

“ROLE OF THE INTERNATIONAL and NATIONAL NON GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS TO PROTECT THE CULTURAL HERITAGE”

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Abstract:

It is impossible for societies to protect their cultural diversities, tangible and intangible heritage without an appropriate protective environment for them. The conservation of cultural heritage is *“the real and primary investment”* of sustainable development of the countries. Cultural heritage is the heritage of the nations and humanity at large for the future generations. Hence cultural heritage should be protected.

After World War II, many inter governmental institutions were founded in the World to determine the strategies and policies to conserve the cultural heritage all over the World.

The international civil society getting organized in Non Governmental Organizations (NGOs) to work at the protection of cultural heritage is considered as one of the important referent and stakeholder in the definition and implementation of these strategies and policies. They assume also an important role in the definition and raise of public and political awareness for the protection of the cultural heritage.

In parallel with the foundation of international NGOs, national organized civil society gathered under different NGOs umbrella to protect cultural properties. National NGOs are deemed as important social structures to assign the national and international funds allocated for the protection of the cultural heritage (e.g.: EU and World Bank Social Risk Mitigation Project (SRMP) allocate funds to NGOs just to mention two major examples of funding organizations).

In the first part of the paper, it is given a short presentation about the intergovernmental organizations and international NGOs engaged in the sector. In the second part of the paper information is given on some national NGOs in Turkey that make use of international funds to carry out projects for the protection of the cultural heritage during the period 2003-2005

Subtitles:

INTRODUCTION:

We extend our warm welcome to UNESCO officials, eminent seminar delegates and scholars from all over the World and hereby Organizing Committee of the Seminar our most sincere congratulations for the kind hospitality. In the first part of this paper, we would like to talk briefly about the intergovernmental organizations and international NGOs. In the second part of the paper is given some information on international funds allocated for the protection of cultural heritage and national NGOs in Turkey that they use international funds to organize projects for the protection of the cultural heritage.

INTER-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS (IGOS):

It means generally a public or governmental organization created by treaty or agreement between states. After the World II many Inter Governmental Organizations (IGOs) were founded around the World aiming at determining the strategies, policies and taking international measures to protect peace, cultural heritage during the peace time and before-during-after armed conflicts looking at the rebuilding of Europe. State parties of these IGOs signed conventions and other international agreements that were needed to fulfill this aim. The High Contracting Parties of these conventions started to organise their national institutions, services and to educate, train specialized personnel for the implementation of these conventions. Among these international IGOs focused on the protection of the cultural heritage must mention UNESCO, specialized UN (United Nations) agency founded in 1945 and ICCROM that was created in 1956, both are very well known in the World.

Except from the publications of the conventions, measures..etc published, UNESCO as “the gendarme of the cultural heritage in the World” has worked to build international solidarity to protect our heritage and allocated funds to protect it. ICCROM provides technical advisory and organizes training on conservation with several courses yearly.

Other political and financial IGOs in the World concentrate on works and aid for the protection of culture and cultural heritage. The biggest and unique international IGO founded for peace and humanitarian assistance in 1945, UN (United Nations) and its UNDP Program (United Nations Development Program) The oldest political organization in Europe founded in 1949, the Council of Europe and the other political institutions such as the EU (European Union), or the OIC (The Organization of the Islamic Conference) founded 1959 and 1969 represent a good example

The World Bank was established in 1944 aiming at the post-war reconstruction and development of Europe, today deemed as vital source of financial and technical assistance to developing countries around the World, is an example of an international financial IGOs that through its wider programs indirectly promote culture and heritage conservation.

NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATION (NGO):

NGOs are not endowed with government powers. The World Bank defines NGOs, in Operational Directive 14.70 as "private organizations that pursue activities to relieve suffering, promote the interests of the poor, protect the environment, provide basic social services, or undertake community development"

The international organized civil society gathering in an NGO to work on the protection of cultural heritage is considered as one of the important partners for the definition and implementation of the strategies, policies. They take also an important role to define and to raise public and political awareness for the protection of the cultural heritage and implementation of the conventions, protocols, recommendations, etc. produced by IGOs. During the membership of Turkey to Council of Europe, for example FOCUH (our association), was founded to increase vocational and higher educational level in the conservation and protection of cultural heritage in Turkey, as well as to contribute rise the qualifications and experience of decision makers who deal with the restoration and conservation of cultural heritage at a EU standard level.

