

Youth Association for Habitat: Finalist in E-Inclusion Awards

Youth Association for Habitat (YfH) has been shortlisted as a finalist for the 2008 European e-Inclusion Awards, a European Commission initiative. YfH, listed among 5 best organizations in Geographic Inclusion Award Category represents Turkey very successfully at international level with its program on ICT and Development. The program titled “Empowerment of Youth for E-Transformation of Turkey” is composed of innovative projects like “Refurbishment and Distribution of Used PCs for Youth”, “Empowerment of Youth for E-governance of Turkey”, “Bridging Digital Divide”, “Youth Movement in Informatics”, “Mediterranean Youth Technology Club”, “Strengthening Youth Networks in Turkey: Young Human Network”. On 1st of December 2008, YfH will be awarded as a medalist and the finalist of each category will be selected during E-Inclusion Ministerial Conference and Exhibition in Vienna.

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With the aim of enabling everyone to take part in the information society; accelerating effective participation of those at risk of exclusion and improving their quality of life; and integrating e-Inclusion actions in Europe, European Commission organizes e-Inclusion competition across Europe. In the competition to which 469 Projects from 34 countries applied, Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) and Development Strategy of YfH has been qualified as one of the best practices under the Geographic Inclusion Award Category. Youth Association for Habitat attended to competition with “Empowerment of Youth for e-Transformation in Turkey” Programme and became the only organization awarded from Turkey. The Association will be honored as medalist on 1st of December 2008 in E-Inclusion Ministerial Conference Gala Dinner.

Empowerment of Youth E-Transformation in Turkey” Programme is composed of “Refurbishment and Distribution of Used PCs for Youth”, “Empowerment of Youth for E-governance of Turkey”, “Bridging Digital Divide”, “Youth Movement in Informatics”, “Mediterranean Youth Technology Club”, “Strengthening Youth Networks in Turkey: Young Human Network”. These projects, implemented by YfH since 2005 in partnership with Turkey Republic State Planning Agency, Turkey Republic Ministry of National Education, United Nations Development Program (UNDP), UNDP ICTDAR, Microsoft, Cisco, Vodafone Foundation Turkey, Turkey ICT Foundation, Istanbul Technical University and Ayhan Şahenk Foundation, aim at supporting the access of young people to information and facilitating youth participation to decision making processes. In parallel with this Strategy, YfH and Intel will also announce the new partnership Project titled “Welcome me to your Digital World” during the E-Inclusion Ministerial Conference in Vienna.

About the fact that YfH became a finalist in the E-Inclusion Awards, the president of YfH told that “As YfH, we are working for enforcing the active participation of young people to the e-transformation process of Turkey. As a part of this strategy, we started partnership projects with UNDP, Microsoft, Cisco and Vodafone Foundation on ICT and development with a focus on e-inclusion of young people. The projects that we’re implementing in

partnerships with local youth councils in 73 cities of Turkey and with National Youth Parliament constitute an indicator of the contribution of young volunteers and youth organizations to the e-transformation of Turkey. We were really honored to be awarded with a medal in Geographic Inclusion Category and to be a finalist in E-Inclusion Awards. In future, we aim to reach out to more young people in 81 cities of Turkey and meet them with ICT, to create employment opportunities for them and to contribute national ICT policy by reflecting youth point of view."

E-Inclusion Awards:

"e-Inclusion: Be Part of It!" is the campaign of EU Commission to enable people to fully participate in the information society, regardless of individual or social disadvantages. The campaign is part of the European e-Inclusion Initiative, which seeks to build on all existing e-Inclusion activities and identify synergies between them and improvements in overall e-Inclusion impact. Yet more than one in three Europeans do not fully benefit from the opportunities of technology like connecting them to better paid jobs, instant information, new forms of social interaction, community infrastructures, government services, consumer power and convenience. In today's society, access to information is a right as well as a condition for prosperity, since the social and economic implications affect everybody. For this reason, the European Commission has adopted a European initiative on e-Inclusion setting out key actions, including the "e-Inclusion, be part of it!" awareness and dissemination campaign for 2008. The intention is to build on the many positive activities in Europe and beyond that are relevant to e-Inclusion.

Youth Association for Habitat

YfH is an international youth network working in partnership with the United Nations, established during the 1995 Copenhagen Social Development Summit with the participation of 300 youth organizations with diverse religious, racial, cultural and national backgrounds. YfH is serving as the Secretariat of Youth for Habitat International Network since 1997. The Association aims at developing capacities and empowering youth in order to make young people active, participative, proposing solutions and implementing their own projects. With the purpose to these targets, our association ensures participation of youth in the national and international youth related events of the United Nations, the European Union, the Council of Europe. Focusing on problems and the needs of youth, we develop and implement concrete projects with active participation of young people.