

Dear colleagues and friends,

We are glad to share with you the 2018/2 issue of ILO Ankara e-newsletter (ILO@nkara).

As the ILO Office for Turkey, we completed yet another busy and fruitful working period towards the vision of “decent work for all” with the help of our international and local partners and stakeholders.

As you will see in the present bulletin covering our activities in the first five months of 2018, we had a busy period holding many events, implementing collaborative initiatives. Outstanding among them was the launch of “End Child Labour” campaign and Turkey’s declaration of “2018: Year Against Child Labour”. We, ILO and İŞKUR, with the joint project “More and Better Jobs for Women” keep touching the lives of hundreds of women, and enabled many to have jobs. We put our signature on significant instruments of cooperation in the first quarter of 2018 joining forces with ÇASGEM, İŞKUR, DOĞAKA, İHKİB and Adana Chamber of Industry. You will hear more on the ensuing collaboration in the upcoming period.

We launched new and significant projects and signed into new modes of cooperation with sister UN agencies such as IOM and UNWomen.

While a larger part of our projects focused on creating decent work and entrepreneurship opportunities for Syrians under temporary protection and host communities, our work continued in ILO’s primary fields of social dialogue, employment of women, occupational safety and health, child labour and sustainable businesses.

Many new colleagues came aboard in the recent period to shoulder our expanding work. On behalf of my team and myself I wish you a very pleasant reading.

Numan Özcan
Director, ILO Office for Turkey



ILO and Ministry of Labour and Social Security Pioneer on Combating Child Labour

Turkey announced 2018 the Year Against Child Labor, under the auspices of Turkish first lady Emine Erdoğan. The announcement came at the signing ceremony of the declaration of combating child labor, organized by the ILO and Ministry of Labour and Social Security. All related state organizations of Turkey pledged commitment on the issue and in scope with that, 6 ministries and 7 social partners penned the declaration along with the ILO.

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Assistant ILO Director-General and Regional Director for Europe and Central Asia Visits Turkey

International Labour Organization Europe and Central Asia Director Heinz Koller visited Turkey Office. Koller also paid a visit to Minister of Work and Labour Mrs. Jülide Sarıeroğlu. Speaking at the Seventh International Symposium on Social Security, Koller said: “Turkey continues to host the world’s largest refugee population and leads the way. In this context, the ILO is pleased to be able to lend its support to this incredible humanitarian gesture. I am thankful to Turkey as the country hosting the highest number of refugees in the world”. At the third day of his visit, Koller and his Deputy Maurizio Bussi, travelled to Gaziantep to meet the stakeholders and to visit ILO’s activities targeting refugees.

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ILO Enters in Strategic Cooperation with New Partners

ILO Turkey Office at the first quarter of 2018 has signed very important agreements with Labor and Social Security Training and Research Center (ÇASGEM), Turkish Employment Agency (İŞKUR), Eastern Mediterranean Development Agency (DOĞAKA) and Istanbul Apparel Exporters’ Association (İHKİB). After signing the cooperation protocol with (ÇASGEM) that aims to develop the skills in working life and support the institutional capacity to increase the employability of the Syrians under temporary protection and the host communities, another protocol with İŞKUR is signed to facilitate the access of Syrians under temporary protection, seekers and holders of international protection status to labour markets and means of subsistence in the framework of decent work principles. The last protocol agreement signed with İHKİB aims to create decent work for Syrians and host communities in the apparel industry, and support an enabling environment for economic growth.

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Projects Implemented by ILO Turkey Office Collaborate on Women’s Employment

Women who received entrepreneurship training under the project implemented by the International Labour Organization (ILO) Turkey Office to promote women’s employment, now provide training “as role models” to Syrian refugee women and host country women in the context of work on employment of Syrian Under Temporary Protection in another ILO project.

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ILO Turkey Director Özcan Shares Experience with Youth at Istanbul Youth Festival

Mr. Numan Özcan, Turkey Office Director of the International Labour Organization (ILO), met with youth at Istanbul Youth Festival.

