



**BRIDGING DIGITAL DIVIDE: EMPOWERMENT
OF YOUTH FOR THE E- TRANSFORMATION OF TURKEY**

PROGRESS REPORT

JULY-OCTOBER 2007



**Türkiye
Vodafone
Vakfı**



Bridging Digital Divide: Empowerment of Youth for the e-Transformation of Turkey

Target: 1.000.000 ICT Literate

Bridging Digital Divide

Digital Divide is among the impediments on the way of preparing the conditions for the e-transformation of Turkey. Providing access to the ICT for the less advantaged and disadvantaged group pioneers the process of bridging digital divide. But, complementary to this, the ICT usage skills have to be improved. Thus, in conjunction with providing access to ICT, increasing the portion of ICT literate should be among the forthcoming priorities in bridging the digital divide.

With the encouragement of this aim, United Nations Development Programme, Vodafone Turkey Foundation and Youth Association for Habitat have developed partnership, supported the vision of Microsoft Turkey for the 'Empowerment of Youth for Improved e-Governance in Turkey' and developed the project named **Bridging Digital Divide: Empowerment of Youth for the e-Transformation of Turkey** with the motto of '**Target: 1.000.000 ICT Literate!**'.

Bridging Digital Divide aims to strengthen the ICT usage capacities of 1.000.000 young people via training them on IT skills through e-learning system. To this end, it will contribute to Government's information society transformation strategy.

With a special emphasis on the digital inclusion of disadvantaged young people including young women, this project will reach young people mainly through European Computer Driving Licence (ECDL) e-learning modules.

ECDL e-learning modules encompass seven stages covering computer theory and practice.

Module 1 - Concepts of Information Technology (IT)

Module 2 - Using the Computer and Managing Files

Module 3 - Word Processing

Module 4 - Spreadsheets

Module 5 - Database

Module 6 - Presentation

Module 7 - Information and Communication

ECDL e-learning modules will be delivered through youth platforms that are established within the framework of Turkey's Local Agenda 21 Program (LA-21) and especially in coordination with the well-trained volunteer IT peer education team of Empowerment of Youth for e-Transformation Project composing of 200 young volunteer IT trainers from 43 cities.

Besides, volunteer IT trainers will provide peer-to peer education for disadvantaged young people with insufficient knowledge to use e-learning tools and to this end; these trained young people will be able to access ECDL European Computer Driving Licence trainings.

Well-trained volunteer IT peer education team shall constitute the regional online consultancy and assist youngsters with their problems regarding online training.

And finally, this Project will be the biggest ICT Literacy project in the country as the number of trained young people will be multiplied reaching out 1.000.000 by the end of 2009.

Besides, the online trainings of the young participants will be followed closely through Learning Management System. Learning Management System (LMS) will be launched to report statistics and provide data base in order to measure the success of the trainees and evaluate the project outcomes. The LMS system shall provide information for the follow up of online trainings and determine how many youngsters have logged in online- training, how much time they have spent in the training, and how many sections of the training have been completed.

Moreover, this e-learning platform will be supported by a web Portal where young people can interact with each other and direct their questions regarding ICT and e-learning into the forums. This Portal will create a virtual environment and youth network throughout Turkey.

Project Implementation

July 2007

In the first month, the Project Management Unit has been formed through a selection process realized by Youth Association for Habitat. The unit is composed of;

Project Coordinator

Project Assistants (2)

Project Accounter

Project System Administrator

In the second part of the first month, the annual strategy of the project plan has been overviewed and detailed. Thereby, the role of well-trained volunteer IT peer education team has been revisited and determined.

August 2007

The Project Management Unit has officially set to work.

Request for proposals for the ECDL e-learning system and Learning Management System have been prepared. In the request for proposal, all the features of ECDL e-learning and Learning Management System have been detailed in articles. To this end, youth oriented, friendly and efficient environment for e-learning was tried to be provided in order to create a network among youngsters.

