

NECE – Networking European Citizenship Education “EYCE 2005: National Experiences – European Challenges”

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**Esat Sagcan
Director-General of Apprenticeship and Non-formal Education
Turkey**

Country Profiles II, Turkey

Imparted at Public Training Centres in Turkey

- Before describing the activities involving European citizenship in my country, which is the topic of this meeting, if you kindly let me, I'd like to talk shortly about the “Public Training Centres” under my institution of which I'm the general director.
- General Directorate of Apprenticeship and Non-formal Education deals with organizing all the activities regarding the training of journeyman and masters through apprenticeship training, authorizing adult education providers; private/ formal institutions or NGO's (Non Governmental Organizations); monitoring and supervising their activities.
- Some other institutions under Ministry of National Education which is responsible for organizing formal educational activities are also authorized to organize adult education activities.
- Some formal education institutions under Ministry of National Education are also authorised to organize adult education activities along with their formal education activities

- Although the applications of education involving lifelong learning have a long background in my country, these efforts have accelerated since 1928 including whole society along with pre-school children by 1960's. Since then, the more extensive term “Non-formal Education” started to be used instead of “Public Training”.

- As it is clearly understood, systematic and planned educational activities called “Continuous Education”, “Adult Education”, “Public Training”, “Mass Education”, “Lifelong Learning” etc. out of formal education have been implemented as “Non-formal Education” in our country. Therefore, adult education is seen and applied as a sub-system of Non-formal Education in Turkey.

- In every province and town throughout Turkey, there are total 923 public training centres of which equipment, lighting, water expenditures and the wages of the full-time/half-time staff are paid by the government. The centres have such an organisation to provide adult education for free to some 40.000 settlement units.
- Activities such as courses, seminars, meetings, exhibitions, symposiums, panels, etc. are available in the centres for free all day and week long between 07.⁰⁰-24.⁰⁰ including weekends.

We have been implementing the following programs at these centres;

- literacy courses,
- vocational training,
- social and cultural courses,
- social and cultural activities (panels, seminars, symposiums etc.)

The subjects of the courses might vary according to the needs. At the moment there are courses on 350 subjects.

■The courses are opened on requisition of 15 or less learners according to the characteristics of the programme, environmental conditions etc. For disabled individuals, street children, working children, prisoners and detainees, drug addicts under treatment the limitation can be below 10. Likewise, for literacy courses and the traditional arts which tend to be forgotten there is no limitation in number.

■Some 1.600.000 individuals benefit from the courses. Around 5.000.000 citizens benefit from the meetings, seminars, lectures, panels, festivals, contests, exhibitions etc a year.

■Adult education activities are carried out either at the centres' own buildings or at the facilities or buildings of the other governmental or non-governmental organizations. We also benefit from the qualified staff of those organizations at maximum level. Moreover, the volunteers who are qualified enough to be trainers are also assigned to be volunteer trainers for some courses or activities.

■Taking the educational needs of society into consideration, we have been cooperating with private sectors about training within the framework of protocol.

■Dear colleagues,

■In order to improve people to be decent, qualified, open minded, actively participating individuals, civic education have been provided to some 18.000.000 students at formal education institutions within the curriculum of Social Sciences, Turkish Language, Maths and Science courses although there isn't a separate course with this title.

■Within the framework of the project "2005, Year of European Citizenship through Education", which is being carried out by our Ministry, the following seminars were hold:

-Seminar on Human Rights and Democracy Education which was held between 22-26.07 2005 with the participation of 81 teachers.

-Seminar on Education of Children's Rights held between 28.08– 02.09 2005.

-Seminar on Human Rights and Democracy Education held in collaboration with our Ministry and the British Council.

■As to the adults who are out of formal education, citizenship education is provided either at public training centres as separate courses, or within the curriculum of other vocational and literacy courses. It is also provided at seminars, meetings, lectures, discussions, panels, symposiums and other similar educational occasions.

■The curriculum of Citizenship Education at public training centres includes basic terms such as society, state, public, law, democracy, civil society, collective living, individual rights, agreements, social security, tax, legacy, international laws, adjudication, trade unions, work life and so on.

