

# Impact Assessment Studies of LIFE Project

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**Abstract:** This paper will give an overview of Libraries for Everyone (LIFE) Project, as well as the impact planning and assessment studies of LIFE. LIFE is a collaborative effort by Hacettepe Technopolis-Technology Transfer Center and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation's Global Libraries Initiative, currently implemented at 170 municipal libraries located in various provinces and districts of Turkey. The Project is implemented also in collaboration with various other organizations. Hacettepe University Alumni Association, Informatics Association of Turkey, Near East University, Turkish Association of Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises, Self-Employed and Administrators, and Turkish Librarians' Association are among the Project's stakeholders. As the oldest non-governmental organization in the country in the field of librarianship, Turkish Librarians' Association will coordinate and sustain the project activities after the Project is over. Therefore, the role of the Turkish Librarians' Association is that of a legacy partner. This presentation will also explain the responsibilities of Turkish Librarians' Association in terms of impact assessment studies beyond the Project.

The LIFE Project is the continuation of a pilot project called Librar-e Turkey, the aim of which was to achieve significant improvements in terms of the information and communication technologies infrastructure and the computer literacy levels of both the staff and the users of the public libraries. The pilot project libraries were various in size and based in locations that statistically represented the seven geographic regions of Turkey. As a replication of the team structure of Librar-e Turkey, LIFE consists of four working groups (advocacy, ICT, training, and impact assessment working groups) that have different responsibilities. The main duties of the impact assessment working group are installing an assessment system that can measure impact and specify success indicators in the light of the experiences of other Global Libraries projects; collecting, analyzing, evaluating, and reporting data; measuring the impact of the Project on target population; displaying the impacts of the Project to obtain support from existing and potential partners and related institutions for sustainability; and developing a monitoring, measurement, and evaluation strategy for the Project.

This presentation will focus on describing the impact planning and assessment framework of the LIFE Project. The framework consists of different phases (baseline study, training and monitoring activities, and impact assessment studies). Each phase's problems and challenges will be elaborated in the presentation. The presentation will also give information about the activities that will outlive the grant period.

**Keywords:** Libraries for Everyone Project, LIFE, municipal libraries in Turkey, local administration libraries, impact assessment studies, impact planning, roadmap for impact assessment