

ISTANBUL BILGI UNIVERSITY

CENTER FOR CIVIL SOCIETY STUDIES



Istanbul Bilgi University is a “city university” that plays an active role in solving these problems and opening its doors to the “outside.” Our university is highly in tune with and woven into the community and sensitive to its constituents. When getting involved in these social problems, assessing them and trying to find solutions to them, it strives to form strong bonds with every segment of society and with civil society organizations in every area.

Accordingly, seeing them as an inseparable component of its mission, Istanbul Bilgi University has institutionalized its support of them by establishing the Center for Civil Society Studies (CCSS). The center was designed as a place where civil society organizations and individual citizens can get together to plan and manage their activities, and to improve their overall ability to participate in them.

Center for Civil Society Studies has been working with civil society stakeholders since 2003 under Istanbul Bilgi University. Its focus has been on right based issues and grass roots NGOs. Its expertise lies in capacity building and networking.

The staff also actively take part in the projects that the Units have been running with outside university civic partners. In general, the thematic projects are hosted accordingly by the Units and focus on networking and capacity building of grassroots and right based NGOs/citizen initiatives that are strictly non-profit in their nature.

A BRIEF HISTORY

Istanbul Bilgi University Center for Civil Society Studies (CCSS) aims at contributing to civil society development in Turkey and in the larger world. It conducts academic research into the social, economic and cultural dimensions of this development. The CCSS also holds workshops, educates, publishes, and documents. The center strives to diligently collaborate with official, private and civil society organizations (CCOs) and to actively participate in the accumulation of knowledge related to private and civil society organizations.

The CCSS was set up for the purpose of placing all of the work it had been coordinating since 2003 under a single umbrella. Subsequent to the application made by the Office of the Rector of Istanbul Bilgi University to the Higher Education Board, the Center was officially established in 2008, when the Center's by-laws were published on 25 September 2008 in issue no. 27008 of *Official Gazette*.

The Youth Studies Unit conducts academic research and youth studies in the field for the purpose of making the needs of youth and youth studies in Turkey more visible, and coming up with recommendations as to how a more democratic, essentially participatory, youth policy can be made. The unit engages in various activities, including research, network formation, modeling and advocacy programs.

The purpose of the Child Studies Unit is to get child rights enacted into law in Turkey and to promote the formation of holistic, rights-based child policies. The unit carries out work in the areas of empowering children, teachers and CSOs working with children, and enabling children's voices to be heard and included in decision-making mechanisms so that awareness of children's rights is expanded and that they are protected.