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YOUTH FOR CLIMATE ACTION



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YOUTH FOR CLIMATE ACTION

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YOUTH FOR CLIMATE ACTION

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ABBREVIATIONS

| | |
|--------------|---|
| EU | European Union |
| USA | United States of America |
| ABPRS | Address-Based Population Registration System |
| UN | United Nations |
| UNFCCC | United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change |
| C4C | Change for Climate |
| COP | Conference of Parties |
| COP24 | 24 th Conference of Parties |
| FAO | Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN |
| FES | Friedrich Ebert Foundation |
| YC | Youth Conference |
| ILO | International Labor Organization |
| INDC | Intended Nationally Determined Contribution |
| MIT | Massachusetts Institute of Technology |
| METU | Middle East Technical University |
| NGO | Non-Government Organization |
| TÜİK | Turkey Statistics Institution |
| TÜSES | Turkey Social Economic Political Research Foundation |
| UN | United Nations |
| UNESCO | UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization |
| UNFCCC | UN Framework Convention on Climate Change |
| UNDP-GEF-SGP | UN Development Programme Global Environmental Fund Small Grants Programme |
| UNICEF | UN International Children's Emergency Fund |
| UNITAR | United Nations Institute for Training and Research |
| WEF | World Economic Forum |
| YOUNGO | Children and Youth Constituency to UNFCCC |



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In today's world, there are 1.8 billion young people in the age range of 10-24 years and 90% of these young people live in the developing countries. In Turkey, young population constitutes 16.1% of the total population. Climate change, which is one of the biggest and most complicated problems that humanity has encountered, brings new burdens and problem areas to the social, economic and political lives of the young people.

Young people living in the developing countries are affected by the climate change and its adverse consequences at a higher degree compared to the young people living in the developed countries. Unusual weather events, high temperature, scarcity of water resources, non-hygienic conditions, unfavorable situations in agriculture and food sector, internal conflicts to capture the natural resources threaten the health and safety of the young people. Immigration and conflicts are also caused as a consequence of the instabilities in the climate.

In a survey conducted by World Economic Forum (WEF) every year and participated by approximately 30 thousand young people from around the world, the question "what is the most important problem of the world" was answered by the young participants as "climate change and environmental damage" (48.8%); this is an indication of the importance that the young people attach to the problem. It is important and urgent to ensure the participation of the young people, who will be in executive positions in the future, to the climate policy starting today and generate the necessary representation mechanisms.

Necessity of combatting climate change has developed in environment conferences and summits organized by the United Nations by encompassing the role of the young generations in this struggle. Today, youth groups are included in local, national

and international decision making mechanisms. In order to meet the increasing demands of youth organizations to be included in climate negotiations since 2009 United Nations has expanded the representation status of United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and granted to Non-Government Organizations (NGO) the right to obtain official information in UNFCCC conferences, attend the meetings, request speaking time and receive logistic support. European Commission's "Youth for Climate Action" initiative aims at youth's performing activities for the targets summarized in Paris Agreement. Seeds of the Arab Youth Climate Action were sown in Cairo after UNFCCC 18th Conference of Parties in Doha in 2012 and today it acts to build a generation action to solve the climate change crisis in 16 Arab countries.

Turkey has set itself the target of making contribution to combating climate change within the frame work of "common but differentiated responsibilities" as much as its capacities allow and has defined the national mitigation, adaptation, technology, financing and capacity generation policies. Studies are needed to determine how the young generations in Turkey will be affected by the climate change, which youth groups in urban and rural areas will be harmed in what way, how the young people will be affected in areas such as health, access to natural resources and agriculture. Youth's not being represented in decision making mechanisms decrease the efficiency in planning, developing and implementing climate policies. From this perspective, participation of young generations in decision making mechanisms in many areas from non-government organizations to local administrations, from universities to United Nations (UN) Climate Summits will give the opportunity to structure their future while combating climate change.

1. CLIMATE CHANGE AND YOUTH RELATIONSHIP IN THE WORLD

Even though there is no globally determined adolescence and youth definition, for statistical purposes UN defined people in the range between 10-19 years of age as adolescent and 15-24 years of age as young. Youth is named by taking these two groups together and as of 2018 there are 1.8 billion young people in the range of 10-24 years in the world and 90% of these young people live in developing countries (UN Population Fund, 2015).

According to the Address-Bases Population Registration System (ABPRS) results published by Turkey Statistics Institution (TÜİK) in May 2018 the total population of Turkey as of the end of 2017 is 80 million 810 thousand 525 and the young population in the age range of 15-24 years has become 12 million 983 thousand 97. Young population constitutes 16.1% of the total population. It is unthinkable that a social category having a significant share of the population in the world and in Turkey not to be affected by economic and social problems.

