LLL IMPLEMENTATION IN TURKEY WITH A SPECIAL FOCUS ON CONTINUING EDUCATION CENTRES OF UNIVERSITIES

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Turkish Universities Continuing Education Centres Council
Socio-economic Background of Turkey

- The Turkish economy recovered from its latest crisis in 2001 and is becoming less volatile, more private sector-led and with productivity driven growth.

- Although the recent global financial crisis of 2009 has negatively affected economical indicators and slowed down the economic growth, the country initiated new measures to overcome these negative results.
Average Annual Real GDP Growth (%) 2002-2012

- Turkey: 5%
- Chile: 4.7%
- Slovakia: 4.5%
- Poland: 4.3%
- Brazil: 3.6%
- Bulgaria: 3.5%
- South Africa: 3.5%
- Romania: 3.3%
- Czech Rep.: 2.9%
- Mexico: 2.5%
- US: 1.6%
- Hungary: 1.1%
- Euro Area (17): 1%
- Japan: 0.8%

Source: OECD, Eurostat and national sources
Average Annual Real GDP Growth (%) 2002-2012

Source: OECD Economic Outlook No: 91, June 2012
Socio-economic Background of Turkey

- With its young population, Turkey has a “demographic window of opportunities”.
- It’s estimated that the population will grow from 77 million today to 84 million in 2020.
- The average age in 2013 was 30.4 years.
- The active labour force was 28.8 million in 2013.
- %67.7 of the population is 15-64 years old.
Socio-economic Background of Turkey

- Unemployment rate was % 9.7 in 2013 with a trend of decrease in the last year.
- The labour participation rate is over 50%.
- Nevertheless, substantial gender disparities in labour markets persist and female employment remains particularly low, at about 20%, compared with over 60% for men.
Unemployment (in % of workforce)

Ref: Candidate and Pre-accession Countries’ Economic Quarterly, ECFIN Unit D-1, July 2011
The overall educational attainment levels of the working population are low compared to the EU25 countries.

Net enrolment in higher education has been growing at an annual rate of about 10% in the last 5 years.

Participation to LLP 3.2% in TR, whereas 9% avg in EU.
Lifelong Learning in Turkey

- The recent LLL policy of Turkey considers population interest, educational attainment and labour market properties.
- As for the population, it is expected that by 2020 **almost 70%** of Turkey’s population will be of working age.
- This would be a **unique opportunity** for Turkey in terms of economic and social development through sound policies and adequate investment in education and training.
Lifelong Learning in Turkey

- 5 priorities in the National LLL Strategy
  - Promote the culture & awareness for LLL
  - Increase the opportunities & provision of LLL
  - Increase the accessibility to LLL opportunities
  - Development of Guidance & Counsellorship system for LLL
  - Development of RPL system
University LLL in Turkey

- Universities are major players in LLL which has been a policy line in the Bologna Process since Prague in 2001.

- In this context, Turkish universities may play a significant role, in order to reach the national LLL priorities.
Mission of the Universities in the New Century

ULLL
- Training activities
- Active learning
- Flexible learning
- E-learning
- Guidance & Counseling
- Mobility
- ALMP

Innovation & Technology transfer
- New designs
- Technopolis
- Non-academic organizations
- Common use of laboratories
- Strategic partnership (priv. sector)
- Mobility
- New technologies
- More patents

Social Engagement
- Social affairs & inclusion
- International cooperation
- Cultural activities
- Access to univ. libraries
- Programs for elders
- Social responsibility
Higher Education Law (No.2547) underlines that higher education institutions are responsible for the provision of formal, non-formal, continuous education.

It also highlights that the Continuing Education Centers within higher education institutions are responsible for the provision of needs of diverse vocational areas and support for professional services.
University LLL in Turkey

- The CECs plan and offer courses, seminars and training programs not only for their students, but for public and private sector and NGOs as well.