Meeting the youth at Borsa Istanbul Talks (BistTalks) at the Festival organized for the third time this year, Özcan said: “I have always dreamt of being useful to human beings and working where I can be useful. Working now in an institution based on the core principle of social justice and promoting decent work for all makes my dream come true.”

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International Conference on Organising Hard-To-Organise Groups is Organized and its Report is Published

Organised under the project “Improving Social Dialogue in Working Life” implemented by the International Labour Organization’s (ILO) Office for Turkey with the Ministry of Labour and Social Security as the beneficiary, the “International Conference on Organising Hard-To-Organise Groups” discussed the problems of and possible solutions to organising the hard-to-organise workers, ranging from Turkish and foreign home workers to waste paper collectors, from street vendors to doormen who could not make their voices heard.

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İşçi ve İşveren Örgütleri Ne Yapmalı?
İşçi ve İşveren Örgütlerinin Kapasitelerinin Artırılmasına Yönelik Rehberlik Analizi
Prof. Dr. Seyhan ERDOĞDU

http://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---eu-rope/---ro-geneva/---ilo-ankara/documents/genericdocument/wcms_618781.pdf

Organising and Representing Hard-to-Organise Workers: Implications for Turkey

http://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---eu-rope/---ro-geneva/---ilo-ankara/documents/genericdocument/wcms_628824.pdf

ILO and Ministry of Labour and Social Security Pioneer on Combating Child Labour



Turkey announces 2018 year against child labour. Along with ILO, 6 ministries and 7 social partners pen the declaration

Turkey announced 2018 the Year Against Child Labor, under the auspices of Turkish first lady Emine Erdoğan. The announcement came at the signing ceremony of the declaration of combating child labor, organized by the ILO and Ministry of Labour and Social Security. All related state organizations of Turkey pledged commitment on the issue and in scope with that, 6 ministries and 7 social partners penned the declaration along with the ILO.

Turkish first lady said child labour is a shame for the whole society. Erdoğan said children should be at school instead of the workplaces and should get educated instead of being on the streets, adding that children are the gifts of God and should not be considered as labour forces.

Speaking at the ceremony, Turkey's Labour and Social Security Minister Jülide Sarıeroğlu said significant steps are being taken and with the close cooperation of the related agencies the issue would fall from Turkey's agenda. Highlighting the contributions of the ILO on combatting child labour, Sarıeroğlu reminded that Turkey was one of the first six countries to participate to the "International Programme for the Elimination of Child Labour (IPEC)" in 1992, and chosen as the model country in 2006 at the ILO Labour Conference.

Turkey's Minister of National Education İsmet Yılmaz, Development Minister Lütfi Elvan, Youth and Sports Minister Osman Aşkın Bak, Minister of Interior Süleyman Soylu, and Minister of Family and Social Policies Fatma Betül Sayan Kaya emphasized their full support at the ceremony.

ILO Turkey Director praises Turkey's pioneering role



The Director of the ILO Turkey office Numan Özcan emphasized the pioneering role of Turkey on combating child labour. Özcan said: "With the National Program, Turkey first constituted a multi-partnered plan which defined the intervention priorities that were mentioned in the ILO conventions No.138 and No.182. Then, by declaring 2018 the Year Against Child Labour, Turkey proved its determination and took a step that would set an example for the rest of the world. As far as I know, after the adoption of the Sustainable Development Goals, only Turkey constituted a comprehensive program and declared a year on the issue."

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Numan Özcan, ILO Turkey Director

Özcan expressed the support of all UN agencies as well.

Not only the ministries, but also the social partners pledged full support to the declaration. Heads of the Confederation of Turkish Trade Unions (TÜRK-İŞ), the HAK-İŞ Trade Union Confederation (HAK-İŞ), the Confederation of Progressive Trade Unions of Turkey (DİSK), the Turkish Confederation of Employer Associations (TİSK), the Union of Chambers and Commodity Exchanges of Turkey (TOBB), The Confederation of Turkish Tradesmen and Craftsmen (TESK), and the Agriculture Chambers Union of Turkey (TZOB), Ergün Atalay, Mahmut Arslan, Kani Beko, Kudret Önen, Rifat Hisarcıklıoğlu, Bendeve Palandöken and Şemsi Bayraktar also signed the declaration.

