



Newsletter

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Latest survey shows child labour rates continue to fall

The results of the latest Child Labour Survey, conducted during October-December 2006 by the Turkish Statistics Institution with the support of ILO's International Programme on the Elimination of Child Labour (IPEC), have been announced and published. This third survey which is an extension of earlier surveys conducted in 1994 and 1999 shows that the incidence of child labour continues to fall.

According to the results of the three surveys, the proportion of children working (6-17 age group) which was 15.2 per cent in 1994 dropped to 10.3 per cent in 1999 and then to 5.9 per cent in 2006.

In the 6-17 age group 958,000 out of the 16,264,000 children were working in 2006. As for the 6-14 age group, 320,000 children out of a total of 12,478,000 were working. When this figure is compared to data from the 1999 survey, it is noted that the proportion of children in this group who are working dropped from 5.1 per cent to 2.6 per cent.

The recent survey also shows that of all working children 41 per cent are employed in agriculture, 28 per cent in industry, 22 per cent in trade and 9 per cent in services.

1st National Conference of the EU-ILO-MoLSS Project for Eradicating the Worst Forms of Child Labour in Turkey was held

The 1st National Conference of the EU-ILO-MoLSS Project on "Eradicating the Worst Forms of Child Labour in Turkey" was held in İstanbul during March 29- 30, 2007.

Keynote speeches were delivered by Minister of Labour and Social Security Murat Başesgioğlu, Head of the Delegation of the European Commission in Turkey Marc Pierini and Director of ILO-IPEC Michele Jankanish.

Following these speeches ILO-Ankara Director Gülay Aslantepete chaired the panel discussion on the "Roles and Importance of Social Partners in the Eradication of Child Labour". The panel speakers were Tuğrul Kudatgobilik, President of the Confederation of Employer Associations (TİSK); Salih Kılıç, President of the Confederation of Turkish Trade Unions (TÜRK-İŞ); Salim Uslu, President of the

Confederation of Real Trade Unions (HAK-İŞ); and Musa Çam, Secretary General of the Confederation of Progressive Trade Unions (DİSK).

A second panel discussion on the "Governor's Role and Importance in Selected Project Provinces" was chaired by Enis Yeter, Undersecretary of MoLSS. Participating in the panel were Çankırı Governor Ali Haydar Öner; Elazığ Governor Muammer Muşmal; Erzurum Governor Celalettin Güvenç; Kastamonu Governor Mustafa Kara; Ordu Governor Said Vakkas Gözlügöl; Sinop Deputy Governor Yaşar D. Yılmaz; and District Governor Abdullah Ayaz, on behalf of the Governor of Van.



Conference participants show red card to child labour

All of the governors made multimedia presentations which highlighted the project activities in their own provinces as well as services provided to child labourers and their families.

The second day of the conference was devoted to a comprehensive workshop on "Field Implementation of the Project and Sustainability." Murat Ayhan Başaran, Head of MoLSS Child Labour Unit chaired this session.

The conference provided the opportunity to share with the public the preliminary results of the recently conducted Baseline Survey. This comprehensive survey was completed with a sampling size of 99,356 households located in seven selected provinces and covered 94 districts, 103 settlements and 330 villages.

“Critical Approach to Women Entrepreneurship” research results introduced

Last year Prof. Dr. Yıldız Ecevit, from the Department of Sociology at Middle East Technical University, conducted research on women entrepreneurship in Turkey. Commissioned as part of ILO-Ankara’s gender-related activities, this mapping exercise was introduced to social partners and other interested parties in a meeting organized in Ankara on April 25th.

During the meeting, Prof. Dr. Ecevit gave a presentation on the status of women entrepreneurs and the mechanisms and institutions supporting them. In addition, Prof. Dr. Gülay Toksöz chaired the panel discussion on women entrepreneurship experiences and assessments. Nilüfer Dersan of the Southeastern Anatolia Project Entrepreneurship Support Center, Necla Haliloğlu of KOSGEB, Assoc. Prof. Şemsa Özar of Boğaziçi University, Aysun Sayın from the Women



Prof. Ecevit

Entrepreneurship Association (KAGİDER) and Zuhal Arnaz Tataroğlu of the Women Education and Employment Association were the panel speakers who presented their expertise on the issue.

The research report “Critical Approach to Women Entrepreneurship in Turkey” can be accessed from the ILO-Ankara website. (Currently only in Turkish with the English version to follow shortly.)

www.ilo.org/public/turkish/region/eurpro/ankara/publ/kadiringirisim.pdf

Activities of social dialogue project concluded

The social dialogue and informal economy work carried out during the past several years was concluded with a final conference held in Ankara on 22-23 February. This work is part of the follow-up in Turkey to the Resolution on Tripartism and Social Dialogue adopted at the 90th session of the International Labour Conference.

