DECEMBER 26, 2019
MEYDAN MEETING

Let's meet at the MEYDAN to talk about disabled people's access to the city, to the location, to education, health, culture and art!

MEYDAN MEETING

meydan

SIVIL TOPLUM SEKTÖRÜ
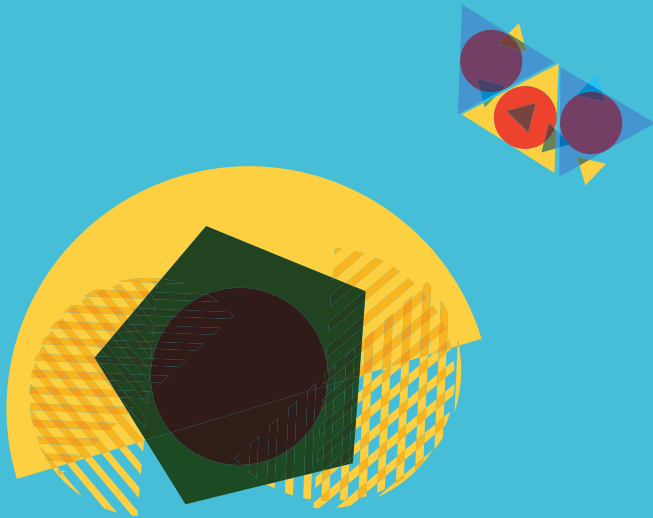SIVIL TOPLUM DESTEK PROGRAMI

CFCU

yada

meydan

INTRO

We gathered in Istanbul on December 26, 2019 at the Meydan, where we talked about the access of people with disabilities to the city, to the location, education, health and culture as part of the Enhancing Civil Dialogue project funded by the European Union and run by YADA Foundation. Thank you once again for your participation and sharing.

Since 2005, YADA Foundation has been producing information about different areas of social life and transforming them into practice. We've been conducting researches on the impact of CSOs on citizens and decision-makers, and work to increase the impact of them on politics and public opinion as well as their decisions and convictions. Through our research and projects, we focus on improving the capacity of CSOs of influencing decisions and strengthening dialogue among themselves and other stakeholders. We aim to create common grounds for CSOs to discuss, exchange information and establish new collaborations.

We aim to create a space where these common grounds can be formed by organizing physical events and Meydan meetings, bringing together the civil society actors in different fields, views and approaches to make these actors visible to each other. In this sense, we aim to make a series of Meydan meetings under different themes and issues. Through these meetings, we want those differences to meet, get to know each other, talk and recognize one and other.

Thank you again for coming together with us at the Meydan meetings to talk about, listen to and to discuss Turkey's issues.

