

## COMMUNICATION ON ENGAGEMENT (COE)

*Reporting Period: From January 2021 to January 2023*

### TO OUR STAKEHOLDERS;

I am pleased to confirm that Experiential Training Center Association Turkey (aka DeM Turkey) supports the principles of the UN Global Compact with respect to human rights, labor, environment, and anti-corruption.

DeM Turkey has been founded by trainers who are working in non formal education field carries on activities on social development, human rights, empowering democracy, and recognition and development of Non-formal Education and Experiential Learning in local, national and international level. The organization is working for the development and dissemination of experiential learning methodologies in education fields.

DeM Turkey aims to create the perception parallel with UNGC's principles in society, with its training programs on migrants, children, women, people with disability and youth rights, environmental responsibility, transparency and accountability.

With this commitment, we express our intent to advance these principles within our sphere of influence, and will make a clear statement of this commitment to our stakeholders and the general public.

Yours Sincerely,



**Mr. Mustafa ERDOGAN**

President of Experiential Training Center Association

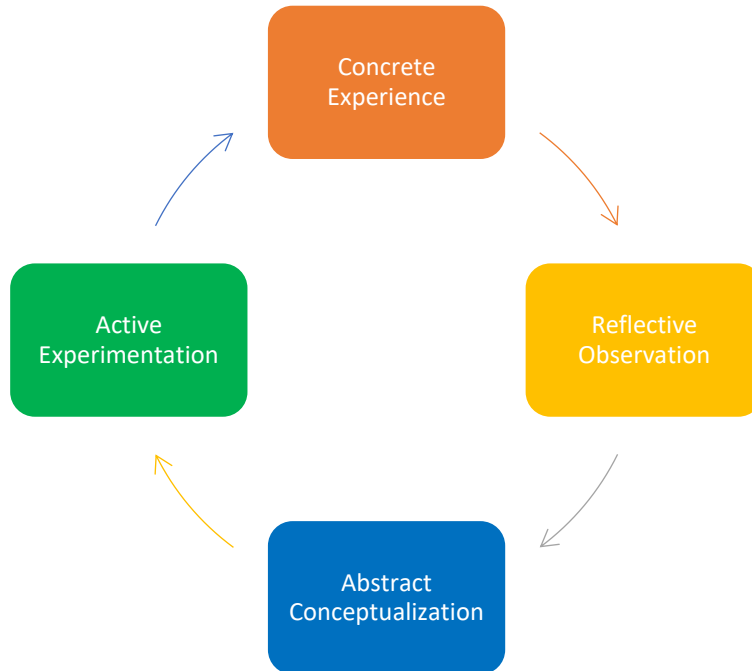
### ABOUT DeM TURKEY

The mission of DeM is develop and promote experiential learning in all areas of education and learning and increasing the recognition and development of Non-Formal Education in local, national and international level and thereby to contribute the individual, professional and social development.

- For achieving our aims and objectives, we carry out our activities on social development, human rights, empowering democracy and recognition and development of experiential learning.
- We deliver trainings;
- We do research and development activities on the field of experiential learning;
- We collaborate with schools, civil society, public bodies, institutions, authorities and private sectors;
- We create and manage projects particularly in education field.

### ABOUT EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING

Experiential learning focuses on the learning process for the individual. Experiential learning requires no teacher and relates solely to the meaning-making process of the individual's direct experience.



According to **David A. Kolb**, an American educational theorist, knowledge is continuously gained through both personal and environmental experiences. He states that in order to gain genuine knowledge from an experience, certain abilities are required:



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- The learner must be willing to be actively involved in the experience;
- The learner must be able to reflect on the experience;
- The learner must possess and use analytical skills to conceptualize the experience; and
- The learner must possess decision-making and problem-solving skills in order to use the new ideas gained from the experience.

## **UN GLOBAL COMPACT STEPS OF DeM TURKEY**

In the scope of the UN 2030 Agenda and Sustainable Development Goals, such actions are taken from DeM Turkey's side to enhance green, digital and inclusive growth within our institutional and methodological capacity.

