

# BEST PRACTICES IN **YOUTH WORK**





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*"The youth now love luxury; they have bad manners, contempt for authority; they allow disrespect for elders and love chatter in places of exercise. They no longer rise when elders enter the room. They contradict their parents, chatter before company, gobble up their food and tyrannize their teachers."*



The well-known Greek philosopher Socrates wrote these words more than two thousand years ago, reflecting a common elder perception that sees youth as a source of problems. Although this is still a valid perception for some, in fact youth in Turkey and around the world are the future of any nation. They are engines of growing economies; they are the most vibrant section of society and constitute the prime driver of change. They have skills and ambitions, vision and energy and they need to be given opportunities to utilize these to the fullest. Only then can a country's future be assured and sustainable.

Indeed, during the one-year preparation process of the 2008 National Human Development Report in Turkey on "**Youth in Turkey**", the researchers of the Report came across many youth groups that worked to increase youth's capabilities and arm them for current and future challenges, thus transforming them into drivers of change.

Although it is not possible to include all these practices, UNDP Turkey would like to take this opportunity to pay tribute to some of these youth projects. UNDP Turkey called for project proposals on youth in mid 2007. The projects were evaluated and selected by youth and development experts as well as officials from UNDP and the European Union Information Centre. Twenty projects that were selected as "best practices" were awarded at the "Best Practices in Youth Work" Award Ceremony organized by UNDP with the support of British Council, in Ankara on 4 October 2007.

We would therefore like to take this opportunity to honour youth NGOs for their continuous devotion to the development projects all over Turkey in combating poverty, lack of quality in education, intolerance towards differences, unemployment, lack of participation and environmental degradation.

As mentioned above, youth projects are too many, too good to include in one short report on youth in Turkey but we are pleased to produce this brochure of "good examples in youth work" along with the 2008 National Human Development Report.

*Mahmood Ayub*

Mahmood Ayub  
UN Resident Coordinator and  
UNDP Representative in Turkey



## AKASYA YOUTH ENVIRONMENT SUMMITS TURKEY ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AND GREENING ORGANISATION (TÜRÇEK)

*"I was not fully aware of the things I could do in relation to my education before I participated in AKASYA Youth and Environment Summits. These events raised my awareness and helped me develop new skills. Thanks to the project, I learned that environmental engineering is not solely about technical engineering, and I realized how important the concept of environmental management is..."*

Mustafa Serkan Bilgin, a student at the department of Environmental Engineering, who first attended AKASYA-2 Summit in 2003, related the experience he gained in those words. **AKASYA SUMMITS** have been organized every year in April since 2002 at the Tuzla Campus of Sabancı University in cooperation with the 'Turkey Environmental Protection & Greening Organisation' within the framework of Sabancı University's 'Civic Involvement Projects'. The main purpose of AKASYA SUMMITS is to join together young individuals engaged in environmental activities within a democratic platform via university clubs, NGOs or individual initiatives. By forming such groups, it is anticipated to compensate the lack of communication among young environmentalists, to create dialogue for the elimination of environmental problems by way of forming strong lobby groups and alliances and to devise solutions.

The project reached out to 1,396 young individuals so far. During the 3-day AKASYA SUMMITS, panels on environmental problems and issues,



*The Akasya Environment Summits bring together NGOs, university clubs and individuals in April every year at a common platform and aim to strengthen the ties between these groups working for the environment.*

small fairs, introduction sessions for the promotion of related NGOs and University Clubs, entertainment activities and workshops are organized. AKASYA SUMMITS have tackled many issues related to environmental problems since their establishment seven years ago. AKASYA has been the first and the most regular environment-youth summit in Turkey. Many young individuals have voluntarily joined the environmentalist non-governmental organizations and supported these summits. AKASYA continues to act as a school for young environmentalists.

For detailed information:  
[www.akasyaplatform.org](http://www.akasyaplatform.org)

## ALTERNATIVE CAMP ALTERNATIVE LIFE ASSOCIATION



*"Since that accident, it was the first time I was going out without the company of my family or my friends. I was apprehensive and lacking in self-confidence. We woke up early in the morning and left the hotel to join the paragliding group. When we reached there, I was told we were some 1400 meters above the ground. Sooner or later it would be my turn to jump. I could hardly believe it; I was dancing with the fish 1400 meters deep in the sea yesterday and today I jumped from an altitude of 1400 meters and was flying in the air despite the fact that I had spinal cord injury..."*

This was Gökhan Ayık's first camp experience. Gökhan said that this experience greatly improved his self-confidence and



*The Alternative Camp project realized by Alternative Life Association is a camp for personal development and socializing. The project aims to spread volunteerism conscience and spirit among youth, eliminate societal exclusion and discrimination and establish an alternative vacation model for different disabled groups.*

that the 'Alternative Camp' was a good opportunity for personal development and socialization. Initiated by 'Alternative Life Association' in 2002, Alternative Camp is organized every year in Muğla, İzmir, Van, Artvin, Sinop, Ordu, Antalya, Kaş, Fethiye and Bodrum.. It aims to spread the sense of volunteerism, to break social isolation and discrimination and to create an alternative model of holiday-making for the disabled and individuals with different needs.