PROGRAM

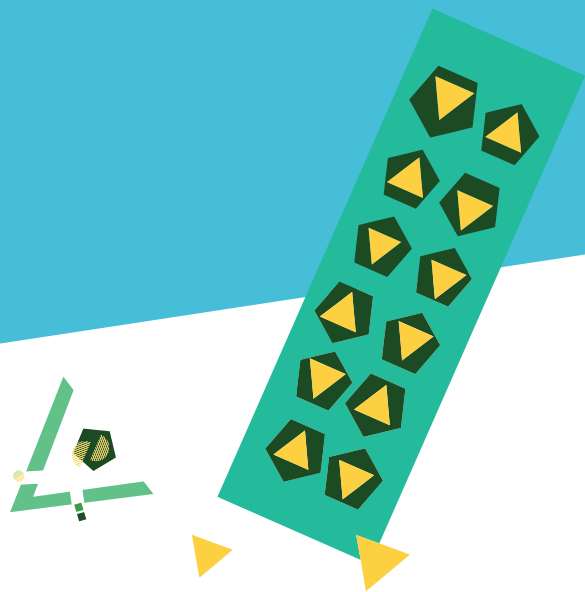09.00- 09.30 Registration

09.30- 09.45 Welcoming

09.45- 10.15 Introduction

10.15- 12.00 Group study and presentation

12.00- 13.00 Lunch

13.00-15.00 Open Meydan

15.30-16.00 Evaluation

OPENING: WELCOME TO MEYDAN

YADA's research points out that the state of being withdrawn is at the root of the ineffectiveness of civil society and this state can be seen as being withdrawn from the theme, the subject matter and / or from the identity. In order to prevent this withdrawal, YADA has developed models such as Civil Pages on online platform and Meydan meetings in physical in order to allow civil society to listen to each other and to negotiate among themselves and other stakeholders. In addition to these models, YADA is conducting a Dialogue Mapping study together with the European Union-funded Enhancing Civil Dialogue Project that started in 2019 and it continues to create dialogue areas for those who stand out, with the mechanisms it create. It opens up spaces for dialogues between civil society-public and non-governmental-private sector as well as non-governmental sector and CSOs. In this context, we came together at the Meydan in Istanbul where we talk about disabled people's access to the city, to the location, to education, health, culture and art.

53 people from 39 institutions from provinces of Adana, Ankara, Antalya, Denizli, Istanbul, Izmir, Mardin, Şanlıurfa and Trabzon, Van have attended the Meydan which has been founded to discuss the disabled people's access to the city, the location, education, health and culture and arts on December 26, 2019. The opening speech was held by Ceylan Özünel from YADA Foundation. Özünel opened the Meydan with the words: "We have handled living together in the city as well as the refugee issue and the relationship between education and local government in different areas from different perspectives. We see that some organizations who gathered together in the Meydan continue the dialogue together and carry out activities, and we try to follow such dialogues in order to understand the impact of our activities. In this Meydan, we are here to talk about the access of disabled people. We have seen in the preparation process of Meydan that the dialogue and cooperation in this area is not an agenda that is usually discussed.

Welcome to this Meydan, where we will talk about the accessibility of people with disabilities through different windows, discuss and explore the possibilities of dialogue together."

FIRST ENCOUNTER AT THE MEYDAN

The Meydan, where access to disabled people to the city, location, education, health and culture and arts was discussed, began with an introductory event. The pros and cons of sitting or circle meeting methods were discussed under the question of whether it is possible for a meeting method to cover all groups of people with disabilities.

Let's meet by sitting	Let's meet by standing
Physically handicapped people may not stand.	Better for communication and interaction.
Hearing impaired people may not communicate verbally or may recognize what's told.	Effective meeting makes people remember the ones they meet.
Visually impaired people cannot make eye contact or perform circle movement.	Physical movement may be good for the ones who come from a long way.
There may be participants with different special needs other than physically disabled people.	Circles can be made by providing support to disabled individuals and / or considering special situations.

As a result of the discussions and voting, it was decided to sit and meet. After the meeting, participants had the opportunity to discuss differences and needs. The participants sat down to introduce themselves by giving their names and institutions, and answered to questions about their dreams and hopes.

EXPERIENCE SHARING: MEETING IN AN OTHER WAY

After the collective meeting, the participants were divided into 5 groups and shared information about each other's institutions and activities. They shared their activities, aims and methods and wrote them on poster papers. The participants then discussed similar or differentiating areas, intersecting and common development areas and exhibited the titles they wrote on poster papers.

The information from all the participant posters creates a table like the one below.

Similarity: Main similarity is to act

The main similarity in the fields of study is to voluntarily act in the face of a problem. Working with disadvantaged or vulnerable groups, carrying out activities aimed at social awareness, working on rights-based and advocacy activities, conducting volunteering / activism-based activities to make the needs of these groups visible are the most similar areas among all groups.

Difference: Difference promotes inclusion

It is seen that the areas in which the institutions want to make an impact in the field of differences are diverse. While some institutions act to bring change among decision-makers, others focus on the needs of target audiences. The target group (young, women, children) or the disability group (hearing, visual, physical disability, etc.) is distinguished as differentiating areas in the way organizations are organized and

structured. The perspective and diversity of these differences promote the provision and inclusiveness.

Intersection: Complementary studies and perspectives

All of the institutions participating in the Meydan intersect in the rights-based approach, and even if they do not work directly on the rights-based approach, they are indirectly related to the field. Even if the studies are carried out with different focuses and perspectives, the studies that are realized constitute different dimensions of a whole and complementary studies are carried out. For instance, although YADA Foundation is not a rights-based CSO working directly in the field of disability, it brings together groups that are active in this field to touch the area in the Meydan, or a representative of an institution operating in disability access presents an intersection example in a different context by handling access through culture and art.