### Environmental Sustainability:

- The publications are mostly distributed digitally in order to contribute the paper reduction
- Most of the management meetings were set online to reduce the carbon footprints
- It was tried to use public transportation for travel, and road or train transportation was preferred instead of flights.
- The use of paper cups, etc. products in the office were terminated. Flasks and glass cups were used to prevent the consumption of plastic bottles.
- Digital storage methods have been developed to reduce printer usage and printed material consumption.
- Instead of employees coming to the office every day, a hybrid working model was adopted. The office, which has 2 floors, was reduced to a single floor, resulting in energy savings.

### Women Empowerment

- 4 out of 5 board members became women. Efforts were made to contribute to increasing the representation of women in NGOs.
- We supported the participation of young women in the projects, and increased their participation in domestic and abroad projects.

### Anti-Corruption:

- For procedural purchases, each purchase was made by obtaining a price quote. Parachute system started to be used for accounting and financial records.
- Budget monitoring and reporting are done regularly.

### Human Rights:

- DeM puts human rights at the center of its educational content and contributes to the production of rights-based content since its establishment.
- We carried out training activities to strengthen social cohesion between foreign nationals and Turkish youth.
- We carried out a project to support NEET youth access to education and employment.

- We set a partnership and sent 4 youth workers for a training course on human trafficking and refugees
- We carried out a project for seniors to use digital tools and shared the results with our pool of trainers

Regarding the local, national and international level activities of DeM Turkey; we are in cooperation with various foundations, NGOs and networks to promote experiential learning theory as the base of Non-Formal Education Methodology to advocate the right-based activities among formal educators/teachers – non-formal educators/trainers.

According to the last two years' activity reports of DeM Turkey, we have cooperated with such organizations and networks to develop and promote experiential learning to especially contribute to the "SDG 4 - Quality in Education" of the 2030 Agenda.

#### **Local & National Levels Works:**

##### Supportive Trainings for Youth Unit - DeM Youth

DeM has its own Student Clubs named DeM-Marmara at Marmara University and DeM-Medipol at Medipol University in Istanbul. All youth works activities of DeM are executed by these affiliated student clubs. Mainly education faculty students are taking part in these clubs to gain new perspectives and approaches.

DeM has its own Pool of Trainers consisting of 50 trainers working in the field of youth works, formal education, vocational education and adult education. In this way, DeM is bringing the educators of today and educators of the future into the same network and fostering learning from each other. Experiential Learning trainings are held within the integration of these two units in past two years' academic calendars.

##### Çemberiçi Meetings of Experiential Educators Network - DeMGÂH

The main responsibility of this unit is to execute the research and development works on formal, non-formal and vocational education. DeM is collaborating with universities, NGO's in the field of education and educational institutions within R&D activities. With the effect of the pandemic, virtual learning cycles are created to provide open space for the formal and non-formal educators to learn new methodologies and methods from each other. In the first Wednesday of each month in 2021 and 2022, the online meetings are organized where an expert, from the trainers' pool of DeM, runs a workshop and shares their expertise in the field of education.

##### Civil Society Education Platform - STEP

STEP is a platform which founded in 2018 with foundations and NGOs working in the field of education. DeM Turkey is a member of STEP since 2018 and also leading the Secretariat Work

in the Executive Committee. Between 2021 - 2022, the network members are invited to virtual and in-person meetings to identify the rising needs of education field in the post-pandemic era.

#### Gökmen Space & Aviation Training Center - GUHEM

GUHEM is the first interactive space-themed center which aims at raising the awareness of younger generations with research aspirations in high technology fields. GUHEM which is the largest center in Europe and one of the five centers in the world won an award at the European Property Awards in the category of Public Buildings in 2019. DeM Turkey delivered training of trainers and conducted online mentoring meetings in October 2022.