Declaration on Combatting Child Labour



Child labour is a substantial problem both at global and national level, with a negative impact on the mental, physical, emotional and social development of children. Turkey, paying particular attention to this issue, have developed policies to combat child labour and had significant achievements in implementation since the 1990s. "National Programme on the Elimination of Child Labour (2017-2023)" has been launched with the goal of eradicating child labor, particularly its worst forms. In this regard, the year 2018 has been declared as "The Year to Combat Child Labour" through the Prime Ministerial Circular No. 2018/3. Accordingly;

"The priority will be given to the action against child labour in order to raise public awareness and to enable the highest level of contribution to the National Programme and its objectives. In the implementation process of the National Programme, necessary cooperation will be maintained between national and international institutions. Every child, without any discrimination, has universal rights required by his/her status as a minor. By taking this into consideration, every child will be protected from child labor, particularly its worst forms, and preventive measures will be taken. Efforts will be made to ensure that children have access to formal and non-formal education during the compulsory education period. With the fact that the poverty is one of the main causes of child labor, active labour market policies will be implemented to ensure that adult family members are employed and social protection for poor families will be promoted. With the main objective of preventing children from entering the labour market or withdrawing them from work, special attention will be paid to provision of education, health, security, accommodation, transportation and all other services in a coordinated manner. We, the signatories, declare our commitment to fulfill duties and responsibilities to support National Programme on the Elimination of Child Labour (2017-2023), and to pay special attention to implement various activities throughout the year 2018."

ILO's contributions

ILO Turkey Office provides technical support to the "National Programme on the Elimination of Child Labour (2017-2023)", which is being coordinated and undertaken by the Ministry of Labour and Social Security, with its 26 year-old experience in the field.

National Program has an important role on carrying out the priorities that were mentioned in the ILO conventions No.138 and No.182.

ILO considers Turkey's declaration of 2018 as the Year Against Child Labour and the support all the related agencies provide a milestone for its dedicated hard work in the field.

ILO and İŞKUR's Project Promoting Women's Employment Touches Lives of Hundreds of Women



The 5-year project directly impacted the lives of hundreds of women with 50 entrepreneurs starting up own businesses; and rolled out Turkey's first Action Plan on Women's Employment

The Project “More and Better Jobs for Women: Women's Empowerment through Decent Work in Turkey” implemented jointly by the International Labour Organization (ILO) and Turkish Employment Agency (İŞKUR) with the financial contributions from Swedish International Development Co-operation Agency (SIDA) keeps touching women's life.

Speaking at the Closing Conference on 21 March 2018, Ms. Jülide Sarieroğlu, Minister of Labour and Social Security stated that “We placed women on the focus of all of our policies for the last 15 years. All of our social policies have women in the centre. We are working diligently with our stakeholders to empower women in all spheres of life without discrimination.”

While she had another engagement during the day, Minister Sarieroğlu participated in this significant event marking gender equality on the day when night and day were of equal length, and congratulated everyone's Nawruz Holiday.

Ms. Sarieroğlu further elaborated that İŞKUR realised a significant transformation in employment and added that “Women's participation is exceeding 33%. Our goal is to take this figure high God willing” and the goal was 41%.

ILO Turkey Director Özcan: “Women touched by the Project said ‘fortunately, I did it.’ We as ILO Turkey Office say “fortunately, we implemented this project.”



ILO Turkey Director Numan Özcan indicated that the Project of five years achieved significant outcomes both in developing policies for women's employment and providing decent work opportunities for women and importance of women's employment.

Reminding that Turkey's first Action Plan on Women's Employment was drafted in an exemplary social dialogue approach under the Project, Özcan said “Through the Project, we were able to touch women's lives, had the chance to change and empower them. “Women touched by the Project said ‘fortunately, I did it.’ We as ILO Turkey Office say “fortunately, we implemented this project.”

İŞKUR General Director Uzunkaya: “Polices for women in Turkey achieved significant outcomes”

Noting that policies for women achieved significant outcomes in Turkey, İŞKUR General Director Cafer Uzunkaya said: “Women's participation in the labour force increased from 23% to 34; employment from 20% to 29%. Where we think of 29% in women's employment, the share of İŞKUR in mediating 34% of employment is all the more significant for our policies.

