



Contracting Authority: European Commission

European Instrument For Democracy and Human Rights (EIDHR): 2017
Global Call for Proposals

Annex A.1 – Concept note

Budget line: 038-675

Reference:

EuropeAid/155232/DH/ACT/MultiReference:

Deadline for submission¹ of concept notes:

09/11/2017 at 16:00 (Brussels date and time)

(in order to convert to local time click [here](#)²)

Number & title of lot	
Title of the action:	Supporting Freedom of Religion or Belief of Minorities Residing in Istanbul
Name of the lead applicant	Istanbul Arel University FEAS, English IR Department

Dossier No	
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¹ Online submission via PROSPECT is mandatory for this call for proposals (see section 2.2.2 of the guidelines). In PROSPECT all dates and times are expressed in Brussels time. Applicants should note that the IT support is open from Monday to Friday 08:30 to 18:30 Brussels time (except for public holidays).

² An example of a time converter tool available online: <http://www.timeanddate.com/worldclock/converter.html>

1. CONCEPT NOTE

1.1. Description of the action

1.1.1. Fill in the table below:

Objectives of the action	< <i>Supporting Freedom of Religion or Belief of Minorities</i> > < <i>Creating Awareness among Society</i> >
Target group(s)³	<i>Armenian, Syriac, Greek, Jewish, Alewite, and Roman people</i>
Final beneficiaries⁴	Revealing both quantitative properties and social and demographic properties of minority. To support public institutions and non-governmental organizations to improve ability of jointly working. To create examples to attract awareness about the subject of minorities.
Estimated results	Awareness of Cultural and Religion Rights of Minorities
Main activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Diversity Workshop” will be established where a language training will be organized in order to provide minority communities to maintain and sustain their languages. • In Diversity Workshop, Respect for Diversity training will be organized in order to create a social awareness about minorities. • Respect for Diversity trainings will be enriched with stories in order to ensure children’s recognition of different cultures as well as enhancement of their social awareness. • Suggestions will be offered about comparison of legislations concerning minorities of the EU and Turkey, and regulations that Turkey needs to do in harmonization period to the EU Acquis.

³ **Target groups** are groups/entities who will directly benefit from the action at the action purpose level.

⁴ **Final beneficiaries** are those who will benefit from the action in the long term at the level of the society or sector at large.

1.1.2. Description of the action: cover all the 5 points in the instructions: (max 1 page)

< Turkey has become a significant crossroad between Europe and Asia for centuries. For this reason, society of Turkey in general is a multi-cultural one. Present demographic structure in Anatolia includes many ethnic groups from Balkans and Caucasus, besides the autochthonous (local) Rums (Anatolian Greeks), Pontic Greeks and Armenians, etc. Under the umbrella of Turkish citizenship, several ethnic, linguistic and religious minorities live together. However, numbers of the population of different minority groups are not very certain. Population censuses in Turkey do not define ethnic and religious identities. In other words, the state does not ask citizens to declare their ethnic, religious or other kind of roots in censuses. Additionally, there is no large scale scientific research on minorities, too.

A large amount of the Armenian, Syriac, Greek, Jewish, Alewite, and Roman people, the leading minority groups of Turkey, live in Istanbul. Because of not knowing exactly numerical and demographic features of them, we also have no exact information about to what extent they are aware of their rights and use their freedom in social life.

Lack of knowledge about the minorities leads to retard all aspects of democratic development. It creates barrier between communities, as well as citizens, from different religions or nationalities to access basic services, like education and worship, and to realize fundamental human rights. Besides, it enhances conflicts and human rights abuses in many ways. Struggling with marginalisation through researches and intercultural activities must be a central part of any meaningful attempt to promote human rights.

For this reason, a series of action is planned to voice the minority rights in and around Istanbul in this project. Duration of the project is planned for 30 months. During the period, following steps is going to be implemented:

- 1- Determination of problems, needs, and priorities;
- 2- Announcement and introduction of the issues to a wider local and national community through national and international conferences, seminars, workshops, etc.;
- 3- Seeking ways to resolve their problems and to meet needs through national and international conferences, seminars, workshops, etc.;
- 4- The foundation of a systematic follow-up system on how the anticipated issues in the future will be dealt with;
- 5- Reporting and publishing of all issues, outputs and results in academic terms, and preparing a documentary.

