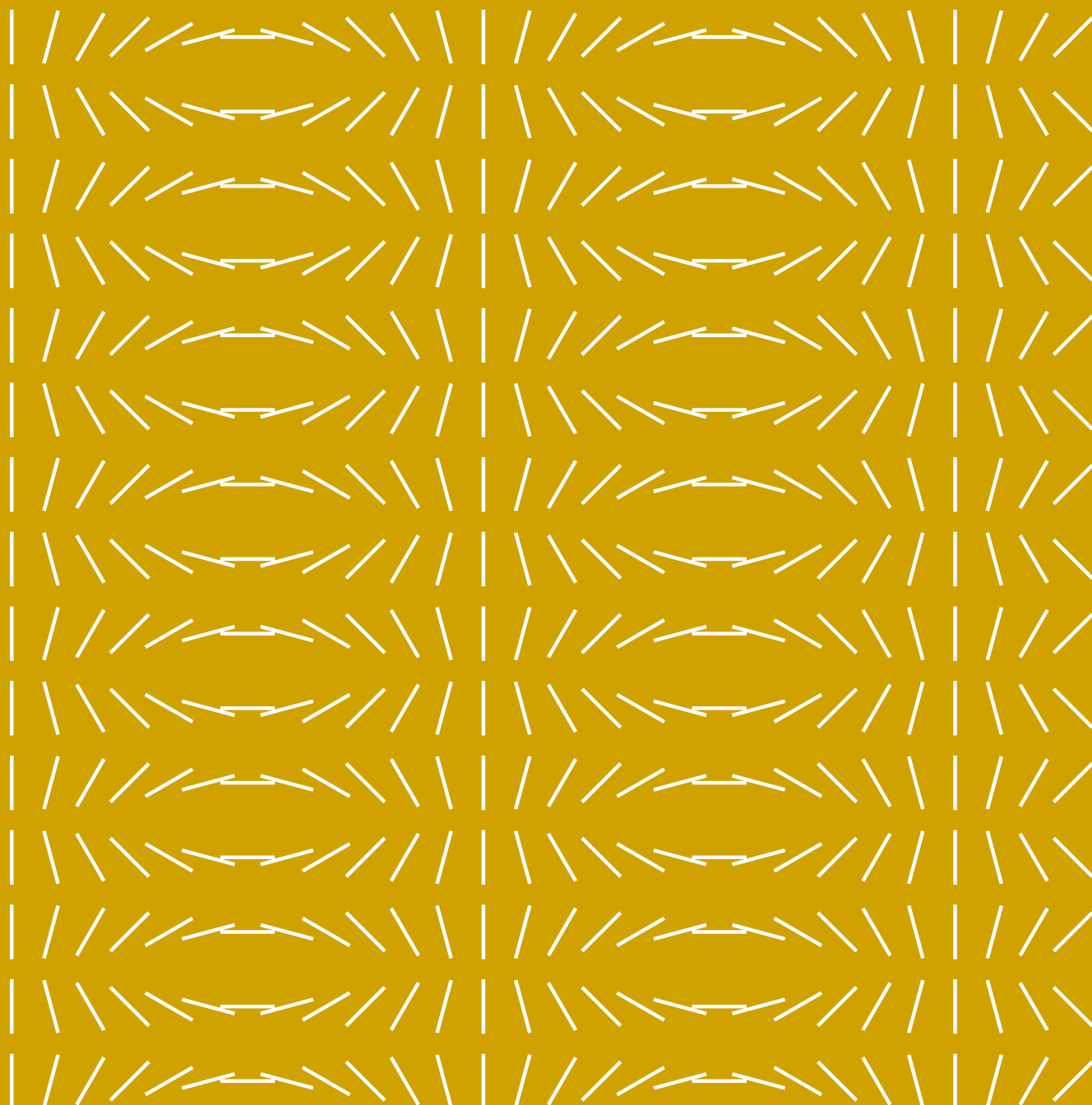


Youth and Participatory Projects in Turkey

Version 2018
Written by Eylem Ertürk



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Version 2018

In 2011, SICA (the predecessor of DutchCulture) produced a comprehensive mapping of the Turkish cultural field. This mapping was written by local experts and edited by Teike Asselbergs and Chantal Hamelinck. The mapping was produced as a means to promote cultural exchange between the Netherlands and Turkey and as a starting point of the year 2012, which marked 400 years of Dutch – Turkish diplomatic relations. The mapping was supported and produced in close co-operation with the Dutch public funds.

An update of these mappings was commissioned in 2018 by DutchCulture while working with the same editors. The existing mappings were revised and several new mappings were added. The updated mappings are focusing more on giving Dutch cultural practitioners an insight into the Turkish cultural field and its infrastructure, and helping them get in contact with colleagues.

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I Summary

Youth has both been a priority and a risk group in the modern history of Turkey. The young population (15-24 years old) constituted 16% of the total population in 2017 and is projected to decrease in the next 20 years. There are many public and civic organisations and projects for youth, but no comprehensive policies which are required to ensure that the country has a healthy, educated and skilled society in the future. While young people struggle to create their own world, they also try to understand the present and develop the potential of transforming the future. Recognising this potential, since the beginning of the 2000s, governmental and non-governmental organisations – including associations, foundations, university clubs, initiatives, youth councils – as well as corporations have realised some participatory projects for youth in Turkey. The aim of these projects has been to increase the participation of youth in economic, cultural, social and political life. But this has not measured up yet.

Most of the existing youth projects in Turkey have the aim of integrating young people in society and increasing their participation in social life. However, youth should also be supported to develop themselves into strong and productive individuals. In other words, young people need more support in their search, creation and production processes without considering primarily their impact on society. Youth experience difficulties in finding platforms where they can express themselves. Therefore, projects should focus on the possibilities of creating such platforms, with young people being the main focus in any project developed for the local community. Projects targeting youth should empower and inspire, creating self-confidence in these young people.

