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# TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF CIVIL SOCIETY DIALOGUE AND CIVIL SOCIETY SUPPORT PROGRAMMES

## BERLIN-GERMANY STUDY VISIT INFORMATION NOTE 15 – 18 May 2023



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## 1. THE CIVIL SOCIETY DIALOGUE BETWEEN TÜRKİYE AND EUROPEAN UNION GRANT PROGRAMME

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“The Civil Society Dialogue between Türkiye and the EU” (CSD) is a grant programme that aims to bring together civil society organizations in Türkiye and the EU around common issues to exchange knowledge and experience and to build a lasting dialogue. Civil Society Dialogue ensures that EU norms and good practices are brought to our country through the cooperation and partnerships developed between civil society organizations in Türkiye and the EU within the scope of the areas related to the EU acquis. Through the partnerships and networks established in many thematic areas within the framework of dialogue projects, public opinion about the future enlargement policies of the EU is shaped, mutual understanding between Türkiye and the EU is encouraged, and the common working culture and cooperation are reinforced.

The Civil Society Dialogue Programme is co-financed by the European Union and the Republic of Türkiye within the scope of the Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance (IPA I and II) allocated to our country with the recognition of its candidate status. As the lead institution of the civil society sub-sector, the Directorate for EU Affairs is responsible for the overall coordination and monitoring of the project. The Directorate for EU Affairs, Project Implementation Department is responsible for the implementation, management, sustainability and monitoring of projects that have been allocated grants. The CFCU (Central Finance and Contracts Unit) is the contracting authority of the programme and is responsible for the administrative and financial implementation of the Grant Programmes.

Since 2008, the programme has provided approximately 53,2 million euro to 418 projects carried out in various fields within 6 different periods. As a result of these projects 117 networks and platforms have been created between Turkish and European civil society organizations (CSOs). 2.057 CSOs from Türkiye and EU countries have joined in these networks and platforms.

At total 502 civil society organisations have taken part in those related projects as lead and partner in 28 countries such as Germany, Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Croatia, Holland, Ireland, Spain, Sweden, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Hungary, Malta, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Greece as well as in Bosnia Herzegovina, North Macedonia and United Kingdom.

### THE FIRST PHASE OF THE CIVIL SOCIETY DIALOGUE: CSD-I (2008-2009)

A total of 19.3 million euro was provided for 119 projects developed by actors who have a significant impact on the dialogue between the EU and Türkiye, such as municipalities, professional organizations, universities, and youth organizations, together with their European partners. During this period, 23 networks and platforms have been created between Turkish and European civil society organizations (CSOs). 236 CSOs from Türkiye and EU countries have joined in these networks and platforms.

The project catalogue of CSD I programme can be retrieved at:



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[http://civilsocietydialogue.org/wp-content/uploads/csd\\_files/csd\\_01\\_en.pdf](http://civilsocietydialogue.org/wp-content/uploads/csd_files/csd_01_en.pdf)

## THE SECOND PHASE OF THE CIVIL SOCIETY DIALOGUE: CSD-II (2010-2012)

In the second phase of the programme implemented under the themes of “Culture-Art” and “Agriculture-Fisheries”, 5,2 million euro was provided for partnership projects and nearly 300,000 euro was transferred to small-scale activities developed in various themes under the micro-grant component. Within the scope of CSD II more 15 thousand experts and sector employees have convened as well as over 20 thousand people has been reached through the activities such as conferences, trainings, exhibitions and on forth. At total 97 projects have been implemented.

The compendium of CSD I programme can be retrieved at:

[http://civilsocietydialogue.org/wp-content/uploads/csd\\_files/csd\\_02\\_en.pdf](http://civilsocietydialogue.org/wp-content/uploads/csd_files/csd_02_en.pdf)

## THE THIRD PHASE OF THE CIVIL SOCIETY DIALOGUE: CSD-III (2014-2016)

The third phase of the programme witnessed partnership projects of civil society organizations from Türkiye and the EU working in the field of “media” and “political criteria”. Grant support of 2 million euro was provided to 15 dialogue projects developed by media organizations that will play an active role in raising public awareness on the European Union, its values, and what EU membership will bring both to our country and the European Union.

In the scope of CSD-III, a grant support of 4,6 million euro was provided to 36 partnership projects developed in the priority areas of human rights, anti-discrimination, democracy and the rule of law in order to ensure a better understanding of reforms implemented in the EU accession process and their results and to support the realization of these reforms with the participation of civil society organizations. The third phase of the Civil Society Dialogue was successfully completed with 51 projects as a result of the withdrawal of 4 projects from implementation.

The compendium of CSD-III programme can be retrieved at:

[http://civilsocietydialogue.org/wp-content/uploads/csd\\_files/csd\\_03\\_en.pdf](http://civilsocietydialogue.org/wp-content/uploads/csd_files/csd_03_en.pdf)

## THE FOURTH PHASE OF CIVIL SOCIETY DIALOGUE: CSD-IV (2015-2017)

In the fourth phase of the Civil Society Dialogue Programme 10,5 million euro grant support was provided to 78 partnership projects carried out in nine policy areas: Environment, energy, consumer and health protection, justice, freedom and security, right of establishment and freedom to provide services, regional policy and coordination of structural instruments, business and industrial policy, agriculture and fisheries and education.

