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THE ROLE OF NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS (NGO'S) IN THE SOCIO-ECONOMIC AND ENVIRONMENTAL-VALUE AWARENESS DEVELOPMENT IN TURKEY

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ABSTRACT

Nowadays modernized countries take steps to bring the public's role in the socio-economic and cultural life to the lowest possible level, ceding this place to NGO's whilst in parallel develop their policies and strategies in a way to have their respective communities have a direct participation in their socioeconomic and cultural development. As it is the case in various countries' successful examples, despite various problems and complications they face, the non governmental organizations (NGO's) in Turkey are also putting their signatures under projects pertaining to socio economic and cultural development, thus representing an important potential in this domain. In this article, taking the growing role of the NGO's in the socio-economic and cultural development as the starting point, the article aims to open a debate on the effect of these organizations in our day when democratic values are taking a predominant place.

Key Words: Non-Governmental Organizations (NGO's), socio-economic development, environmental awareness, employment, democratization, human rights, good governance.

ÖZET

Günümüzde çağdaş ülkeler artık bir yandan sosyo-ekonomik ve kültürel hayatta kamunun rolünü mümkün olan en alt seviyeye çekme yolunda önemli adımlar atar, bu alanları sivil toplum kuruluşlarına bırakırken, bir yandan da kendi ulusal çıkarları doğrultusunda politika ve stratejilerini oluşturarak, toplumlarının sosyo-ekonomik ve kültürel kalkınma hamlesine bir bütün halinde katılmasını amaçlamaktadır. Dünyanın çeşitli ülkelerindeki

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başarılı örneklerinde olduğu gibi çeşitli sorun ve sıkıntılarına rağmen ülkemizdeki sivil toplum kuruluşları da sosyo-ekonomik kalkınma ve kültürel gelişmede başarılı projelere imza atmakta, bu anlamda önemli bir potansiyel oluşturmaktadırlar. Bu makalede Sivil toplum kuruluşları (STK)'nın sosyoekonomik kalkınma ve kültürel gelişmedeki giderek artan rollerinden hareketle demokratik değerlerin öne çıktığı günümüzde toplum hayatındaki etkileri tartışmaya açılmaktadır.

Anahtar Kelimeler: Sivil Toplum Kuruluşu (STK), sosyo-ekonomik ve kalkınma, çevresel değerlerin gelişimi, istihdam, demokratikleşme, insan hakları ve iyi yönetişim.

1. INTRODUCTION

The non-government organizations (NGO's) in a reshaping world: Despite being a subject of conversation in the second half of the 20th century, the new world order that came into being after the collapse of the Eastern Bloc and the end of political bipolarization, brought to the political arena, a great number of already existing micro problems which could not surface during the cold war because of the political dangers they represented (Kuçuradi, 1998:24)

This process caused the world from being separated in two blocs, to be divided into tens of blocs of various faiths, philosophies and economic concepts. As a result, a new political understanding and self-reliance was born, in which cultural, historical, religious and economic rooted concepts are strongly alive (Binay, 1997:1). In other words, in this reshaping world the nongovernment organizastions (NGO's) are the most important actors of this new understanding. So that in today's global economic interactions where the national governments are only expected to perform the public services required by the global economy, this situation caused the continued increase of force and activity of the NGO's both in national and international terms. For example, when the United Nations Organization was founded in 1945, there was no doubt that the fundamental actors who determined the international relations were states. Whereas today NGO's are from time to time facing us as the new actors who influence international relations more than states. NGO's influencing policy on the global, national, and local scales (Balboa, 2014:274).

Whichever way they are described, today NGO's are very important actors of the international system. It is a known fact that the budgets and resources of some large NGO's are higher than those of many developing countries. Save the Children Fund (SCF), Bishops'Relief Fund-Missereor, CARITAS, France, Oxfam-UK, Friedrich-Ebert Foundation, Association nationale pour le Developpement Agricole, Amnesty International,

Greenpeace, Médecins sans Frontière, Unicef, International Planned Parenthood Federation, Hermann-Gmeiner-Fonds-Germany and other similar NGO's which are in the forefront of their activity groups, in addition to having budgets exceeding the national budgets of many countries, also have the power to directly influence the decision making mechanisms of international organizations and states (Woods, 2000:31). As an example at this moment Greenpeace which is present in 40 countries across Europe, America, Asia and the Pacifics, has 24 national and 4 regional offices that are assisted in their work by 2.8 million supporters in 101 countries. With its power this NGO played a great role in USA's abandoning nuclear tests in Alaska in 1971, the banning of nuclear tests globally in 1996, to stop Shell from sinking its Brent Spar petrol platform in the North Sea in 1995¹, then ensuring the surveillance and banning of sinking similar petrol platforms in the North Sea, the cancellation of Turkey's nuclear power project in 2000, and again their effective actions which marked the public opinion, leading to the closing of the tannery in Izmir's Salhane region because of the waste polluting the bay².

Again, generally becoming the subject of important debates in the countries because of the interesting style of their interventions, Doctors Without Borders was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1999, for their effective actions in regions suffering from deadly diseases such as malaria and ebola, their efficient work during the civil wars in Kosovo, Ruanda, Chechnya, Vietnam, Nicaragua, Lebanon, Afghanistan and countries such as Ethiopia working in the presence of socio-economic and cultural problems, and lending a helping hand to the populations in need following natural catastrophes such as the Marmara earthquake. Today, Doctors Without Borders has branch offices in 18 countries and this NGO is present with 20000 local staff, 2000 international nurses, technicians, logistic and financial specialists in various crisis zones³. As for UNICEF, it is a foundation created by the United Nations Organization to do awareness work for the protection of the children, to help provide children with the essential needs and to create opportunities for children to be able to achieve their full potential. UNICEF gives great importance to the provision of special protection for children in disadvantaged situations, those living in extreme poverty, those who have been victims of catastrophes, those suffering from violence and exploitation and those who have handicaps⁴.

¹Greenpeace International Home/Greenpeace International,

http://www.greenpeace.org/international/en/,date of consultation:31.12.2014, Ankara. ² Greenpeace Akdeniz,

http://www.greenpeace.org/turkey/tr/, date of consultation:31.12.2014, Ankara.

³Médecins Sans Frontières,International website of Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF), http://www.msf.org/, date of consultation:31.12.2014, Ankara.

⁴ UNICEF, <u>http://www.unicef.org.tr/</u>, date of consultation:31.12.2014, Ankara.

In Turkey TEMA, which was founded on 11 September 1992 is a pioneer organization in its field. Its work is centred on informing and educating public opinion, to ensure the future safety of Turkey by working for the formation of an organization and the promulgation of pertinent laws, concerning the protection of the environment and natural patrimony of our country with a sustainable life principle in perspective, in addition to fighting against erosion, the protection of the flora and the earth, the love of trees, the forest and therefore the need for forestation. It works to achieve this under the leadership of volunteer organizations and with the support of all sections of the Turkish population, in a fight against erosion described as Turkey's Second War of Independence. TEMA which has representatives in every province of Turkey counted 204.817 members in September 2003 and continues its work against land erosion and desertification inside and outside the country with a team of professionals and volunteers (Karaca, 1996:66).

Although it had prior activities before its official foundation date, AKUT is an organization officially founded in 1999. Its main target is to bring help to those who are lost or have accidents in mountainous areas or other natural environments, in catastrophes such as earthquakes and floods through voluntary amateur work with a professional approach to create the best conditions for a good search and rescue operation, and after giving the victims first aid, ensuring their safe evacuation, with the aim of reducing the loss of life to a minimum. AKUT counts 187 dignitary members and 719 volunteer members. Through its nationally and internationally praised interventions following the 1998 Adana-Ceyhan, 1999 Marmara, then in the same year Athens, Greece and Taiwan earthquakes AKUT demonstrated very well how effective an NGO formed uniquely by volunteers but with professional aptitudes can have on the public life.

Again in Turkey, the International Blue Crescent Humanitarian Aid and Development Foundation (UMHIYV) was founded in the year 2000. This foundation is active both domestically and internationally through its own means and through its cooperation and joint actions with other national and international organizations and NGO's principally various funds of the United Nations Organization. It works to bring help and relief in cases of natural and man-made catastrophes, from Azerbaijan to Albania, from India to Kosovo (UMHIYV, 2014).

Despite the fact that it is not given mention in the report entitled «Civil Society at the Door of Europe» prepared by the Ankara Chamber of Commerce, the examples above show that in addition to the public institutions and the private sector, many NGO's in various countries are exemplary with their actions in the domain of social and economic development, and through their work in their respective countries and on a global level, deeply influencing social development and change. No doubt behind NGO's

becoming active to this degree there is an important share of the new role invested on the former in a reshaped world. In this new era to effectively fill the void left by the loss of interest of nation-states (Aktel, 2003:72). In parallel today with the effects of globalization, the citizen concept in forming voluntary organizations is also widening to nearly become a concept of «world citizenship». This way the activities of voluntary organizations go beyond their national boundaries, operating under the basis of «responsible world citizenship». Because in this developing and changing world relations have become so complicated that a war, poverty, catastrophe or environmental problems do not only affect the country of origin but have consequences on the social and economic areas of other countries. For this reason this consciousness level is one of the most powerful reasons in the development of voluntary organizations (Simsek, 2000:336).

NGO's occupy a growing space in today's world, especially within democratic societies and their ability to impose sanctions gradually increases. Following this reality, it is a fact that the national and international NGO's do not only play a social development role but also are instrumental in the progress of democratic life and it is important likewise in European countries, in our country a parallel approach between our country's national policies and NGO's work. To this effect it is necessary that this development and progress of NGO's and the role they play should be taken into consideration in a harmonious fashion with our country's domestic and international policies and strategies, should be valued in accordance with our national interest and an environment encouraging a more efficient coordination and cooperation should be created.

2. METHODS

We used a symbolic interactionist framework to guide our qualitative research and content analysis Symbolic interactionism is a theoretical perspective that attempts to make meaning out of social life and views humans as the active constructors of social life. It is an appropriate approach to use for studying how NGO's participants bestow meaning on wildlife and illegal wildlife–pet trade and for trying to understand their motivations for combating trade. In Turkey The TEMA Foundation has been a pioneer as NDO for environment, wildlife and erosion. Traditionally, interactionism is based on acting people-humans that receive social stimuli (objects)-which they then evaluate in terms of their self, previous experiences, and on-going judgment. Blumer explained this process as self-indication; a "moving communicative process in which the individual notes things, assesses them, gives them a meaning, and decides to act on the basis of the meaning"(Daut,2014:11). Our work includes the role of methodologies depending on sustainable environmental development of NGO's in Turkey. In this context, our study methodology involves the analysis of a situation.

3. THE NGO'S REALITY AND TURKEY

When 460.000 Northern Iraqi Peshmergas sought refuge in the love and affection of our country to receive humanitarian aid after the First Gulf War, the governors and prefects of the eastern and south-eastern provinces of our country, became acquainted with the NGO reality. Where the state institutions' actions were cumbersome because of inadequate defining processes, these organizations moved fast into these areas and were noticed for their efficient actions in giving relief to the refugees fighting against thirst and hunger. But during these works it was also first noticed that many such organizations defining themselves as «non-governmental organizations (NGO's)» did not have the unique aim of humanitarian aid in their actions. In this period it was also observed that these NGO's whilst paying great attention to appearing as bringers of «humanitarian aid» had the real intention of helping realize the overseas policies of the countries which financially supported them, racing each other in achieving their goals with a smiling face.

After the 1990s and despite the socio-economic and cultural measures taken by our country, the level reached in south-eastern centred factious terror events and actions in Turkey and especially in Europe clearly shows the extent of the force of NGO's, which in addition to serving political interests and goals of states, create public opinion, and through this channel bring the governments to make political decisions. The important point here is the fact that acting upon this reality, the NGO's are supported and steered by states as important tools of their international political goals and strategies. In the last decade of the 20th century, mostly the USA and the EU member states support their NGO's in an open and comprehensive way, but one wonders why when it comes to the countries where the help actions gains importance, they present these organizations as «voluntary and totally humanitarian aid oriented» entities. In the 1990s, NGO's caused the important increase in events particularly in the south-eastern region of our country, where otherwise the population always remained united in sorrow and in pride and confronted difficulties as one body together. But thanks to the common sense of the region's population and the successful work and superior task consciousness of the security forces who always put legitimacy first, intelligence elements grouped within the NGO's could not realize their final goals and ambitions concerning our country. All the same the escalating terror had caused important negative effects to our country's economy and social development. Before the start of the war in Afghanistan many US and British humanitarian aid NGO's swarmed the country with innocent smiling faces and right after

the war their number increased for the re-building and development of the country. But now we must ask ourselves: To what extent the NGO's which have opened offices in Afghanistan, Iraq and Iran, waving the Turkish flag, represent the Turkish people and thus the Turkish Republic in their working areas get any state support, guidance or protection? Put aside the realization of our country's overseas policies, is there enough assistance from our officials stationed in these countries, in the installation of these NGO's? How can we be so indifferent? Why can't we search and identify these NGO's which can serve as a parallel diplomatic channel? Why can't we raise their numbers? Whether they operate within the country or internationally the NGO's are first of all the most important reality of our century (Nazlıoğlu, 1996:14) Nowadays countries fix their socio-cultural and economic targets in harmony with the power of their NGO's. By the same token, they create NGO's to help them better realize their socio-cultural and economic targets, besides that they cooperate with them to achieve their national and international goals. In these countries this type of cooperation is an institutionalized political necessity. Furthermore this development is also of importance in the stages the Western democracies are going through. So that what is seen today as the characteristics of a democracy are a constitutional state, separation of powers, political freedom, transparency, limited government, laicity, the necessity of election results to reflect the people's free self-determination and the NGO's. On the opposite side the following are insisted upon as retrogressing factors for a democracy: police state, monopolisation of power, dependent judiciary, unlimited government, human rights abuse, depoliticalization, dictatorial leadership prohibitions, secrets, cover-ups, politicalization of religion, low standards of education, political apathy, sovereignty of interest and pressure groups, plutocracy. No doubt in our day where democratic values are of vital importance the factors that cannot be discarded are the NGO's and participative action. This is to say whatever their goals might be, the NGO's are one of the fundamental organizations in democracies.

Although currently unfamiliar in our country, NGO's are indispensable factors in a country's international policies (Carsino, 2001:74). Turkey must be able to valorise its citizens living in Europe and whose hearts and souls are beating with the love of their motherland as a second diplomatic channel as part of its policy side by side with the strategies it is currently applying. And the road to achieve this passes by the understanding of NGO's and their power.

3.1. Non-Governmental Organizations (NGO's) in Turkey by the Numbers

3.1.1. Active Associations in Turkey

Based on figures from the end of 2014 there are 258.522 associations in Turkey. Of these associations 104.506 are active and 154.016 were terminated for various reasons.





Source: http://www.dernekler.gov.tr/tr/AnasayfaLinkler/yillara-gore-faal-dernek.aspx Date of consultation: 31.12.2014, Ankara.

3.1.2. Repartition of the Active Associations by Province (on **31.12.2014**)

Currently 104506 associations are active in Turkey. The highest density of associations are located in the provinces of Istanbul, Ankara and Izmir. Twenty percent of the total of these active associations in Turkey are located in the Istanbul Province.

ROW NR.	PROVINCE DIRECTORATE OF ASSOCIATIONS	ASSOC. NR.	(%)
1	İstanbul	20.901	20
2	Ankara	9.941	9,51
3	İzmir	5.921	5,67
4	Bursa	4.336	4,15
5	Kocaeli	3.057	2,93
6	Antalya	2.686	2,57
7	Konya	2.630	2,52
8	Adana	2.182	2,09

Table- 1: Association numbers per province (on 31.12.2014)

9	Samsun	1.924	1,84
10	Mersin	1.867	1,79
11	Sakarya	1.706	1,63
12	Gaziantep	1.664	1,59
13	Balıkesir	1.621	1,55
14	Manisa	1.487	1,42
15	Denizli	1435	1,37
16	Aydın	1.433	1,37
17	Trabzon	1.410	1,35
18	Kayseri	1.381	1,32
19	Hatay	1.283	1,23
20	Afyon	1.226	1,17
21	Eskişehir	1.153	1,1
22	Muğla	1.151	1,1
23	Kütahya	1.132	1,08
24	Diyarbakır	1.123	1,07
25	Tekirdağ	1.075	1,03
26	Ordu	1.041	1
27	Zonguldak	1.023	0,98
28	Malatya	996	0,95
29	Şanlıurfa	973	0,93
30	Kahramanmaraş	922	0,88
31	Çanakkale	912	0,87
32	Erzurum	905	0,87
33	Isparta	860	0,82
34	Van	836	0,8

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35	Sivas	822	0,79
36	Düzce	819	0,78
37	Giresun	700	0,67
38	Rize	675	0,65
39	Çorum	657	0,63
40	Elazığ	653	0,62
41	Karabük	640	0,61
42	Tokat	633	0,61
43	Edirne	630	0,6
44	Adıyaman	614	0,59
45	Uşak	600	0,57
46	Bolu	560	0,54
47	Kastamonu	553	0,53
48	Osmaniye	553	0,53
49	Mardin	527	0,5
50	Kırklareli	524	0,5
51	Kırıkkale	496	0,47
52	Bitlis	476	0,46
53	Yalova	476	0,46
54	Yozgat	453	0,43
55	Çankırı	452	0,43
56	Amasya	433	0,41
57	Niğde	402	0,38
58	Artvin	395	0,38
59	Bilecik	394	0,38
60	Sinop	385	0,37

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1	1		1
61	Aksaray	377	0,36
62	Batman	377	0,36
63	Burdur	373	0,36
64	Nevşehir	370	0,35
65	Erzincan	346	0,33
66	Karaman	338	0,32
67	Ağrı	317	0,3
68	Muş	314	0,3
69	Kırşehir	295	0,28
70	Kars	295	0,28
71	Bingöl	273	0,26
72	Bartın	270	0,26
73	Gümüşhane	258	0,25
74	Iğdır	256	0,24
75	Siirt	249	0,24
76	Şırnak	225	0,22
77	Hakkari	197	0,19
78	Kilis	192	0,18
79	Bayburt	179	0,17
80	Ardahan	158	0,15
81	Tunceli	123	0,12

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Source: <u>http://www.dernekler.gov.tr/tr/Anasayfalinkler/illere-gore-faal-dernekler.aspx</u>Date of consultation: 31.12.2014, Ankara.

3.1.3. Regional Repartition of Associations Active in Turkey

According to the figures published by the Interior Ministry Directorate of Associations, the number of active associations are currently 35.627 in the Marmara Region, 19.112 in the Inner Anatolian Region, 14.187 in the Aegean

Region, 12.555 in the Black Sea Region, 10.236 in the Meditteranean Region, 6.146 in the Eastern Anatolian Region, 5.946 in the South-East Anatolian Region. As it can be observed in the diagram nr. 2 below, most of the active associations are located in the Marmara Region. The region which has the lowest number of active associations is the South-East Anatolian Region.



Diagram-2: Repartition of Active Associations by Region

3.1.4 Associations by Type of Activity

Among the active associations in our country 31.876 are professional and solidarity associations, 10.267 sports and sports related associations, 17.209 are associations active in ensuring the realization of religious services, 6.816 associations are active in the domain of humanitarian aid, 5.903 of

Source <u>http://www.dernekler.gov.tr/tr/AnasayfaLinkler/derneklerin-</u> bolgelere-gore.aspx date of consultation: 31.12.2014, Ankara.

which are active in the domaine of education. On 31.12.2014 our country counted 2.153 associations active in the protection of the environment, the natural life and animals.



Diagram-3: Associations by Type of Activity

Source: <u>http://www.dernekler.gov.tr/tr/AnasayfaLinkler/faal-derneklerin-nevilere-gore.aspx</u>, date of consultation: 31.12.2014, Ankara.

3.1.5. Association Members

One of the main criticisms directed towards the associations in our country stems from the fact that a great number of these associations are founded by the same people and serve as inactive fronts. But especially since 2000 the evolution of the judiciary structure that took the democratization as a basis, resulted in a participative attitude to spread among large sections of the public, thus the number of registered association members gradually increased.

In 2004 the total registered number of association members was 5.321.574 however this number was increased to 7.972.686 in 2008, to 8.873.733 in 2010 and to 9.930.803 in 2013. For the development of a culture leaning on democracy and human rights and further spreading of a participative will, it is necessary that the members of associations, which of vital importance, further increase in comparison with the total population.

Diagram-4: Year by Year Association Membership Numbers in Our Country



Source: <u>http://www.dernekler.gov.tr/tr/AnasayfaLinkler/derneklerin-yillara-gore-uye.aspx</u>, Date of Consultation:31.12.2014, Ankara.



Diagram-5: Proportion of Association Members compared to Total Turkish Population

Female Members 2.3 % Male Members 9.9 % Non-members: 87.8 %

Source:<u>http://www.dernekler.gov.tr/tr/AnasayfaLinkler/dernek-uye-sayilarinin-turkiye-nufusu.aspx</u>, date of consultation:31.12.2014, Ankara.

According to the information given by the Interior Ministery Department of Associations Chairmanship on 31.12.204 the total number of active association members was 9.692.970, of which 1.851.141 were female and 7.942.252 were male. Compared to the total population only 9.9% of men and 2.3% of women were association members. Considering the importance of the role played by NGO's in the public life, these ratios are extremely low⁵.

4. THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN CHIEF CIVIL ADMINISTRATORS AND NON GOVERNMENT ORGANIZATIONS

Nowadays in provinces the governors and in counties the prefects in their role of chief civil administrators, are the most important engines of development. This has several reasons: In the historical process the civil administration chiefs have the role of representing the state whilst being leaders of people and to have the responsibility of management and administration of the totality of public institutions and organizations. Reaching beyond ensuring safety and security in their region, to start by gaining the local

^sİçişleri Bakanlığı Dernekler Dairesi Başkanlığı, Dernek İstatistikleri, (31.12.2014), Ankara.<u>http://www.dernekler.gov.tr/tr/AnasayfaLinkler/dernek-uye-sayilarinin-turkiye-nufusu.aspx</u>,

resources to the economy, generally increase their labor-intensive employment, by taking on the task of the total socio-economic development of their region and make it their slogan. There is no doubt that the other factors that place chief civil administrator to the center of a social development such as good governance, encouragement of participation, and especially the creation of an environment of trust will very importantly depend on the chief civil administrator's management approach and attitude. Despite the fact that the economic perspectives of the 21st century are seen as the creation of a trustable environment allowing competition and bringing the state functions and economic interventions to a minimum level, from the 1980s on as in the state-citizen campaign examples, chief civil administrators put their signatures under projects deserving applause by mobilizing the local economic resources to enrich the general economy. In short, the governors and prefects, in other words chief civil administrators are the representatives of the state and the government in the countryside. And whilst being in charge of coordination and cooperation among public institutions and organizations and despite everything, still enjoying a high trust level among the population with the image of representatives of the "father state". Since many years ago wherever the state could not step in with a limited general budget, these chief civil administrators stepped in through NGOs, not only attending to the needs but also becoming the pioneers of participation, one of the fundemantal attributes of modern democracies. In such a way that in parallel to the shrinking appearance of the state, the chief civil administrators could free themselves of the image of agents of the state, as in the example of service to the village teams. through business management formation, are valued entrepreuneurial leaders (Kutlu, 1990:135).

Because of the historical background, the public perception of the chief civil administrator is very different from the perception of other professions. In the person of a chief civil administrator the public always sees the state, the authority, the applier of the laws, the solver of problems and the person to call upon when seeking a solution to a problem. In the region he/she serves, the chief civil administrator is the most competent and in many subjects the sole authority of the state. In the eyes of the population he/she is the closest and most trustable person to whom they can share their grievances to bring a solution to their problem. In this understanding, the chief civil administrators are without doubt today's leaders in modern management and social development. Our country's modern service requirements having changed, the traditional tasks of chief civil administrators have also evolved. In addition to the traditional basic public services such as education, health and drinking water, today the regional socio-economic and cultural development of the region has virtually become a traditional responsibility of the chief civil administrator. Thus in the provinces chief civil administrators have taken on the duty of leadership in matters both of socio-economic and cultural

development. Nowadays as the citizen in the street can easily observe and appreciate, chief civil administrators' conduct and attitude in matters such as entrepreneurship, solving problems through creation of local resources, and giving priority to the citizens demands are generally adopted and supported by the population. Today, expectations such as leadership in economic and social development, management and planning of investments, the fight against poverty, education, health and infrastructure investments are part of the definition of economic and social development. In reality when we closely observe the actions of chief civil administrators we see that in regions where they are resposible there is a densification of economic, social, and cultural areas and in terms of environment, construction and infrastructure. On the other hand through service provider teams channel, chief civil administrators build up a labour intensive employment possibility by way of creating reasonable income through projects such as greenhouses, milk collection centers and open employment possibilities, keeping a hand in raising the local standards of living and in this sense as a leader of people take on the function of guide in terms of social development. It must not be forgotten that these projects are partly outside the general budget possibilities and are realized under the state's leadership but with the participation of the citizens. Today and again under the guidance of chief civil administrators the projects realized by Social Charity and Solidarity Foundations are leaving their positive mark and are constituting the engine of social development. All these applications show the important role played by the civil administration in the realization of socio-economic and cultural development in places where the general budget possibilities are limited, by putting to task the local resources and helping inividuals in need in cooperation with them. In this regard, the creation of the environment for the wished cooperation with non government organizations will allow to rationalize and optimise the limited resources for the benefit of the public. Trust is of utmost importance in these practices. In the historical process chief civil administrators, with their task discernment and with their successful and examplary projects are also the symbol of the public's trust of the state. Turkish people, as a historic responsibility, can follow the authority or the person they see and trust as "father state", share the problems and head towards the target. The great synergy born by a common target approach by the chief civil administrators and the NGO's would be particularly beneficial to populations living in regions in need of service, meeting their labour intensive employment needs. This synergy will render the public services more effctive and productive. The realization of a cooperation between the civil administrators and the NGO's at the wished level will bring, with a lower cost, the main objectives we want to achieve as a state and as public institutions and public organizations also ensuring democratic participation. These works will also incite the targeted population to directly participate in the effort bringing local forces to cooperate and to integrate the development

effort. Since 1980s the social aid foundations that were at the center of charity and solidarity actions, also constitute an important power in terms of socioeconomic and overall development with their projects promoting activities such as greenhouse culture, carpet making, handicraft, livestock, confectionknitwork, plant and vegetable culture, milk collection, and supply of refrigeration tanks, making these an important power in socio-economic and mobilization for overall development, to create environmental values for better living conditions. These foundations show that when our governors and prefects and the leaders of our people come together they can put their signatures under great achievements. The individuals, particularly those trying to overcome socio-economic difficulties are waiting for an increase in the number of this type of NGO's. And if necessary they wish to see copycat versions of existing Social Aid and Solidarity Foundations which support social development as a whole, which embrace the problems of the country, and for the procurement of these services, NGO's who want to work hand in hand with the governors, the prefects and the other civil servants of the state. There is full faith in this cooperation to be able to become a solution even to the cyclical economical crisis suffered by the country.

5. A NEW WIND IN SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT: THE NGO'S

Nowadays the role played by the NGO's in the socio-economic and cultural life of countries and the activities they perform are sufficiently known. As a result of this, these days, the organizational abilities of people is developing in a striking manner and in a different framework than the public and bureaucratic organizations and social movements following this process are gradually increasing. In the development of these movements the two basic components are participation and globalisation. As a concept participation encompasses a number of elements such as politics, economy and organization. In the context of NGO's participation is an active process evolving with one's own creative actions in which individuals take initiatives in accordance with their needs and thoughts, are able to check and orientate an organization. This process is different from a passive participation in which the individual takes part in the activities of an organization planned, implemented and inspected by others. Participation therefore means the individuals can define themselves in a social movement, and by taking part in an NGO's with the feeling of actively and efficiently co-owning this entity. In the roots of globalization which is another social development, lies the deep changes and transformation that occured in the communication and information technologies which gained a transnational quality. In our times the qualitative and quantitative changes that happened in the areas of communication and interaction oblige communities to make a radical transformation of the way they percieved the orientation of the world. Even if

the development level of countries differ, the world stays one, and its problems are common to all people. For this reason people feel the necessity to indirectly or directly intervene in issues that present a particular causality such as development, humanitarian aid, environmental protection, human rights and women's rights. Every year thousands of new NGO's based on voluntariness are formed to be active on a common problem area. Without any doubt, our country is not excluded from this process. It is so that in the course of the history of our country our people have also always felt socially responsible towards their community, and they have endevoured to fulfill this responsibility by working side by side. This team work oriented towards common goals in the effort to solve problems is in reality the first sign of the civil society organizations that is in the make-up of today's developed societies. The civil society organizations are the social insurances of democracies. Despite the fact that the habit of expecting everything from the state is still widely present, the individual effort to be beneficial to society in a subject one believes in was always on the order of the day throughout history. Historicly our society has a wide experience in this domain. Thus shortly after the declaration of the Turkish Republic, 26.798 foundations were transfered to the Prime Ministry Foundations General Directorate. Under the Turkish Republic the number of additional foundations until 1990 is 2.817 (Saltik, 1995:37).

At the end of the 20th century the number of new foundations active in various areas and with various goals was 4.539. Of these, 161 are community foundations, 1 was a tradesmen foundation, with 304 added foundations and with the addition of the 2.967 branch offices belonging to these foundations it was observed that 7.972 foundations were continuing their activities within our country. Of those foundation continuing their activities in our country 42% were specialized in social aid, 24% in education, 14% in culture, 12% in charity, 6% in health. They had important functions at the side of the relevant state organizations and institutions (Simsek, 2000:49).

Despite their numbers changing day by day it can be said that our country is a haven in regard to associations. Today, based on voluntariness and with various goals similar to the foundations, Turkey is home to 258.522 associations of which 104.016 are active, and 154.016 have ceased activity for various reasons⁶.

When we take a look at the active associations in Turkey, we see that 51% of these are grouped in the ten largest provinces. So that Istanbul has 2001 associations are in activity representing 20% of the total number of active

⁶İçişleri Bakanlığı Dernekler Dairesi Başkanlığı, Dernek İstatistikleri, (31.12.2014), Ankara.<u>http://www.dernekler.gov.tr/tr/AnasayfaLinkler/dernek-uye-sayilarinin-turkiye-nufusu.aspx</u>,

associations, Ankara with 9941 associations represents 9.51%, Izmir with 5.921 associations 6.67%, Bursa with 4.336 associations 4.15%, Kocaeli with 3.057 associations 2.93%, Antalya with 2.686 associations 2.57%, Konya with 2.630 associations 2.52%, Adana with 2.182 associations 2.09%, Samsun with 1.924 associations 1.84%, Mersin with 1.867 associations 1.79%. Other than these provinces there are currently 1.706 associations in Sakarya representing 1.63% of active associations, 1.664 in the Gaziantep province representing 1.59%, 1621 in Balikesir for 1.55%, 1487 in Manisa for 1.42% and 1435 in Denizli representing 1.37% of the total active associations⁷.

Nonetheless it is not possible to say that in regard to repetition by provinces and by regions, in Turkey the number of associations are well balanced. In the 81 existing provinces the lowest number is in Tunceli which counts 123 associations corresponding to 0.12% of the total number of active associations. Ardahan province counts 158 associations corresponding to 0.15%, Bayburt province counts 179 associations for 0.17%, Kilis province 192 associations for 0.18%, Hakkari province 197 for 0.19%, Sirnak province 225 for 0.22%, Siirt 249 for 0.24%, Igdir province 256 for 0.24%, Gumushane province 258 for 0.25%, Bartin province 270 for 0.26%, Bingol province 314 for 0.30%, Kars province 317 for 0.30%, Agri province 317 for 0.30%, Karaman province 338 for 0.32%, Erzincan province 346 for 0.33%, Nevsehir province 370 for 0.35%, Burdur province 373 for 0.36% and in Batman province 377 active associations corresponding to 0.36% of the total⁸.

The fact is the 20 provinces cited above are nearly equal to the province of Bursa in number of active associations shows a clustering of the active associations in particular regions. So that the Marmara region currently counts 35.627, Inner Anatolia region 19.112, Aegian region 14.387, Black Sea region 12.555 associations, the Medierranean region 10.736 associations, Eastern Anatolia region 6146 associations and the South-Eastern Anatolia region counts 5.946 associations⁹.

When looking into the activity areas of the associations which are indispensible factors of a democratic society, it is observed that the activity areas of the associations are gradually diversifying. Out of the associations active in our country, 31.876 are professional and solidarity associations, 19.267 are sports or sports related associations, 17.299 are associations ensuring the realization of religious services, 6.816 humanitarian aid

⁷ İçişleri Bakanlığı Dernekler Dairesi Başkanlığı, Dernek İstatistikleri, (31.12.2014),

Ankara.http://www.dernekler.gov.tr/tr/AnasayfaLinkler/dernek-uye-sayilarinin-turkiye-nufusu.aspx ⁸İçişleri Bakanlığı Dernekler Dairesi Başkanlığı, Dernek İstatistikleri, (31.12.2014),

Ankara.http://www.dernekler.gov.tr/tr/AnasayfaLinkler/dernek-uye-sayilarinin-turkiye-nufusu.aspx, ⁹ İçişleri Bakanlığı Dernekler Dairesi Başkanlığı, Dernek İstatistikleri, (31.12.2014),

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associations, 5.903 are education and research associations, 5.205 culture, art and tourism associations, 2.466 are associations active in the domain of health, 2.153 associations for the protection of the environment, natural life and animals, 2.078 individual tutoring and support of social development associations, 1.729 reconstruction, urbanism and improvement associations, 1.617 right and defence associations, 1.532 associations active in the protection of social values, 1.346 associations for the care of the handicaped, 1.346 associations for the defence of public institutions and their personnel, 1.227 opinion and thought-based associations, 763 associations for collaboration with international formations, 640 associations for solidarity among Turks abroad, 312 associations assisting the elderly and children, 275 martyr relatives and war veteran associations and 24 children's associations¹⁰.

The necessity of numerical increase of these associations as civil society organizations is not to be doubted. But the situation of the members of these associations, who perform various activities by taking on a task is even more important. In reality although not sufficiently, in Turkey the number people joining associations is also on the rise. The total number of association members in 2004 was 5.321.574, this number raised to 7.337.842 in 2005, to 8.200.521 in 2006, 7.846.944 in 2007, 7.972.686 in 2008, 7.891.881 in 2009, 8.873.733 in 2010, 9.501.483 in 2011, 9.922.433 in 2012, to reach 9.930.803 in 2013¹¹.

On the other side in Turkey there are also 402 associations working for the public interest. Of these associations 137 are in the Ankara province, 134 in Istanbul province, 122 in Izmir province, 11 in Bursa province, 9 in Balikesir province, 7 in Adana province, 6 in Antalya province, 6 in Konya province, 5 in Samsun province and are pursuing their activities under the status of public benefit associations¹².

In reality despite the rising number of associations, with the exception of a small number of powerful NGO's, it cannot be said that the associations play their socio-economic and cultural development yet to the required extent. Likewise there is not enough realistic, sufficient and healthy data available on the NGO's about their goals and the tools they use to achieve these goals, their targets, their financing status, their achieved and planned projects. Whereas in accordance with today's perception of development, there would be no reason for the NGO's not to play a beneficial role in the socio-economic and cultural

¹⁰ İçişleri Bakanlığı Dernekler Dairesi Başkanlığı, Dernek İstatistikleri, (31.12.2014),

Ankara.<u>http://www.dernekler.gov.tr/tr/AnasayfaLinkler/dernek-uye-sayilarinin-turkiye-nufusu.aspx</u>, ¹¹İçişleri Bakanlığı Dernekler Dairesi Başkanlığı, Dernek İstatistikleri, (31.12.2014),

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 $Ankara. \underline{http://www.dernekler.gov.tr/tr/AnasayfaLinkler/dernek-uye-sayilarinin-turkiye-nufusu.aspx, \\$

life and in the development of environmental values, provided that their clutter is resolved and that they operate towards a common goal in a spirit of cooperation.

In today's world whether they operate within their countries or they are internationally active, the positive influence and contribution they bring to the debate on the approach to development is adopted by a wide section of the population. Today the NGO's have a considerable impact by being at the center of the people's development process in terms of policies and strategies, by underlining the importance of participation, by reducing poverty, by giving priority to social peace and equality on their agenda, by the protection of nature and the environment and by giving cultural identities significant attention. The non-governmental organizations (NGO's) do not only play a role within the bounderies of their countries of origin but are also playing an effective international role in topics such as the international economical and political relations, the protection of natural resources and biodiversity, choice of right technologies in harmony with the environment thus being pioneers in drawing attention to common problems of worlwide interest and in suggesting solutions.

When taken in consideration at the application stage, the abilities developed by NGO's in terms of base work, to directly communicate with poor sections of the population thanks to development oriented projects and plans are recognized both by governments and international institutions. Other than this their ability to quickly adapt to dramatic situations following natural catastrophes such as earthquakes and floods, to man-made catastrophes such as wars and starvation, and their aptitude to take risks to bring relief to the sections of population most affected by crisis situations are also reconized at an international level.

As a result the number of NGO's in developing countries reached the 10.000 figure in the last 10 years whilst their financial structures have also strenghtened. According to the World Bank's estimations the combined budgets of NGO's active in India have reached a total of 520 million US Dollars. This sum represents 25% of total aid given to this country. This being said the fact that NGO's have some limits and weaknesses in terms of scope and application cannot be ignored. The non-existence of a sound coordination between NGO's, the incapacity of linking their actions to a mid-term or a long term plan, not always being successful in efficiently reaching the members at the base and in organizing them create obstacles or the repeatability and sustainability of their projects.

On the other hand the NGO's of today which became alternative organizations in the domaine of development, have learnt from the past and are in the process of a qualitative transformation. Especially in the 1980s by

following a road drawn by the paradigms and relations between the industrialized and the developing countries the NGO's have entered a new process of formation. When we closely look at this process we see that originally NGO's were formed to attend to the urgent needs of the social layers that were previously overlooked, by way of offering aid or assistance. Now these types of activities put more weight on the direction of strengthening communities thus ensuring their self-sufficiency. This evolution moved NGO's from micro applications to work on concepts macro-level problems such as sustainable development, protection and improvement of the environment. In this process NGO's that now have the financial and technical support of the developed countries became civic organizations cooperating with state organizations in creating new models, suggesting new approaches, in activating and in defending the target groups. Perhaps the most important dimension of this process today is the importance given to the sustainability of these activities and the results obtained from these activities. To achieve this, new ways and models must be experimented both in the financial mechanisms and in the capacity building programs. And this of course will give the observation and evaluation processes a marked importance. Observation and evaluation are two fields in which the NGO's community must invest in the future. The formation of partnerships has an effect on NGO's emanating from developed countries. So that today in harmony with this new action agenda and this new task sharing concept NGO's originating from developed countries are giving more weight to their activities in providing information, in creating a relationship network, in political research and presentation, in participating in the capacity building of the other NGO's operating in developing countries. In this organizational transformation the principal issues are the sustainability of development, and the durability and repeatability of actions.

This is the reason why the basic criterion for the evaluation of the applications driven, and the development plans suggested by NGO's are permanency and sustainability. This no doubt in its turn requires a democratic behavior and a participative approach by NGO's in whichever area of social life it may be, in problem identification, in planning and program development, in application and in evaluation of the results. Today NGO's are defined as the third sector after the state and the private sector. It is a known fact that some social and economic factors also played a role in their gaining importance, especially in the past 25 years.

It can be said that the reason behind NGO's gaining in importance is the failure of the development policies and strategies of the past and the search for alternative approaches. Today on our planet one out of every four person lives under the poverty line. Every year millions of people die because of poverty. The productive employment shrinks and the unemployment soars. More than 1.5 billion people do not have access to basic health support. Two thirds of the poor population in the world are women. Meanwhile whilst some countries are getting richer many others are becoming poorer, and the gap between the rich and poor countries is constantly growing. Between 1960 and today the gap between the rich and poor doubled in size. The debt of developing countries to developed countries has reached unpayable proportions. In short the problem is poverty on the one hand, and the growing gap between the rich and poor countries on the other. In order to get out of this vicious circle new strategies are being developed in the modern world. The solution suggested by the IMF and the World Bank is to realize the structural adjustment programs, to strengthen the free market mechanism, and to reduce the effect of the state, especially in the economical area. In this approach, different from other periods, the dominating role of the state is diminished in order to create a coordination between the two parties.

Why does the third sector gain in importance today? Because in general the first sector is driven by a will to govern, the second sector is driven by financial gain and the third sector's goal is to undetake public tasks with voluntary participation. This sector, in accordance with social justice and equal opportunity principles, helps create harmony between the first and second sectors, and to do so helps create a conscious and sensitive public opinion, acts as a strong pressure group thus takes on an important role in modern democracy, in the creation of participation and majoritism. Whereas in our country despite not being an agenda item of today, as in the case of Development Foundation of Turkey, Anatoly Development Foundation, Sustainable Rural and Urban Development Foundation with their appreciated works, the NGO's represent a great potential, and make unbeliavable contributions to the social development effort. Even if NGO's time to time stay on the second plan they are still amongst the most important concepts of our national agenda. This being said NGO's activity in social life is conditional to the creation of a meaningful atmosphere of cooperation with the state institutions and organizations. Without doubt the expected success is much more within reach and the targets more attainable when these two forces can act in harmonious cooperation and as completing elements of each other. Both in terms of directing the domestic public opinion towards defined targets, and in terms of informing and guiding the international public opinion on Turkey's overseas policies this harmony plays a vital role.

Today the modern countries who were successful in establishing an acceptable harmony and balance between themselves and NGO's, realize their basic ideals, strategies and policies more easily, in a desired and convincing way and beyond this, are able to consitute "models" in this domain. This being said, as it is the case in many democratic countries here also the state–NGO's relations are continued to be discussed on a "trust" basis. In democratized

countries this debate may well have ceded its place to a power-sharing but in today's Turkey this doubt and insecurity is felt in many developments. How come?

In general civil servants working in the state institutions and organizations representing public power, see NGO's as a negativity, a barrier to be cleared, a threat for the indivisible integrity of the country and are thus of the opinion that in all eventuality they should be kept under strict control. On the other side NGO's evaluate the state and institutions and organizations as imposers of an unnecessary load, always erecting barriers against them. In general all they insistingly want from these authorities is to "stay out of their sunlight". These two extreme positions in a classical sense, show us the currently widespread image of a seesaw with the state and NGO's sitting in opposition at the edges of it. When one goes up the other atomatically looses height. It must be said that it is a clearly known fact in all circles that some foreign NGO's operating in our country have resorted to pursuing secret goals and studies and the discovery of this give good reason to this bipolarization and mistrust. One must accept that because of some foreign NGO's behaviour in our country in the past years in our country there is a feeling of a quasi general suspicion towards these organizations. This is the reason, no permission was given to some mostly international NGO's to work in Turkey or their activity was banned and they were banned from operating in Turkey. But the point we want to emphasize here is this: Does this mean there is not one single Turkish or foreign NGO's which would, for the good of Turkey, participate in the socio-economic and cultural structuring and development of the country? To start with the OSCE meetings as it can clearly be seen in many studies in the international arena, and knowing these organizations' power in building agenda points, the fact that some NGO's may contest some Turkish policies, be prejudiced, or may have worked against our country does not justify a generalized allergy towards these organizations. Here what we have to put the emphasis on as a state and a country is no doubt, the necessity of starting from international policy realities and from the examples of behavior developed by the modern countries to see what good we can obtain from NGO's whatever their origin may be, in terms of socio-economic and cultural development. We should act with the knowledge that our country is stronger than some NGO's who aim to destroy it. With this knowledge in hand and instead of balking or being scared, we should with a pre-established plan, let them play the desired role in the socio-economic and cultural development of our country. But it must not be forgotten that although the discussions on how to achieve this may resemble, it passes through a good understanding of the difference between the words angio and NGO's.

The fight againt the divisive terror that was installed in the daily agenda of our country since the mid 1980s did not only destroy the economy

but also further increased the regional socio-economic and cultural imbalance. For this reason all of the public institutions and organizations, the private sector and NGO's must go hand in hand to speed up the socio-economic and cultural development of the country, to compensate the time spent in fighting against terror and to give an acceleration to the neglected development of the country and together with it to ensure a social trust. Armed with a new consciousness and a new approach, the country needs a mobilization for overall development. The goal is to assess the resources of the country at an optimal level, to ensure human development, and to create a Turkey in full possession of its socio-economic and political power in its region, a Turkey that is in the process of integration in the European Union, A Turkey that is cited as an example of one of the most respected countries of the world.

6. THE MEASURES TO BE TAKEN FOR NGO'S TO PLAY A MORE EFFECTIVE ROLE

Today, NGOs which have an important role in public life and which are seen as indispensable factors of democratic life, are facing multidirectional problems and are fighting for their survival.

6.1. Today, NGO's Most Important Problem is Not Being Able to Find Adequate Financial Support for Their Projects

In general for the feasibility of the projects one of the two important factors is to find strong voluntary supporters or to obtain financial support from international voluntary organizations. In reality one of the most frequent criticism direct to NGO's stems from the fact that they receive most of their financial support from various countries' aid organizations. When the project support comes from foreign country aid organizations or from international development targeting organizations, the expectation of the latter for their national policies and overseas strategies to be given priority in implementation, makes that NGO's which find themselves in this situation put the NGO's policies and strategies of the countries in which they are aside and instead they become the implementors of the goals and strategies of the countries from where the money comes from. Within the society and the state's institutions and organizations these hesitations and suspicions are wide-spread. In a world where the money is king, this type of suspicions are very reasonable. To prevent NGO's from facing such situations and from having to beg money from such organizations, it is advisable that to start with the State Incentive to Solidarity Law the financial package put at the disposition of various state organizations and institutions, money be earmarked for NGO's to be used for appropriate projects.

Again a regulation should be agreed upon between the Turkish Government, financial authorities like World Bank and OECD, international institutions such as the United Nations Organization and the European Union in order to be able to give priority to NGO's in the distribution of funds allocated to aid and assistance purposes. The state must then be a guarantor for the appropriate usage of the obtained funds. The double advantage of this regulation is that whilst securing money for NGO's to function, the state will be able to stop these funds to be used with goals of harming the national integrity of Turkey. In this understanding the state must urgently re-adjust the regulations funds made available by the Social Aid and Solidarity Foundation Secretariat to province and county foundations, to also financially support NGO's with priority given to projects to push back the level of poverty. These re-adjustments must be done with urgency. Without doubt this new situation will also encourage NGO's and state institutions and organizations to engage in a close working relationship and public institutions, the private sector and NGO's will become the happy providers of the public services needed by the population (Tekeli, 2002:17)

6.2. The working principles and procedures of international NGO's in Turkey must be Fitted in a Framework

NGO's work being concentrated more on political goals than on humanitarian targets is not only a debate subject in our country but is being discussed in every country in which they operate. It is therefore necessary to fit NGO's activities in a framework in order to diminish the negativity such attitudes and actions might bring to our country. NGO's must be informed under which conditions an end will be put to their activities and about their obligation to submit regular activity reports to the relevant authorities. No doubt these implementations must not be done in a fashion to offend the foreign NGO's but should be put to light of day as unavoidable rules to ensure that the humanitarian targeted activities can be performed in a much more efficient and permanent way. It is also very important that these rules and regulations must be given to foreign NGO's representavies before their arrival in the country by our ambassadors. In parallel the state must also show that it is willing to cooperate with NGO's which have proven themselves with their previous fine work in the country.

6.3. Project Supporting NGO's System Must be Encouraged

The concept of foundations aiming to financially support other foundations' and associations' projects has not yet entered our country. This lack aside from the tax exemption issue is also problematic for the enlargement of the NGO's concept to the base. Whereas in modern democracies such foundations, also called grandmakers and donors are the most appraised charitable entities. It is for this reason that in the USA to such private citizens Özcan ERDOĞAN

a tax exemption of 50% and to such institutions a tax exemption of 10% from their imposable income is granted. All the hospitals and universities created by the foundations continue their activities thanks to this system. Each citizen can donate up to 50% of his income to the university he/she graduated from and to the hospital that treated him/her. This is the great financial source that creates the strength of NGO's in the USA. Thanks to the help from these foundations NGO's find strength and become active in not only domestic but also at international level. In our country also many foundations and associations benefit from this support. But it is a pity that in our country we do not have such foundations. This is the reason why the grandmaker type foundations must also exist in our country in order to give strength to our own NGO's and adapted laws must be promulgated in order to encourage rich foundations and charitable citizens to participate in this financial support.

7. CONCLUSION

International Non-Governmental Organisations (INGO's) first appeared during the latter half of the 19th century, and had only a tenuous precarious existence for many decades. Their number has increased greatly since the 1970s, their importance intensified after the collapse of communism, and they are now recognised as a highly significant set of actors in the international system, with a strong impact on development and social change. This increased impact came about with the deepening of globalisation that occurred after the decline of the Bretton Woods mechanisms that shaped the post-war economic order. Development and social change cannot currently be adequately understood without taking into account the role of INGO's. One of the tools in the repertoire of INGO's which they use to effect social change is adult education, and this paper considers the role of INGOs in adult education as a trend within global civil society (Hoff, 2011:187) Our work in context, NGO's has been effective in Turkey. Also NGO's has played important role in our country's democratisation and development.

The voluntary organization movement that started after the end of the World War II, evolved to first become a source of aid to become efficient first in modern countries and then orienting themselves to limited help to poor countries in terms of development based on self-reliance. In the third generation these organizations matured and became a movement based on sustainable development strategy. Despite not being very old today the part taken by NGO's in the international help from developed to developing countries has reached remarkable dimensions. But more importantly the World Bank, United Nations Organization, OECD, and as it is the case in various funds of the European Union, give an increasing importance to their international NGO's, these organizations attend their development

cooperation talks accompanied with their national or even with their regional NGO's and progress into a close relationship. They encourage the involvement of NGO's is an increasing number of public and private sector projects and adjust their policies and strategies to this effect. There is no doubt that this direction taken by modern democracies will continue in our century. In a world in which the state's involvement gradually shrinks whilst its effectiveness gadually grows. But in addition to the public sector the private sector's and especially the NGO's gain a growing importance and role in the socioeconomic and cultural life of the community. Now the NGO's with their own methods of activity, influence the macro-development policies of countries, from organization to urban development, from the development of the woman to the realisation of appropriate technologies from agricultural activities to education, by their presence in every area and every stage of regional development. Being virtually without competitors in the fields of fight against poverty and reaching the poor in rural and urban environments. With their special approach they have identified with the base of the population, including them in their concepts of participation, permanency, independence and the understanding of a bottom to top development activity based on democratic principles thus being the leaders and the defenders of an original understanding of development. We can say that Turkey, especially when looking into its numerical richness, can be seen as presenting a good potential for NGO's. But in this domain our country because of not having a long history like the other countries in the world and because of not yet having the ratio of NGO's that can be "copycatted". Our country is suffering from a lack of sufficient regional development and improvement, particularly in the Eastern and South-Eastern Anatolia regions. The state is trying to meet the socioeconomic and cultural needs of the population with a limited budget but unfortunately because of not having enough resources cannot achieve a full success in the matter, and can't fully satisfy the population. For this reason since the 1980s particularly in rural regions local dynamics are activated under the leadership of governors and prefects and various campaigns are launched for this purpose. Whatever anyone says the 21st century will be the century in which the reigning area of the state will gradually shrink and to the contrary NGO's influence area will gradually grow in the same proportion. Pulling NGO's into the socio-economic and cultural development and evolution has increased in importance when the handing over of central powers to localities is being discussed and its legal structures are being worked on. This new approach and spirit will carry us to the level of modern countries.

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