



Generation Democracy Monthly Bulletin, October 2012

Dear colleagues,

September was rather busy for the Democratic Citizenship and Human Rights Project. Now that the revised elective course curriculum and the strategy paper on improving democratic school culture in schools are being piloted in the 2012 – 2013 academic year, a series of seminars was held to introduce and promote the curriculum and the strategy paper. In September, the list of experts tasked with carrying out monitoring and evaluation activities in the pilot provinces was drawn up. These experts are key actors in ensuring efficient implementation of the curriculum and democratic school practices. The monitoring process will start soon following a meeting to be held in early October bringing together all these monitoring experts, evaluation experts and members of the relevant working groups. I hope that all these efforts will add to the overall effectiveness and efficiency of the project. I would like to thank all the members of the BoE and the CoE teams who have worked so diligently to enable the project to move ahead successfully.

Zafer Çelik

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

Dear colleagues,

We are now officially in the second phase of our project. Pilot implementation of the redesigned curriculum started with the 2012 – 2013 academic year. It was a very exhausting and difficult period, but it was well worth it. After all the efforts we are happy to announce that almost 5000 students are now taking this course in pilot schools. Now that we have actually started teaching the course, we are focusing on monitoring the pilot implementation in parallel to measurement and evaluation of the whole process. An expert team is working on developing tools for measurement and evaluation, which will then be used by the MoNE in the future for similar purposes. For instance, these tools are going to be an important asset when it comes to monitoring and evaluating the 4th grade compulsory curriculum once it is developed.

At this point, the month of October has a lot to offer. The third Project Steering Committee Meeting will be an opportunity for us to explain the Project Manifesto and Communication Strategy to the SC members and hear their opinions. Confirmation of our communication strategy will give us the power to disseminate our products in full confidence. Another important aspect of the coming month will be increased visibility of our project through a wide range of means: from an extensive article to be issued in a journal in the UK to a conference on EDC/HRE to be held in Strasbourg in late November. And here in Turkey, the essence of our project has been neatly expressed by the famous author Elif Şafak in a recent article (<http://www.haberturk.com/yazarlar/elif-safak/782230-dersimiz-demokrasi-ve-insan-haklari>).

Emir Adzovic

DC/HRE Team Leader





Highlights of September 2012

September 2012 was a hectic month during which the Curriculum Development Working Group (CDWG) and the Democratic School Culture Working Group (DSCWG) members were busy doing seminars and visiting pilot schools. As a start, between 3 – 7 September 2012 a training seminar was held in the MoNE in-service training centre in Çayeli, Rize, to introduce the new elective course “Democracy and Human Rights” for secondary schools. The main targets of this training were teachers and vice principals representing the schools where the course will be taught. These two groups received an official training on how to successfully implement the course curriculum. On the last two days of the training they collectively designed and developed classroom activities to be implemented during the piloting phase. At the end of this formal training, the teachers received 30 hours of credits as acknowledgement for their professional development from the General Directorate of Teachers Training and Development of MoNE. Looking at the feedback received from pilot school teachers and administrators during the pilot school visits, we see that this seminar had considerable influence on the teachers as it raised their motivation and established a sense of ownership of the curriculum. For further details about this in-service training, please visit our website: http://www.edchreturkey-eu.coe.int/News_EN.asp

During the first two weeks of September, in parallel to the Rize training, a series of training seminars were held in ten pilot provinces on the “Strategy Paper on Developing Democratic School Culture in Turkey” and the manuals for teachers, school administrators and students prepared by the Democratic School Culture WG. These seminars brought together teachers and school principals from pilot schools, and other school staff along with other people involved in the wider school community such as parents and PTA representatives.

Following the visit of the DSCWG, the pilot schools were visited again, this time by the CDWG. The purpose of this series of visits was to make sure that all the relevant teachers were informed about the curriculum and, more importantly, to ensure that there is a level of awareness in pilot schools on this elective course. During these visits, the pilot schools also received a number of awareness raising and visibility materials including swallow banners and posters produced by the Material Development Working Group. The determination and willingness of pilot school principals and teachers was remarkable as it may be considered one of the concrete outputs of a number of workshops and seminars held together with all the stakeholders so far. The CoE Secretariat representatives also accompanied these visits by the DSCWG and CDWG and had the opportunity to observe the situation in the provinces. Valuable data was gathered on the number of teachers teaching this course and the number of students taking it in 2012 – 2013 academic year. The figures for each pilot province are as follows:

Pilot Provinces	Total Number of students*	Total Number of Classrooms	Grades	Total number of teachers
1- Edirne	250	10	10 th	3
2- Elazığ	350	13	10 th	10
3- Istanbul (Asian and European parts)	1300 160	28 5	9 th +10 th +11 th	4 3
4- Konya	325	13	9 th +10 th	6
5- Manisa	350	14	9 th + 10 th	7
6- Mardin	100	4	9 th	1
7- Mersin	1030	32	9 th +10 th	13
8- Sakarya	48	2	11 th	2
9- Samsun	100	4	10 th	1
10- Yozgat	125	5	9 th +11 th	3
TOTAL	4138 Students	130 Classrooms		53 Teachers

- The calculation was based on the average number of 25 students per classroom.





While they were busy with the initial in-service training in Rize and the pilot school visits, the CDWG members also ensured that teachers in pilot schools learned about the activities to be implemented in their classrooms. In cooperation with the MDWG, they are working on activities and sending them to the teachers on a weekly basis.

September was also a return to work for the members of the project working groups. Some of those whose appointments were cancelled during the restructuring process returned and the BoE reshuffled the WG members according to the workload and the needs of the WGs, which is a very positive sign that in the coming months the quality and quantity of products will improve even more.

The MDWG, fully aware of its strategic role in overall visibility of the Project, promotion of the redesigned elective course and dissemination of project outputs, has been working very closely with the CDWG and DSCWG. On one hand they prepared a comprehensive communication strategy and project manifesto aiming to present a coherent and consistent message and on the other they provided the other WGs with illustrations and designs needed in their materials. Their products will be presented at the Third Project Steering Committee Meeting for the approval of the SC and the SPO.

Strengthened by the return of its members, the Capacity Building Working Group (CBWG) and the Legislation Review Working Group (LRWG) are now fully concentrated. The LRWG is now at the stage of reporting the results of their work and presenting the tool they have devised for the legislation review, which will be a sustainable tool for the MoNE. The CBWG is currently producing training kits which will be piloted in the second semester of the 2012 – 2013 academic year.

What will we be doing in the coming month?

The major upactivities in October may be summarised as follows:

- The third Project Steering Committee Meeting will be held on 3rd October 2012 at Başkent Öğretmenevi under the chairmanship of Mr Salih Çelik, Deputy Undersecretary of the Turkish Ministry of National Education and Senior Programme Officer of the Project. The meeting will bring together the CoE staff from Strasbourg and the 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. Key items on the agenda include "first impressions of the pilot implementation of the redesigned curriculum of the elective course on democracy and human rights for secondary education", "project visual identity and planned outreach in pilot provinces" and "monitoring and benchmarking studies to be carried out during pilot implementation".
- Monitoring, and measurement and evaluation are important not only in terms of assessing the progress of students in this specific course, as explicitly stated in the curriculum, but they are also crucial in carrying out a benchmark study and evaluating the project results. Therefore, they constitute another key area to be focused on in October. A series of meetings will be held together with national experts on measurement and evaluation and members of the DSCWG and the CDWG so as to make sure that the tools and overall strategy to be used correspond to the requirements of both working groups.
- 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 school 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 two further important items on the agenda.





• **Visibility**

- Crucial steps have been taken to increase project visibility on different levels. The project manifesto and communication strategy developed by the MDWG constitute the backbone of the project's identity and visibility. Therefore, confirmation of these at the Third PSCM will be a turning point in terms of the overall PR approach and activities planned for the coming months of the project.
- Secondly, we are happy to report that an extensive article will be published in the Autumn 2012 issue of the Journal published by the Association for Citizenship Teaching in the UK. This is a distinguished professional journal which reaches a wide audience on an international level. The article will not only contribute greatly to the promotion and visibility of the DCHRE Project, but it will also provide professionals in the field with an understanding of the recent education reform in Turkey.
- Thirdly, our regular media review shows that the course on "Democracy and Human Rights" is closely followed by journalists and columnists in the field. A recent article by Elif Şafak, a prominent writer and columnist, expresses the importance of this course very well.
<http://www.haberturk.com/yazarlar/elif-safak/782230-dersimiz-demokrasi-ve-insan-haklari>
- Last but not least, in 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", which 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 project website continues to spread news and provide detailed and up-to-date information. The website 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
- As always, you can check our Facebook profile <http://www.facebook.com/groups/dchreankara> and we tweet from dchreproject@twitter profile ☺

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