Analysis of Governance And Civil Society Subjects in the Progress of 2014-2023 Trakya Region Plan Preparation

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Governance and civil society subjects, which acquired more importance in new ordinary settlement and which takes participation as mutual point, are mentioned in this study. The group which is taken as base in scope of evaluation is "Governance and Civil Society Commission" which is one of 16 specialization commission created by Trakya Development Agency in scope of 2014-2023 Region Plans. The commission's working progress and used methods were analyzed step by step in this study. The members in the commission are consistent of 30 individuals who served in public and civil society establishments in Edirne, Tekirdag and Kirklareli provinces which are named as Trakya Region. Besides, a moderator and a reporter worked actively during the meeting. The members made totally 4 meetings under the presidency of moderator with 2 weeks intervals on 6 circle tables as groups of 5 people in each. The region's vision, SWOT analysis, targets, strategies, activities and actions were determined under the title of governance and civil society as the result of meetings which were made on a democratic base.

Field of Research: Management

1. Introduction:

The notion of governance has entered into public literature especially after 1990s and it has been one of important points in arguments and academic studies as well as the reports published by international organizations (BM, OECD, IMF, and DB). Although the notion was studied intensively, there is not a single description which was agreed by everybody (Sobaci, 2007, p. 220). However civil society, state and private industry can be shown as the actors which must absolutely be in the governance.

Governance is a progress in which there are; a hierarchical relation coordinating different system structures and created by solid positions and conflicting actors with adverse interests; a heterarchical relation instead of vertical labor division (Sobaci, 2007, p. 220) and division of labor (Cope, 1991, p. 447).

In our day, the success of well governance is associated with presence of a governance structure in which public industry, private industry and nongovernmental organizations move together in a participatory and pluralist society structure (Fowler, 1996, p. 25).

2. Literature Review

Superiority of law, participation, accountability, transparency, activity, supervisory, equality and efficiency are general accepted principals of governance (Graham and the others, 2003).

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Nongovernmental organizations' count and power rapidly increased in Turkey in 1990s (Sobaci 2007, p. 230-232). Nongovernmental organizations are considerably few in comparison with Turkey's population: every 780 people in the country have 1 nongovernmental organization (Icduygu and the others, 2011, p. 17). Besides it seems that it is weak on the point of active participation.

Freedom House Report, World Contributors Index, Kaufman and Kraay's World Governance Indicators, Huther and Shah's Results showing Governance quality mention governance and civil society problems in Turkey.

There are deficiencies on updated data belonging to Trakya Region. These can be said in respect of the data acquired: 2.2% of 85.288 associations around Turkey show activity in Trakya Region and Tekirdag is the province where the most of associations locate in the region. Being near to Istanbul province and increasing population can be shown as one of the reasons of this. Most of the associations in the region are in the qualification of club which shows limited activities. It is seem that the most effective and active associations are the ones which have national organization. So the associations which are organized nationally have more members than local associations and they conduct their activities more actively. There are 2041 associations, 11 commerce and industry chamber and 96 craftsmen's associations in Trakya Region. Five commerce chambers in Tekirdag and 3 in each of Edirne and Kirklareli are active (Trakya Development Agency, 2010, p. 83, www.dernekler.gov.tr).

Fields like children rights, women rights, protecting interests of disabled and other disadvantaged groups and creating environmental consciousness are deemed as the most important subjects on which the civil society should move organized and consciously (Trakya Development Agency, 2010, p.138).

3. Data/Methodology/Propositions

"Governance and Civil Society Private Specialization Commission" meeting, which is one of the commissions created within TR21 Trakya Region Plan preparations, was held on the dates of 18-19 February and 11-12 March with 30 participators consisting of the representatives from Tekirdag, Edirne, Kirklareli public institutions and constitutions and civil society establishments.

The members made totally 2 meetings under the presidency of moderator with 2 weeks intervals on 6 circle tables as groups of 5 people in each. As result of the meeting which was held on a democratic base on 18-19 February;

1. Commission's vision was determined;
2. SWOT (strong-weak-opportunity-thread) analysis was made; and
3. "Targets and Strategies" were created in respect of the vision determined.