The compendium of CSD-IV programme can be retrieved at:

[http://civilsocietydialogue.org/wp-content/uploads/csd\\_files/csd\\_04\\_en.pdf](http://civilsocietydialogue.org/wp-content/uploads/csd_files/csd_04_en.pdf)



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## THE FIFTH PHASE OF CIVIL SOCIETY DIALOGUE: CSD-V (2019-2020)

A total of 6,9 million euro was provided for 40 dialogue projects to be implemented jointly by CSOs from Türkiye and EU member states/EU candidate countries within the scope of the fifth phase of the Civil Society Dialogue Programme. The projects that received grants focused on dialogue development and cooperation, while also working on social issues for disadvantaged groups such as the disabled, the elderly and the refugees. The projects have been implemented in fields such as gender equality, education, health, agriculture, food and environment. 32 of the coordinator beneficiaries of the projects were from Türkiye, 7 of them were from EU member states and 1 of them was from Bosnia and Herzegovina, which has the status of a candidate country.

The compendium of CSD-V programme can be retrieved at:

[http://civilsocietydialogue.org/wpcontent/uploads/2021/06/CSD\\_PI\\_KunyelerEN\\_230621a.pdf](http://civilsocietydialogue.org/wpcontent/uploads/2021/06/CSD_PI_KunyelerEN_230621a.pdf)

## THE SIXTH PHASE OF CIVIL SOCIETY DIALOGUE: CSD-VI (2021-2022)

The sixth phase of the programme (CSD-VI) began in April 2021. Approximately 4,7 million euro grant support is provided to 33 projects to be carried out by civil society organizations from Türkiye and the EU on activities organized for awareness-raising on Türkiye and the EU accession process as well as cooperation, partnership, and networking in fields relevant to the EU acquis. The projects have been completed in 2022.

The project catalogue of CSD-VI programme can be retrieved at:

[http://civilsocietydialogue.org/wpcontent/uploads/2021/06/CSD\\_PI\\_KunyelerEN\\_230621a.pdf](http://civilsocietydialogue.org/wpcontent/uploads/2021/06/CSD_PI_KunyelerEN_230621a.pdf)

The social media and web sites of the related programmes can be found below

### Civil Society Dialogue (CSD)



ABdiyalogu

DiyalogProjesi

siviltoplumdiyalogu

Sivil Toplum Diyalogu

[www.siviltoplumdiyalogu.org](http://www.siviltoplumdiyalogu.org)



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## 2. A BRIEF OVERVIEW TÜRKİYE - EU CIVIL SOCIETY DIALOGUE NETWORK

To be a facilitator of an effective civil society dialogue that contributes to the development of EU-Türkiye relations.

### Mission:

To create a network that will strengthen cooperation and dialogue between non-governmental organizations in the EU and Türkiye and to act in this sense.

### Key Activities:

- Organization of coordination meetings between the members of the network (at least every 2 months, at least 6 meetings per year),
- Preparation of the annual business plan,
- Development and implementation of projects through consortia formed by the members of the network,
- Organization of study visits abroad and participation in study visits abroad,
- Close follow-up of the IPA process, involvement and participation in relevant meetings (IPA Committee, Sectoral Monitoring Committees, Project Steering Committees, etc.),
- Closely follow the Union programs in which Türkiye participates, contribute and participate in the relevant meetings,
- Participate in international civil society activities at the EU level,
- Investigate and participate in mechanisms that can enhance civil society participation in EU-Türkiye relations,
- Follow the work of the Joint Consultative Committee of the EU Economic and Social Committee and build relations with the members of the EU wing,
- To create network-like structures through non-governmental organizations at the EU level and to contact higher-level organizations,
- To advocate for the establishment of the EU-Türkiye Civil Society Forum,
- Lobbying the EU and Türkiye to strengthen civil society participation in EU-Türkiye relations,
- To form opinions and advocate for the improvement of EU-Türkiye relations.

### Membership structure:

Non-governmental organizations that meet the established criteria are unanimously admitted to the Network upon the proposal of at least two founding members.

### Criteria of the membership:

- Working and project experience in developing cooperation and dialogue with non-governmental organizations in the EU,
- The compatibility of the institution's activities with fundamental human rights and the common values of EU and Türkiye,



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- Commitment to an environment in which effective, participatory, sustainable, transparent, gender-respecting and democratic relations and partnerships are established between EU and Türkiye,

### Coordination of the Network:

The coordination of the network in 2023 will be carried out by the three institutions designated for implementation under the responsibility of the main coordinator. In principle, it is envisaged that the role of NGO coordinator will be performed and rotated by one of the network members each year. However, this period can be extended up to 2 years if necessary. Institutions that are nominated themselves or institutions that are nominated, are elected by majority vote with the participation of all members.