Alternative Camp organises sports activities, workshops, cultural events and trips targeting disabled individuals, chronically ill persons, poor young people and volunteers. This project, based on volunteerism at each and every level, acts almost like a school for the disabled and for volunteerism. The project reached 150 institutions, 4,000 disabled people, 700 volunteers, 300 guests and companions so far. Alternative Camp has been awarded the World Young Entrepreneurs Award, the "Golden Love" Award of the Turkish Presidency and the "Special" Award of the Prime Ministry. The programme continues to open up new windows in the world of young individuals with or without disability, engaging in projects "for a better world".

For detailed information:  
[www.alternativecamp.org](http://www.alternativecamp.org)



## ATAK PROJECT COMMUNITY VOLUNTEERS FOUNDATION (TOG)

*"Volunteerism is a model I have always wished for Turkey.. Without a hesitation, I took action to turn this nice model into a life style with TOG Atak projects and I started spreading the spirit of volunteerism all around me without wasting more time."*

This is how Oya Kaya, an active community volunteer, describes the contribution of **(TOG) ATAK** projects in her personal development. TOG Atak projects are realized by Community Volunteers' organizations in the form of student groups/clubs at universities. Such organizations within the TOG network undertake social responsibility projects to contribute to the solution of issues that cause problems in the environment. The objective of Community Volunteers is to make young individuals more sensitive to the problems of the country and to turn the energy of youth into actual projects via social responsibility projects.

Approximately 40 volunteers, alongside the organization team, have served at the "TOG Atak" projects. Organized all over Turkey, TOG Atak projects included the revamping and maintenance of primary schools, as well as holding workshops, conferences and activities towards raising awareness about the problems of disabled people. One of the TOG Atak projects reached an average of 400 people. The seven TOG Atak projects realized in the year 2007 reached around 2800 people. The projects aimed to eliminate the prejudices in the minds of young people from different parts of Turkey. Moreover, the young people who took part in preparing and realizing the responsibility projects, finding the resources and carrying out the promotion activities achieved personal development. The most important tool of TOG Atak projects is mobilizing young people. Thanks to the project, young people from different universities of Turkey come together around a community service to overcome the intolerances towards differences. Hundreds of young people join together in TOG Atak projects where they both learn about social differences and engage in community services.

For detailed information: [www.tog.org.tr](http://www.tog.org.tr)



*In the context of the Community Volunteers Foundation. ATAK project that organizes itself among student communities and clubs at universities, young people are realizing social responsibility projects in order to contribute to the solutions of issues they see as problems.*

## WALKING ON MOON

### MENEMEN ANATOLIAN VOCATIONAL HIGH-SCHOOL FOR GIRLS

*"I joined the European Union Youth Project named "Walking on Moon" in May 2007 as a team member. I became friends with students and teachers from four different countries and I got to know them and their countries closer. This project enabled me to improve my English, the common language during the project, and I had the opportunity to express myself. I feel that I have developed myself in the social sense throughout this project."*

This is how Hacer Yetik, one of the students of Menemen Anatolian Technical High School and Vocational High School for Girls briefly described the contributions to her personal development of the social and cultural activities within the framework of the **"Walking on Moon"** project. The project "Walking on Moon" was carried out in Izmir in 2006-2007 by the students and teachers of Menemen Anatolian Technical High School and Vocational High School for Girls. The main objective of the project was to contribute to the development of consciousness about art and culture, to bring closely together the students from countries with different cultures, geographies and socio-economic levels and to enable the inter-cultural learning process. The theme of "Walking on the Moon" was to communicate and understand different cultures and young people from different countries, and to get to know one another through art.

"Walking on Moon" was a project which involved students of this school who had limited opportunities and low



*The "Walking on Moon" project developed by Menemen Anatolian Vocational High School aims to join the students of different geographies and socio-economic levels through art and to realize inter-cultural learning.*

socio-economic status. These students gained new perspectives towards life by way of cultural and artistic activities. Theatre, dance, music and inter-cultural communication helped the young people improve their self-confidence. Prejudices and lack of communication between the individuals and countries have been eliminated and the students learned about and accepted different cultures by carrying out joint activities.

For detailed information:  
[www.walkingonthemoon.info](http://www.walkingonthemoon.info)





## 5<sup>th</sup> SENSE ART PROJECT ERİŞİM (ACCESS) ASSOCIATION

*"We, a team of 39 people, staged a performance... We were a unique group, as if we had just disembarked Noah's Ark. Each of us was different from the others and unique. Like those in Noah's Ark, we were the representatives of our own species. We had eleven people with hearing disability, playing Percussion and dancing Salsa; six visually impaired people, dancing the Tango; six crippled people, playing Percussion; and 16 others who were able to hear, see and walk but were "unaware" of what it was like not to be able to hear or see, or walk."*

A young person who participated in the "5<sup>th</sup> Sense Art Project" described the contribution of the project to the personal development of young people with different disabilities in such vivid terms. Realized by 'Erişim Association' between November 2007-July 2008, "5<sup>th</sup> Sense Art Project" aimed to increase equal and fair participation of people having different physical disabilities (like blind, obese, deaf, short, schizophrenic, old and dependent etc. people) in artistic production and to make multi-cultural understanding of physically handicapped people more widespread in the society.

