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# NEW HORIZONS

UNDP Turkey Monthly Magazine



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IN ŞANLIURFA**

**TURKEY'S ENGINEER GIRLS  
NOW IN HIGHSCHOOLS**

**FOREST AND FAUNA PHOTOGRAPHY CONTEST CONCLUDED**

**HIDDEN THREAT  
IN TURKEY'S  
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Cover Photo: Migrant Jellyfish- Rafi Amar



# UNDP'S ORGANIC AGRICULTURE CLUSTER PROJECT RECEIVES CLUSTER EXCELLENCE BRONZE LABEL

*GAP Organic Agriculture Cluster project received the “Bronze Label of Cluster Excellence” award by the European Secretariat for Cluster Analysis (ESCA)*

GAP Organic Agriculture Cluster (GAP OAC) was awarded the Bronze Label by the European Secretariat for Cluster Analysis (ESCA) as a result of the analyses by the experts who were accredited in the European Union and Turkey and examined the activities, structures and governance of more than 350 clusters across Europe. GAP OAC is one of the four clusters boasting such mark in Turkey.

The label is awarded after a thorough assessment of various aspects including the cluster's structure, management and governance, strategy, financing, services offered, connections, intra-cluster interaction, achievements and recognition.

## Organic agriculture vision and work undertaken

Drawn up earlier, the GAP OAC Roadmap set the primary goal that the Region would have vast, fertile irrigable lands by 2023, become Turkey's leading supplier of organic textile and food raw materials, and a competitive organic production centre. The award is viewed as an indicator that such vision has been owned by the stakeholders.

The Project has to date fielded efforts

to build scalable and replicable models, and develop production, promotion and marketing activities. The GAP Organic (GO) brand that was created in the Project was registered in Turkey.

## What the Bronze Label of Cluster Excellence means?

A significant towards institutionalising the cluster and its brand was the founding of GAP Organic Cluster Association (GAP ORKUDER) in June 2016. GAP ORKUDER undertakes efforts to make the cluster an international brand. The Bronze Label of Cluster Excellence will support such efforts. The award will pave the way of progress to achieve global standards as well as open the gates for cooperation with many institutions in the European Union.

*GAP Organic Agriculture Cluster Project has been being implemented since 2009 by the T.R. Ministry of Development, Southeast Anatolia Project Regional Development Administration (GAP RDA) with technical assistance from the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)..*



# TURKISH SEAS UNDER THREAT OF INVASIVE ALIEN SPECIES



*Biggest threat to biodiversity:  
Invasive alien species in Turkey and  
how to fight against*



With a growth of human and goods transfer in the world, it has become easier for plants, animals and other micro-organisms to move from place to place. It is getting much easier to move alien species into a region deliberately or accidentally. While invasive alien species were frequently on the agenda for the past decade or two, the climate change and lack of adequate knowledge on the issue rapidly increase the invasion areas of such species.

For Turkey, it is not much different. Turkey's coastline stretches 8,333 km bordering four major seas. These extensive marine ecosystems support Turkey's overall high level of marine biodiversity. In total, nearly 5,000 plant and animal species, some endemic, have been identified in Turkey's marine waters. Such diversity is today under a serious threat.

*Comb jellyfish*

Invasive Alien Species (IAS) have been identified by the Ministry of Forestry and Water Affairs (MFWA) as one of the principal threats to Turkey's marine biodiversity. Approximately 450 IAS have been reported on the coasts of Turkey. Some 472 species of marine fish have been identified, of which 50% are believed to be at risk of decline due to a combination of threats. This vulnerability is mainly due to the fact that Turkey is surrounded by three different marine environments, with high endemism but at the same time having high risk of entry of IAS. Currently, approximately 450 IAS have been reported along the coast of Turkey and 21 species in the Turkish Black Sea.

### **What are invasive alien species?**

Species that move from their native ecosystem into another where they prolifically grow and prevail the new ecosystem are called invasive alien species.