### Role of the Executive Team:

Organize coordination meetings,

Facilitate collaboration and communication among members, developing the draft annual business plan,

Establishment and implementation of membership processes.

## Statement on the Launch of the Türkiye-EU Civil Society Dialogue Network

The world is in a period when debates on the future of democracy are flaring up, aspirations for rights and freedoms and conflicts over gender equality are increasing, and problems such as the climate crisis, the war in Ukraine, the economic crisis, the energy crisis, growing populism, the food crisis and rising inequality are creating new crises. At this time, it is of great importance that relations between Türkiye and the EU are once again at the top of the agenda. Reviving Türkiye-EU relations will also go a long way in overcoming these crises. However, for relations to be revived and the integration process to regain momentum, the culture of partnership, cooperation and collaboration between Türkiye and the EU must be rebuilt. This rebuilding process can put Türkiye's EU membership back on the agenda of the EU and the Turkish public. In this process, it should be emphasized that Türkiye is a historical and cultural part of Europe and that a common future should be built together.

The revival of our country's EU reform process, especially the protection of fundamental rights and freedoms, the strengthening of participatory democracy and the restoration of the rule of law, is the first step that needs to be taken in this process.

Looking at the last 20 years of EU-Türkiye relations, it can be said that while the participation of our country's civil society in EU-Türkiye relations has reached a significant level, the participation of civil society in the structural and institutional level of relations has remained limited. Involving civil society in the process with structured and meaningful means of participation is crucial for redefining EU-Türkiye relations. Moreover, non- governmental organisations in the EU and Türkiye need to come together more and be part of the solution in this time of crises we are in. For this reason, it is necessary to continue and strengthen the civil society dialogue between the EU and Türkiye.



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For this reason, we, the following non-governmental organisations, will begin to jointly build a network that will strengthen cooperation and dialogue between the EU and non-governmental organisations in Türkiye and increase the role of civil society in EU-Türkiye relations. We are pleased to announce to the public that we will continue our efforts to establish a civil society dialogue network between Türkiye and the EU.

With this structure, we aim to become a platform that strengthens cooperation and dialogue between the EU and non-governmental organisations in Türkiye in the medium term and enhances the role of civil society in Türkiye-EU relations.

## **Türkiye-EU Civil Society Dialogue Network Members of the Network**

### **1. Economic Development Foundation (IKV)**

IKV is a non-governmental research organization specialised on the EU and Türkiye-EU relations. IKV was established with the initiative of Istanbul Chamber of Commerce and Istanbul Chamber of Industry on the 26th November 1965, two years after the entry into force of the Ankara Agreement, to inform Turkish business world and Turkish public about European integration and Türkiye-EU relations. Since its establishment, IKV has become an effective expert organisation on the EU and Türkiye-EU relations both in Türkiye and in the EU, through its publications, seminars, lobbying activities and the close cooperation with foreign and domestic institutions. IKV Brussels Office has been conducting IKV's relations with the EU institutions since 1984. Briefly, IKV gives information regarding the EU to Türkiye and regarding Türkiye to the EU.

Along with the two founding organisations, Istanbul Chamber of Commerce and Istanbul Chamber of Industry, currently, IKV is supported from trustees representing the business world and sectors such as the Union of Chambers and Commodity Exchanges of Türkiye (TOBB), Turkish Exporters Assembly (TIM), Turkish Industry and Business Association (TUSIAD), Istanbul Textile and Apparel Exporters' Association (IHKIB), Istanbul Commodity Exchange (ITB), Turkish Bank Associations (TBB), Confederation of Employers' Union of Türkiye (TISK) and Kocaeli Chamber of Industry. In addition to the members of the trustees, more than 30 organisations support the activities of IKV.

### **2. The Women Entrepreneurs Association of Türkiye (KAGIDER)**

The Women Entrepreneurs Association of Türkiye (KAGIDER) is a non-governmental organization aimed at strengthening women entrepreneurs with 420 members representing 8% of the Turkish economy. KAGIDER's goal is to strengthen women not only economically but also socially and politically. KAGIDER has made its mission to support women entrepreneurship because it believes that women entrepreneurs have a strong impact on reversing the trends of gender inequality and women's economic exclusion. In addition, the goal is to bring attention to the societal contributions of women entrepreneurs in maintaining gender equality within society. In partnership with national and international public, private and civil organizations, KAGIDER has developed and continue to work on several projects



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and activities. Active globally, KAGIDER is the founding association of W20, has a focal point in Brussels, has consultative status for UN ECOSOC, member of FCEM, AFAEMME, WEP and is one of the five founding members of Balkan Women Coalition.