Development Areas: First step is communication and dialogue

Although each institution has its own unique development needs, a culture of openness to cooperation, dialogue and reconciliation are seen as common areas of development. There is a need for building capacity on the importance of impact on decision-making institutions such as the public and a need for strengthening defense activities in this context, as well as methods of engaging with decision makers. Legislation, laws and regulations can be read as fields that can be jointly developed.

OPEN MEYDAN: TALKING ABOUT DIFFERENT ACCESS NEEDS AND OPPORTUNITIES

In the second part of the Meydan, table studies took place to deepen the access issue. In order to discuss the access of people with disabilities to the city, location, education, health and culture and arts, the participants spread to different tables to conduct discussions on health, culture-arts-sports, employment, experience, education, cooperation, access, institutional structure, aid-based and rights-based discussions. Participants took part at the tables according to their interests. In these discussions, where one participant acted as a moderator at each table, the participants identified and discussed the questions in the first round. At each session, the moderators were constant but the participants were able to change positions at the tables, and this allowed the issues deepen.

Table of Culture-Arts-Sports: Are Culture-Arts-Sports rights or luxury?

Human rights are approached with a hierarchy. For this reason, access to culture, art and sports is considered as luxury rather than a right. There is a need to create an organized social demand that the issue to be considered as a right. Finding practical solutions can only be possible with the recognition of the right. Although there are good examples around, issues such as participation, Access and inclusion of technology appear as lacking areas. Providing education on these subjects being rights starting from pre-school period, establishing an organized demand and value awareness together with the employees in this field and making accessible cultural-arts and sports activities sustainable by allocating financial resources can be the actions to be taken in order to create sustainability. Yet, communication studies are a necessity for the solution.

Table of Health: What can be preventive in terms of early diagnosis of disability? How can coordination between institutions be ensured?

Each group of people with disabilities has different needs and the lack of information on these needs causes discrimination and deficiencies on diagnosis, treatment and reporting. For this reason, there is a need to increase the knowledge and background of health care personnel according to disabled groups. One of the most important

structural problems is the slowness of health reporting system as well as the malfunctions on present reporting systems. It is necessary to create databases according to the groups of people with disabilities and to examine their needs and living resources. Storing disaggregated data in service delivery and research issues in a collective and accessible area is one of the solutions for access problems among the health field. Legislative studies in the field of health and informing the public about the existing rights and activities are among the main needs.

Table of Rights Based Discussions: How would the world be if rights were taken without being granted?

An ideal world that is equal and easily accessible to every individual can be the first step in an accessible world. To achieve this, cooperation is one of the main needs. Although there are many CSOs working on human rights, cooperation and organization are insufficient and it is possible to point out prejudices as the basis of this lack of communication. There is a need to cooperate with decision-makers, and a culture of consensus must widespread. Developing a qualified policy is another requirement and establishing a framework for cooperation in the policy development process is seen as a necessity. In order to meet at the minimum common ground, facilitation institutions are needed to establish potential collaborations. Facilitator / conciliator institutions are expected to provide activities such as problem analysis and reporting of solutions, information on entitlement to rights and common activities for lobby needs.

Table of Aid Based Discussions: Where do aids stand in a place where rights-based discussions are at the forefront?

Aid-based activities and rights-based activities are expressed as two opposing fields. Aid activities can be useful in

responding to acute needs, but they can also harm the solution of chronic needs. The needs are continuous and cannot be solved with one or more aids. It also leads to an inequality between the recipient and the grantor, and this may cause exploiting. Supplying aid is an easy action for the grantor, and it can become an addiction for the recipient. When evaluated on the basis of people with disabilities, aid-based work

may prevent disabled people from realizing their capacity. Aid based activities that prevent individuals from realizing their own capacities can lead to agitation, not being able to seek their own rights and to discrimination at the end of the day.

Table of Access: Is a universal design possible?

Access refers to location or urban access, but access to different areas such as justice, knowledge, culture and arts, and sports needs to be discussed. Universal design stands out as the most widely used method and perspective to ensure access in every area. Universal design may not be successful in involving everyone from time to time, and in such cases acute problems can be overcome with reasonable regulation.

Identifying key perspectives, identifying problems and developing inclusive definitions, avoiding the marginalization of differences are the first steps to be

taken to ensure access through universal design. Equality of opportunity and inclusiveness, coexistence, making differences visible, egalitarian cities are based on universal design. It is a necessity to improve the public's information capacity and strengthen accessibility in terms of implementation and supervision of regulations. Conscious-raising and awareness-raising activities can be carried out about access being a fundamental right, and tools can be designed to ensure and monitor these fundamental rights.

Table of Education: How to develop an inclusive education system? How can it be maintained?

Education, which has a fundamental role in solving problems, is inadequate to include individuals from different disability groups. For an inclusive education system, school accessibility (for both disabled students and disabled teachers) needs to be improved. In addition to the positive aspects of inclusion, there are negative aspects such as discrimination, but it

increases the efficiency of education. The lack of orientation of educators and other stakeholders is one of the obstacles to inclusive education. Developing psycho-social support systems and building integrative classes are among the most important suggestions.

Table of Employment: What are the determining factors of the inability of persons with disabilities to gain status in their occupations?

The fact that people with disabilities cannot have a say or decision in the branch they graduated from is based on the fact that the rights-based approach is not fully adopted worldwide. Although it is compulsory to employ disabled employees, due to various factors, people with disabilities are not given jobs according to their qualifications. Failure to work for the disabled people or excessive tolerance towards them at work creates lethargy. In this context, the gaps in the law should be determined with stakeholders from different points of view and legislation regulations should be made. There is a

need to organize public exams according to disabled individuals. It is demanded to open business schools for disabled people.

Table of Corporate structure and capacity: What is the role of civil society in the formation of supra-political institutional structures in the field of the disabled?

CSOs and governments tend to work with organizations that have similar views, which means limited dialogue and limited work space. To prevent this, especially civil society is expected to be in gray areas rather than black and white. It is emphasized that the importance of supporting volunteerism is based on the argument that civil society, which derives its power from the public, will not need political support. Because the gray area is much larger than the black-and-white area, and there are many ways of defending rights before entering into political polarization. It is suggested that lobbying can be emphasized.

There is a need for intermediary institutions that can act as bridges and catalysts between civil society and decision-makers and develop solution-oriented studies and methods. Dependence of the system on individuals, lack of institutionalization and institutional memory cause institutions to have difficulty in policy making. Independent audits are required in institutions. Joint working culture and methods should be developed between volunteers and professionals.

Table of Experience: What are the benefits of volunteers? How can volunteer experience be transferred?

Besides professional experience, there is also an experience on the axis of volunteering. In order for the volunteer to transfer his / her experience to the organization and the experience of the organization to the volunteer, there is a need for interaction and improvement of the perspective of the corporations and organizations. Considering volunteers as stakeholders of the organization can be effective in conveying the experience of volunteering. Awareness studies can be carried out in order to spread volunteerism; an experiential learning cycle can be designed and used more actively in order to convey the benefits of volunteers.

Table of Collaboration: What should be the scope of cooperation?

On the basis of civil society activism, cooperation should be a goal, a goal and a unity of action. Therefore, cooperation is expected to create positive awareness and change. In order to create a change among the field of people with disabilities, people need to participate in a versatile way with the goals / objectives / experiences that will add strength and meaning to the cooperation of institutions.

The perspective of people with disabilities needs to be reevaluated within this cooperation process. In order for different stakeholders such as public, civil society, universities, media, judiciary, politics, TGNA, volunteers to cooperate, methods should be determined and collective steps should be taken with a rights-based approach.

CONCLUSION AND EVALUATION

Since the first Meydan meeting, we have been aiming to hear and speak to each other without compromising, to discuss, to negotiate and to lay the groundwork for possible collaborations. To this end, we endeavor to capture diversity among the participants of the Meydan and to meet everyone with new names, ideas or experiences. In each Meydan, we sit in form of a circle and try different methods of activity. We try to improve ourselves with the feedback and experience of the participants.