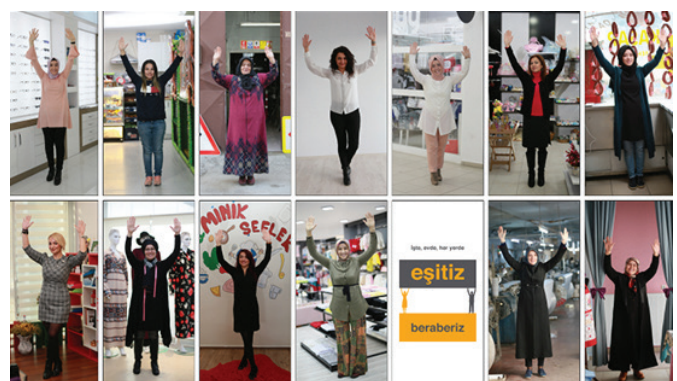
Swedish Ambassador Wahlund

His Excellency Lars Wahlund, Swedish Ambassador to Ankara, noted that no country could get richer without employing women, and Turkey was emphasising women's employment. Highlighting that stronger women's employment would further democratise countries, Mr. Wahlund added that Turkey made significant progress in this area. Comparing Turkey to Scandinavian countries for women labour force, he said while only one third of Turkish women participated in the labour force, the corresponding rate in Sweden was around 80%.

The session featured Ms. Seçil Aktaş who received entrepreneurship training and started up own business.

Project directly impacted the lives of hundreds of women

The Project was launched in 2013 with the slogan “At work, at home and everywhere, we are equal and together”. Hundreds of women were reached out in five years under the Project, 50 of whom started own businesses. Through activities in the pilot provinces of Ankara, Bursa, Konya and



Istanbul, the lives of hundreds of women were touched upon while many firsts were fielded. A most tangible output of the Project was Turkey's first ever “Action Plan on Women's Employment”. In addition, 800 women in total were provided training on human rights, labour rights, gender equality and entrepreneurship. Selected through a “Business Plan Contest”, 28 women were provided micro-grants. The winning entrepreneur candidates were given one-on-one mentoring services, and assistance in start-up processes. Nearly 50 of the 400 women who received entrepreneurship training started up own businesses. More than 2000 women and men in various sectors received gender equality training with the slogan “I support equality”. “Gender equality” representatives were assigned in 81 Provincial Directorates of İŞKUR.

Turkey's first Action Plan on Women's Employment

Prepared under the Project, Turkey's first Action Plan on Women's Employment (2016-2018) aims at supporting the creation of decent work opportunities for women through the provision of gender responsive employment services.

Developed by the National Technical Team, the Action Plan involves two key objectives of “fostering women's vocational skills and directing them to work to increase women's employment, and increasing women's accessibility to the labour market”; and 9 measures to implement these objectives.

The Action Plan was developed by the National Technical Team (NTT) composed of representatives from such public agencies as the Ministries of Labour and Social Security, National Education, Food Agriculture and Livestock, Customs and Trade, Ministry and Social Policies as well as from KOSGEB, TOBB, local governments, development agencies, universities and employer and employee organisations including TISK and labour confederations, and particularly NGOs engaged in women's issues.

İŞKUR was designated as the main responsible institution for achieving the objectives and implementing the measures in the Action Plan; while cooperating agencies included the Ministries of Labour and Social Security, National Education, Food Agriculture and Livestock, Customs and Trade, Family and Social Policies, KOSGEB, TISK, TOBB, local governments, NGOs, development agencies, universities and labour unions.

During the implementation period of the Action Plan, İŞKUR's services were analysed through gender lens. During the implementation, the number of women who received on-the-job training increased by 78%, those who received vocational training increased by 140%; and those who received entrepreneurship training increased by 110%. The number of women placed by İŞKUR in jobs in the private sector increased from 29% to 34%.