Another important point is about the unemployment rate among the young population. Although there are some state universities where the costs of education are lower, the exam that is required to have a right to be educated is very difficult to pass with sufficient marks and needs a very concentrated preparation period (usually involving extra private lessons after school, which is very costly, putting youth from poor families at a disadvantage). Students may not have the possibility to be educated at a university or department of their preference as a result of this exam, or may not be able to find a job after finishing university or school because the labour market is extremely competitive. Many others do not even have the chance to go to university due to poverty and early entry in the labour market. There are a lot of opportunities to develop projects with youth from lower socio-economic groups because they are open to and interested in expressing themselves by means of culture. Especially



youth who have few avenues open for them to develop, need support from cultural actors to find ways to express themselves and gain self-confidence. Cultural projects can help these young people develop social and cultural skills that can expand their choices in life. In short, cultural projects including non-formal training opportunities in mixed environments focusing on culture with an interdisciplinary approach could be life changing for many young people.

The mainstream youth work in Turkey is mainly boiled down to commercial projects, mobility and exchange projects and education with a focus on career development, either at a national or international level. Although youth has been a working field for a long time, it is not easy to talk about a consistent and long-term youth policy in Turkey. It is hard to find widespread practices and policies of participation for disadvantaged youth in terms of ethnic identity, migration and gender. Any kind of youth work and participatory project needs to be based on the recognition of youth as a heterogeneous group with different participatory behaviours, needs and priorities. Either centres or projects should focus on the empowerment of disadvantaged youth, including but not limited to support for participation in social decision-making processes, opportunities for self-development and becoming independent individuals, opening platforms to accomplish their dreams and desires, and not only focusing on their immediate transition to the labour market but valuing their creativity and potentials.

Youth tend to feel better and participate more in social life if there are enough public spaces and cultural facilities as well as active civil society organisations available in their city. Participation of youth in the cultural, social and political life, as well as volunteering, has not measured up yet in Turkey. So it is still important to support local platforms and public spaces that encourage youth participation in cultural activities as well as active involvement in social processes, especially in smaller and neglected or underdeveloped cities in Turkey.

Introduction

1

Turkish Statistical Institute (TurkStat), Youth in Statistics 2017 Results of Address Based Population Registration System (ABPRS) <http://www.turkstat.gov.tr/HbPrint.do?id=27598>

2

Turkish Statistical Institute (TurkStat), Median age by years and sex, 1935-2017, Population by Years, Age Group and Sex, Census of Population – ABPRS <http://www.turkstat.gov.tr/UstMenu.do?metod=temelist>

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Eurostat, Population structure and aging http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php/Population_structure_and_ageing#Median_age_is_highest_in_Germany_and_Italy

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Türkiye’de Genç İşsizliği (Youth Unemployment in Turkey), Nurhan Yentürk, bianet, 2008 <https://bianet.org/bianet/ekonomi/107048-turkiye-de-genc-issizligi>

5

Türkiye’de Gençlik Çalışmaları Rehberi (Handbook for Youth Work in Turkey), 5N-3K Yol Haritası, Es-kişehir Tepebaşı Belediyesi Gençlik Merkezleri, 2018

6

Youth in Turkey, Human Development Report UNDP, 2008 http://hdr.undp.org/sites/default/files/turkey_2008_nhdr_en.pdf

In 2017, the young population in the age group of 15-24 years was 12.9 million and constituted 16.1% of the total population in Turkey. According to population projections, this is foreseen to decrease to 13.4% in 2040.¹ The median age of Turkey’s young population rose from 29.2 years in 2010 to 31.7 years in 2017.² Half of Turkey’s population is under the age of 31.7, which is lower than the median age of 42.8 in EU member states.³

In Turkey, youth aged between 15 and 24 years face substantial problems, the most important of which are poverty, lack of education and social exclusion. These are a result of many different factors, and cannot be explained only by a lack of individual capacity and motivation, or overcome by increasing youth employment. Young people face conditions of limited domestic and public living spaces, lack of an understanding of different cultures and identities, and limited facilities to develop themselves, or socialise and spend time outside of school and family. Youth do not participate enough in social life before they are adults.⁴

The participation of youth is evaluated as the active participation in different aspects of life and the decision-making processes at social, political and economic levels⁵, as well as in the production and consumption of arts and culture. According to a United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) report on Youth in Turkey in 2008, Turkey should have focused on developing comprehensive policies for youth to ensure that the country has a healthy, educated and skilled society to face the challenges of the next 15 years and beyond. The report warned that if this opportunity were to be mismanaged, unemployment, poverty and social unrest may lie ahead.⁶

Looking at the situation now, 10 years later, the unemployment rate of the young population has not decreased, and lies at 20.8% in 2017.⁷ Although the schooling rate has been increasing, especially for women, this didn't necessarily result in an increase in employment. In EU countries, an increase in the level of education paves the way to a decrease in unemployment⁸; however, it works the opposite way in Turkey.⁹ One of the reasons is the discrepancy between the education and skill set of the youth labour force and the demands of employers.¹⁰ Another reason is the lack of policies and intermediary institutions especially focusing on youth to enable a smooth transition from education to the labour market.

Most youth projects supported by the private sector focus on youth as a market. According to Youth Republic¹¹, children in Turkey have an influence on the decisions in the household about what is bought and therefore may indirectly help to create an increase in sales (which is relevant for fashion and design). Around 90% of university students do not work but get financial support from their families. In 2012, the allowance – pocket money for youth between the ages of 15 and 25 – was 101 billion lira and amounted to 6% of the GDP of Turkey. Brands focusing on youth try to reach young people by sponsoring festivals, especially music festivals, in general or at universities.

