



Generation Democracy Monthly Bulletin, January 2013

The first half of our Project aiming at improving and increasing awareness on democracy and human rights is now over. In our former issues we tried to keep you updated on the project activities and we will continue to do so. In the second half our main objective is to implement the actions which we have already put into practise in a more efficient and effective way and to establish and disseminate good practises. With a view to achieving this goal, each member of the project team and the pilot schools have a share of responsibility. I believe that our team and the school principles and teachers of the pilot schools, who have already accomplished a lot will be rather successful in the coming implementation phase. Moreover, I hope that the new year will bring health and happiness to all.

Zafer Çelik

Turkish Ministry of National Education,
Board of Education,
Head of Education Systems and Policies Department

Dear colleagues,

Our Project reached its halfway point in December 2012. So far, it has been successful as concrete results have been accomplished and the main documents approved. Pilot implementation of the elective course curriculum on 'Democracy and Human Rights' for secondary education is running smoothly and monitored closely in order to ensure healthy evaluation. We note the need to work harder in our pilot schools, both the primary and secondary ones, on improving democratic school culture based on the strategy document prepared by the Democratic School Culture Working Group.

During the second half of the Project, the focus will be on building the capacity of our stakeholders, mainly teachers and school principals, but also other relevant partners including textbook writers, inspectors and so on. We shall listen carefully to the teachers and school administrators from the pilot schools and try to integrate their advice in the project processes and outputs. The review of education legislation and the existing primary and secondary curricula is almost complete and the working groups are getting ready to share their results with the BoE and with a wider group of relevant stakeholders in a round of consultations. All these efforts will assuredly have a profound impact on the overall education system in Turkey as they aim at good teaching and good governance of schools. With our enthusiasm unabated, we are looking forward to a very fruitful and successful year.

Emir Adzovic

DC/HRE Team Leader





Highlights of December 2012

- ✎ The Curriculum Development Working Group (CDWG) made its third round of visits to pilot schools in November 2012. The main aims of the visits were to ensure that the activities sent to the pilot schools on a weekly basis were implemented as foreseen; to analyse the needs of pilot school teachers on a technical level; and to collect feedback concerning the materials and the design of the activities. As part of this third round of school visits the Project team visited Yozgat and Konya on 17-18 December. In Konya, the project team also participated in the "Perception of Citizenship in the World" and "Perception of the Child in the World" seminar organized by **Maresal Mustafa Kemal İlköğretim Okulu**. The same school organised another seminar on 8 December on "Democracy in the Family". These efforts clearly show the willingness and sincerity of the schools cooperating in the project and encourage us to work in the best possible way.
- ✎ Between 11 – 15 December a Turkish delegation consisting of the members of the Legislation Review Working Group and the Capacity Building Working Group, senior officials of the Board of Education and principals from three pilot schools accomplished a three-day study visit to Hamburg and Berlin. The visit was organised in cooperation with the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Demokratiepaedagogik (DeGeDe) under the guidance of Mr Kurt Edler. The agenda included two school visits in Hamburg and one in Berlin. In Hamburg, the delegation was divided into two groups and was welcomed warmly by the Theodor Haubach Schule and the Gymnasium Allee.

Similarly, in Berlin the groups visited the Carl-von-Ossietzky Schule and looked into an example of an initiative between schools and civil society. During these visits the delegation had the chance to attend the assembly of the school parliaments and to observe an ethics class. Another important moment was a meeting with the Senate Administration for Youth, Education and Science, which was opened by Mr Mark Rackless, the Undersecretary of the Senate Administration for Youth, Education and Science. After his opening speech, representatives from the Landesinstitut für Schule, Unterricht und Medien Berlin-Brandenburg (LISUM) made presentations on the curriculum and education system in Berlin. Perhaps one of the most interesting sessions for the Turkish Delegation was the one on empowering students for qualified democratic presentation in schools.

Throughout the study-visit, the group members made good contacts and established a good network with their German counterparts for future cooperation. The invaluable experience of the teachers of Turkish origin living and teaching in Germany may represent a significant contribution to the future orientation of the project. Their understanding of both cultures is clearly a crucial element in the capacity building efforts planned for the first half of 2013. The level of willingness and enthusiasm on both sides is an indicator of close cooperation even going beyond the borders of the Generation Democracy Project.

- ✎ The Project Progress Report was finalised and submitted at the end of December 2012.
- ✎ The third round of ROM evaluation took place in the first week of December.





What will we be doing in the coming year?

As mentioned earlier, in 2013 the Project focus will be on capacity building, finalisation of the review of education legislation and primary and secondary school curricula. In addition, there will be intensive work on implementing the elements of the communication strategy as it is high time to raise awareness about the 'Democracy and Human Rights' elective course and about the efforts to establish better governance and democratic environment in all schools throughout the country.