As result of the meeting on 11-12 March;

1. Activities through the targets and strategies determined on the first meeting were created; and
2. Project and work recommendations to reach targets and strategies were taken (However, these results were not added to the study)

4. Findings/Analysis

4.1. SWOT Analysis Work

The results of SWOT analysis which was made for determining Trakya Region's strong fields, weak fields, opportunity and threads about "governance and civil society" are like this:

Strenghts

1. There are Agenda 21 applications that will provide the management a reconstruction and strengthen it.
2. The participants and social investors in city councils and nongovernmental organizations move with the principal of voluntariness.
3. Nongovernmental organizations can create public opinions.
4. Nongovernmental organizations can organize.
5. Nongovernmental organizations have independent deciding progress in themselves.
6. There is an increase on successful sample applications about governance on nongovernmental organizations, municipalities and public constitutions in comparison with previous years.
7. Nongovernmental organizations stand up for the policies supporting development.

Weaknesses

1. Local Agenda 21's importance in the compliance progress to European Union could not be understood sufficiently.
2. Voluntary participation lack to public-nongovernmental organizations activities.
3. Associations and foundations could not master the regulations sufficiently and they do not track the changes made on regulations continuously.
4. There are not strong cooperation between municipalities, civil society constitutions, public constitutions, universities and private industry.
5. Public-nongovernmental organizations and Private Industry do not have health and continuous communication between each other.
6. Local regulations are not sufficient for nongovernmental organizations and City Councils.
7. City Councils and nongovernmental organizations are in insufficient position in respect of financial source.
8. There are very few or no Professional and qualified personnel working in nongovernmental organizations for a particular fee.
9. Institutional capacities (sources, relations, management structures etc.) are insufficient in nongovernmental organizations and local administrations.
10. There is lack of technical hardware in nongovernmental organizations.
11. There is Nepotism (favoritism) in Public-nongovernmental organizations and Private Industry, and there are very few qualified nongovernmental organizations manager.
12. Lobby capacity of nongovernmental organizations and municipalities is insufficient.
13. Public-nongovernmental organizations and local administrations cannot sufficiently use public communication tools to provide governance.

14. There is not sufficient participation to City Councils because the public do not have enough information about them.

Opportunities

1. There are strong national and international civil society institutions.
2. International contracts were signed.
3. Region's education level is increasing.
4. There is society structure which has respect on freedom.
5. Being near to Istanbul.
6. European Union progress and EU funds.
7. Project supports provided by public institutions and constitutions.
8. There are 3 universities in the region.
9. Nongovernmental organizations are accepted as the most important actor on being a democratic society and there is a positive perspective on them because they move in respect of public's interest.

Threats

1. The understanding of being "we" is not present.
2. There are very bureaucratic applications.
3. There are political pressures and nongovernmental organizations are used as a pressure tool.
4. Unqualified immigration.
5. Culture conflict.
6. Media is not neutral.
7. Problems arising from the regulations.
8. Negative perspective which is organizing in some of public's parts.

4.2. Vision Determination Work

The vision sentence which took the most of the votes was accepted as commission's vision sentence. Below are the vision sentences and vote rates.

Vision 1: Trakya in which there is a clean environment, modern agriculture, strong industry, educated and conscious society and in which urban sprawl is prevented

Vision 2: Providing well governance principals in public, civil society and private sector institutions' center and relations, and creating and strengthening active, strong, solution partner nongovernmental organizations (14 votes)

Vision 3: Principal representation and strong cooperation which is integrated to globalizing world (12 votes)

Vision 4: Strong and equal governance with cooperation of public and nongovernmental organizations (12 votes)

Vision 5: A civil society which participates deciding mechanisms strongly, which properly set its democratic systems, in which public requests are preferred to individual requests, which uses its natural resources actively, which behaves transparently and proactively, which is in healthy relationships with all of its public

institutions and constitutions and in which active governance notion is adopted (12 votes)

Main targets, strategies through targets and activities to realize these strategies in respect on the 2nd vision were created.