On 27th of August, Strategy Development Meeting has been realized with the participation of the representatives of Vodafone Turkey Foundation, United Nations Development Programme and Youth Association for Habitat. In this meeting, some recommendations were made on the motto and logo of the project and participants discussed about the plausible ways of promoting the project.

September –October 2007

Between the dates of 14th September and 8th October, The request for proposals for ECDL e-learning platform and Learning Management System was announced through internet and published on the web site of Youth Association for Habitat.

Subsequently, four ICT firms submitted their proposals. In order to select the most appropriate proposal, a Proposal Evaluation Committee composed of Vodafone Turkey Foundation, United Nations Development Programme and Youth Association for Habitat representatives has been established. On 15th October, the Committee evaluated the proposals. The Netron Corporate Solution's proposal was selected as the best proposal submitted under this request.

Project Presentation at National and International Levels

Besides, Bridging Digital Divide Project was presented and introduced in national and international meetings during September. These are Local Agenda 21 National Youth Parliament Summer School, Youth Speak We Listen International Youth Forum and UN Global Forum on Youth and ICT.



Local Agenda 21 National Youth Parliament Summer School,

September 02-07, 2007

Bridging Digital Divide Project has been introduced and presented to the representatives of LA21 National Youth Parliament in LA 21 National Youth Parliament Summer School held 02-07 September 2007. Within this context, the importance of cooperation with LA 21 local youth platforms in delivering ECDL e-learning modules was highlighted.



LA21 National Youth Parliament Summer School covers the trainings aiming at capacity building of young people, workshops and social activities for developing the structure of National Youth Parliament.

The International Youth Forum *Youth SPEAK We LISTEN!!*

September 1–3, 2007

The International Youth Forum initiated by Suzanne Mubarak Women's International Peace Movement to be held in Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt from September 1–3, 2007 was the first of its kind to take place in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) organized by civil society with the involvement of international organizations.



Disseminating the peace culture among the youth of earth, and developing partnerships on this issue are the ambitious targets of this Forum.

Seda Atabay from Youth Association for Habitat participated in the ICT for Peace Section. In this section, the importance of ICT and accurate usage of internet were discussed. Thereby, the ICT projects including Bridging Digital Divide Project were introduced to Forum participants individually.



UN Global Forum on Youth and ICT, September 24- 26, 2007

Global Alliance for ICT and Development (GAID), under the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA) organized Global Forum on Youth and ICT for Development between 24 and 26 September 2007 in Geneva, Switzerland.

About 250 young people, as well as ICT for development policy-makers and practitioners from all over the world got together with representatives from United Nations agencies, policy makers, civil society and the private sector.

Basak Saral attended the forum as a representative of Youth Association for Habitat. She provided an overview on the ICT and Youth projects developed and implemented in Turkey in partnership with Local Agenda 21 Local Youth Councils, UNDP and public sector. Hereby,



Bridging Digital Divide: Empowerment of Youth for E-Transformation of Turkey Project has been presented.

Promotional Materials

The content of project promoting materials both in English and Turkish has been finalized.

Weekly Meetings for Developing ECDL e-learning, Portal and LMS

Moreover, weekly meetings are being organized together with Netron Corporate Solutions in order to develop the web Portal, ECDL e-learning, Learning Management System.

On the 24th of October, context development meeting was realized. New ideas have been developed in order to make the e-learning system more efficient and youth friendly. Since the main target is to reach disadvantaged young people, it is considered that they may not have an email account which is necessary to log in the system. Accordingly, in the main page of the Portal, there will be an e-learning on 'how to sign up an e-mail account'.

On the 31st of October, Youth Association for Habitat, United Nations Development Programme and Netron Corporate Solutions gathered to discuss the structure of Learning Management System. Besides, participants elaborated more on the features and appearance of the Youth Portal which is supposed to bring 1.000.000 youngsters all around Turkey to share and to learn.