The target group of the project was young people between the ages 16-26 and having different disabilities, as well as people without disabilities who never met disabled people before. The project first scanned the related associations to reach disabled people and then organized introduction meetings, a web site, and various activities like art training, photograph exhibitions and



*The 5<sup>th</sup> Sense Art project that encourages disabled and non-disabled people to produce together formed a show group by training 39 people - of which 23 are disabled – on various dances and rhythms. The group reached 1100 spectators. As a new approach to disabilities, the project, proved that the production of art can be used for socializing.*

gala entertainment. 5th Sense Art Project encouraged people with and without disabilities to be productive together, provided dance and rhythm lessons to a total of 39 people --23 with and 16 without disabilities-- and formed a performance group. This group performed in front of 1100 spectators. The project has proved that artistic production could be used as a means for socialization and it could be a new approach in the field of coping with disabilities.

For detailed information:  
[www.5duyusanat.com](http://www.5duyusanat.com)

## CHILD-ADOLESCENT SOLIDARITY CENTRE ASSOCIATION FOR SOLIDARITY WITH YOUTH DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM



“We children are very happy to be in such a place. Child-Adolescent Solidarity Centre (ÇEDAM) protects us from the harms that may come from outside. There are many good activities at ÇEDAM. We are treating one another nicely and we are sharing even the smallest things with each other. We do love each other. All these could never have happened if it was not for ÇEDAM.”

These words written down by one of the children in the project are a perfect description of the **Child-Adolescent Solidarity Centre's** (ÇEDAM) project. Realized in Ankara during October 2005 - December 2006, the “Child-Adolescent Solidarity Project” was continued from January 2007 by using its own resources and with the support of the volunteers. This project aims to enable active and

productive participation of children under the risk of committing crime, to include them in social life and to prevent them from getting into conflict with the laws.

The target group of the Child-Adolescent Solidarity Centre are those children who frequently come into contact with law enforcement agencies, children pending trial, or those who are under custody or recently released, and children who are generally under risk. The target group of the ÇEDAM project was initially 100 children, however over 200 have participated in the trainings, cultural, social and sportive activities so far and 60 children and their families have been supported by the psychological support activities. 22 training programs, participated by an average of 15 people each, have been organized; 450 children and 125 families participated in the trainings held in eight schools and on three different topics. ÇEDAM both directs voluntary activities and provides consultancy services and trainings to those children, young people under risk and their families and conducts a programme including protective, preventive and treatment activities.

For detailed information:  
[www.ozgeder.org.tr](http://www.ozgeder.org.tr)



*Child, Adolescent Solidarity Centre project aims to integrate children that are under the risk of edging towards crime into societal life in a more active and productive way through sports activities and to prevent them from conflicting with the laws.*



## NATURE SCHOOL NATURE ASSOCIATION

*Baver Alyakut, a graduate of Nature School said: "Nature School of the Nature Association has taught us that our differences are our richness...It has helped us change our perception of "being natural", the meaning of which was made rather empty before". Baver added that "Nature School let me regain myself for myself and for the nature, and strengthened my ties with life. In a way it was like a recycle bin for humans!"*

Aware of the necessity for young people who would tackle the problems and find solutions in the field of nature protection in Turkey at the right time and place, Nature Association has organized three **Nature School** training programmes since 2005, in Samsun, İzmir, Birecik-Şanlıurfa, twice in Datça-Muğla, Van,



*The Nature School project organized by the Nature Association for the past three years aims to train youth who wish to take an active role in nature protection activities in Turkey on nature preservation techniques and to establish a human resource that has been trained in this field thus actively protecting Turkey's 305 Important Nature Areas.*

Azdavay-Kastamonu and three times in Yusufeli-Artvin, Posof-Ardahan and Artvin. The project was initiated with the slogan "We are Learning...Sharing...Practicing", and it aims to create quality human resources in this field by training young people devoted to nature protection activities in protection techniques, who will thus effectively contribute to protecting the 305 Important Natural Sites of Turkey.

Nature School is involved in the fields of basic ecology, basic biological diversity, biological diversity related issues of Turkey; making problem analysis and devising recommendations for solutions in relation to the basics of nature protection and important fields of nature; carrying out theoretical and practical implementations on sustainable nature protection and project examples in Turkey and in the world. 43 young people have participated in three Nature School implementations up to now. Every participant reached out to people around him/herself and recommended them to support nature protection related activities. Most of the graduates are using the information gained at the Nature School in the national and local non-governmental organizations or shaping their own training programmes in the light of such information.

For detailed information:  
[www.dogadernegi.org/index.php?sayfa=doga-okulu](http://www.dogadernegi.org/index.php?sayfa=doga-okulu)

## EDUCATIONAL, SOCIAL, ARTISTIC AND SPORTIVE ACTIVITIES PROJECT "FREEDOM BACK TO CHILDREN" FOUNDATION OF TURKEY



*"Whatever happens in life, we have to keep on trying. You can never have anything if you do not try, can you? You say 'we loved you'. Please believe that we also loved you very much and we got used to seeing you. You can help us have better days in the future. You are the first to make us smile inside these four walls. We will never forget you. We extend our deepest gratitude to each and every one of you."*

This paragraph was written by one of the convicted children in A-4 ward in prison and it demonstrates that the objectives of the **"Educational, Social, Artistic, and Sportive Activities Project"** did not remain solely on paper. The project was realized in Ankara and İstanbul between October 2006-June 2007 with the purpose of preventing the negative impacts of detention and conviction on these children's development and carried out under the supervision of the Ministry of Justice.