Today, young people are in a position to deal with different problems from unemployment to epidemic, from poverty to lack of education. Climate change, which is one of the biggest and most complicated problems that humanity has encountered, brings new burdens and problem areas to the social, economic and political lives of the young people. Also, they have to put up with the consequences of political and economic decisions, which they did not take part in. In parallel to this, how the young people are affected by different consequences of the climate change? The report of the United Nations titled UN World Youth Report: Youth & Climate Change, 2010 describes in detail how and why the young people are affected by the climate change all over the world.

Young people living in developing countries, especially in Asia and Africa, are affected more by the

climate change and its adverse consequences compared to the young people living in developed countries. Unusual weather events, high temperature, scarcity of water resources, non-hygienic conditions, unfavorable situations in agriculture and food sector, internal conflicts to capture the natural resources threaten the health and safety of the young people. Immigration and conflicts are also caused as a consequence of the instabilities in the climate.

Unusual weather events increase the health threats.

A high number of young people live in places where weather events strike the hardest. Intensifying of unusual weather events in Sub-Saharan Africa where drought risk is high, in coastal areas of South Asia, Central America, Caribbean and Pacific Islands where there is serious danger of flood endangers the health and safety of the young people living in these regions. Climate change is associated with periods of extreme or insufficient precipitation. Floods cause pollution of the waters; drought decreases the water source needed for cleanliness. Illnesses such as cholera, typhoid and diarrhea develop under these conditions.

Limited access to clean water endangers health. One fourth of the world's youth lives in countries where at least two thirds of the world population does not have access to proper sanitation. All these countries are located in Africa, Asia and Oceania. Long periods of drought caused as a result of climate change restricts access to clean water and this leads to consequences such as improper nourishment, water loss and insufficient cleanliness that can be associated with health (UN World Youth Report: Youth & Climate Change, 2010).

High Temperatures

High temperatures may increase the risk of young people to be affected by health risks such as vector borne illnesses. Dengue fever, which is considered to affect a significant portion of the global population by the World Health Organization, is the principal

example (UN World Youth Report: Youth & Climate Change, 2010).

Food Safety

Food safety is presently under the threat of the climate change. This issue; humane expectations about development such as famine, productivity increases the concern. Food availability and access to food is the most basic and necessary condition for a healthy and productive life. According to the World Food Programme, combination of famine and malnourishment is the biggest threat to human health. Climate change will affect food safety in all aspects especially in Africa, Asia, Latin America and Caribbean, where 1 billion young people live (UN World Youth Report: Youth & Climate Change, 2010).

Means of Livelihood

Climate change affects employment in different ways. Rates of unemployment are higher in young people compared to adults. World Employment and Social Outlook: Youth Trends report published by International Labor Organization (ILO) in 2016 calculates youth unemployment as 13.1% for year 2016. ILO's 2017 World Employment and Social Outlook report puts global unemployment rate at 5.7%.

Places where most of the world's youth live are locations where dependency on natural resources and permanent poverty intersect; climate change will affect the youth's means of livelihood and economic stability.

Agriculture is an important and large employment sector, but it is extremely unprotected against damages caused by climate change. Due to unusual weather events such as drought, hit air wave, storm and floods, whose frequency and intensity will increase; agricultural productivity is under the threat of soil degradation, erosion, crop damage or less

harvest in the short term. As long as agriculture remains as the primary employment sector in especially developing countries, climate change will continue to threaten the means of livelihood of the young women and men. Half of the work force is employed in agriculture in the least developed countries. Most of the young population in Africa lives in rural areas and agricultural employment corresponds to 65%. (UN World Youth Report: Youth & Climate Change, 2010). Immigration covers a large place in the responses that people give to climate pressure. Especially in Sub-Sahara the drought going on for the last 30 years causes decrease in agricultural production and immigration. Climate change will decrease production in this region by causing long periods of drought and will threaten the means of livelihood of approximately 60 million young women and men living in the region (UN World Youth Report: Youth & Climate Change, 2010).

On the other hand, increasing of the urban population and urban development reaching its physical boundaries will cause the residential areas to become more expensive and restrict the residence and employment opportunities of the low-income people. This situation will affect the young people living in shanty settlement areas or settlements without infrastructure which are vulnerable against climate change. The reason for this is that these young people have limited access to residence, means of livelihood, food and sanitation. Also, climate change decreases economic safety as well as access to resources. It is expected to have adverse effects on young communities living in Africa and Asia where means of livelihood are dependent on rural means of livelihood and natural resources (UN World Youth Report: Youth & Climate Change, 2010).

