

Promotion of Civil Society Dialogue between EU and Turkey Project

Finding New Ways To Support Remote Rural Communities

Meeting the Challenge

The Coruh Valley, in Erzurum Province in Turkey's north east, supports more than 60 small communities, with the local population eking out a precarious living from small scale animal husbandries, beekeeping and orchards. The challenge for these

communities is twofold: dealing with their remote, mountainous location, which makes access to markets difficult; and finding innovative ways to add value to the range of agricultural goods they are able to produce. The local Atatürk University has a long-established Vocational School, however, it is only since that School linked up with a similar department in Padova

University in Italy, that a dialogue began to help search for new ways to support the people in these remote communities. This dialogue has resulted in the implementation of a needs assessment and subsequent design of tailored vocational courses, as well as the identification of models for sustainable development that are most suited to the local conditions.

The Benefits

The remote communities in the region are increasing their capacities for adding value to their harvests and generating new forms of income. In addition, traditional products are beginning to benefit from applying the EU practice of certifying products from designated areas. This not only makes the products from the Coruh Valley more marketable, but also contributes to conserving traditional know-how.

The dialogue between the Turkish and Italian Universities has also helped to demonstrate to the local authorities in Erzurum the benefits of applying university analysis in local development planning.

Partners

- ▶ Italy, College of Agriculture University of Padova
- ▶ Turkey, Çukurova University Faculty of Agriculture

The Project Facts

A total budget of 318,000 Euros

- ▶ 18 months project ending in November 2009
- ▶ Activities include supporting research in the local rural economy, study tour to Padova, networking activities and establishment of a dedicated web portal, design and delivery of pilot vocational courses (eg. In trout farming and beekeeping), and review of EU certification practices for products from designated regions.

'The inputs from our colleagues in Padova have brought a new dimension to our vocational training programmes'

Dr. Ayhan Yıldırım, Ispir Hamza Polat Vocational School



For Further Information:

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