## WHERE DO INVASIVE ALIEN SPECIES COME FROM?

There are two major pathways for IAS into Turkey's marine waters: The Suez Canal), and human induced transport such as ship-mediated transport. In the 2011 national review of IAS in marine waters, it was found that 66% of the total IAS in Turkey's coastal waters arrived via the Suez Canal, while 30% arrived via ship transport. The opening of the Suez Canal particularly and climate change facilitates the inset of new species. Alien plant and animal species proliferate fast in the Mediterranean. Experts predict that, on the present rate, alien plant species will outnumber the native species by mid 21st century. Due to the global warming, it is further projected that species endemic to the Mediterranean will be replaced by the Red Sea species and the Black Sea will become another Mediterranean.

Invasive Alien Species in today's world pose economic, social and environmental problems both in marine and terrestrial environments, and continue to be a biggest threat to global biodiversity.

This indirectly bears on development. It is inevitable that commercial fishing is hurt due to degraded fish stocks. The entire Mediterranean includes more than 1,000 alien species. While the number of alien species in the East Mediterranean is more than 775, the number of invasive alien species along Turkish coasts is around 450. Currently the larger part of the threat is posed by the Indo-origin poisonous species such as blowfish (*Lagocephalus sceleratus*), stonefish (*Synanceia verrucosa*), lionfish (*Pterois miles*) and migrant jellyfish (*Rhopilema nomadica*), which pose a threat to marine and human health. In the Black Sea, comb jellyfish (*Mnemiopsis leidyi*) and seasnail (*Rapana venosa*) continue to exert pressure on fish stocks and native species.





## WHAT IS BEING DONE?

A three-stage hierarchical approach is adopted for addressing IAS outlined by the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD): prevention, control, and mitigation. UNDP and Ministry of Forestry and Water Affairs (MoFWA) initiate a new project in 2018 based on the Convention on Biological Diversity. The long-term objective of the Project is to minimize the negative impacts of Invasive Alien Species in order to support the conservation of the globally significant native biodiversity of Turkey's coastal and marine ecosystems. The Project aims to ensure resilience of marine and coastal ecosystems through strengthened capacities and investment in prevention, detection, control and management of Invasive Alien Species.

The identification of Invasive Alien Species and threats, eliminating or alleviating adverse effects are of utmost importance both for native species and in economic and social terms. The Project ultimately aims to identify and minimize the impact of or eliminate Invasive Alien Species in key marine biodiversity areas, and alleviate the pressure on native species and habitats and monitor for future work.

The Project will focus on four key marine biodiversity areas:

- 1-İğneada National Park (Kırklareli),
- 2- Ayvalık Islands Nature Park (Balıkesir),
- 3-Marmara Islands (Balıkesir) and
- 4-Hatay-Samandağ Seal Habitat and Sea Turtle Spawning Ground (Hatay).





The long-term objective of the Project is to minimize the negative impacts of Invasive Alien Species in order to support the conservation of the globally significant native biodiversity of Turkey's marine ecosystems. The Project also seeks to promote gender equality and women's empowerment, to the extent relevant and feasible within the scope of the Project which will endeavour to achieve the following three main objectives:

1. Develop an effective national policy framework on marine Invasive Alien Species
2. Build capacity building, share knowledge and data to identify IAS threats
3. Establish sustainable management, prevention, eradication, and control of IAS and restoration of IAS-degraded habitat at key marine and coastal areas.

*The Project will be undertaken in cooperation with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) with GEF funding support. It has a budget of 3,344,654 USD. The implementing agency is the General Directorate of Nature Preservation and National Parks of the Ministry of Forestry and Water Affairs. The stakeholders are the Ministries of Food, Agriculture and Livestock; Transport, Maritime and Communications; Environment and Urbanisation; Health; Culture and Tourism; Coast Guard Command, universities and non-governmental organisations. The Project will last for 5 years and be completed in 2022.*



## UNDP AND GOVERNMENT OF TURKEY FURTHER ADVANCES THE COOPERATION OF 6 YEARS WITH KEY OBJECTIVE OF A JOINT PRE-2030

*The Annual Partnership Dialogue was held between Turkey and UNDP, discussing the new ideas and enlargement of partnership areas in the 6th year of UNDP and Government of Turkey partnership.*

The global Partnership Framework was the continuation and Agreement (PFA) signed in March enlargement of the partnership when 2011 by Turkey and UNDP provided the multi-year commitment made by for advancement of the partnership, Turkey for 5 years to UNDP budget paving the way for new ideas and new in the light of Turkey's growing cooperative opportunities in the resolution and leadership in the area context of significant areas as defined of international development in the agreement. cooperation and contributions made to the regional programme.

