

Civil Society Law Reform

Survey on the Freedom of Association is Launched

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 Third Sector Foundation of Turkey (TUSEV) in partnership with the Civil Society Development Centre (STGM). Under the project, TUSEV and STGM had worked to prepare a "user friendly" online-survey as a pilot methodology to capture the realities of freedom of association in Turkey and to pool common concerns of different stakeholders regarding this issue. The Survey on the Freedom of Association is designed uniquely for associations and is only available in Turkish at the moment. The survey is made up of 60 questions pertaining to various issues that include: registration procedures, initiation of members, track of documents, general assembly, audit, international relations, memberships, fines, taxes and activities related to the Press Law, Meeting and Demonstration Law and Aid Collection Law. The survey aims to define the major obstacles for CSOs and identify the initial concerns that need urgent attention. Due to the high importance of this subject matter, we strongly encourage representatives from associations based in Turkey to log onto www.tusev.org.tr/membersurvey and to fill out the survey until December 1st, 2009.

Highlights on Civil Society in Europeans Union's 2009 Progress Report

The Turkey 2009 Progress Report was published on 14 October 2009. The report monitors the reform efforts of the previous year and outlines the current status of Turkey in the EU accession process. The report acknowledges that Turkey has made noteworthy progress in the accession process, it reiterates the fact that future reforms are needed in order for Turkey to become more in line with European standards. TUSEV prepared a note on the civil society highlights in EU 2009 Progress Report which is available at <http://www.tusev.org.tr/content/detail.aspx?cn=483&c=68>. The full report is available on http://ec.europa.eu/enlargement/pdf/key_documents/2009/tr_rapport_2009_en.pdf

ECNL Report on Accountability and Transparency in EU

The European Commission Directorate-General of Justice, Freedom and Security (DG JFS) published the Study on Recent Public and Self-Regulatory Initiatives Enhancing NPO Transparency and Accountability of Non-profit Organizations (NPOs) in the European Union. The report was developed by the European Center for Non-for-Profit Law (ECNL). DG JFC commissioned ECNL to conduct research and put together a study that catalogs and assesses the recent and most important NPO public and self regulatory measures enhancing transparency and accountability in the 27 EU member states. The Study was constructed in the hopes that it will improve dialogue and increase knowledge by identifying and helping to develop best practices through comprehensive case studies. The research also aims to provide effective policy recommendations for NPOs, regulators and policymakers themselves. In addition, Study considers measures to enhance NPO transparency and accountability in the overall context of international and European initiatives to address the risk of NPOs being used as a means to financing terrorism. Overall research showed that there is significant interest in accountability and transparency in the EU, due in large part to the increasing role and impact of NPOs. Furthermore, the Study identified over 140 initiatives in the field of public regulation and self-regulation and of these 19 were analyzed in-debt in the report. The report is available at <http://www.ecnl.org/index.php?part=14news&nwid=259>

CSO self-regulatory initiatives database launched

The One World Trust announced the launch of our new CSO self-regulatory initiatives database that contains over 320 codes of conduct, certification schemes, working groups, self-assessments and information services we have identified worldwide. The database can be searched by location, type of initiative, areas addressed by the initiative, and sectors targeted by the initiative. The portal page includes an interactive map of CSO self-regulatory initiatives, a One World Trust briefing paper, a resources page including the latest developments in CSO self-regulation, a project summary – available in English, French and Spanish and FAQs about CSO self-regulation and the Project. Portal's website is www.oneworldtrust.org/csoproject

News from the Third Sector

WB-IMF Annual Meetings, Civil Society Policy Forum, 2-7 October 2009, Istanbul

The 2009 World Bank and International Monetary Fund (IMF) Annual Meetings were held on October 6 and 7, 2009 in Istanbul, Turkey. The Bank and IMF Civil Society Teams also organized a Civil Society Policy Forum between October 3 and 7 2009. The program also included a Townhall Meeting with the Bank's President Robert B. Zoellick and the Fund's Managing Director Dominique Strauss-Kahn. TUSEV sponsored the "Civil Society in Turkey" Panel, aiming to give the audience a sense of where Turkey stands in the global civil society movement, the sector's strengths, weaknesses, challenges and opportunities ahead. While panelist Henri Valot (CIVICUS) gave an overview of the state of civil society in the world, Zeynep

Meydanoğlu (TUSEV) and Emrah Göker (YADA Foundation) presented the preliminary findings of recent studies on civil society in Turkey. For further information please click [here](#).

