



Training course

Youth participation and Youth Policy Development in Turkey

Ankara, 22-29 June 2009

Final report

Organised in cooperation by
the Council of Europe's Directorate of Youth and Sport
and
The General Directorate for Youth and Sport of Turkey

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The following abbreviations have been used throughout the report:

Council of Europe: CoE
 Directorate of Youth and Sport (of the Council of Europe): DYS
 Directorate General for Youth and Sport Turkey: DGYS
 European Youth Foundation: EYF

Executive summary

by Ufuk Atalay

Background

Since 1979, study sessions, seminars and training courses have been an important feature within the Council of Europe Youth and Sport Directorate's programme of educational activities with International Non-Governmental Youth Organisations (INGYOs). The youth sector has elaborated new methods and tools to allow for a better understanding of the challenges and the importance of youth policies, and to help governments to conceive, formulate and implement their youth policy.

This work has focused on the importance for youth policies to create the necessary conditions for effective participation of young people in society and for ensuring their well-being (social protection, access to housing, for example). Additionally, youth policies should promote young people's autonomy, a prerequisite for their effective participation, and facilitate their participation in decision-making processes. They should encourage the development of youth associations and voluntary work, youth information and counselling services, and promote local employment initiatives.

These activities are part of the overall aim of promoting youth participation at a European level. The Directorate of Youth and Sport's (DYS) programme is run in co-operation with the European Youth Forum and public authorities or/and National Youth Councils in specific countries.

As a part of these programmes, since 2002 several training courses and seminars have been organized in Turkey within a national and international youth work and youth policy context. Before this training course, a Long Term Training Course, one Training for Trainers, a Seminar on Europe and Turkey, a 50-50 Training Course were organized in Turkey till 2006. Starting from 2006, the major focus and priority were given to **Youth Participation and Youth Policy Development**. The last four activities, including this training course, focused on Youth Participation and Youth Policy Development in Turkey at different levels. The first seminar brought together most active youth NGOs and governmental organizations dealing with youth in 2006. In 2007 and 2008, training courses on basics of Youth Participation and Youth Policy were organized in order to empower more youth workers working in the area.

The 2009 training course, with "*Youth Participation and Youth Policy Development in Turkey*", has an extra importance, since Turkish Government has decided to re-establish youth policy in Turkey and initial legislation work started take place.

Overview

The Training Course on Youth Participation and Youth Policy Development in Turkey was held in Ankara on 22-29 June 2009. Nine international and 19 Turkish participants from different regions of Turkey took part in the course. Most of the participants were representing NGOs or Youth Centres from Turkey. There were a few participants representing governmental bodies and/or policy-making side. The program was mainly focused on raising the awareness and understanding on Youth Participation and Youth Policy in Turkey and based on encouraging and empowering the participants to have ad-hoc projects in their own locals developing youth participation and local youth policy.

Aims and Objectives

The aim of the course was to develop participants' competences in enhancing youth

participation in Turkey and in European projects and to stimulate co-operation between different actors in the youth field in Turkey for youth policy development and implementation.

The training course intended to offer a space for and an international perspective on youth participation and youth policy development. The course addressed the actual needs of young people and the situation of youth policy in Turkey as well as empowering 28 participants on actively taking part in the development of youth policy in Turkey and their own locals in particular. For this purpose, the training course aimed to offer different level of information, experiences and good practices as well as a variety of tools and skills for young people to be more competent on youth participation and youth policy development issues.

Main Issues Addressed

The training course addressed 3 major issues.

- **Analysis of the Current Situation**

Regarding the situation of youth participation and youth policy development in Turkey, it was important to address the actual situation of young people, youth participation and youth policy in Turkey. Looking at the real experiences of the participants, it became clear that the level of youth participation in Turkey still stays quite limited and that the youth policy does not really meet the needs of young people. The participants and the trainers critically discussed about the situation, but also about the potential reasons and the nature of the problem.

- **Conceptual Work on Youth Participation and Youth Policy**

Since the concepts of youth participation and youth policy are not very well developed in Turkey, participants, experts and the trainers worked on intensively different dimensions of them. Through the light of the international and European approaches, it appeared that youth participation and youth policy have never been considered sufficient enough in Turkey. The understanding and concept of youth policy fail to take the real needs of young people into consideration and the mechanisms for youth participation are either too weak or do not exist at all. There is a perception problem of young people, not only by the adults but also by young people themselves. Together with the experts and the trainers, the participants worked on defining youth participation and youth policy taking the realities in Turkey into consideration, which was supported by different approaches from international institutions as well as the examples and good practices from different countries represented by the international participants.

- **Tools, Skills Development and Dissemination**

The training course intended to provide a variety of tools and skills to the participants in order to empower them to be actively involved in development of youth participation and youth policy in their own locals. The major intention was to disseminate the concept of youth participation and youth policy approach to a wider range and enable young people to be more competent and active on the issues related to them.

Results

The course succeeded to develop a common understanding and awareness on youth participation and youth policy amongst the participants. Participants started to feel more responsible to be active in the development process and motivated to work in their own locals.

The knowledge, tools and the skills they gained through the course encouraged them to create new projects and activities not only disseminate them to other young people but to be more proactive in making the change in their own environment.

