



Promotion of Civil Society Dialogue between EU and Turkey Project

Youth Action for the Future

Meeting the Challenge

Young people in Turkey do not seem to be as active in civic life as many of their contemporaries in the EU. In the southern city of Adana, for example, at the local University of Cukurova, less than 5% of the students are members of clubs or

Associations. Given that half of Turkey's population is below the age of 28, the need to mobilise young people is seen as a high priority for the voluntary sector. For this reason the Youth Communication Association of Adana has embarked on an initiative to not only build capacity within the local Youth NGO community, but to also motivate young people with the

experiences of civic activism in EU Member States. To this end they have forged partnerships with similar organisations in the Czech Republic and Poland, and plan to establish a network of Youth NGOs which will reach out to 300 of their members across the EU and provide training to hundreds of would-be young volunteers in the Adana region.

The Benefits

Supported through the EU members of the 'Youth Action For the Future' network, NGOs in the Adana region and will have new skills and knowledge to develop projects to mobilise young people. It is expected that these projects in turn will not only strengthen the voluntary sector, but will do so by propagating the lessons learnt from Youth organisations in the EU. The Project will also contribute to getting the youth sector in the EU ready for Turkey's membership, through its activities with its partners in the Member States. For example, in the Pelhrimov region of the Czech Republic, hundreds of young people will participate in a learning event called 'Turkey Day', which could, perhaps, become an annual fixture.

'Establishing this network has been a dream for our organisation and partners for a long time, and now we are seeing our dream come true'

Duygu Bahçekapılı, Project Coordinator



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- ▶ Poland, Stowarzyszenie Sensu Stricto Association

The Project Facts

A total budget of 100,000 Euros

- ▶ 16 month project ending in September 2009
- ▶ Activities include supporting a range of networking events and training activities, including delivery of the innovative TOMIC course (Training on Managing Identity Conflicts), a multi-lingual web portal, conferences and a 'Turkey Day' in the Czech Republic.