

Social Entrepreneurship Meeting

January 16, 2013 - TÜSEV Karaköy Office

TUSEV has organized a meeting on January 16 with the aim to bring together organizations who are actively doing activities in the social entrepreneurship field. The aim of the meeting was for these organizations to explain different areas in which they're conducting social entrepreneurship activities, pinpoint the needs of the field, and share their expectations and advices for 2013. The opinions of the participants will contribute to the revised edition of [Social Entrepreneurships and Turkey: Needs Analysis Report](#), which was published by TUSEV in 2010.

Needs

After participants explained the activity areas in which they operate (you can find the table of activities at the end of this document), they discussed the needs of the field which they hope to resolve in 2013. Solving these issues will contribute to enhancing and spreading the social entrepreneurship model in Turkey.

- **Conceptual Confusion:** There are still discussions going around about what exactly social entrepreneurship is around the World, including Turkey. While different interpretations contribute to developing unique social entrepreneurship models, it also leads to a conceptual confusion within Turkey. Not having a common definition for social entrepreneurship prevents the model from spreading all around Turkey.
- **Relations with the Public Sector:** It has been seen that public sector actors have started to show more interest in the social entrepreneurship field. It is assumed that different public entities will take action about social entrepreneurship in 2013. The participants have advised TUSEV to continue to work on this front and inform the participants about updates.
- **Legal Problems:** Quite a number of new social entrepreneurs face legal problems in their startup stage. It has been stated that creation of a common statement from participating organizations and continuation of the advocacy work will be beneficial in this field.
- **Business Development Education:** Recently there have been different educational programs and competitions for social entrepreneurs but there is limited technical and practical information about how to develop a sustainable business model for social entrepreneur candidates.
- **Increasing the Number of Successful Social Entrepreneurs:** Although social entrepreneurship model has been getting more attention in Turkey in the recent years, limited number of success stories make the model harder to understand and spread throughout the country. Although educational courses, competitions, and informational sessions lead to an increase in the number of social entrepreneurs, there is still a need for complementary work.
- **Sustainability:** Every year, social entrepreneurship projects enter competitions and win financial prizes. However lack of financial return and sustainability bring concerns about the future of these organizations. Also there is a need to build a structure in which funds from these competitions can be spent in a sustainable manner.

Advices

In the light of experiences and activities of 2012, participants shared their expectations and advices for developing the social entrepreneurship model in 2013.

- **Definition:** Social entrepreneurship needs to have a common and clear definition. A mutually agreed definition can help organizations to spread the model throughout the country. In this sense, differences between “social entrepreneurship” and “not-for-profit” organizations should be made clear.
 - **TUSEV:** In the events that TUSEV has organized, definitions and global perspectives about social entrepreneurship were discussed. TUSEV defines social entrepreneurship as the following:
 - is established and operated for a social purpose,
 - is conducting economic activity, and
 - uses its profits for social purposes

Social entrepreneurs, while producing services and products, create employment opportunities for disadvantaged groups. Social entrepreneurship follows an entrepreneurial approach in which problems and solutions are realized, risks are taken and an appropriate assessment is conducted. In addition, there have been definitions about “social entrepreneurship” and “social entrepreneur” concepts. While TUSEV believes a lack of clear definition creates conceptual confusion, it also questions the efficiency of discussions surrounding the definition.

- **The Structure of Social Entrepreneurship Support Systems:** It can be seen that there is a limited amount of support for participants after they finish their educational courses or win competitions. Although the winners obtain financial prizes, there is still a need for developmental support and consultancy for their ideas.
- **Private Sector Involvement:** As the activity table below demonstrates, there has been an increase in public and private support for social entrepreneurship. This augmented interest signals new support programs from both sectors within the near future. But accessibility and sustainability of these funds still remains as an issue for social entrepreneurs.
- **Increasing the number of Social Entrepreneurs and Social Impact Assessment:** It is believed that support systems, which include educational programs and competitions, will increase the number of social entrepreneurs. It is equally important to introduce social entrepreneurship by using different tools. As social entrepreneurship starts to become more well-known, assessing the social and economic impacts of examples also becomes an important point to consider. As support programs increase in number, it is believed that the subject of “social impact assessment” will become more relevant to the discussions.
 - **TUSEV:** TUSEV will host a seminar with an expert speaker from UK to discuss social impact assessment methods for social entrepreneurs. In this seminar, different methods used for social entrepreneurs will be discussed over its applications.
- **Short Policy Papers:** Short policy papers, which can be published quarterly, can help lead to a platform in which social entrepreneurship ideas can be created and discussed.
 - **TUSEV:** TUSEV’s analysis and suggestions for legal and fiscal legislations, public sector relations & support, and private sector support are discussed in its policy papers (which can be found in Turkish at www.sosyalgirisim.org). Along with this, TUSEV will continue to announce its advocacy work in this field through its monthly Social Entrepreneurship e-bulletin.