The sixth Annual Consultative Dialogue this year was held at a The partnership dialogue is co-critical juncture where global chaired by the Ministry of Foreign discussions were intensified on the Affairs and UNDP, with implementation of Agenda 2030, and participation of the Ministry of partnerships with Turkey matured at Development and TIKA. global, regional and national level to contribute to the agenda. The outstanding feature of the meeting



## WOMEN SELL WEDDING GOWNS FROM SURUÇ TO JAPAN, HANDICRAFT PRODUCTS FROM SINOP TO UNITED STATES

*“Life is simple with Internet” project introduced the digital world to women who strove to exist in work life in the remotest parts of Turkey, and opened the door for many women to overseas.*

“Life is simple with Internet” project, through Internet literacy training delivered by 300 young volunteers across Turkey, opened the door for women to the digital world. Women in rural Turkey achieved the impossible through the project. Ms. Sıdıka Cengizer, who owns a wedding gown and hairdressing parlour in Suruç, Şanlıurfa now sells wedding gowns with local embroidery to Japan

thanks to the website of her business. Following the training she received under “Life is simple with Internet” project, Ms. Semihe Şengül of 70, owner of a local delicacies restaurant in Sinop, now sells hand-made lace work, noodles and pastes to the United States through the portal of her business.

Implemented in 54 provinces of development priority in Turkey, “Life is simple with Internet” project is now scaling up to all 81 provinces this year. Under the project, a total of 30,000 people received training, most of whom lived in the rural areas and 19,000 were women.



## Volunteer trainer Gökçe: “We aspire to touch hearts”

Working as a volunteer trainer in “Life is simple with Internet” project, and student in Business Administration Department of Ege University in Izmir, Ms. Gökçe Uygur said for the project: “Under the project, our aunts themselves take their appointments for hospital visit. Through e-state, they can view the grades of their children. They can view lacework samples, soap samples on the Internet. We aim to demonstrate that they can access anything. Particularly, our women in villages who used to have difficulty accessing the cities now say the state has arrived at our feet. We aspire to touch hearts.”

## She learned Internet at age 70, sold handicraft products to the United States

Ms. Semihe Şengül, who learned Internet at age 70 in the training delivered by the volunteers, is another personality who carried her success story to overseas. She operates a restaurant in Sinop, as well as markets her hand-made products such as noodles, pastes, meat pasty on her website; and recently made a sale to the United States over the Internet. Ms. Şengül said “Internet opened up my horizons; now I see better. I learned all over there. I shipped my very

beautiful hand-made products to the United States. I sold to the United States over the Internet. I knitted Ayancık flaxen beautifully, shot pictures; posted it on the Internet and it was sold. I shipped according to the order. I gained many beautiful stuff from there. My place benefitted considerably from the Internet. I repaired my place, restoring it nicely. I cook delicious meat pasties, cheese pasta. I host the guests; I accept acquaintances and good people as boarders at my home.”

## Wedding gowns from Suruç to Japan

Ms. Sıdika Cengizer who owns a wedding gown and hairdressing parlour at Suruç district of Şanlıurfa, enlarged her business, which she started up under difficult circumstances, through receiving orders from social media sites over the Internet, thanks to the training she received under “Life is simple with Internet”. She narrated her success story of selling wedding

gowns to Japan over the Internet: “I am married for 9 years, have two children. I received training to work and support my home and business. Since “Life is simpler with Internet” training, I have been doing 90% of my sales over the Internet. My hairdressing parlour has a website where I actively receive orders. I ship to all parts of Turkey. About 80 of my clients come to me over the Internet. Now I have 4,500 followers. Over the Internet, I shipped products everywhere including Istanbul, Izmir, Gaziantep, Bilecik. I shipped products even to Japan. They were happy. Now I receive more orders. They send me messages; I ask them what products they wish. It is enough that they send me a photograph; I get it sewn. I receive their address over the Internet and ship the product through cargo-couriers.”

