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THE IMPORTANCE OF LIFELONG LEARNING FOR TURKEY AND EU RELATIONSHIP IN THE GLOBAL AND CHANGING WORLD

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ABSTRACT: The relationships between Turkey and European Union has a longer process of crucial discussion to become a member of European Union for Turkey over two decades. There is not enough and satisfied improvement of progress during years. However, Turkey's hope to entering the EU has not been ended with help of globalizing networks of communication tools, social media, technologic improvements that helps lifelong learning. Turkey needs a lots projects for the EU Acquis throughout the adaptation process to represent Turkey's performance. Also, social awareness and adaptation is required by Turkish citizenship towards full membership of EU. Lifelong learning, technology and social media has substantial contribution to develop projects concerned with the public and civil society for introducing EU to more masses in Turkey, increasing efficiency of project and allowing better understanding and awareness of EU progress and objectives. This paper emphasizes that the importance of lifelong learning programs, projects and initiatives for Turkey to attend the EU. Because lifelong learning provide achievement in field like personal fulfillment, active citizenship, social inclusion, employability and adaptability.

Keywords : Lifelong Learning, EU and Turkey, active citizenship, democracy and human rights, technology

INTRODUCTION

Lifelong Learning is described as by European Commission as :

All learning activities undertaken throughout life with the aim of improving knowledge, skills and competence within a personal, civic, social and employment-related perspective.

Lifelong learning has a crucial impact on personal development for learning societies. In the modern world that is becoming a global village, economies and societies support and encourage people to continue learning activities throughout all their life because of required skills and qualifications they will need in this century. Lifelong learning is quite related to the globalization, the rise of new information with technologies and the aging societies. Knowledge and information are a global power in the modern age. Over more than five hundred years, nation's and country's success and failure or destiny depend on technical skill, acquire knowledge, technology, science, management of knowledge and their economy. Therefore, societies and economies need to become a knowledge based structure. Furthermore, the knowledge given in the years of compulsory schooling is enough for this age. The role of lifelong learning is to provide opportunities for adults to be educated as active citizenship, self-realizations in liberal democracy.

EUROPE and LIFELONG LEARNING

UNESCO with international congress has emphasized importance of relationship of lifelong learning and adult education in 1997. Also, lifelong learning has a great concern with social cohesion, community building, individual development. Moreover, the development of projects according to the UK government's Green Paper on lifelong learning mentions the importance of lifelong learning (Field, J., & Leicester, M., 2000, p. 2). In addition, there has been increasing interest in the development of lifelong learning opportunities by policy formers and makers in industrialized countries.

Lifelong learning is a popular field in EU educational policy. There has been lots of meeting and discourses about lifelong learning since the 1970s. Also, it has become a important topic in international debates from the early to mid-1970s. Most of the lifelong learning debates was related to the protection of intergovernmental organization such as the Council of Europe, the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development

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(OECD) and United Nations Educational, Social and Cultural Organizations (UNESCO) before mid-1970s. Lifelong learning had humanistic origin and ideals at that time. From the 1970s to 1990s, economic perspective of lifelong learning had considered as a significant topic with the economic and petrol crisis, its consequences and increasing unemployment. However, the popularity of this area has increased with great interest in 1990s. The main strategies, concepts and objectives of lifelong learning policies in EU education and training program has described and provided essential critical thoughts on them. The main origin shift away from humanistic ideals towards economic objectives and utilitarian (Dehmel, A., 2006). Political, social, economic and technological view of lifelong learning besides educational side has become important concepts and objectives. According to EU's integrated lifelong learning programs has been separated four general section :

- Comenius (School Education)
- Erasmus (Higher Education)
- Leonardo Da Vince (Vocational and Training)
- Grundtvig (Adult Education)

Education and training programs and policy concepts are still increasing with great interest in the form of formal, informal and non-formal learning.

Each country has opportunity and freedom to follow and develop their way for lifelong learning. Turkey needs to develop and perform the policies about lifelong learning programs for EU adaptation process. Turkey is facing lots of problems of the past because of heritage of the distant past related to Ottoman's Empire time and current past associated with neighbor of Turkey and the democracy and human rights.

EUROPEAN COMMISSION and TURKEY

Turkey 2013 progress report prepared by European Commission involves contributions of European Parliament reports, the EU Member States, the government of Turkey and international and non-governmental organization. There are lots of cooperation area such as participation in EU programs, energy, trade, counter terrorism, political reforms, foreign policy, visas, policy, mobility and migration. Also, fundamental rights, judiciary system and progress reports have quite important concepts for the Commission. There are too much area for discussion between EU and Turkey relationship :

- *Political Criteria and Enhanced Political Dialogue*

- ✓ Democracy and the rule of law
- ✓ Parliament
- ✓ Judiciary and fundamental rights
- ✓ Government
- ✓ Ombudsman
- ✓ Public administration
- ✓ Civilian oversight of the security forces
- ✓ Civil society
- ✓ Judicial system
- ✓ Fight against corruption
- ✓ Fight against organized crime

- *Human Rights and The Protection of Minorities*

- ✓ Situation in the east and south-east
- ✓ Refugees and internationally displaced persons

- *Regional Issues and International Obligations*

- ✓ Cyprus
- ✓ Peaceful settlement of border disputes
- ✓ Regional Cooperation

- *Economic Criteria*
 - ✓ The existence of a functioning market economy
 - ✓ The capacity of cope with competitive pressure and market forces within the Union
 - ✓ Economic integration with the EU

 - *Ability to take on the Obligations Of Membership*
 - ✓ Free movement of goods
 - ✓ Freedom of movement for workers
 - ✓ Right of establishment and freedom to provide services
 - ✓ Free movement of capital
 - ✓ Public procurement
 - ✓ Company law
 - ✓ Intellectual property law
 - ✓ Competition policy
 - ✓ Financial services

 - *Information Society and Media*
 - ✓ Electronic communication and information and communications technologies (ICT)
 - ✓ Information Society Services
 - ✓ Audiovisual policy

 - *Agriculture and Rural Development*
 - ✓ Organic farming
 - ✓ Quality policy
 - ✓ Common market organization
- Fisheries
- Food safety, veterinary and phytosanitary policy
 - ✓ General food safety
 - ✓ Veterinary policy
 - ✓ Food safety rules
 - ✓ Phytosanitary policy
 - ✓ Genetically modified organisms

 - Transport Policy
 - ✓ Road and rail transport
 - ✓ Air and Maritime transport

 - Energy
 - ✓ Security and supply
 - ✓ International Energy Market
 - ✓ Renewable Energy
 - ✓ Energy Efficiency
 - ✓ Nuclear Safety and radiation protection

 - *Taxation*
- Economic and Monetary Policy*
- *Statistics*

- *Social Policy and Employment*
- *Enterprise and Industrial Policy*
- *Transport European Networks*
- *Regional policy and Coordination of Structural Instruments*
- *Judiciary and Fundamental Rights*
- *International Human Rights Instruments*
 - ✓ Freedom of Assembly
 - ✓ Freedom of Expression
 - ✓ Prevention of torture and ill-treatment
 - ✓ Prison System
 - ✓ Freedom of Association
 - ✓ Freedom of thoughts, conscience and religion
 - ✓ Women's rights and gender equality
 - ✓ Children's rights
 - ✓ Labour and Trade Unions Rights
 - ✓ Property rights
 - ✓ Protection of Personal Data
- *Justice, Freedom and Security*
- *Science and Research*
- *Education and Culture*
- *Environment and Climate Change*
- *Consumer and Health Protection*
- *Customs Union*
- *External relation*
- *Foreign, security and Defence Policy*
- *Financial Control, Financial and Budgetary Provisions*

In many areas above list, developments and improvements are not enough for EU's standards according to EU's report for Turkey in 2013. In addition, no progress is reported in many areas. Turkey needs to take steps to become a member of European Union. There are lots of criticized issue and topic related to the list above. A number of important reforms are required to reach European Standards. Also, current law constitution is insufficient to give answer and perform new situation with EU's progress. Government should continue to reform further for democratization and take a number of steps in the human rights and the fundamental right . It is not possible real democratic system and management without the active citizenship and active civil societies. The growing and active societies in Turkey must have important role to establish Turkey's human rights mechanism and institutions. The president and government must continue to support political and democratic reforms for Turkey membership. Lifelong learning is a key word for active citizenship and to perform all reforms in real platform among people who live in Turkey. Further democratization and political reforms are should be maintained to reach the democratic standards of European Union. The coordination and cooperation among civil societies, business and government are really important issue for good progress in terms of establishing to real life all reforms.

After complication of all reforms, laws, rules, reform judicial and democratization package which are required to become a member of EU for Turkey, the main role depend on civil societies, universities, media, educationist and trainer to perform rules in level of public area. First thing for this process, all rules and reforms should be taught all people and encourage them to reform in their life. For these reasons, the lifelong learning has a quite important role in the process of membership of EU for Turkey. To become membership of EU for Turkey is

significant adaptation process and the life learning has a great impact on public and adult understanding of this process to perform all required forms for EU.

All the developed countries in Europe and the United States are trying to become a society of lifelong learner as soon as possible (Lundmark, 2002). If Turkey gets achieve to become a society of lifelong learners with the help of the lifelong learning principle, technology and media in the changing and global world, the major important part of the adaptation process must be completed. Turkey must be a place for lifelong learner.

Information and knowledge related to EU should be available in all major learning setting such as schools, universities, workplace, free choice venues with helping of technology to make all information and EU's concept more accessible. Projects, working throughout public based organizations, gets civil societies involved in lifelong learning organization will give really successful results for the relationship between EU and Turkey. To involve EU's project, as well as establishing rules reforms and law towards EU' membership will essential steps towards real success in the process.

CONCLUSION

The major part of population in Turkey is living in the rural area, only real access to people living in rural area is possible with media support, technological tools, volunteer organizations, videos, computers. Societies in Turkey needs to better support efforts for lifelong learning any time, anywhere during the life span for the adaptation process between the EU and Turkey. In addition, a better cooperation among politicians, economists, sociologist, educationists, ministries, civil societies, municipalities, governorships, academicians will provide a huge contribution to Turkey's ongoing application for becoming a full member of the EU. Turkey's hope toward the EU's standards for the all field is still continue and Turkey might be a really good role model on the way of the democracy and the fundamental and human rights for Middle East counties and others.

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