The need of sharing information and good practices obliged them to be more active in creating spaces to share their experiences on virtual platforms. A Facebook group, an email group and blogger site initiated by them - even though they still need some more contributions – give everybody the chance to continue to stay active.

A certain amount of resources translated into Turkish will be helping them in their future actions; however the need for more resources became visible.

Recommendations and Follow-Up

Participants have shared several recommendations and follow up proposals in order to widen the outcomes of the training course and develop the current situation:

- The participants of this course and other young people should be supported after the training course;
- Council of Europe's DYS and the Directorate General for Youth and Sports Turkey (DGYS) should include and consider them more in their activities and strategies;
- There is a need for follow up activities to reach more young people and participants, DYS, DGYS, other non-governmental and governmental organizations should be more active for this;
- DGYS and other governmental bodies as well as local authorities should provide more funding opportunities for young people;
- Policy makers and local authorities should be more open and easy to access for young people to take part in the process;
- The new initiative for the new law on youth policy should include young people as well;
- Young people and youth workers need more resources and tools to be more competent;
- Accessing information and sharing experience is an important aspect and participants, organizers and other stakeholders should be more active and supportive for this issue;
- There is a need for Turkish resources regarding the huge number of young people with language limitations.

For these recommendations, participants worked on concrete follow-up activities, which they would need support from the organizers and the experts. A virtual platform composed of different tools such as e-mail groups, blogs and a web page would meet the need of accessing information and sharing experience. Participants committed themselves to organize local and regional follow-up activities to engage more young people. DGYS and DYS should offer more opportunities, support and funding for their efforts. DYS and DGYS can be more active in offering new training courses and material in Turkish.

Conclusions

Even though the duration of the training course was quite limited considering the topics, participants were very much interested in developing their understanding and skills. Although it was hard for the international participants to position themselves in Turkish youth policy context, they made very important contributions by sharing their experience and practices. All participants were highly motivated to act after the course and planned new projects to carry the training course outcomes to further dimensions.

Most of the participants evaluated the course in a positive way, mentioning that they may need more support after the course. Some of the international participants found it hard to engage them to the course due to language limitation and because the focus was mostly on Turkey.

For the organizers it was important to train more young people working as multipliers and activists. Especially for DGYS it was important to have youth leaders from youth centres to take part in this course in order to access local young people. DGYS also committed to work on measuring the actual outcomes of all the activities they run since 2002 and offer more space and opportunities for further development of Youth Participation and Youth Policy.



The participants to the Training Course in Turkey, 2009

I. Rationale and background of the Training Course

by Elizabeth Kasa-Mälksoo

Since 2002, the General Directorate for Youth and Sport of Turkey developed a close relationship with the Council of Europe's Directorate of Youth and Sport aiming at developing a youth policy in Turkey, which started with the meeting of NGOs and the delegation from the Council of Europe, in 2001 and continued with:

- A Meeting for NGOs on **Fundraising and Information** in 2002;
- A **Long Term Training Course**, during 2002-2003, that started in Strasbourg and finished with the evaluation in Izmir;
- The "**50/50 seminar**" with the participation of government representatives and NGOs;
- A **Training for Trainers** in 2004;
- A **follow-up meeting** in 2004;
- A seminar on "**Turkey/Europe, their relations: the Role of Youth NGOs**" in 2005;
- A seminar on "**Youth policy development in Turkey**" in 2006;
- A seminar on "**Youth participation and empowerment**" in 2007;
- A training course on "**Youth participation for experienced youth workers**" in 2008 and a big symposium in 2007.in the framework of the "All different-all equal" campaign.

Yet, Turkey doesn't have a national Youth Council because of the undermining pressure on youth NGOs. Although there are about 570 registered youth NGOs in Turkey, most of them are not involving young people at all, they just have the word "youth" in the statutes. All in all the youth NGOs are very weak, there is no youth activity culture, not much volunteering. Previous attempts to set up a National Youth Council failed. In this context, the role of the activities (seminars, training courses) organized in collaboration by DYS and DGYS is indisputable.

For 2009, the Council of Europe and the General Directorate of Youth and Sport of Turkey have agreed to develop the course on the basis of participation of both civil servants and youth workers/youth leaders. This is because of the importance of mutual cooperation (and knowledge about each other and each other's roles) which is at the basis of any cooperation. This reflects the principles of youth policy of the Council of Europe and its partners, as well as the approaches of the Revised Charter on Youth Participation of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of Europe.

The 2009 course aimed at fostering a better understanding of the realities, aspirations and visions of young people in Turkey. It is also meant to contribute to the development of youth policies including support to nongovernmental youth organisations and interaction between governmental and nongovernmental actors in youth policy.

I. The main partners of the Training Course

Compilation by Elizabeth Kasa-Mälksoo

The training course was organized in partnership by the Council of Europe's Directorate of Youth and Sport and the Directorate General for Youth and Sport of Turkey.



The Council of Europe is the continent's oldest political organisation, created in 1949 on the basis of human rights, democracy and the rule of law. Today, the organization brings together 47 member states; its mission in relation to its core values remains fully relevant, as the purpose of building a more cohesive and united Europe remains a permanent challenge.

