



Youth and Governance

**Youth Voices Group
The World Bank**



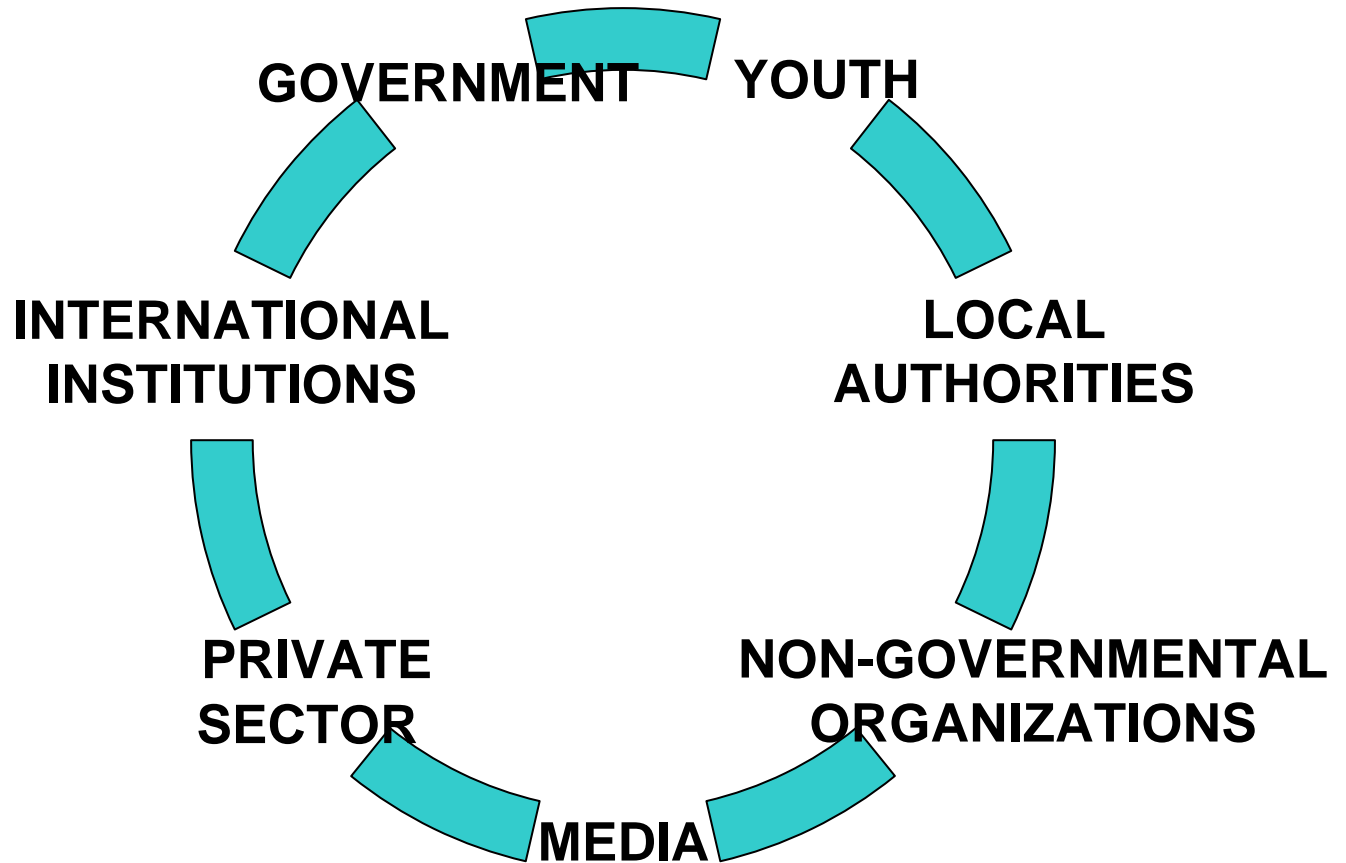
Agenda

- Governance and its Principles
- Existing Conditions in Turkey
- Public Administration System
- Youth and Governance
- Recommendations

Governance

Governance
is active participation of all
stakeholders in decision making
processes and their implementation
stages in a country.

Stakeholders of Governance





Objectives of Governance

- Increasing the welfare level in the country,
- Setting a citizen – oriented management concept,
- Enhancing the democracy and human rights concepts,
- Decreasing the social conflicts,
- Increasing and deepening the trust bond between the state and the society.