WEF explores the trends of the youth people in a survey every year participated by approximately 30 thousand young people from around the world. The question "what is the most important problem of the world" was answered by the young participants as "climate change and environmental damage"

(48.8%); this is an indication of the importance that the young people attach to the problem. It is important and urgent to ensure the participation of the young people, who will be in executive positions in the future, to the climate policy starting today and generate the necessary representation mechanisms.

The thought that nature will be inherited by the youth has generated the judgment that the youth must be interested closely in environment and protection of nature. For this reason, environmental movement is generally identified with youth and it is emphasized that the young people must be the actor of this movement. Instead of repeating the mission based on these premises, it is necessary to investigate the young people's perception manner of the environmental problems, their environmental awareness and concerns.

The youth has developed certain sensitivity on environment and climate change issues by way of education and media. That the political parties fail to develop active policies on issues that would directly affect the lives of the young people, especially environment, can be seen as one of the factors that may explain why the young people keep away from political parties. That there is no independent party program in political parties under the heading of environment and climate change and that the issue of environment is not included in the agenda of youth branches of political parties presently, are the reasons that canalize the young people who want to be active on this issue to environmentalist non-government organizations and environmentalist social movements instead of political parties. Professional and national environment NGO's generate an attraction force for the young people who want to be active on the issue of environment and conduct awareness generation activities for the young people, who are basically students.

When analyzing youth's view on important problems such as environment and climate change, there is no doubt that the starting point must be that youth and

generation concepts cannot be considered apart from the period that each generation lives. From this point of view, to understand today's young generation it is very important to understand the properties of the world that they were born into. All social scientists who work on the concept of generation emphasize that generational differences are related with fast changes (economic, social, technologic). For instance, according to Karl Mannheim whose article published in 1928 became a classical article written on generation, young people of the same age group develop a generation conscience only when they experience events that cause large historical transformations (Mannheim, 1928). In this case, the age group turns into a generation that has a specific identity. Different groups belonging to a generation share a common collection of values even if they have opposing ideas (Neyzi, 2004; Mannheim, 1952). Margaret Mead, who also put her signature on one of the classical works on generation, underlined the fact that in traditional societies where people re-produce the lives of the previous generations (they have the same life styles) there is no generation conflict and asserts that generation conflict starts with modern society. With the modern society, the values of the "old" generations and "young" generations began to conflict. Mead contends that with the transformations experienced after the Second World War, cliffs have formed between the generations instead of conflicts. In Mead's words, "cliffs" have formed between the old generation that could not adapt to the rapidly changing world and the new generation (Mead, 1970). All these ideas about generations make us think that the concept of generation cannot be considered apart from the period of living. Dynamism of the youth has always been considered the most important factor in its being a political factor.

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It has also been considered one of the most favored political actors in Turkey in the attempts to modernize the Ottoman society in the 19th century and also in the building period of the republic (Lüküslü, 2015).

For this reason, if the youth's view on the environment is to be examined, it is certainly necessary to think which generation these young people are members of, in which period they were born and raised in and from which events they were affected by. No generation is homogeneous and have groups that have different tendencies and values (generation units) but despite these differences it is possible to talk about common denominators and general characteristics of the group (generation as actuality). It would not be wrong to say that the young generation, which we are trying to analyze, was born in a period when the global environmental problems and the necessity to combat these global environmental problems have come to the forefront.

Necessity of combating ecologic problems at the global scale has developed in the environment conferences and summits organized by the United Nations by including the role of the young generations in this struggle. Within the framework of United Nations Stockholm Conference on the Human Environment, which is the first important conference convened on the issue of environment in 1972, it was emphasized that governments and societies must spend common effort for the protection and improvement of the environment for all human beings and for the future generations. Article 19 of the Declaration signed at the end of the conference associates environment and education, although it does not attributes a special meaning to the young generations: "Education in environmental matters, for the younger generation as well as adults, giving due consideration to the underprivileged, is essential in order to broaden the basis for an enlightened opinion and responsible conduct by individuals, enterprises and communities in protecting and improving the environment in its full human dimension." (United Nations, 1972).

Sustainable Development concept was first defined in Brundtland Report drawn up in 1987 by World Environment and Development Commission as "Development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs" and began to be used commonly after this date (United Nations, 1987). Brundtland Report, in general, associates elimination of poverty, ensuring equality in the distribution of benefits from natural resources, population control and environmentally friendly technologies directly with the sustainable development principle. This report drawn up by UN World Environment and Development Commission and named as Brundtland Report in honor of Gro Harlem Brundtland, chairwoman of the commission, who was also the youngest and first prime minister of Norway, foresees that the citizens including the young people to be included effectively in the decision making mechanisms of political systems to ensure equality between generations as a strategic goal.

