

**E-newsletter Special Issue, June 2010****European Foundation Week Activities of the Turkish Foundations**

Turkey's leading foundations organized and joined a series of events under the theme of "Turkish Foundations: An Old Tradition in Service of New Horizons" in the framework of the very first Foundation Week. Organized by the European Foundation Centre (EFC) in Brussels between 31 May to 4 June 2010, the Foundation Week which brought together more than 1,000 representatives from foundations, non-profits and the EU Institutions, as well as members of the public.

Pioneered by the Third Sector Foundation of Turkey (TUSEV), the Turkish foundations' events were supported by the **Aydın Doğan Foundation, Cyprus EVKAF Administration, Sabancı Foundation and Vehbi Koç Foundation.**

The representatives of the Hüsni M. Özyeğin Foundation, Mess Training Foundation, Foundation for Children with Leukemia and Human Resources Foundation of Turkey also attended to the events.

The event aimed to give a better understanding of foundations in Turkey and Northern Cyprus and emphasize their role in the EU accession process. Below is a brief account of Turkish foundations' events that took place during the week.

**May 31st, 2010: Reception at the TUSIAD Representative Office**

Turkish Industrialists' and Businessmen's Association (TUSIAD) Brussels Office hosted Turkish foundations representatives at a reception on May 31st, 2010. TUSIAD International Coordinator Dr. Bahadır Kaleağası and his colleagues gave an informal briefing on EU-Turkey relations. The role of foundations in Turkey's EU accession process was also discussed during the reception.

**31 May-4 June 2010, Turkish Foundations Corner at the Interactive Fair**

Turkish foundations displayed a rich selection of books, brochures, videos and other materials at the Interactive Fair during the Foundation Week. Visitors were informed about the history and the current state of foundations, as well as cooperation and partnership possibilities with Turkish foundations.

**June 1st, 2010, Panel and Reception, Turkish Foundations: An Old Tradition in Service of New Horizons**

Manager, Stiftung Mercator).

Turkish foundation practitioners discussed the current situation and the future vision of the foundation sector in Turkey during a panel titled *Turkish Foundations: An Old Tradition in Service of New Horizons*. Moderated by Prof. Üstün Ergüder, the Chair of TUSEV, the panel gathered experts working in different fields in Turkey, North Cyprus and Germany. The panelists were Candan Fetvacı (CEO, Aydın Doğan Foundation), Nurdan Şahin (General Manager, Educational Volunteers Foundation of Turkey), Mustafa Kemal Kaymakzade (General Manager, Cyprus EVKAF Administration), Filiz Bikmen Bugay (Manager of Programs, Sabancı Foundation) and Rana Aydın (Project

The panel explored the increasing role of the Turkish foundation in social, economic and political life in Turkey by emphasizing the most important issues and programs, their influence on the EU accession and new horizons for foundations.

In the question and answer session that followed, the participants raised several issues such as the necessity of a permanent dialogue between the foundations in Turkey and Middle-Eastern countries as foundations in Turkey may serve as a role-model, the role of the foundations on empowerment of women, youth and people with disabilities and the need for the promotion of further cooperation between Turkish and European foundations.



Along with representatives of European Commission, Brussels-based networks and foundations from various countries, Selim Kunalp (Head of the Mission of Turkey to the EC) and Anna Maria Corazza Bildt (MEP, Member of EU-Turkey Joint Parliamentary Committee) also attended to the panel.

The panel was followed by a mini-concert and reception which allowed for further networking and discussion.

### **June 2nd, 2010, Special Visits**

A delegation including the representatives of Aydın Doğan Foundation, Sabancı Foundation, Educational Volunteers Foundation of Turkey and Vehbi Koç Foundation had a series of meetings with Fernando Criado Alonso (General Secretariat of the Council of the EU), Rudiger Boogert (Member of the Cabinet of Commissioner Stefan Füle, Enlargement and European Neighbourhood Policy), DG Enlargement Turkey Desk and Selim Kunalp (Head of the Mission of Turkey to the EC) later in the week. The importance of increasing the flow of information between EU institutions and Turkish foundations was emphasized frequently.

### **Special Thanks to**



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### **For more information on Foundation Week:**

- **Photos from the Turkish foundations' events:**  
<http://www.facebook.com/home.php?#!/album.php?aid=223850&id=224067845927&ref=mf>
- **A short film on foundations in Turkey:**  
<http://www.facebook.com/#!/pages/TUSEV/224067845927>
- **EFC Video blog:** <http://www.efc.be/News/Pages/videoblog.aspx>
- **Alliance Magazine's Foundation Week Blog:** [alliancemag.wordpress.com](http://alliancemag.wordpress.com)