Unfortunately, students and youth that are not part of higher socio-economic groups are of no interest to commercial parties, and therefore this group is often overlooked. However, there are a lot of opportunities to develop projects with these young people because they are open to and interested in culture. Especially youth who have few venues available to develop, need support from cultural actors to find ways to express themselves and help them gain self-confidence. Cultural projects can help these youth develop social and cultural skills that can expand their choices in life.

7
TurkStat news on youth employment, April 12, 2018
http://www.tuik.gov.tr/basinOdasi/haberler/2018_09_20180412.pdf

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Türkiye'de Gençlerin Durumu (The Situation of Youth in Turkey – an analysis by) dogrulukpayi.com, 2016
<http://www.dogrulukpayi.com/bulten/turkiye-de-genclerin-durumu>

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Türkiye'de Genç İşsizliği (Youth Unemployment in Turkey), Nurhan Yentürk, bianet, 2008
<https://bianet.org/bianet/ekonomi/107048-turkiye-de-genc-issizligi>

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Türkiye'de Genç İşsizliği: Tespit ve Öneriler, TCMB Türkiye Cumhuriyeti Merkez Bankası (Youth Unemployment in Turkey, Turkish Central Bank), 2017
<http://www.tcmb.gov.tr/wps/wcm/connect/f246d05f-ec87-4171-9e04-90f8597292da/en1714eng.pdf?MOD=AJPERES&CACHEID=ROOT-WORKSPACE-f246d05f-ec87-4171-9e04-90f8597292da-m3fw5y3>

11
Youth Republic (the biggest youth marketing agency in Turkey)
www.youthrepublic.com

Short History

Youth has been one of the leading actors and priorities in the modernisation process of Turkey, following the proclamation of the republic in 1923. In the past century there have been various attempts to socially include and educate youth, and some successful examples. Young people from the rural areas of Anatolia had access to education in a unique structure in Turkey through so-called Village Institutes, which were active between 1940 and 1953. Throughout the 1960s, youth were perceived as a priority and promise for the future. However, towards the end of the 1970s, they started to be segregated politically, and with the coup d'état of 1980, the image of youth in Turkey changed and they were seen as a risk group. In the following years they were limited in many different dimensions of social life, including the participation of youth in social and political life in society. Although in recent years there have been attempts to satisfy the needs of youth in different fields, the scope and results of youth policies have not been able to catch up with the standards of the modern world.¹²

The general elections in 2011 became a turning point for the reorganisation of governmental institutions and 10 new ministries were formed. Among those, the Ministry of Youth and Sports plays an important role. It defines itself as the main agency responsible for providing services to meet the needs of young people and also as the main coordinating agency among youth-related institutions. Since young people constitute a group that cuts across many types of public services, there are also institutions that indirectly provide services for young people even though they are not established specifically for this objective. Youth as a public policy domain has been distributed among different public agencies in Turkey. Although the Ministry of Youth and Sports holds a pivotal role in specific areas such as employment or family policy, other related ministries are held responsible for the development and execution of youth-related policies, such as the newly formed Ministry of Family and Social Policy (MFSP) and the Ministry of Development. The Ministry of Family and Social Policy was formed in 2011 in replacement of the Ministry of State responsible for women and families. The Ministry of Development was established in June 2011, replacing the State Planning Organisation. Other related policy executive parties are the Ministry of Labour and Social Security (MoLSS), the Ministry of National Education (MoNE), the Ministry for EU Affairs, the Ministry of the Interior and the Higher Education Council. The Ministry of the Interior and the Higher Education Council possess and execute regulative mechanisms related to young people. They have an important impact on the political participation of young people.¹³

12
Youth in Turkey, Human Development Report UNDP, 2008
http://hdr.undp.org/sites/default/files/turkey_2008_nhdr_en.pdf

13
The Impact of Youth Policies in Turkey, Laden Yurttagüler, Istanbul Bilgi University, Power2Youth Working Paper No.10, May 2016
http://www.iai.it/sites/default/files/p2y_10.pdf

Youth work in civil society is a very recent field in Turkey and the evolution of the field has been very much influenced by European institutions, especially with the European Union candidacy process of Turkey. Youth work in Turkey can be analysed in three different layers since the central government, local government (municipalities) and civil society organisation all have youth work activities. Recent research discusses the influence of local dynamics and political competition in the development of youth policy and youth work, demonstrating that even if youth work is not a priority on the public policy agenda, it has become an object of political competition in Turkey.¹⁴

14

Youth Work in Turkey: A Sector Newly Emerging and Marked by Political Competition, Demet Lüküslü and Berrin Osmanoğlu, Yeditepe University İstanbul, February 2018

Main Trends and Topics

15

Gençlik Çalışmasının Toplumsal Katılıma Etkisi Araştırması, Toplum Gönüllüleri Vakfı, (The Effect of Youth Work in Community Involvement, The Community Volunteers Foundation) İstanbul, 2017
https://www.tog.org.tr/wp-content/uploads/2018/12/TOG_Gen%C3%A7lik-%C3%87al%C4%B1nC5%9F-mas%C4%B1n%C4%B1n-Toplumsal-Kat%C4%B1l%C4%B1ma-Etkisi_arastirma_2017-2.pdf

16

Türkiye’de Gençlerin Katılımı (Youth Participation in Turkey) KONDA Araştırma ve Danışmanlık, İstanbul Bilgi Üniversitesi Şebeke Gençlerin Katılımı Projesi Kitapları, 2014
<http://www.sebeke.org.tr/wp-content/uploads/2014/02/turkiyede-genclerinkatilimi.pdf>

