



This project is funded by the EU

## Promotion of Civil Society Dialogue between EU and Turkey Project

### 'Gaziantep plans an urban EU future'

#### Meeting the Challenge

The city of Gaziantep in Turkey's South East has seen rapid growth over the last few years, both spatially and in terms of its population. The city authorities are thus faced with the dual

challenge of both being able to effectively plan how the built environment develops and being able to promote and support citizen participation in the planning process. These challenges may have only been relatively recently recognised by the Turkish authorities, but in

Sweden municipalities have been applying EU standards in planning and participation for some time. It has therefore been extremely beneficial for the Gaziantep municipality to have developed a strong working relationship with the local administration in Sweden's 3<sup>rd</sup> city Karlstad.

#### The Benefits

The partnership between the municipalities in Gaziantep and Karlstad is not only resulting in an increase in technical capacity within their respective Urban Planning Departments, but is also promoting a greater involvement of the people of the two cities in how their cities grow. In the long term this is expected to contribute to a better living environment in Gaziantep and, through the various awareness-raising activities, a continuing dialogue between Turks and Swedes in the two cities.

#### Partners

- Sweden, Stadsbyggnadsförvaltningen, Karlstads Kommun

#### The Project Facts

**A total budget of 159,000 Euros**

- 17 month project ending in November 2009
- Activities include supporting professional training courses, a joint study visit to the UK, public exhibitions and seminars in both Gaziantep and Karlstad, and a range of promotional activities and publications.

*"We are learning important lessons from our Swedish colleagues in how to increase citizen participation in planning the growth of Gaziantep"*

*Ahmet Ertürk, Project Coordinator*



#### For Further Information:

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