FOCUH is especially focused on the proper and effective implementation of obligations and activities agreed upon in the existing UNESCO conventions

Among the international NGOs, established after World War I in 1927, IFLA (The International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions) is considered to be the first of its kind. Several other thematic international NGOs were created afterwards such as ICOM (the International Council of Museums, 1946) ICA, (International Council of Archives, 1948), Europa Nostra (Pan-European Federation for Heritage, 1963), ICOMOS-(International Council on Monuments and Sites, 1965) OWHC (The Organization of World Heritage Cities, 1993) just to mention some of the most relevant. Lately, in 2005, WATCH (World Association for the Protection of Tangible and Intangible Cultural Heritage During Times of Armed Conflict), was created to provide support in the implementation of the policies foreseen by the Hague Convention 1954 and its protocols and all the other related international agreements.

NATIONAL NGOs-TURKISH NGOS :

Over the past decades, NGOs became major players in the field of international development. Since the mid-70s, the NGO sector in both developed and developing countries has experienced an exponential growth. According to data of the World Bank, while statistics about global numbers of NGOs are notoriously incomplete, it is currently estimated that there are between 6,000 and 30,000 national NGOs in developing countries. The start point of Turkish national "charitable foundations" can be dated back to the Seljukid and Ottoman Ages. During these periods, Waqf, as a social, legal and religious charitable institution established by wealthy people, as well as Sultans and member of their families, played an important role in social, cultural and economic of life of the Islamic world, especially the Turkish world of the Seljukid and Ottoman period, from middle of the 8th century until the end of the 19th. The Waqfs became a symbol of tolerance by providing services to everybody in need irrespective of language, religion or race. So, Waqf can be considered as the source of the Turkish National NGOs of our age. Besides the Waqfs' works for poor, ill and disabled people, we can say that practically all public architectural works of that time were achieved through Waqfs since through it they built mosques, books, schools, hospitals, senatoria as well as libraries. Today, the General Directorate of the Waqfs in Turkey allocates national funds to restore them.

Between the administration reforms (Tanzimat) and the first Constitutional Government (Meşrutiyet) period in of Ottoman Empire (1839-1876), civil society started to be organized. School associations, medical associations, scientific and political associations..etc were founded during this period.

The first "Freedom of Association" took place in the First Constitution (Kanuni-Esasi) during the 1st Constitutional Monarchy of the Ottoman Empire. (1876). During the 2nd Constitutional Government (Meşrutiyet) period of the Ottoman Empire (1908-1918), the "Law of Association" was put into force in 1909 and during the 2nd Constitutional Government (Meşrutiyet) period of the Ottoman Empire (1908-1918), the number of associations increased highly. For example while the part of the cultural association over the total associations was 15% in 1907, it was 19 % in 1908.

The founder of the Modern Turkish Republic Mustafa Kemal Atatürk, incited the foundation of NGOs. For example the Turkish Women Association was created in 1930 and under the patronage of Atatürk the First International Congress of Woman in the World was organized in 1935 in Beylerbeyi Palace, İstanbul. Many NGOs were founded in the Modern Turkish Republic. Even though they were sometimes subject to restrictions, they continued their works by that time.

The Habitat II City Summit organized in İstanbul 1996 and the start of membership process of Turkey to European Union was the starting points of the golden period of the Turkish National NGOs. Nowadays, there are many Turkish NGOs that work on the protection of the cultural heritage, such as Friends of Cultural Heritage, The Economic and Social History Foundation of Turkey, the Foundation for the Protection and Promotion of The Environmental and the Cultural Heritage, Association of Archeologists, Associations of Restorers and Conservators, the Union of Association of Historical Towns...etc.