This project was implemented in İstanbul Bayrampaşa H Type Special Juvenile Detention House and Ankara Juvenile and Adolescents Closed Penitentiary Institution. The project included literature, painting, creative works, music, rhythm, photography, drama and ceramic workshops, group activity, sports activities, cinema etc. The project reached 50 volunteers, 300 children in three wards in İstanbul Bayrampaşa Juvenile Detention House and 400 children in 12 wards in Ankara. Thanks to the project, resources for carrying out treatment needed in juvenile penitentiary



*The Educational, Social, Artistic and Sports Activities project targets imprisoned children in İstanbul and Ankara and who are under the surveillance of the Ministry of Justice and works to prevent that their imprisonment duration does not negatively affect their personal development. In this context, workshops on literature, art, music, rhythm, photograph, theater and ceramics as well as group plays, sports activities and movie projections were realized.*

institutions and for shaping renewable and sustainable activity packages within the "juvenile justice system" in Turkey were raised and coordination with the private and non-governmental organizations was established. Moreover the children released from the prisons were supported in their return to free life.

For detailed information:

[www.tcyov.org/index.asp](http://www.tcyov.org/index.asp)



## HAND IN HAND TOWARDS LOVE HAND IN HAND FOR YOUTH

*"In the assessment meeting, the young people being protected and cared for in youth homes who participated in the "Hand in Hand towards Love" project said: "The project made us feel ourselves valuable."*

This result coming out of the project assessment meeting reveals that the project **"Hand in Hand towards Love"** achieved its objective. The project which was realized in Ankara between 1 July-30 September by the "Hand in Hand for Youth Group" aimed to contribute to the social and cultural integration of the orphans between the ages 15-25 living in Social Services and Child Protection Organizations (SHÇEK), as well as young people living with their families, helping them overcome the feeling of social isolation in youth homes by using the philosophy of scouts training and through integrating them with the society as productive individuals.

The project reached 146 young people in 2006 who gained information on consciousness, responsibilities and duties, and about different cultures and values. Some of the trainings provided to the children were: camp training, search and rescue and first aid, AIDS and contagious diseases; solidarity against racism, alcohol and drug abuse, European Union and Youth, health knowledge, various sports trainings. A survey was conducted at the end of the project to assess the results. A promotion CD and booklet were prepared for the project. An association named "Touch of Love: Scouting and Youth Club" was established. Similar projects and



*The "Hand in Hand Towards Love" project implemented in Ankara by the Hand in Hand for Youth Group aims to socially and culturally join orphans aged 15-25 who live in the institutions of the Social Services and Child Protection Agency with youth who live with their families and to eliminate the feeling of social exclusion of lone children thus integrating them to the society as good people.*

practices were undertaken in homes and institutions affiliated to the Social Services and Child Protection Organization. Thanks to the project "Hand in Hand towards Love", the idea was communicated that "each young individual could achieve success if granted the opportunity".

## YOUTH ASSEMBLIES PROJECT YOUTH FOR HABITAT



*"I have experienced more than I have ever expected both in terms of my own personal development and at the local and national levels during my journey which started with the local Youth Assemblies Project seven years ago. I have so many hopes to realize in the future and I know that hope is a never ending cure, a never ending power for us, the youth..."*

Mehmet Sarica, representative of Adana Youth Assembly, believes that the project enables the youth in Turkey to take great steps on the path to achieving a more democratic state. As per the decision of the Council of Ministers, the 'Local Agenda 21 Programme' in Turkey is being carried out by the General Directorate of Financial Administrations of the Ministry of Interior, State Planning Organization (DPT), United Nations Development Program, United Cities and Local Governments, Middle East and Western Asia Regional Organization, Union of Chambers and Commodity Exchanges of Turkey and the Municipalities of 63 provinces. The Habitat for Youth Programme assumed the coordination of the youth activities within the scope of the programme.

Within the framework of the program activities, **Civil Youth Assemblies** in 73 cities and 35 Youth Centres were established. LA-21 Youth Assemblies established independently in 73 cities, formed the LA-21 National Youth Parliament communication network in 2004 under the facilitation provided by the Youth for Habitat Association. The

Local Youth Assemblies are represented by members in the LA-21 National Youth Parliament in numbers depending on the population of the cities. LA-21 National Youth Parliament is a democratic platform participated by civilians, deriving its power from the local youth platforms for identification, preparation and effective implementation of the youth policies and programmes. LA-21 National Youth Parliament has made valuable contributions to the establishment of a national youth policy, with the campaign entitled "I am 25 years old – I want to be elected" and to the promotion activities relating to Article 76 of the Regulation on City Councils of the Municipality Law.

