

Best wishes from TUSEV for a happy new year...

TUSEV E-Newsletter, No. 8, September-December 2010

Civil Society Law Reform

Appointment of General Director at the General Directorate of Foundations

After serving for eight years as the Head of General Directorate of Foundations, Mr. Yusuf Beyazit retired and Dr. Adnan Ertem was appointed to his position as of October 13, 2010. Dr. Ertem has served in various positions at the General Directorate and he was serving as a Deputy Secretary to the Prime Minister since 2007.

Special Resolution on Freedom of Association and Assembly

The UN Human Rights Council passed a resolution on "The Rights of Freedom of Peaceful Assembly and Association" on 30 September 2010, drawing to an end a hard-fought campaign by civil society groups, including the International Center for Not-for-Profit Law (ICNL), Article 19, World Movement for Democracy, and CIVICUS: World Alliance for Citizen Participation. The resolution represents a major win for civil society globally, as freedom of assembly and association are the key pillars of civil society space and fundamental to CSO's very existence and operations. It comes as a meaningful and hopeful development, considering increasing attacks and shrinking space for its operations. The resolution was co-sponsored by 63 countries and passed by consensus. A cross-regional group, including the Governments of Indonesia, Nigeria, Mexico, Lithuania, the U.S., the Czech Republic, and the Maldives, co-tabled this resolution. Among other items, the resolution establishes a Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Association and Assembly to monitor and report on violations of these rights. For more information on the resolution, please visit [here](http://www.civicus.org). (Source: www.civicus.org)

News from the Third Sector

Highlights on Civil Society in Europeans Union's 2010 Progress Report

The report is prepared and published annually by the European Commission during the first week of November, Turkey's Annual Progress Report gives an overview of the current situation in the country with respect to its accession process to EU. The report analyzes the extent of fulfilment of economic and political criteria and the ability to assume the obligations of membership under the 33 topics of negotiation. The report also assesses civil society's environment and impact through its ability to influence policy decisions, level of participation in the policy-making processes and the level of freedom of association in Turkey, as well as the legal framework concerning civil society organizations. TUSEV prepared an informative note on the Report's highlights on civil society. Please visit <http://www.tusev.org.tr/content/detail.aspx?cn=596> to read the note. The full Progress Report is available [here](#).

Black Sea NGO Forum, 21-23 October 2010, Romania

Every year, Black Sea NGO Forum invites civil society representatives from the Black Sea region to participate on an international forum. This year's third round titled "Investment to Our Common Future" was held on 21-23 October 2010 in Constanta, Romania. The hosts of this year's forum, Romanian Civil Society Development Foundation, Romania NGO Federation, and Romanian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, European Commission and German Marshall Fund of United States welcomed around 200 participants for this event. The main topics included democracy and citizen participation, sustainable economic development, establishment of international donors, youth politics, climate change and social media from the civil society perspective. Additionally, program was enriched by the presentations of NGOs and an NGO fair. During the event, TUSEV presented a report on Developing Strategy for Civil Society in the Black Sea Region which is

the result of a regional workshop took place in Istanbul during the ISTR Conference in July 2010. More information about the Forum can be found on www.blackseango.org. Please visit Developing Strategy for Civil Society in the Black Sea Region [mail group](#) to download the presentations and become a member.

Turkey Ranks 134th in the World Giving Index

The World Giving Index is the first report of its kind looking at charitable behaviour across the world. Using data from Gallup's Worldview World Poll, Charities Aid Foundation (CAF) looked at three different types of charitable behaviour: giving money, giving time and helping a stranger. Out of 153 countries included in this survey, Turkey ranks in the 134th place. According to the report, 14 % of Turkish people give money, 7 % give time and 35 % help a stranger. The survey also revealed many interesting facts and contrasts between countries. For instance, helping a stranger was the most widespread form of charitable behaviour. In addition, while charitable behavior percentages varied depending on wealth level, age was not a determining factor for the donor. Australia and New Zealand topped the World Giving Index, while Sri Lanka, Turkmenistan and Guinea ranked in the top 20. The full report is available in English and can be reached at the [CAF website](#).