17

Gençlik Çalışmasının Toplumsal Katılıma Etkisi Araştırması, Toplum Gönüllüleri Vakfı, (The Effect of Youth Work in Community Involvement, The Community Volunteers Foundation) İstanbul, 2017
https://www.tog.org.tr/wp-content/uploads/2018/12/TOG_Gen%C3%A7lik-%C3%87al%C4%B1nC5%9F-mas%C4%B1n%C4%B1n-Toplumsal-Kat%C4%B1l%C4%B1ma-Etkisi_arastirma_2017-2.pdf

18

Türkiye’de Gençlerin İyi Olma Hali, Saha Araştırması Bulguları, (Wellbeing of Youth in Turkey, Field Research Findings) Emre Erdoğan, Habitat Derneği, 2017
<http://habitatdernegi.org/wp-content/uploads/turkiye-de-genclerin-iyi-olma-hali-raporu.pdf>

One’s youth is a period in life when people question what to do with their lives, refuse or compromise values, put forward new ideas, force their limits and think about the present. While young people struggle to create their own world, they also try to understand the present and develop the potential of transforming the future. Recognising this potential of youth, since the beginning of the 2000s governmental and non-governmental organisations, corporations and civil initiatives in Turkey have begun to realise some participatory projects for youth. The aim of these projects has been to increase the participation of youth in economic, cultural, social and political life, despite the misperceptions of, and prejudices about youth.

Youth organisations include associations, foundations, university clubs, initiatives and youth councils. The total number of active associations in Turkey was more than 110,000 in 2017, and more than 1,000 (785 youth and 340 students) of these were focusing on youth and students in 2013.¹⁵ One should also consider the university clubs and youth centres available for the active participation of young people at a local level. According to research in 2014, 27% of the young population are an active member of a civic organisation. Forty-four percent of them are also a member of a university club or a student initiative, and 8.9% of a professional association. The main characteristic of the associations, platforms or clubs that youth are interested in focus on fellowship. This is also in line with the tendency of the general public in Turkey to mostly not engage in rights-based activities and/or civic political participation.¹⁶

A report shows that youth tend to feel better and participate more in social life if there are enough public spaces and cultural facilities, as well as active civil society organisations available in their city.¹⁷ Besides established youth organisations, there are many youth participatory projects that are managed by different civic and private organisations. However, the participation of youth in social and political life, as well as volunteering, has not measured up yet in Turkey. In terms of spending time in cultural activities, young people are mostly interested in cinema, books and music. Unfortunately, the percentage of young people who haven’t been to a concert or theatre is still very high – 81%.¹⁸

The mainstream youth work in Turkey is mainly boiled down to commercial projects, mobility and exchange projects, as well as education with a focus on career development, either at a national or international level. Although youth has been a working field for a long time, it is not easy to talk about a consistent and long-term youth policy developed by the initiatives and authorities in Turkey. It is hard to find widespread practices and policies of participation for disadvantaged youth in terms of ethnic identity, migration and gender. Any kind of youth policy needs to be based on the recognition of youth as a heterogeneous group with different participatory behaviours, needs and priorities.

| Audience

Youth and participatory projects focus on the active participation of youth in different aspects of life and the decision-making processes at the social, political and economic levels, as well as in the production and consumption of arts and culture. Projects mainly aim at the development and participation of youth themselves, but not primarily at other audiences. Organisations and projects work at a local level to reach young people that participate in projects in their neighbourhoods through local cultural venues, municipalities, schools and universities.

| Sub-disciplines

There are different types of organisations related to youth work all around Turkey, but they are mostly concentrated in bigger cities. Although the main actors seem to be public institutions with extensive outreach, there are also civic initiatives that deal with different issues related to youth, creativity and participation. These are not as widespread as the public programmes for youth. The mainstream youth work in Turkey is mainly boiled down to mobility and exchange projects, as well as education with a focus on career development, either at a national or an international level. Specialisation in sub-disciplines doesn't apply to youth work. Projects are mainly distinguished based on age groups and how youth benefit (education, employment, health, gender, creativity), as well as the project model and type of actors such as local public youth centres by governmental and municipal organisations, independent civic organisations carrying out projects, and university youth units.

| Professional Groups and Organisations

Türkiye Gençlik STK'ları Platformu (Platform for Youth NGOs in Turkey)

A platform for civil society organisations working for youth, it also organises the Turkey Youth Summit.

<http://tgsp.org.tr/>

GO-FOR Gençlik Örgütleri Forumu (Forum for Youth Organisations)

This is a platform where youth organisations act together, working to develop a rights-based youth policy in Turkey.

<https://www.go-for.org/>

Educational Institutions

Istanbul Bilgi University is one of the main supporters of youth work, having run the Youth Studies Unit since 2006. It aims at supporting the development of a democratic youth policy in Turkey by implementing networking, modelling, research and advocacy programmes.¹⁹ Most of the private/foundation universities in Istanbul – such as Bahçeşehir University, Kadir Has University, Koç University, Sabancı University and Yeditepe University – have scheduled compulsory social responsibility classes that aim to increase the awareness of youth on social problems and create social responsibility projects to bring what is learned into practice. There are only a couple of more universities in and out of Istanbul focusing on youth work and research.

Istanbul – İstanbul Bilgi Üniversitesi Gençlik Çalışmaları Birimi (Istanbul Bilgi University Youth Studies Unit)

This unit was founded in 2006 and has been working on innovative projects related to youth work, youth research and youth policy. It implements a rights-based approach in the area of youth work policy in Turkey.