4.3. Governance and Civil Society Private Specialization Commission's Targets, Strategies and Activities for 2023

Targets, strategies and activities which are created in respect of the vision are very important for the vision to be successful. Commission determined 4 main targets in this respect. Below are respectively the determined targets, strategies and activities.

4.3.1. First Target and Strategies and Activities through it:

Target 1: "Nongovernmental organizations should be turned into active and principled institutions in which women and the youth take place actively, which educate and develop families and which develops mutually moving culture."

Strategy 1: "Creating a nongovernmental organization which succeeds to reach everybody and which associates with the city's life."

Activities and Actions:

1. It must be caused to keep the communication channels open to set nongovernmental organizations up in taking advantage of each others' information and experiences. In this respect information like all kinds of technical basement, websites, e-mail should be updated and information exchange between nongovernmental organizations should be strengthened.
2. Mutual language should be strengthened and participation should increase by merging the nongovernmental organizations which were founded with same target. Besides, creating strong nongovernmental organizations with this way will cause persistence in nongovernmental organizations.

Strategy 2: "Various education programs should be given to the students which take education in first and middle school and universities" for the activity of nongovernmental organizations.

Activities and Actions:

1. It should be caused to establish Civil Society Research Center in 3 universities in the region (Trakya University, Namik Kemal University, Kirklareli University). Every university should determine academicians and students in charge. It should be caused to establish a supreme board consistent of the members who will be determined by 3 universities' members' votes.
2. For creating civil society consciousness in first and middle schools, a mutual meeting that will cover all schools should be held.
3. Nongovernmental organizations working group should be created in every school (primary and middle schools, high schools and universities in Trakya Region). It should be caused to work in corporation with relevant nongovernmental organizations.

4. Subjects like nongovernmental organizations, social entrepreneurship and governance should be presented to the students as optional subject or certificate program.

Strategy 3: "Workshop studies, town meetings and joint workshops that will prod women and the youth to participate in nongovernmental organizations should be made. It should be caused to create youth and women platforms by bringing women and the youth which are named as disadvantaged group together."

Activities and Actions:

1. It should be caused to establish youth and women communities on town base.
2. Groups like sports, art, socio culture and travel will be created in established Youth's nongovernmental organizations.
3. Groups like sports, art, socio culture and travel will be created in established Women's nongovernmental organizations.
4. The youth communities created in town base will come together and create district based youth communities and these district based youth communities will come together and create province based youth communities. The roof platform consistent of the platforms created as province based will make its activity as Trakya Region Youth Platform.
5. The women communities created in town base will come together and create district based women communities and these district based women communities will come together and create province based women communities. The roof platform consistent of the platforms created as province based will make its activity as Trakya Region Women Platform.

Strategy 4: "Nongovernmental organizations should mention importance of nongovernmental organizations by coming together."

Activities and Actions:

1. Nongovernmental organizations should introduce themselves by local press and publishing organs especially to women and youth with means of making introduction films about nongovernmental organizations.
2. Nongovernmental organizations' activities should be promoted by using written, published and visual tools like television, radio, internet, board, billboard, poster, brochure, newspaper, journal, and bulletin.
3. It must be caused to allocate saloon and meeting places to nongovernmental organizations for multi functional activities.
4. Opportunity should be given nongovernmental organizations' representatives to write columns for giving information to public about their own activity field.

4.3.2. Second Target and Strategies and Activities through it:

Target 2: "Nongovernmental organizations must be in forth as democratic institutions whose opinions and advises are asked, which are strong in respect of institution, finance and human resource, whose national and international fund opportunities can be taken advantage of and whose project producing capacity is high."

Strategy 1: "Updated region nongovernmental organizations list should be created by determining the active nongovernmental organizations in the region through 2013 and the nongovernmental organizations should be working actively."