Overall, the commitment of the project is to elaborate and broaden universal humanitarian values, which consolidate cultural, religious and ethnic rights, through activities, and to raise an awareness starting from Istanbul and reaching to whole Turkey. For this reason, actions will take place in Germany, Greece and Bulgaria, besides Turkey and Moldavia, which are outside of the European Union. >

1.2. Relevance of the action (max 3 pages)

1.2.1. Relevance to the objectives/sectors/themes/specific priorities of the call for proposals

◁i Main objective of the project is to provide participation of the minorities into the social life as equal citizens. At this point, legislations and implementations about minority rights in Turkey will be compared with legislations and implementations of minority rights in the EU countries, and suggestions will be submitted to the decision makers and civil society in Turkey.

Via conferences, publishing press bulletins, pamphlets, and information notes, results of the surveys, planned to be performed, are going to be released.

Some inter disciplinary conferences will be held by participation of academics from different fields like sociology, politics, psychology and history. As a result of these conferences, some suggestion reports will be prepared to submit to those concerned.

Via a Diversity Workshop, “Respect for Diversity” training activities will be held so as to attract the attention of the differences within Turkish society. These activities will be held for adults and children in order to provide awareness in terms of differences in society. Adults and children participating in these training programs will visit the Mübadele Museum in Çatalca (which was opened in memory of the exchanged people between Turkey and Greece and financed by the EU funds. (This workshop will last approximately 25 months in which conference, training programs, surveys and evaluation of all study results of project will be held.)

As part of the diversity workshop, language education will be given for the languages like Ladino, Assyrian, Romani, and language of Hamshenis, which have faced extinction. So that, first minorities can conserve their languages and culture, then transfer them into the next generations.

In order to raise their awareness and to support their participation into the all fields of social life, several meetings with representatives of the minority communities will be held. During the interviews between academics from the İstanbul Arel University (İAU) and representatives of the Municipality of Büyükçekmece, some novel ideas about the project have come to exist. So it has been decided to become partner with the Municipality in the project. Besides the Municipality, academics from the İAU interviewed with some of the minority community leaders, representatives of several non-governmental organizations, and some of the mukhtars of neighbourhood where minorities mostly live (such as Fener, Balat, Ayvansaray, Feriköy, Kocamustafapaşa, Bakırköy, Şişli, Büyükçekmece and Yeşilköy). It is planned to take their support within the concept of the project, too.

To declare the project to public and attract the attention of minorities, an opening ceremony will be held at the beginning of the project with the attendance from minority communities, non-governmental organizations, and universities (academics and students interested on this issue) to encourage them to join the activities.

A survey is planned to be implemented to reveal consciousness level of minorities about their rights and freedom, their awareness about public services, such as citizenship, education, worship and health, and to attract the public attention to their problems. Data revealed from this survey will be documented and archived in written and visual formats, and then a report is going to be prepared on it, besides the data obtained via conference.

Differences between minority rights in the member states of the EU and in Turkey will be released to public via newsletters and a website. (Website preparation will last in 6 months in which one can access to scientific report and studies obtained from workshop results.)

Towards the end of the project, a photography competition will be held on the problems of the minorities and changes in their status. Besides, finally a closing night ceremony will be organized. At this night, winners of the competition will be announced, they will be rewarded, and an exhibition of these photographs will be opened.

For peaceful and harmonious existence of various cultures in a society and freedom of individual expression, it is crucial to protect cultural and religious values and rights, and transmit them freely to their future generations. It is for this reason that the debate on minorities in different contexts has recently expanded. Yet, it is still difficult to argue that there is a deep-rooted, substantial and global transformation with considerable and generalizable improvement of the human condition, while the contemporary modern state structure supports minority rights to some extent. Hence, the activities that seek to protect and enhance minority rights, and transmit them to future have become the responsibility of civil society organizations as much as the states themselves.

This project was prepared appropriately for topic title of supporting freedom of religion or belief as it is mentioned in the call for proposal Lot 5.

Main campus of the İAU is in the district of Büyükçekmece where minorities live mostly. Faculty members of International Relations Department studies on minorities. Conferences to be held in scope of project will be carried out with participation and conduction of these academics. Additionally, the Municipality of Büyükçekmece, project partner, will support accessing to people from minority groups in Büyükçekmece and the other regions of İstanbul. With the collaboration of the Municipality and the support of the Fener Greek Patriarchate and the Armenian Orthodox Patriarchate, efficiency of the project will increase by accessing more people.

Our project aims to realize the following topics among the expected results.