#### Our Cooperation with UNHCR Turkey

In the scope of the “Youth Leadership for Social Cohesion” Program, we aimed to reach 60 young people between 18-30 years old coming from the local community, refugee and immigrant backgrounds; we completed the trainings on Social Cohesion, Active Participation, Interculturality, Volunteering, Project Management, Communication, Experiential Learning, Learning to Learn between November 2021 - February 2022. Then, the youth leaders implemented their micro-projects to contribute the social cohesion in their closest circle. Implemented projects are presented on 14<sup>th</sup> January 2023 with the participation of the program beneficiaries, NGOs and Public bodies’ representatives working in the field of immigration and social integration.

#### Our Cooperation with Directorate General For Lifelong Learning:

As DeM Turkey, we have coordinated the “Dialogue for Non-Formal Education” project funded in the scope of IPA – CIVIL SOCIETY DIALOGUE PROGRAM V in cooperation with organizations from Estonia and Greece. During the implementation process of this project, the scope of our cooperation with the Directorate General For Lifelong Learning was aiming to develop new training modules based on experiential learning focusing on universal values and 8 key competences recognized by European Commission.

In addition, our cooperation continued with DGLL in the European project name “Yes We Can” which is funded by Erasmus+ Program to have a special focus on increasing the quality of ICT trainings for seniors and enhancing the methodological capacity raising to adapt the Freirean approach for the seniors with digital literacy needs. Our cooperation has enriched the long-term training of trainers process and the local implementation to reach more seniors in Turkey.

#### **European and International Level Works:**

According to our international-level activities, we have taken part in numerous EU-funded projects. Between 2021 January – 2023 January and constantly developed international-level activities and expand our advocacy studies at national and transnational levels.

### Our works with International Experiential Learning Network - IELN

DeM Turkey is a founding member of IELN since 2012. IELN brings together institutions and educators working in the field of experiential learning from 12 countries. As the founding member, DeM takes active role to coordinate the cooperation among the trainers and organizations. Since 2021, online task forces are working to provide ideas and actions on IELN Set of Competences on Experiential Learning Trainer, Certification and “Experienta” Platform. Between 29<sup>th</sup> of May - 5<sup>th</sup> of June 2022, we came together with the network members and trainers from 8 countries to deepen the qualification system and set further strategies.

### European Youth Work Convention

On 7-10 December 2020, Germany hosted the 3rd European Youth Work Convention as it held EU Council Presidency and Chairmanship of the Committee of the Ministers of the Council of Europe. Mr. Mustafa Erdoğan, the president of DeM, has taken place in the Turkish delegation of EYWC. Our work to promote European Youth Work Agenda in IELN and National Pool of Trainers to talk about Bonn Process continued in 2021 and 2022.

### CEFE International

The purpose of the CEFE Network is to develop tools, concepts and innovative instruments to overcome current challenges in private sector development across the world. Our first cooperation with CEFE International started with GET YES II project funded by Erasmus+ Program with CEFE Macedonia in cooperation with organizations from Europe, Asia and Africa. On 25-26<sup>th</sup> August 2022, the Global Entrepreneurship Conference of CEFE is held and we have live-streamed the “Educator Role Profile in Experiential Learning” session in CEFE Panorama Café.

### University of Stellenbosch

In 21<sup>st</sup> September 2021, the Social Café is virtually launched by the University of Stellenbosch from South Africa to enhance the experience sharing on community empowerment and upliftment. Mr. Mustafa Erdoğan, the president of DeM, has taken place in one of the panels with the topic of “the Relationship between Social Justice and Experiential Learning in empowering and uplifting communities”.

Below-mentioned projects are developed in the scope of our networking activities within the International Experiential Learning Network, hereby we would like to mention a sustainable approach to develop the institutional and methodological capacities to contribute the social welfare of people from various backgrounds.



