

News from the Third Sector

Regional NGO Consultation Seminar on the Code of Good Practice for South East Europe, 19-20 January 2009, Istanbul

In collaboration with the Conference of International Non-Governmental Organisations and the Council of Europe, TUSEV hosted the **Regional NGO Consultation Seminar on the Code of Good Practice for South East Europe** on January 19-20 in Istanbul. The Seminar was the fourth event in a series of six regional consultations with NGOs in Council member states and brought together over 60 representatives from 16 South East European countries. The main objective of the event was to consult NGO representatives from South East Europe on the Code of Good Practice for Civil Participation, a document initiated by Council of Europe to ensure effective communication and participation of NGOs in the policy-making processes. NGOs from Council states are welcome to join the consultation process via the special mailbox of Conference of INGOs, civil.participation@coe.int, until March 2009. Please see www.coe.int/NGO for more information about the [Code of Good Practice on Civil Participation](#).

UNDP launches "Inclusive Civic Engagement in Legislation Making" Project

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) held a conference to launch the "Inclusive Civic Engagement in Legislation Making" project on 8 October 2008 in Ankara. In partnership with the Prime Ministry, the Association for Parliamentary Advisers (PDD) and the Association for Legislation (YASADER), the project aims to contribute to the creation of an enabling environment and increased awareness of civil society's engagement with legislation making by lowering the barriers of entry to participatory and inclusive policymaking and decision-making processes. The Conference discussed the issue of how civil society can better engage in the legislative process at both the Government and Parliamentary levels. The Conference was addressed by a number of speakers including UNDP Resident Representative, General Coordinator of the Human Rights Joint Platform Feray Salman, senior UNDP advisor Simon James and Director of UNDP Oslo Governance Centre Bjoern Forde and Yilmaz Ensaroğlu. For more information <http://www.undp.org.tr/Gozlem2.aspx?WebSayfaNo=1589>

WINGS 2008 Community Foundation Global Status Report

The latest research on community foundations around the world has been released by Worldwide Initiatives for Grantmaker Support (WINGS), a global network of over 140 grantmaker associations and philanthropic support organizations. The 2008 Community Foundation Global Status Report, researched and authored by Eleanor W. Sacks, shows that the community foundation movement globally is robust and continues to expand not only in numbers but in the ways that they make a difference in the communities they serve. The report's major findings show that more than 1,400 community foundations have been identified in 51 countries, with initiatives in an additional 4 countries also underway. The number of community foundations has increased 21% since 2005, with 46% of all community foundations existing outside the US (up from 40% in 2005 and 37.5% in 2004). The complete **2008 Community Foundation Global Status Report**, including individual country profiles, is available at http://www.wingsweb.org/information/publications_community_2008_main.cfm

Financing for Development Conference, 29 November-2 December 2008, Doha

29th of November to 2nd of December 2008, a follow-up conference on the Monterrey Consensus was held in Doha, Qatar. 250 delegates from civil society organizations from 52 different countries participated to discuss the implementation of the Monterrey Consensus. New emerging issues were, namely the new initiatives on innovative financing for development, development effort and the role of middle income countries, improving the international financial architecture and financing climate change adaptation and mitigation. One of the outcomes of the conference was the general desire for an international conference in 2009 under the umbrella of the United Nations to review the international financial architecture. Please see <http://www.tusev.org.tr/content/detail.aspx?cn=398> to read a summary of the event. For the full report see: <http://daccessdds.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/N08/630/55/PDF/N0863055.pdf?OpenElement>

EU's 2008 Progress Report for Turkey

EU's 2008 Progress Report which aims to monitor the adjustments that have been made over the last year in Turkey was declared on 5 November 2008 by the European Commission. New Law on foundations and government-civil society relations were evaluated in the report and civil society was mentioned mostly in the topics related to freedom of association and human rights. The report reflects many positive steps towards development of civil society in Turkey such as more enabling legislation and better civil society - government relations, but also highlights the need for efforts to improve the Law on Associations and Freedom of Association. TUSEV prepared a note on the civil society highlights in EU 2008 Progress Report which is available at <http://www.tusev.org.tr/content/detail.aspx?cn=374>. The full

report is available on http://ec.europa.eu/enlargement/pdf/press_corner/keydocuments/reports_nov_2008/turkey_progress_report_en.pdf