21st principle adopted in UN Rio de Janeiro Environment and Development convened in 1992 emphasizes the positive qualities of the youth by stating "The creativity, ideals and courage of the youth of the world should be mobilized to forge a global partnership in order to achieve sustainable development and ensure a better future for all" and calls for "world youth to assume global responsibility". Among the documents adopted in this conference Agenda 21 has the characteristics of an action plan aimed at implementing "sustainable development" concept that has the goal of establishing balance between development and environment.

Agenda 21 is an action plan aimed at implementing "sustainable development" concept that has the goal of establishing balance between development and environment, which is the statement at the top level of global consensus and political commitments. Section 25 of Agenda 21 deals with the issue of youth

under the heading of Children and Youth in Sustainable Development. Necessity of young people joining the decision making processes all over the world was emphasized.

Agenda 21 requires the governments to take the following measures:

- To implement the procedures to enable young people of both sexes to join the decision making procedures concerning environment at local, national and regional scales, as of 1993.
- To improve the dialog with youth organizations in writing and assessing development problems or environment plans and programs
- Taking into consideration the recommendations of international, regional and local youth conferences and other forums that present perspectives in social and economic development and resource management for inclusion into relevant policies.

In 2002 Johannesburg Sustainable Development Summit five priority issues were determined as Water, Energy, Health, Agriculture and Biologic Diversity, "Children and Youth" were represented together with eight other groups (local people, non-governmental organizations, local governments, workers and unions, business and industry networks, science and technology circles, farmers).

New Delhi (2002) and Doha (2012) Working Groups set the youth as one of the main groups that will participate actively in formulizing and implement the decisions in climate change. 2014 Lima Education and Awareness Declaration included youth again as one of the basic stakeholders in for important participation and access to knowledge in developing effective policies for combating climate change and adaptation to climate change.

Reference is made to different groups for combating climate change in the preamble of Paris Agreement dated 2015, which aims at limiting the global greenhouse gas emissions. "Acknowledging that

climate change is a common concern of humankind, Parties should, when taking action to address climate change, respect, promote and consider their respective obligations on human rights, the right to health, the rights of indigenous peoples, local communities, migrants, children, persons with disabilities and people in vulnerable situations and the right to development, as well as gender equality, empowerment of women and intergenerational equity" (Paris Agreement, 2015).

Sustainable Development Goals:

Sustainable Development Goals, in other words Global Goals, are a set of Goals that the countries have adopted in order to eliminate the poverty, protect the planet and ensure all people to live in peace and welfare until the year 2030. Many of the Goals are directly or indirectly related to youth. Especially, when the climate change Goal is considered, it is seen that reference is made to the role of the youth in certain sub-Goals. Being affected from disasters, inclusion of climate change in education programs and formation of representation mechanisms come to the forefront.

In this context, Goal 13 and its sub-Goals are of special importance.

Goal 13: *Climate Action: Take urgent action on combating climate change and its effects*

13.1.2. Number of persons in 100.000 persons who are affected by, lost or die in disasters.

13.3. Improve education, awareness-raising and human and institutional capacity on climate change mitigation, adaptation, impact reduction and early warning.

13.3.1. Number of countries that integrated their primary, secondary and tertiary education programs mitigation, adaptation, impact reduction and early warning (about climate change).

13.b Promote mechanisms for raising capacity for effective climate change-related planning and management in least developed countries and small island developing States, including focusing on women, youth and local and marginalized communities.

When youth organizations are examined, youth's sensitivity towards environmental problems becomes apparent. Especially on the subject of global climate change, young people established local, national and international organizations, made awareness raising activities and demanded from politicians to take necessary measures urgently for combating global warming. Young people who grow up in an environment created by global climate change began to become conscious in many areas from environmental education to ecologic life, from environmental protests to nature protection and began to say their own words. The generation which we can call the generation of 2000 has been affected from the society and conditions of Turkey as well as, in a more general sense, from the situation and conditions of the world. They have been socialized in a period when the necessity to find "global" solutions to the world's problems, including environment. The Economist magazine, starting from the characteristics of the period a generation lives in, underlines that while the "baby boom" generation that came after the Second World War was born into nuclear discussions, the 2000 generation is a generation that was born into global warming discussions; the generation in Turkey certainly is not growing independently of these events. It is observed that in the last decade young people have taken their positions in the climate combat (Baykan & Lüküslü, 2009).