*“Life is simple with Internet” project is implemented by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), Türk Telekom and Habitat Association.*



## UNDP TURKEY'S GOODWILL AMBASSADOR MERT FIRAT MEETS WOMEN AND YOUTH IN ŞANLIURFA

*Mert Fırat, the first  
Goodwill Ambassador of  
UNDP Turkey, met  
Syrian and local women  
and youth in Şanlıurfa,  
and introduced UNDP's  
work in the region.*





UNDP works in the region to alleviate the effects of the Syrian crisis and enable the Syrians residing in Turkey and host communities to better cope with the impact of the force migration. The work includes the provision of vocational skills and Turkish language courses for women

as well as software development training for Syrian and local youth. UNDP Turkey's Goodwill Ambassador Mert Fırat visited Şanlıurfa to promote such work and meet women and youth participating in the courses.



### **Syrian and Şanlıurfa women empowered together**

Visiting the GAP Administration Mehmet Parmaksız Multi-Purpose Community Centre (CATOM) where activities are undertaken to strengthen women's social and economic skills, Mert Fırat took a tour of felt, handicraft and sewing workshops, and participated in the Turkish language course for Syrians.

At CATOM, an average of 400 women and children participate in the activities every week. The activities undertaken by UNDP and the GAP Regional Development Administration (GAP RDA) include the delivery of training to women on such revenue generating activities as production, sales and marketing. It is also aimed to enhance their role in

the society and social cohesion. Women comprise 45% of the over 1.5 million Syrians living in the Southeast Anatolia. Currently, Syrians make up 24% of the population in Şanlıurfa. Working to alleviate the impact of the forced migration, UNDP Turkey develops projects addressing concurrently the needs of Syrians and host communities. To date, more than 70 training programs have been delivered at 14 CATOMs, with participation of 1,900 Syrian women and 2,600 women of Şanlıurfa.

UNDP Turkey strives, along with its local, national and international stakeholders, to strengthen the institutional capacities of CATOMs through providing equipment and consultancy support.



## Universal language of coding brings youth together

Mert Firat visited Harran University as well in his Şanlıurfa trip. His visit was a boost to the spirits of young people participating in the software development courses delivered at the university with UNDP support, and further promoted the courses.

UNDP delivers coding training to youth at Harran University. The key objective of such training is to enable the youth to learn a universal language, paving the way to equipping with a vocation.

The Android coding training has been ongoing for seven months in cooperation with Re:Coded, a non-profit innovation entity and Bilgi University, in the lead of UNDP Turkey. Firat conversed with trainees and delivered motivational messages to students to develop themselves.

The Android coding training designed by Google and Udacity, a distance learning portal, enables the refugee and disadvantaged youth to be equipped with future professions. A total of 28 young people including Syrians participate in the course conducted in English, develop mobile applications on the basis of actual requests from companies, and enrich their theoretical and coding knowledge with practical exercises.

Seven mobile applications were developed in the end of training which invested in the youth's creative capacities and supported their access to decent work and revenues.

“UNDP Turkey engages in work in the region that will empower individuals, communities and institutions as well as enhance the social cohesion of women and youth”.

*-Mert Firat, UNDP Goodwill Ambassador*

*Mert Firat's visit to the region was organised in the context of the “Strengthening Social Stability in Southeast Anatolia” project implemented by UNDP Turkey and GAP Regional Development Administration, financed by the Government of Japan.*



# FOREST AND FAUNA PHOTOGRAPHY CONTEST CONCLUDED

The photograph contest themed “Forest and Fauna” was concluded, which was the second of series in Turkish Forests Photograph Contest organised in partnership of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and General Directorate of Forestry and in cooperation with the Turkish Federation of Photographic Arts.



