

## TUSEV E-Newsletter, No. 9, January-March 2011

### Civil Society Law Reform

#### EMI Istanbul Congress on Government-Civil Society Relations, 11-12 February 2011, Istanbul

More than 300 civil society delegates, high level experts and decision makers gathered at the EMI Congress in Istanbul on 11-12 February 2011, to discuss the theme “Civil Society Organisations challenge public authorities: From political commitment to active dialogue” and to exchange views about the role of civil society. The Congress was co-organized by the Third Sector Foundation of Turkey (TUSEV) and hosted by Istanbul Bilgi University. While the opening speeches of the Congress was delivered by Mr Štefan Füle (European Commissioner in charge of Enlargement and the European Neighbourhood Policy) and Mr Egemen Bağıř (Turkish Minister for the European Union Affairs and Chief Negotiator), Prof. Dr. Halil Güven (Rector of the Bilgi University) and Mr Rifat Hisarcıklođlu (President of the Union of Chambers and Commodity Exchanges of Turkey-TOBB) gave welcome speeches. Please visit [www.europeanmovement.org](http://www.europeanmovement.org) and [www.tusev.org.tr](http://www.tusev.org.tr) for more information.

#### Seminar Series of TUSEV on Legal and Fiscal Legislation

TUSEV organized a seminar series to inform its members about the latest developments on legislation. The first seminar targeting solely foundations focused on legislation regulating foundations. During the seminar the legal framework of the establishment, governance, management bodies, international activities, audit and tax exemptions of foundations were presented and common problems were identified. The second seminar on fiscal legislation of foundations and associations concentrated on the fiscal problems of civil society organisations having not-for-profit economic entities. Recommendations of TUSEV’s Tax and Public Benefit Report Regarding Foundations and Associations were presented and feedback is received from members. The seminars gave the attendees the opportunity to find answers to their questions and to exchange ideas with each other. Similar seminars of TUSEV will take place during 2011 to reach a wider audience.

#### New EFC Legal and Fiscal Country Profiles are now available

The EFC announced the publication of updated editions of its Legal and Fiscal Country Profiles. The profiles map the diverse legal and fiscal environments for foundations across 30 countries and are available to download [here](#). The mapping has widened in scope since the previous update. The profiles now cover the 27 EU Member States, plus Switzerland, Turkey, and Ukraine. As well as addressing topics such as the requirements for setting up a foundation and the purposes and activities that foundations are permitted to pursue, the profiles look at the tax treatment of foundations and donors by each country in both domestic and cross-border contexts. In addition, the profiles now include some extra data on governance and supervision of foundations and a section on recent national trends and developments affecting foundations in the countries surveyed. Turkey profile was prepared by TUSEV and can be reached at <http://www.efc.be/Legal/Documents/turkey.pdf>

#### The Minimum Amount of Assets Required Establish a Foundation

The Law on Foundations adopted in February 2008 stipulated that the minimum amount of assets required to establish a foundation would be determined each year by the Council of Foundations, highest decision-making body of General Directorate of Foundations. Council of Foundations determined the minimum amount of assets needed to establish a foundation for the year 2011 as at least 50.000 TL (approximately 23.000 Euros).

#### DGF English Website is Launched

Directorate General of Foundations (DGF) is the main public body responsible from foundations. DGF’s website is translated into English and now available at [http://www.vgm.gov.tr/en/index\\_en.cfm](http://www.vgm.gov.tr/en/index_en.cfm). The Law on Foundations, regulations for foundations, DGF Projects and more information on GDF can be found at this official website.

### News from the Third Sector

### **Social Enterprises in Turkey: New Web Portal and Report Launched!**

Social Entrepreneurship in Turkey Project was conducted in cooperation with British Council and aimed to identify strengths and weaknesses of social enterprises in Turkey, while raising awareness on this new model with high social and economic benefits. Over 200 stakeholders, including social entrepreneurs, private and public sector representatives and civil society organizations were consulted through a series of meetings, seminars and field visits. The project had two major outputs: the "Social Enterprises and Turkey" report offers a detailed needs assessment and identifies future actions to strengthen social enterprises in Turkey, while the Social Enterprise Web Portal acts as a communication platform for all that want to learn, support or establish social enterprises. Both are available through [www.sosyalgirisim.org](http://www.sosyalgirisim.org) in Turkish. Project outcomes show that social enterprise is a model with great promise and potential for Turkey. It gives civil society organizations and companies an opportunity to harmonize their social perspectives with commercial entrepreneurship and management principles. It is encouraging to see that there already are organizations that successfully operate along social entrepreneurship lines in Turkey.

### **CIVICUS World Assembly, 10-12 September 2011, Montréal: Engage with civil society representatives from all over the world**

Organized each year by CIVICUS: World Alliance for Citizen Participation, The World Assembly is a key global gathering for civil society and governments, donors and business, to engage constructively in finding common solutions to building a more just world. The 2011 World Assembly builds on the overarching theme of "Acting Together for a Just World" by focussing on Civil Society and Global Decision-Making: Doing it Better. To ensure a balance of width and depth under the annual focus theme, the 2011 World Assembly will be divided into four "thematic tracks" which are development effectiveness, climate justice, connecting people through technology, and civil society and democratic space. All interested stakeholders can submit an activity proposal latest by **11 April 2011**. More information on the programme tracks, the activity formats and how to submit your proposal is available at <http://www.civicassembly.org/proposal.php>

### **Call for Applications for the People to People (P2P) Programme**

Funded by the European Union (EU), People to People (P2P) Programme is launched for 2011. The programme aims to strengthen civil society dialogue through two different types of activities to be supported: multi-beneficiary study tours and single country event. NGOs, trade unions and employers' organisations (social partners), professional associations, charities, churches and religious communities are targeted by the programme. In order to be eligible, candidates must be a member of an NGO based in a candidate or potential candidate country. Sufficient knowledge of English is required for multi-country study tours, however knowledge of English is optional for single country event since the interpretation will be provided. The applications should be submitted through respective European Commission Delegation. Please visit [here](#) to apply for the programme from Turkey.

