Project Office Turan Emeksiz Sokak, Park Bloklari, B Blok, No. 3/3 Gaziosmanpasa, 06700 Ankara, Turkey Fax : + 90 312 2292349 ; Email: alan.doig@coe.int