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EU PROGRAM	YEAR	NAME OF THE PROJECT	APPLICANT NAME	INVOLVED COUNTRIES
IPA – CIVIL SOCIETY DIALOGUE PROGRAM V	2019-2021	Dialogue For Non-Formal Education	DeM Experiential Training Center Association	Turkey, Estonia, Poland
ERASMUS+ Strategic Partnerships in the field of Adult Education	2019 - 2022	YES WE CAN!	Fundacja Europejski Instytut Outsourcingu	Poland, Turkey, Greece, Czechia
ERASMUS+ Mobility of Youth Workers	2019 - 2022	ADAPT FOR REFUGEES! -Analyze, Design & Adaptation of Tools for Refugees	DeM Experiential Training Center Association	Turkey, United Kingdom, Sweden, N. Macedonia, Greece, Spain
ERASMUS+ Sport Small Collaborative Partnership	2020 - 2022	EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING FOR EDUCATION THROUGH SPORTS	DeM Experiential Training Center Association	Turkey, Bulgaria, N. Macedonia, Slovenia
ERASMUS+ Strategic Partnerships in the field of Youth	2020 - 2022	YOUTH WORKSPACE	MTÜ RÕUGE KAUGTÖÖKESKUS	Estonia, Turkey, Lithuania
ERASMUS+ Capacity Building in the field of Youth	2020-2022	Global Exchange and Training for Youth Employment Services 2 - GET YES 2	CEFE MACEDONIA	N. Macedonia, Turkey, Bulgaria, Philippines, Uganda, Venezuela
ERASMUS+ Strategic Partnership in School Education	2021 - 2023	STORYSILIENCE	London Borough of Tower Hamlets	United Kingdom, Turkey, Slovenia
ERASMUS+ Mobility of Youth Workers	2022 - 2023	Action for Humanity	La Strada	N. Macedonia, Turkey, Greece, Germany, Slovenia, Spain
ERASMUS+	2021-2023	Learning by Doing: Experiential Learning	VisMedNet Associations	Malta, Turkey, Austria, Greece, Poland, Portugal



Strategic Partnership in School Education		in Formal School Education		
ERASMUS+ Mobility of Youth Workers	2019-2022	Prop Up	MTÜ RÕUGE KAUGTÕÕKESKUS	Estonia, Turkey, Iceland, Italy, Lithuania, Poland, Portugal
ERASMUS+ Mobility of Youth Workers	2019-2022	My Purpose Project	KA.NE	Greece, Turkey, Germany, Poland, Cyprus, Slovenia, N. Macedonia, Spain

- “Yes We Can!” project is co-funded by European Commission under Strategic Partnership in Adult Education action to increase the digital literacy of Senior Citizens. The conducted methodology is based on Experiential Learning Theory and Freirean Literacy Approach. In 34 months of cooperation, new Digital Literacy techniques based on the Freirean Literacy approach will be promoted and implemented with senior citizens. 6 Intellectual Outputs and Long-Term Staff Trainings played important role in this project.

Such publications are created as a result of this project;

- Adaptation of Freire Methodology for the ICT Needs (Available in EN, TR, GR, CZ, PL)
- Guide for senior EDUCATORS with the adaptation of Freire Methodology in the ICT Learning (Available in EN, TR, GR, CZ, PL)

- “Dialogue for Non-Formal Education” aims to exchange and cooperation between the civil society organizations in EU and Turkey to contribute to the recognition and development of non-formal education in Turkey. Within this project, we have cooperated with public and civil organizations from Turkey, Estonia and Greece within associate partners as Ministry of National Education in Estonia, Ministry of National Education of Turkey - Directorate General For Lifelong Learning and Abdullah Gül University. This project is co-funded by Central Finance and Contracting Unit under IPA Civil Society Dialogue Platform.

Such publication is created as a result of this project;

- Yaygın Eğitim ve Deneyimsel Öğrenme (available in Turkish)

Additionally, “Experienta” is a gamified, experiential learning-based online learning platform was designed as a part of e-Learning process. Our trainers met on this online platform to test it and to continue with the training and mentoring processes at the same time.



