

Final Activity Report (May 2004)

Project Title: Civil Society Participation to the policy making process of the Turkish Government in relation to the development of an Information Society in Turkey.

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Introduction

The work towards this fellowship project entitled *Civil Society Participation to the policy making process of the Turkish Government in relation to the development of an Information Society in Turkey* started in March 2003. The following section will provide an overview of my work until May 2004. It should also be noted that I kept regularly in touch about my progress with my mentors Professor C. Walker, and Mr. D. Banisar.

My activities between March 2003 - May 2004

Research and Policy Papers

The initial research towards the draft research paper entitled *Internet Governance: Towards the modernisation of policy making process in Turkey* started in March 2003 and I have completed the initial research in May 2003. A draft report (about 16,000 words) has been produced at the end of May 2003. This draft report was discussed with the group mentor, Mr. J. Celichowski, and other members of the information policy group of the IPF fellowship programme during the June 2003 group meeting in Budapest. My mentors had a chance to comment on this draft report in July 2003. I continued my research between July 2003 -February 2004. I started working on the final version of my research and policy papers in January 2004.



A slightly different version of the report I produced for the June 2003 IPF fellowship group meeting was published in Turkey by the Turkiye Bilisim Vakfı (“TBV”), a Turkish charity which is actively involved with the creation of an information society in Turkey. The charity published my report as a book both in Turkish and English in October 2003: *Internet Governance: Towards the modernization of policy making process in Turkey*, Turkish Informatics Society, Istanbul: Papatya Yayıncılık, 2003, ISBN 975-6797-44-4. It

is intended that this will be used as a policy document for lobbying the Turkish government during 2004. An updated version of this report will be published later in 2004 after having finalised my IPF research paper and policy report.



The publication of the report in Turkey received extensive media coverage and it was generally well received by the media. There were several news reports and review articles in the daily press, and almost all major Turkish newspapers provided coverage for the report. Apart from the daily press, I engaged in live radio and TV interviews discussing my report. 1200 copies of the report were sent by TBV to the members of the Turkish Parliament, civil servants working in various ministries, to the key members of the media, academics, and NGOs.

Together with TBV, I am now in the process of organising a political conference in Ankara in May or June 2004 (depending upon the availability of the Minister of Justice). So advocacy work is the next stage in terms of the publication of this report. However, I am planning to update the report to coincide with my final OSI report and I am hoping that TBV will publish this as a second and updated edition. To this end, I started discussions with the Turkish charity in early March 2004.

My final policy paper is based upon the research paper that I finalised in early April 2004. Although self-contained, the research paper will be far too long to be used as a “policy paper”. The policy paper is an updated version of my *Internet Governance: Towards the modernization of policy making process in Turkey* report which was published by the TBV in October 2003.

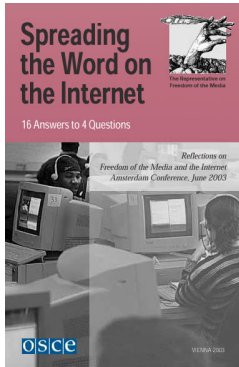
So the following research and policy papers are available from my <http://www.policy.hu/akdeniz> pages as PDF files:

- Research Paper: Internet Governance in Turkey, April 2004.
- Policy Paper: Internet Governance: Towards the modernisation of policy making process in Turkey, April 2004.
- *White Paper: Internet Governance: Towards the modernization of policy making process in Turkey*, Turkish Informatics Society, Istanbul: Papatya Yayıncılık, October 2003, ISBN 975-6797-44-4.
- *Internet Governance, and Freedom in Turkey*, in Organization for Security and Co-Operation in Europe (“OSCE”) Representative on Freedom of the Media eds, *Spreading the Word on the Internet: 16 answers to 4 questions, Reflections on Freedom of the Media and the Internet*, pp 29-43, Vienna, 2003.

Activities related to the Fellowship Programme

Amsterdam Organisation for Security and Co-Operation in Europe (OSCE) conference on Freedom of the Media and the Internet presentation - June 13-14, 2003

I was invited by the Organisation for Security and Co-Operation in Europe (OSCE) for their Freedom of the Media and the Internet conference which took place between 13-14 June, 2003 in Amsterdam, Netherlands to present a paper on *Internet Governance, and Freedom in Turkey*.



OSCE edited collection on Freedom of the Media and the Internet

Following the above mentioned Amsterdam conference *Freedom of the Media and the Internet*, the OSCE decided to turn the proceedings into an edited collection and I wrote the chapter on *Internet Governance and Freedom in Turkey* for this publication. See OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media eds, *Spreading the Word on the Internet: 16 answers to 4 questions, Reflections on Freedom of the Media and the Internet*, pp: 29-43, Vienna: 2003, at http://www.osce.org/documents/rfm/2003/10/971_en.pdf.



