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Technical Assistance for the Support for Children's Rights in Türkiye

Project Identification No: NEAR/ANK/2021/EA-RP/0070

Contract No: TR2017/RL/02/A3-01/001

Activity 1.3. Organising awareness-raising seminars

BURSA WORKSHOP
26-27 January 2023



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INTRODUCTION

This report contains detailed information on the "Bursa Workshop" with the participation of 65 CSOs, a seminar on advocacy with the participation of 20 children face-to-face and around 100 children on Zoom representing child rights committees of different provinces and information sharing meeting with the participation of 19 professionals " held on 26-27 February, 2023 at the Hilton Hotel Bursa.

ABOUT THE ÖZNE ÇOCUK PROJECT

"Technical Assistance for the Support for Children's Rights in Türkiye", Özne Çocuk project is carried out by the Ministry of Family and Social Services as the main beneficiary and the Ministry of Labour and Social Security as the co beneficiary. The lead institution of the project is Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Directorate for EU Affairs (DEUA) and the contracting authority is the Central Finance and Contract Unit (CFCU). The project is financed by the Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance 2014-2020 (IPA II).

In the project context, five workshops on communications for public awareness raising and advocacy with the participation of CSO representatives in Ankara, Bursa, Izmir, Istanbul and another province to be determined later for two days each with the participation of 20 – 24 CSO representatives in each (2 representatives per each CSO) are planned to be organised. These will be interactive workshop format led by SNKEs who prepared the Advocacy Guidebook & Awareness Raising Strategy.

Participant Management

- 65 people participated in the training with CSOs; 45 of them was female, 20 of them were male.
- 20 children representing child rights committees attended the seminar face-to-face; 10 of them was female, 10 of them were male.
- 19 professionals participated the information sharing meeting; 12 of them was female, 7 of them were male.

Information about the event was communicated together with the technical assistance team (TAT) of the project through the Bursa Provincial Directorate of Family and Social Services with the guidance of the beneficiary institution.

EVENT AGENDA AND FLOW

The program of the workshop is as follows;

26 January 2023, Thursday

With the Participation of Children Members of the Provincial Child Rights Committees

Objective: Raising awareness by providing a general framework for advocacy within the framework of children's rights



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Time	Topic
09:30 - 09:40	Welcome, aim of the workshop, overview of the agenda <i>Tarık Tuncay, Project Key Expert</i> <i>Mevlûde Sahilliođlu, Trainer</i>
09:40 - 10:10	Introduction
10:10 - 10:30	Information on the Özne Çocuk Project with a focus on Child Rights
10:30 - 11:15	What is advocacy? Basic concepts of advocacy
11:15 - 11:30	Break
11:30 - 12:30	How can we do advocacy with the guidance of the Step-by-step Advocacy Guidebook?
12:30 - 13:30	Lunch
13:30 - 14:45	Things to consider while advocating
14:45 - 15:00	Break
15:00 - 16:15	Inspiring examples of good advocacy in Türkiye
16:15 - 16:30	Feedback and closing

27 January 2023, Friday

With the Participation of Representatives of Civil Society Organizations in the Field of Child Rights

Time	Topic
10:00 - 10:15	Overview of the first day, feedback
10:15 - 11:15	How to plan and carry out an advocacy campaign focused on child rights?
11:15 - 11:30	Break
11:30 - 12:30	How to plan and carry out an advocacy campaign focused on child rights? (continued)
12:30 - 13:30	Lunch
13:45 - 15:45	Group work
15:45 - 16:00	Break
16:00 - 16:45	General evaluation
16:45 - 17:00	Feedback and closing

GENERAL OVERVIEW

Özne Çocuk project requires organising of seminars to increase CSO's capacities in conducting systematic, evidence based, result oriented, context adopted and well-planned awareness raising and advocacy activities. To this end, the Public Advocacy for Children's Rights: A Step-by-Step Guide for Preparing an Action Plan, which was prepared as a practical guidebook for increasing CSOs advocacy capacities, is the starting point for the organisation of the awareness raising seminars in workshop format.



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Activity 1.3 includes the organisation of awareness-raising seminars. The broader objective of awareness-raising activities is to contribute to a mindset transformation of service providers in child welfare and child protection, and society.

The present report highlights the main findings and results of the Bursa workshop held on 26-27 January, 2023. The trainer of the workshop was Ms. Mevlüde Sahillioğlu and she was supported by the Project Key Expert, Mr. Tarık Tuncay. The list of participants is attached to this report.

Within the scope of Activity 1.3 awareness raising activities, 1.5 hours of seminar was organized with the participation of 20 children representing children's right committees. As a parallel session accompanying adults of children attended an experience and information meeting moderated by Mr. Tarık Tuncay, Key Expert of the project.

