



March 2013

Dear colleagues,

First of all, I would like to mention that our activities are being implemented as they were planned. With all our efforts, together with the concrete outcomes of our work so far we are getting much closer to our objectives. In this respect, the workshops which will be organised by the Curriculum Review Working Group and Legislation Review Working Group constitute two major activities in March. In these workshops our working groups will share their results with the stakeholders. Their valuable contribution will make our work and our results more meaningful.

At this stage in our Project, I would like to thank everyone who has already contributed and will contribute in the future to our workshops and, on the whole, to our Project.

Zafer Çelik

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

Dear colleagues,

In the seventh quarter of our project we are approaching a stage at which we hope our outcomes will inspire people beyond the field of EDC/HRE. We have almost come to an end in our review processes. The Curriculum Review Working Group and the Legislation Review Working Group are now going to hold workshops to share results with our stakeholders and to develop recommendations. The final reports of these working groups are targetted at curriculum developers and, teachers, of various subjects and legislators and policy makers respectively. Therefore, they constitute the main highlights of February – March period.

Another hot topic on our agenda is the TV spot we are planning to produce as part of our communication strategy. We know that getting the attention of parents, teachers and students before the selection of the elective courses for the next academic year is crucial. In February, we invited production companies to come up with innovative ideas to make our project and our elective course well-known in every corner of Turkey. We embraced as many ideas as possible. In March, our aim is to refine these ideas and we intend to present some of the best ones to our Steering Committee in the beginning of April for their opinion. Hopefully, you will see us on the national TV in May.

Last but not least, we will be turning to our primary schools and focusing on them this month. The Democratic School Culture Working Group is going to send the first set of activities to our pilot schools and we expect to see the outcome of the first activity very soon.

Emir Adzovic

DC/HRE Project Team Leader





Highlights of February 2012

- ✎ The Legislation Review Working Group and the Curriculum Review Working Group finalised their draft reports to the BoE for its initial opinion and suggestions before the reports are shared with the relevant stakeholders in a workshop. The BoE agreed on the proposed dates, 13 – 15 March for the Curriculum Review Working Group and 8 – 20 March for the Legislation Review Working Group workshops. The Secretariat is working on the preparations to conduct each workshop in the best possible way with the best possible outcome. These two workshops will be the highlights of March.
- ✎ In the last week of February, a commission consisting of the members of the BoE, the CoE and the national communication experts convened to hold the first evaluation meeting to choose the best scenario for the TV spots we are planning to produce as part of our communication strategy. A priority of our seventh quarter is that we start raising awareness on the new elective course in every corner of Turkey. Short listed candidates were instructed to come up with a more refined scenario. In March, the most suitable scenario will be selected and will be brought to the attention of the minister for his consent.
- ✎ With a view to encouraging teachers to get involved in designing content for our project, we are organising an activity 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 on the 4th March on the MoNE website and our project website. The applications will close on 30 April and the award ceremony will be organised in May. The owners of the five best activities will be invited to join one of the study visits of the project. This will certainly give a chance to our successful teachers to meet their colleagues in other countries and exchange their ideas. We invite all our pilot school teachers to participate in the competition.



- ✎ The date and draft agenda of the Fourth Project Steering Committee Meeting were agreed with Mr Salih Çelik, the Project SPO and the Deputy Undersecretary of the MoNE. The meeting will be held on 9th April in Ankara. Ms Ólöf Ólafsdóttir, Director of Democratic Citizenship and Participation, Council of Europe will also participate the meeting.
- ✎ We received the tentative agendas for the Study Visit to Ireland (April) and the Study Visit to Norway (May) from our cooperation partners in respective countries and we are looking forward to developing the agendas to fit the needs of the Beneficiary in the best way.
- ✎ Two experts worked on developing an extensive communication list comprising more than 3000 relevant people. This pool of stakeholders will serve the project by facilitating the communication and correspondence procedures. This pool expands the network for our project and will be a beneficial tool both for the MoNE and for the Council of Europe for future operations.





Synergies with other institutions and actions

- While the preparations of the two workshops were carried out, a number of meetings were held with the Capacity Building Working Group with a view to establish a sound basis for the upcoming training activities in May. The CBWG improved the existing draft training programme with the support of national and international experts. The programme was submitted to the opinion and approval of the BoE. The training seminars to be organised by the CBWG will address various target working groups including teacher trainers, text books writers and reviewers as well as legislators and inspectors. Hence, this huge endeavour requires very close cooperation with relevant departments. For this purpose, we visited the Basic Education Department of the MoNE to ensure that their relevant staff also participates in these training courses. In this scope, a tentative plan has been made to invite Felisa Tibbits, the founder and senior advisor of Human Rights Education Associates (HREA). According to the tentative plan she will be a part of the seminar for text book reviewers to be held on 9-10 May 2013.

What will we be doing in March 2013?

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

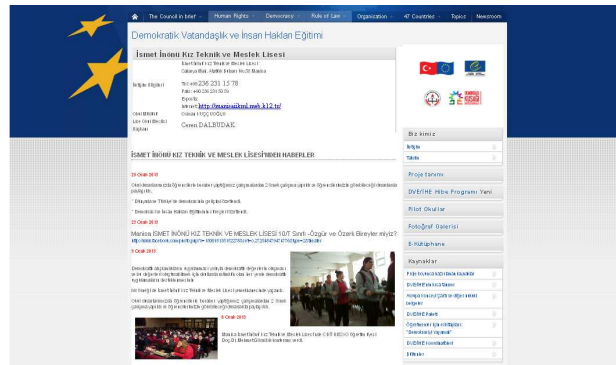
- The Curriculum Review Working Group will organise its workshop between 14 – 15 March in Ankara. The main aim of this workshop is to share the finalised review of the primary and secondary education curricula with relevant stakeholders including NGOs, academicians, teachers and curriculum developers. These groups will work together to develop recommendations.
- The Legislation Review Working Group will organise its workshop between 18 – 20 March in İstanbul. The main aim is to develop recommendations with the support of academicians, law experts, NGOs and other relevant stakeholders.
- We are going to visit our pilot schools in Edirne on 22 March, İstanbul on 25 – 26 March and Mersin on 29 March.
- The project team will work hard to finalise the preparations for the Fourth Project Steering Committee Meeting which will be held on 9 April.
- We will hold a series of meetings to select the best scenario for the TV spot in order to be able to present a solid final draft to the Project Steering Committee Meeting.
- Being motivated by the EUD and the NGO members of the Steering Committee, the secretariat paid more attention to synergizing and networking with NGOs. In March, we will be visiting a number of NGOs including Education Reform Initiative (ERG), Amnesty International, as well as some EU funded initiatives.
- The secretariat will be busy with the preparations for the upcoming Study Visit to Ireland, which is planned for April and the study visit to Norway, which is planned for May.
- 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 first evaluation of TV spot scenarios 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 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 keeps growing day by day. It will provide a compilation of all the free e-resources in the field of EDC/HRE. If you want to contribute, please get in contact with us.
- ✓ 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. Please click on the picture below to go to our pilot schools web pages.



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