Civil Society Index Database Launched

The CIVICUS Civil Society Index (CSI) announced the launch of the Civil Society Index 2003-2006 Indicator Database. The CSI Indicator Database was developed in order to ensure the availability of civil society data collected in the 2003-2006 phase in the CSI programme to a global audience. The database is searchable by country, dimension and individual indicator. A free of charge online membership is required to access to the database at <http://civicus.org/csi-phase1/index.php>

Two Reports about the Community Foundations from the World: Mexico and Germany

Two nationwide reports about the community foundations (CFs) in Germany and Mexico were published to provide those involved with CFs, representatives from administration and politics and interested public with information about these organizations. The reports emphasize the pivotal and growing role of the philanthropic culture in these countries, their comprehensive profile in public level, capacity in financial aspect, and functions in civic fabric. These two reports- by analysing establishment, development, and growth process of CFs- show that they make a difference in the society. Detailed information is available at <http://www.tusev.org.tr/content/detail.aspx?cn=482&c=77> . For the full report about the CFs in Mexico, please see: www.sfteamworks.com or/and www.alternativasociales.org; and the full report of the CFs in Germany is available at <http://www.aktive-buergerschaft.de/bsi/english/>

The European Network of National Associations (ENNA) is established

Fifteen European voluntary sector umbrella organisations have come together to discuss the issues regarding civil society organizations (CSOs) throughout the European Union (EU) for the first time ever on July 22 – 23, 2009 under the roof of the European Network of National Associations (ENNA). An England-based organisation, National Council of Voluntary Organisations (NCVO), has spearheaded the establishment of this new network, which promises to fill an important gap in promoting communication and cooperation between national associations in the EU and its neighbourhood. Among its other goals, ENNA also has the establishment of a European Charter and the development of relations between those CSOs and EU as they would do at home. More detail is available at <http://www.ncvo-vol.org.uk/press/releases/?id=14860>.

AGNA Annual General Meeting and Workshop, 20-22 September 2009, Johannesburg

CIVICUS Affinity Group of National Associations (AGNA) Annual General Meeting and Workshop took place in Johannesburg, South Africa from 20 to 22 September 2009. The meetings brought together over 25 representatives of national associations aiming to empower civil society. The programme included two workshops on the impact of the global crisis and legitimacy, transparency and accountability (LTA) issues that arise for national associations. The growing importance of the national associations in the current political and economic circumstances was emphasized during the meetings. Please visit <http://www.civicus.org/affinity-group-of-national-associations> for more information.

The Millennium Development Goals – A Long Way to Go

The Millennium Development Goals Report 2009 was announced by the Secretary General of the United Nations on the 6th of July. Due to the recent economic crisis, an estimated 55 million to 90 million more people will be living in extreme poverty than expected before the downturn. In the assessment it was stated that a common action has to be devised and that despite many successes, the progress in general has been too slow for most of the Millennium Development Goals to be met by 2015. For detailed information please go to <http://www.tusev.org.tr/content/detail.aspx?cn=481&c=79>. Full report is available at <http://www.un.org/millenniumgoals/>

Grant Assistance to Istanbul 2010 European Capital of Culture from the European Union

The Central Finance and Contracts Unit has launched the Call for Proposals for the EU funded “Civil Society Dialogue-Istanbul 2010 European Capital of Culture” Grant Scheme Programme on 4 September 2009. Programme is implemented under the coordination of Istanbul 2010 European Capital of Culture Agency. With this call, the projects demonstrating Istanbul’s cultural legacy and capacity by civil society organizations active in area of arts, culture, are expected. The Call for Proposals is open to civil society organizations from Turkey or EU Member States. Project applications will be made to Central Finance and Contracts Unit until December 2, 2009 at 16:00. Detailed information about project applications can be obtained from these web sites: <http://www.istanbul2010.org/index.htm> and <http://www.cfcu.gov.tr/news.php?action=show&id=621&lng=en>

