



Generation Democracy Monthly Bulletin, November 2012

October was again marked with intensive activity. At the Third Steering Committee Meeting, held on 3 October, our communication strategy was presented to the participants and it was approved by Mr Salih Çelik, the Deputy Undersecretary of MoNE. Academicians who will monitor the activities in pilot provinces convened to discuss the important aspects and points that need special attention. In parallel, the first phase of the evaluation of grant scheme proposals has been completed. At the beginning of November (5-8 November), Curriculum Development Working Group members are going to visit 6 of the 10 pilot provinces to give further information to our teachers and to initiate on-site monitoring activities. In November the Democratic School Culture Working Group is also going to visit pilot schools to provide guidance. In addition, the Legislation Review Working Group and the Curriculum Review Working Group will have their workshops in the coming months, so we will be dealing with the preparations for these workshops in November. We would like to thank everyone who have been a part of our success so far.

Zafer Çelik

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

Dear colleagues,

As expected, October was a turning point for our project in many aspects. First of all, in the third Project Steering Committee Meeting, the Project Manifesto and Communication Strategy were presented and explained to the SC members and to the Senior Programme Officer, Mr Salih Çelik, who reacted positively and approved the Strategy in a separate meeting held in the following week. Now that the project communication strategy has been appreciated and confirmed, it is time for us to show our presence in the field. In the first half of November we will be visiting our pilot provinces to support and encourage the teachers and to introduce our monitoring experts who will follow-up the pilot implementation of both the elective course curriculum and the strategy paper on improving democratic school culture. In this way, we aim to improve both documents according to the vital feedback gathered from the field and to ensure that we have a good product at the end of the year. The end of October was a joyful period as there were two consecutive feasts; the Feast of Sacrifice and the Republic Day. Personally and on behalf of my team I would like to wish you "İyi Bayramlar" for both occasions.

Emir Adzovic

DC/HRE Team Leader





Highlights of October 2012

- ☞ In October 2012, we had a series of crucial meetings which had an enormous impact on the project results. The third Project Steering Committee Meeting was held on 3rd October 2012 at Başkent Öğretmenevi. It was presided by Mr Salih Çelik, Deputy Undersecretary of the Turkish Ministry of National Education and the Senior Programme Officer of the Project. It also brought together CoE staff from Strasbourg and representatives of the Central Finance and Contracts Unit, the EU Delegation to Turkey, the Ministry of EU Affairs, the Beneficiary, NGOs, and all the other relevant stakeholders. There were a number of the important points on the agenda including "the first impressions on the pilot implementation of the redesigned curriculum of the elective course on democracy and human rights for secondary education", "project visual identity and the planned outreach in pilot provinces" and "monitoring and benchmarking studies to be carried out during pilot implementation". Mr Hasan Ekmekçi, the national expert responsible for project visual identity and communication strategy, made an impressive presentation which was received positively by Mr Çelik. On 11 October 2012, the Project Team visited Mr Çelik in his office for further consultations on the communication strategy ,which concluded with the approval of the strategy.This represented a real milestone for the project as it strengthened the work of the Material Development Working Group in putting their planned activities into practice.
- ☞ On 12 October 2012, a regular coordination meeting was held at the CoE Programme Office between the leaders of all the CoE project teams implementing the Joint EU / CoE Programmes in Turkey and their counterparts in the EUD and CFCU. Each project made a presentation of the progress they have made.
- ☞ On 15 October 2012, this time it was the regular coordination meeting of our Project at the premises of the BoE. It was chaired by Mr Hüseyin Öztürk and the working group coordinators presented their main accomplishments and informed the other groups about their plans for the next six months in order to ensure coherence and coordination in all areas.
- ☞ In addition, a series of meetings were held, bringing together national experts on measurement and evaluation and Curriculum Development Working Group (CDWG) and Democratic School Culture Working Group (DSCWG) members so as to make sure that the tools and overall strategy to be used in the evaluation fulfill the needs of both working groups. The first meeting was held on 11 October 2012 at CoE Programme Office. The aim of was to discuss the main expectations of the CDWG and DSCWG from the measurement and evaluation expert, Prof. Dr Selahattin Gelbal. Following this meeting, an Induction Meeting was held at the Volley Hotel on 16 October 2012, to inform the monitoring experts about the project activities and the main aspects of monitoring, as well as measurement and evaluation activities.
- ☞ The last day of the month heralded the giving of the green light for the "Strategy Paper on Developing Democratic School Culture in Turkey" to be used in schools. The document will shortly be redesigned in accordance with the adopted communication strategy and it will be send out to the pilot schools.
- ☞ Another important step that was taken in October 2012 resulted from a series of meetings with relevant stakeholders. Representatives of the Education Directorate of the CoE in Strasbourg and of the CoE Ankara Programme Office held a number of meetings with key people in relevant institutions to explore possibilities for further cooperation in a number of fields including gender equality and children rights in the field of education. Moreover, the CoE and the MoNE are officially discussing the opportunity of working together on the development of a 4th grade





