



April 2013

Dear Colleagues,

Our activities are being carried out the way they were planned and all our activities foreseen for March were accomplished successfully. In April, in addition to the activities that are implemented by the BoE, we will also organise a study visit to Ireland, as well as several visits to our pilot schools. I strongly believe that these activities will also be completed smoothly in line with our activity calendar.

I would like to express my appreciation of the work of all people who have contributed and will contribute to our project.

Zafer Çelik

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

Dear colleagues,

Having completed a full year of hard labour, the Curriculum Review and Legislation Review Working Groups were in the spotlight in March as they invited the opinions of their stakeholders. So far, both working groups had restricted their work to internal deliberations assisted by a number of national and international experts. Now for the first time, they have shared their draft reports and their findings with a wider audience and listened to different perspectives presented by NGOs, teachers, other academicians and colleagues from other departments at the MoNE at the workshops they organised. Both events received well-deserved praise and yielded crucial outputs. We are now looking forward to presenting you the finalised version of the reports enriched by the ideas of our partners.

In April, we are organising the Fourth Project Steering Committee Meeting, which will be the highlight of the month. The event will be marked by high level representation of the Council of Europe by Ms Olöf Olafsdottir, Director of Democratic Citizenship and Participation Directorate, Ministry of National Education by project SPO Mr Salih Çelik, Deputy Undersecretary, and of the European Union Delegation to Turkey by Mr Erwan Marteil, the First Counsellor. This is a good sign of support on all sides as we approach the end of the pilot implementation and are getting ready to go nationwide.

As of September next year, our elective course will be offered in all high schools across Turkey and we have made an agreement with the Fatih project to share all our materials in e-format through the EBU website. In addition, yes, in April we will visit the Irish Ministry of Education and Irish schools.

Emir Adzovic

DC/HRE Project Team Leader





Highlights of March 2013

- ✎ The Curriculum Review Working Group organised its workshop on 14 – 15 March in Ankara. The main aim of this workshop was to share the finalised review of the preschool, primary and secondary education curricula with relevant stakeholders including NGOs, academicians, teachers and curriculum developers. More than 40 participants worked in small working groups and drafted comments on the recommendations developed by the Working Group and also developed additional recommendations where relevant. Now the WG will finalise their report and submit it to the BoE for its opinion and approval by the end of April.
- ✎ The workshop of the Legislation Review Working Group was held on 18 – 20 March in İstanbul. Similarly, the main aim was to develop recommendations with the support of academicians, legislation experts from different units of the MoNE, NGOs and pilot school principals and teachers from İstanbul. The diverse profile of the more than 50 participants and the leadership of the BoE through the presence of Mr Abdülkadir Yılmaz, the Board's Deputy Head, ensured strong and tangible results. The atmosphere of the workshop itself and the methodology used were good examples of democratic practise. This whole review and consultation process will be sealed with a solid report, and more importantly, a sustainable instrument that will constitute a reference point for relevant MoNE units for the drafting of future legislation.
- ✎ The project team finalised preparations for the Fourth Project Steering Committee Meeting, which will be held on 9th April.
- ✎ The results and the draft storyboards drawn up during meetings with professional companies to select the best scenario for the TV spot for the promotion of the elective course on Democracy and Human Rights for the next academic year have been shared with the Head of the Board of Education, Mr Emin Karip. and after consultations with him, the process will continue. The aim is to produce a dynamic TV spot that can be broadcasted as of the beginning of May.
- ✎ In the second half of March, a new round of visits to pilot schools started. In this round, the measurement and evaluation expert Ms Oya Taneri also joined some of the visits to get first-hand impressions and information from pilot schools. The destinations in March were:
 - 22 March – Edirne
 - 25 – 26 March – İstanbul
 - 29 March – Mersin
- ✎ We had a meeting with the Fatih Project in order to ensure close cooperation in the production of teaching, education and awareness-raising materials so that when we have the nation-wide implementation of the elective course on “Democracy and Human Rights” in the next academic year, we will be able to share all our materials on the with all relevant stakeholders EBA website.