■Dear Members Of Our Study Group,

■By EU process initiated in 1963 aiming at Turkey's full membership to EU, primarily the education provided to our citizens by full time or part time teachers or instructors has been revised recently so as to provide EU citizenship education.

■As you might already know, 1-10 articles of EU constitution consider all the citizens of member countries to be European citizens. In accordance with these articles, all the European citizens shall equally benefit from the rights identified in EU constitution. They shall inhabit in and move freely to any European territory, participate in the elections equally with the other citizens of the country they live, apply to European Parliament, be protected equally as the other citizens are, apply to any EU organization in any of the EU languages. In addition to informing our learners about all those rights, we also try to create a correct understanding of what EU Process is and European citizenship is away from prejudice.

■ In our country, primary, secondary and non-formal education are provided at government institutions and financed mostly by the government. Private schools are financed by citizens, private sectors and NGO's.

■ Citizenship education is imparted not only at government institutions, but also by private schools, universities, NGO's (chambers, trade unions, associations, etc) Those organisations often cooperate with each other to rise the awareness of citizenship holding meetings, conferences , workshops and so on. The curriculum is identified by Ministry of National Education and the Board of Education

■ Especially for the last two years, we have focused on European Citizenship Education at the seminars and research trips organized to create a mutual insight to adult education activities in Germany and Turkey in accordance with the collaboration continuing since 2002 between our General Directorate and International Collaboration for Adult Education Association in Bonn.

■ Thus, wishing to reach our goals of expanding European Citizenship Education which is already being imparted at our public training centres, we invited 10 managers or trainers from different pilot public training centres to the seminar held in İstanbul on Sept. 27th.- Oct 1st. 2005 where experts on European Citizenship Education had been assigned to train the trainers.

■ Moreover, we built collaboration between partner countries on setting up a centre for documentation, exchanging experiences, developing didactic material and forming mechanisms which enables multi-sided exchange to promote the dialogue between different cultures to eliminate prejudice and eventually to build the consciousness of European Citizenship; so, İstanbul Bakırköy Public training Centre developed a Grundtvig 1 project". Policies for Future Europe" in cooperation with partner adult education provider institutions from Germany, Austria, Bulgaria and Greece and proposed it to European Council.

■ In addition to those activities, Turkey is participating in a EU-Grundtvig 2 project called "Women's Empowerment for Active Citizenship". The objective of the project is empowering women to involve in decisions, to use their rights, to stand on their own feet, and inform them about what European Citizenship is.

■ People need to know each other to live together. As Leo Buscaglia stated, "In order to know a tree, you should climb up to the branches of a tree to listen to the rustling of the leaves in the blowing wind. To know a man you should listen to him gazing into his eyes. People can know each other better just listening and trying to understand the other. Only those who can understand each other can build a good communication.

■ Communication is vital for success and language is a means of communication. Therefore, according to European Council decisions about EU citizens every EU citizen should know at least two, if possible three languages. We have understood that we should pay special importance to language education at our public training centres from now on.

■ Language and computer literacy are the most required and mostly organized courses at our public training centres as they facilitate the integration with the world, learning how to learn and promote individual learning. For the last 8 years, some 1.000.000 learners have taken computer literacy courses while some 250.000 have been taking language courses.

■ These figures don't involve the students of formal education, and learners of private institutions.

■ As the great Turkish philosopher Yunus Emre stated "We love the created; because we love the Creator". European Citizenship must base on human love .One must be able to love any creature that God created. It is important to love every thing and everyone as a whole. One who loves the whole can love the parts. One who loves only the parts will not be able to

reach to the whole. Turkish society with its population around 70.000.000, having Yunus Emre's humanist view and Mevlana's tolerance is ready to unify to European society as is due to her historical bonds and cultural relations.

- If someone is to live in a new environment or starts a new job he needs to get an orientation education.
- People's orientation is possible without depriving them of their values, respecting each other's cultural variety. I believe that, cultural variety will enrich European culture, and contribute to European Society European citizenship education must base on this concept.
- Essentially all human have been living all together in a global village, and we have to live peacefully.