KAGIDER follows 8 strategies in carrying out its activities:

- Increase the number of women in the business world and promote women entrepreneurs;
- Provide trainings and mentoring to women in entering the business world and becoming an entrepreneur
- Spread the impacts of KAGIDER's activities across Türkiye.
- Support the legal base for the development of an ecosystem for women entrepreneurship while providing a road map for financial access
- Support KAGIDER members in growing their businesses
- Encourage and support young women in their entry into the business and entrepreneurial world while continuing their education
- Raising awareness about KAGIDER
- Become a reference point for supporting women entrepreneurship and developing the content and technological activities in women's careers at the national and international level.

### 3. Association of Civil Society Development Center (STGM)

Civil Society Development Center (Sivil Toplum Geliştirme Merkezi Derneđi - STGM) was founded in the year 2004 by a group of opinion leaders and activists who believed in the importance of civil society for the development of participatory democracy in our country.

The fundamental purpose of STGM is supporting civil society organizations, which are the voices of citizens and essential actors of democracy, towards being strengthened and capable of realising more effective actions. Therefore, although providing assistance to all structures within civil society, STGM gives priority to the organizations that employ rights-based approach. The priority target group of STGM comprises of the civil society organizations that deal in the fields of gender, children, human rights, youth, environment, handicapped rights and cultural rights/culture-arts.

Capacity building supports come at the top of the study areas dealt with by STGM. These capacity-building studies take on forms that align with the needs that change in time from common training programmes to the provision of legal assistance to organizations, and from institutional guidance studies to empowering civil networks and cooperation. Policy advocacy is yet another study area which is on the agenda both in the context of the own freedom of organizing for STGM and in the context where STGM develops programmes for empowering other organizations. Our communication studies, through which we have tried out many firsts in civil society during the last 20 years, aim for increasing the visibility of civil society organizations as well as aiming to publicize the efforts of STGM.





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STGM has been conducting its studies mainly through projects within the scope of instrument for pre-accession financial cooperation and civil society supported by the European Union since the year 2004. On the other hand, STGM carries out closely cooperated actions with public institutions.

#### 4. Türkiye Europe Foundation (TAV)

Türkiye Europe Foundation (TAV) is a civil society organization based in Istanbul with a national scope, which was founded on 13 December 2000 and became a legal entity on 17 January 2001. Within the scope of Türkiye's journey towards full membership to the European Union, the foundation works to improve the capacities of non-governmental organizations, to develop public and civil society dialogue, to stimulate democratic and active participation of citizens, and to raise awareness about active youth participation. The foundation is mainly collaborated and financed by external donors such as the EU, UNESCO, Sweden Consulate, Netherlands Consulate, and the private sector; and it has extensive experience in EU-funded project management. TAV executes many national and international programs, projects and events by collaborating and partnering with a wide range of organizations including local, regional and national authorities as well as public institutions, universities, companies and NGOs.

TAV defines its main duties as follows:

- Working in dialogue and cooperation with other non-governmental organizations;
- To support public institutions in their reforms and studies in the fields of democratization of Türkiye and full membership to the European Union.

TAV carries out its activities in three main areas:

- EU Studies, Türkiye - EU Relations and Türkiye's Full Membership to the EU
- Public - Civil Society Dialogue and Cooperation
- Youth Studies

#### 5. Turkish Enterprise and Business Confederation (TURKONFED)

TURKONFED (Turkish Enterprise and Business Confederation) is a non-governmental and nonpartisan business organization, aiming to contribute to the development of regional, sectoral and national economic policies. TURKONFED was established in 2004 as a nationwide confederation, representing 6 federations and 69 associations. Today, TURKONFED represents 30 federations and 300 associations with more than 50,000 company as members. TURKONFED is member of SME united, which is the association of crafts and SMEs in Europe representing over 22 million SMEs from 30 European countries. In this respect TURKONFED is a bridge between the Turkish business world and the European Union. In addition,



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TURKONFED has members from across the globe that gather under the platform TURKONFED International.

TURKONFED has three main functions: Policy design/advocacy, capacity development and business development. The working areas and activities of these three functions are determined through TURKONFED Commissions: Economic Development & Sustainability Commission, Commission on Women in Business World, Regional Development Commission, Sectoral Development Commission, Youth, Education & Entrepreneurship Commission, Digital Transformation Commission, Green Transition Commission and finally, Access to Finance Commission.

### 3. BERLIN STUDY VISIT PROGRAM

16 MAY 2023		
HOUR	INSTITUTION	PARTICIPANTS
14:00	<b>European Movement Germany</b>	Bernd Hüttemann, Secretary General
17:30	Adres: Alt-Moabit 92, 10559 Berlin	Milan Swarowsky, Policy Adviser Emil Frühling, Intern
17 MAY 2023		
SAAT	INSTITUTION	PARTICIPANTS
09:30	<b>NGONest Berlin</b>	Christian Porstner, EU Project Manager
11:30	Adres: Oudenarder Str 16	Giulio Brogi Sonat Akyaz
11:30	Lunch	
12:45		
13:00		
15:00	<b>National Civil Society Network (BBE)</b> Adres: Michaelkirch Str 17- 18, room 001	PD Dr. Ansgar Klein, Managing Director Dr. Frank Heuberger, BBE Senior Consultant for European Policy M. Sc Jasmin Schneider, Policy Officer for EU Issues
15:30	<b>Türkische Gemeinde in Deutschland</b> (TGD)	Gökay Sofuođlu, Head of the Community
17:30	Obentrautstraße 72 10963 Berlin	