The participants in the Conference included representatives of partner agencies, entrepreneur women and project beneficiaries. Following the opening remarks, Minister Sarieroğlu and entourage inaugurated the Project Street. In the second part of the Conference, a panel session was held on ““Evaluation of Project Activities and Sustainability”.



Video on Closing of “More and Better Jobs for Women” Project https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=55tn1a_uoM&feature=youtu.be

Assistant ILO Director-General and Regional Director for Europe and Central Asia Visits Turkey



Assistant ILO Director-General and Regional Director for Europe and Central Asia Heinz Koller visited the ILO Office for Turkey. Koller will, in his visit to Turkey, also met with Ms. Jülide Sarıeroğlu, Turkish Minister of Labour and Social Security

International Labour Organization (ILO) Assistant Director-General and Regional Director for Europe and Central Asia Heinz Koller visited the ILO Office for Turkey.

Arriving in Turkey on invitation to attend the “Seventh International Symposium on Social Security” themed migration and social security on 25-26 April 2018 in Ankara organised by ILO, Ministry of Labour and Social Security (MoLSS), Social Security Institution (SSI) and Turkish Cooperation and Coordination Agency (TIKA), Koller delivered the opening remarks. Koller also met with Ms. Jülide Sarıeroğlu, Turkish Minister of Labour and Social Security.

On the third day of his visit to Turkey, Koller visited Gaziantep to review on site ILO’s activities in the region.



Adana Chamber of Industry and ILO Signed the Protocol for Decent Jobs



The ILO joined forces by signing a Protocol on Cooperation for Decent Jobs”, and held an “Opening Ceremony for Employment Services Counselling Unit” in Adana.

A protocol was signed between Adana Chamber of Industry (ADASO) and the International Labour Organization (ILO) to promote decent employment and working conditions for refugees and Turkish citizens. The protocol aims to deliver skills training in line with the needs of local labour markets, provide employment counselling and guidance, and create awareness on labour legislation, occupational safety and health.

Under the envisaged cooperation, an “Employment Services Counselling Unit” will be established at ADASO campus to facilitate employment of refugees and Turkish citizens in decent jobs and conditions. In addition, training programmes on industrial occupations, Turkish language courses, basic skills for work life, entrepreneurship etc. will be organised. Under the protocol, enterprises in Adana will be informed on applicable employment incentive programme to promote registered employment; enterprise support programs such as SCORE will be carried out; joint activities in this context will be planned, executed and evaluated.



ILO Enters in Strategic Cooperation with New Partners



ILO Turkey Office at the first quarter of 2018 has signed very important agreements with Labor and Social Security Training and Research Center (ÇASGEM), Turkish Employment Agency (İŞKUR), Eastern Mediterranean Development Agency (DOĞAKA) and Istanbul Apparel Exporters' Association (İHKİB). After signing the cooperation protocol with (ÇASGEM) that aims to develop the skills in working life and support the institutional capacity to increase the employability of the Syrians under temporary protection and the host communities, another protocol with İŞKUR is signed to facilitate the access of Syrians under temporary protection, seekers and holders of international protection status to labour markets and means of subsistence in the framework of decent work principles. The last protocol agreement signed with İHKİB aims to create decent work for Syrians and host communities in the apparel industry, and support an enabling environment for economic growth.



Turkey's First Women Cooperative Consisting Both Syrian and Host Community Women is Established



Turkey's first women cooperative which consist of both Syrian and host community women named "Hepimiz Biriz-We are all one" is established.

Under the supervision of the ILO Office for Turkey, Foundation for the Support of Women's Work's (KEDV) carried out activities to support the establishment of new women cooperative composed of Harran women and Syrian refugee women in Harran district of Şanlıurfa within the context of the trainings for felting, ceramic, woodworking and knitting works conducted in Family Support Center.

Based on the needs analysis results, KEDV conducted trainings for women cooperatives in Harran and Mardin on "establishing, operating and managing cooperatives",

"women's leadership, respect for differences and communication" and "principles / rules, action plan, division of labor and resource creation" to support the establishment process and increase knowledge on division of labour, cooperative management, governance, responsibilities of the cooperative and its members, strategic planning, gender and leadership. KEDV also provided consultancy to the member of the cooperative in cooperation with the General Directorate of Cooperatives, Ministry of Customs and Trade to ensure the establishment of new women cooperative in Harran.

