

## What means Lifelong Learning in your country?

The state regulates all aspect of education and provides free education until university. It starts from pre-school or pre-primary education. The aim of the pre-school institutions is to ensure the physical and psychological development of children between 36 and 72 months (Resmi Gazete\ Official Newspaper, 08.06. 2004: 25486). Primary and Secondary education are also regulated by the Ministry of Education. There are private schools at all levels but their curricula are subject to the rules and issues outlined and they are subject to inspection by the Ministry. All citizens have to attend eight years compulsory primary education. General, vocational and technical educational institutions are within the framework of secondary education, which includes all types of post-primary schools (Article 26).

In Turkey, five different actors play roles in training and educational activities towards employment:

- Ministry of Education
- Other ministries
- Private educational institutions
- NGOs
- Municipalities

The most active is the Ministry of Education, and the main body within the Ministry which deals with training and education of individuals outside mainstream education is the Directorate of Apprenticeship and Mass Education. There are other Directorates within the Ministry such as Girls' Technical Education and Commerce and Tourism Education also involved in vocational activities. There are courses organised by the Employment and Social Welfare Ministries which aim to coordinate the labour demands of various sectors with training. There are also agriculture and various farming courses organised by the Ministry of Agriculture for mature citizens residing in rural areas. The Tourism Ministry offers courses leading to employment in the tourism sector and the Justice Ministry has courses available for prison inmates with a view to future employment.

The private sector also offers occupational training courses under Law 625, which governs private educational institutions. There are various types of apprenticeships and training available from electricians, plumbing and carpentry to driving.

NGOs and municipalities also offer basic training, mainly for female, but also for male citizens. Some examples from Istanbul are AÇEV (Mother and Child Education Foundation - offering courses for women on childcare, literacy, handcrafts, etc.), Semt Konakları (District Houses – Another foundation offering various courses to women). The municipalities maintain close ties with some of these foundations and NGOs - in some cases playing a direct role in their being established – as they have come to see the importance of migration and its related issues of unemployment, social exclusion and various social problems.