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#### 4. PARTICIPANT LIST

Name	Title	Organisation
Bülent Özcan	Director General for Financial Cooperation and Project Implementation	Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Directorate for EU Affairs
A. Hakan Atik	Head of Project Implementation Department	Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Directorate for EU Affairs
Zerrin Keskin	Head of Communication Department	Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Directorate for EU Affairs
A. Deniz Arıcan	EU Affairs Expert	Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Directorate for EU Affairs
Aysel Tolunay	EU Affairs Expert	Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Directorate for EU Affairs
Duygu Yardımcı	EU Affairs Expert	Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Directorate for EU Affairs
Mehmet Ömürbek	EU Affairs Expert	Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Directorate for EU Affairs
Yeşim Yıldız	EU Affairs Expert	Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Directorate for EU Affairs
Arda Batu	Secretary General	(Turkish Enterprise and Business Confederation) (TURKONFED)
Emre Gür	Secretary General	Türkiye Europe Foundation (TAV)
Murat Özçelebi	Project Coordinator	Association of Civil Society Development Center (STGM)
H. Yeşim Seviğ	Secretary General	The Women Entrepreneurs Association of Türkiye (KAGİDER)
E. Eda Erdem	Event Coordinator	Weglobal Consultancy



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## 5. BIOGRAPHIES OF THE PARTICIPANTS

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**Mr. Bülent ÖZCAN**

**Director-General for Financial Cooperation and Project Implementation  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Directorate for EU Affairs**

After having a Bachelor's Degree in the Department of International Relations at Middle East Technical University in 1999, he completed the Master's Programme on the European Union Economy at the EU Institute of Marmara University. Subsequently, he attended Harvard University John F. Kennedy School of Government Executive Education Programme in 2011.

Bülent ÖZCAN is now working as the Director-General for Financial Cooperation and Project Implementation in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Directorate for EU Affairs in Türkiye since December 2018. Prior to this position, he served as assistant expert, expert, coordinator and Director within the same institution.

Having almost 20 years of experience in Project Management and Implementation, Mr. ÖZCAN is responsible for the overall coordination, monitoring and evaluation of Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance (IPA) Funds provided to Türkiye by the EU. In that vein, he takes responsibility in management of Bulgaria-Türkiye IPA Cross Border Cooperation Programme and Black Sea Basin Cross Border Cooperation Programme. He also coordinates the work on participation of Türkiye in EU Programmes and Agencies such as Erasmus + and Horizon 2020.

**Mr. A. Hakan ATİK**

**Head of Project Implementation Unit  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Directorate for EU Affairs**

He graduated from Ankara University Faculty of Political Sciences Department of Economics in 1988. He started his career as an Assistant Economist in the Development Bank of Türkiye. In 1993, he obtained the title of expert with the research study of "Türkiye and the Black Sea Economic Cooperation Problems in the Framework of International Economic Cooperation Analysis". Between 1988 and 2011, Atik served as an Expert-Senior Expert in different departments of the Bank.

Atik completed the "Basic Training" and "Economic and Financial Policies" certificate programs organized by Ankara University European Union Research and Application Center between 1993-94. Atik, who started to work as an EU Affairs Expert in the General Secretariat for European Union Affairs in 2011, was appointed as the Head of Project Implementation Department of the Directorate for European Union Affairs in March 2019 and still at the office.



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**Ms. Zerrin KESKİN**  
**Head of Communications Department**  
**Press & Public Relations Counsellor**  
**Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Directorate for EU Affairs**

Ms. Zerrin Keskin, graduated from Ankara University, Department of Journalism (BsC) and Social Sciences Communication (PhD) departments, commenced her professional life at Ankara University serving as a research assistant between 1994 and 2002. During her tenure, she took up the responsibility of delivering lectures on research methods in social sciences and news writing. She also got actively involved in research studies in the realm of news coverage in Turkish media and opinion polls.

Between 2003 and 2010, she worked as a communication consultant in a range of direct grant/IPA funded projects.

In 2011, she assumed a new role within the Directorate for EU Affairs as an EU Affairs Expert, subsequently served in different positions involving being Coordinator, Press and Public Relations Counsellor and ultimately Head of Department. In these positions, she has been vested with the responsibility of carrying out projects of multitude nature and organization of events in collaboration with media outlets, local authorities, public institutions, private companies and NGOs within the framework of Türkiye's EU Communication Strategy. Her primary responsibilities are to disseminate information to both Türkiye's and EU's publics, shedding light on various dimensions of Türkiye's accession process, which has remained as the mainstay of the Türkiye-EU relations.