Conferences and it brings together young people from different parts of the world to build the international youth climate movement. YC, which is organized by the members of the movement, brings together hundreds of youth leaders to increase their capacities, share their experiences and to make cooperation on campaigns and strategies in connection with the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. During the three-day conferences YC prepares the young delegates for the approaching UN Climate Change Summit and strengthens the effectiveness of YOUNGO (Children and Youth constituency to UNFCCC). The tools developed at distributed at YC can later be used by youth delegations in inner-governmental negotiations and also in their own countries. In order to meet the increasing demand of the youth organizations to take part in climate negotiations since 2009, UNFCCC expanded the representation status and granted youth NGO's the right to access official information, participate in meetings, request speaking time and receive logistic support. While approximately 50 countries of the world reserve places for young representatives in climate change negotiations, no youth delegation has been taken part as representative in Turkish delegation since 1995, when the negotiations began. United Nations establishes climate change and youth relationship not only on representation in climate discussions but also on routine activities of the other organizations. UN Joint Framework Initiative on Children, Youth and Climate Change supports 16 inter-governmental units since 2008 for strengthening many youth organizations activities that are in line with combating climate change and for the youth participating in processes for developing policies related with climate change.

1.1. Climate Change and Youth under the Auspices of the United Nations

Youth Conference (YC) has become an important part of youth delegations since 2005. YC convenes one week before the annual UN Climate Change



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UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) supports the development of food safety, climate change educational programs and schools of the farmers at the countryside. Global Environment Fund Small Grants Program (UNDP-GEF-SGP) conducted by United Nations Development Program provides funding for the projects related with combating climate change or adaptation to climate change proposed by youth organizations or non-government organizations working with youth. In recent years, projects such as “Missing Component in Combating Climate Change in Yenice Forests: Woman”, “Sustainable Energy Education” in Turkey were supported by Small Grants Program.

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) supports Climate Change Education for Sustainable Development Program and national climate change education programs, policies and the sources and also youth projects on sustainable life styles in 45 countries with YouthXchange initiative and UNESCO and UN Environment Program.

UN Environment Program is trying to canalize the youth to environmental activities and raise citizens who have environmental awareness by supporting the capacity development, environmental awareness and information exchange with the long-term Tunza Youth Project it conducts. UN Habitat Program supports the groups led by youth to develop programs for combating climate change over Urban Youth Fund and One-Stop Youth Centers. UN International Children's Emergency Fund's (UNICEF) Climate Change Adaptation and Disaster Risk Mitigation teams make contributions to Education for Sustainable Development program. United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) approaches the climate change education with a long-term and strategic approach with the “UNCC:Learn3” program and aims to design national strategies, develop educational materials for official and non-official training programs and increase

global awareness to integrate basic principles of climate change into national curriculum.

1.2. Climate Youth Action in the European Union

European Commission's “Youth for Climate Action” initiative thrives to strengthen young people to assess the renewal spirit summarized in Paris Agreement and shape the future beyond boundaries. European Union (EU) creates a youth programs framework to be dedicated to the climate action. The aim of the European Youth for Climate will be to enlarge these initiatives and to use them for the youth to act for own local societies and climate. European Solidarity Corps, as a new initiative of the European Union, develops possibilities for the young people to work on voluntary basis in the projects in their own countries or abroad that will benefit their own societies and people all over Europe. European Commission has allocated 340 million Euros for European Solidarity Corps to be used in various areas for the years 2018-2020 and more than 40 million Euros of this amount will be reserved to generate voluntariness opportunities related with environment and climate.

In the civil arena, youngsters, especially high school students are beginning to act for climate change. 15-year-old Greta Thunberg living in Stockholm, Sweden, broke the rule of going to school until 16 years of age, which is mandatory in Sweden. Greta Thunberg began to make protest in front of the parliament every day until September 9th, when general and local elections will be held in Sweden. Greta Thunberg's protest made impression all over the world and Greta Thunberg made the following speech at Conference of Parties (COP24) that started on December 2nd in Katowice, Poland, addressing the UN Secretary General António Guterres and the world leaders:

MAKE THE
WORLD GRETA
AGAIN!



"For 25 years, countless number of people stood in front of the buildings where United Nations Climate Conferences were held and requested from our leaders to stop the emissions. However, it is clearly evident that emissions continue to rise. For this reason, I will not ask anything from them. Instead, I will ask something from the media; to treat the crisis as a crisis. I invite people from all over the world to become aware that their leaders failed to do it. Because, we are against an existentialist threat and we have no time to continue with this madness. Rich countries like Sweden must decrease their emissions by at least 15 percent per year in order to meet the goal of keeping global warming at 2 degrees" (Yeşil Gazete, 2018). Greta Thunberg had addressed the global elites in January at World Economic Forum convened in Davos, Switzerland, and asked them to take climate change seriously. Climate actions and climate strikes that began in high schools were attended by 70 thousand students in 270 cities over the world as of February 2019 (The Guardian, 2019).

Outside Europe, youngsters and children are trying to make their governments take more responsibility on climate change through legal ways. In 2015, children in the age range of 8-19 filed a constitutional climate change law suit against United States of America (USA) Federal Government in United States Oregon District Court. Even though the subject of the law suit was that their country USA did not take action against fossil fuels that endanger their future and disrupts the stability of the climate system, 21 plaintiffs wanted to stop the government from benefitting from fossil fuels and developing policies that encourages extraction and use of these energy resources.

