

News from the Third Sector

Civil Society Index (CSI) Project 2009

The CIVICUS Civil Society Index (CSI), a **participatory needs assessment and action planning tool** for civil society around the world, with the aim of creating a knowledge base and momentum for civil society strengthening initiatives, is being implemented in Turkey by TUSEV in 2009. The first phase of CSI (2003-2006) covered 53 countries worldwide including Turkey. In 2009, a new phase was launched with a revised methodology covering 56 country partners across the globe. Please visit www.step.org.tr and <http://civilsocietyindex.wordpress.com> for more information.

ISTR 9th International Conference, 7-10 June 2010, Istanbul: Call for Contributions

9th International Conference of the International Society for Third-Sector Research (ISTR) will take place in Istanbul between July 7-10, 2010. 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". The Call for Contributions for the Conference is published on the [ISTR website](http://www.istr.org). 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. More information about ISTR is available at www.istr.org.

14-16 May 2009, European Foundation Centre (EFC) Annual General Assembly and Conference, Italy

The European Foundation Centre's Annual General Assembly (AGA) and Conference was held in Rome from 14 to 16 May 2009 under the theme "Fighting Poverty, Creating Opportunities". The Conference sought to highlight how foundations are in a unique position to promote innovation, to develop effective solutions, to support the empowerment of people living in poverty and contribute to creating new opportunities - both in Europe and also in other parts of the world. The 2009 Raymond Georis Prize for Innovative Philanthropy was awarded to Ms Güler Sabancı, President of the Sabancı Foundation of Turkey. Please visit <http://www.efc.be/agenda/event.asp?EventID=6617> for more information.

"The Freedom of Association" Campaign launched

The Civil Society Development Centre (STGM) launched "Freedom of Association" Campaign to enhance and support participative democracy in Turkey. Under the slogan of "Change together" a public opinion survey was implemented in 11 cities with participants aged over 15. Results show that 60% of the public has a positive perception for the act of association while 85% consider civil society as an asset. Civil society reminds solidarity and help to public, whereas 42 % of the participants believe that forming associations is not necessary to solve social problems. 85% of the respondents stated that the legislation regarding freedom of association is not enabling enough. The campaign will go on until August 2009. More information is available at www.birliktedegistirelim.org.

Civil Society Law Reform

Update: Preparation of Methodology for the Monitoring of Freedom of Association in Turkey Project

Funded by the European Union's European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights (EIDHR), Preparation of Methodology for the Monitoring of Freedom of Association in Turkey Project was launched in January 2009 by TUSEV in partnership with the Civil Society Development Centre (STGM). As a first step, a detailed report on the legislation regarding freedom of association was drafted by Lawyer Orhan Kemal Cengiz. A series of workshops with civil society representatives was held in seven regions of Turkey. The workshops aim to share information on implementation and to get input and feedback on the eventual methodology. The first workshop was organized in Istanbul with the participation of Nilda Bullain, Director of European Centre for Not-For-Profit Law (ECNL). During the event, Nilda Bullain presented different types of monitoring methodologies and shared her experiences on monitoring. A national methodology workshop to draft methodology was held in Ankara in June 24th following the seven regional workshops. The next steps will be the creation of a network and database, trainings and the testing of the pilot monitoring methodology.

The Minimum Amount of Assets Required to Start a Foundation

The new Law on Foundations adopted in February 2008 stipulated that the minimum amount of assets required to start a foundation would be determined each year by the Council of Foundations, a decision-making body of General Directorate of Foundations. Thereby, a new regulation of the Council of

Foundations determined the minimum amount of assets needed to establish a foundation for the year 2009 as at least 50.000 TL (approximately 23.000 Euros).

Latest Developments about the Code of Good Practice

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 approved by the Conference of International NGOs and is now an official document for the Conference of International NGOs and for the other institutions of the Council of Europe. Council of Europe is currently gathering good practices from civil society in the consultation process for a case bank combining experiences of civil society while dealing with public authorities. If you would like to contribute to this case bank, please send an e-mail to the special mailbox of Conference of INGOs, civil.participation@coe.int.

News from Our Members

TÜSEV Welcomes Its Newest Members

TUSEV welcomes Turkey's five leading non-profit organizations who recently joined its Board of Trustees. These organizations are Contemporary Women and Youth Foundation, Deloitte Educational Foundation (DEVAK), Rahmi M. Koç Museum and Cultural Foundation, Turkish Marine Environment Protection Association (TURMEPA) and Women Entrepreneurs Association of Turkey (KAGIDER).

Contemporary Women and Youth Foundation

Established in 1994, Contemporary Women and Youth Foundation focuses on fighting poverty, supporting education and arts&culture activities. The Foundation implements projects such as "Women for women" and "Women Training and Employment Center (KİM) Project" to enhance women entrepreneurship, organizes trainings for young people and women in order to encourage their participation to arts and cultural activities and supports academic research on women and youth.

www.ckgv.org

Deloitte Educational Foundation (DEVAK)

The almost two year old Deloitte Educational Foundation (DEVAK) focuses on scholars that lack the financial means for higher education, but have the potential to add value to Turkey and the Turkish business world. Through providing scholarships, assisting educational institutions, and supporting projects, DEVAK supports the training of creative, investigative and innovative leaders with a global vision for the Turkish business world.

www.devak.org.tr

Rahmi M. Koç Museum and Cultural Foundation

Besides having established Rahmi M. Koç Museum, the Foundation aims to bring dynamism to the cultural sphere with its approach and activities. Ankara's first industrial museum, Çengelhan and Sevim and Necdet Kent Library were also established and maintained by the Foundation.

www.rmkmuseum.org.tr

Turkish Marine Environment Protection Association (TURMEPA)

Established in 1994, TURMEPA, concentrates on the creation of a livable environment for future generations and for them to benefit from all the good that our seas provide for our economy, health and prosperity. By organizing workshops, projects, activities and campaigns, TURMEPA aims to increase public awareness and encourages the public to take action. TURMEPA mainly works together with schools and universities on projects to protect the seas and the coast line that stretches from Hopa to Iskenderun.

www.turmepa.org.tr

Women Entrepreneurs Association of Turkey (KAGIDER)

KAGIDER was established by successful Turkish women entrepreneurs in 2002 and aims to increase the number of women entrepreneurs while strengthening the position of existing ones. Through trainings, consultations and mentoring activities, the Association contributes to the interaction and networking amongst women entrepreneurs.

www.kagider.org

TEV-METU Cooperation for a New Scholarship Programme

The Turkish Education Foundation (TEV), with the cooperation of Middle East Technical University (METU) launched a new scholarship programme, named TEV-METU Our Future Scholarship to contribute to education and support METU students who have difficulties in financing their education. TEV's General Manager Turgut Bozkurt declared that to date, TEV has contributed 32 million TL funding

to METU students, provided scholarships to 3972 students in Turkey and 341 students abroad. Bozkurt stated that 900 thousand TL has been allocated to 128 students during the 2008-2009 period and invited all graduates of the university to contribute to the fund. The Rector of METU, Prof. Ahmet Acar further stressed the importance of the new scholarship fund during times of economic crisis.

The New TUSEV Website

TUSEV website now has a more functional design and developed content. A brand-new homepage that emphasizes TUSEV programme areas, a new link on fifteen years of TUSEV, a French version of the "About TUSEV" section, a search engine and a link of TUSEV Member Profiles are among the latest adjustments that have been made on the website. Please go to www.tusev.org.tr to visit new TUSEV website.

If you would like to receive TUSEV e-newsletters featuring updates on TUSEV and Turkish third sector, please sign up to our [website](#).