Activities and Actions:

1. Nongovernmental organizations lists should be caused to create in respect of official data in combination with municipality, prefecture, City Council and nongovernmental organizations. The created lists should be updated twice a year as once in 6 months.
2. All nongovernmental organizations in the region will create web and social media pages and information will be updated continuously.
3. It should be caused to present nongovernmental organizations' annual activities as reports and share with the public.

Strategy 2: "Nongovernmental organizations should be guest to and make guests the other national and international nongovernmental organizations and institutions which will be well sample to the region."

Activities and Actions:

1. Nongovernmental organizations in the region should be in corporation with the other nongovernmental organizations that carry the same target with them; they should visit each other, make information exchange and the awareness should be spread.
2. Nongovernmental organizations in the region should be in corporation with the other international nongovernmental organizations that carry the same target with them; they should visit each other, nice samples should be introduced and information exchange should be provided.
3. Nongovernmental organizations' representatives should make introduction of programs and projects etc., which give national and international fund opportunity, by bringing together twice a year.

Strategy 3: "Manager, personnel and members in the nongovernmental organizations should be made take advantage of regular education for them to increase their knowledge."

Activities and Actions:

1. Educations should be given to nongovernmental organizations' managers about the subjects like individual development, regulations, social responsibility, human relations, using media and communication right, public interest, managing financial sources, project making and taking advantage of funds.
2. Personnel working in the nongovernmental organizations will be caused to take advantage of pure educations like branding, entrepreneurship, project preparing, leadership, innovation and regulation information.
3. Members showing volunteer activity in the nongovernmental organizations will be caused to take advantage of pure educations like social entrepreneurship, project preparing, innovation, and regulation information and association culture.
4. In order to increase the knowledge of the qualified nongovernmental organizations personnel who will be chosen with written and verbal exam to be made by EU

Coordination Centers of Province Governorships, they will be caused to take education abroad for a particular time (6 months – 1 year) and participate in activities.

Strategy 4: "Nongovernmental organizations should be caused to participate in deciding progresses actively, their defending capacities should be developed, their opinions should be taken on main law works and on terror's solution ad working groups should be created in these fields."

Activities and Actions:

1. Civil networks and platforms should be supported.
2. Information and experience should be created about deciding progresses in Turkey and ways and methods to affect these progresses and this information should be made available for the nongovernmental organizations in the region.
3. Nongovernmental organizations working on policy developing field should be supported.
4. Working groups should be created with nongovernmental organizations working on the subjects like main law reform's creation and terror's solution in the region, and their opinions and advises should be taken and supported.

4.3.3. Third Target and Strategies and Activities through it:

Target 3: "A structure (platform) which can communicate easily with society, public and private industry and which is active on participator and cooperation networks and which has a high interaction should be created."

Strategy 1: "Participation of public to nongovernmental organizations should be caused to increase."

Activities and Actions:

1. Making awareness creation seminars about the principals of propriety and participatory.
2. Natural and corporate bodies who think that their opinions are not taken or they are not taken into attention in the progress of providing participatory should be informed by writing in the shortest time about the reasons of this.
3. Internet basements should be strengthened and web pages should be updated for opinion exchange between nongovernmental organizations in electronic environment to be common.
4. Information about nongovernmental organizations should be supplied and this information should be made as a booklet and they should be caused to be updated annually.

Strategy 2: "Nongovernmental organizations, public and private industry representatives, shortly NPP representatives, will be brought together and categories on subjects like education, health, human rights, women rights and disabled rights will be determined. Representatives will take place in one of these categories according to their fields."

Activities and Actions:

1. NPP representatives will be brought together and targets will be explained to them and educations will be given.

2. Supreme platform will be created by bringing NPPs in the relevant categories together. This platform and integrated works should be promoted and supported. Education and supervision of created supreme platforms should be conducted every year regularly.

3. Introduction should be made in the region by using NPPs' communication channels (written, published, visual media) and participation of the public to NPPs from should be caused to be increased.