1.3. Arab Youth Movement

Seeds of the Arab Youth Climate Action were sown in Cairo during Arab Youth Climate Movement Workshop organized by Arab NGO IndyACT and some other NGO's in Egypt after UNFCCC 18th Conference of Parties in Doha in 2012. 20 young Arab climate leaders were elected from among more than 500 applications for the first action that would struggle with climate change in Middle East and North Africa in local, regional and international arena. Afterwards 16 national branches were formed, including the countries of Syria, Algiers, Bahrain, Egypt, Sudan, Morocco, Tunisia, Mauritania, Libya, Jordan, Palestine, Saudi Arabia and Oman. The movement defines its mission as to create a generation movement to solve the climate change crisis. The movement aims to create this activity by educating the youngsters, inspiring them, mobilizing young climate activists in environment and development activities in the Middle East and North Africa, strengthening young people in local societies, trying to create change at national, regional and international scale, enabling the youngsters both in Conferences of the Parties and also in international climate sessions, taking into consideration justice and sustainability in the decisions to be made, conducting official and unofficial climate and environment education and raising the capacities of local communities to understand the effects of the climate change on their communities and to start taking action.

2. YOUTH POLICY AND CLIMATE CHANGE IN TURKEY

For the purpose of reaching a common understanding, vision, policy and goals, to provide coordination and cooperation in the services of related government bodies and organizations, and non-government organizations and other stakeholders, the National Youth and Sport Policy Document was drawn up by the Ministry of Youth and Sport in 2013; this document will be a guide at the national level in the field of youth and sport. In this document, Policies, Goals, and Stakeholders were specified under the heading of "Health and Environment". Under the heading of environment, "Increasing Awareness" and "Popularization of love of nature" were set forth as two important policies. Activities must be emphasized concerning how the young generations of Turkey will be affected by the climate change, which youth groups will be subjected to harm in rural and urban areas, in what ways the young people will be affected in areas such as health, access to natural resources or agriculture.

Policies

Young people becoming more sensitive to the environment and increasing their awareness.

Goals

- To increase the sensitivity, responsibility and consciousness to the environment with training programs and social responsibility projects aimed at the youth
- To include the environmental consciousness subject in the curriculum at all education stages.
- To encourage the use of environmentally tools and products among youngsters.
- To ensure the youngsters are made aware of the efficient use of energy resources.

- To conduct information providing activities on recycling, to make recycling points more widespread and encourage their use.
- To conduct activities to provide media support on the preparation of programs containing cautionary messages that will facilitate the protection of the environment and raise environmental awareness in young people.
- To provide information to youngsters on all kinds of energy resources (including nuclear energy), especially renewable energy under the light of scientific facts, to create the necessary awareness on the issue of the relation between energy and environment.
- To conduct activities to create and develop environmental awareness in young people by encouraging nature sports.
- To ensure building of environment training parks where the youngsters will be inside the environment that will enable them to spend time in nature and love it.
- To organize activities in youth centers, youth camps and projects aimed at the youth that will enable the youngsters to get to know the nature and to spend time in the nature.
- To increase the number of youth camps and ensure more youngsters benefit from them.
- To encourage scouting, mountaineering, skiing, orienteering, etc. branches.

Stakeholders

Ministry of National Education, Ministry of Youth and Sport, Ministry of Family and Social Services, Ministry Environment and Urbanization, Ministry of Energy and Natural Resources, Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, Radio and Television Board, Universities, Media Organizations, Local Administrations, Non-Government Organizations.

2.1. Climate Strategy and Youth in Turkey

Turkey has prepared a "Climate Change Strategy" covering the period between the years 2010 and 2030 and this strategy has set as a goal of making contribution to combating climate change within the frame work of "common but differentiated responsibilities" as much as its capacities allow, which is one of the main principles of United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, and has defined the national mitigation, adaptation, technology, financing and capacity generation policies. It has also developed different action plans and strategies in climate and related fields. Principle ones are as follows:

- *Turkey Climate Change Strategy 2010-2023*
- *Climate Change Action Plan 2011-2023*
- *Climate Change Adaptation Strategy and Action Plan 2011-2023*
- *Energy Efficiency Strategy Document (2010-2023)*
- *Road Map Document for Climate Change and Related Disasters (2014-2023) Intended Nationally Determined Contribution (INDC) (2015)*

International, national and local strategies are of importance for the participation of young people in climate change policies. In this context, what is understood from participation) According to Rajani (2001) participation covers the following meanings:

- Search for information, form opinion, state ideas
- Take part in activities and processes
- Play different roles such as listening, thinking, researching and talking
- Provide information and be consulted on decision making
- Start ideas, processes, proposals and projects
- Analyze situations and make preferences.