- Revealing both quantitative properties and social and demographic properties of minority communities in Turkey will provide contribution to create an awareness about them in the whole society.
- “Diversity Workshop” will be established where a language training will be organized in order to provide minority communities to maintain and sustain their languages.
- In Diversity Workshop, Respect for Diversity training will be organized in order to create a social awareness about minorities.
- Respect for Diversity trainings will be enriched with stories in order to ensure children’s recognition of different cultures as well as enhancement of their social awareness.
- Suggestions will be offered about comparison of legislations concerning minorities of the EU and Turkey, and regulations that Turkey needs to do in harmonization period to the EU Acquis.

Minorities are considered as equal part of the society according to the Lausanne Treaty, the founding agreement of the Turkish Republic, and, Article 44 provided an international guarantee for their rights. Groups defined as minority in the treaty are Rums (Greeks of Anatolia), Armenians and Jews (They were defined depending on national divisions of the Ottoman tradition). In addition to Rums, Armenians and Jews, this project includes Assyrians, Alewites and Romans which are other minority groups of Turkey. Turkey is member of European Convention on Human Rights, United Nations Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, United Nations Convention on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, United Nations Convention on Civil and Political Rights, Convention on Rights of the Children, Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women, all documents of Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE), European Council Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities, European Council Regional and Minority Languages, Additional Protocol of European Convention on Human Rights No: 12 among the international conventions concerning minority rights.

Since August 2003, some legal and administrative regulations have been made for citizens to use different languages and dialects they use in their daily lives traditionally. These regulations allowed opening of private language courses. However, it has not been very effective. In accordance with the Article 37 of the Lausanne Treaty, difficulties occurred in social life and prevented complete usage of rights granted to minorities. Due to 1964 Cyprus Peace Operation, especially Rums and several minority groups have been exposed to some difficulties in their social life.>

1.2.2. Relevance to the particular needs and constraints of the target country/countries, region(s) and/or relevant sectors (including synergy with other EU initiatives and avoidance of duplication)

< As it is seen, although some legal regulations has been made in Turkey, minorities are not aware of their rights totally. In scope of this project, firstly a survey will be performed to reveal in what extent the minorities of Turkey are conscious about their rights and freedoms, how much they use their rights and freedom.

No separate population census including just the minorities has been performed in Turkey. Thus, there is no certain information regarding social lives and demographic properties of them. With a survey, social life and demographic properties of the minorities will be tried to be understood.

Modern state makes some efforts for its citizens not only to use rights and duties but also to use freedoms and to realize the democracy. However, today’s citizens living as minorities do not recognize their rights and duties, accordingly they cannot use them because of insufficient knowledge. Via the conferences to be held, they will be informed on their rights.

As it is mentioned before, in the “Diversity Workshop”, Respect for Diversity training will be organized to create an awareness about respect for diversity. While Rums, Armenians, Assyrians and Jews living in Turkey speak their own language, some individuals do not remember their own languages. Language trainings will be organized for supporting these individuals to learn their own languages.

Academics of the IAU and technical personnel will take part in the coordination of this project. In this respect, interviews with Greek, Armenian, Assyrian, Jewish and Roman communities in Australia, Germany, Bulgaria, Moldavia and Greece will be carried out about their rights in these countries. Then notes will be compared in conferences in matter of applicability of these minority rights and freedoms in Turkey. >

According to the Lausanne Treaty, minorities of Turkey have been defined according to their ethnic and religious identity. Therefore, first target groups of this project are Greek, Armenian and Jewish minorities of Turkey. However, it will be included Assyrian, Alewite and Roman groups into the study.

Activities that would be run within the scope of this project and 10.000 copies of the final report will be published. They will be distributed to the concerned ministries, deputies, related TBMM commissions, to the Presidency of the Prime Ministry of Human Rights, Provincial and County human rights institutions (CSO's), some of the unions, lawyers and judges who work or wish to work on this field, international monitoring societies, activists who work in this field, academics who do research on this field, university students, shortly to anyone who is interested in this subject.

In Turkey, minorities have difficulties on accessing some of their rights. For this reason, there will be a symposium on minority rights and human rights. Approximately hundred experts including academics, coordinators, minority community leaders and other concerned people will be invited to this symposium. Every topic discussed on the symposium will be recorded in written form. A committee consists of six experts will go to Germany, Bulgaria, Greece and Moldavia to meet Greek, Armenian, Hebrew, Roman, Alewite and Assyrian minority leaders in these countries. Additionally, this committee will meet with the relevant authorities in Strasbourg (The European Parliament and the Council of Europe) and Luxembourg (the European Court of Justice). They will gather detailed data about minorities rights. In these international visits, details about the standards of the EU minority rights and their practices in terms of countries will be gathered and it will be transformed into a scientific source at the symposium. In order to increase the accessibility of these kinds of sources, it will be uploaded to a website under the title of "Minority Encyclopedia". By doing so, the number of the target audience who can reach this resource will be increased.