The aim of the Council of Europe's youth policy is to provide young people – girls and boys, young women and young men – with equal opportunities and experience which will enable them to develop the knowledge, skills and competencies to play a full part in all aspects of society. Youth participation and youth policy development are at the heart priorities of the Directorate of Youth and Sport of the Council of Europe. National youth policy reviews, providing support for youth organisations through training courses and through European Youth Foundation are just a few examples of how these priorities are put in practice in the youth sector of the Council of Europe.

For the Council of Europe, youth participation is a key dimension of any youth policy. The full potential of youth participation for the autonomy of young people and for the development of society is best applied when youth work and youth organisations are able to dialogue and cooperate for and through youth policy principles and mechanisms.

The intergovernmental and international co-operation on youth policy development, with particular focus on setting standards and supporting their implementation was stressed during the last Council of Europe conference of the Ministers responsible for youth that was held in Kiev in October 2008. The final document of the conference, “**The future of the Council of Europe youth policy: AGENDA 2020**”, calls for promoting young people's active youth participation in democratic processes and structures. According to this document, the participation of young people in public life requires that public life is organised in such a way that it makes a real participation offer and makes participation and involvement possible and enticing. It is then necessary that the concept of youth participation would be addressed through concrete examples of participation at a local level through increased transparency and through examples of co-management of youth policy, between NGOs and governments. Participation reaches wider than the city council, the region and local structures and politics. It concerns schools and universities, urban environments and even family life. It flourishes in an environment that encourages open and frank interactions and dialog. Strengthening youth participation is therefore a permanent concern of any youth policy authority, be it at the local, national or European level. Participation is key to democracy and youth participation arguably the key to the future of democracy.



The General Directorate for Youth and Sport is a governmental body under Prime Ministry. This organ takes its legitimacy from the Constitution. According to the Article 58 and 59 of “Protection of the Youth” and “Development of Sports” respectively:

“*Article 58.* The state shall take measures to ensure the training and development of the youth into whose keeping our state, independence, and our Republic are entrusted, in the light of contemporary science, in line with the principles and reforms of Atatürk, and in opposition to ideas aiming at the destruction of the indivisible integrity of the state with its territory and nation. The state shall take necessary measures to protect the youth from addiction to alcohol, drug addiction, crime, gambling, and similar vices, and ignorance.

Article 59. The state shall take measures to develop the physical and mental health of Turkish citizens of all ages, and encourage the spread of sports among the masses. The state shall protect successful athletes.”

The Youth Services Department is the unit at the General Directorate of Youth and Sports in Turkey. The Department is in charge of providing services and implementing programmes for youth, youth leaders and youth workers through the sections in charge of youth centres, youth camps, international relations, celebrations and cultural activities, youth research, guidance and counselling, youth NGOs, and coordination and financial affairs.

Among the duties of the Department of Youth Services the following can be mentioned:

1. Taking necessary measures in relation to opening, operating and commissioning of facilities such as youth centres, hostels; coordinating with the relevant department about the construction, maintenance and repair of such facilities and individual buildings;
2. Registering and supervising youth clubs;
3. Providing in-service training for the officials and volunteers who will serve for youth activities;
4. Acting as the official institution in national and international youth activities on behalf of the General Directorate;
5. Ensuring that the youth spends its leisure time for social and cultural activities and providing service for this regard; organizing courses to improve their level of knowledge and skills in fields needed;
6. Coordinating and cooperating with the relevant institutions in order to take the necessary measures to protect the youth from bad habits;
7. Conducting the activities and proceedings related to the Youth Week;
8. Carrying out the works and proceedings related to the provisions of protocols between Turkey and other countries;
9. Carrying out the works and proceedings related to the participation of Turkish youth living abroad in the youth activities held in Turkey,
10. Participating in meetings, courses, seminars and similar activities held abroad, disseminating throughout the country the new information and developments in this regard;
11. Performing, assessing, publishing and documenting researches related to the problems of youth;
12. Opening Consultancy and Guidance Offices for the Youth, rendering and controlling Consultancy and Guidance Services;
13. Carrying out the works and proceedings related to the participation of Turkish youth living abroad in the youth activities held in our country;
14. Coordinating activities of Youth Tourism;
15. Rendering services for the good use of the leisure time by the youth.

Developing youth participation in Turkey has been an on-going objective for both the youth sector of the Council of Europe and the General Directorate of Youth and Sport of Turkey. In addition to an increased participation by youth workers and youth leaders from Turkey in activities of the European Youth Centres and European Youth Foundation, several training courses have been co-organised in Turkey since 2002, addressing issues central to youth work and youth policy. These activities are primarily addressed at youth workers, youth

leaders and civil servants in charge of youth affairs in Turkish organisations and institutions. A limited but important number of participants from other European countries have served the function of bringing an intercultural and European dimension to the course, as well as contributing to the course by sharing their ways of work in their institutions and organisations, a role that makes them participants, potential partners for future projects and resource persons.