For detailed information:  
[www.youthforhab.org.tr](http://www.youthforhab.org.tr)  
[www.habitaticingenclik.org.tr](http://www.habitaticingenclik.org.tr)



*Through the youth assemblies established in the context of the Youth Assemblies project, young people are becoming a part of decision-making mechanisms and are taking important steps for Turkey's democratization.*



## 'SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT OF YOUTH' PROJECT YOUTH AND SPORTS FOUNDATION

*"Life is a process and we have been experiencing developments within this process as the architects of our personality. We have been concentrating on mistakes and we often miss the important points. However, our aim in life has constantly occupied our minds. I have realized that I am not alone in this journey which I started with the flame of youth. It has been an honour and responsibility to bear this torch and shed light on youth just like all of US. "*

This is how Ömer Fatih Hoş from Giresun Youth Centre has summarized the contribution of the **Youth Social Development Project** to his own personal development. Youth Social Development Programme was prepared with the grants allocated by the Japanese Government, within the scope of Japanese Social Development Fund to be used in the field of youth and mediated by the World

Bank. It started in 2006 and activities have been ongoing in the Youth Centres in 81 provinces and 53 sub-provinces. The project, which has been conducted for two years, will be completed by 2009. It aims to provide the harmonization of young people in Turkey in the social, economic and political life, to increase social integration and offer opportunities for young people to be included in the society and shape their own futures.

The target group of the project are young people between 15-30 years of age. The activities are carried out under four headings: "Participation of Youth and Authorization", "Youth Employment Initiatives", "Youth Culture Bridges" and "Youth Policies". Through this project, the capacity of the Non Governmental Organizations and Youth Centres working in the field of youth in the regions where the opportunities of the young people are limited, has been increased. In the past 1,5 years, the project reached 10,000 people directly. The main contribution of the project in which 500 volunteers have actively worked has been to increase employment with volunteerism. Moreover, the steps taken for improving capability in terms of creating joint projects between young people and the European Union and the steps taken for establishing youth policies have been an important part of the social development component.

For detailed information:  
[www.gsgp.org.tr](http://www.gsgp.org.tr)



*The Youth Social Development Project aims to ensure the harmony of youth in Turkey with social, economic and political life thus integrating them to the society and provides youth with opportunities that will enable them to shape their future.*



*"At the very beginning I thought that this project was based on cooperation between institutions providing service for young people. However as a young person I realized that it was much more than that. Above all, I learned how to analyze the youth field at the national and international levels in Turkey. As a young person, what can I do to take part actively in social life, what are my rights and opportunities, to what extent can I realize my expectations and needs, what do the young people in other countries do or what is done for them... As a young person I am much more enthusiastic and courageous to carry out my responsibility in topics related to all young people and myself, because I am aware of everything!"*

This is how Bihter Dağlar, one of the participants of the project, has described the contribution of **"Youth NGOs and Public Synchronization Project"** to her personal development by providing the facilities and motivation required by her in the field of "Civil Society". The policies focusing on young people are not generally supported by laws in Turkey, where the great majority of the population is composed of young people. As a result there are gaps in preparing holistic policies for the young people. In order to eliminate these gaps, there is a need for cooperation and coordination between Youth NGOs and Public Institutions. Based on this requirement, "Youth NGOs and Public Synchronization Project" has been prepared by the partnership of GSM-Youth Services Centre, Ankara University-European Community Research and Implementation Centre (ATAUM) and Turkish Youth Union and General Directorate of Youth and Sports, Head of Department of Youth Services; and it has three phases, namely: Information



*Basing its starting point on the fact that youth policies are lacking as they are not supported by laws, the Youth NGOs and Public Coordination Project is working to initiate a cooperation and communication among parties and contributes to the process of establishing a holistic youth policy in Turkey.*

Meetings, Workshops and Study Visits.

The cooperation and communication between Youth Non Governmental Organizations and Public Institutions are very important in terms of helping the youth policies in gaining institutional identity and integrity. "Youth NGOs and Public Synchronization Project" has contributed to the beginning of cooperation and communication between the parties and to the creation of a holistic youth policy in Turkey.

For detailed information:  
[www.gsm-youth.org/turkce/index.html](http://www.gsm-youth.org/turkce/index.html)



## YOUTH NET PROJECT ARI MOVEMENT

*"Without ARI Movement's and Youth NET's motivation and its platform that helped me in transferring my ideas, I wouldn't be able to lead the project in my city which is now being carried out with a dynamic campaign aiming to promote communication between disconnected youth groups."*

Young economist Sait Baştürk, who decided to be a civil society activist in 2001, made the above statement to explain the **Youth NET Project** and added that he believed the young people have the chance to affect the political, social and economic future of Turkey. Youth NET is a civil society initiative, focusing on the potential of youth and aiming to promote social participation. The project has been created by making use of the questionnaire prepared by ARI Movement and International Republican Institute and filled out by 1,200 young people. According to the research, Turkish youth have been identified as having lost hope, are inactive but conscious, intellectual, sensitive to national developments, responsible and righteous. The research also stated that the capacity of the youth is restricted by the "iron triangle", i.e. the family, school and system; and youth are raised in a restrictive manner.