In the subject of minority rights which plays a key role within the duration of the EU negotiation period with Turkey, in order to create awareness of people and create an infrastructure, there will be trainings about minority rights. While giving education of "Respecting Different Cultures" to a hundred adults about human and minority rights with interactive work, one hundred children will receive this education with specially designed storytelling methods and with different games to learn other cultures and respect diversity.

For minority groups who are within the scope of this project, in order to increase participation, there will be meetings with non-governmental organizations and community leaders. The University, the Municipality and non-governmental organizations will announce the progress on social media. Around the neighbourhood where the minorities live some special informative notes will be delivered.

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1.2.3. Describe and define the target groups and final beneficiaries, their needs and constraints, and state how the action will address these needs

< This project, which will be performed with the collaboration of the University and the municipality without looking at the sector and its size, will provide contribution to create an awareness about the minorities in the whole society. Furthermore, while this collaboration support public institutions and non-governmental organizations to gain culture of working together, other organizations will create examples to attract awareness about the subject of minorities. >

1.2.4. Particular added-value elements

<This project pursues both specific results such as the expansion of educational and religious rights and institutions, and a serious commitment with ambition to be exemplified by further projects and activities, and for greater understanding and respect for differences.>

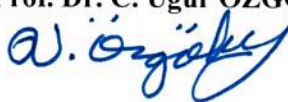
2 DECLARATION BY THE LEAD APPLICANT

The lead applicant, represented by the undersigned, being the authorised signatory of the lead applicant, and in the context of the present application, representing any co-applicant(s) and affiliated entity(ies) in the proposed action, hereby declares that:

1. the lead applicant has the sources of financing and professional competence and qualifications specified in section 2 of the guidelines for applicants;
2. the lead applicant undertakes to comply with the obligations foreseen in the affiliated entities' statement of the grant application form and with the principles of good partnership practice;
3. the lead applicant is directly responsible for the preparation, management and implementation of the action with the co-applicant(s) and affiliated entity(ies), if any, and is not acting as an intermediary;
4. the lead applicant, the co-applicant(s) and the affiliated entity(ies) are not in any of the situations excluding them from participating in contracts which are listed in section 2.3.3 of the Practical Guide (available from the following Internet address: <http://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/prag/document.do>). Furthermore, it is recognised and accepted that if the lead applicant, co-applicant(s) and affiliated entity(ies) (if any) participate in spite of being in any of these situations, they may be excluded from other procedures in accordance with section 2.3.4 of the Practical Guide;
5. the lead applicant and each co-applicant and affiliated entity are in a position to deliver immediately, upon request, the supporting documents stipulated under section 2.4 of the guidelines for applicants;
6. **the lead applicant and each co-applicant(s) and affiliated entity(ies) (if any) are eligible in accordance with the criteria set out under sections 2.1.1 and 2.1.2 of the guidelines for applicants;**
7. if recommended to be awarded a grant, the lead applicant, the co-applicant(s) and the affiliated entity(ies) accept the contractual conditions as laid down in the standard grant contract annexed to the guidelines for applicants (Annex G) (or the PA Grant Agreement where the lead applicant is an organisation whose pillars have been positively assessed by the European Commission);;

We acknowledge that if we participate in spite of being in any of the situations listed in Section 2.3.3.1 of the Practical Guide or if the declarations or information provided prove to be false we may be subject to rejection from this procedure and to administrative sanctions in the form of exclusion and financial penalties representing 2 % to 10 % of the total estimated value of the grant being awarded and that this information may be published on the Commission website in accordance with the conditions set in Section 2.3.4 of the Practical Guide. We are aware that, for the purposes of safeguarding the EU's financial interests, our personal data may be transferred to internal audit services, to the Early Detection and Exclusion System, to the European Court of Auditors, to the Financial Irregularities Panel or to the European Anti-Fraud Office.

Signed on behalf of the lead applicant

Name: Prof. Dr. C. Uğur ÖZGÖKER
Signature 
Position Head of English IR Department
Date 08.11.2017