- ☞ The major upcoming activities in the first quarter of 2013 may be summarised as follows:
- Both the Legislation Review Working Group and the Curriculum Review Working Group will finalise and submit their draft reports to the BoE for its initial opinion. Then each will organise a workshop to share their draft report with stakeholders to obtain their opinion. The aim of the LRWG workshop is to develop recommendations with the support of academicians, law experts, NGOs and other relevant stakeholders.
 - The Curriculum Development Working Group is going to organise a second in-service training for the teachers of the pilot schools on 28-30 January 2013 in Antalya. This follow-up training will also include a debriefing session focusing on the evaluation of the 1st school semester and ways of improving the quality of the activities implemented in the classroom. The teachers will also look ahead and have the opportunity to contribute to the design of future activities.
 - In the second half of January, the Material Development Working Group will announce an activity competition for teachers. The group is also developing child-friendly version of the Democratic School Culture Strategy for 2nd to 4th grade students. They will also develop an activity book consisting of activities adapted from European resources and selected from the activity competition. A child friendly version of the CoE's EDC/HRE Glossary will be prepared.
 - The Capacity Building Working Group will finalise the draft training modules following a two-day group specific training planned for the end of January.
 - The Democratic School Culture Working Group will also hold a workshop with international experts on development of activities based on the Strategy Document on Democratic School Culture and continue school visits to support the pilot schools in establishing a democratic culture.
 - The Project Steering Committee Meeting will be held in March 2013
- ☞ The second quarter will be the time for study visits to Ireland and to the Wergeland Center (Council of Europe Teacher Training Centre for EDC/HRE) in Norway. Preparations for these study visits will be completed by the end of January. Pilot schools will be visited at regular intervals and the first training activities by the CBWG will be organised. Our colleagues in the Wergeland Center are also organising the 2nd South East Europe Summer Academy in Montenegro, between June 21-29. We encourage our pilot schools to take part. For further information please visit <http://www.theewc.org/content/activities/call.for.participants.and.trainers/>
- ☞ In the last two quarters of the year the Project team will work intensively to provide as many resources and materials as possible to teachers all over the country to support the national implementation of the curriculum and the democratic school culture strategy. In this period a study visit to Finland is also planned.





What will we be doing in January 2013?

More specifically the major upcoming activities in 2013 may be summarised as follows:

- ✎ The Secretariat will meet the In-Service Training Department of the MoNE in order to ensure that the trainings developed by the CBWG are coordinated well and in accordance with MoNE/BoE procedures.
- ✎ The Generation Democracy team will also establish close contact with the team of experts from the DG for Basic Education and Education Policy working on another new elective course 'Law and Justice' in order to avoid any overlapping elements in both curricula. Synergy between the two elective courses is already secured as one of the national experts who supported Generation Democracy in developing the strategy paper on democratic school culture is also a part of the expert team in the DG for Basic Education.
- ✎ TÜBİTAK started writing the textbooks for all courses that will be taught in the forthcoming period. One of CBWG's tasks is to provide EDC/HRE training to those who are writing textbooks. A close cooperation with these experts will ensure that the new textbooks will be in line with democratic values and human rights.
- ✎ Between 28 – 30 January a seminar addressing pilot school teachers will be organised in Antalya. The seminar will also include a debriefing session where the teachers will have the opportunity to share and discuss their experience with the elective course curriculum and respective activities. The rest of the seminar will focus on the activities to be implemented in the second semester and provide teachers with the necessary tools and skills to teach the course in the most effective way.
- ✎ On January 31 and February 1, a group-specific training for the Capacity Building Working Group will be organised in Ankara. Under the guidance of an international expert, the group will work on the preparation of Training Modules for the upcoming training sessions intended for May.
- ✎ Visibility
 - ✓ In 2013 the main objective of visibility actions will be to draw attention to the nationwide implementation of the new elective course. Accordingly, a step-by-step approach will be pursued to implement the elements of the Project communication strategy. In this frame, radio and TV spots will be produced.
 - ✓ As for the more day-to-day operations, the Secretariat will continue to ensure the visibility of pilot schools and their relevant activities.
 - ✓ The Facebook profile <http://www.facebook.com/DemokrasiKusagi> and Twitter profile <https://twitter.com/demokrasikusagi> will continue to stimulate interaction between interested parties and to spread our messages. Do visit these and post your ideas.
 - ✓ The e-library is active now as of December 2012 and keeps growing day by day. It will provide a compilation of all the free e-resources in the field of EDC/HRE. Please come and visit us at www.edchreturkey-eu.coe.int

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