II. Aims and objectives

by Elizabeth Kasa-Mälksoo

The aim of the course was **to develop participants' competences in enhancing youth participation in Turkey and in European projects and to stimulate co-operation between different actors in the youth field in Turkey for youth policy development and implementation.**

The concrete **objectives** for the course were the following:

- To explore the meaning of youth participation and its different forms and to discuss the ways it can be promoted and fostered;
- To reflect upon the roles, responsibilities and values of the different actors (NGO, civil servants, local authorities, international institutions) in promoting and developing youth participation in general, and in particular in Turkey;
- To familiarise participants' with the Council of Europe's approaches to youth participation and principles of youth policy development and implementation;
- To develop participants' understanding of youth policy and reflect on effective ways of implementing youth policies on local and national levels with the participants and their organisations/institutions;
- To reflect on the practical use of the national youth policy reviews and the Revised European Charter on the Participation of Young People in Local and Regional Life;
- To develop personal and social competences of the participants for youth participation;
- To explore possibilities for networking and planning future cooperation projects between the participants.

The training course was developed as to address the following competences:

- Understanding of youth participation and how it can be promoted;
- Awareness of the roles, responsibilities and values of different actors involved in promoting youth participation;
- Knowledge of the Council of Europe's functioning, its Directorate of Youth and Sport activities and principle of co-management and of its approach to youth participation;
- Understanding of Council of Europe's approach to youth policy development and implementation
- Knowledge of the Revised European Charter on the Participation of Young People in Local and Regional Life and of the "Youth Policy Review" tool;
- Communication and cooperation, negotiation, conflict management, group dynamics, participation, team work.

III. Profile of the participants

by Ufuk Atalay

The participants to the course were to be a combination of active youth leaders and youth workers from NGOs and youth centres together with policy makers and representatives from governmental bodies and local authorities. It was planned to have 20 Turkish participants and 10 international participants¹.

Finally, there were 9 international (5 female, 4 male) and 20 Turkish participants attending the training course due to a last minute cancelation.

Since the time for the preparation of the course was so limited, the call for participants was rather late and there were not enough applications for Turkish participants. For this reason, the composition of the participants was not diverse enough. Ten Turkish participants were coming from 2 organizations. However, there was still a geographical balance amongst the participants. The geographical distribution of the Turkish participants was as follows: Central Anatolia 10 (6 female, 4 male), Eastern Anatolia 1 (1 male), South Eastern Anatolia 3 (1 female, 2 male), Mediterranean 1 (1 female), Aegean 1 (1 male), Marmara 3 (1 female, 2 male) and Black Sea 1 (1 male).



Group work

¹ A list of participants and their organization can be found in Appendix B.

Unfortunately, the participation from policy makers, governmental bodies and local authorities was so limited, which decreased the contribution from their side.

The course organisers expected that the participants would be more experienced on youth participation and youth policy development. Despite the level of experience and knowledge being lower than expected, all participants were very motivated and showed a great progress during the training course.

IV. Rationale of the programme and main contents/issues addressed

by Vitali Chiurcciu

The program of training-course has been developed according to the aims and objectives, expectations of partners in the project, and also trying to answer the expectations and needs of the selected participants of a training-course. During the training-course, the programme was adapted to improve the educational processes, and also as response to the requirements of participants, as presented during the mid-term evaluation.



Mid-term evaluation activity

The programme was split into five parts (*see Appendix C*):

- Introductions (of the team, of the partner institutions, of the programme, of the group) and group building activities;
- Exploring the concepts and realities of youth policy and practices of youth participation;
- Instruments of youth participation: the Charter, trilateral co-operation, good practice, transfer into youth policy development
- Development of individual strategies and planning of participants' follow-up of the training course;
- Networking and follow-up, evaluation.

In the introductory part of the programme, there was a presentation of the participants, of team of trainers, of partners in the project – the Council of Europe’s DYS and the Directorate General for Youth and Sports of Turkey. The two main partners also presented the background of this training course. The expectations of the participants were presented through the exercise «Mosaic of expectations».

The second part of the program, aimed at giving the chance to participants to share their personal experience with regard to youth participation, to discuss about the realities of their youth work, to present different forms of youth participation in their countries and in specific regions of Turkey, to reflect on what are the needs of young people and also how youth work answers these needs of young people. After this necessary presentation of the background elements, the understanding of the term «youth participation» became an important component: to understanding the place and the role of youth participation in youth work, as catalyst and motivating power, to figure out which are actors in the given process, and certainly to reflect upon the values of youth participation: democracy, human rights, diversity in a society and intercultural dialogue.

The third part of the program focused on understanding the concept of a youth policy, its transformation by means of concrete tools of participation. It was enriched by a field visit to the National Youth Agency of Turkey, and also by the acquaintance with examples of the youth policies from Estonia, Moldova and United Kingdom (due to the time constraints, not all countries represented could present their youth policy – which was a pity).

The following part of the programme was devoted to the Revised European Charter on the Participation of Young People in Local and Regional Life, the concrete tool on whose basis many youth non-governmental organizations build the dialogue with regional and local authorities’ bodies in the different countries of Europe. The participants were shown its possibilities and limits, some positive examples of youth participation. A series of concrete workshops for developing skills were included in the programme.



Choosing workshops

After the workshops, the participants started to develop together various ideas of projects on active youth participation at regional and local level.

