

LIFELONG LEARNING AND LOCAL DEVELOPMENT: LLL ACTIVITIES OF LOCAL ACTORS IN TURKEY

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To The Leading Edge, Toward Being The Best... (Daha İleriye, En İyiyeye...)

Lifelong Learning (LLL)

- Lifelong learning (LLL) is a new approach to continuous training in the face of the reality that adult learning is the 'weakest link' of training systems.
- In a globalised economy, LLL and skills development is essential to sustain a competitive, innovative, green and smart workforce adapted to the constant challenges.
- LLL activities contribute to local development mainly by improving the human capital of local units/cities.



LLL Activities

- The importance of LLL was already highlighted in the Lisbon Strategy, which aimed a participation rate in LLL activities of 12.5% of the population aging 25-64 years.
- By 2010 the corresponding figure was 9.1% (10.7% in 2013), thus, the target had been missed by several percentage points. (2.5% in 2011, 3.2% in 2012 and 3.8% in 2013 in Turkey).
- Already in 2009, the 'Strategic Framework for European Cooperation in Education and Training' (ET2020) updated this target by aiming at 15% of adults participating in LLL by 2020.



LLL Activities at Local Level (1)

- It is also particularly important at times with high unemployment in several European regions and local units. Less educated and low-skilled labour force need to reinvent themselves in order to find a job through LLL programmes.
- At regional and local levels a positive correlation between 'LLL participation' and the 'employment rate' can be observed.



LLL Activities at Local Level (2)

- Developed countries are aware of the importance of LLL activities for so long and in these countries the debates to increase effectiveness of these units to serve better for the requirements of local development takes place within the important policy issues.
- The implementation of LLL at local level is a necessary condition for larger scale policies in Europe in order to create the conditions for the 'actors' to work together through strategic partnerships and the development of pathways of integration.
- There is a gap between what is taking place and what should be in practice to support LLL in all its forms at both 'central' and 'territorial' (regional and local) levels.



LLL Activities at Local Level for Local Development

- The critical position of local actors in the context of LLL:
 - how do they individually contribute to ‘local development’ (i.e. improving the human capital of cities);
 - how sustainable cooperation should be developed between them in order to contribute to local development?
 - to what extent local actors serve for this function in the case of Turkey?



Main Actors of LLL at Local Level

- **Universities and Research Institutions**
 - An active role in the implementation of new practices in relation with the territories
- **Territorial Collectivities** (regions, provinces, municipalities)
 - Agents for a better dissemination of new practices of learning and recognition of experience for their personnel and the local communities
- **Social and Economic Actors** (small and medium enterprises, chambers of industry, commerce and artisans, trade unions, professional organisations)
 - New actors of LLL to increase employment opportunities for young people



Main Local Actors of LLL in Turkey

- Actors of LLL at central and regional/local levels
- The activities of those Actors of LLL in proximity of the public.
- Gap between what has be done and what should be done (Turkey's LLL Strategy 2014-2018)



Actors of LLL in Turkey

- **Central Actors**
 - **Central Government Level**
 - e.g. The Ministry of National Education (General Directorate of LLL), Ministry of Labour and Social Security
 - **Provincial Government Level**
 - e.g. LLL Centres at provinces and districts



Actors of LLL in Turkey

- **Decentralised Actors**

- Public Professional Institutions (e.g. chambers of industry and commerce)
- Universities
- Local Governments (special provincial administrations, municipalities, metropolitan municipalities, Union of Municipalities of Turkey, municipalities' union)



Universities

- Centres for Further Education, Continuing Education, LifeLong Learning
 - Free or Charged Programmes
 - Awareness Raising Conferences
 - Certificate Programmes
 - Short Courses
- Council of Turkey for Continuing Education Centres (TÜSEM)
- Standardisation and Legal-Financial Problems
- Formal postgraduate programmes vs.certificate programmes



Metropolitan Municipalities

- Ankara Metropolitan Municipality (Municipal Vocational Courses-BELMEK)
 - Technical Training Courses
 - Skill and Occupational Training Courses
- District Municipalities of Metropolitan Area (e.g. ETİSEM, YENİMEK, KEÇMEK, TODAM)
 - Continuing Education -Type Courses
 - Vocational Training Courses
- Most of the courses are free of charge



Problem Areas in LLL Pathways in Turkey

- Low participation rates (particularly among middle-aged people and women)
- SMEs' lack of information and interest
- Inadequacies of NGOs' initiatives
- Standardisation Problems in Municipalities' LLL programmes
- Limited capacities of newly established government universities in small cities
- Lack of sustainable cooperation among local actors