INTERNATIONAL FUNDS:

As UNESCO mentioned during the different conferences, the 1% of public revenues should be allocated to Works of cultural development. But it is clear that neither this sum, nor UNESCO supports are enough to protect the all cultural heritage in every country in the World. So, both national and international grant making institutions, such as, financial institutions, private sector, political organizations...etc, are called

to contribute and support the projects prepared for the protection of the cultural heritage. Thanks to the process of the membership of Turkey to EU, the numbers and capacity of national NGOs in Turkey has increased. During this process Turkish National NGOs are deemed as important social structuring to reach the international funds allocated by the EU and the World Bank Social Risk Mitigation Project (SRMP) for the protection of the cultural heritage.

The Seventh Framework Program (FP7) of the European Union which will expire in 2013 will be the main financial tools for the scientific researches on the protection of cultural heritage. MEDA Program (Mediterranean Economic Development Area) which will be end in 2007, ENPI (European Neighborhood and Partnership Instrument) which will be implemented between 2007 and 2013, and especially Culture 2007 Programs are the main financial sources of European Union for projects on the protection of culture and cultural heritage

It is expected that the World Bank and the UNDP will continue to launch new programs and call for proposals in the near future for the protection of the cultural heritage.

INTERNATIONAL FUNDS, TURKISH NATIONAL NGOs and PROTECTION OF CULTURAL HERITAGE:
EU GRANTS:

Cultural Heritage Development Program in the GAP Region (CHD): "...The objective CHD Program objective is to improve the economic and social conditions of people living GAP Region of South Eastern Turkey (Adiyaman, Batman, Diyarbakir, Gaziantep, Kilis, Mardin, Siirt, Sanliurfa, and Sirnak provinces) through the development of initiatives for the protection of cultural heritage..." The program started in March 2003 and will be completed in March 2007. The target group is the local communities through initiatives in local municipalities, provincial governorates, related departments of ministries, universities, NGO's and SME's". 12 Million Euros were allocated to local initiatives, to promote cultural tourism, and preserve cultural heritage in the GAP region. When we examine the projects accepted by EU and published on the web site of the Delegation of the EC in 2005, we find out that the percentage of NGOs (as project Coordinator and partners) over the total number of projects is 70%, the percentage of the part of NGOs in total grant amount is % 72. According to this data, it can be said that national Turkish NGOs took part effectively in this program.

Rehabilitation of Fener and Balat Districts Program: "...The aim of the program is to improve the living conditions of the inhabitants of Balat and of Fener (Municipality of Fatih-Istanbul) mainly through the restoration of dwellings in these districts which have been in the World Heritage List of UNESCO...". The EC contribution to this Program is 7 million EUR: Program started on February 01, 2003 and its duration is 48 Months. When we examine the project (EUR 285.000) accepted by the EC and published on the web site of Delegation of the EC on 6 April 2005, we find out with pleasure that an NGO is the owner of the project. We expect that several National Turkish NGOs will take part effectively in this program.

EU Regional Development Program: "...The program objective is to support the Government of the Republic of Turkey in implementing an integrated regional development policy in the Eastern and Southeastern Region of Turkey by means of projects to contribute to the economic development of the four priority regions targeted by the UNDP for support under economic and social cohesion measures and to improve the implementing capacity at the central and regional level...". When we examine as "Pilot Projects" the projects accepted within the scope of the Regional Development In Samsun, Kastamonu and Erzurum Nuts II Regions-Local Development Initiatives Grant Scheme by EU and published on the web site of Delegation of the EC in Turkey on September 2006, we can reach the following data: The percentage of projects on "Cultural Heritage" over the total number of projects is 14%; the percentage of NGOs as project owner over the total numbers of the projects is 12% and percentage of NGOs on the total amount granted is 11%. Since the target group and sub-components of the call for proposal of this Program is wide, it is not wrong to say that the projects on cultural heritage and the role of NGOs in this program are effective. Furthermore, thinking the culture, cultural heritage as a tool for the local development initiatives can be considered as important approach to contribute to the protection of the cultural heritage in near future.

