Organisational Development of ‘Civil Society’ in Turkey with an Attempt at an Original Categorisation

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Abstract- One of the significant concepts widely discussed in post-1980 Turkey is "civil society". Civil society, as an increasingly widely used concept in Turkish intellectual socio-political discourse has been favored by a large body of intellectuals ranging from the left to the right, in general, and more particularly, from the segments of society having visibly identified with the Islamic world-view to those apparently preferring to be identified with secular ideology and/or governance. Differently put, almost all the prominent social and/or political groups in Turkey today are sympathetic to the concept, in particular within the context of a more recent official re-thrust for Turkey’s entering into the EU as a full member country. Thus, one can easily observe that the revitalization of civil society has not been restricted to just a rising intellectual interest but has spread throughout different segments of society through the blossoming activity of numerous associations. Accordingly, this paper will mainly concern itself with the development of civil society in modern Turkey; its focus being on the growing institutionalization, and in that context, its original suggestion being to propose a somewhat novel categorization.

Keywords- civil society Turkish civil society organizations their listing with categorization.

Remark: The full paper may be found in www.inrit2011.com or www.ijcim.th.org.