**Ms. Ayşe Deniz Arıcan**  
**EU Affairs Expert**  
**Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Directorate for EU Affairs**

Ayşe Deniz Arıcan received her BA degree from in International Relations from İstanbul University in 2006. She worked as an export specialist at a private company in İstanbul. In 2010 she started to work in the Directorate for EU Affairs as an assistant expert for EU Affairs. She has been working as an expert in the same institution since 2014 in implementation and monitoring of projects under IPA. She has an MA degree in EU Politics and IR. She is currently fulfilling responsibilities as İstanbul Contact Point of the DEUA (activities of Deputy Minister's Office, activities of the DEUA and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs); also maintaining national contact point responsibilities under Türkiye-EU Cross Border Cooperation Programmes and fulfilling IPA-Civil Society Sector responsibilities.



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**Ms. Aysel Tolunay**  
**EU Affairs Expert**  
**Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Directorate for EU Affairs**

Aysel Tolunay received her BA degree in International Relations from Sakarya University in 2009 and her MA degree in European Studies from the Middle East Technical University in 2013.

In 2010 she started working at the Ministry of Labour and Social Security.

In 2011 she started working at the Directorate for EU Affairs Department of Project Implementation as an Assistant EU Affairs Expert and has been involved in planning, implementation and monitoring of projects. She is currently responsible for the programming and management of the EU funded Jean Monnet Scholarship Programme. She is also involved in the planning and implementation of the Civil Society Dialogue and Civil Society Support Programme Projects.

**Ms. Duygu YARDIMCI**  
**EU Affairs Expert**  
**Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Directorate for EU Affairs**

Starting her professional career as an EU Expert at the Ministry of Transport in 2004, Duygu Yardımcı has been continuing her career in the Directorate for European Union Affairs since 2010. Duygu Yardımcı, who is currently working as a senior monitoring expert within the Civil Society Sector Lead Institution structure, is also the coordinator of the Civil Society Support Grant Programmes. Mrs. Yardımcı has in-depth knowledge of IPA programming, project management, public-civil society cooperation, and volunteerism.

Mrs. Yardımcı is a Ph.D. candidate at METU, Department of Political Science and Public Administration. As a Jean Monnet scholar, she holds a Master of Laws degree (LLM) from Oxford Brookes University. The field of research in her academic studies is public-civil society cooperation.

Duygu Yardımcı, EU Affairs Expert/Project Manager (PM<sup>2</sup> Certified) Department of Project Implementation The Directorate for EU Affairs E-Mail : [dyardimci@ab.gov.tr](mailto:dyardimci@ab.gov.tr)

**Mr. Mehmet ÖMÜRBEK**  
**EU Affairs Expert**  
**Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Directorate for EU Affairs**

Mehmet Ömürbek is an Expert for EU Affairs and the Coordinator of the Civil Society Dialogue Programme in the Directorate for EU Affairs, Project Implementation Department. As a senior program and project manager, he has been carrying out tasks in various fields such as programming, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of EU supported projects in the Civil Society Sector for over 12 years.



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Graduated from the University of Galatasaray with major in International Relations, Mehmet Ömürbek holds a masters degree in Global Studies from the University of Gothenburg. He is a Swedish Institute Scholarship recipient and a member of SI Network of Global Leaders. Formerly he worked as a National Expert in Professional Training at DG DEVCO, as well as, served as a Counselor at the Embassy of Türkiye in Paris during the French Presidency of the Council of the EU.

**Ms. Yeşim YILDIZ**  
**EU Affairs Expert**  
**Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Directorate for EU Affairs**

Yeşim Yıldız is an EU Affairs Expert who works in the Project Implementation Department in the Directorate for EU Affairs in Türkiye. She has been part of the project implementation units of Civil Society Dialogue and Civil Society Support Programmes in between 2016-2023. She has knowledge of project management, technical assistance, and grant scheme management. She has taken part in Horizon Europe projects writing processes. She has also experience in Negotiation Chapter 13 Fisheries on the accession negotiations between the EU and Türkiye.

She holds a bachelor's degree in International Relations from Ankara University. As a Jean Monnet Scholarship holder, she received LLM degree in European Union Law from University of Essex.

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**Mr. Arda Batu**  
**The Secretary General & Board Member**  
**Turkish Enterprise and Business Confederation (TÜRKONFED).**

Arda attained his high school degree from The Browning School in 1996 and then joined New York University, where he was included in the "Dean's Honors List". Arda moved to Istanbul in 1997 and transferred his studies to Bosphorus University, where attained his BA degree from the Department of Political Science & International Relations. In 2001, Arda joined the European Parliament Internship program and then joined the European Studies Institute MA program of The Marmara University; he graduated 2003. Besides his role at TÜRKONFED, Arda Batu serves as an independent board member at Federal Mogul Izmit Piston, a subsidiary of Teneco Powertrain in Türkiye. Arda is on the executive board of Connecting Business Initiative (CBI), a joint initiative by the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). In addition, he is on the board of Centre for Economics and Foreign Policy Studies (EDAM) and High Council Member of Human Development Foundation (INGEV).



