



**EUROPEAN UNION / THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE JOINT PROJECT on
“DEMOCRATIC CITIZENSHIP AND HUMAN RIGHTS EDUCATION”**

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Dear colleagues,

The coldest month of 2012 is behind us. The energy and positive atmosphere of the project team, working groups and the Board of Education (BoE) authorities made it much warmer for us. January 2012 was marked with the departure of Mr Vahap Özpolat, one of the founders of the project from the Turkish side and the appointment of Mr Zafer Çelik. I am pleased to report continuing progress this month. In February, four out of six working groups benefited from training abroad while all working group members received new computers and IT equipment, as well as the stationery and books requested. Moreover, we finalised the mid term plans for all working groups. Last but definitely not least, all pending project documents were approved by both the Central Finance and Contracts Unit (CFCU) and the Ministry of National Education (MoNE). Carried on by the wind of the positive energy, the project team plans a number of workshops and activities to support further implementation of the project. Greetings from the DC/HRE Ankara Team!

Sincerely Yours,

Emir Adzovic
DC/HRE Team Leader

News of the month

This month, the responsibility of the beneficiary for project execution was transferred formally from the Project Coordination Centre (PCC) to the BoE. The responsible authority at the BoE, Mr Vahap Özpolat, who was one of the creators and indeed the engine of the project from the very beginning, was appointed to another post within the Turkish Ministry of National Education. I use this opportunity to congratulate and wish all the best to Mr Özpolat in his new professional life. Mr Özpolat was replaced with Mr Zafer Çelik, who joined the BoE recently from İstanbul. Mr Çelik brought new energy to the project activities both in his own personality and by four persons whom he assigned to the project management team on the BoE side (Mr Hüseyin Öztürk – Project Manager, Mr Adem Bozkurt – Project Coordinator (responsible for LRWG, CBWG, MDWG¹), Mr Mithat Büyükhhan – Project Coordinator (responsible for CRWG, CDWG, DSCWG²), Mr Ekrem Karababa – Project Coordinator (responsible for Grant Scheme).

In February, the CFCU informally approved all pending project documents and the BoE agreed to forward a letter of approval from their side. Hopefully, this gives some space for the pending documentation to be formally forwarded to the European Union Delegation in Ankara for their final approval.

The project office is proud to report that all promised computer equipment, stationery and books and manuals have been purchased and delivered to the working groups.

Among our good news are the creation of the Facebook profile and Twitter account of the project and the project website. Our Facebook profile registers one new member every day, which pleases us all and the project website is now online at the following address: www.EDCHRETurkey-eu.coe.int

The two study visits planned for February were implemented with very satisfactory results. Two further study visits are being planned. A workshop for CDWG and DSCWG is planned for March 2012 along with the Launching Event and the Marmara Symposium later in April 2012.

¹ Legislation Review Workig Group, Capacity Building Working Group, Material Development Working Group.

² Curriculum Review Working Group, Curriculum Development Working Group, Democratic School Culture Working Group

Study Visit Zurich

Members of the CBWG and MDWG attended a five-day study visit to Zurich University of Teacher Education in Switzerland, between 12-18 February 2012. The study visit was hosted by Prof. Rolf Gollob, Co-head of Centre IPE-International Projects in Education.

The aim of the training was to update the knowledge of participants on best practices of teacher training programmes in the field of EDC/HRE, as well as to observe educational and awareness-raising materials abroad.

The study visit contributed to the understanding of new trends in teacher training in Canton Zurich and methods and tools for developing and designing educational and raising-awareness materials.

Working Group Members participated in seminars on the following topics concerning the educational system of Canton Zurich: approaches and models in in-service training for teachers; digital learning and digital assessment; cooperative approach in textbook writing; goals, standards and competences in education; competences and textbooks for democratic citizenship; and inclusive education as a core value of democratic schools.

The delegation visited a primary school in Maennedorf, Zurich. They observed the classroom environment, interviewed the teachers and had a discussion session with Mr. Claude Saladin, the school principal.

A visit was organised to the cantonal publishing house. Mr Robert Fuchs, director of the publishing house gave a presentation on the methods, processes and tools of textbook development. Ms Reneta Minoretti explained production process of primary level English Textbook from scratch to the bookshelf.

On last day of the study visit, a wrap-up meeting was organized with all participants to discuss the subjects covered during the visit. In this meeting, Working Group Members presented their views and discussed them in detail.

Study Visit to London

Members of the CDWG and CRWG participated in a study visit to London which was hosted by Prof. David Kerr, Director of the Citizenship Foundation in London, from 19 to 25 February 2012.

The aim of the training was to build the capacity of the working groups in a better understanding of different perspectives including political and practical implementations in curriculum development and the ongoing review process in the field of citizenship education. The Citizenship Foundation, as the hosting institution of the study-visit, provided extensive information on the context of citizenship in the UK and presented various projects and specific programmes which concern different aspects of citizenship education.

The delegation also visited the Association for Citizenship Teaching (ACT), where they were informed about the assessment and inspection process of the national curriculum with a special focus on citizenship curriculum in the UK. As one of the highlights of the training, they had the opportunity to learn in depth about the inspiring initiatives and work done by the Parliamentary Education Service on citizenship education in the UK.

The study visit was also useful in terms of following the recent developments of the new curriculum review discussions in the UK context. The delegation visited the Department for Education and Government Policy in Westminster and they were informed about the department's engagement in Europe and the current trends in the national curriculum and curriculum review.

Working Groups also became more acquainted with the implementations in UK schools and observed EDC practices closely in 3 schools in different locations of London.

As the final part of the study-visit, CDWG and CRWG participated in a session in the Institute of Education and University of London which was founded in 1902 as a teacher training college. During the training, Prof. Hugh Starkey, the programme leader for the online MA Citizenship and History Education (University of London International Programmes), and Jeremy Hayward, Senior Lecturer

in Citizenship Education, provided valuable insight to the working groups on the current state-of-art in human rights and citizenship education. They touched upon the importance of teacher's training and discussed how teachers could deal with controversial issues in the classroom environment.

On the last day of the programme, Prof. David Kerr led the group debriefing session and the groups had the opportunity to reflect on the main learning points and identified the follow-up work for the upcoming period with respect to their group-specific tasks.

Main action in the next month

In the period to come, the project will be very busy implementing following activities:

- March 12-16, 2012, Ankara
 - Workshop for all working groups with special focus on Curriculum Development and Democratic School Culture (key experts Mr Edward Huddleston and Ms Olena Stayslavska)
- Launching event (26 March 2012)
 - The Launching Event of the Project, which will be realized with the participation of senior officials from the MoNE and EUD, will start with the opening speech of the Minister of National Education. The Steering Committee Meeting of the project is planned right after the Launching Event.
- Coaching
 - The project will provide guidance and expertise to the CDWG, MDWG and DCSWG helping them to prepare materials for the piloting of the new programmes as of September 2012.
- Expertise
 - The project will be providing the experts who will work with the working groups but will also try to secure relevant expert advice at key stages using the best CoE expertise via Skype communication with the WGs.
- Visibility
 - The project is finalising the piloting of its website, its Facebook and Twitter profiles. All means of communication will be on line in March 2012.
 - You can check our <http://www.facebook.com/groups/dchreankara/> facebook profile and we tweet from [@dchreproject](https://twitter.com/dchreproject) twitter profile ☺

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