

**Definition of European Union:** EU traces its origins to the European Economic Community (EEC) formed in 1957 by the Treaty of Rome among France, West Germany, Italy and Benelux (Belgium, the Netherlands and Luxembourg). In 1973 the European Communities enlarged to include Denmark, the Republic of Ireland and the United Kingdom. In the 1981, Greece and in 1986, Spain and Portugal joined European Union and it was a community of 12 members states. Austria, Sweden and Finland joined in 1995. In 2004, ten new countries joined the EU. At the start of 2007 Romania and Bulgaria also joined the EU. The main values of EU are establishment of permanent peace, unity, equality, freedom, security and solidarity. The aims of EU are to protect the principles of freedom and democracy, and to promote respect for human rights, and ensure rule of law.

**Promotion of Civil Society Dialogue (CSD) between EU and Turkey:** CSD between EU and Turkey provides for implementation of four Grant Schemes and aiming at intensifying and diversifying the contacts between: Towns and Municipalities, Professional Organizations, Universities and Youth Initiatives for Dialogue. The Grant Schemes will address issues that will contribute to better informing the public opinions from the EU and candidate countries, by addressing the opportunities as well as the challenges posed by future enlargement, encouraging a discussion on perceptions regarding everyday culture and values expressed by the society and the state on both sides, increasing bilateral exchanges, thereby contributing to the sharing of experience, the adoption of best practices and the increased participation of civil society in the political, cultural and economic development of Turkey and supporting the further development of a lively and vibrant civil society Turkey, which is key to the consolidation of human rights and democracy, in line with the political criteria for accession.

#### **The Youth Initiatives for Dialogue Grant Scheme**

##### **Overall Objectives:**

- to strengthen the contacts and the mutual exchange

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of experience between civil society in Republic of Turkey and the Member States of the European Union;

- to ensure better knowledge and understanding of Republic of Turkey within the European Union, including Turkish history and culture, thus allowing for a better awareness of the opportunities and the challenges of future enlargement;
- to ensure better knowledge and understanding of the European Union within Republic of Turkey, including the values, on which it is founded, its functioning and its policies.

##### **Spesific Objectives:**

- to promote mutually beneficial and sustainable relationship between youth initiatives in Republic of Turkey and in EU Member States and candidate countries and promote dialogue between the Turkish and EU youth organizations addressing the opportunities and challenges of enlargement
- to encourage exchange of knowledge and best practices on planning and implementation of EU policies.

##### **Networking Europe Project Leader:**

Assosiation for Research and Development of Societal Issues

##### **Project Partners and Associates:**

- Association for European Integration "Quiz", Romania
- DEMÀ, Spain
- Eurogems Organization for Civil Society Empowerment, Italy
- İzmit Municipality, Turkey (Associate)
- Kocaeli University, Turkey (Associate)

##### **Duration of the Action:**

1 year, 16 July 2008 – 16 July 2009

##### **Purpose of the Project:**

**Overall Objectives:** Making contribution to ensure better knowledge and understanding of the European Union within Republic of Turkey, including the values,

on which it is founded, its functioning and its policies; and to strengthen the contacts and the mutual exchange of experience between civil society in Turkey and European Union countries by establishing network among the youth NGOs at European level.

**Spesific Objectives:** First to increase the interest, knowledge, and understanding of EU culture, EU values and EU citizenship among youths in Kocaeli and Black Sea Region; second to raise support and active participation of youths in EU membership process of Turkey, and last to establish a dialogue between Turkish and European youngsters by encouraging exchange of knowledge and best practices and promoting mutually beneficial and sustainable relationship between youth NGOs in Turkey and EU Member States.

##### **Main Project Activities:**

- Data on EU culture, EU values and EU citizenship will be collected to form the basis of questionnaire and best practices report.
- Informative Brochure will be formed in order to give information on EU culture, values and EU citizenship.
- A questionnaire will be formed and executed in order to evaluate what the university students in Kocaeli think about EU membership process of Turkey, their information level about the EU culture, EU values and EU citizenship.
- A forum for discussion will be created on internet for university students in order to discuss EU topics like EU culture, EU enlargement process, EU citizenship, EU policies etc...
- A Photograph Exhibition will be arranged. The subject of photographs will be EU culture, EU values and EU citizenship. In this way, an opportunity will be given to university students from different countries in order to show what they think about EU topics and how they reflect their EU image.
- A Best Practices Booklet will be formed. The mentioned best practices will be formal and informal activities and outputs of the partners but more emphasize will be given to informal learning methods.



The Beneficiary of the Project is Secretariat General for EU Affairs



The Contracting Authority of the Project is Central Finance and Contract Unit



Association for Research and Development of Societal Issues is the applicant and leading partner of the project



Departament D'estudis Dels Medis Actuals is EU member partner of the project



Association for European Integration "Quiz" is EU member partner of the project



Eurogems Organization for Civil Society Empowerment is EU member partner of the project

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## PROMOTION OF CIVIL SOCIETY DIALOGUE

### BETWEEN EU AND TURKEY

### YOUTH INITIATIVES FOR DIALOGUE



## NETWORKING EUROPE PROJECT

### INTRODUCTION BROCHURE

[www.networking-eu.net](http://www.networking-eu.net)