

2007 SEARCH FOR COMMON GROUND: PERCEPTIONS OF MEDIATION & ADR II

Since 2001, Search for Common Ground in Morocco has worked with Moroccan society to transform the manner in which people and institutions resolve conflicts and to develop a culture of mediation in Morocco. In order to reduce the risks and costs of disputes, Search for Common Ground in Morocco enhances the capacity of individuals and institutions to resolve conflicts cooperatively and develops a culture of dialogue by bringing together key actors, including civil society, government, and media.

This particular program was launched in October 2003, with support from the British Embassy, to offer new mechanisms to solve conflicts between disputants, prevent court delays, preserve relationships between the litigants, and to enhance inexpensive methods of problem solving. Specifically, this second phase (ADR II) was completed in April 2007 with three overarching goals:

- To integrate mediation mechanisms into the Moroccan legal and judicial systems, to examine the stages that mediation has undergone and crossed, and the results it has achieved thus far.
- To assist the Ministry of Justice and its partners to understand and incorporate perspectives of civil society, legal community and private sector.
- To raise awareness about the effectiveness of ADR methods including mediation

To assess the ADR II in light of these objectives, both qualitative and quantitative data collection tools were employed. The assessment collection information from twelve (12) in-depth interviews on perceptions of mediation with lawyers and civil society organization leaders who had participated in ADR II activity. Additionally, the assessment includes data from an online survey from the same population. Ultimately, the evaluation highlighted a number of positive impacts of the project.

SFCG MOROCCO PROVIDES QUALITY, EFFECTIVE TRAINING

With few dissenters, the overall feedback from SFCG activity participants who were interviewed was positive. In particular, interviewees appreciated the quality and organization of the roundtables presented by SFCG remarking that the workshops were “very practical” and “interesting and important.”

56% of the respondents were satisfied with their experience with SFCG and another 33% were very satisfied, while only 11% were unsatisfied. These figures imply high quality, useful and effective training sessions for lawyer and civil society organization leaders.

“The conference was really excellent, well organized, and it went smoothly which I appreciated.”

-Participant, Civil Society
Organization Leader

RECOMMENDATIONS

The following are a sample of recommendations:

1. Conducting a broad outreach and communication campaign geared toward professionals and the public
2. Promulgating rules for mediation so that the roles of various stakeholders are clear.
3. Offer more advanced trainings for mediators, with levels for different competency groups.

4. Providing handouts, or other instructional documents, to activity participants to assist them in following the presentation more closely
5. Wider publicity about events
6. Give priority to role playing in workshop trainings

Source: This document is a summary of, and taken directly from “Search for Common Ground: Perceptions of Mediation & ADR II Evaluation.” A copy of this document can be acquired at <http://www.sfcg.org/sfcg/evaluations/morocco.html>, or by contacting Nick Oatley, Director Institutional Learning at Search for Common Ground at noatley@sfcg.org

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