



Promotion of Civil Society Dialogue between EU and Turkey Project

Mersin's Young Ecological Entrepreneurs Applying EU Know-How

Meeting the Challenge

The southern province of Mersin is Turkey's 8th most populated, with nearly half of its 1.6 million people under the age of 25. The area is largely dependent on agriculture, but with the influx of migrants from other parts of Turkey and a

high natural growth rate, there are high levels of unemployment and a poor awareness to sustainable management of the local natural resources. In response to this, using its experience partnering the local Chambers of Commerce to give young people access to business training, the Mersin Young Entrepreneurs

Association (MEGIAD) launched an initiative to promote ecological entrepreneurship amongst the regions 40,000 graduates of vocational education. The know-how for building this capacity in entrepreneurship is being provided through MEGIAD's NGO partners in Greece (ATIGONE) and Italy (Circolo Festambiente).

The Benefits

An initial group of 40 'would-be' entrepreneurs will be equipped with the necessary skills and knowledge to establish ecologically friendly business in tourism and agriculture. Such businesses will contribute to the generation of employment opportunities in the region and to the general promotion of better management of natural resources, following the '3-E principle' (energy-environment-economy). MEIAD, as an organisation, will also be strengthened through the peer-learning from its EU partners, and will be able to offer the eco-business training courses on an ongoing basis.

Partners

- ▶ Italy, Circolo Festambiente
- ▶ Greece, Antigone Information and Documentation Centre on Racism, Ecology, Peace and Non-Violence

The Project Facts

A total budget of 87,000 Euros

- ▶ 14 month project ending in September 2009
- ▶ Activities include supporting a range of training courses, study tours, conferences, and variety of 'coaching' activities such as internships and job shadowing. The project is also sharing information about activities and training resources through a web site and regular newsletters.



'I'm going to apply for this eco-entrepreneurs training as I think it will definitely give me some kind of advantage in getting a job'

Student of Çukurova University, Adana



For Further Information:

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