This first event, which was held within the scope of the Özne Çocuk Project, was successfully completed in an organizational sense. Many participants expressed their content and appreciation verbally to the organization team at the event venue. The Hilton Hotel where the event was held, enabled the event to take place without any problems, owing to its location, size and technical infrastructure.

CSO WORKSHOP

The purpose of the training was to raise awareness on implementing and protecting child rights advocacy with a focus on child welfare and protection mechanisms. The trainer Ms. Mevlüde Sahillioğlu welcomed participants and reviewed the aims. The training started with an opening session with introductions by the representatives of the CSOs, local governments and public institutions. This was followed by an introduction to the project, its goals, and the overall contents of goals by Ms. Tarık Tuncay, Key Expert of the Özne Çocuk Project. In his presentation he emphasized the importance of the advocacy components of the project from children's rights perspective and participation.

The training started with the presentation focusing on what advocacy perspective. The basic concepts and general framework that includes concrete examples were shared. Public Advocacy Guidebook was introduced. The guidebook and its chapters were summarized as a presentation.

At the afternoon session, tips and hints of conducting better advocacy were presented. The content focused on different ways of making advocacy, using positive narrative, sharing general principles and examples. The presentation included best practices of advocacy activities in Türkiye focusing on message development and using effective tools. The importance of collaborating with diverse stakeholders and writing policy papers were also underlined. Additionally, there was an open space for participants to contribute by giving their examples at the local level.

The second day was dedicated to children's right based advocacy. A presentation was delivered, on how it is used, its purposes. "How can we plan and conduct advocacy from this perspective?" presentation was shared with the examples from Türkiye. An animated short video on how to work



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with children was shared and the good practices on this topic was discussed with the participants.

Next session was dedicated to group work. For the group exercise, the participants were divided into five groups of approximately eight participants each. Each group was assigned to a different target audience; Chair of the Municipality, Rector of the University, Governor of Bursa and Director General of Child Services at the Ministry of Family and Social Services. The task of the groups was to make advocacy of predefined scenarios to the assigned target group. After the preparation process among themselves, participants conducted the role play. Following role plays, feedback was given by experts and also by other participants that watched the role play.

The day ended by a close-up session and the participants were asked to complete a survey regarding their expectations from the workshop.

MEETING WITH CHILDREN

The meeting with children was organized in Bursa with the participation of representatives of child rights committees from 81 provinces of Türkiye. The event was in hybrid format. Twenty children were physically present (10 females, 10 male) in the event and around 100 from various provinces of Türkiye were connected on zoom and the whole seminar was broadcasted live.

The purpose of the meeting was set as providing a general perspective on children's right based advocacy and the seminar was carried out accordingly. The seminar started with getting to know exercise with a game. The game was designed on the basis of the advocacy concept and three questions were asked to the participants: "Which city they represent, which sport they like to play and/or watch, if they had a superpower, what would it be and why, what would they like to change in their city?" Participants that resonated with any of the responses of their friends took the floor and as they responded to questions, they gave each other a little piece of chocolate that also added a fun component to the exercise. The get to know exercise was interactive and created a bonding between children.

The Director General of Child Services at the Ministry of Family and Social Services Mr. Musa Şahin joined the seminar and welcomed children. Mr. Şahin in his opening speech marked the importance of the Özne Çocuk Project and emphasized the steps to be taken and stated that currently one of the priority areas of the Ministry was participation and peer bullying. The content of the seminar was quickly modified by the trainer Mevlüde Sahillioğlu and a short exercise was included in the seminar program about peer bullying emphasized by Mr. Şahin to reify the issue.

Following this session, a game was played as a component of experimental learning. The main goal of the game was to show children if there is something that needs to be changed, they need to come up with strategies and influence decision makers which is connected to the topic to advocacy. The exercise was connected to the content of the seminar; basics of advocacy. Furthermore, a short presentation "ABC of advocacy" including good practices on children's rights was delivered.



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Observations:

- The seminar provided a safe space for talking about their needs, demands as well as an environment respecting the regional differences as they come from different backgrounds.
- Children conducted a participatory process among themselves by inviting zoom participants to share their needs.
- Participants were present and actively engaged, some took down notes of the meeting. They actively participated to discussions and asked questions.
- Group exercise and games were a good way to bond. This exercise also helped them to learn about their needs.
- The exercise of bullying was open source; children were encouraged to use the exercise with their peers.
- They listened to each other with respect and there was a bonding in the end.
- As they represent different provinces, the needs and demands of children for their provinces were diverse. The responses they gave at the introduction session varied from infrastructure having greener fields, parks to having more sport activities for kids, to attending more social events, live concerts, to having spaces to play more

In order to evaluate the seminar, the question of “How will you remember this seminar?” was directed to children and they were asked to stick their responses on a flip chart. Below you can find a couple of feedback and the photo of the responses is attached to this report.

