

The Project aims at strengthening the efficiency and credibility of the criminal justice system and enhancing the rule of law in Iraq



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“The European Union is made up of 28 Member States who have decided to gradually link together their know-how, resources and destinies. Together, during a period of enlargement of 50 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”.

The European Commission is the EU's executive body.



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# RULE OF LAW AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE IN IRAQ



A project implemented by a consortium led by  
GFA Consulting Group GmbH

The Project aims at strengthening the efficiency and credibility of the criminal justice system and enhancing the rule of law in Iraq



## CONCEPT

The 40 months Project seeks to strengthen governance mechanisms within the police, judicial and penitentiary institutions. It aims to contribute to the building of State accountability, legitimacy, credibility and encourage public institutions to enhance public policies and services for the benefit of the people of Iraq. Its implementation period is from August 2014 until November 2017.

These objectives reflect the orientations of the second Iraqi National Development Plan for the years 2013-2017, which mainly focus on strengthening judicial independence, through support of institutional capacities to protect human rights and integrating international human rights rules and standards within the judicial system. They also refer to the EU – Iraq Partnership Cooperation Agreement that contains provisions on the rule of law, engaging the parties to „a constant commitment to the rule of law, including the independence of the judiciary, access to justice and the right to a fair trial“.

In line with past EU initiatives, namely those undertaken by EUJUST LEX, the Project focuses on the improvement of the criminal investigation process, enhance the detention facilities and increase the cooperation of police and judiciary.

## RESULTS

The expected results of the Project focus on three priorities:

1. Iraqi justice authorities have improved capacity in policy planning and coordination, law enforcement and revision, allowing for stronger compliance with Iraq's internal and international commitments.
2. The quality of criminal investigations is improved and the use of confession-based convictions is reduced, through consensus on the criminal procedure.
3. The existing legal aid system is improved; vulnerable groups have increased access to justice through legal counsel, and prisoners benefit from improved detention conditions.

## TARGET GROUPS

The Project supports institutional building of beneficiary institutions and link capacity building of the targeted institutions with effective delivery of services to citizens.

Target groups of the Project are the Ministry of Justice, the Higher Judicial Council, the Ministry of Interior, the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs, the Ministry of Human Rights, the Independent Human Rights Commission, the Council of Representatives, the Commission of Integrity and the Civil Society.

## STRATEGIC ORIENTATIONS AND IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY

- Support and actively encourage compliance with international norms and standards through modernisation of the legal framework and promotion of cross cutting issues.
- Establish and consolidate coordination and synergy between the different justice institutions, information sharing and sustainability of project results.
- Strengthen capacity development of key justice institutions for better delivery of justice services.

Given these strategic orientations, the Project applies on the following criteria and components to implement its strategy:

- Modernising the legal framework
- Mainstreaming of cross-cutting issues (gender integration, human rights based approach, focus on vulnerable groups)
- Supporting coordination frameworks
- Exchange of information
- Adjusting capacity development strategy (including performance appraisal system)
- Developing a service approach