### **Call for Proposals of the Cultural Contact Point of Turkey**

Cultural Contact Point of Turkey announced 2011 funding scheme which is composed of 3 strands: Support for cultural projects, annual operating grant for organisations active at European level in the field of culture and support for policy analysis an dissemination activities. While multi annual cooperation projects, cooperation measures, cooperation with third countries, support to European cultural festivals will be supported under strand 1, cooperation projects between organisations involved in cultural policy analysis are eligible for funding under strand 3. Detailed information about the application and deadlines are available at [www.ccp.gov.tr](http://www.ccp.gov.tr) in Turkish and [http://ec.europa.eu/culture/calls-for-proposals/call3016\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/culture/calls-for-proposals/call3016_en.htm) in English.

### **Istanbul Bilgi University recognizes ten youth as social innovators**

The BILGI Young Social Entrepreneur Awards (*BİLGİ Genç Sosyal Girişimci Ödülleri*), initiated by Istanbul Bilgi University, honored its first class of Fellows at a ceremony in Istanbul on January 31, 2011. The Awards program is a national affiliate of YouthActionNet® and is supported by the Sylvan/Laureate Foundation and by the Educational Volunteers Foundation of Turkey (TEGV). The Awards identify and support young social entrepreneurs who have succeeded in making positive contributions to their communities. The ten Fellows selected annually receive mentoring to develop their leadership skills, attend customized training programs, and are eligible to receive cash awards to enable them to improve their projects. Over time, the Awards seek to develop an expanding network of social entrepreneurs throughout Turkey who share their knowledge and experience with their peers - both inside the country and internationally. Please visit [here](#) for more information.

### **The International Hrant Dink Award is waiting for your nominees**

Founded after the assassination of Turkish-Armenian journalist Hrant Dink, the Hrant Dink Foundation annually presents the International Hrant Dink Award on Hrant Dink's birthday, September 15th. The award is presented to people who work for a world free of discrimination, racism, and violence, take personal risks

for their ideals, use the language of peace and by doing so, inspire and encourage others. With this award, the foundation aims to remind to all those who struggle for these ideals that their voices are heard, their works are visible and that they are not alone, and also to encourage everyone to fight for their ideals. This year proposals for nominations will be accepted until **April 15<sup>th</sup>, 2011**. Please visit Turkish, Armenian and English website at [www.hrantdinkodulu.org](http://www.hrantdinkodulu.org) for more information.

### **News from Our Members**

#### **Mehmet Özbek receives the 15th Annual Aydın Doğan Award**

The 15<sup>th</sup> Aydın Doğan Award, which has been given since 1996, was presented to folk song artist Mehmet Özbek. The ceremony will be held April 11 at the Istanbul Hilton Convention Center. A written statement from the Aydın Doğan Foundation said Özbek was deemed worthy of the award due to his contributions to Turkish culture as a soloist, director, conductor and composer for concerts he performed in Turkey and abroad and for the students he has educated in his academic life. Özbek, who has been active in Turkish music since 1966, gathered folk songs of many Anatolian provinces as well as the countries including Iraq, Azerbaijan, Yugoslavia, Bulgaria and Romania. The award is given annually in the fields of art, culture and the humanities to distinguished persons who have made important contributions to their country and the world with their creative work. Please visit [www.aydindoganvakfi.org](http://www.aydindoganvakfi.org) for further information.

#### **Spring Blooms in Adana with the Theater Festival**

Curtains have gone up with a glamorous ceremony celebrating the 13th anniversary of at State Theater-Sabancı International Adana Theater Festival, which brings arts to thousands of spectators every year. The inauguration took place on March 27, World Theater Day, with the participation of the Minister of Culture and Tourism, Ertugrul Gunay, Chairman of Sabancı Foundation Board of Trustees, Guler Sabancı, and the people of Adana who gathered on the Stone Bridge and Seyhan River, which has become one of the unchanging stages for the Festival in recent years. An international event that will host several local and foreign theater ensembles, Adana Theater Festival will offer a theater feast to art lovers for a whole month and culminate on April 28, 2011. Please visit [www.sabancivakfi.org](http://www.sabancivakfi.org) for further information.

#### **İKSV's Director Received France's prestigious Legion d'Honneur**

Görgün Taner, the director of the İstanbul Foundation for Culture and Art (İKSV) and Oya Eczacıbaşı, the chairman of the executive board of the İstanbul Modern awarded France's prestigious Legion d'Honneur (Legion of Honor). Eczacıbaşı and Taner won the award due to their contributions to development of cultural ties between Turkey and France and they will receive their awards in the coming days.

#### **TEMA launches a new project to increase saffron cultivation in Şanlıurfa**

Turkish Foundation for Reforestation, Protection of Natural Habitats and Combating Soil Erosion (TEMA) launched a project that aims to increase saffron cultivation and make it a source of income for locals in Şanlıurfa, jointly run with Harran University and the Yapı Kredi Pension Fund. Project is part of a larger project that aims to preserve Turkey's biological diversity, including parallel cultivation and protection projects in Izmir for gum mastic and Gaziantep for pistachios. Professor Tahir Polat, who is an academic from Harran University's department of agriculture in Şanlıurfa, is responsible for leading the project. Saffron is known for its various medicinal and pharmaceutical uses and it is the most expensive spice in the world. It has been cultivated in the southeastern area since the discovery of the cultivation plant in the region a century ago.

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