In late 2004, ILO-Geneva experts conducted an assessment of the social dialogue institutions and functioning of social dialogue mechanisms in Turkey. The social partners were asked to select a priority area to pursue through social dialogue. Unregistered employment was selected as the issue

and Çorum and Gaziantep as the pilot provinces. A National Steering Committee comprised of representatives of the Ministry of Labour and Social Security along with worker and employer trade union confederations was formed and the National Action Plan, which initiated the project activities with a rapid assessment of the informal economy in the two provinces, was drafted in early 2005. With technical assistance from ILO-Geneva, numerous meetings and workshops were held in Çorum and Gaziantep to inform and educate the local social partners about the underlying reasons for informality and strategies to move workers from unregistered to registered work.

The activities in Çorum and Gaziantep continued in 2006 within the framework of the EU-funded “Social Dialogue as a Tool to Address the Informal Economy in Turkey” project which brought in Bursa as an additional province where unregistered employment would be tackled. Following the further capacity-building activities in areas such as change communication and good practices in Europe, local action plans which spelled out measures to combat informality on the local level were developed by local action committees formed in the three provinces. This project has made considerable contributions to create awareness on the issue of unregistered employment and using social dialogue mechanisms as a means to address local issues. Moreover, figures show an increased in registered workers in the provinces where the project was implemented.

The high-level final conference of the project, “Together Against Unregistered Work!” brought together provincial, national and international representatives of government, workers and employers involved in project activities to assess the recommendations developed and discuss strategies in moving workers to formal work. Also, representatives of Bulgarian and Romanian social partners participated in the conference and shared their experiences on dealing with the informal economy.

Keynote speakers Minister of Labour and Social Security Murat Başesgioğlu, EU DG Employment, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities representative Jean-Paul Tricart, TİSK Vice-President Şükrü Koçoğlu, TÜRK-İŞ President Salih Kılıç, HAK-İŞ President Salim Uslu and DİSK President Süleyman Çelebi shared their views on unregistered



Project activities in the press: Newspaper headline “Worker and employer trade unions get together for unregistered work”

employment and social dialogue.

In addition to ILO-Ankara Director Gülay Aslantepe, participating from the ILO were the Regional Director for Europe, Friedrich Buttler who made the closing speech of the conference and ILO-Geneva experts Ludek Rychly, Ümit Efendioğlu, Christopher Land-Kazlauskas, Christian Hess and Dimitrina Dimitrova.

All presentations made at the conference, including the final project report prepared by Prof. Jason Heyes from Birmingham University, can be accessed from the ILO-Ankara web site:

www.ilo.org/public/english/region/eurpro/ankara/programme/dialogue-conf.htm

The following social partner representatives were members of National Steering Committee who took part in this project and made valuable contributions:

Directorate General of Labour, MoLLS: Nedret Eroğlu and Ekrem Yıldız

Turkish Employment Organization, İŞKUR: Faruk Şahin and Nuran Ersoy

TİSK – Esra Belen

TÜRK-İŞ – Enis Bağbadioğlu and Hülya Uzuner

HAK-İŞ – Jülide Sarıeroğlu, Muhammet Örtlek and Osman Yıldız

DİSK – Hülya Yeşilgöz

Project partners



NEWS FROM IPEC PROJECTS

The ILO-IPEC supported voluntary parent campaign was completed in March 2007. More than 212,000 people visited the web portal designed to sensitize the general public on child labour. The campaign met the education needs of more than 4000 children. The General Directorate of Social Services and Child Protection (SHÇEK) is planning to continue the campaign the following education year after IPEC support is phased out.



Billboard on a street in Mersin
“Don’t darken their future by giving them money. Stop child labour”

An awareness-raising campaign on child labour was conducted in Mersin, one of the successful provinces in the

context of the joint SHÇEK-ILO project implemented in 13 provinces which refers those children working in streets to education. During the month of February, the Metropolitan Municipality of Mersin provided billboard spaces around the city to display posters developed by the project. The project is being carried out through two community centers under the auspices of the Mersin Governor’s Office. So far, 640 children in Mersin have benefited from the project while the total number of beneficiary children in 13 provinces is over 7,000.