The last part of the training course – before the evaluation – was dedicated to the concrete follow-up of the training course, thus focusing on participants’ creating action plans for the time after the course, how to transfer the knowledge, experiences, inspirations and ideas gained into practice and also what support the institutions and the participants can give to each other.

This is a summary of the participants’ expectations with regard to the training course:

- To have overview about youth policy of Turkey;
- Public young forums on special topics for motivation of youth;
- To develop projects;
- To learn more about youth participation in Turkey;
- To learn more about youth policy in other countries;
- To make new partnerships with NGOs in Turkey and other countries;
- To learn more about Turkish culture;
- To share, share, share;
- To make new friends;
- To develop personal skills;
- Efficient training;
- Get information about new organizations;
- Learn about new sources of funding;
- Learn about different cultures;
- Networking ;
- On a non-personal level : concrete projects and long-term cooperation ;
- Share, learn and teach ;
- Culture, knowledge and find new ideas and new methods ;
- Be hopeful, have funny time and laugh;
- Be partner, get connections and make new projects
- To learn the reality of Turkish NGO;
- Being informed about joint cooperation and exchange of experience in this course;
- Funding opportunities to apply what I have learnt;
- Becoming confident individuals, getting to know about different people, before the more active and entrepreneurial society;
- Making use of info on youth policies of CoE and being introduced to different paths;
- Implementation of a national strategy for youth, working and taking measures to ensure the participation of youth;
- To find out what is youth policy, what is Council of Europe and what will they add to me;
- Information I’ve never heard;
- Dynamism;
- Youth ideas;
- To listen to the ones coming from Europe;
- Take Actions/ How can I apply at local level;
- Concept and theory of youth ;
- To contact with Turkish participants in order to develop joint projects starting from 2010;
- Find about youth participation in the CIS countries to share lessons learned in their projects;
- Making new friends and meeting with old friends
- Development and change;
- Hope;
- Going to Europe;
- Satisfactory results;
- Sustainable youth projects;
- Sharing experiences;
- Continue partnership with the CoE on youth participation

- Grants and opportunities for young people to establish work, repayable and non-repayable entrepreneurship credits;
- Services for students subject to discount (In Europe Euro 26 cardholder gets a discount);
- Tax deductions for the companies recruiting young people;
- NGOs working on AIDS education, and building of enterprises;
- Internet services and PC trainings for young people should be free ;
- Quota for the recruitment of disabled people allows employment of disabled people.
- Community participation in the 3 / 1 ratio of women or minorities may bring rate. Political and other studies.

V. The methodological approaches

by Elizabeth Kasa-Mälksoo

The training course was non-formal education event and was built around a series of methods specific to the field: discussions in different sized groups, presentations, simulation, brainstorming etc.

The choice of methods was influenced by the fact that many Turkish participants could not express themselves in English, therefore simultaneous interpretation was used throughout the course. A very ingenious group building exercise, during the first day, has nevertheless challenged all the participants to work together for accomplishing a series of tasks without translation. The exercise was successful and created a cooperative group atmosphere.



A plenary session

During the following days of the course, several presentations have been organized (powerpoint, flipchart, interactive talks). The group of participants worked together and each one's contribution conditioned the accomplishment of the task. The groups fed back to the big group the results of their discussions through collages, flipcharts schemes, oral

presentations etc. The team managed to create groups to the extent that everybody could discuss and work with everybody, despite the language difficulties.

The most successful exercise of the week was a big simulation game, adapted from “Meeting the mayor”, an exercise in “**Have your say!**” - Manual on the Revised European Charter on the Participation of Young People in Local and Regional Life. The exercise split the participants into different interest groups, pro and against the development of a youth policy and helped them reflect on the stages, actors, difficulties, interests etc. of policy making.

Organised in a secluded resort, away from Ankara, the training courses benefitted of numerous opportunities to work outdoors. Moreover, a field trip was organized to the National Agency of the Youth in Action Programme of the European Commission², in Ankara. Here, the participants were informed about the funding opportunities offered by the Youth in Action Programme and which could help them work towards stimulating youth participation in Turkey. The second part of the visit brought in front of the participants a series of very talented and motivated speakers, coming from organizations active since decades in the field of youth in Turkey. It was rewarding and inspiring to listen to their accomplished projects and it helped the participants to understand how actions can be connected, forces united towards promoting common goals.

The participants appreciated the presence of representatives of the main partners: Council of Europe’s DYS, represented by **Rui Gomes**, Head of the Education and Training Unit at the Directorate of Youth and Sport - and the Directorate General of Youth and Sport of Turkey represented by **Vildan Görbil**, Head of the International Cooperation Department and **Aysegül Böke**, head of the Youth Clubs and Youth Research Department.



Rui GOMES (Directorate General of Youth and Sport of the Council of Europe), at right, Vildan GÖRBİL (the Directorate General of Youth and Sport of Turkey)

² <http://www.ua.gov.tr/>

From another point of view, as it brings together young people from Turkey but also from Europe, the activities challenged the team to find the right balance in approaching the topics: specific enough, as this is a course about youth participation in Turkey, but also explicit enough, for the international participants not to get lost in the explanations. There were still moments when the European participants did get lost in the specificities of the discussions, but all in all their presence is useful and they were definitely animated by a vast interest in Turkey as country and its youth movements.