The European Union Education and Youth Program: "...This program consists of three general Programs (Socrates, Leonardo and Youth) and of eight sub-programs: Its objective is to improve the quality of education and vocational training, to make lifelong learning accessible for everyone; to make educational system more open to outside world. Turkey has been involved in all three programs since June 2004. Several Turkish universities applied for the Erasmus program, most of them accepted since May 2004. Several Turkish institutions take part in these programs today...". For example, even FOCUH was founded in December 2005, it became the partner of Leonardo Da Vinci Project "Innovation in Cultural Heritage Interpretation-ICHI prepared by "ARCH Heritage and Training, United Kingdom" in 2006. This project aims to improve the skills of professionals who train others in cultural heritage interpretation, build links between our European partners and encourage participants and partner organizations to share best practice. In this Project, it is planned that several participants will be visited and trained in the Project's landscapes in the Southeastern Anatolia region of Turkey (Especially in Gaziantep city and its neighbors cities) where these projects are organized by the national and international grants and prepared taking into account the relationship between protection of the cultural heritage and improving sustainable development. When we examine the projects accepted by National Agency of the program, we recommend that Turkish National NGOs should be incited and informed to present the projects on culture and cultural heritage. Furthermore

the museums and museum staff in Turkey should take part effectively to this program especially to Grundtvig Program

DIFFERENT FINANCIAL SOURCES FROM EU:

Euromed Heritage Program: (EH) : Together for culture: "...The Euromed Heritage founded by the European Union program aims at strengthening relations between the EU and the Mediterranean partners. Euromed Heritage supports Mediterranean countries in their efforts to promote and care for their heritage...". Euromed Heritage I was launched in September 1998 and its 3rd phase is still under implementation nowadays. EH I consisted of 17 Projects and its total budget was 17.million EUR. In this phase a Turkish National NGO was the partner of one project. EH II was launched in 2001 involving 11 projects with a total budget of approximately 25.5 Million Euros, 14 coordinators, 128 partners from different Mediterranean countries. In this phase 5 Turkish National NGOs were partners of three projects. EH III, with a total budget of approximately 11.6 Million Euros, 4 projects, 4 coordinators and 32 partners from different Mediterranean countries started in 2004. There is no Turkish National NGO taking part in it as partner or Coordinator in this phase. If the EH will launch EH IV in the near future, Turkish National NGOs should be incited and informed to participate to this phase.

Euromed Heritage (EH) Adopt a Mediterranean Heritage: "It is a new and innovative initiative in the framework of the Euromed Heritage program that started since 2006. Adopt a Mediterranean Heritage aims at facilitating the contact between endangered Mediterranean heritage and international investors (both public and private) interested in financing restoration, conservation and valorisation activities, in order to support a responsible public / private partnership for cultural heritage with a social development and educational value...." At the end of the first call of the Program, according to the news published on the Web site of EH on 14 September 2006, we find that 10 cultural heritages from 5 Mediterranean countries were selected for this program. Two cultural heritages are from Turkey. We have learned with pleasure that one of their applicants is a Turkish National NGOs. In addition, we would like to inform you that during this call, all NGOs and other target groups in Turkey were informed by FOCUH via e-mail or telephone. Finally "Adopt a Mediterranean Heritage initiative' can be considered as an alternative financial source to protect the cultural heritage. If EH will continue to launch new calls for this program both Turkish National NGOs and other Mediterranean NGOs should be incited and informed to apply to it.