Youth NET programme is composed of three parts; a) Local search meetings throughout the year (nearly 15,000 people were reached in 8 years), b) National conferences called "Participate and Create your Future" held in Istanbul in May each year (with the participation of nearly 7,000 young people in 8 years),



*The Youth NET Project that has been a long-lasting programme in Turkey celebrated its 9th anniversary in 2008. The project, establishes a platform through national conferences and a website for youth who wish to develop projects on youth related issues.*

c) [www.genchnet.org](http://www.genchnet.org) website. Young people can share their projects on the internet and play important roles in projects related to Turkish youth. For example, "Age-25 Project" which aims to reduce the age to be elected as a parliamentarian to 25 years has been one of these projects. Youth Net has organized more than 100 local conferences in every part of Turkey. The Project is in its 9th year in 2008. It has been one of the longest-run youth projects in Turkey. The participants have become valuable public administrators, academics, press members and entrepreneurs. Currently, many young people guided by this programme participate in local and international conferences.

For detailed information: [www.ari.org.tr](http://www.ari.org.tr)

## SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH FOR YOUNG PEOPLE AT HIGH SCHOOL AGE IN ARDAHAN



*“Here in Ardahan, we performed a play on reproductive health and contagious diseases in our school under the “Project for Sexual and Reproductive Health for Young People at High School Age in Ardahan” conducted by International Blue Crescent Relief and Development Foundation. I played the virus named ‘Disastrous HIV’. It was difficult for me at the beginning, but being listened to as an individual, informing our friends on our play and learning all the contagious diseases without getting bored turned out to be incredibly enjoyable...”*

A student of ‘Ardahan Vocational School of Health’ expresses her opinion about how a play can be an effective educational tool among young people, thanks to this project she participated in. The **“Project for Sexual and Reproductive Health**

**for Youth”**, organized by International Federation of The Blue Crescent, has been implemented in Ardahan, one of Turkey’s eastern cities, between 9 March 2006-9 June 2007. The aim of the project was to contribute to the improvement of the sexual and reproductive health condition of the young population in Turkey.

Throughout the project, health teams were established in 19 high schools in the province capital and districts of Ardahan such as Posof, Çıldır, Göle, Hanak and Damal. 14 peer education programmes and 20 information seminars with the participation of 3,000 students were organized. A “Peer Education on Sexual and Reproductive Health Booklet” was prepared by the specialists of this field. 4,200 copies of this booklet were printed and distributed. Seven theatre clubs of high schools in the capital and districts of Ardahan prepared plays within the scope of the project and these reached 3,200 students, having been played 15 times during the project. In addition, 4,200 copies of the book entitled “Yadigar” (Memento) were printed and distributed, and the messages of the project were conveyed to the youth in a unique manner. At the end of the project, the young people realized that what they had been going through in the period of reaching puberty was normal, and they became more informed individuals. The project was designed in a way that it can be applied in all schools and groups with some modifications, and had the capacity to set an example for other institutions and agencies.



*In the context of the Sexual and Reproductive Health project for Young People at High School Age in Ardahan that was realized in one of Turkey’s eastern provinces Ardahan, plays were organized, training were given and booklets were distributed in order to ameliorate young population’s sexual and reproductive health. Through the project, youth’s conscience on adolescence was enhanced.*

For detailed information: [www.abc.org.tr](http://www.abc.org.tr)



## LEARNING HOUSES

### BEYAZ NOKTA DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION

*"In 2004, I wasn't very successful at school. I was lacking in self-confidence. I was having serious problems with getting motivated. I took the first step to regain my self-confidence by attending The Personal Development Platform (KiGeP) in the 'Learning House'. KiGeP convinced me completely to look for the real power in myself. With this conviction, I learned to pass through the doors of my future without fear. Now I'm in the profession which I always dreamed of, and trying to find out how I can be helpful to other people, in the field of science."*

Aybike Özçetin, who benefited from the **"Learning Houses Project"** conducted by Beyaz Nokta, briefly explains the project's contribution to her personal development. She is now a research assistant and a doctorate student at Marburg University, Germany, and studying the development



*Youth who participate in the Learning Houses Project become more conscious and self-confident as a result of trainings and implementations given on standing on one's own legs as well as finding jobs, starting jobs, creating additional income, making savings and protecting their current jobs.*

of gene treatment techniques for lung cancer and lung diseases. She says "the Learning Houses helped me make my dreams come true. Now I hope I can help other people with publications and patents that I will produce".

The programme was initiated in Ankara and applied in Istanbul, Aksaray and İzmir. It is still being carried out in İzmir. Until now, nearly 1,500 young people participated in approximately 50 programmes which are being conducted among a new group nearly every month. Along with the activities on the internet such as e-bulletins, e-mail groups, mentors and moderators communication groups and websites, symposiums were organized in such topics as the "Market of Information", "Right Questions Conference", "Standing on One's Own Feet through Knowledge", etc. Since the beginning, 10,000 young people have been reached in four years. The participating young people can stand on their own feet, realize their objectives or at least make a move as a result of the trainings and practices on how to find jobs, set up a business, gain additional income, make savings and keep their existing jobs.

