



Improvement of Civilian Oversight of Internal Security Sector Project Phase II

What does “civilian oversight” mean?



Although it has not a general definition agreed upon at international level, it can be defined as: “Multi-layered and continuous follow – up on law enforcement agencies, their activities, and policies.”

It is a new concept in Turkey but it has 40 years of history in the USA and Europe. The word “civilian” hereby means “not police, not soldier”.



“Civilian authorities” include parliament, government, organizations which are independent from government and sometimes, citizen groups officially recognized by public authorities.

Civilian oversight does not only address the issue of human rights violations that occur at individual level but also focuses on internal security policies. It includes the participation of civil society and locally elected leaders in local consultation boards.

Why is civilian oversight necessary?

Because the internal security agents, unlike other public officials, have been given unique powers that directly limit individual rights and freedoms. For example they can stop you in the streets, search your home, and they can detain you.



What are the aims of the project?



To guarantee the use of individual rights and freedoms by citizens, to make sure that the internal security forces use their powers lawfully.

To align Turkey’s internal security services with the European Union (EU) norms and standards.



To share a general understanding across law enforcement agencies and non–profit organizations of the concept of civilian oversight.

To build a civilian oversight system, which is transparent, participatory, and citizen – focused.



To strengthen the legal framework of civilian oversight.

To increase institutional capacity of the Ministry of Interior in order to ensure effective supervision of law enforcement agencies.



Who implements the project?

The Ministry of Interior of the Republic of Turkey is implementing the Project. The Ministry receives technical support from the **United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)** to deliver the activities, to produce analytical reports, to organize meetings and training sessions. The project is being financed by the **European Union** and is monitored both at national and local levels by the Ministry of Interior.



Where is the project being implemented?



The main office is in Ankara. 8 pilot districts are in Gaziantep, İstanbul, İzmir, Malatya and Trabzon, where boards for coordination and consultation with public (Local Prevention and Security Boards) are established under the authority of local public administrators. Their aim is prevention of petty crimes and consultation with the public.

What are Local Prevention and Security Boards?

Local Prevention and Security Boards refer both to Provincial and District Prevention and Security Boards established to enhance civilian oversight of internal security forces under chairpersonship of local public administrators. They are established in order to develop, implement and monitor Local Prevention and Security Plans to deal with local security problems through consulting to all related stakeholders.



What is being done in the project?

The project consists of three components:



Legislative Framework

Studies for revising and developing the legal framework. It will enable the Ministry of Interior and the public administrators to exercise effective civilian oversight over public and private law enforcement bodies.



Capacity Building

Increasing the institutional capacity of the Ministry of Interior and the Governorships and delivering training sessions for internal security forces, District Governors and civil society organizations.



Civil Society and Media

Installing a set of mechanisms to have more effective oversight by the Parliament and strengthening consultation with civil society.



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