



# Newsletter

International Labour Office, Ankara • Uluslararası Çalışma Ofisi, Ankara

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## NEWS FROM ILO-ANKARA

### *World Day Against Child Labour celebrated*

World Day Against Child Labour was celebrated with numerous local events as part of the EU-funded project entitled “Eradicating the Worst Forms of Child Labour in Turkey” which is being implemented in 7 provinces.



*“No to Child Labour” in province of Van*



*March to protest child labour in province of Sinop*

As a kick-off to the celebrations, the local project activities and results achieved to date were presented in half-day events officiated by governors of the provinces. Role-plays, folk dances and sport demonstrations were performed by ex-child labourers. In addition to these awareness-raising events there were week-long activities including concerts, painting exhibitions, sporting events, open air exhibitions and rallies by the children.

Ceremonies to ‘Show the Red Card to Child Labour’ were held both at the various half-day meetings and open-air gatherings. In several of the provinces representatives of the donor organization, EU and contracting agency Central Finance and Contracts Unit attended and contributed to the activities of 2007 WDAFL.

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A well-known young Turkish pop star, Utku, participated in the events held in the province of Sinop. At a concert open to the public, Utku’s references to the child labour problem and call for a stop to child labour attracted the attention of local and national TV channels and print media, which gave it wide coverage.

In all the activities held in the project provinces, the provincial governors, local high-level public administrators from Ministries of Health and Education and General Directorate of Social Services and Child Protection, NGO representatives, university student volunteers, members of local branches of trade unions and the families of working children were present.

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As part of the USDOL-funded IPEC Time-Bound Programme Support Project, half-day awareness raising meetings focusing on “Elimination of Worst Forms of Child Labour in Agriculture” were organized in 13 provinces on June 12, World Day Against Child Labour. During the meetings a session was devoted to the findings of the recent Child Labour Survey which shows again a significant decrease in the number of child labourers in Turkey. Local level project activities and outputs that have been achieved to date were also presented in each province. Following the meetings, children, families and representatives of various institutions participated in marches to the city centers. During the marches, posters and banners were carried by the participants, hats, flyers and brochures were distributed to the public and press announcements were made by the children and the organizing committee representatives. This was followed by week-long activities including concerts, folk dances, painting



*Children at one of the events in Adana*

exhibitions, sports activities, free cinema, theatre, museum and amusement park entrances targeted at the local children.

All provincial action committees took the decision to organize and celebrate June 12 World Day Against Child Labour every year. This decision was communicated to the General



*March against child labour in Gaziantep*

Directorate of Social Services and Child Protection Agency and Ministry of Labour and Social Security along with a request to observe the day nationwide. These national authorities agreed in principal to organize 2008 WDACL celebrations in all 81 provinces.

Media gave great importance to the events; local and national newspapers published the activities, IPEC Ankara and field personnel participated in local and national TV and radio broadcasts. Also, French TV Channel TF1 broadcast a day in the life of a seasonal agriculture worker in Turkey on the occasion of WDACL and described the interventions taking place as part of the IPEC Action Programme for the Elimination of WFCL in Seasonal Commercial Agriculture being implemented by the Ministry of National Education.



*French TV in the field*

The broadcast covered interviews with families, employers, intermediaries, children, teachers and project personnel and detailed the actions which resulted in the withdrawal of more than 3,000 children from seasonal commercial agriculture and directed to education.

### ***Karataş Child Labour Project selected as a good practice at İstanbul Conference***

The Education Reform Initiative at Sabancı University organized a national conference on “Good Practices in Education” in May 2007 in İstanbul. The IPEC Action Programme on “Elimination of Worst Forms of Child Labour in Seasonal Commercial Agriculture through Education” implemented by the Ministry of National Education in Karataş, Adana was selected as one of the good practices among several projects and a presentation on the results were made during the conference by field staff of the project. The Conference created the platform for more than 1000 experts from different disciplines to share information and experiences. They discussed possibilities of cooperation between institutions, with special importance being given to cooperation between local NGOs and the selected good practices.

### ***TİSK opens Social Support Center in Kartal***

The Turkish Confederation of Employer Associations, TİSK has widened its scope of activities in eliminating worst forms of child labour in İstanbul by opening a new social support center in Kartal district in May 2007. The premise for the center has been provided free of charge by Kartal Vocational Training Center for the use of TİSK. The district Governors of Pendik and Kartal, IPEC National Programme Manager, TİSK officials from Ankara and İstanbul, local NGO representatives and chambers of small industries representatives from Pendik and Kartal industrial sites were among the participants at the opening ceremony. This initiative is considered as a good example for replicating the successful models developed by IPEC Action Programmes and shows the national ownership and commitment for solving the child labour problem in Turkey.

### ***Seminar on Child Labour Survey Questionnaires held***

The International Seminar on New SIMPOC Child Labour Survey Questionnaires and Sampling Methodologies was held in İstanbul. The aim was twofold: first, to discuss the “Synthesis Report on Pilot Child Labour Surveys”, which reflected the findings of the four ILO member countries that conducted pilot child labour surveys using the new model questionnaires and in conjunction with the report, to examine the new SIMPOC questionnaires. The second objective was to present the sampling manual and discuss the needs of the implementing countries in terms of sampling design and selection of an adequate sample of households/working children to meet the requirements of specific survey applications.

A total of 35 participants attended the two-day meeting. They included: representatives of the statistical agencies of the four countries that implemented the pilot surveys, namely, Cambodia, the Philippines, Tanzania and Turkey; representatives of the statistical agencies of Benin, Cameroon, Jordan, Indonesia, Kyrgyzstan and Yemen, the countries that

plan to launch or have recently launched child labour surveys for the first time; SIMPOC and ILO staff; representatives of workers' and employers' organizations in the countries where the SIMPOC pilot tests were conducted; international experts on child labour surveys; and academicians.