For detailed information:

[www.beyaznokta.org.tr](http://www.beyaznokta.org.tr)

Project addresses:

[www.ogrenme-evi.org.tr](http://www.ogrenme-evi.org.tr)

[www.kigep.org.tr](http://www.kigep.org.tr)

## ÖSS (UNIVERSITY ENTRANCE EXAM) TRAINING PROJECTS BOSPHORUS UNIVERSITY SOCIAL SERVICES CLUB



*“ÖSS Training Project was the most important key to open the door to my future. I got more enthusiasm seeing my university graduate teachers. I also could pass the exam and someday help those people subjected to inequalities of opportunity with a project like this. First I realized that college wasn't just a dream and what civil society and civic involvement meant. For this I thank all my teachers who have contributed to this project.”*

Fadime Bilir, who received training at “6<sup>th</sup> ÖSS Training Project” is now a successful student in Dokuz Eylül University, Department of Classroom Teaching. This project is the product of Bosphorus University Social Services Club (BUSOS) whose aim is to minimize the inequalities of opportunity for the senior high school students who can not take special courses because of inadequate financial means. In this project, students from Boğaziçi (Bosphorus) University give courses of ÖSS (university entrance exam) curriculum to senior students from high schools and also act as a role model for them. Besides education activities, another good aspect of this project is the personal development courses for both the students and the instructors. These courses primarily include Democracy and Rights, Reproductive Health, NLP, Dealing with the Fear of Exams, Classroom Management and Communication with Adolescents.

The number of direct beneficiaries of ÖSS Training Projects is 279, while the number of indirect beneficiaries is 3,500. 27 out of



*Students of Boğaziçi University Social Services Club are giving courses to high-school students who can not afford to take private courses and are preparing them for the university entrance exam.*

41 students in this project have gained the right to apply to the universities for associate degree or undergraduate programmes. And most importantly, they got rid of their fears of ÖSS exams. The developers of the project compensated for a big deficiency in education and social development, and gained new ideas for new projects.

For detailed information: [www.busos.org](http://www.busos.org)



## "RUMKALE, YOU ARE NO LONGER ALONE!" PRIVATE SANKO SCHOOLS

*"It was great to have the excellent location of Rumkale as a project. We always wanted everyone to see it. Thanks to this project we could demonstrate our sensitivity towards our history, improved our historical consciousness and became an example for our friends. In the future, we will carry the pride of having done something to pay respect for our history, and now we know that Rumkale is no longer alone."*

Bahar Koçer, a student from Private Sanko Schools, explains the positive effects of "Rumkale, You are No Longer Alone" project on the environment in which she lives. This project was developed by the students of Gaziantep Private Sanko Schools, under the leadership of their teachers. It was initiated in 2004 and still continues. The project is aimed at creating historical consciousness in every school student through research; analyzing the history, architecture, art, religion, social and geographical structure of Rumkale; attracting the attention of NGOs, the mayor and the municipalities and encouraging them to protect and publicise Rumkale; and ensuring that Rumkale is addressed as a whole with its historical values.

Throughout the project, visits to Rumkale were organized, resources on Rumkale were searched, and a booklet containing a wide range information on this topic was produced using these resources. The main activity area was "solving the problem of access to Rumkale", and under this topic, suggestions for solutions and cooperation was developed addressing the transportation problem. All these



*The "Rumkale – No Longer Alone" project initiated by the Private Sanko Schools in 2004 and that is still being implemented aims to ensure the establishment of the history conscience via evaluations in all schools of Gaziantep, southern Turkey, to inspect the history, architecture, artistic approach, social, religious and physical structure of Rumkale and to draw the attention of NGOs, the governorate and municipalities for its preservation and presentation.*

activities were conducted by the "Silent History Team" which consisted of students, teachers and volunteers. The project reached out to other schools and local residents of Gaziantep through publicity and information materials. The larger target group of the project was determined as 2 million people. Rumkale project continues to create consciousness for the protection of historical and cultural values in the society beginning with young people.

For detailed information:  
[www.sanko.k12.tr](http://www.sanko.k12.tr) [www.rumkale.org](http://www.rumkale.org)

## STREET LEAGUE SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY ASSOCIATION



*"I used to think that life was just about fighting and having money. Here I discovered the most beautiful part of life. The Street League Team brought me here and they treated me only with love. I was a challenge for them, perhaps I created problems. But even though they did not hold any responsibility over me, I only found love here. I've never experienced these feelings before, even within my family. Thank you Street League."*

Orhan K. explains the contribution of the **"Street League Project"** organized by the 'Social Responsibility Association' to his personal development with these words. The Street League Institution in England is taken as a model for this project which is being carried out by The Social Responsibility Association in 15 cities, including Antalya, Bursa, Diyarbakır, Gaziantep, Kayseri, İstanbul, İzmir, Karaman, Konya, Uşak, Erzincan, Trabzon and Tekirdağ. Street League Project is a training programme that supports, through sports, the personal development of young people who can not find an opportunity to participate in a sports activity, who have limited access to sports, whose physical, psychological and social development are under risk and who are disadvantaged due to their status. The programme tries to give them a chance to live in harmony with the society.

In 2007, 15 cities, 63 teams, 1,003 young people and hundreds of volunteers participated in the Street League Project, which operates with the principle of making sports a positive experience for everyone

and establishing a connection between sports and social development. Turkish Grand National Assembly Commission for Investigating the Conditions of Street Children, Ministry of the Interior General Directorate of Provincial Administrations, Ministry of Education General Directorate of In-school Physical Education, Sports and Scouting Department, General Directorate of Social Services and Child Protection Agency, General Directorate of Youth and Sports, Turkish Football Federation, Turkish Red Crescent Association Department of Youth and Voluntary Organizations, British Council and Social Responsibility Association are the institutions that support this project.

For detailed information:  
[www.sokakligi.org](http://www.sokakligi.org)



*The "Street League" project implemented by the Social Responsibility Association in Turkey's 15 provinces for youth who do not have the means to be part of a country-wide sports project, whose access to sports is restricted, whose physical, psychological and social development is under risk is a training programme that supports youth in their personal development through football and ensures them to live harmoniously with the society.*



## TURKISH – GREEK CIVIC DIALOGUE EUROPEAN STUDENT FORUM (AEGEE)

*“Thanks to this project, lots of people have had the chance to see Turkey from an outsider’s point of view. Perhaps in the future, the participants will organize projects with Greek NGOs, become policy makers and make great contributions to the peace and stability in the region.”*

Bilgecan Köksal, a participant of the **“Turkish-Greek Dialogue Project”**, explains the contribution that this bridge of peace between Turkish and Greek youths and NGOs can bring for the solution of international conflicts. The Turkish-Greek Dialogue Project was prepared by AEGEE Ankara, addressing the lack of communication between the youth and youth organizations in Greece and Turkey, and carried out in Fethiye, Kayaköy, Sakarya, Muğla, İstanbul, Ankara and Nea Makri, Athens between the years 2003 and 2007.



*The “Turkish-Greek Civil Dialogue Project” developed by the European Student Forum (AEGEE) Ankara on based on the lack of communication among youth and youth organizations in Greece brings together Turkish and Greek youth and encourages them to develop joint projects.*

Four main activities were conducted during the project. The conference titled “Rebuilding Communication” and held in Sakarya on 20-23 March, was the inception of the process. The youth and culture festival “KayaFest” was organized in Fethiye-Kayaköy during 28 July–2 August 2003 with the participation of several NGOs and 3,000 young people. In 7-8 November 2003, The Symposium on Population Exchange was held in İstanbul with 250 participants, with the partnership of The Foundation of Lausanne Treaty Immigrants. The last activity of the project was the Final Conference held in Ankara with 80 participants. A project Outcome booklet was published, KayaFest documentary film was produced and a photography exhibition was organized within the framework of the programme. The project, which reached 20,000 indirect project partners including youth and student networks in Europe, citizens and municipalities, reminded the participants that they were, above all, humans, beyond being Turkish or Greek. In addition, the young people who met during the fair of Civil Society Organizations in KayaFest found the opportunity to develop projects together.

For detailed information:  
[www.aegee-ankara.org](http://www.aegee-ankara.org)

## KEMALIYE INTERNATIONAL NATURE RELATED SPORTS FESTIVAL KEMALIYE CULTURE AND DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATION



"Nature sports and environment have become a way of life for me. 'Kemaliye Eğin Nature Sports Festival' has brought many changes to the lives of my friends and mine. For years I just stared at the mountains. Fırat River was flowing in vain. The impassable mountain paths were waiting for the young to conquer and we didn't realize that. I now get to know the environment, natural life, wild life, flowers, insects and many universal values thanks to these nature sports festivals. I wanted to run away from Kemaliye but now I love it more than ever."

The impressions of a young person from Kemaliye, who took active role in this project, reflect the contributions of this project in his life and personal development. **The International Nature Sports Festival** has been organized by Kemaliye Culture and Development Association in Erzincan since 2005. The project's aim is to help the young develop their sense of self while doing nature sports; direct them towards a healthy body and positive thinking, develop an inter-cultural communication among them; create job opportunities for them in the field of tourism and prepare the environment for the sustainable development of Kemaliye.

The project is developed and participated by young people, including the preparation process. It is especially for the 7-15 age group, who are inspired by camping, scouting, kite flying, trekking, love of nature and environmental consciousness. The project also includes trainings for young people who will act



*The "Kemaliye International Nature Related Sports Festival" organized since 2005 by the Kemaliye Culture and Development Foundation in the Kemaliye town of Erzincan, eastern Turkey, aims to direct youth to a healthier physical and positive thinking structure, to develop their individualism while realizing nature related sports, to ensure inter-cultural communication among youth and to employ youth in Kemaliye in the tourism sector.*

as leader rock climbers and for river sports such as rafting, canoeing and skiing and mountain cycling. Young people from all around the world have joined the volunteer team in the festivals organized in the last two years. The young people were enabled to take responsibilities in the decision-making and implementation processes of the festival and this contributed to their social and personal development. Thanks to the international dimension of the Nature Sports Festival, the young residents in Kemaliye were encouraged to learn foreign languages.

For detailed information:  
[www.kemav.org.tr](http://www.kemav.org.tr)







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