One of the important questions at this point is; how can the young people participate in climate change policy? First of all, they can bring the climate change on the agenda in universities, youth non-government organizations, youth groups, youth assemblies of city councils, National Youth Parliament, youth organizations of political parties and youth centers. They can draw the attention of decision makers, elected persons and assigned persons to climate change. They can make contribution to inclusion of climate change in the curriculum in kindergartens, primary schools, middle schools and high schools, and especially in universities and to making climate change research widespread. They may demand the participation of youth-based non-government organizations in decision making mechanisms at the local, national and international level and demand institutionalization of this. Local administrations must take into consideration in their climate action plans how and to what degree the youngsters will be affected from the climate in the cities, develop policies accordingly and must include young voices. Especially in the recent years, representation of the youth is gaining more importance at the delegation level in the Conference of Parties executed under the roof of the United Nations and Turkey must take rapid and big steps on this issue.



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2.2. Climate Action of the Youth in Civil Society

Initiatives of the youth in the civil society on climate change can be summarized as follows: "Initiative of Youth Participation in Climate Change Policies in Turkey, in short, Youth for Climate, aims to bring together different youth groups and become an independent, collective pressure/lobby group for Turkey to execute a fair, realistic and sustainable climate policy in COP's of critical importance.¹ This initiative held its first meeting in September 2009 in Ankara with the attendance of approximately 30 youngsters. After this meeting, it was decided to establish an initiative and to conduct activities aimed at the COP 15 process in 2009 in Copenhagen (Konak, 2011). Youth for Climate, that was established in June 2009 before the Copenhagen Summit by a group of university students and newly graduates interested in climate policies, attended the Copenhagen Summit and published a daily bulletin. The group actively took part in the establishment of 350 Ankara and in the organization of first 350.org action and also conducted the campaign for the Copenhagen Summit together. The group organized an activity in November 2009 in Kuğulu Park with the title of "Heat the Soup, not the Nature". The group members participated an activity via live connection held in METU (Middle East Technical University) Environmental Engineering Department and gave information about the summit. Also, Youth for Climate prepared a booklet titled "After all, it is the End of the World" about the climate justice and distributed in European Social Forum organized in Istanbul; the group is not presently active (Şahin, 2014).

Climate Simulation Program was held in İzmir and Ankara for bringing up young climate leaders within the Change for Climate (C4C) Project. The program was open to members of non-governmental

organizations and university students under the age of 35; a simulation of the youngsters' participation in United Nations Climate Change negotiations is made. Participation is made into simulations of UNFCCC summits such as "World Climate" and "World Energy" developed by Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) and Climate Interactive and into simulations of inter-sectoral global meetings organized for the reduction of greenhouse gases. They also participate in workshop activities organized on sub-headings of the climate change public opinion such as global warming, carbon footprint, climate justice, low carbon economy and 2100 global temperature projections, with system thought tools.

"Participant Climate Change Action Plan Consultation Meetings" were held in April 2018 with the active participation of both the stakeholders and Kadıköy residents for "Kadıköy Municipality Climate Change Action Plan" to set the goals and to develop the road map. In this context, training was given to 150 volunteering youngsters between the ages of 18-29 on especially on combating climate change and adaptation to climate change in cities. It was aimed to provide information to the young people for the municipality to increase capacity for becoming resistant against the negative effects of climate change. Also, sustainable training program was developed in the project for the children between the ages of 3-6 and awareness training was given to four thousand children attending to kindergarten (Kadıköy Municipality, 2018).

2.3. Is Climate Change a Global Problem for Youth?

First of all, while the young people mention environmental problems and global warming among the most important problems of the world, it is observed that they did not include them in Turkey's problems. Even though questions were not asked to

¹ See <http://www.cevreciyiz.com/haber-detay/2615/iklim-icin-genclik>

go into detail of this issue due to the structure of the research titled "Environment According to Youth: A Global but Interlinear Problem", a few reasons may be stated that may form the basis for this distinction. It can especially be alleged that the "global" emphasis is a very strong one in global warming, youngsters are not able to make a distinction between the global and local under the influence of phenomenon of globalization, the politicians and the media emphasizing that Turkey has very little responsibility in global warming and its effects will not be felt much in Turkey and economic and social problems being much more dominant than environmental problems.

Most of the time, when climate change policies are mentioned what comes to mind is an area that exceeds the power of individual countries, in which only the international community is interested, and countries are trying to combat by negotiating with each other. Undoubtedly, a significant portion of climate policies happen in the international plan. On the other hand, it becomes important to develop national, regional, local climate change policies and to improve the existing ones besides the international negotiations, to make them public and make them open to the participation of citizens, especially young people.

