

Civil Society in Turkey

A Historical Perspective

Ottoman Era

- ❑ Premodern forms of non-governmental organisations
 - Religious orders
 - Guilds
 - Byzantine and Ottoman Foundations
- ❑ First NGO's
 - Non-muslim NGO's (early 19 th Century)
 - Palace centric NGO's (education, arts, science)
 - Modern NGO's (after the 1908 revolution, until 1911)
 - 300 NGO's in the Balkan region
 - A lively intellectual environment
 - Problems due to wars
- ❑ Truce Period and First Years of Republic
 - Rebirth of NGO's and foundation of new ones
 - Reflection of civil society to the last Ottoman Government and the Ankara Parliament
 - Silencing of all opposition in 1925 under the pretext of Seyh Sait Rebellion

1945 - 1960

- ❑ Boom in labour unions and associations, demand for increased freedoms
- ❑ Transition to multiparty democracy
- ❑ A new government (DP) promising more freedoms
- ❑ Cold War: limitation to freedoms and oppression to the left
- ❑ First steps in taking part in international NGO's

1961 - 1980

- ❑ coup d'état in 1961
- ❑ a new constitution increasing the scope of freedoms
- ❑ millions getting organised in labour-unions and associations
- ❑ ideological clash and political violence
- ❑ coup d'état in 1980

1980

- ❑ banning of all political parties and NGO's
- ❑ active depolitization
- ❑ ending freedoms at universities
- ❑ oppression to political liberalism and the left

1990-2008

- ❑ rebirth and growth of civil society
- ❑ external factors
 - EU Accession process
- ❑ mile-stones
 - Habitat Summit (1996)
 - Marmara Earthquake (1999)
 - Recognition of Turkey's candidacy by the EU (Helsinki Summit, 1999)

Increase in Number of NGOs

- ❑ Over 85.000 active NGO's
 - Foundations: 5.000
 - Associations: 80.000
 - Labour Unions: 1.000
 - Civil initiatives: ...

Strengths and Opportunities

Increase in Geographical Scope

- NGO development throughout the country as opposed to a few big cities
- Density in South East Anatolia



Diversification

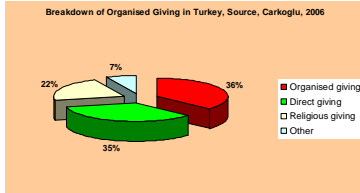
- NGO's specialised in different areas of civil society
 - Prominence of women's, youth and environmentalist NGO's within the civil society movement

Increase in Capacity

- project management
- professionalism
- coalition building
 - women's NGOs
 - youth NGOs
 - environmental NGO's
- international exposure and partnerships
 - lobbying
 - conflict resolution

Individual Giving

- Individual Giving
 - 75 % of public gives
 - 87 % of these prefer to give directly rather than through organisations
 - Total giving as of 2004: 1.910.472.244 USD



- Corporate Donations
 - Corporate Social Responsibility bandwagon

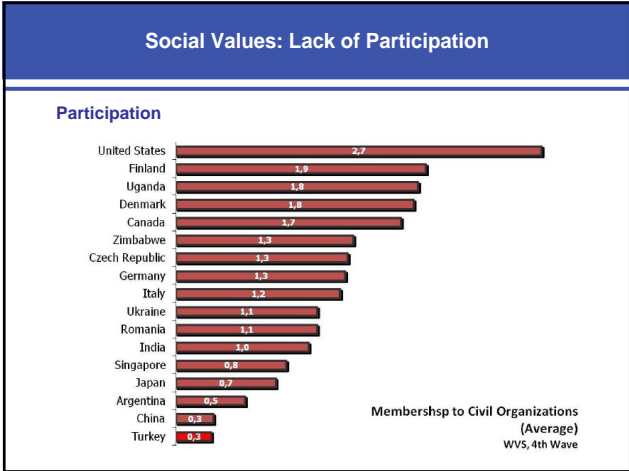
Individual Giving

- Help to the poor: 28%
- Education: 18 %
- Disabled people: 13 %
- Religious: 10
- Disaster Relief: 9 %
- Children and Youth: 6 %
- Health: 6 %
- Human Rights: 4 %
- Culture & Arts: 2 %
- Social & Economic Development: 2 %
- Environment: 0.7 %
- Consumer Rights: 0.2 %
- Animal Rights: 0.2 %
- Science and Research: 0.2 %
- Sports: 0.2 %

Challenges

Insufficient Contribution

- State: lack of trust to civil society
- Governments: partisanship and exploitation of civil society
- Political parties: Use of civil society as a source of rhetoric, but no support to it's development
- Media: a general reference to civil society, but insufficient coverage of their ideas and activities
- Private Sector: Donations limited to charity, insufficient donations to social or causes
- Individuals: low participation



- ### Internal Problems of NGOs
- Weakness in Financial sustainability
 - Project hunting
 - Competition for resources creating rivalry
 - Organizational capacity
 - Governance Style
 - Lack of internal democracy

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