*First Place  
Selim Kaya  
Red Deer - Çatacık Forest, Eskişehir*



*Second Place  
Mustafa Kılınç  
The Look*

The contest was organised under the “Integrated Management of Mediterranean Forests” Project implemented by the General Directorate of Forestry in cooperation with United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) with funding from the Global Environment Facility (GEF). A total of 1,110 participants submitted 3,777 photographs to the Forest and Fauna contest.

The key objective in the contests organised by UNDP and General Directorate of Forestry is to promote forests, and increase awareness and indeed strengthen the instinct for protecting forests.

*Third Place  
Selim-Kaya  
Lynx - Çatacık Forest, Eskişehir*



# TURKEY'S ENGINEER GIRLS NOW IN HIGH SCHOOLS

*Turkey's Engineer Girls project, which provides scholarships and education for girls studying engineering at universities, starts its high school programme.*



Ongoing for two years, “Turkey’s Engineer Girls” (TEG) project is an innovative project implemented by the partnership of UNDP and Limak Holding to increase the number of women engineers in Turkey. The Project provides girls who choose to become engineers with scholarships during

university studies and various opportunities of training to develop themselves. Every engineer girl admitted to the program is assigned a mentor to guide her. The Project is considered a resounding scholarship for two years in Turkey.





“When we had difficulty in recruiting women engineers to Limak, we found out in a further study of statistics that this was a widespread problem in our country and even in the world; and decided to be a part of the solution”

*-Ms. Sevil Server Koç, Corporate Relations Director of Limak Foundation.*

“Turkey’s Engineer Girls” project has started this year to engage in high schools to provide pre-university support to girls who want to become engineers. As a first step of this new programme, training seminars were organised for school administrators and counsellors. The first seminar was held on 20-22 March in Kemer, Antalya, with participation of more than 100 school principals and counsellors working in high schools.

During the training, innovative methods were introduced to school principals and counsellors which would help them guide girls who wanted to become engineers.

The training was delivered in two phases, one for school administrators and another for school counsellors focusing on many topics such as gender equality, vocational orientation of persons, being a woman engineer etc.





“When a woman become a medical doctor, she is thought to be ‘not working until late hours’ but why do people think that a woman engineer is so working?”

-Emine Ülkü Sarıtaş, Ph.D.  
Bilkent University, Electrics&Electronics Department.

The box game “Your Decision” that was introduced to school counsellors to have their students play was the captive part of the seminars. In the game, players in the roles of women engineers in six specialties tried to respond to the problems in the mindset of an engineer. Some players had challenging times while trying to find the fine balance between time, quality and budget.

Implemented in cooperation with the Ministry of Family and Social Policies, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and Limak Foundation, “Turkey’s Engineer Girls” Project aspires to demonstrate that women too can become engineers by eliminating gender inequalities and stereotypes in professional life. The Project continues with scholarships and role model exercises provided to girls studying engineering.



Box game called “Your Decision”  
that informs high school students on university choices.



# FUTURE IS IN TOURISM AT TRAVELEXPO FAIR

*Contributing to Turkey's efforts in sustainable tourism, increasing employment and emphasising tourism's contribution in local development, "Future is in Tourism" project draws great interest in TravelExpo Ankara Tourism Fair.*

At the TravelExpo Ankara Tourism Fair where national and international tourism specialists met, the outcomes of projects supported by "Future is in Tourism" were shared with visitors in the panel themed "Sustainable Tourism Models".

The Fair featured a panel themed "Sustainable Tourism Models" hosted by "Future is in Tourism". The panel focused on how "Future is in Tourism" created sustainable tourism models in cooperation with public-private sectors and international organisations. In addition, it was underlined that the projects supported made contributions to minimising the adverse effects of tourism on communities and environment, local

economic development, protecting natural and cultural heritage, increasing the quality of lives of visitors and hosts.

Moderated by Ms. Burçin Hatipoğlu, Asst.Prof.Dr. in Bosphorus University, Sustainable Tourism Department, the panel included as panellists Ms. Beril Yamaner, T.R. Ministry of Culture and Tourism, General Directorate of Investments and Establishments, Group Director; