

Better education for better work opportunities

Low school attendance and lack of qualifications are handicaps in seeking employment – and for women, exclusion from the labour market can limit their chances of independence. That is why the EU has been supporting efforts in Turkey to counter early school leaving among girls.

WIDER SCHOOL ENROLMENT AND FEWER DROP-OUTS

The project team has helped the Turkish Ministry of National Education to promote local action plans in 16 cities. The efforts were targeted at two objectives. One is to increase enrolment rates, particularly for girls in secondary education and vocational education and training. The other is to decrease drop outs and absenteeism for girls in primary and secondary education. Local authorities worked with families and teachers, developing persuasive activities and training. In the less developed regions of the country, student guidance services within schools were improved through focused training.

Cultural and economic issues affect school attendance, including early and forced marriages, and low income levels. A short movie was broadcast on national TV channels as part of an awareness-raising campaign, and within two months of its showing, 800 children who had dropped out or had never attended school were enrolled. Nearly 100 small-scale local projects took place in primary and secondary schools, universities, local authorities and non-governmental organisations, leading to visits to 16,600 households. Altogether, some 2,000

people were trained to conduct direct liaison with students and their parents. So far, 2,800 girls have been enrolled to catch up education, and 3,300 received psychological and counselling support to keep them in school. 1,500 girls and women received skills development training, and 1,000 learned to read and write.

By addressing EU strategies of increasing the educational attainment, the project helps Turkey, as a potential future member state, stay in line with EU ambitions.



Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance (IPA)

Turkey

IPA – AN INVESTMENT IN EUROPE. AN INVESTMENT IN PEOPLE.

One village girl in the Adiyaman region wrote to the organisers of the course she attended as follows: "I would like to thank you for visiting our villages. My sister had not been studying when you paid a visit to the village, but you convinced my father. Maybe I can go to high school and be very happy. My sister is so happy now that she can receive education."

A girl student in Kayseri İncesu said: "I repeated the lessons at the weekend. I got high scores in trial exams and the examination. My family refused to send me to high school at the beginning but will do so as a result of this project."

PROJECT DETAILS – Increasing Enrolment Rates Especially for Girls

Partners:

GET German Education and Training GmbH, Germany
British Council, United Kingdom
EDUSER Educational Consultancy Services Co., Turkey

Total cost in €:
4,010,000

EU Contribution in €:
3,408,500 (85%)

Start date:
May 2011

End date:
July 2013

Results:
2,800 girls enrolled, 3,300 supported to stay in school;
1,500 girls and women received skills development training,
and 1,000 learned to read and write

Techniques:
Training, communication campaigns

Project website:
<http://kizlarinegitimi.meb.gov.tr/en>

