

TÜSEV E-Newsletter, July-September 2008

News from the Third Sector

Turkey's First Community Foundation is Established

Turkey's first community foundation, Bolu Community Foundation (BCF), was established in Bolu (a town of approximately 85.000 inhabitants, about 250 km from Istanbul) and presents an important milestone in Turkey's third sector. The Bolu Community Foundation (BCF) aims to promote the well-being of Bolu by supporting critical projects put forth by non profit organizations which address the critical social and economic development of the community. Turkey's first community foundation, BCF, was established by a group of local business and civil society leaders with the technical support of TÜSEV (Third Sector Foundation of Turkey) as part of its new program area on promoting philanthropy and social investment in Turkey.

TÜSEV Member Profiles Launched

TÜSEV presents "TÜSEV Member Profiles", a public database consisting of organizational profiles for Turkey's over 100 leading non-profit organizations which comprise TÜSEV's Board of Trustees.

This database is an important step to encourage the transparency and accountability of the non-profit sector in Turkey and aims to develop communication, cooperation and international relations capacities of TÜSEV's trustees. It is our hope that TÜSEV Member Profiles will bring our members closer to their international counterparts and pave the way for larger initiatives. To visit TÜSEV Member Profiles, please [click here](#).

EFC's EFFECT Magazine focuses on Turkey

EFC's Effect magazine provides up-to-date coverage and analysis of the role and impact of foundations in Europe and around the world. Published three times a year, this year's spring issue focuses on the Turkish foundation sector. The magazine contains articles from leading academics and practitioners working in the Turkish non-profit sector on topics such as civil society in Turkey, Turkish philanthropy, spotlight on TÜSEV, valuing environmental and cultural heritage in Turkey and the new Foundations Law. Articles are available here www.tusev.org.tr/userfiles/image/TurkishSection_Effect08Spring.pdf

Civil Society Law Reform

Constitutional Court Decision Lifts Ban on Membership for Foundations

The Constitutional Court of Turkey annulled third paragraph of Article 101 of Turkish Civil Code, which stated that "there is no membership status in foundations". The decision allows foundations, who were previously not allowed to get new members after their establishment, to acquire members freely as of June 28, 2008.

Results of Survey on the EU Accession Process and Civil Society

241 people responded to our survey question "Do you think that the EU accession process will help develop the Turkish civil society?" While 43,5% said yes, 56,5% answered no, indicating that they do not think the EU accession process will help develop Turkish civil society. TÜSEV's new survey is searching for an answer to the following question: "Are you aware of how you could cooperate with Turkish civil society organisations?" Please visit [TÜSEV](#) website to vote.

News from Our Members

TÜSEV Welcomes Its Newest Members

TÜSEV welcomes Turkey's six leading non-profit organizations who recently joined its Board of Trustees. Detailed information on İbrahim Çeçen Foundation, Istanbul Chamber of Industry Foundation, Kadir Has Foundation, Private Sector Volunteers Association, Vodafone Turkey Foundation and World Wildlife Fund (WWF) Turkey is available [here](#).

TEMA & DRYNET

Fourteen civil society organizations from all over the world joined forces to battle land degradation as part of a European Union funded project named DryNet, including TEMA Foundation of Turkey. Drynet's aim is to strengthen the organizations that work to address degradation and poverty in the frame of strategic development. Drynet provides farmer cooperatives, local groups, women's organizations, unions and civil society organizations with essential information regarding land use and seeks to influence degradation policies by attracting the attention of policy makers and other key stakeholders. The DryNet scheme has led to the establishment of a law on conservation of soil and land management for the first time in Turkish history, thanks to the joint efforts of The TEMA Foundation and its volunteers. Please visit <http://english.tema.org.tr/News/Releases/DRYNETProject.htm> for more information.