- According to the Tertiary Education Strategy, they should be service providers (esp. in the underdeveloped regions) for HR and economic development, should enable opportunities for entrepreneurship and alleviate the disadvantaged individuals.
University LLL in Turkey

Bologna Process

- Policies for ULLL
- ECTS
- EQF-LLL
- EC-VET
- RPL
# LLL Activities in Turkey

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<td>Vakıf ve dernek</td>
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<td>939 514</td>
<td>424 212</td>
<td>847 517</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Facts for Continuing Education Centres in TR

Ref: A.H. Dogu, KTUSEM, Conference on CECs in TR, 2010, Izmir
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Facts for Continuing Education Centres in TR

Participants profile

- Highschool: 11
- Bachelor's: 79
- Master & PhD: 10

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Facts for Continuing Education Centres in TR

Ref: A.H. Dogu, KTUSEM, Conference on CECs in TR, 2010, Izmir
Established in 17.12.2010 with 27 Universities

Now 96 Universities (70 State & 26 Foundation Univ.)

Network member of EUCEN recently.
Goals of TUSEM Council

- Promotion of LLL in TR
- Contribution to economic and employment growth of TR
- Social Engagement of Universities
- Standardisation and accreditation of training programs
- Quality Assurance in Lifelong Learning Processes
- Create common terminology
- Implementation of new technologies
- Cooperation with stakeholders in LLL
- Common projects on national and European level.
- Find sources for financing of ULLL
- Address the problems of the Centres and lobbying for the solutions
## Actions for TUSEM Council

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Goal</th>
<th>Action</th>
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<tr>
<td>Promotion of LLL in TR</td>
<td>Annual conferences, active web page, social media, inventory for ULLL</td>
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<tr>
<td>Contribution to economic and employment growth of TR</td>
<td>ALMPS, RPL, projects with ISKUR, SMEs, Development Agencies,</td>
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<tr>
<td>Social Engagement of Universities</td>
<td>Public conferences, CSR projects</td>
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<td>Standardisation and accreditation of training programs</td>
<td>Special working group sessions; cooperation with stakeholders, EQF, ECVET, NQF</td>
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<td>Quality Assurance in Lifelong Learning Processes</td>
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<td>Create common terminology</td>
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<td>Implementation of new technologies</td>
<td>E-learning &amp; pilot projects</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cooperation</td>
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<td>Address the problems of the Centres and lobbying for</td>
<td>Special working group sessions; contact with stakeholders, TUSEM catalog</td>
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<td>the solutions with stakeholders in LLL</td>
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<td>Common projects on national and EU level.</td>
<td>IPA, Erasmus+, EU Delegation, EUCEN</td>
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Next Coming Activities of TUSEM Council

- TUSEM General Assembly & Annual Congress (focus on LLL policies, problems of CECs), Van, 8-9 May 2014
- Visibility, PR works (catalogue, web page and social media)
- Evidence base policy: inventory about ULLL
- Thematic workshop in autumn 2014 about understanding and implementation of NQF in all levels
- EUCEN General Assembly & Annual Congress, Istanbul at June 2015 (together with BULLC) 5-7 June 2015
Constraints for TUSEM Council

- Lack of permanent staff
- Lack of financial sources
- Lack of coordination at the sector
- Lack of joint work practices
- Priorities of own members
- Turnover in management and staff of Centres
- Lack of motivation by YOK or member universities
CONCLUSION

- The new EU Erasmus + program and IPA funds may support the LLP activities.

- Turkey is at an advanced stage of implementation of the Bologna process reforms in higher education except in LLL applications.

- A vocational qualifications authority was set up. Its task is to establish a NQF, including licensing, accreditation, assessment and certification procedures, and to link this national system to the European qualifications framework.

But......
CONCLUSION

- Regarding the Europe 2020 Strategy, Turkey struggles to:
  - Improve its performance on early school leavers and on completion of tertiary education,
  - Promote mobility,
  - Modernise labour markets,
  - Reduce unemployment
  - Increase qualified workforce
  - Improve implementation of LLL
Building knowledge based society—Agenda for TR

- **EU2020 strategy** – strong potential to anchor reforms and facilitate EU accession
- **Key issues** – competitiveness, employment, education, research, innovations
- Developing policies based upon new paradigms and new models for growth
- Changing priorities in **national agenda**
- Encouraging transfer of knowledge, **strengthening capacities for EU funded programmes**
CONCLUSION

- Lifelong Learning (LLL) processes are the most critical issues in preparing Turkey on the way to the transition to a **knowledge-based society**.

- In this regard, Turkey’s **accession process** in the EU has paved the way for various projects and reform activities which aims at developing VET system and Lifelong Learning (LLL).

- **TUSEM Council** is enthusiastic to take an active role for the HRD and employment policies in TR.
Thank you for your attention.

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