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**Mr. Emre Gür**  
**Secretary General**  
**Türkiye Europe Foundation (TAV)**

Emre Gür works with a large portfolio of organisations as a consultant, expert. He is currently Secretary General of Türkiye Europe Foundation, Key Expert at Sivil Düşün, Managing Partner of Barem Consultancy and Katalist, Country Representative for the Centre International de Formation Européenne (CIFE) along with some other voluntary engagements. His main interests reflect the multidisciplinary context he has been working in at the crossroads of academia, civil society, and the private sector: civil society, democracy, and politics in the EU and Türkiye, social development projects, youth and women's policies, as well as food and agriculture policies. He has worked for various institutions including civil society organisations, universities and international organisations, mainly in fields related to social policies and as a consultant and trainer for project management. Emre has co-authored a book on Best Practices of Youth Participation and has written articles on contemporary Türkiye. He graduated from Marmara University and CIFE / European Institute in Nice, with a specialisation in the evolution of the EU's Aid Policy and its contributions to the Millennium Development Goals.

**Mr. Murat Özçelebi**  
**Project Coordinator**  
**Association of Civil Society Development Center (STGM)**

He graduated from Ankara University, Faculty of Political Sciences, Department of International Relations in 2005. After a short experience in the private sector, he started working in the public sector in 2006. Between 2010-2021, he served as Expert for EU Affairs and Coordinator in the Directorate for EU Affairs. During this period, he worked as the IPA II civil society sub-sector coordinator. He carried out the general coordination of the programming, implementation, monitoring and evaluation processes of the projects within the scope of the civil society sub-sector. He also took part in all stages of EU projects carried out by the Directorate for EU Affairs.

He is experienced on civil society, capacity building, cooperation with local stakeholders, project cycle management, design and implementation of grant schemes, Jean Monnet Scholarship Program, project management trainings, technical document preparation for projects, tender and evaluation processes, reporting, visibility, communication, event design and moderation.

In November 2021, he started to work as a project coordinator at the Civil Society Development Center Association (STGM).





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**Ms. H. Yeřim Seviđ**  
**Secretary General**  
**Women Entrepreneurs Association of Türkiye (KAGIDER)**

Ms. Seviđ received her bachelor's degree from the department of Business Administration at İstanbul University in 1989 after graduating from American Robert College in İstanbul. After university graduation she went to France for Alliance Francaise language school. Following 4 years in corporate life at Turkish Airlines and Tekfen Holding she established her own company on marketing materials. 14 years of entrepreneurship led her to the instinct of delivering her know-how to new woman entrepreneurs; thus letting her to work at the Women Entrepreneurs Association of Türkiye (KAGIDER) in 2009. Since 2009, she has been working as the Secretary General of KAGIDER. She actively works in Advocacy, Entrepreneurship and Leadership, Communications and International Relations activities and other projects of KAGIDER, as well as specializing on the general secretarial works of the association. She is one of the W20 Delegates from Türkiye, member of the Global Entrepreneurship Week Steering Committee and also Vice Chair of Balkan Women Coalition.

## **6. POTENTIAL SUBJECTS TO DISCUSS AND POTENTIAL TOPICS**

### **European Movement Germany**

#### **POTENTIAL SUBJECTS**

- Possible engagements and interactions to establish an EU-Türkiye Civil Society Forum.
- Ensuring Türkiye's participation, increased entry and possible contributions to Union Programs.
- Consultation on what can be done about the intended excess of civil society contribution in the Türkiye-EU structure.
- Discussion on training, events and seminars that can be shared among the network scope (as a network or member organisations).
- Policy making: Public diplomacy, education policies, industrial policies (twin transformation)

#### **POTENTIAL TOPICS:**

- Possible activities and interactions for the establishment of an EU-Türkiye Civil Society Forum.
- The network's participation and possible contributions to the Union Programs in which Türkiye participates.
- Consultation on what can be done mutually to increase the participation of civil society in Türkiye-EU relations.
- How to improve cooperation among EU candidate countries?



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- Discussion on trainings, events and seminars that can be jointly organized within the network (as a network or between member institutions).
- Policy making: Public diplomacy, education policies, industrial policies (twin transformation)
- Recent developments on social economy including practices of social enterprises and social innovation.
- Approach of European Movement to the implementation *Social Economy Action Plan* [https://www.stgm.org.tr/sites/default/files/2022-03/is-the-third-sector-or-social-economy-sector-back\\_.pdf](https://www.stgm.org.tr/sites/default/files/2022-03/is-the-third-sector-or-social-economy-sector-back_.pdf)
- Approach of European Movement to the draft on “Statute for European Cross-border Associations and Non-profit Organizations” [https://www.stgm.org.tr/sites/default/files/2022-03/is-freedom-of-movement-possible-for-civil-society-organisations-in-the-eu\\_.pdf](https://www.stgm.org.tr/sites/default/files/2022-03/is-freedom-of-movement-possible-for-civil-society-organisations-in-the-eu_.pdf)
- Approach of European Movement German to the EU Foreign Interference Law (<https://www.politico.eu/wp-content/uploads/2023/05/03/Letter-to-VDL-EU-Foreign-Interference-Law-Civil-Society-EMBARGOED.pdf>)

## NGO Nest Berlin

### POTENTIAL SUBJECTS

- Discussion on field-specific project ideas (youth, climate, civil society participation, etc.) through consortia to be formed among network members – examples of selected projects from participating institutions.
- Consultation on mechanisms that can increase civil society participation in Türkiye-EU relations.
- Partnership in Erasmus and KA projects: Education, gender equality and inter-communal dialogue.