<http://www.genclik.bilgi.edu.tr/>

Some of their projects:

Şebeke (project for youth participation) <http://www.sebeke.org.tr/>

Living Library (with TOG - Community Volunteers Foundation)

www.yasayankutuphane.net

Kısa Dalga Gençlik Merkezi (Short Wave Youth Centre) 2009-2011

This centre implemented innovative projects with youth living around the university campus in Eyüp and provided mutual learning opportunities through workshops, activities and

performances. Final report:

<https://issuu.com/genclikcalismalari/docs/kisadalga2009-2011faaliyetraporu>

Report on Youth Work and Policies in Turkey (2008)

https://issuu.com/genclikcalismalari/docs/youth_policy_turkey

Kayseri – Abdullah Gül Üniversitesi Gençlik Fabrikası (Abdullah Gül University (AGU) Youth Factory)

The AGU Youth Factory is a non-formal education resource centre for the social and personal development of youth workers, youth leaders, youth trainers and young people. It provides various trainings and courses about different topics related to the youth work field, designed with non-formal education tools and approaches.

<http://youth.agu.edu.tr/>

Ankara – Hacettepe Üniversitesi Gençlik Araştırmaları ve Uygulama Merkezi (Hacettepe University Youth Studies Research and Application Centre)

<http://www.hugaum.hacettepe.edu.tr/>

Antalya – Akdeniz Üniversitesi Avrupa Akdeniz Gençlik Uygulama ve Araştırma Merkezi (Akdeniz University EuroMed Youth Research and Application Centre)

<http://euromed.akdeniz.edu.tr/tr>

Istanbul – Üsküdar Üniversitesi KÜGEMER Küreselleşme ve Gençlik Sorunları Uygulama ve Araştırma Merkezi (Üsküdar University KÜGEMER Globalisation and Youth Problems Application and Research Centre)

<https://uskudar.edu.tr/en/kugemer>

EU Eurodesk Turkey

This provides information on opportunities in Europe for education and youth work.

<http://eurodesk.ua.gov.tr/>

Aiesec Turkey

This is an international organisation providing information and opportunities for university students and graduates all around the world.

www.aiesec.org.tr

Youth for Youth

TOG Toplum Gönüllüleri Vakfı (The Community Volunteers Foundation) is one of the largest non-governmental organisations in Turkey, aimed at increasing participation of youth in cultural life through university student clubs and youth centres. Although it is a professionally organised foundation, its main work is run through a wide network of young volunteers in many cities that organises local and national projects as well as international ones. The projects are carried out by the youth themselves.

<https://www.tog.org.tr/>

Venues

Local Public Youth Centres

Youth centres are the local official organisations established by municipalities and the central government through their local administrations. These are the main public tools to open spaces for young people in their own neighbourhoods, to meet with their peers, gain knowledge and skills, as well as participate in social and cultural life. Some municipalities also provide avenues for local participation through youth councils (Gençlik Konseyi) organised under city councils (Kent Konseyi).

Gençlik ve Spor Bakanlığı Gençlik Merkezleri (Youth Centres by the Ministry of Youth and Sports)

There are 281 youth centres with almost 2 million young members in 81 cities in Turkey. They mainly provide programmes in line with government policies.
<http://genclikmerkezi.gsb.gov.tr/site/Genclikmerkezi.aspx>

GAP Gençlik ve Kültür Evleri (GAP Youth and Culture Houses)

Youth houses were established in 2001 and are managed by GAP (Southeast Anatolia Project) and local governorships in nine cities: Adıyaman, Batman, Diyarbakır, Gaziantep, Kilis, Mardin, Siirt, Şanlıurfa and Şırnak.
<https://www.gapgenclikevleri.org/>

Some examples of youth centres in local municipalities:

Istanbul – Kadıköy Belediyesi Gençlik Merkezi & Gençlik Sanat Merkezi (Kadıköy Municipality Youth Centre & Youth Art Centre)

The youth centre is a meeting point for sports and socialising. <http://kgm.kadikoy.bel.tr/>

The Youth Art Centre focuses on courses for music, dance and theatre.

<http://kultursanat.kadikoy.bel.tr/tr/kultur-merkezleri/genclik-sanat-merkezi>

Istanbul – Şişli Belediyesi İdeal Gençlik Merkezi (Şişli Municipality Ideal Youth Centre)

Ideal Youth Centre is not an actual centre but an Erasmus+ project organised by Şişli Municipality in collaboration with the Governorship of Istanbul and Kadir Has University. They organise forums and thematic meetings with the goal of establishing a youth centre with the participation of youth in the region.
disiliskiler@sisli.bel.tr

Istanbul – Beyoğlu Belediyesi Gençlik Merkezi (Beyoğlu Municipality Youth Centre)

The centre organises courses, culture tours, summer camps and collaborative projects for youth.
<http://bgm.beyoglu.bel.tr/>

Izmir – Havagazi Gençlik Merkezi – İzmir Büyükşehir Belediyesi (Havagazi Youth Centre by the Izmir Metropolitan Municipality)

The centre organises cultural activities, tours and courses for young people.
<https://www.facebook.com/havagazigenclikmerkezi>

Ankara – Ankara Belediyesi Gençlik Merkezleri (Ankara Metropolitan Municipality Youth Centres)

Managing eight local youth centres in Ankara, providing social, cultural, educational and sports facilities.
<https://www.ankara.bel.tr/sosyal-hizmetler/genclik-hizmetleri/genclik-merkezleri>

Bursa – Nilüfer Gençlik Ofisi (Nilüfer Youth Office)

An initiative of Nilüfer Municipality, this unit gathers all information about youth organisations in Bursa and tries to initiate collaborative projects. They do not have their own venue.

<http://www.nilufergenclikofisi.org/>

Mardin – Mardin Büyükşehir Belediyesi Gençlik Merkezi (Mardin Metropolitan Municipality Youth Centre)

The youth centre organises cultural activities and various courses for youth in the city.
<http://www.mbbgenclik.com/>

Diyarbakır – Cegerxwin Gençlik Kültür ve Sanat Merkezi – Kayapınar Belediyesi (Cegerxwin Youth Culture and Art Centre by Kayapınar Municipality)

One of the biggest local cultural centres, it mainly aims at reaching youth in one of the central district municipalities of Diyarbakır. There was also an art academy for different disciplines.

