



Sivil Toplum Kuruluşları için  
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## 8th TACSO 2 Turkey Local Advisory Group (LAG) Meeting 15 November 2017 Gordion Hotel, Ankara

### Participating Members

Delegation of the European Union to Turkey  
Bilgi University CSO Research Centre  
Network against Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (ÇTCS)  
Nature Association  
Association of Women with Disabilities (Eng-Kad)  
Habitat Association  
Human Rights Joint Platform - İHOP  
Association for Supporting Women Candidates - KA-DER  
“Yaşama Dair” Foundation - YADA  
Citizenship Association -HYD  
Third Sector Foundation of Turkey – TÜSEV

### TACSO Representatives, Resource Centre and Observers:

TACSO Turkey Team  
Civil Society Development Centre -STGM  
Think Civil EU Programme

### Absent LAG Members:

Ministry of European Union Affairs  
Prime Ministry, General Directorate of Foundations  
Ministry of Interior, Department of Associations  
Association of Legislation- Yasader  
Turkish Corporate Social Responsibility Association - KSSD  
Community Volunteers Association-TOG  
Arı Movement  
Environment Platform Turkey -TÜRÇEP

Gender Equality Monitoring Association - CEİD  
Independent Communication Network-Bianet  
Monitoring Equality Eşitlik İzleme Kadın Grubu-Eşitiz  
Kaos Gay and Lesbian Cultural Research and Solidarity Association (Kaos GL)  
Social Policies, Gender Identity and Sexual Orientation Studies Association (SPOD)  
Sabancı Foundation  
Turkish Foundation of Training of and Solidarity with the Disabled -ÖZEV

### Meeting Agenda:

<b>10:45- 11:00:</b>	Registration
<b>11:00-11:50:</b>	Opening, Information on EU Supports to CSOs in coming term
<b>11:50-12:00:</b>	Break
<b>12:00-13:00:</b>	TACSO's 4 Years in Turkey, Comments and Reflections from LAG Members & Other News from LAG Members
<b>13:00-14:00:</b>	Lunch
<b>14:00-15:00:</b>	TACSO National Level Program: Information from STGM on Content and Supports
<b>15:00-15:50:</b>	Working Session: Supporting Civil Society Development in Turkey in Near Future
<b>15:50-16:00:</b>	Closing

### Meeting Report

The 8th Local Advisory Group (LAG) meeting of the TACSO Project organized by TACSO Office in Turkey took place at Gordion Hotel on 15 November 2017. The meeting started with an opening speech delivered by TACSO National Coordinator, which was followed by a short briefing session on EU Supports to CSOs. Stefano Calabretta, EU Delegation Programme Manager, gave general information on EU Supports to CSOs in Turkey (IPA, EIDHR, STGM 2015 project- 3 M Euro, Think Civil 3 Programme -5 M Euro, TACSO 3 – 3M Euro), and explained the role and the function of TACSO project within this context. TACSO Project implemented with the aim of capacity development will be continued by the resource centers. After the briefing, the representatives of the EU Delegation to Turkey responded the questions from LAG members.

LAG members pointed out the importance of monitoring the risks against the civil society in programming of the EU funding, and they emphasized the significance of the civil society participation within this programming and monitoring process. It was also underlined that different support and funding programs implemented both by public and EU institutions should be

complementary and coherent. To provide an effective coordination of these programs, establishing an initiative was suggested. EU Delegation indicated, that the funding third party mechanism paved a way, in which more flexible programs could be developed to respond different needs. Their intention of expanding such flexible programs would be on the agenda.

It was stated that, there were programs already planned and ready to be implemented. Among them, the ones that were to be launched by both public and EU institutions were explained in details. Information about the rules of planning, contracting and implementing process of the EU programs were provided.

After a short break, the meeting continued with the presentation of Tezcan Abay, General Coordinator of STGM, on the TACSO National Level Program through the Resource Centre. Abay provided information about the main components of the project designed on the basis of result framework regarding the EU Guide to civil society's CSO capacity. In this context, this project would contribute to the results defined under the EU Guide. It was stated that some programs such as Help Desk were planned to improve the action capacity of civil society within this project. This project would also provide supports to raise effectiveness of civil society. Information about these supporting mechanisms was provided. It was also stated that Delegation would provide support during the implementation process.

Abay suggested that TACSO Regional Project should establish a mechanism such as "dialog forum for capacity building" in order to maintain a similar function as LAG. LAG members pointed out that the intervention capacity of this forum should be guaranteed to establish a multi beneficiary dialog. LAG members also indicated that TACSO LAG was able to guide the events within the context of TACSO; by doing this it provided the ground on which the actors could cooperate with each other. It was underlined that STGM would give particular attention on this subject in the context of the resource center and the other projects. LAG members indicated that STGM as the implementer of multiple projects needed a new simple language to explain its supports to the potential beneficiaries.

The session after lunch provided brief information about the national and regional events of TACSO in the last four years. TACSO team informed the LAG members about the differences between the first four-year period and the last one; about the events organized in cooperation with STGM resource center; about the outputs and established networks. It was indicated that EU would start a new tender process for the third regional TACSO project.

LAG members underlined that TACSO project established a dialog ground between Turkey and the other candidate countries. This dialog created several opportunities for networking, cooperation, and sharing information. In this sense, they suggested that more regional events should be organized in Turkey during the third term of the project. It was also pointed, that the co-participation of public and civil representatives into the regional events strengthened the dialog and cooperation between them in Turkey as well. They also stated that TACSO project realized numerous events with a very small budget. This was an experience that should be shared as a good



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practice. Climate change was underlined as the common subject for TACSO regional program, EU, the countries and the civil society.

Following the website of EU Delegation to Turkey was suggested to be kept informed on the progress of regional TACSO project. It was stated that all TACSO publications would be shared through STGM's e-library. It was underlined that CSO Help Desk support would continue after the TACSO project ends on 30 November 2017.

The meeting ended by thanking to the LAG members for their four-year voluntary supports.