The Muslim Philanthropy Digital Library (MPDL) is Launched

The Muslim Philanthropy Digital Library (MPDL) seeks to make a repository of the world's knowledge on all forms of philanthropy as expressed through original documents, reports, graphics, waqf registrations, scholarly analysis in Muslim-majority countries and Muslim communities. Launched in October 2010, the digital library covers material from 1900 to the present and includes original source documents, annual reports, waqf registrations, scholarly analysis and other relevant material. It encompasses the diverse cultural, political and social factors influencing the practice of local philanthropy as well as the significant contributions from Muslim-majority countries to global philanthropic practice. The library is open for visits at <http://www.aucegypt.edu/research/gerhart/MPDL/Pages/Home.aspx>

Call for Proposal: The UN Trust Fund to End Violence Against Women

The UN Trust Fund to End Violence Against Women is accepting applications for its 15th grant cycle (2010) from government authorities at the national and local levels, civil society organizations and networks — including non-governmental, women's and community-based organizations and coalitions and operational research institutions — and UN Country Teams in partnership with governments and civil society organizations. Applications should be centred on supporting implementation of national and local policies, laws and action plans on ending violence against women. The deadline for submissions of applications is **20 January 2011, 23:59 EST (GMT-5)**. All applications must be submitted online. Please see <http://www.unifem.org> for further information and application documents.

2010 Global Status Report on Community Foundations

The 2010 edition of the Global Status Report (GSR 2010) on Community Foundations highlights the growth and development of community foundations worldwide. The report uses a survey of support organizations and community foundations, while adding more questions about the substance of the work that community foundations are involved in. 27 country reports were used as the basis for the analysis of five main themes of the Global Status Report (2010): facts and figures, connections and support, changing external environment, encouraging giving, and achievements in the community. Please visit <http://www.wings-community-foundation-report.com> for more information including topline findings in the executive summary, trend highlights and data analysis, country reports and local stories.

News from Our Members

2nd Season of Turkey's Changemakers is on

Through Turkey's Changemakers, Sabanci Foundation aims to promote social development and social awareness among current and future generations and brings a new perspective to civil society in Turkey. Highly popular, the first season of "Changemakers" aired between October 2009 and May 2010 on CNN Turk. The program received 500 applications from all over the country, which fell under the following categories: economic development, health, environment, education, civic participation and social justice. Short films on the selected 32 Changemakers are available at www.farkyaranlar.org, www.sabancivakfi.org, www.hurriyet.com.tr, Facebook and Twitter. Over 180 thousand people have followed the first season through social media and internet. The second season of the program airs weekly on CNN Turk at 21:10 on Thursdays.

AÇEV is selected as one of the Six Laureates of WISE Awards

An initiative of Qatar Foundation, WISE (The World Innovation Summit for Education) awards six organizations from around the world for their remarkable success in their attempt to transform education. AÇEV's MOCEP (Mother Child Education Program) was selected under the theme of Transforming

Education: Innovation, Investment and Inclusion among projects from 89 countries. The winning projects have all displayed a capacity for spreading their influence far and wide and making their proposals connect with a global community. The selected laureates presented their projects to 1,000 leading international influencers present at the World Innovation Summit for Education – WISE, which took place in Doha, Qatar, from December 7th-9th. Please see www.acev.org for more information.

New Headquarters for the Dreams Academy Supported by Vodafone Turkey Foundation

Initiated by Alternative Life Association (AYDER), The Dreams Academy provides culture and arts education to initiate the inclusion of disadvantaged youth into social and economic life. Supported by Vodafone Turkey Foundation and United Nations Development Fund (UNDP), Dreams Academy moved its headquarters to Ataşehir with the support of the local municipality. The new headquarter's opening ceremony on 22 October 2010 was attended by the State Minister responsible from women and family affairs Selma Aliye Kavaf along with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Resident Representative Shahid Najam, Vodafone Turkey CEO Serpil Timuray, President of the Vodafone Turkey Foundation Hasan Süel, and President of the Alternative Life Association (AYDER) Ercan Tural. Arts workshops including theatre, dance, drawing, instrument playing, and photography; self-improvement workshops such as preparing for the business world, communication skills, individual coaching, and sports activities as well as production workshops will take place at the Academy's new headquarters. Please visit <http://www.duslerakademisi.org> and <http://www.turkiyevodafonevakfi.org.tr> for further information.

Umut Foundation Objects the Draft Law on Guns/Firearms

The Parliament's Internal Affairs Subcommittee has approved the Draft Law on Guns/Firearms which decreases the age limit for owning a shotgun to 18, angered advocates of individual disarmament but pleasing gun lobbies. "The new law will ultimately only encourage young people to arm and result more violent society", said Nazire Dedeman, President of the Umut Foundation, a leading anti-gun organization. Following the Subcommittee's decision, a group of civil society organizations including Umut Foundation successfully mobilized the public opinion against the draft law and caused its suspension. Umut Foundation is fighting against individual arming in Turkey where each year almost 3000 people die because of gun violence. Please visit www.umut.org.tr to see explanation and suggestions of the Foundation regarding the Draft Law on Guns/Firearms accepted by Internal Affairs Subcommittee.

Follow us on [Twitter](#) / [Facebook](#)