The Articles of the Association of Mardin Women Cooperatives supported by GAP Regional Development Administration were also revised to pave the way for Syrian women to become a member of the cooperatives.

Projects Implemented by ILO Turkey Office Collaborate on Women's Employment



Women who received entrepreneurship training under the project implemented by the International Labour Organization (ILO) Turkey Office to promote women's employment, now provide training "as role models" to Syrian refugee women and host country women in the context of work on employment of Syrian Under Temporary Protection in another ILO project



Ms. Elif Asav, following her participation in the "Women Entrepreneurship Promotion Programme" under the project "More and Better Jobs for Women", started up own business "BAMBAŞKA ATÖLYE (a wholly different workshop)" in Ankara. Bambaşka Atölye provides hourly/ daily care and education services to children. She shared her entrepreneurship experience and knowledge with Syrian and host country women in the "Role Model Seminars" organised in Gaziantep on 15-16 January 2018 under another ILO project "Gaziantep Women-Only Centre" which aimed to contribute to social and economic stability of Syrian women and girls in Gaziantep.

Success stories motivate and guide Syrian women

Ms. Elif Asav shared interactively with other women her entrepreneurship story resulting in the start-up of a childcare centre that she names "home of trust" through financing support from KOSGEB in the sessions with four groups of participants each approximately sixty women in SADA Women Development and Solidarity Centre operating as a special service office for Syrian and host country women established under the project "Gaziantep Women-Only Centre: Providing Livelihood Support".

Event represents a joint output of two ILO projects

The event organised by ILO Ankara Office was designed as a joint output of two projects focusing on women's employment considering that women participating in seminars would identify their own stories with such success stories in business life which would be motivating and guiding in deploying in the labour markets their knowledge and experience acquired through courses delivered under ILO project.

"I believe in woman power"

Upon learning that participants also included women who wished to start up own business, Ms. Asav stated that "I never gave up being myself despite all odds and wanted to say I did exist in this environment of male hegemony". Expressing the challenges of being a woman in the male-dominated business world, she also emphasised the importance of women's existence in work life, stating that "I believe in woman power".

Ms. Asav also explained how her friends and colleagues created a social support network to assist her.

"Being a woman and a migrant is challenging on the road to business life"

While the sessions flowing as questions & answers unearthed similar women's stories, Syrian women stressed that they encountered two obstacles, namely being a woman and a migrant, on their journey of trying to get a foot in business life.

Noting their wish to acquire skills also on job finding techniques in the vocational training courses, Syrian women indicated that they were in the labour force in their own countries with their existing vocations; however, they suffered skills losses due to such facts that following their migration to Turkey, they failed to find jobs in Turkey in their own field and some vocations had no equivalents in Turkey or they did not how to obtain equivalencies.

"No cooking without burn. Mere course completion will not do."

The woman entrepreneur Elif Asav responded to questions from Syrian women particularly as to how they could start own business saying that "No cooking without burn (i.e. one will not mature, or get experience, without undergoing toils of the process). Mere course completion will not do. One must work at a job and learn the minutest details. Everyone must do what she best knows." She defined possessing additional experience as "to know what work to do where, and whom to touch."

ILO projects promote women's employment

Ms. Elif Asav received entrepreneurship training under the project "More and Better Jobs for Women" implemented by ILO and Turkish Employment Agency (İŞKUR) with financing support from the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA). Having started in 2013 and expected to finish in June 2018, the project aims at supporting the development of an inclusive and holistic policy at national scale to increase and promote women's employment, creating decent work opportunities for women through active labour market policies, building awareness on gender equality and labour standards, and supporting women's empowerment in Turkey.

SADA Women Development and Solidarity Centre established under the project "Gaziantep Women-Only Centre: Providing Livelihood Support" jointly implemented by ILO Turkey Office, UNWomen and SGDD with financing from the Government of Japan operates as a special service office for Syrian and host country women. Distinct from the existing community centres, the centre is "women-only" and aims to reach out and include the most vulnerable women through serving the most marginalised. The objective is to enable women and girls using the centre to have stronger self-confidence and skills and access various training and job placement programmes in Gaziantep.