Climate change policies intersects horizontally the citizens' policies of vital importance such as environment, energy, transportation, industry, waste management, residence, agriculture and forestry. In order to draw a participative perspective from climate change policies, it is necessary to ensure participation in the above mentioned policies. Also, when we say youth participation in climate change policies, it must be considered to have the participation of youth in environment, energy, residence, transportation policies and their being effective in voicing their opinions and taking decisions. If we go a little further, if the principle of participation is not observed in these policies, participation in climate change policies will become almost impossible. It cannot be

expected from youngsters who cannot participate intellectually or administratively in the shaping of the city they live in to be involved in policies related with that city's combat with climate change or adaptation to climate change. If more young people are involved actively in the city management mechanisms, then it will be possible to have policies including youngsters in urban climate policies. Similarly, in energy policies, if the opinion/approval of the youth is not present in the policies developed on which fossil or renewable energy resources would be utilized to generate how much energy, then the contribution of the youth will be small in preventing the fossil fuel investments causing climate change, in generating clean and local energy from renewable resources such as wind and solar energy and to emit less greenhouse gases to the atmosphere.

In the majority of the focus group meetings (26 focus group activity attended by 164 youngsters) held within the scope of the research conducted in Istanbul titled "Youngsters Discuss: Participation in Politics, Problems, Solution Proposals", carried out by Turkey Social Economic Political Researches Foundation (TÜSES) and supported by Friedrich Ebert Foundation's (FES) Turkey Representative, environmental problems and especially the issue of climate change were mentioned frequently (Baykan & Lüküslü, 2009: 254). As observed in focus groups, the youngsters are concerned over environmental problems, especially global warming and develop a certain environmental sensitivity in parallel with this. It may be enlightening to examine how the youngsters developed this sensitivity and whether this sensitivity will turn into politization or not. In the politization process voiced in focus groups the importance of family and inner circle is prominent, but in the newly emerging environment politics these two factors may not be effective. It can be said that the young generation has acquired bit this sensitivity and possible politization from different channels (media, internet) and the role models that can be observed in conventional political movements (political figure or spiritual leader) have not yet

emerged in environmental politics. The advantages of this generation in developing environmental consciousness and activity are that it has been made easy for them to access information, that those who want to be effective in the solution of environmental problems have the means to facilitate communication and that they are able to establish their own organizations for solution. Youngsters attending the focus groups did not see the environmental problems and global warming as Turkey's problem, which they assessed among the most important problems of the world and this has come out in the research by itself. In order to assess this issue more closely, researches are needed that generate qualitative and quantitative data. Youngsters have a certain weight in civil society activities in the field of environment. However, they do not take part in decision making mechanisms related with environmental policy. This presents the difficulty of young people's participation in policy generating process. In different youth policy recommendations made on youth, the importance of youth policies is emphasized that will enable the youth to participate in decision making mechanisms (Nemutlu & Kurtaran, 2008). Youngsters deal with the environment issue with its problem dimension and assess the environmental problems on global plan under the influence of climate change discussions.

Especially the young people who conduct activities in non-government organizations in the field of environment complain about the fact that environment issues are placed behind the political and economic agenda of the country and even about its being marginalized. They think that environmental issues are squeezed in various areas, they are not included in the subjects of high politics, even if they are, they are not considered as priority.

2.4. Climate Change and Gender

Among the factors that determine to what degree will the human beings be affected from climate change; social status, gender, poverty, access to resources and control can be mentioned. It has become questionable how men and women respond to climate change, to what extent their opinions are taken, how they are supported and how they contribute to climate change. The fact that women are not represented in decision making mechanisms reduces effectiveness in planning, developing and implementing climate policies.

Women are not in a position to influence the policies, programs and decisions closely related with life in combating climate change and adaptation to climate change.

Climate Change Basic Policy Documents and Social Gender: Turkey's climate policies, strategies, national and local action plans are not sensitive to social gender. There are principles for how the representation of women will be ensured in decision making mechanisms related with climate. Similarly, priorities are not determined how women will access financial mechanisms and technologies in combating climate change. Women are not mentioned in climate change action plans of the cities. There are three exceptions to this situation. Firstly, when developing adaptation policies to climate change, it was foreseen to increase the awareness and capacities of women working in the agricultural sector and related training was planned as a strategic goal. Secondly, there is an awareness raising goal in home energy efficiency with the "Lady Energy" project. As a matter of fact, this goal became an expression of a sexist approach, because it was designed with the premise that women will be responsible for household chores, starting from the traditional gender roles. Finally, the goal of raising awareness of women forest villagers on energy conservation has been included in the Climate Change Action Plan (Talü, 2018).



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