Europa Nostra Restoration Fund: "...Europa Nostra founded by a group of heritage NGOs in 1963, brings together more than 220 heritage NGOs through Europe. These member organizations represent millions of European citizens...". FOCUH, our association is one of the institutional members of Europa Nostra. Europa Nostra has launched the "Restoration Fund" from 1987. "...The Restoration Fund occasionally makes a financial contribution of a maximum of €20,000 for the restoration of part of a privately owned endangered building or site, having architectural and historical value...". From 1987 to 2005 the fund allocated financial support for the restoration of 15 cultural heritage

Anna Lindh Euro-Mediterranean Foundation for the Dialogue between Cultures: It is the first common institution jointly established and financed by all 35 members of the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership at the Barcelona Conference in 1995. The Anna Lindh Foundation for the Dialogue between Cultures launches calls for proposals to develop culture and cultural dialogue. We expect that new programs and call for proposals will be launched in the near future for the protection of culture and cultural heritage.

OTHER FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES IN EUROPEAN AND MEDITERRANEAN REGIONS: Other funding opportunities in the European–Mediterranean Region, can be found in the file "Other Funding Opportunities" of the web site of "Anna Lindh Euro-Mediterranean Foundation for the Dialogue between Cultures" that can be recommended as important source.

WORLD BANK SOCIAL RISK MITIGATION PROJECT (SRMP): Ten months after the 2000/01 economic Crisis in Turkey, Social Risk Mitigation Project (SRMP) Loan Agreement has been signed between Turkish Government and the World Bank (IBRD) on September 14th, 2001 and was put into effect on November 28th, 2001. The original duration of the project is four years. Total amount of the SRMP is US\$ 635.4 million, of which US\$ 500 million is loan. The development objective of SRMP is to mitigate the impact of the February 2001 economic crisis on poor households (social risk mitigation), and to improve their capacity to cope with similar risks in the future (social risk management). The Executive Committee of SRMP (EC-SRMP) called Non Governmental Organizations, and individuals to prepare projects for SRMP and present them through Social Assistance and Solidarity Foundations (SYDVs) that they established in each city and district in Turkey. (February 2002). We would like to underline that SYDVs, as NGOs, play a role of bridge between poor and vulnerable individuals and aids of the State to them in Turkey. Grants were allocated to projects on culture and protection of cultural heritage such as restoration of a historical building, the development of the traditional handicrafts training.

As it is well known, NGOs play also an important role to definition and raise of public and political awareness for the protection of the cultural heritage. So, the first author of this paper Ms. Guner was the Project designer and coordinator of "Project of The Protecting Intangible Cultural Heritages In Seferihisar And Presenting Them To Cultural Tourism (Seferihisar Project CH/Tourism)" prepared within the scope of the Component "Temporary Community Employment" of SRMP (July2004). The owner of the Project was the Social Assistance and Solidarity Foundation Seferihisar District in İzmir City. She presented it as paper to

the 9. International Congress on Archeology and Computer organized in Vienna in 2004. In the part of Public Awareness of this projects, citizens living in Seferihisar and within the scope of valuable and voluntary supports of Commandership of the Communication Training Unit of Gendarmerie in Seferihisar, a total of 250 soldiers doing their military service in Seferihisar were trained particularly on the importance of the protection of cultural heritage and in the prevention of its illicit trade. (Figures 1,2,3,4) Brochures written with simple and clear sentences about these subjects were distributed to them. (Figures 5,6) Some sentences from the brochures :

"Please save your cultural heritage! They are your treasures.

If you save them many tourists will come to your village to visit them. Thanks to these visits, citizens of your village and country, we all together will be rich very soon.

Don't draw any picture or write anything with sharpened things on the walls of the historical buildings! They feel pain like other alive and died very soon.

Like anything else of value, cultural goods are stolen not only by individuals working alone but also by organized traffickers. Let's combat to prevent them. They stole diamonds from our treasures. If you become aware of them please report to the police or gendarme!"

Soldiers who attended the education and the project were awarded with certificates of participation and appreciation. (Figure 7) Furthermore, the education of soldiers gave the Project the opportunity to educate people where those educated soldiers live via interaction. It was the first time that soldiers and citizens in Turkey took part in such a project.

Most Important Output of the Project: This first and locomotive Project was an important start point. After this, the wages of the workers who will be working in all the archaeological excavations and restoration works in Turkey will be provided from funds (without repayment) of the SRMP if NGOs, individuals prepare and present the Projects suitable for the criterions of SRMP and if EC-SRMP find acceptable them to be applied.