Privacy International and GreenNet Educational Trust Internet Censorship report:

I have been asked to write a country report on Internet censorship in relation to Turkey for the Privacy International and GreenNet Educational Trust Internet Censorship report which included over 50 countries in its analysis, and was launched in September 2003 during the World Summit on the Information Society. See *Silenced: An International Report on Censorship and Control of the Internet*, at <http://www.privacyinternational.org/survey/censorship/index.html>.

EPIC Privacy and Human Rights 2003 Report contribution

I have contributed to the regular EPIC Privacy and Human Rights 2003 Report in relation to the Turkey country report entry on issues related to privacy and data protection.

Inet-TR Conference

I was an *invited speaker* for the 2003 Inet-TR: Internet in Turkey conference which took place in Istanbul, Turkey, on 12 December, 2003. My paper for this speech was entitled *Internet Governance in Turkey: A Multi-layered Approach?* I also appeared as a *panelist* on a panel discussing the problem of Internet SPAM and technical and regulatory challenges on the same day.

Training of Turkish Journalists

TBV, the same charity that published my report entitled *Internet Governance: Towards the modernization of policy making process in Turkey* organised a training programme entitled Informatics School for the Press ("Basin Bilisim Okulu") in October 2003. This was a two week long training with two hour training sessions involving 32 different topics. I was asked to

do a session on Internet governance and policy implications for Turkey for this training programme and about 30 members of the press attended this particular training session. They were all given a copy of the TBV report during the training session.

Bilgi February 2004 FOI Conference

I co-organised an international Conference on the Right to Information in Turkey, together with the Human Rights Law Research Center, School of Law, Istanbul Bilgi University, and Tesev, the *Turkish Economic and Social Studies Foundation* on 26 February, 2004. The conference took place in Istanbul Bilgi University, and about 120 people attended. I also chaired the *Human Rights and the Right to Information* panel during the conference.



Turkish Press Council Presentation

I was invited to talk about Freedom of Information and Data Protection issues during the annual meeting of the Press Council in April 2004 in Istanbul, Turkey. The Turkish Press Council is a prestigious and well known self regulatory platform created by journalists with the aim of ensuring a 'freer and a more respectable' press in Turkey. The members of the Council aim to establish 'freedom of communication' in its broadest sense and to prove that this freedom can be used within the context of self responsibility.

Developed and launched Freedom of Information Website

Following the enactment of the Turkish Right to Information Act in October 2003, Mr. Hakan Altınay, the director of OSIAF Turkey kindly donated the domain <http://www.bilgilenmehakki.org/> to me (which means in Turkish "right to information") for the purposes of updating the old pages and developing a new web portal on freedom of information in Turkey. The website is developed with the aid of Mrs. Avniye Tansug and Miss. Sevil Atalay and officially launched in November 2003. It provides information about policy developments in Turkey in relation to the newly enacted Right to Information Act and its implementation in Turkey. The website provides information both in Turkish and in English.

Bilgi University Teaching

I was invited as a visiting Professor by the School of Law, Istanbul Bilgi University, to deliver an Internet Law and Policy module to master students between October 2003 and January 2004. The teaching sessions were also open to whoever was interested with the subject and among other topics the students were taught about Internet governance and policy making, freedom of expression and censorship on the Internet, privacy, surveillance, and cybercrimes, and data protection in the information age.

Teaching at the 2003 ICT Policy Training Programme - Budapest (August 2003).

I have been asked to be one of the trainers of the 2003 ICT Policy Training Programme (<http://www.stanhopecentre.org/ict/>) which took place in Budapest, Hungary during August 2003. The programme was organised by the Stanhope Centre for Communications Policy Research in association with the Markle Foundation and the Open Society Institute. The

training sessions that I conducted, on *Privacy and Data Retention*, and on *Cyber-Crime* took place on 25 August, 2003.



World Bank Knowledge Economy Forum III

I attended the World Bank Knowledge Economy Forum III which took place in Budapest, Hungary between 23-26 March, 2004 as a civil society representative.



Second Informatics Congress in Turkey

I wrote a short report entitled *Modern Internet Governance* based upon my IPF policy paper for the second Informatics Congress (<http://www.bilimsurasi.org.tr/>) that will take place in Ankara, Turkey between 10-11 May, 2004. My report will be part of the final report on legal issues which will be submitted to the Prime Ministry at the end of the Congress.