SADA Women Received Certificates on International Women's Day



Women attending courses in the SADA Women Development and Solidarity established under the project “Gaziantep Women-Only Centre: Providing Livelihood Support” implemented in cooperation of UNWomen, ILO and ASAM, supported by the Japanese Embassy, received their certificates.

Aiming to empower women socially and economically, the centre features livelihood-oriented activities by ILO Office

in Turkey. In this context, courses are organised on Turkish language, computer use, patient registration, packaging, hair-dressing, skin care for Syrian, Afghan and local women of Gaziantep. All courses are delivered in the context of adult education of the Ministry of National Education (MoNE), and those who successfully complete the courses are awarded MoNE-approved certificates. A total of 430 finished, and 303 women are now attending the courses which started on 11 September 2017.

Informative seminars are also held to ensure that women completing the courses can smoothly enter the labour markets and work at decent jobs. In addition to language and job skills for women, information is provided to women on occupational safety and health, social security rights, work permits, gender equality in work life and İŞKUR's active labour market programmes. Women who can serve as role models for trainees are invited to the centre to reinforce solidarity, information and experience sharing among women.

ILO Office in Turkey continues, through its projects, to provide means for Turkish, Syrian and Afghan women to empower and enable them to participate in the labour market holding decent jobs.

ILO Turkey Director Özcan Shares Experience with Youth at Istanbul Youth Festival



Özcan: “I have always dreamt of being useful to human beings. Working now in an institution based on the core principle of social justice and promoting decent work for all makes my dream come true”



Mr. Numan Özcan, Turkey Office Director of the International Labour Organization (ILO), met with youth at Istanbul Youth Festival.

Meeting the youth at Borsa Istanbul Talks (BistTalks) at the Festival organized for the third time this year, Özcan said: “I have always dreamt of being useful to human beings and working where I can be useful. Working now in an institution based on the core principle of social justice and promoting decent work for all makes my dream come true.”

Speaking at the talks themed “Dreamers”, Özcan told the youth what ILO was doing in the world and in Turkey, and shared his experience with the youth based on this career and past.

Setting out on the message that “We must teach our youth to dream, and leave them a world where they can build the future they have dreamt of,” the BistTalks featured Ms. Jülide Sarieroğlu, Minister of Labour and Social Security; Ms. Pınar Eczacıbaşı, Founder of GP-Trust; Mr. Özgür Burak Akkol, Human Resource Director of Koç Holding, who met the youth to share their dreams.

Turkey’s Biggest Youth Festival

Organized for a third time to bring the youth together, the Festival opened in the evening of Wednesday, May 2 with a large audience. Held at Eurasia Exhibition Centre, the Festival ended on Sunday, May 6.

The Festival features many diverse events such as sports, arts, virtual reality etc. and concerts. Various entities run introductory presentations gave the youth ideas on selecting professions. The Galata Tower displayed light games every evening during the Festival.

The Training on “Role of Worker and Employer Organisations for Access of Foreigners Under Temporary Protection to Decent Work” Was Delivered in Ankara, Gaziantep and Adana with the Participation of Worker and Employer Organisations



ILO Office in Turkey delivered the two-day training on “Role of Worker and Employer Organisations for Access of Foreigners under Temporary Protection to Decent Work” in three cities with the participation of worker and employer organisations under the project “Promoting Decent Work

Opportunities for Syrian and Host Communities in Turkey”. Four training sessions were delivered by Prof. Dr. Seyhan Erdoğan and Prof. Dr. Kezban Çelik on 20-21 and 22-23 February in Ankara, 27-28 February in Gaziantep and 01-02 March in Adana. The training participants included TÜRK-İŞ, HAK-İŞ, DİSK and affiliated unions, TİSK and affiliated employer organisations, TESK and affiliated chambers of tradesmen and craftsmen, federations of tradesmen and craftsmen from Ankara, İstanbul, Gaziantep, Şanlıurfa, Hatay, Adana and Mersin.