5th December International Volunteer Day

Volunteers contribute to a better life standard by putting time and energy for the good without expecting any financial return. Voluntarism is seen as one of the most powerful ways people can act to help themselves and one another, to build a world of stability, safety, opportunity and justice for everyone. Volunteerism was on the agenda of many CSOs with the occasion of the International Volunteer Day, celebrated annually on 5th December. Johns Hopkins Centre for Civil Society Studies (CCSS) and the Statistics Bureau of the International Labour Organisation (ILO) driven by the emerging need for reliable data on volunteer work, developed the first methodology for measuring the contribution of volunteer work through the labour force. The methodology was presented at the international conference of labour statisticians which took place between 24th November and 5th December 2008 in Geneva. To read the whole report of the conference click [here](#). To see the results of the comparative study of CCSS <http://www.jhu.edu/~cnp/research/index.html> To see e-CIVICUS special issue for Volunteer Day: <http://www.civicus.org/content/e-CIVICUS418.htm>

Global Forum on Freedom of Expression, 1-6 July 2009, Oslo

For the first week of June 2009, the Global Forum on Freedom of Expression will gather several hundred participants in Oslo, Norway, for a one-time conference, training and networking event. Forum participants will convene from diverse sectors, regions and professions, creating a unique opportunity to strengthen skills, engage in dialog and build networks across a variety of levels. Grass-roots actors with limited resources are especially invited to register and apply for a grant. For more information, please see www.expressionforum.org

Civil Society Law Reform

Regulation of Law on Foundations is in effect

After the adoption of new Law on Foundations on 20.02.2008, a new Regulation regarding establishment, management procedures and auditing of foundations was published on 27.09.2008 and is now in effect. Some major innovations brought with the new regulations are establishment of a Council of Foundations as the highest decision-making body of General Directorate of Foundations (GDF), introduction of internal auditing and creation of 22 standard forms to facilitate uniformity and collection of digital data in Foundations' reports to the General Directorate of Foundations. More detail is available at <http://www.tusev.org.tr/content/detail.aspx?cn=366>

Preparation of Methodology for the Monitoring of Freedom of Association in Turkey Project Begins in 2009

Recognizing that no comprehensive monitoring on the implementation of the New Associations Law (adopted in 2004) has been done in Turkey, TUSEV has launched a new project for "Creating a methodology for monitoring the freedom of association". Funded by the European Union's European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights (EIDHR), the Project will be implemented in partnership with the Association of Civil Society Development Centre (STGM). More information will be available at the TUSEV website soon.

An Analysis of the Public Benefit Status in Europe by ICNL

The article "A Comparative Overview of Public Benefit Status in Europe" elaborates on the different practices concerning public benefit status in Europe. The article discusses the remarkable differences between the regulation of the Public Benefit Status in England and Wales (common law countries) and Central and Eastern European countries and emphasizes that local factors should not be overlooked since they greatly influence the implementation of the regulation. The article is available at http://www.icnl.org/knowledge/ijnl/vol11iss1/special_1.htm

News from Our Members

TUSEV 15th Year Seminar Series

Celebrating its 15th year, TUSEV organized local seminars in Gaziantep, Van and Ankara to inform civil society representatives about recent developments in civil society legislation and the outcomes of recent research initiatives. The seminars were hosted by Gaziantep College Foundation (Gaziantep), Educational Volunteers Foundation of Turkey (Van) and İbrahim Çeçen Foundation (Ankara). A total of 200 stakeholders attended to the seminars in 2008. The seminar series will continue in three more locations in 2009.

Sabancı Foundation's New Grant Program and Seminar

On December 1st, the Sabancı Foundation organized a seminar in which brought together representatives from government, private sector, press, foundations, NGOs and academia around the topic of "Making a Difference through Grant Programs". Kumi Naidoo, Honorary President of CIVICUS, and Kavita Ramdas, the CEO of the Global Fund for Women came to Istanbul to share their knowledge and experiences on grant programs in general while informing participants about Sabancı's new "Social Development Grant Program". The program targets CSOs working with women, youth and people with disabilities and has a specific focus on social justice, participation, employment, advocacy and research. To read more about the seminar:

http://www.sabancivakfi.org/eng/?etkinlikler/seminerler/hibe_fark_yaratmak/hibe_fark_yaratmak.html

TEGV's Research Findings on Volunteering

Educational Volunteers Foundation of Turkey (TEGV) presented the findings of their recent public opinion research on "Youth, Volunteering and Social Capital" during "Youth and Volunteerism" Conference on 3rd December 2008, which was organized on the occasion of the International Volunteers Day. Research results show that only 4,8 % of 18-35 year olds in turkey volunteered in the previous year, while men, and individuals from higher education and income groups are more likely to volunteer. Lack of spare time (70 %) and lack of financial resources (67 %) are cited as the main reasons for not volunteering. Regarding giving practices, 7,5 % of the respondents donated to an organization during last six months. The majority of those who donated specified that the amount of their donation as less than 25 Euros and that they donated once during the previous year. The study also shows that people are more likely to donate to NGOs working on education and children.

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