Examples from other countries are very useful and they might help Turkish youth to find similarities and learn from others how to cope with difficulties. Yet, sharing these examples should not hurt any sensitivity, but is to be organised in a manner that is not at all patronizing, not “lecturing” Turkey. Ultimately, it is the role of the Turkish youth to define the way that leads to the situation they desire for themselves, and the participants to the course have shown a lot of motivation to do so.

VI. The follow-up plans by the participants

by Ufuk Atalay

The participants created new partnerships and developed project ideas to be implemented. Six projects focusing on different sectorial policies and youth participation were developed and are expected to be implemented in following period (see *Appendix A* for their Summary). The participants were encouraged to use EYF Pilot Projects funding opportunity for some actions of their projects³.

A network and communication strategy to disseminate the outcomes of the training course and the general aspects on Youth Participation and Youth Policy development has been initiated. A team has volunteered to work on the system and the tool for the networking strategy together with one of the team members.

The objectives for the networking and communication strategy are:

1. To share information and good practices among the participants ;
2. To promote youth participation and youth policy development, at local level in particular;
3. To share and provide information for other young people, youth NGOs, policy makers and any other possible stakeholders;
4. To offer articles and related material on the topic;
5. To sustain a communication amongst the participants as well as including the participants of the previous training courses and the seminars.

Four major tools will be used for networking:

- **A website:** the participants expressed their desire to create a website on the topic, for sharing information and promoting youth participation and youth policy development. The web page is defined to be a advocacy and informative tool for a long term period.
- **A blog page:** will serve for the participants to share their experience,

³ <http://www.eyf.coe.int/fej/>

practices and ideas on youth participation and youth policy development, as well as for promoting the projects and new ideas amongst each other and other stakeholders. The participants will also have the chance to publicize their own observations, articles and implementations on youth participation and youth policy development.

- **A Mailing List:** will mainly serve for the communication among the participants, to plan and monitor related activities. The mailing list will be used for information which is preferred not to be public.
- **Facebook and similar groups:** will serve for promoting the major ideas and the other tools to other people.

The group has been working on the structure and basic regulations for these tools in order to make them as efficient as possible.

One month after the training course, the participants have already implemented one follow-up activity, to transmit the outcomes of the training course and engage more young people.

VII. Summary of the main results of the course

by Elizabeth Kasa-Mälksoo

Another step in developing the youth participation in Turkey, the training course held in Ankara during 22-29 June 2009 was a successful event.

The 2009 course aimed at fostering a better understanding of the realities, aspirations and visions of young people in Turkey. All the participants were very much interested in developing their understanding of the topic and acquiring the necessary skills for better participation to the shaping of youth's future in Turkey. The main result of the training course is a group of youth leaders from various youth centres from Turkey, which committed to act as multipliers and activists and further engage, mobilize the local young people.

After having approached the topic in various other formats and combinations, the Council of Europe and the General Directorate of Youth and Sport of Turkey have agreed to develop this 2009 course on the basis of **participation of both civil servants and youth workers/youth leaders**. Nevertheless, an even higher number of policy makers would be necessary – for both sides to get more knowledge about the others and especially to counter a strong sceptical attitude among the youth workers that “nothing changes anyway”.

The course brought along the Turkish group of participants, nine international participants from Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bulgaria, Estonia, Germany, Serbia and United Kingdom. Although it was sometimes hard for them to fully understand the Turkish youth policy context, they made very important contributions by sharing their experience and practices.

A series of publications of the Council of Europe's DYS were introduced to the participants, and will serve as resource for their future endeavours. The participants received "**Have your say!**" – the **Manual on the Revised European Charter on the Participation of Young People in Local and Regional Life**⁴, and the Turkish version of the COMPASS Manual for

⁴ http://book.coe.int/EN/ficheouvrage.php?PAGEID=36&produit_aliasid=2303lang=EN

Human Rights Education with Young People (“Pusula”) - distributed to all Turkish participants.

All participants were highly motivated to act after the course and planned new projects to carry the training course outcomes to further dimensions. It is important to find ways to support the participants in their initiatives, after the training course is over. In this direction, DGYS also committed to work on measuring the actual outcomes of all the activities they run since 2002 and offer more space and opportunities for further development of Youth Participation and Youth Policy.

VIII. Main evaluation points and conclusions

by Ufuk Atalay

In general, the participants were satisfied with the content of the training course. Most of the participants evaluated positively the course and state that they have gained much more than they expected; they claim to be leaving with many new question marks in their mind and extra responsibilities on their shoulders. During the evaluation process (written and oral), they have expressed that they need extra support and guidance after the training course. Unfortunately, many participants felt sorry and limited at the same time due to their language limitations. This language issue affected not only their participation during the course, but also their access to precious resources (publications, websites), which unfortunately are not available in Turkish.

Due to the same language problem and the course being built specifically on Turkey’s case, most of the international participants also expressed that, time to time, they felt lost or found it hard to engage themselves.

All in all, the participants found the training course successful, inspiring and motivating. Yet, many of them have shared their fear and hopelessness as their efforts may be blocked or motivation can be broken by adults and decision makers.