The training sessions covered the legal status of foreigners under temporary protection, welfare aids provided, status in work life and policies of employer and tradesmen organisations, public institutions, NGOs and international organisations; and work was undertaken to increase awareness of participants on these topics. During the group work sessions in the second day of training, participants discussed and developed project ideas on what might be done for the access of foreigners under temporary protection to decent work.

International Conference on Organising Hard-To-Organise Groups is Organized and its Report is Published



Hard-to-organise workers, ranging from Turkish and foreign home workers to waste paper collectors, from street vendors to doormen met in Ankara

The “International Conference on Organising Hard-To-Organise Groups”, which, as the “voice of those who could not make their voices heard”, discussed the organising problems of such groups was held on 8 May 2018 hosted by the Ministry of Labour and Social Security and the International Labour Organization’s Office for Turkey.

Organised under the project “Improving Social Dialogue in Working Life” implemented by the International Labour Organization’s (ILO) Office for Turkey with the Ministry of Labour and Social Security as the beneficiary, the “International Conference on Organising Hard-To-Organise Groups” discussed the problems of and possible solutions to organising the hard-to-organise workers, ranging from Turkish and foreign home workers to waste paper collectors, from street vendors to doormen who could not make their voices heard.

The Conference was attended by the representatives of organisations which fielded best practices in various parts of the world ranging from India to European Union countries, and Turkish practices were discussed in detail.

Speaking at the opening section, Mr. Mazhar Yıldırımhan, Deputy Undersecretary of MoLSS, emphasized that the Ministry was closely cooperating with ILO to improve social dialogue at all levels, with the present international conference representing a most visible indicator of such joint efforts. Yıldırımhan then gave a brief of actions taken and results achieved under the Project to date.

Mr. Numan Özcan, Director of the ILO Office for Turkey, indicated that “hard-to-organise workers” differed in individual characteristics (age, gender or ethnicity), types of work they are engaged (occupation or sector etc.), types of contracts they sign (self-employed, informal, part-time,

temporary or through private employment agencies) or types of employing enterprises (informal, micro-enterprise or SME etc.); therefore, they were often excluded from such mechanisms as union representation, social dialogue and collective bargaining. Özcan noted that the Conference was important in that respect, and highlighted the cases of success, though partial.

At the Conference, three panel discussions were moderated by Mr. Youcef Ghellab, International Labour Organisation Social Dialogue and Tripartism Unit, Head of Unit; Ms. Caroline O’Reilly, Senior Expert of the same unit; Mr. Hüseyin Seyrekoğlu, Head of Department for Collective Agreements, Directorate-General for Labour of MoLSS. The participants included executives and representatives from StreetNet International, Self-Employed Women’s Association (SEWA) of India, Home Workers Solidarity Union (EVIDSEN), IMECE Home Workers Union, Association of Street Waste Collectors, and KONUTSEN.

The participants shared their experience, challenges and possible solutions in their personal and organising contexts.

Presented also at the International Conference was the report “Organising and Representing Hard-to-Organise Workers” produced under the project “Improving Social Dialogue in Working Life”. Authored by the academicians Igor Guardiancich and Oscar Molina, the report highlights that a significant part of the workers in Turkey and in the world face serious obstacles in areas ranging from “registration” to “representation”, and addresses the actions that may be taken for improvement in this respect.

The said report is the first of a series of reports commissioned under the project “Improving Social Dialogue in Working Life”.



News from ILO Staff

Özgür S. AZİZOĞLU, Semiha BAL, Mehmet Can EKŞİ, Emre DÖNMEZ, Nuran TORUN ATIŞ, Ayşegül BAĞ SÖĞÜTLÜ, Betül KARAYİĞİT, Esra İSEN KİREÇÇİ, Pelin Renda ERTAMAN, Filiz KARANFİL, M. Koray ABACI, Sonay KANBER, Bahadır Murat AKIN, Gamze ORHUN, Ayşe Turunç KANKAL, Ş. Yıldız ÇINAR, Ebru TUNCER ŞENOL and Dilara ALP joined our growing team. We welcome them all and wish them the best.