** Diyarbakır Metropolitan Municipality and other district municipalities were the leading figures in supporting arts, culture, local participation and youth work, focusing on different art disciplines with special youth participation and training programmes in the Kurdish language. However, the centres that have public and artistic programmes for youth have been affected by the current political agenda of the Turkish state. With the conflict situation in southeast Turkey in 2015 and a state of emergency declared in 2016, most of the organisations both public and civic have been closed or have been faced with a massive crackdown. Since then, most of the*

cultural actors in the previous local public organisations have been initiating independent projects and small local cultural spaces.

Independent Civic Organisations
Participatory projects for youth are organised by various civil society organisations coming from a youth work background or the arts and culture field. They mainly aim at increasing the participation of young people in the production and consumption of art, as well as the socio-cultural life, developing local cultural policies through social activities, and encouraging participation of young people in decision-making processes at the local level or promoting networking and international youth exchange.

TOG Toplum Gönüllüleri Vakfı (The Community Volunteers Foundation)
One of the largest non-governmental organisations working for youth in Turkey, it aims at increasing the participation of youth in cultural life through university student clubs and youth centres. Its vision is to realise social peace, solidarity and change through the participation and leadership of youth. The foundation has a wide network of young volunteers in many cities, organising local and national projects, as well as international ones. The projects are managed by the youth themselves, with over 70,000 young people involved in the projects in 129 local TOG communities in 80 cities. The main TOG office is in Istanbul, with coordination centres in Ankara and Izmir, and youth centres in Samsun, Hatay and Diyarbakır.
<https://www.tog.org.tr/>

Some projects:

Yaşayan Kütüphane (Living Library with Istanbul Bilgi University Youth Studies Unit)
www.yasayankutuphane.net
The project was organised for the

first time in 2007, with the aim of encouraging dialogue in society and providing an opportunity for one-on-one conversations between people who normally wouldn't speak to one another. The concept is based on the idea that books are living entities and the titles of the books represent people subjected to discrimination.

GençBank (Youth Bank)

Part of the international YouthBank Network, this project is a funding programme aiming at empowering youth, increasing their participation in local socio-cultural life, supporting their development and encouraging contributions to society. In collaboration with local youth associations, youth centres, municipalities or local governments as host organisations, young people between the ages of 15 and 25 develop ideas to solve local problems and implement them with their peers.

Support for Young Refugees

In collaboration with UNFPA and Y-PEER Turkey, TOG has carried out a support programme for young Syrian refugees aged 18 to 30 in Hatay Kırnkhan, Diyarbakır, Izmir and Ankara.

Gençlik Alanı Haritası (Map of Youth Work) research-in-progress
The project aims at listing, categorising and mapping all youth projects and organisations in Turkey. The research process focuses on associations, foundations, networks, federations, initiatives, platforms, student clubs and unions, youth centres, youth councils, youth houses, youth branches of political parties and informal youth groups.

Mentorpower

An international collaborative

mentorship programme financed under the Erasmus+ Programme, it is carried out with partners from France, Spain, Norway and Greece. In Turkey, this consisted of a social and professional support programme for refugee youth.

Commitment Without Borders

The project was developed between Turkey and Germany, focusing on experience and knowledge exchange among youth about the issues related to education on the fight against Holocaust and anti-semitism.

Healthy Youth Movement

The project is carried out all around Turkey, in order to increase health awareness and support youth on health literacy.

Anadolu Kültür

Anadolu Kültür is a non-profit art and cultural organisation established in 2002 as a civil initiative by leading figures from the arts and cultural field in Turkey. It aims at developing and implementing projects with the belief that cultural exchange and cooperation can lead to dialogue and mutual understanding among individuals with different social backgrounds and national or ethnic identities within Turkey and abroad. The main office and DEPO gallery are located in Istanbul, with a branch office in Diyarbakır. Since its establishment, Anadolu Kültür has organised cultural activities in more than 30 Anatolian cities in collaboration with local actors. Its centres, programmes, projects and activities have been influential in creating an environment for critical debate on social issues through arts and culture.
www.anadolukultur.org

conservatory students from Turkey and Armenia to meet and produce work together.

Speaking to One Another

Initiated in 2009, and implemented in three consecutive stages, the main aim of the project was to use adult education methods, intercultural exchange and oral history methods to form a bridge between Turkish and Armenian societies through youth and to contribute to the reconciliation process of the two communities.

Boğaziçi European School of Politics

The European School of Politics (ESP) was established in 2014 as a member of the Schools of Political Studies of the Council of Europe. ESP intends to contribute to the development of the country's future political, cultural and social leaders by bringing together and establishing dialogue among future young leaders between 25 and 35 who represent Turkey's geographical diversity and who have different political affiliations. They are encouraged to discuss different political alternatives, and they gain skills that can be used in their future political careers. Coordinated by Anadolu Kültür, ESP conducts its activities in cooperation with Boğaziçi University.
<http://avrupasiyasetokulu.org/en/>

Spaces of Culture

Anadolu Kültür is one of the local partners of this initiative. With the aim of supporting vibrant civil society in Izmir, Diyarbakır and Gaziantep, Spaces of Culture prioritises initiatives whose goal is to establish sustainable programmes that value diversity, inclusivity and cultural exchange. It provides spaces and resources for the realisation of cultural projects within the visual and performing arts, as well as for discussion, training and development opportunities for local institutions, cultural professionals and community members interested in these fields. It aims at contributing to a wide and diverse programme of arts-based community exchange in the regions it covers. The project was initiated by the Goethe Institute, the Consulate General of Sweden, the Embassy of the Netherlands and the French Cultural Institute in Turkey, in cooperation with Anadolu Kültür and the İstanbul Foundation for Culture and Arts (IKSV).
<https://spacesofculture.com/>

Habitat Derneği (Habitat Association)

The association has carried out youth work in all cities in Turkey since 1997. It has done many projects related to local participation and education, with a focus on equality in terms of gender and migration. The association also organises UGP Ulusal Gençlik Parlamentosu (National Youth Parliament). It does not have its own venue.
<http://habitatdernegi.org/>

GSM Gençlik Servisleri Merkezi ve Gençtur (Youth Services Centre and Youth Tours)

This is an international voluntary work camp offering intercultural

dialogue and information about youth, NGO capacity building and consultancy. It does not have its own venue.

