



Generation Democracy Monthly Bulletin, September 2012

Dear Colleagues,

We have completed the first year of Democratic Citizenship and Human Rights Education Project implemented by the Board of Education. In this past one year, our working groups worked on a regular basis. The Legislation Review, Curriculum Review, and Capacity Building Working Groups have made great progress. The Material Development Working Group is intensively working on various tasks and very soon we will see their products. The Curriculum Development Working Group also accomplished the first part of their work and the curriculum for the Democracy and Human Rights elective course was approved by the Board of Education. Moreover, the Democratic School Culture Working Groups finalised their work and prepared a strategy document to improve democratic school culture.

For the first half of September introduction seminars on the redesigned elective course have been planned for the teachers who are going to teach this course. The Democratic School Culture WG has made its plans to visit 10 pilot provinces in 10 days to introduce the democratic school culture strategy. I would like to thank all the members of our working groups. I also would like to thank the team of the Council of Europe who provided great support to ensure that all these activities run effectively and efficiently.

Yours Sincerely,

Zafer Çelik

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

Dear colleagues,

With the start of the new academic year, our project is now moving smoothly into its second phase. The first phase was accomplished with success, marked by the approval of the redesigned curriculum of the "Democracy and Human Rights" elective course, which will be taught in secondary schools. Similarly, it has also been confirmed that the "Strategy Paper on Developing Democratic School Culture" will be piloted in both primary and secondary schools in ten provinces. We spent the hot and dry summer days working on the preparations for all the information meetings and initial training courses to be organised in the pilot schools. We have also established our new corporate identity which was shared with you through our Annual Bulletin and which will remain consistent until the end of the project. We hope that you like it.

Right now, inspired by the success of the first part and encouraged by the support of the stakeholders, we are looking forward to the second stage. I would like to thank all WGs for their contribution to the revised curriculum and the democratic school culture strategy document, the communication strategy, the excellent materials developed, the legislation and curricula reviewed, and, last but not least, for all their valuable work on capacity building within the MoNE. I hope that our success will grow and extend over the second phase of the project as well.

Your sincerely,

Emir Adzovic

DC/HRE Team Leader





Highlights of June – August 2012

Approval of the revised curriculum for the elective course on “Democracy and Human Rights” marked the period between June and August 2012. The draft curriculum was communicated to the relevant stakeholders and discussed extensively in a workshop held in Kızılcahamam between 18 – 20 June 2012. Having received valuable contributions from NGOs, pilot school teachers and school principals and academicians, the Curriculum Development WG finalised and submitted the draft curriculum to the Board of Education for approval on 15 July 2012. The curriculum was highly praised and approved relatively quickly and in the second half of August it reached our office with the signature of the Minister (decision No. 133, 28.08.2012). The new elective course for secondary education “Democracy and Human Rights” will be piloted in 10 secondary schools in 10 provinces (Edirne, Elazığ, İstanbul, Konya, Manisa, Mardin, Mersin, Sakarya, Samsun, Yozgat) throughout the 2012-2013 academic year.

A similar trajectory was pursued by the “Strategy Paper on Developing Democratic School Culture”, which did not require an official approval procedure but still needed to be agreed by the Board. The draft strategy documents were also distributed to the participants of the Kızılcahamam workshop. The draft was finalised in the first half of August taking account of the feedback received and it was agreed for piloting in the new academic year. Along with the main strategy document, the Democratic School Culture WG prepared 4 different manuals laying down the main principles and values of democratic school culture and put forward proposals for the main stakeholders (teachers, school administrators, students, parents) on how to implement these in and out of the school environment. These manuals will be distributed and piloted in the same provinces in 10 primary and 10 secondary schools.

These were major steps in advancing the project work to its second phase which will focus on the pilot implementation of the curriculum and the framework document, as well as intensive work on benchmarking, monitoring and evaluation. Therefore, the project WGs did not even really get a summer break in which to enjoy the results of their work. On the contrary, they worked even harder to make sure that the implementation phase runs smoothly throughout the new academic year.

In the field of communication and visibility, there were two important developments aimed at reinforcing the project identity: firstly, the finalisation of a communication strategy including the design of a project logo and templates for project materials; secondly publication of a special issue of our bulletin, which was issued as an “Annual Bulletin” to cover the project progress over the past year. It received a lot of praise both within and beyond Turkey.





As mentioned in our May issue, our Project itself was subject to a second round of Result-Oriented Monitoring (ROM). The Secretariat and the BoE subsequently reviewed the draft report resulting from this visit and both responded and provided further clarifications to some of the issues raised in the report in order to improve the outcome and to ensure thorough evaluation of progress. The recommendations set forth in the report may be viewed as an opportunity to enhance project performance.

On the administrative side, the Project Annual Report was submitted to the relevant authorities at the end of June and was accepted without any comments.

With a view to accumulating and disseminating knowledge in the field of EDC/HRE, the Secretariat is currently working on establishing an e-library, which will bring together materials both in Turkish and in English and links to several important EDC/HRE centres in Europe. Similarly, in order to gain European experience and establish international networks and more importantly to inform European partners about the project activities, preparations for a study visit to Germany are under way.

What will we be doing in the coming month?

As September is the month when the academic year starts, it will inevitably be an eventful month. The major forthcoming activities may be summarised as follows:

- A training seminar to introduce the new elective course “Democracy and Human Rights” is going to be held in the MoNE in-service training centre in Çayeli, Rize between 3 – 7 September 2012. The main target of this training will be teachers and vice principals representing the schools where the course will be taught. These two groups will receive an official training on how to successfully implement the course curriculum and will collectively design and develop classroom activities to be implemented during the piloting phase. At the end of this formal training, the teachers will receive 30 hours of credits as acknowledgement for their professional development from the General Directorate of Teachers Training and Development of MoNE.
- In parallel, a series of training seminars will be held in ten pilot provinces on the “Strategy Paper on Developing Democratic School Culture in Turkey” and the manuals for teachers, school administrators and students prepared by the Democratic School Culture WG. These seminars will bring together teachers and school principals from pilot schools, along with other people involved in the wider school community such as parents and PTA representatives.



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- A PR campaign in the form of series of information meetings aiming at promoting the importance of the new elective curriculum to a wider audience in all pilot schools is also planned for the second half of September 2012.
- The third Steering Committee Meeting of the project will be held on 3rd October 2012 at the Başkent Öğretmenevi. The main focus of the meeting will be pilot implementation, monitoring and evaluation and benchmarking.
- A study visit to Germany is being planned for mid-October. Visits will be made to a selection of the wide range of different types of school existing in Germany. It is hoped that these will offer input and different perspectives for evaluation and benchmarking activities. Legislation and policy-making in the field of education are other two important items on the agenda.
- Visibility
 - The project website continues to spread news and provide detailed and up-to-date information. The website layout will also be enhanced in line with the communication strategy to include the project logo and visibility materials. The amount of materials presented on the restricted area of the website increases day by day with the inclusion of translated materials, which will soon be reorganised as an e-library. Please come and visit us at www.edchreturkey-eu.coe.int
 - As always, you can check our <http://www.facebook.com/groups/dchreankara/> Facebook profile and we tweet from [dchreproject@twitter](https://twitter.com/dchreproject) profile ☺

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