The Metropolitan Municipality of İstanbul organized a national symposium entitled “Children Working and Living on the Streets and Vocational Training as a tool for their Rehabilitation” on 6-7 March 2007. During the symposium, the “IPEC Experience on Provision of Vocational Training to Families of Child Labourers” was presented. The symposium set the platform for more than 200 experts from different disciplines to share information and experience and discuss possibilities of cooperation amongst institutions.

Following the training programme for the volunteers of the Community Volunteers Foundation held at ILO-Ankara premises in January 2007, a workshop was held in the city of Diyarbakır in March. More than 30 volunteer students from Dicle, Yıldız, 19 Mayıs, Harran, Bilkent universities

participated in the workshop where the ILO Global Report on child labour and IPEC activities in Turkey were presented and volunteer activities addressing child labour were discussed.

The “Elimination of Worst Forms of Child Labour through the Joint Initiatives of Employers and Workers” IPEC Action Programme which was carried out in the province of Adana was concluded in March 2007. It was implemented by the ILO, Turkish Confederation of Employer Associations (TİSK) and the Confederation of Turkish Trade Unions (TÜRK-İŞ). To date a total of 360 children and 78 family members were reached, registered and received at least one service including counseling, medical screening and treatment, complementary courses, literacy and after school classes and socio-cultural activities. The Child Labour Bureau established by the programme is fully operational and actively continues its’ work even after phasing out of IPEC contributions. Since the Governor’s Office is providing the physical premises of the bureau free of charge for use by TİSK and TÜRK-İŞ for an initial period of 5 years, both these institutions are taking the necessary steps to ensure sustainability of bureau activities.

Donors visit project site in province of Çankırı

A visit to the “Eradicating the Worst Forms of Child Labour in Turkey” ILO-IPEC project site in Çankırı took place in



Children at the Center in Çankırı

March 2007, with the participation of an ECD team headed by Dr. Holger Schroeder, the Head of the Financial Cooperation, Coordination and Investment Unit of the EC Delegation to Turkey.

At the project center, journalists were provided with the opportunity to talk with children who were benefiting from the project as well as a mother of one of the children.

During the visit, the center was decorated with project banners, posters and flags. The EU Information Stand of the EUIC Ankara was also present to provide both high-level visibility and general information for the press.

The event received media coverage in the press namely the top dailies Hürriyet and Sabah as well as Birgün, Today’s Zaman and the Çankırı local daily, Karatekin. In addition, Reuters and Anatolian News Agencies made feature stories out of the event. Turkish national TV station TRT covered the event both on the TRT1 news and Europe Vision programme of TRT2.

Within the framework of activities of the EU-funded ILO-IPEC project, two local awareness raising seminars, a local media press conference and teacher training programmes were held in three of the project provinces, Erzurum, Çankırı and Sinop during January-March and in November 2006. Around 20 participants from National Steering Committee member organizations in Ankara, high-level MoLSS officials, Child Labour Unit experts, ILO-Technical Assistance Team staff and short-term consultants participated and contributed to these events.

During these events, participants were informed about project activities and the situation of child labour in their province. They were provided with extensive information on IPEC, child labour, gender and education, child labour monitoring and other related topics.

NEWS HEADLINES FROM ILO HEADQUARTERS, GENEVA

- ***New ILO Global Report on Equality at Work 2007 - Despite major progress, workplace discrimination persists and is taking on new forms***
Click: [http://www.ilo.org/global/About the ILO/Media and public information/Press releases/lang--en/WCMS_082596](http://www.ilo.org/global/About%20the%20ILO/Media%20and%20public%20information/Press%20releases/lang--en/WCMS_082596)
- ***World Day for Safety and Health at Work 2007: Amid worldwide events ILO says most accidents at work could be prevented if standards are respected***
Click: [http://www.ilo.org/global/About the ILO/Media and public information/Press releases/lang--en/WCMS_082488](http://www.ilo.org/global/About%20the%20ILO/Media%20and%20public%20information/Press%20releases/lang--en/WCMS_082488)
- ***Regional Meeting adopts Decent Work Agenda in Africa 2007-15: Sets ambitious targets to be achieved by 2015***
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- ***ILO Governing Body concludes 298th Session: Considers ILO budget, labour situation in Myanmar, Belarus and other countries as well as trade and employment policy***
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 - ***Global Employment Trends for Women 2007: ILO study warns on the feminization of working poverty***
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 - ***ILO, UNDP join forces to promote growth for decent jobs***
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 - ***Global Employment Trends 2007: Global unemployment remains at historic high despite strong economic growth; Modest gains in reducing working poverty***
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 - ***Brunei becomes 180th ILO Member State***
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