<https://www.gsm.org.tr/>
<http://genctur.com.tr/>

Başak Kültür ve Sanat Vakfı (Başak Culture and Art Foundation)

The foundation aims at carrying out various activities to discover, support and promote artistic abilities of socially disadvantaged and/or low-paid young people and at eliminating the difficulties they face in building their personal capacity. It also seeks to orient young people to be more productive and encourages them to take part in social life as healthy individuals. The foundation has organised cultural/artistic, educational and vocational courses, psycho-social counselling, panels, cultural and youth exchange programmes, workshops and special projects.
<http://www.basaksanatvakfi.org.tr>

Yücel Kültür Vakfı (Yücel Cultural Foundation)

Since it was founded in 1969, this foundation aims to make a difference in the lives of youth. They do so by providing scholarships, organising art and cultural activities, courses and international exchange programs.
<https://www.yucelkulturvakfi.org/>

Genç Başarı Eğitim Vakfı (Junior Achievement Turkey Foundation)

JA Turkey –part of JA Europe– is a non-profit organisation aiming to encourage young people in entrepreneurship by promoting education and youth-related activities designed to improve economic literacy, workforce skills, knowledge of business, and civic responsibilities.
<http://gencbasari.org/en/>

YOUTHART Gençlik Sanat Araştırma ve Eğitim Derneği (Youth Art Research and Training Association)

The association works with young people focusing on mobility and exchange projects at a local and international level. YOUTHART mainly works with university students and focuses on social activities trying to include youth with fewer opportunities into local and international activities through EU funds, especially the Erasmus+ Programme. It does not have its own venue.
<https://youthart.org.tr/tr/>

Gençlik Gündemi Derneği (Association of Youth Agenda)

The association organises projects for volunteering, exchange and social inclusion. It does not have its own venue.
<http://www.youth-agenda.org/>

Karakutu Derneği (Karakutu Association)

The association focuses on social memory and tries to voice alternative narratives to introduce different perspectives about the past of the society, with a focus on youth. It does not have its own venue.
<http://www.karakutu.org.tr/>

SEHAK Sivil ve Ekolojik Haklar Derneği (Civil and Ecological Rights Association)

The association works on a rights-based approach, also collaborating on projects related to youth. It does not have its own venue.

<https://www.sehak.org/>

Hapiste Genç Projesi – CISST Ceza İnfaz Sisteminde Sivil Toplum Derneği & TCPS Türkiye Hapishaneler Enformasyon Ağı (Youth in Prison Project by CISST Civil Society Association in Penal System & TCPS Prison Information Network in Turkey)

They work in the field of advocacy for prisoners, also running a project on youth in prisons in Turkey. It does not have its own venue.

<https://hapistegenc.wordpress.com/>

<http://www.tcps.org.tr/>

Izmir – Pi Gençlik Derneği (Pi Youth Association)

This is a rights-based youth association, which also does international collaborations. It does not have its own venue.

<http://www.pigenclikdernegi.org/>

Erzurum – Sosyal Gençlik Derneği (Social Youth Association)

sosyalgenc.org is an online guide to youth work organised by the association. It provides information about Erasmus+ projects, youth exchange projects, AGH-EVS volunteer projects, training and network-building projects, and dialogue projects.

<http://sosyalgenc.org/>

Bursa – e-Gençlik Derneği (e-youth Association)

This civil society organisation tries to initiate young people to participate in social life, to create and volunteer for social good. It does not

have its own venue.

<https://www.e-genclik.org.tr/>

Diyarbakır – Merkezkaç (Art Initiative)

This is an independent contemporary art initiative, which also organises fine arts projects for youth.

<https://www.facebook.com/merkez-kac/posts/1015360005198561>

Diyarbakır – Gençlik ve Değişim Derneği (Youth and Change Association)

This association aims at increasing youth participation in decision-making processes in the city of Diyarbakır. It takes part in Erasmus+ projects and provides exchange and mobility to its volunteers, along with some training programmes focusing on language and culture. It does not have its own venue.

<http://www.genclikvedegisim.com/>

Gaziantep – Refugee Projects

Following the war in Syria that began in 2011, Gaziantep city centre and surrounding towns have become one of the gateways for refugees. There are a lot of international and national NGOs running projects and community centres for refugees in the region. They do not have their own venues.

Some examples of refugee youth projects in and around Gaziantep:

Yuva Derneği (Yuva Association)

The association supports the personal development of adults and youth through non-formal education and work for a sustainable life for all living beings. Gaziantep is one of the cities they work in.

www.yuva.org.tr

Point Association

An NGO established by Diaspora Syrians, it works for social cohesion and livelihoods, capacity development, education and protection.

<http://pointonline.org/>

Gaziantep Eğitim ve Gençlik Derneği (Gaziantep Education and Youth Association)

This organisation organises exchange and EVS projects, with support from public funds.

<https://geged.org/>



Festivals and Events

The announcements of most spring festivals of universities and high schools, as well as ones by municipalities, can be found here: <https://www.baharfestivalleri.com/>

Financial Situation

There are three types of resources for youth and participatory projects:

The Centre for EU Education and Youth Programmes – Erasmus+ Programme Turkish National Agency

Under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Directorate for EU Affairs, the centre runs and finances youth action programmes that support participatory projects managed by youth.