4. Workshops should be established in the leadership of managers to provide Public-Nongovernmental Organizations-Private Industry culture.

Strategy 3: "Private Industry and Nongovernmental Organizations cooperation should be provided."

Activities and Actions:

1. Private industry corporations should be promoted to review their social responsibility understandings and works and to work in cooperation with nongovernmental organizations.

2. Companies should determine policies that will promote their employees to be volunteers in nongovernmental organizations.

3. For the private industry to provide financial support to nongovernmental organizations, tax laws should be brought into a structure that will promote donatorship and social responsibility and social entrepreneurship.

4.4.4. Forth Target and Strategies and Activities through it:

Target 4: "Local administrations should conduct their activities as units that are strong integrated with the public and performing governance principles."

Strategy 1: "The public should be in communication with local administrations and the participation should be provided."

Activities and Actions:

1. Informing meetings about Local Agenda 21 should be made and its importance should be marked, the public should be informed about the subject and be promoted to participate in the activities.

2. All local administrations in the region should create their websites; the created websites should be opened to public participation, comment and point system.

3. The public in the region should be informed by local administration units directly or by using means like post, fax or electronic mail.

4. The local administrations should announce their public meeting dates from their websites, building announcement boards or local newspapers.

5. Meetings should be held in order to promote women and the youth's participation to all meetings made by local administrations; women and the youth and relevant nongovernmental organizations should be contacted and educations should be made.

6. Decisions, meeting results and protocols taken in meetings made by local administrations should be shared with the public.

Strategy 2: "Local administrations should make coordinated works with other countries' local administrations, realize mutual projects and develop international governance."

Activities and Actions:

1. EU Donation supports should be taken advantage of to make mutual projects with other countries' local administrations.
2. Mutual working visits should be made with other countries' local administrations.

Strategy 3: "Local administrations should take democracy and governance as principal; they should promote the workers to take active role in activities, meeting and works."

Activities and Actions:

1. Decision organs of local administrations in the region should not create political pressure on the workers. Directors should decide on the subjects like promotion and duty change according to performance and worthiness principals.
2. In-service education should be given to develop personnel's communication with the public.

5. Conclusions and Limitation

It will be an applicable application to review the policies of town, district and province municipalities and all public institutions in Trakya region by focusing on "Governance". Unfortunately, there is no information about the region's governance map in Trakya region. Activities about the governance are quite limited. The public's dialogue with public institutions and information exchange are quite deficient. It must not be forgotten that governance is not only a written notion but a practical notion that must be actively used in application too. All public institutions, primarily the municipalities should completely provide the principles of participatory, transparency and equality which are the main principals of governance. In this point, it is important that they review their regulations, activities and websites in respect of governance's main principals and take the necessary steps.

About the governance, it can be said that the basement is set with the regulations made lately and some developments were made. However, there are still deficiencies. Social agreement could not be made and there is not a mechanism to examine the operation of the system. The subjects should not only be protected in theory but also be protected in practice. Channels that promote and allow participating in management must be opened, mind change that will support governance must be settled, e-state applications should be common, it must be analyzed how much the main principles of governance realize in practice, supervision must be made and penalty and award system must be common.

Unfortunately, there is not a statistical work about governance in Turkey. Made researches are quite few. Civil society subject is a subject in which the data are held statistically. However, these statistics are not on sufficient level too. There are problems on access point to nongovernmental organization data other than data

actuality, province based distribution, active membership, association and foundation.

It is seem, when the working plan progress of the region which revealed by working group tables in commission meeting, that advises on especially "civil society" subject were made during commission works. It may be because the governance notion is new, is qualified as an abstract notion and is not being understood by most of the society yet. One another reason is that the governance is seem like a subject to be mostly mentioned by a central will. Likewise, serious critics are made on law and regulations point and it is stated that central administration has the authorization and responsibility to change this.

Primarily public, nongovernmental organizations and private industry should provide governance in themselves for an active governance to be provided in the region. Serious corporate revisions must be made for this.

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