



## **Generation Democracy Monthly Bulletin, February 2013**

Within the time period that has elapsed from the start of the project up until the present day, we have been carrying on our work by overcoming some challenges, with a well developed team showing a high level of attendance; and we continue to perform the planned activities. Within this context we have realized, during 28-30 January, the first workshop of year 2013 in Antalya. Participants from our pilot schools as well as from the Board of Education, the European Council, the Central Finance and Contracts Unit, and the Project Monitoring Unit attended the workshop. Upon sharing our findings I was very pleased to see that the workshop was strongly beneficial. Looking at the point we have reached, I can gladly say that we have left behind an important phase and we have started to obtain some concrete results that we had planned/aspired.

I would like to express my deepest gratitude to everyone who has contributed to the Antalya workshop as well as to our project, in the hope that 2013 will be a year during which our project will yield the results of our efforts.

Zafer Çelik

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

Dear colleagues,

This month we start with a popular motto "*Method carries the message*". We are well aware that the way we speak, behave, write, teach, or preach is actually the carrier of our messages. In education, and more specifically in education for democratic citizenship and human rights, this becomes even more apparent. That is the reason why governments in many countries are trying to underline the elements of good teaching, develop novel teaching methodologies and improve the quality of school environments with the ultimate aim of fostering democratic school culture. Generation Democracy was born in a similar setting and in what we do we basically practise what we preach. A good example of this is the training activity we organised in the first week of the semester break. During the event, teachers and school principals from our pilot schools and education experts, both national and international, came together. The teachers were briefed about what had been prepared for the second semester and provided their input. The monitoring experts informed all the participants about their observations and the school principals shared their experiences from their own schools. Those who participated in the study visit also made a short presentation of what they observed in Germany. All these stakeholders of the education profession reflected on how to make the course on Democracy and Human Rights better in every way.

Emir Adzovic

DC/HRE Project Team Leader





## Highlights of January 2012



Between 28 – 30 January we organised a training activity addressing pilot school teachers in Antalya. As it was a major event with 94 participants, including pilot school teachers, pilot school principals, monitoring and national and international experts, the organization was complex. The strong ownership of the MoNE, and more specifically of the BoE, was underlined by the involvement of Dr Ünal Akyüz, Head of the Project Coordination Department (MoNE) and Dr Zafer Çelik, Head of Education Systems and Policies Department (BoE). Representatives of the EU Delegation to Turkey and the Central Finance and Contracts Unit followed the sessions closely. While national experts Dr Ahmet Doğanay and Dr Bülent Tarman contributed to the event as moderators for the group work, prof. David Kerr (UK) and Prof. Rolf Gollob (Switzerland) also participated in the seminars and provided an outsiders' perspective. The main outcomes of the activity may be summarised as follows:

- The teachers were provided with a sound platform to deliver feedback on the activities they implemented throughout the first semester. Their valuable ideas and examples of good practice will be used to improve these activities before they are compiled as a textbook to be used nation-wide in the next academic year.
- The Democratic School Culture Working Group (DSCWG) also conducted separate sessions together with the principals of the secondary pilot schools. During these sessions, the school principals who participated in the study visit to Germany shared their experience with their colleagues;
- In a plenary session the teachers attended a training on the methodologies to be used in EDC/HRE courses. This session was delivered and supervised by Prof. Rolf Gollob from the University of Zurich.
- The teachers had a unique chance to see the activities designed for the second semester in advance and provided feedback. Their direct involvement in designing activities yielded fruitful results and helped them feel more secure about what they will do in the coming period.
- In a plenary session, Dr Oya Taneri, our key evaluation expert of the project, made a presentation on the measurement and evaluation aspect of EDC/HRE and made recommendations.
- Representatives of the Material Development Working Group (MDWG) also participated in the sessions and group work in order to collect feedback about the visual materials that accompany the existing activities.