IX. Recommendations and suggestions for follow-up

by Elizabeth Kasa-Mälksoo and Ufuk Atalay

The participants drafted a series of recommendations for the course, which were presented in the Summary of this report. Probably the most important is the need to further support the participants to the course, so that they keep in contact and implement at least part of the projects they drafted. It might be also useful to reconnect with the participants from the previous courses and find ways to link their profiles and initiatives to the current group.



Thinking about the future during the evaluation session

One aspect that still needs to be reviewed is the ratio between the international and the Turkish participants. Another format that might be interesting to organize is a seminar organized in one of the European Youth Centres, which could be very rewarding for the Turkish participants.

The team has also discussed upon the possibilities to work in a more concrete way upon the Charter in practice (Youth participation projects). As long as the participants do not have the power or the role in determining a youth policy, a more practical approach would enable them to take concrete steps in organizing the participation of their young people.

As for the follow-up, a very interesting and useful workshop on **Youth Participation and Policy** was already organized between **21-23 August 2009** by some participants of Training Course “Youth Participation and Youth Policy Development in Turkey”, from the Community Volunteers Foundation.

The major aim was to inform other volunteers of the foundation and with the engagement of them initiate a new working group of youth participation and youth policy. The workshop program was mainly based on sharing the information and skills that the participants have gained during the training course and exploring the new ideas of new comers.

Outcomes:

- The blog page for sharing information and experienced has developed further by the participants during the training course: <http://genclerinkatilimi.blogspot.com/>

- A working group called Youth Action Group, has developed. This Action Group stands up for **Youth, activism, dynamism, action and lobbying**. Twenty young people came together around these words and initiate a new structure. So far they have been discussing and creating solutions for their own problems, but now they come together to carry them to decision makers and in a complementary manner they are starting lobbying activities. What they aim is to use the activist approach in youth field and run activities and campaigns in Turkey, at the universities on the streets. Now they use the blog site as the virtual base for sharing information and engage others.

Some titles from the blog:

- Youth has rights for housing
- Creative and Critical thinking for young people
- Stop investing on unemployment and low quality education
- Now it's young people's turn
-

Appendices

A. Summary of follow-up projects proposed by the participants

Compilation by Özlem Ezgin

Before starting the development of the projects, a series of funding opportunities were presented, including the European Youth Foundation. The follow-up projects were developed in groups, according to the participants' interest.

The following project ideas were suggested by the participants:

- Intercultural Youth Exchange
- Intercultural Learning – Exchange of Best Practices
- Changing More Information and Experiences
- Diversity
- Intercultural and Interreligious Dialogue
- Human Rights & Campaigning
- Project Competition
- Clash of Human Rights & Citizen Rights
- Prejudices
- Employment
- Education and Health
- Sexual Health Trainings
- Personal Development Trainings
- Training, Participation and Employment of Young Women
- Network Making Seminar
- Youth Policy Development
- Young Mothers' Counselling
- Human Rights Education
- Governance form Local to National
- Youth's Rights Promotion Campaign
- National Youth Festival on Human Rights
- Implementing, Doing the Activities that We've Learned in Participation Courses
- Case Study Competition For Students
- Regional / National Levels Bring Together Employment Sector With Higher Education Institutions
- Training of Online and Live Advisors (including peers)
- North / South Co-operation with Turkey, Azerbaijan, Estonia and Russia
- Vocational Training
- LGBTT Trainings
- Gender Equality
- Housing
- Youth Employment in Turkey
- Participation of Minorities
- International Activity
- Informal Meeting With Students
- Developing Relations With Politicians

Six different projects were developed through group work on: youth employment, discrimination and youth participation. Three of these projects are presented below:

1. YOUTH EMPLOYMENT

Project Summary:

The project is focused on the dissemination the knowledge of working rights of unemployed, newly graduated and student young people and establishment of an NGO for this reason.

Project Background:

Most of young people are unemployed or being employed at really low rates. Even if young people have a university degree, it is a common problem for young people to find a job.

On the other hand, to work and to be employed is a need and also a human right. Besides, to have a job is not enough by itself, employment also be fairly paid and under the conditions that are suitable with human honour. The current laws support the institutions rather than young people and there is not enough effort to prevent usage of the cheap labour force and to promote youth employment. It is tired to be achieved to create awareness among young people on their rights and power within this project.

Aim:

-

To provide young people with the possibilities that they could use their right to work as they wish

- To provide young people with the possibilities that they could choose the working field according to their abilities, knowledge and interest.

Target:

- 1) To organize nationwide activities to create awareness among young people about right to work.
- 2) To raise consciousness of young people about employment possibilities.
- 3) To provide young people with the personal development training opportunities.
- 4) To establish "Youth Employment Centres"
- 5) To develop relations between universities and industry.
- 6) To inform young people about funding opportunities to set up their own business and to increase entrepreneurship credits.
- 7) To inform young people about special employment opportunities which they can benefit while they are students.

Project Target Group:

The first target group of the project is young people who are newly graduated or still university students. The second target group is all unemployed youth.