#### ***Four IPEC Action Programmes came to an end***

The 4 IPEC Action Programmes mentioned below were finalized at the end of June 2007.

- Integrated Programme for the Elimination of Worst Forms of Child Labour in the Furniture Sector, implemented by Labour Inspection Board of Ministry of Labour and Social Security in three provinces
- Programme on Enhancement of the National Capacity on Child Labour, implemented by Child Labour Unit of MoLSS
- Integrated Programme for the Elimination of WFCL in Seasonal Commercial Agriculture Through Education, implemented by Ministry of National Education
- Integrated Programme for the Elimination of Child Work on Street Trades in thirteen selected provinces implemented by the General Directorate of Social Services and Child Protection.

To date, within the course of 2.5 years of implementation of these projects, more than 15,000 children and 8,000 family members have been reached, registered and have received at least one service including counseling, medical screening and treatment, complementary courses, literacy and after-school classes and socio-cultural activities which resulted in the withdrawal of substantial number of children from the worst forms of child labour. The sustainability is ensured for all the above mentioned Action Programmes through the implementing agencies together with the local governments. Social Support Centers established by the programmes are fully operational in all the target provinces and continue to actively carry out their activities after phasing out of IPEC support.

#### ***“Youth Employment in Turkey” research results announced***

In line with one of ILO-Ankara Decent Work Country Programmes of generation of decent employment for youth, a study on youth employment in Turkey was recently completed by Dr. Hakan Ercan of the Economics Department of Middle East Technical University. This research was conducted in support of the efforts to establish national policy and programme on employment of youth. The findings and recommendation of this study were presented and discussed at a seminar held in Ankara in June.

The seminar opened with remarks by ILO-Ankara Director Gülay Aslantepe and Turkish Employment Organization, İŞKUR Director Namık Ata. Minister of Labour and Social Security Murat Başesgioğlu, TÜRK-İŞ President Salih Kılıç, DİSK President Süleyman Çelebi, TİSK Deputy Secretary General Ferhat İter and Advisor to HAK-İŞ President Osman Yıldız spoke at the seminar and shared their respective views on the subject.

In the presentation of the research results, Dr. Ercan pointed out that youth employment poses an important societal problem in the coming period. Turkey has been facing jobless growth due to increases in worker productivity. Moreover, rural to urban migration has absorbed the new jobs created in



*Panel discussion at Youth Employment Seminar*

the economy. Among some of Dr. Ercan's recommendations are increasing support for education, strengthening İŞKUR capacity, producing graduates better prepared to adapt to the current job market, implementing youth employment programs in pilot areas and taking measures to facilitate higher employment of young women such as more day-care centers and flexible working arrangements.

The presentation was followed by a panel discussion chaired by MoLSS Undersecretary Enis Yeter. Panelists Dr. Ö. Faruk Çolak and Dr. Aziz Konukman of Gazi University, Dr. Meltem Dayioğlu of METU and Dr. İnsan Tunalı of Koç University presented their views on the employment study.

#### ***In brief***

- ILO-Ankara Director Gülay Aslantepe delivered a speech on Safety Culture at the 21<sup>st</sup> Occupational Health and Safety Week, organized in İstanbul by the MoLSS Directorate General for Occupational Safety and Health.
- Director Aslantepe attended the “Women in Business” symposium organized by the Turkish Enterprise and Business Confederation (TÜRKONFED) and gave a speech on the issue of women and employment.

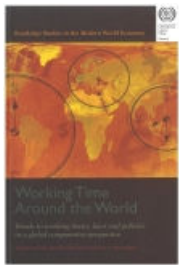
## **NEWS HEADLINES FROM ILO HEADQUARTERS, GENEVA**

- ***Conference concludes with adoption of new standards on fishing sector, approaches to sustainable development and measures to promote decent work***

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- **ILO adopts comprehensive new labour standards for millions in the world's fishing sector**  
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- **World Day Against Child Labour 2007: New global partnership against child labour in agriculture**  
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- **ILO awards first Decent Work Research Prize to Nelson Mandela and Carmelo Mesa-Lago**  
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- **Working Time Around The World - One in five workers worldwide are putting in "excessive" hours: New ILO study spotlights working time in over 50 countries**  
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- **ILO welcomes G8 support for decent work as central to globalization with social progress**  
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## NEW ILO PUBLICATIONS



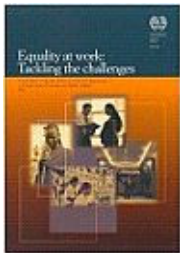
**Working Time Around the World  
Trends in working hours, laws and  
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S. Lee, D. McCann, J. C. Messenger  
2007, xviii+222 pp.  
ISBN 978-92-2-119311-1



**Türkiye'de Kadın Girişimciliğine Eleştirel Bir Yaklaşım**

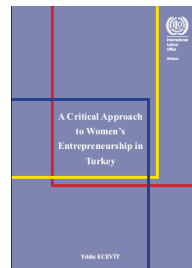
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**Working for better times.  
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Ed.J. Servais; P. Bollé; M.Lansky; C. Smith  
2007, xii+722 pp.  
ISBN 978-92-2-117956-6



**Örgütlenme Özgürlüğü  
UÇÖ Örgütlenme Özgürlüğü Komitesi  
Yönetim Kurulu'nun Karar ve  
İlkelerinin Özeti**

Translated and printed by DİSK (Genel-İş)

2007, xii+231 pp.  
ISBN: 978-975-94265-6-9

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