Call for Applications, Foundation Week, 31 May-4 June 2010, Brussels

European Foundation Centre (EFC) will host for the very first time a Foundation Week in Brussels. The event will provide a unique space for foundation practitioners, EU representatives and the general public to engage

with one another. Organisations or groups interested in staging an event during the open days of the Week are requested to send their applications to the EFC Secretariat before 11 December 2009. Interested groups or organizations have the opportunity to organize policy seminars/roundtables, public debates, launch events, and social gatherings. Detailed information and application form is available at www.efc.be

"The Role of Legal Reform in Supporting Civil Society: An Introductory Primer" is Published

International Center for Not-For-Profit Law (ICNL) and United Nations Development Program (UNDP) launched a new publication entitled "The Role of Legal Reform in Supporting Civil Society: An Introductory Primer" in August 2009. The primer was commissioned by UNDP and written by David Moore, Vice President, Legal Affairs, ICNL, with support from Douglas Rutzen, President and CEO of ICNL. It gives a global outlook on the legal framework for civil society and focus on three country cases which are Afghanistan, Mauritius and Serbia. The role of international actors that helps civic environment is also elaborated in the publication. The full report can be downloaded at http://www.undp.org/partners/civil_society/publications/The_role_of_legal_reform_in_supporting_civil_society_2009.pdf

News from Our Members

Prof. Üstün Ergüder has been elected President of the Council of the Magna Charta Observatory

TUSEV Chair Prof. Üstün Ergüder has been elected, on September 16, 2009, President of the Council of the Magna Charta Observatory of Fundamental University Values and Rights. The Magna Charta Observatory (<http://www.magna-charta.org>) is a foundation started by the European Rectors Committee (today's EUA – European Universities Association) and the University of Bologna, after the signing by 388 Rectors of the Magna Charta Universitatum Declaration on September 18, 1988. Prof. Ergüder will be presiding the Council of 15 members. The Magna Charta Observatory, a totally academic institution, defends institutional independence and academic freedom in higher education. The Observatory's global and essential function is expected to further increase.

Bolu Community Foundation Joined TUSEV Board of Trustees

Turkey's first community foundation, Bolu Community Foundation (BCF) joined TUSEV Board of Trustees. BCF was established in 2008 by a group of local business and civil society leaders with the technical support of TUSEV (Third Sector Foundation of Turkey). The objectives of the foundation are to improve living standards of people living in Bolu; to support the individuals and CSOs designed to overcome various urgent problems in financial and moral terms; and to contribute to the development of social, economic, cultural, environmental life of Bolu. Please visit <http://bbv.org.tr/> for more information about BCF.

2009 Carnegie Medal of Philanthropy Awarded to the Koç Family, Michael R. Bloomberg, Gordon & Betty Moore and Sanford & Joan Weill

The 2009 Carnegie Medal of Philanthropy was awarded to four individuals and families who have dedicated their private wealth to the public good. The 2009 recipients are: Michael R. Bloomberg, the Koç family, Gordon & Betty Moore and Sanford & Joan Weill. The awards are presented on behalf of the more than 20 organizations established thanks to Andrew Carnegie's munificence. The Carnegie Medal of Philanthropy was established in 2001 to mark the centennial of Andrew Carnegie's philanthropy. Leaders from the 22 Carnegie organizations have spent considerable effort to identify and nominate global philanthropic leaders. The Koç family is the seventh international awardee in the medal's history. The Koç family is the founder of Turkey's first private foundation, Vehbi Koç Foundation. Past international medalists include: the Cadbury family, Sir Tom Farmer, His Highness the Aga Khan, Dr. Kazuo Inamori, the Sainsbury family and the Tata Family. More information is available at www.carnegiemedals.org

Unique Individuals, Remarkable Impacts... Changemakers Program Aired on October 4th

Sabancı Foundation is supporting a new TV program called "Changemakers", which aims to raise the visibility of unique individuals that make a significant difference in other people's lives. The program will be televised weekly (for 32 weeks) on CNN Turk at 18:30 on Sundays. The first episode aired on October 4th on CNN Turk at 18:30. Please visit www.sabancivakfi.org.tr for more information and episodes with English subtitles.

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