THE EXCEPTION PROVES THE RULE

Participation of Discriminated Youth in Europe

Duration of the Project:

- 06/10 (1 week, 5 working days)

Venue:

- Istanbul (2010 Avrupa Kültür Baskenti - European Culture Capital 2010)

Working Languages:

Predominately English, Partially Turkish

Aims with Regards to Content:

- Analysis of the status-quo of the participation of discriminated youngsters in Europe
- Analysis of how and by whom these youngsters get discriminated
- Analysis of in what way and what extend this discrimination avoids/influences the participation of discriminated youngsters
- Development of strategies of prevention of discrimination which avoids/influences the participation of those youngsters

Methods of the Project:

- Mixture of seminar and training course
- Presentation of best-practice examples of youngsters and lectures of scientists who dealt already with the topic mentioned above. That allows the dealing on a theoretical and practical level with the topic
- Non-formal Learning (Workshops)-
- Networking
- Beside presentation of best-practice examples induce youngsters to initiate such projects by themselves

Target Audience; youngsters belonging to the mentioned below or representatives of those:

- Ethnic Minority
- Religious Minority
- Homosexuals
- Disabled Persons
- Immigrants and Asylum Seekers

Total Amount of Participants:

- 24-30

Age or Participants:

- 18-35

Composition of the Project Team:

- Ataman, Aysenur (Ankara University)
- Öncü ,Bülent TÜRÇEK-Turkish Environmental and Woodlands Protection Society)
- Petrova Tahir, Victora (Resoure Centre SHAM Foundation)
- Ünal, Melek (MJD-Young Muslims in Germany)
- Ünal, Onur (Community Volunteers Foundation)

Project Preparation:

- Minimum two preparation meetings in Istanbul

Follow-Up:

- Follow-up project initiated by the participants
- Report
- Press release etc.

Promotion of Youth Participation through Inter-Cultural Youth experiences
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Venue: Narva – ESTONIA

Date: July 2010

Duration: 21 – 27 July 2010 (one week – five working days)

Working language: English

Main Aims:

- Exchanging on best practice with regard to youth participation projects in the cross european context.
- Develop a concrete framework for follow-up local projects Azerbaijan, Greece, Turkey, Estonia, Latvia.

Objective:

- Increase awareness of key stakeholders in affected community
- Increase participants' awareness about the European youth structures and youth programming.
- Enhancing participants' understanding about HRE and the role of young people.
- To develop participants competencies in project development-management based on CoE (T-Kits in project management)

Team consists:

Aziz, Ibrahim, Abdullah, Tulin, Andres, and Kamil.

Brief Short+Long term purpose

- Empower more young people to increase membership in youth project.
- Acquire skills in organisation of campaign awareness to promote youth participation in local realities of participants'.

The preparation meeting will take place in Istanbul

- Documents (publicity)
- Programme
- Methodology tools
- Handouts
- Thematic video shots
- Simulation games

- Role play
- Press release-articles
- Inter-cultural evening

Follow up of projects after than report

- 3 follow up projects in the above mentioned countries with 30 – 35 participants.

Participants: 18 – 40 age for participants.

Profile of Participants:

Youth leaders-workers, civil servants actively involved in youth work supported by their organizations.

Recruitment procedures:

- Open call
- Gender balance
- Geographical balance

Number of CoE member states:

Azerbaijan, UK, Turkey, Estonia, Greece, Latvia, Norway, Ukraine

Total number of participants: 30

Budget

Travel costs of participants: 8 000 e
 Visa and insurance 1 000 e
 Accommodation 11 000 e
 Training equipment 600 e
 Local transportation 400 e
 Pre-meeting 2 000

All together about **23 000 e**

Income

Registration fee 1 800
 20% of tickets paid by participants 1 600 e
 Council of Europe (European Foundation) 18 000
 Estonian government 1 300 e
 Narva local government 300 e

All together about **23 000 e**

Appendices

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Appendices

C. Daily draft programme

	DAY 1 22.06	DAY 2 23.06	DAY 3 24.06	DAY 4 25.06	DAY 5 26.06	DAY 6 27.06	DAY 7 28.06
Up to 9.15	BREAKFAST						
9.15- 11.00	Arrivals	Official opening	Youth participation: what is	Youth policy: why and what is	Youth policy: <i>The Charter</i>	Promoting and fostering youth participation: -- tool (Charter manual) -identify needs (Charter in practice) <i>Break</i> -support	--make action plans on implementing -present action plans <i>Break</i> -personal action plans
11.00-11.30		<i>Break</i>	<i>Break</i>	<i>Break</i>	<i>Break</i>		
11.30-13.00		Group building	Youth participation: actors	Youth policy: Council of Europe's approach			
13.00-15.00	LUNCH						
15.00-16.30		Participants' youth work realities	Youth participation: examples	Youth policy: <i>Turkey's case</i>	<i>Free afternoon</i>	-skills workshops <i>Advocacy, Lobbying (and media), Promotion, Communication at political level, Campaigning</i> <i>Break</i> -skills workshops	Networking and follow-up <i>Break</i> Evaluation Official closure
16.30-17.00		<i>Break</i>	<i>Break</i>	<i>Break</i>			
17.00-18.30			Youth participation: tools	Visit			
From 19.30	DINNER						
After 20.30	Welcome evening	Intercultural evening			Dinner out		Farewell

