

## AGEING

There are answers given below to guiding questions on “Ageing.” This is a frame work what kind of studies has been done so far for older people in Turkey and what kind of rights they have.

There are a lot of steps have been taken to ensure a quality life for older persons and adapted to their needs, suited to their preferences and motivations. First of all, there are free literacy courses provided by The Ministry of National Education for illiterate older persons in local schools especially in Southeastern Anatolia of Turkey. The rate of illiterate people is very low in our country generally respect to people living in southeastern Anatolia of Turkey. This is a state policy continuing for years to decrease the rate of illiterate citizens in our country. It is guaranteed in legal framework.

Some universities have Life-Long Learning Centers. The Minister of Family and Labor and Social Services provide seminars called “Elderly Welfare Seminars” in some big cities. There are “Public Education Centers” in every city of Turkey. A lot of training courses are given in these centers to people included older persons. Also, some municipalities open education centers and give similar courses. İSMEK is the biggest one of these centers and has given training more than one million people in İstanbul so far. Art class, cooking class, sewing class, the class of playing amusical instrument are examples of these courses.

Older persons have a right for free visiting museums. +65 age people also have a right for free public transportation and this right enables them to go to museums easily.

On the other hand, there are some courses, workshops and post graduation programmes might set the age limit. Also, there are some challenges faced by older persons accessing to education and training opportunities in smaller cities and towns in Turkey.

In the last decade, the health system has been improved so much for older persons. There is priority in health services for them. When they go to state hospitals they are treated firstly even they have no appointment. They have free ambulance service and health care service. There is health service in home for disabled people and economic support for person who lives and cares with them. The Ministry of Family, Labor and Social Services has a department called as “Directorate of Disabled and Elder Services” which directs and controls services provided to old people. There is an application called “e-nabız” including blood analysis or x-ray results for all citizen especially elder people can take advantage of it. Government has 5.145.000.000 TL budget for old citizens.

Government has a quickly accessible call service (183) for reporting the violation of elderly rights. There are also consulting bureaus in local municipalities to get informed about elders’ rights. They have voting right at home. They have 50% discount in intercity railroad and seaway transportation. They have right to live in nursing houses. Inspectors appointed by the government control nursing houses and other institutions from time to time to give a quality service to older people. There is an online platform called “CİMER (Presidential Communication Center)” provides online feedback about public services. They might use this platform and make any complaint if they have about public services.