<http://www.ua.gov.tr/en/home>

Grant programmes for social development

There are some grants provided for youth work by foundations and institutions.

TOG Community Volunteers Foundation's YouthBank is an example of a funding programme aimed at empowering youth, increasing their participation in local socio-cultural life, supporting their development and encouraging contributions to society.

<https://www.tog.org.tr/portfolio/gençbank-programi/>

The Social Change Grant Programme by Sabancı Foundation is another example. It was launched as the foundation's first nationwide grant programme in 2009, supporting the projects of civil society organisations to promote access to equal opportunities for women, youth and persons with disabilities to participate in all aspects of society.

<http://www.sabancivakfi.org/en/social-change/grant-programs>

Corporate social responsibility resources

Participatory projects for and with youth are supported by some corporations whose target groups are also young people. Most of the university

music festivals are supported by some drinks companies or other activities by some fashion brands for youth. One example could be the collaboration of Mavi Jeans with the Community Volunteers Foundation for five years in Mavi-TOG Atak; or Indigo Turtles project in collaboration with Association for Ecological Research (EKAD) to save endangered sea turtles in the Mediterranean with the involvement of university students.

<https://www.mavi.com/social-responsibility>

| Critics and Researchers

“Several universities have youth studies centres – Istanbul Bilgi University, Abdullah Gül University, Hacettepe University, Akdeniz University, Üsküdar University, etc. There are two recent surveys on young people published by SETA¹⁹ and Istanbul Bilgi University²⁰, both of which include questions on the economic status of young people. Moreover, various international organisations, such as the UN, UNDP, ILO, EFT, as well as the EU provide statistics and analysis on young people in Turkey. Youth CSOs have played an important role in developing youth policies in Turkey. They have contributed through surveys and research related to the youth field such as young people’s accommodation problems, participation constraints and autonomy problems. They also inform the public about young peoples’ needs and demands based on first-hand information. The surveys and research conducted by the CSOs were also supported by the related units/departments of various universities.”²¹ The major research and reports in the recent years are listed under Resources.

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Türkiye’nin Gençlik Profili (Turkish Youth Profile), Bekir Gür, SETA Yayınları, 2012

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Türkiye’de Gençlerin Katılımı (Youth Participation in Turkey), Konda Araştırma ve Danışmanlık, 2014

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The Impact of Youth Policies in Turkey, Laden Yurttagüler, Istanbul Bilgi University, Power2Youth Working Paper No.10, May 2016
http://www.iai.it/sites/default/files/p2y_10.pdf

Resources

Publications by Istanbul Bilgi University Youth Studies Unit
<http://www.genclik.bilgi.edu.tr/yayinlar>

Publications by TOG Community Volunteers Foundation
<https://www.tog.org.tr/yayinlar/>

Türkiye'de Gençlik Çalışmaları Rehberi (Handbook for Youth Work in Turkey), 5N-3K Yol Haritası, Eskişehir Tepebaşı Belediyesi Gençlik Merkezleri, 2018

Youth Work in Turkey: A Sector Newly Emerging and Marked by Political Competition, Demet Lüküslü and Berrin Osmanoğlu, Yeditepe University Istanbul, 2018

Gençlik Çalışmasının Toplumsal Katılıma Etkisi Araştırması, Toplum Gönüllüleri Vakfı, (The Effect of Youth Work in Community Involvement, The Community Volunteers Foundation) İstanbul, 2017
https://www.tog.org.tr/wp-content/uploads/2018/12/TOG-Gen%C3%A7lik-%C3%87al%C4%B1%C5%9F-mas%C4%B1n%C4%B1n-Toplumsal-Kat%C4%B1lma-Etkisi_arastirma_2017-2.pdf

Türkiye'de Gençlerin İyi Olma Hali, Saha Araştırması Bulguları, (Well-being of Youth in Turkey, Field Research Findings) Emre Erdoğan, Habitat Derneği, 2017
<http://habitatderneği.org/wp-content/uploads/turkiye-de-genclerin-iyi-olma-hali-raporu.pdf>

Kültür Sanatta Katılımcı Yaklaşımlar (Participatory Approaches in Arts and Culture), İstanbul Kültür ve Sanat Vakfı (Istanbul Foundation for Arts and Culture), 2017
<http://www.iksv.org/i/con->

tent/226_1_kultur-sanatta-katilimci-yaklasimlar-2017.pdf

Gençlik Çalışmasının Toplumsal Katılıma Etkisi Araştırması (Research on the Effect of Youth Work in Participation), TOG Toplum Gönüllüleri Vakfı (Community Volunteers Foundation), 2017

The Impact of Youth Policies in Turkey, Laden Yurttagüler, İstanbul Bilgi University, Power2Youth Working Paper No.10, 2016
http://www.iai.it/sites/default/files/p2y_10.pdf

Türkiye'de Gençlerin Durumu (The Situation of Youth in Turkey) dogrulukpayi.com, 2016 <http://www.dogrulukpayi.com/bulten/turkiye-de-genclerin-durumu>

Türkiye'de Gençlerin Katılımı (Youth Participation in Turkey) KONDA Araştırma ve Danışmanlık, İstanbul Bilgi Üniversitesi Şebeke Gençlerin Katılımı Projesi Kitapları, 2014
<http://www.sebeke.org.tr/wp-content/uploads/2014/02/turkiyedegenclerinKatilimi.pdf>

Youth in Turkey, Human Development Report UNDP, 2008
http://hdr.undp.org/sites/default/files/turkey_2008_nhdr_en.pdf

Türkiye'de Genç İşsizliği (Youth Unemployment in Turkey), Nurhan Yentürk, bianet, 2008
<https://bianet.org/bianet/ekonomi/107048-turkiye-de-genc-issizligi>

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