In the scope of these meetings for further cooperation between the CoE and the MoNE, the Head of the Projects Coordination Department Mr Ünal Akyüz was also contacted for his guidance and support in future prospects.

What will we be doing in the coming month?

The major up-coming activities in November may be summarised as follows:

- ✎ In the first week of November, the CDWG is going to visit the pilot schools in six pilot provinces. This time the groups will be accompanied by one member from the Capacity Building Working Group (CBWG) and one member from the Material Development Working Group (MDWG). The main aims are to ensure that the activities sent to the pilot schools on a weekly basis are implemented as foreseen; to analyse the needs of pilot school teachers on a technical level; and to collect feedback concerning the materials distributed and the design of the activities developed so far. Another important aspect of these visits is the involvement of the monitoring experts who will follow the pilot implementation until the end and oversee the measurement and evaluation studies. These experts will be introduced to the pilot schools for the first time and their role will be explained. Furthermore, international expert Prof. David Kerr will also take part in three of the visits to provide guidance and an outsider's perspective to the teachers.
- ✎ A group specific training for the Legislation Review Working Group will be held on 22-23 November 2012. In this two-day programme, Martin Eaton, the CoE expert who has been involved in and contributed to the development of a number of policy tools for the CoE, including the CoE Charter on EDC/HRE, will make presentations and share his experiences with the Turkish colleagues from the MoNE. In addition to the members of the LRWG representatives of the Legal Department of the MoNE will participate in the sessions.
- ✎ The MDWG was delighted that the Project Communication Strategy was officially approved and they are putting all their efforts into ensuring that the planning and budgeting of all the activities listed in the strategy are sound. In November, through their efforts, we are going to announce a competition for teachers in order to encourage them to develop new activities that could be used in their teaching. Their products will constitute a valuable asset both for the CDWG and for the MDWG in the production of materials at the end of pilot implementation.
- ✎ The Conference on "Human rights and democracy in action - looking ahead! The impact of the Council of Europe Charter on Education for Democratic Citizenship and Human Rights Education" will be held in Strasbourg on 28-29 November 2012. Prof. Dr Emin Karip, president of the BoE, and Dr Hüseyin Şirin, member of the BoE and EDC/HRE Coordinator for Turkey, will present the Project as an example of good practice.
- ✎ The study visit to Germany is now taking shape. The tentative timing of the visit is 9 – 15 December. Visits will be made to a selection of the wide range of different types of schools 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.



**DEMOKRASİ
KUSAĞI**
DEMOKRATİK VATANDAŞLIK VE
İNSAN HAKLARI EĞİTİMİ PROJESİ

**GENERATION
DEMOCRACY**
DEMOCRATIC CITIZENSHIP AND
HUMAN RIGHTS EDUCATION PROJECT





🔍 Visibility

- ✓ The project manifesto and communication strategy developed by the MDWG which represent the main frame of project identity and visibility has been approved.
- ✓ We would like to make a slight correction concerning our former announcement about our extensive article to be published in the Autumn 2012 issue of the Journal of the Association for Citizenship Teaching in the UK. The article has been accepted by the Board of Editors of ACT and it will be published, not in the Autumn 2012 issue, but in the Spring 2013 issue which gives us more room to describe progress in the pilot implementation phase and compile a more detailed presentation of the project results.
- ✓ We have a new Facebook profile <http://www.facebook.com/Demokrasikusagi> and a new twitter profile <https://twitter.com/demokrasikusagi> which will be managed mainly in Turkish and which target the students who are taking this course. The purpose is to initiate interaction between the interested parties and to spread our messages. Do visit our new page on Facebook and our Twitter profile and post your ideas.
- ✓ The project website continues to spread news and provide detailed and up-to-date information. The site's 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

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