

**TUSEV E-Newsletter, No. 5, November 2009-January 2010****Civil Society Law Reform****Survey on Freedom of Association is Closed**

Funded by the European Union's European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights (EIDHR), the project called Preparation of Methodology for the Monitoring of Freedom of Association in Turkey Project was launched in January 2009. The project is implemented by TUSEV in partnership with the Civil Society Development Centre (STGM) and resulted in an online survey as a pilot methodology to capture the realities of freedom of association in Turkey. The first phase of the Survey on the Freedom of Association closed on December 7th, culminating the common concerns of different stakeholders regarding freedom of association in Turkey. 200 associations from 40 cities participated in the survey which covered issues such as registration procedures, initiation of members, documentation, general assembly, auditing, international relations, membership, fines, taxes and activities related to the Press Law, Meeting and Demonstration Law and Aid Collection Law. An executive summary on the outcomes of the survey will be published soon and the online survey will re-launch in mid-2010. TUSEV would like to thank all survey respondents for their participation.

US Foundations Transparency Portal is launched

Foundation Center announced the launch of a new web portal called Glasspockets which is designed to inspire greater openness among private foundations. At www.glasspockets.org, foundations that have taken the lead in communicating about their work, particularly using online resources and social networks, are featured along with direct links to their current initiatives. Glasspockets encourages these organizations to tell the stories of their successes — and failures — in part by highlighting exemplary efforts of their peers. Visitors will also find essential facts about all 97,000 U.S. foundations, illustrations of philanthropy's impact on the issues of concern, and information on the ways in which foundations are striving to become more transparent.

News from the Third Sector**ISTR 9th International Conference, 7-10 June 2010, Istanbul: Online Registration is Open**

9th International Conference of the International Society for Third-Sector Research (ISTR) will take place in Istanbul between July 7-10, 2010. The conference is being hosted by the Third Sector Foundation of Turkey (TUSEV) and Kadir Has University. Held biennially at a different country with the participation of over 600 stakeholders, the Conference will be focusing on "Facing Crises: Challenges and Opportunities Confronting the Third Sector and Civil Society". Founded in 1992, ISTR is a major international association promoting research and education in the fields of civil society, philanthropy, and the non-profit sector. ISTR has a wide network of members including academicians, institutes, universities and civil society organizations. An online registration page was created for those who interested in attending the conference. Please visit www.istr.org for more information on registration.

TUSEV joins Local Advisory Group of TACSO project

Technical Assistance for Civil Society Organizations (TACSO) Project aims to strengthen civil society within a participative democracy, to stimulate a civil society-friendly environment and culture, to strengthen the overall capacities and accountability of Civil Society Organisations (CSO), and to guarantee the quality of service and sustainability of CSOs in the democratic processes. To achieve these goals, TACSO Project focuses on research, guidance and help desk, capacity building and CSO and partnership relations in Instrument for Pre-Accession (IPA) beneficiary countries (Western Balkans and Turkey). The local advisory group for Turkey is composed of TUSEV, ARI Movement, Nature Association, Community Volunteers Foundation (TOG), Association for Supporting and Educating Women Candidates (KA-DER) and Helsinki Citizens Assembly. Please visit www.stgm.org.tr or www.ikgv.org for more information on the project.

"Civil Participation in Europe" Conference, 12-13 November 2009, Slovenia

Organized in Ljubljana, Slovenia by the Centre for Information Service, Co-operation and Development of NGOs (CNVOS) in cooperation with the Council of Europe Conference of INGOs and Ministry of Public Administration of Slovenia, the Conference on "Civil Participation in Europe" Conference promoted the Code of Good Practice for Civil Participation in the Decision-making Process. A document initiated by Council of Europe to ensure effective communication and participation of NGOs in the policy-making processes, the

Code of Good Practice was adopted by the Conference of INGOs of CoE on 1st October and confirmed by the Declaration of the Council of Ministers of CoE on 21st October this year. Please go to http://www.coe.int/t/ngo/Source/Code_good_practice_en.pdf view the Code. More information on the conference can be reached at www.coe.int/ngo

"Research on Civil Society Organizations Status and Prospects", 26-28 January 2010, Jordan

Under the patronage of the Minister of Political Affairs of Jordan, the Foundation for the Future organized a regional conference titled "Research on Civil Society Organizations Status and Prospects". The event was hosted at the King Hussein Convention Center, located at the Dead Sea, between January 26th and January 28th, 2010. Through the conference's proceedings, the Foundation aimed to shed light on the different research studies conducted about civil society organizations operating within the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region, whereby special attention was paid to those countries within the region that had seen monumental development over the past two decades. Detailed information about the conference and research papers are available at www.foundationforfuture.org (Source: www.foundationforfuture.org)

Building the relationship between civil society and the media: how you can get involved!

CIVICUS: World Alliance for Citizen Participation, in collaboration with the Inter Press Service (IPS) is developing a database to facilitate the relationship between civil society and the media. This database will contain the names and contact details for civil society organisations as well as their fields of expertise and the regions in which they work. The database will allow the media to quickly and easily find sources for their stories within civil society on a variety of themes. If you would like to be part of this database, please submit your profile at http://www.civicus.org/cs_gateway/ (Source: www.civicus.org)

News from Our Members

TVV-ACEV-MEB "First Step" Project Kicked off

Vodafone Turkey Foundation (TVV), Mother Child Education Foundation (ACEV) and Ministry of National Education (MEB) launched the "First Step" project which aims to provide high quality early childhood education to almost 10.000 children and women in 18 cities where access to education is limited. While the technical capacity of the nursery schools will be developed through donations of equipment and education materials, early childhood teachers and parents will receive trainings and seminars to increase their capacities. Please visit <http://www.turkiyevodafonevakfi.org.tr/> for further information.

Sabancı Foundation Changemakers Program

Sabancı Foundation is supporting a new TV program called "Changemakers", which aims to raise the visibility of unique individuals that make a significant difference in other people's lives. The program is televised weekly (for 32 weeks) on CNN Turk at 18:30 on Sundays. It is possible to nominate a "Changemaker" using an online application form at the program's website www.farkyaranlar.org Please visit www.sabancivakfi.org.tr or www.farkyaranlar.org for more information and episodes with English subtitles.

Ağrı İbrahim Çeçen University Opened its Doors

The opening ceremony of the Faculty of Science and Literature and Rectorate Buildings of the Ağrı İbrahim Çeçen University was held on 21 October 2009 with the participation of Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdoğan. Founded in Ağrı (a small city on the eastern boundary of Turkey) by philanthropist İbrahim Çeçen, the university started academic functioning with almost 3,200 students. The construction of the campus which is to be donated to the Turkish government is still underway. 60 million dollars will be allocated for the construction in the campus which will serve 20,000 students by 2015. İbrahim Cecen Foundation develops programmes in order to contribute to the social and cultural development of the University which presents great potential for the social and economic development of Ağrı, the poorest city in Turkey by GDP per capita. For more information: www.icvakfi.org.tr (only available in Turkish)

TURMEPA will chair INTERMEPA in 2010

Established in 2006 in Greece, INTERMEPA (the International Marine Environment Protection Association) is an umbrella of 11 national organizations working on marine environment protection. Mr. Tezcan Yaramancı, Chair of the Executive Board of the Turkish Marine Environment Protection Association (TURMEPA), will serve as Chairman of INTERMEPA for the following 2 years as of January 1, 2010. Please visit www.intermepa.org and www.turmepa.org.tr for more information.

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