- **Establishing a Working Group:** Creating a working group which can have a common voice for social entrepreneurship organizations could create an advantage when meeting with public or private sector officials. The group can create a common definition for social entrepreneurship and write policy papers on the subject.
 - **TUSEV: Reports and papers about social entrepreneurship were written in consultation with individuals and organizations who conduct work in this field. In addition to these efforts, TUSEV is open to hosting meetings (every three months) on different subjects if the participants of this meeting desire a working group to be established. We would like you to share your opinion on this matter with us if possible.**

Participants

We thank all the participating organizations and their representatives for sharing their valuable ideas on social entrepreneurship.

Anja Koenig – Istanbul Policy Center

Ayla Göksel – ACEV

Aysegül Ekmekci – TUSEV

Başak Ersen – TUSEV

Başak Saral – Habitat

İnanç Mısırlıoğlu - TUSEV

James Halliday – Koc University

Jason Lau – Ozyegin University

Liana Varon -TUSEV

Matthias Scheffelmeir – Ashoka

Mehru Aygöl – TACSO

Neha Çaylan – Ege’de Atölye (Workshop in Aegean)

Selim Güven – Anatolian Foundation

Semanur Karaman – TUSEV

Serdar Apaydın – Bilgi University

Serra Titiz – Mikado

Suat Özçağdaş – Social Inovation Center

Yeliz Çelebi – Habitat

Zeynep Delen – Ege’de Atölye (Workshop in Aegean)

Zeynep Meydanoglu – Ashoka

Activity Areas

The activity areas of participating organizations are explained in the table below.

*: TUSEV will host a variety of thematic seminars within 2013. In March, there will be a seminar on Social Impact Assessment

***: Projects and Programs in the Planning Stage

Research	Education/ Consulting	Incubation	Seminars	Competitons	Advocacy Work	International Relations	Financial Support
TUSEV: Social Entrepreneurships Needs Analysis Report (will be revised)	Habitat: Social entrepreneurship component under International Social Entrepreneurship Center	Ozyegin Univeristy, Community Volunteers Foundation (TOG), and JP Morgan cooperation	*TUSEV	Koc University: Global Social Venture Competition (GSVC)	Habitat: Work-in-progress under Entrepreneurship Council- International Entrepreneurship Strategy and Action Plan	Istanbul Policy Center: The role of the Turkish diaspora in the scope of the project	Ozyegin University, TOG and JP Morgan partnership: providing support to 6 social entrepreneurs
Istanbul Policy Center/Anja Koenig: Social and Green Entrepreneurship Project	Ozyegin University: Accelerated Social Entrepreneurship Education		Ozyegin Univeristy	TOG and Master Card Young Idea Project	Kosgeb: Coordination among Development Agencies	Ashoka Network	Koc University GSVC: 50,000 dollar prize for 10 winners
***Koc University: Research on Social Impact Assessment	Koc University: Global Social Venture Competition (GSVC)		Monthly seminars organized by Social Inovation Center	Bilgi Young Social Entrepreneur Awards	TUSEV: Legal and Fiscal Legislation, Public Sector support, and Private Sector policy papers	TUSEV: Social entrepreneurs hip presentations given on international platforms such as CIVICUS	TOG & Master Card Young Idea Project

			***Social Innovation Convention organized by Social Innovation Center				
Ashoka: need analysis (for members) and impact analysis	Mikado: Consulting services for NGOs, private companies, and social innovators.			Ozyegin University, TOG and JP Morgan partnership	Ministry of Development and Development Agencies: Following up on developments about the support program		***TACSO: Following up on developments about the EU funds
	Ashoka: Legal, Financial, Communication, and Strategy Consultancy			Changemakers online Social Entrepreneurship competition	Can we expect Ministry of Family and Social Policies to support social entrepreneurship?		Ashoka: 3 year Financial Support to Ashoka fellows
	Ashoka: Consultancy services for social entrepreneurs participating in Changemakerxchange				National Agencies: getting information about the scope of their educational programs		Changemakerxchange: small grants program
	Social Innovation Center						
	KHAS University Certificate Program						
	Sabancı University social entrepreneurship elective course						

	Ozyegin University social entrepreneurship elective course						
	TOG and Master Card Young Idea Project						
	Education and Consultancy for Bilgi University Young Social Entrepreneurs Competition, in partnership w/ Social Innovation Center						