In preparation of the Meydan where we talk about the access of people with disabilities to the city, location, education, health, culture and arts, we met with representatives of organizations working with different disability groups within the framework of the theme of disability. As a result of these meetings, we have decided to address the issue of access in all aspects due to the possibility of dialogue and inclusiveness.

We have noticed that organizations working at the area of disability exist with their expertise, yet are sometimes compressed into their expertise. We've found out that

it is not possible to reach a solution with only one institution or law under the title of access for disabled people, which has opened a new learning space for the Meydan team. We observed that there was a shortage of implementation rather than legal regulations on accessibility, and that the lack of supervision has prevented the improvement of the current process. There is a need to implement holistic policies on the subject for a fully accessible city, country or a world, and to work for the establishment of this consciousness among individuals. It is important that non-governmental organizations take steps together for holistic policies. In the Meydan event we saw that they need accessible dialogue areas in order to carry out these activities. As YADA, we will try to improve our experience and work in this direction. In the coming days, we will continue to talk, to listen to, and to negotiate during the Meydan meetings where we will carry out discussions under different themes. Come meet us at the Meydan!

APPENDIX-1: GUEST LIST

Institution	NA
Sixpoints Association of The Blind	Hasan Günday
Sixpoints Foundation of The Blind	Yasemin Erten
EU Presidency	Sinem Bölükbaşı
Association for Monitoring the Justice	Kadri İnce
Ministry of Family, Labour and Social Services İstanbul Disability Unit Sociologist	Emin Demirci
Ministry of Family, Labour and Social Services İstanbul Disability Unit Head	Serdar Aslan
Anatolian Women Education, Culture, Art and Solidarity Association	Zübeyde Ozanözü
Bir Damla Kan Thalassemia Association	İbrahim Dizlek
Bomovu	Burcu Ayan
Çankaya Municipality	Mustafa Ozan Yıldız
Denizli Autism Associaton	Dudu Karaman Dinç
Diyarbakır Hearing Impaired Sports Club Association	Sait Elinc
Diyarbakır Autism Association	Adnan Aydın
Association for the Visually Impaired in Education	Elif Kain
Association for the Visually Impaired in Education	Utku Demiryakan
Disabled Human Rights Association	Ali Fuat Mengüç
Federation of Associations for Barrier Free Living	İslamhan Bayhan
Accessible Film Festival	Emrah Kalan
Accessible Film Festival	Kıvanç Yalçıner
Everything Accessible	Seben Dayı
Everything Accessible	Selim Berke Yarar
Fark Edenler Association	Murat Ürüm
Rights of Patients and Disabled People and Their Relatives	Zühre Şentürk
Havle	Eslem Sena Işın
Istanbul Municipality Center for the Disabled	Gülsüm Şencocak
IETT European Region Transportation Planning Directorate, Engineer	Şükrü Tercan
İSTON A.Ş.	Elif Korkmaz
Hearing Impaired and Families Association	Onur Cantimur
ITU Disabled Students Unit / Barrier-Free Access Association	Çağrı Artan
Center for Spatial Justice	Bahar Bayhan
Association for the Protection of Children Who Need Special Education and Guidance	Ayşe Çelebioğlu
SGDD-Asam	Eda ÇETİN
SGDD-Asam	Fatma Yıldırım
SGDD-Asam	İlhan Güçlü
Siverek Municipality	Aysun Avcikiran
Son Nokta Disabled Youth Sports Club Association	Enis Akdemir
Cerebral Palsy Turkey	Pınar Ferda Yüksel
Tohum Autism Foundation	Betül Selcen Özer
Trabzon Tourism and Entrepreneur Women Association	Betül uzuner
Tüm Federation of Disabled	Demet Bayraktar
Turkey Foundation for the Blind	Ayşegül Özgün
Turkey Tic/Tourette Syndrome Volunteers	Elif Yağmur Kaymaz
Turkey Tic/Tourette Syndrome Volunteers	İpek İnal Kaleli
Van Hearing Impaired Education Youth Culture and Sports Club Association	Aydın Türk
YADA Foundation	Ceylan Özünel
YADA Foundation	Elif Öztürk
YADA Foundation	Rümeysa Çamdereli
YADA Foundation	Sinan Egemen
YADA Foundation	Cihan Koral