- *Friends connected on zoom gave great ideas, contributed to the meeting.*
- *I learned new concepts and tools. I learned about my friends' problems which contributed much to tomorrow's meeting.*
- *It was effective, fruitful and we never got bored.*
- *I learned to look at things from different perspectives*
- *It was fruitful*
- *In 2 hours, I learned a lot of things now I can continue my life more knowledgeable, thank you.*
- *It was fun and smooth*
- *I enjoyed the games*
- *It was both fun and instructive*
- *It was very useful; I hope more of it would be organized*
- *It was the best seminar I had so far*

1. MEETING WITH PROFESSIONALS

Twelve female, 7 male professionals attended the meeting with professionals in order to exchange experiences working in the various provinces.

At the meeting held with the participation of General Director of General Directorate of Child Services Dr. Musa Şahin:



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- Four components of the project and target group were introduced.
- Participants shared their experiences and how they can address the challenges and find solutions in the field.
- Participants exchanged their experiences with their peers and they also offered possible solutions.
- The importance of all institutions working in cooperation was highlighted.
- Regarding Activity 1.3 of the project it was emphasized that it would be more beneficial to conduct effective use of peer programs. It was also highlighted that mainstreaming children's citizen perspective and participation is a must.

OBSERVATIONS OF THE NON-KEY EXPERT (NKE)

- During the CSOs workshop conducting group work increased interaction and enabled connections between different stakeholders working for the same purpose.
- Giving good examples of advocacy in the context of presentation helped participants to see concrete practices and motivated them to take action. Also hearing from each other helped them to learn more about the projects on the ground.
- The training emphasized the learning-by-doing method.
- The training encouraged cooperation with organizations working in the same area. Participants openly invited each other to projects, events and activities. Therefore, the training helped to build a network in Bursa at the local level.
- The questions asked to participants in the introduction session; “What would you advise to your 15 years old version?” was relevant to the specific focus on children’s rights focused advocacy, and it connected participants to their childhood.
- Some participants such as (Gürsu Municipality, Turkish Psychology Association, Green Crescent) mentioned that after the training they will start working on their advocacy plan.

SUGGESTIONS FOR THE FUTURE ACTIVITIES

Some suggestions that will be useful to evaluate in other meetings that will be held during the project process are as follows;

- Carrying out the group activities of children’s rights training with the max capacity of 15-20 people is recommended
- Promoting of the project through its web site, social media accounts, using a hashtag among participants of the workshop can be made.
- A call to action can be included in the training content such as spreading the word, using the resources in the web sites, and coming up with advocacy tools.
- A session on writing policy papers can be included in the training.
- The list of national level organizations working in the same field can be printed and shared with the participants.
- The good example’s participants share can be recorded down on a flipchart/word document.



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- In the future if a hybrid meeting is organized as the children's meeting, it would be good to have a facilitator to follow the chat and collect questions, comments.
- Workshops can be organized to make the event more interactive for children.
- Informative sessions can be organized for adults accompanying children, and informative materials can be shared on the project and subject.

Final Evaluation

At the end of the workshop, the participants were asked to evaluate the content, as well as the overall organisational aspects. The participants were overall very satisfied with the workshop topic, flow and the content. In addition, they mostly confirmed the high relevance of the topic for their everyday work. Participants mentioned that group activity was very fruitful and there could be more group activities. General discussions have been described as fruitful. Participants stated that the workshop created a network in Bursa and they already started to cooperate and work together. They added that shared good practices inspired participants with new project ideas, and some participants started to write down an advocacy plan. To sum up, training helped participants to see the advocacy concept in a holistic way and broadened horizons in terms of civil society perspective.

Selected feedbacks of the evaluation forms are as following:

- *I did not know about advocacy concepts before, so I am glad to learn about the good examples.*
- *I plan to use these examples in my work too, the group exercise was very helpful*
- *Meeting people who work for the same purpose in Bursa was motivating*
- *I had the chance to learn about advocacy, the general concepts of how I can conduct a campaign, and I learned about these.*
- *The group exercise helped me to see other perspectives.*
- *Shared information and examples were very helpful*
- *I would like to attend more training on advocacy*
- *Thanks to this training I realized that I was doing advocacy, I was not aware of it. This will contribute to my strategic planning and governance activities.*
- *It was helpful to hear about examples.*
- *I would like similar trainings to be organized*
- *I felt involved, it was good to interact with other participants.*
- *While I was a bit tired of working with public institutions, this training gave me hope and motivated me.*
- *It was both fun and instructive*



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