Synergies with other institutions and actions

- ✎ March saw intensified cooperation with NGOs. First of all, the NGOs who are a part of our Project Steering Committee and a number of other civil society organisations participated in the two major workshops. They shared their opinions with us both verbally and in writing and contributed greatly to the outcome of the workshops.
- ✎ Following the two workshops, the project team visited Education Reform Initiative (ERI), Amnesty International and others to exchange experience and to strengthen the network with NGOs. More of those visits to relevant NGOs will be planned for months to come.

What will we be doing in April 2013?

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

- ✎ The Fourth Project Steering Committee Meeting will be held on 9th April.
- ✎ Visits to pilot schools will continue in the following schedule:
 - 1 April – Mardin
 - 2 April – Sakarya
 - 12 April – Konya
 - 19 April – Samsun
- ✎ A Study Visit to Ireland will take place between 22 – 26 April. The study visit aims at familiarizing the participants with Ireland's educational policy and school system, as well as demonstrating examples of good practice in the field of education for democratic citizenship and participation. A delegation of pilot school principals and MoNE officials will visit four Irish schools, the National Council of Curriculum Assessment (NCCA) and others.
- ✎ With a view to encouraging teachers to get involved in designing content for our project, we are organising a competition open to all teachers. The best examples of good teaching practice submitted in this competition will be compiled in a supplementary activity book for EDC/HRE. The competition will be announced on the MoNE website and our project website on 4th April. Applications will close on 30 April and the award ceremony will be organised in May. The authors of the five best activities will be invited to join one of the study visits of the project. This will be an occasion for our successful teachers to meet colleagues from other countries and exchange ideas. We invite all our pilot school teachers to participate in the competition.





News from our pilot schools

- ✓ With the start of the second semester, our pilot schools have become more active in the field of EDC/HRE and democratic school culture. We do not want you to miss out the news, so here is a non-exhaustive list of their main activities:
 - ◆ In Edirne Technical and Industrial Vocational High School, under the guidance of their teachers, the students prepared a pin board called “Democracy Board” where they display relevant texts and visuals. In parallel, they organised a seminar on “IT Crimes” on 25 March and devoted a separate section on their pin board to the subject. For more information please visit “e-democracy” section on: <http://edirneeml.meb.k12.tr/>
 - ◆ In Mehmet Akif Ersoy Anatolian High School, Konya, the Mayor visited the school and the students shared their opinions with him. They also presented him with the petitions they had drafted about the problems they would like to raise.
 - ◆ In Elazığ Anatolian Religious High School, the students organised a democracy congress on 29 March.
 - ◆ A number of our pilot schools now have their own facebook profiles for democracy, completely owned and developed by the students. Below we list the existing groups and we hope that these dynamic groups of students from all over Turkey will form a strong network:
 - ✓ Yozgat High School: <http://www.facebook.com/groups/497000903694638/>
 - ✓ Üsküdar Cumhuriyet Trade and Vocational High School: <http://www.facebook.com/groups/edemokrasi/?ref=ts&fref=ts>
 - ✓ Konya Mehmet Akif Ersoy High School: <https://www.facebook.com/DemokratikInsanlarToplulugu>
 - ✓ Mardin Technical and Industrial High School: <http://www.facebook.com/pages/E-Demokrasi-Mardin-ML/627371877278398?ref=ts&fref=ts>

Visibility

- ✓ The production of a TV spot is being carried out in close cooperation between the project communication experts, the BoE administration, and the Press Department of the Ministry of National Education.
- ✓ 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.
- ✓ Project pilot schools web pages are now in English, which serves as an instrument for international visibility. We would like to thank all our pilot schools for their cooperation and for the up-dated information they provided in the process.

Council of Europe Programme Office in Ankara
Turan Emeksiz Sok. Park Blokları
B Blok No: 3/16 GOP
06700 Çankaya, Ankara
Tel.: +90 (312) 468 84 64
Fax: +90 (312) 468 84 06
www.edchreturkey-eu.coe.int