- “ADAPT FOR REFUGEES! - Analyze, Design & Adaptation of Tools for Refugees” project is funded by Turkish National Agency in 2019 and aims to contribute to increasing the creativity and innovation in non-formal education activities that are conducted particularly for the disadvantaged groups as refugees and the development of quality and impact of these activities. Project’s direct target group is 28 youth workers working with refugees and their organizations and implemented in February 2022.
- “Experiential Learning For Education Through Sports” project is funded by European Commission, aims to contribute for the enhancement of education in and through sports based on experiential learning methodology with special focus on skills development. We produced the methodological dimension in deeper perspective together with our partner organizations working in the field of entrepreneurship, disability and sport with people from various backgrounds. International activities such as Training Activity, Tool Fair and International Conference are held in 2021 - 2022.
- “YOUTH WORKSPACE” funded by Estonian National Agency is a strategic cooperation project between Estonia, Lithuania and Turkey, bringing together the world of work and youth to find common ground for their activities through jointly created innovation. This common feature brings young people to the knowledge of flexible working methods, which are increasingly being introduced alongside traditional work arrangements (remote working, co-working centres, short work week, work time slots, etc.). NEETs and other young people with fewer opportunities are a target group for whom decent working practices could be a solution to being involved in society. All the activities are conducted in 2021 - 2022 period.

Such publication is created as a result of this project;

- E-manual for Remote Working for NEET (Available in English)
- “Global Exchange and Training for Youth Employment Services 2 - GET YES 2” funded by The main motivation behind this project is to foster the cooperation, exchange and upgrade of good practices between project countries with a final vision – new quality jobs through creation of entrepreneurship mindset and culture among economic actors in the societies. Project consortium is consisting of NGOs from N. Macedonia, Turkey, Bulgaria, Philippines, Uganda, Venezuela. All transnational activities are conducted between 2021 - 2022 period.
- “STORYSILIENCE” project is targeted at children and young people in formal and non-formal settings to retell stories of resilience during COVID 19 in four locations: London, Cumbria, Turkey and Slovenia. With young people at the helm, we will be working to uncover stories of lesser-heard people in our communities, reinterpreting them into arts performances, and touring the work in cultural institutions (theatres, galleries, libraries, heritage sites...) across the four locations.

Such publication is created as a result of this project;

- StorySilence Toolkit (Available in English)

- “Action for Humanity” is a Training Course funded under Erasmus+ Program Mobility of Youth Workers and coordinated by Open Gate. The Association for Action Against Violence and Trafficking in Human Beings – Open Gate is an association that has been working for 20 years on prevention, education, assistance and support, as well as advocating victims of trafficking and sexual violence. Between 2-12<sup>th</sup> October 2022, 4 youth workers from each partner organization came together to improve participants' awareness of migration advocacy and human trafficking issues.
- “Learning by Doing: Experiential Learning in Formal School Education” project aims to increase the awareness of experiential learning as a non- formal educational practice, to test and implement experiential learning methods derived from non-formal education to formal school education, to improve students' key competences with particular emphasis on critical thinking, learning to learn as well as civic competences, through their participation in experiential learning activities, to improve teachers' skills and enhancing their practical experience through the usage of new pedagogy methods, to transfer knowledge among school teachers with formal educational background and educators specializing in non-formal education.

Such publication is created as an ongoing result of this project;

- Experiential Learning in Formal School Education (Available in English)

- “Prop Up” project is a Training Course funded under Erasmus+ Program Mobility of Youth Workers and coordinated by NGO Association of Estonian Open Youth Centres. The international training course Prop-Up is the learning activity for different specialist who are working with NEET-youth (young people in employment, education and training) or their work is connected with activities with and for young people to support their methodological growth. It's realized in Estonia between 9-16<sup>th</sup> of December 2022.
- “My Purpose Project” is a Training Course funded under Erasmus+ Program Mobility of Youth Workers and coordinated by KA.NE from Greece. The main aim of this training course is to develop the competences of 24 youth workers from 8 countries to help them better support themselves and others to identify and pursue their life purpose and to develop skills to support others to identify their life purpose and unlock their potential. This training course is implemented in Greece between 9-18<sup>th</sup> of December 2022.