According to data presented by Local Initiative Department of SRMP in Ankara to the authors, we find that except from (Seferihisar Project CH/Tourism), two projects were granted with in the scope of the component of "Temporary Community Employment of SRMP". They were "Archeological Excavation Project in Kinik Village (Kastamonu) and Cleaning Surface and Around of First Sultan Murat Bath in Iznik (Bursa). Further more in this data, we noted that total 8201 Projects were granted with in the framework of four components of SRMP by that time and 352 of them were granted within the scope of the component of "Employability Training Educations". 51 of them were about the training on development of traditional handicrafts.

RECOMMENDATIONS: It is impossible for societies to protect their cultural diversities, tangible, intangible heritage without an appropriate protective environment for them. The conservation of cultural heritage is *"the real and primary investment"* of sustainable development of the countries. Cultural heritage is the heritage of the humanity, nations, current and future generations. Hence cultural heritage should be conserved to address these concerns. This is why, we would like to recommend;

To National Funds.

- As UNESCO mentions in several conferences, the minimum 1% of public revenues is allocated to Works on cultural development. States should accept expenditures made for development of the culture and for the protection of cultural heritage as a "real investment" and these expenditures should be taken into consideration in the process of planning investments. Furthermore, these expenditures should not be the first to cut off in any economic crisis.
- To improve the capacity of National and International NGOs should be supported financially, morally, technically...etc by the national private and financial institutions.

To International Funds.

- To improve the capacity of National and International NGOs should be supported financially, morally, technically...etc
- In order to reach international funds, the staff of national and international NGOs in developing countries should be trained on the "Project Design" and "Project Coordination". Euromed Heritage Program should continue to organize new training programs on "Project Design" to which a representative of FOCUH participated in July 2006. Sample programs should be organized by the international and national authorities.
- Since the official affaires, approvals. etc. are complex and need long period during the preparation of a project about restoration and conservation of any cultural heritage, the duration of the calls opened by IGOs for these projects should be more widen.
- NGOs should focus to preparing effective projects for public awareness on the protection of the cultural properties in peace time as well as the projects on the protection of the cultural heritage before-during- after armed conflicts and the prevent of their illicit trade..

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National Agency of European Union Education and Youth Programmes in Turkey:<http://www.ua.gov.tr>

EU Euromed Heritage Program (<http://www.euromedheritage.net>)

Anna Lindh Foundation: (<http://www.euromedalex.org>)

Europa Nostra Restoration Fund: (<http://www.europanostra.org>)

General Directorate Social Assistance and Solidarity (<http://www.sydtf.gov.tr>)

World Bank Social Risk Mitigation Project (SRMP): (<http://www.worldbank.org.tr>)

"Project of The Protecting Intangible Cultural Heritages in Seferihisar and Presenting Them to Cultural Tourism"
 (<http://www.chprojects.org>)

Friends of Cultural Heritage (<http://www.kumid.org>)

Figures:

Fig. 1



Fig.3

Fig. 2



Fig. 4

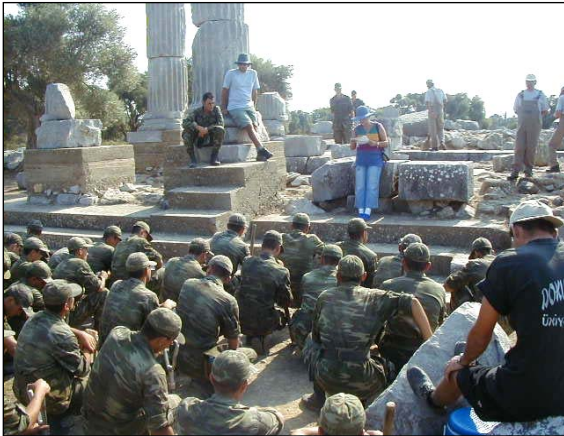


Fig. 5

Fig.6



Fig. 7