### POTENTIAL TOPICS:

- Discussion on area-specific project ideas (youth, climate, civil society engagement, etc.) through consortia to be formed among the network members - examples of selected projects from participating organizations.
- Partnership possibilities in Erasmus projects (education, gender equality and civil society dialogue etc.)
- Consultation on mechanisms to enhance civil society engagement in Türkiye-EU relations.
- Recent developments on social economy including practices of social enterprises and social innovation.
- Searching ways to improve cooperation with Turkish Youth CSOs



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## National Civil Society Network (BBE)

### POTENTIAL SUBJECTS

- Discussion of the draft of the project groups to be formed among the members of the network, sharing of experience. "Working groups can be groups where members are divided according to the main working areas of NGOs such as environment, climate, gender. "
- Evaluation and comparison of network participation criteria.
- Matching young TÜRKONFED commission members with BBE members.

### POTENTIAL TOPICS:

- Discussing the draft of the project groups to be formed among the network members, and sharing experiences. "Working groups can be structures where members are divided according to the main working areas of CSOs such as environment, climate, and gender."
- Evaluation and comparison of network participation criteria.
- Matching between Young TÜRKONFED commission members and BBE members.
- Role of BBE on civic engagement and how do they facilitate participation of CSOs to decision making process? Could this model be transferred to Türkiye as a best practice?
- Approach of BBE to the EU Foreign Interference Law (<https://www.politico.eu/wp-content/uploads/2023/05/03/Letter-to-VDL-EU-Foreign-Interference-Law-Civil-Society-EMBARGOED.pdf>)

## German - Turkish Community

### POTENTIAL SUBJECTS

- Can be interviewed for participation in study visits abroad. Plans can be made for networking with Turkish institutions and increasing civil society interaction.
- Earthquake zone studies.
- Planning joint activities within the scope of TURKONFED International commission for the development of commercial relations between the two countries.

### POTENTIAL TOPICS:

- Participation in study visits abroad can be negotiated. Plans can be made to network with Turkish institutions and increase civil society interaction.
- Earthquake zone actions.
- Planning joint activities within the scope of TURKONFED International commission for the development of commercial relations between the two countries.



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## 7. MEETING FLOW

Action Order	Duration Minutes	Session	Initiative by	Material to be Used	Expected Achievement
1	00:05	Introduction of the aims of the visit, role of Directorate for EU Affairs	Bülent Özcan Directorate for EU Affairs, Director General for Financial Cooperation and Project Implementation  A. Hakan Atik Directorate for EU Affairs, Head of Project Implementation Department	Meeting dossiers for the host institution includes participants and their institutions information	To provide information on DEUA and its role for the facilitation of the Network
2	00:20	Introduction of the Host institution	Names can be followed for each meeting by agenda document	Presentation or related documentation if any	To have information on institution and possible collaboration areas  To have information on best practices, example activities if any
3	00:10	Introduction of Civil Society Dialogue Programme & CSDTN	Mehmet Ömürbek/ Duygu Yardımcı  Directorate for EU Affairs, Coordinator of Civil Society Dialogue Programme	Info-note on programmes	To promote and to underline achievements of CSD and CSSP Programme and its critical role between EU and Türkiye civil societies and their important support to development of CSOs.
4	00:05	Presentation of Türkiye Europe Foundation (TAV)	Emre Gür	Presentation or related documentation if any	To provide brief information about the mission and activities of the CSO
5	00:05	Presentation of the Turkish Enterprise and Business Confederation (TURKONFED)	Arda Batu	Presentation or related documentation if any	To provide brief information about the mission and activities of the CSO



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6	00:05	Presentation of The Women Entrepreneurs Association of Türkiye (KAGİDER)	H. Yeşim Seviğ	Presentation or related documentation if any	To provide brief information about the mission and activities of the CSO
7	00:05	Presentation of the Association of Civil Society Development Center (STGM)	Murat Özçelebi	Presentation or related documentation if any	To provide brief information about the mission and activities of the CSO
8	00:20	Q&A (With the focus on possible collaboration areas)	Facilitator: Network Representatives	Notes to be taken by rapporteurs	To exchange point of views on possible collaboration areas focus on network opportunities  To consultate on possible establishment of Network's EU platform
9	00:05	Photo and Presenting Gifts	Eda Erdem (Study Visit Expert)	Gifts	To record the visit by photos to be used in communication activities, courtesy session

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