Chapter 4
Multiculturalism and Multi-Level Governance in Turkish Local Governments

Namık Kemal Öztürk
Muğla Sıtkı Koçman University, Turkey

Ozge Hames
Mugla Sitki Kocman University, Turkey

ABSTRACT

The term multiculturalism is a new term that was introduced to the social sciences literature, describing the fact that people living within the same society may differ from one another in terms of such notions as ethnical origin, color, language, religion, culture, and denomination. Multiculturalism policies have probably had more of an opportunity for application in the local governments compared to the central executive units. The local governments, whose powers and responsibilities have increased in the ever-changing and ever-growing public government manners, have transformed into base platforms where these policies are easily applied. In this trend of progress, with the proliferation of participatory democracy and good governance principles, the concept of multi-level governance has become an issue, entirely matching up with the services and functions of the local governments. As part of the legislative regulations in parallel with the EU harmonization process, Turkey has attempted to put into practice the multi-level governance principle on the local governments.

INTRODUCTION

Individuals having different values and identities such as religion, language, ethnicity, color, culture and sect live almost in all states today. This situation is so widespread that there is nearly no state left having a completely homogeneous nation. As a result of colonialism, globalization, internal and external migrations which took place due to various motives, it became a necessity for people having different identities to live together. Countries gradually tended towards different implementations changing in time and developing along with democratic values to be able to manage their increasing multicultural structures and fulfill the needs of these people. In the sequel of the failure of policies based on assimilation of differences, the concept of multiculturality and multicultural politics in parallel to pluralism is included in the literature of social sciences in 20th century. While multiculturalism signifies the situation where people living together in a society differ from each other in terms of factors like ethnicity, color, language, religion, culture and sect, multicultural politics describes the situation where it is accepted as a state policy to enable all elements composing social structure in a country live together in an egalitarian and free environment without being regarded as minority or majority, without being deemed as marginals or others and where differences are regarded as social wealth of the country and supported.

Canada is the first country to implement multicultural policies. The thought that everybody comes from an ethnic origin, all cultures deserve respect and survival so they should be supported by state underlies these policies which were carried into effect in 1971. Multicultural policies which were manifested in Canada in relation to increased democratic participation and establishment of a social order where people with different characteristics would live equally and together set an example to other countries in the later years and they were adopted by many European countries along with USA and Australia. All of these states tried to implement multicultural policies by adhering to democratic values, providing equality of opportunity to all cultures and give them an opportunity to develop.

In 1990's the concept of Multi-Level Governance came into use as a new governance mechanism in order to actualize joint interests and enable the differences to be managed in peace and tranquility at phases of determination and implementation of multiculturalist policies. Multi-Level Governance aims to determine and distribute social and financial risks during policy-making processes, balance conflicting interest of parties and spread benefits throughout the system (Dede, 2011:4).

Related Content

Community Broadband Networks and the Opportunity for E-Government Services
Idongesit Williams (2019). *Advanced Methodologies and Technologies in Government and Society (pp. 173-185).*
www.irma-international.org/chapter/community-broadband-networks-and-the-opportunity-for-e-government-services/215861

Reputation and Legitimacy: A Comparative View of Three Municipal Enterprises in Finland
Päivikki Kuoppakangas, Kati Suomiand Khim Horton (2013). *International Journal of Public and Private Healthcare Management and Economics (pp. 1-17).*
www.irma-international.org/article/reputation-and-legitimacy/96885

Quality and Acceptance of Crowdsourced Translation of Web Content
Ajax Persaudand Steven O'Brien (2019). *Crowdsourcing: Concepts, Methodologies, Tools, and Applications (pp. 881-897).*
www.irma-international.org/chapter/quality-and-acceptance-of-crowdsourced-translation-of-web-content/226770

A Synthesised Stage Model for Collaborative Public Service Platforms
Aulia Zulfa, Bram Klievink, Mark de Reuverand Marijn Janssen (2016). *International Journal of Public Administration in the Digital Age (pp. 10-27).*
www.irma-international.org/article/a-synthesised-stage-model-for-collaborative-public-service-platforms/161612

Use of Robots to Help Students With Diverse Needs: Concepts, Opportunities, and Challenges
Aye Tuna (2021). *Handbook of Research on Policies, Protocols, and Practices for Social Work in the Digital World (pp. 74-90).*
www.irma-international.org/chapter/use-of-robots-to-help-students-with-diverse-needs/279538