- ✎ We visited our pilot schools in Sakarya and Elazığ. These visits were also a part of the third round of school visits which had to be spread over three months in order not to overlap with other project activities and in order to ensure a continuous momentum and cooperation between the Generation Democracy team and the pilot schools.
- ✎ On January 31 and February 1, a group-specific training for the Capacity Building Working Group was organised in Ankara. Under the guidance of Prof Rolf Gollob, our international expert coming from University of Zurich, the group worked on the preparation of Training Modules for the upcoming training sessions intended for May. Mr Bekir Şirin, CBWG Coordinator and Mr Osman Taşkaya, Head of In-service Training Unit also took part in the training.
- ✎ Preparations for the study visits to Ireland and and Norway (Council of Europe Teacher Training Centre for EDC/HRE) started.

### ***Synergies with other institutions and actions***

In 2013 The Generation Democracy Project is going to train 240 teachers who will then provide cascade training to their colleagues in coming years. In order to institutionalise the capacity-building training activities and to deliver them as part of the in-service training programme of the MoNE, a number of meetings were held with the following:

- ✎ The In-Service Training Department of the MoNE was contacted in order to ensure that the training courses developed by the CBWG are coordinated well and in accordance with MoNE/BoE procedures.
- ✎ The DG for Basic Education and Education Policy was visited as they are also working on another new elective course 'Law and Justice'. The main aim is to avoid any overlapping elements in both curricula.
- ✎ A meeting with TÜBİTAK was also on the agenda. TÜBİTAK is about to start writing the textbooks for mainly natural science 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. Close cooperation with these experts will ensure that the new textbooks will be in line with democratic values and human rights.

### ***What will we be doing in February 2013?***

More specifically the major upcoming activities in 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 its draft report with stakeholders to obtain their opinion. The aim of the LRWG workshop is to develop recommendations with the support of academic, law experts, NGOs and other relevant stakeholders.
- ✎ Now that the first semester is over and we are getting ready for the nationwide implementation of the curriculum, it is high time that we started raising awareness on the new elective course in every corner of Turkey. As a part of our communication strategy, we are going to produce television spots and we have invited professionals in this field to come up with their innovative ideas. In the second week of February, a commission consisting of the members of the BoE, the CoE and the national communication experts will convene to choose the best scenario for the TV spots. Production of the spots will then begin.





- ✎ With a view to encouraging teachers get involved in designing content of our project, our communication strategy includes a competition, open to all teachers. The best examples of good teaching practice coming from this competition will be compiled in a supplementary activity book for EDC/HRE. The competition will be announced in February and we invite all our pilot school teachers to join.
- ✎ The secretariat will be busy with the preparations for the upcoming Study Visit to Ireland which is planned for April.
- ✎ Coordination and cooperation between The Generation Democracy team and the DG for Basic Education, as well as TÜBİTAK, will continue to ensure the best possible outcome from the training activities to be organised by the Capacity Building Working Group in May and onwards. Some of the training modules will address curriculum developers, textbook authors and textbook reviewers; therefore, strong coordination is needed among the relevant institutions.

#### ✎ Visibility

- ✓ The initial steps for the production of the TV spots have been taken in close cooperation between the project communication experts and the Press Department of the Ministry of National Education.
- ✓ The Secretariat team participated in the closing conference of the EU Camp Project "Children Studies in Turkey" organised by Middle East Technical University on 25<sup>th</sup> January. The event was a good opportunity for exchange of good practice that already exist in the field of Children's Rights and children related projects.
- ✓ As for the more day-to-day operations, the Secretariat will continue to ensure the visibility of the 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](http://www.edchreturkey-eu.coe.int)
- ✓ Project pilot schools now have their own individual web pages on the project web site. The purpose of allocating separate pages for pilot schools is to increase their visibility and provide a platform where their good practice can be shared with others. It also ensures close cooperation between the Project Secretariat and the pilot schools and facilitates overall coordination.

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