



DJS/EYCB/TC TR/2009/31

Budapest, 25 May 2009

Training course on youth participation and youth policy development in Turkey

**Ankara (Turkey)
22 – 29 June 2009**

Presentation of the course

Call for Participants

Note: This call is open only for residents of one of the parties to the European Cultural Convention other than Turkey. Residents of Turkey interested in this call should apply directly to General Directorate for Youth and Sports of Turkey

Youth Participation and Youth Policy in the Council of Europe

The Council of Europe is the continent's oldest political organisation, created in 1949 on the basis of human rights, democracy and the rule of law. Today, the organisation brings together 47 member states; its mission in relation to its core values remains fully relevant, as the purpose of building a more cohesive and united Europe remains a permanent challenge.

The aim of the Council of Europe's youth policy is to provide young people – girls and boys, young women and young men – with equal opportunities and experience which will enable them to develop the knowledge, skills and competencies to play a full part in all aspects of society.

Youth participation and youth policy development are at the heart priorities of the Directorate of Youth and Sport of the Council of Europe. National youth policy reviews, providing support for youth organisations through training courses and through European Youth Foundation are just a few examples of how these priorities are put in practice in the youth sector of the Council of Europe.

Youth participation is a key dimension of any youth policy. The full potential of youth participation for the autonomy of young people and for the development of society is best applied when youth work and youth organisations are able to dialogue and cooperate for and through youth policy principles and mechanisms.

The intergovernmental and international co-operation on youth policy development, with particular focus on setting standards and supporting their implementation was stressed during the last Council of Europe conference of the Ministers responsible for youth that was held in Kiev in October 2008. The final document of the conference, "The future of the Council of Europe youth policy: AGENDA 2020", calls for promoting young people's active youth participation in democratic processes and structures. The participation of young people in public life requires that public life is organised in such a way that it makes a real participation offer and makes participation and involvement possible and enticing.

The concept of youth participation needs to be addressed through concrete examples of participation at a local level through increased transparency and through examples of co-management of youth policy, between NGOs and governments. Participation reaches wider than the city council, the region and local structures and politics. It concerns schools and universities, urban environments and even family life. It flourishes in an environment that encourages open and frank interactions and dialog.

Strengthening youth participation is therefore a permanent concern of any youth policy authority, be it at the local, national or European level. Participation is key to democracy and youth participation arguably the key to the future of democracy.

Developing youth participation in Turkey has been an on-going objective for the youth sector of the Council of Europe and for the General Directorate of Youth and Sport of Turkey. In addition to an increased participation by youth workers and youth leaders from Turkey in activities of the European Youth Centres and European Youth Foundation, training courses have been co-organised in Turkey since 2002, addressing issues central to youth work and youth policy. These activities are primarily addressed at youth workers, youth leaders and civil servants in charge of youth affairs in Turkish organisations and institutions. A limited but important number of participants from other European countries has served the function of bringing an intercultural and European dimension to the course, as well as contributing to the course by sharing their ways of work in their institutions and organisations, a role that makes them participants, potential partners for future projects and resource persons.

For 2009, the Council of Europe and the General Directorate of Youth and Sport of Turkey have agreed to develop the course on the basis of participation of both civil servants and youth workers/youth leaders. This is because of the importance of mutual cooperation (and knowledge about each other and each other's roles) which are at the basis of any cooperation. This reflects the principles of youth policy of the Council of Europe and its partners, as well as the approaches of the Revised Charter on Youth Participation of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of Europe.

The 2009 course seeks to foster on the one hand a better understanding of the realities, aspirations and visions of young people in Turkey. It is also meant to contribute to the development of youth policies including support to non-governmental youth organisations and interaction between governmental and non-governmental actors in youth policy.

Aims and objectives of the course

The aim of the course is to develop participants' competences in enhancing youth participation in Turkey and in European projects and to stimulate co-operation between different actors in the youth field in Turkey for youth policy development and implementation.

The course has the following objectives:

- To explore the meaning of youth participation and its different forms and to discuss the ways it can be promoted and fostered;
- To reflect upon the roles, responsibilities and values of the different actors (NGO, civil servants, local authorities, international institutions) in promoting and developing youth participation in Turkey;
- To familiarise participants' with the Council of Europe's approaches to youth participation and principles of youth policy development and implementation;
- To explore effective ways of implementing youth policies on local and national levels with the participants and their organisations/institutions,
- To reflect on the practical use of the national youth policy reviews and the Revised European Charter on the Participation of Young People in Local and Regional Life;
- To develop personal and social competences of the participants youth participation;
- To provide possibilities for networking and planning future cooperation projects between the participants.

Dates and venue

The course will be held from 23 to 28 June 2009 in Ankara (Turkey). The participants should plan to arrive on **22 June** and to depart on **29 June**.

Participants

The course will bring together 30 participants, of which 20 will be from Turkey.

All participants should:

- Be youth workers, youth leaders or civil servants actively working in youth organisations or youth services;

- Be motivated and interested in exploring the concept of youth participation and youth policy and ready to share their experiences and knowledge with other participants
- Be in a position to multiply the experience gained during the course in their realities;
- Be available for the full duration of the course;
- Be able to work in English and/or Turkish;
- Be residents in one of the parties to the European Cultural Convention other than Turkey. Residents of Turkey interested in this call should apply directly to General Directorate for Youth and Sports of Turkey;
- Be preferably between 18 – 35 years of age.

Working languages

The course will be held in English and Turkish with interpretation.

Application procedure and selection of participants

All candidates must apply by filling in the online application form available at <http://courses.opencontent.it/> .

The preparatory team will select participants on the basis of the profile outlined above, ensuring a balanced group (sex, geographical regions, different types of experiences, cultural backgrounds and organisations).

A waiting list may be established. Candidates will be informed as to whether their application has been accepted, rejected or put on the waiting list, by 10 June 2009.

All application forms must be completed by **3 June 2009**.

Financial and practical conditions of participation

Travel expenses

Travel expenses and visa fees are reimbursed (on presentation of the relevant receipts) according to the rules of the Council of Europe. The travel reimbursement will be done by bank transfer after the course. Only those participants who attend the course forum can be reimbursed.

Accommodation

Board and lodging for the training seminar will be provided and paid for by the General Directorate of Youth and Sport of Turkey.

Other activities of the Directorate of Youth and Sport

If you are interested in other activities related to international youth work, but your profile does not fully correspond with the requirements of the course, please note that the Directorate of Youth and Sport organises several other activities, including study sessions and training courses for youth workers, youth leaders and trainers. Some of these offers are run within a Partnership on Youth, jointly run with the European Commission.

Further information about the courses can be obtained from the Directorate of Youth and Sport and the Partnership sites: <http://www.coe.int/youth> and <http://www.youth-partnership.net>

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