Principles of Governance

- Accountability (for all stakeholders)
- Transparency
- Non-discrimination and comprehensiveness
- Being efficient and effective
- Sensitivity
- Respecting the rule of law
- Participation
- Based on agreement (consensus)

Existing Conditions

The reasons for underdevelopment of good governance in Turkey include the followings:

- Inadequate implementation of reforms
- Approaches presented by public executives
- Society's point of view
- Difficulties experienced by young people in participating in decision making mechanisms
- Public administration system



Existing Public System

- Centralized decision mechanisms
- Slow bureaucratic structure
- Failure of non governmental organizations to be sufficiently active
- Missing components in implementation of governance policies
- Participation opportunities limited by laws

The existing conditions does not allow for the development of good governance.



Youth and Governance

The decision-making mechanisms that will allow for the participation of young people are not adequately present in Turkey.



Youth and Good Governance

- There is not an integrated youth policy.
- There is no National Youth Council.
- In general elections, the age for electing is 18, while the age for being elected is 30.
- The number of Youth Non-Governmental Organizations is very low.

RECOMMENDATIONS I

The education system should be re-organized to support more active participation of young people in decision making mechanisms.

Actors: Ministry of Education(MEB), Higher Education Council(YÖK), Non-Governmental Organizations(NGOs)

RECOMMENDATIONS I-Cont.

- Student representatives of cities should participate in Higher Meeting of Ministry of Education.
- The preparation and implementation of governance-oriented social responsibility projects should be encouraged in high schools and universities.
- “Social Responsibility Projects” should be added in the curriculum as a selective course.

RECOMMENDATIONS II

The activities of youth NGOs;

- should be supported more adequately,
- successful activities should be disseminated more effectively,

Actors: Directorate General of Youth and Sport (GSGM), State Planning Organization-Youth Branch, Youth NGOs, International Institutions, Private Sectors, Media Organisations, Universities and High Schools

RECOMMENDATIONS II-Cont.

Methods:

- **Activities should be supported financially-a youth fund should be established in cooperation with international institutions, government and private sector**
- **Dissemination of information by media supports**
- **One of national TV channels should be modified as a “youth channel”**

RECOMMENDATIONS III

- **National Youth Council** should be established.

The principles of democracy, transparency, participation should be taken as the main principles and be adopted comprehensively.

(University Youth Councils, High School Youth Councils, Youth NGOs, Unemployed/Uneducated/Disadvantaged youth, youth branches of political parties etc.)

RECOMMENDATIONS IV

The problems created by lack of effective governance in the society should be regularly emphasized and obstacles against participation should be overcome.

Method: Promotion campaigns, presentation of related information in the lectures.

Actors: Media, Ministry of National Education, General Directorate of Youth and Sport, Higher Education Council, NGOs, Local Authorities

RECOMMENDATIONS V

- Efficient use of **information technologies** in decision making mechanisms should be ensured. (**e-governance**)

An example for good implementation:

Yalova “e-governance” project

PRACTICES

- **Local Agenda 21 Program-Turkey**
(Government, Local Authorities, UNDP, UCLA, Youth Association for Habitat and Agenda 21)
- **LA-21 National Youth Parliament**
- **Turkey National Youth Council Initiative**
(Youth NGOs, European Commission)
- **“Haydi Kızlar Okula”** (Ministry of Education, UNICEF, Turkcell,...)

PRACTICES

- **“Hayata Arti”** (UNDP, Coca-Cola, Youth Association for Habitat and Agenda 21)
- **“Empowerment of young people through e-governance in Turkey** (UNDP, Microsoft, LA-21 UGP)
- **Turkey Student Assembly Project** (Turkish Grand National Assembly, MEB)
- **Youth Assembly Internship Program** (International Republican Institute)

SUMMARY

- **Good participatory governance** is underdeveloped in Turkey.
- Relevant constitutional arrangements should be made regarding the age for being elected; the age limit should be switched to 25.
- In order to develop good governance, government, international institutions, media, private sector and NGOs should cooperate with each other

SUMMARY

All relevant parties regarding the issue have responsibilities;

- **State organizations**: Creating an integrated youth policy and completing necessary legal arrangements to involve young people effectively in decision-making mechanisms. (i.e. Legislation draft for city councils, governance-based internal trainings)
- **Private Sector**: “Corporate Social Responsibility” works which are being developed should be spread effectively.

SUMMARY

- **International Institutions:** The number of funds allocated to youth works should be increased.
- **NGOs:** Effective lobbying should be done in order for relevant stakeholders to cooperate with each other.
- **Media:** Giving support for the effective dissemination of best practices.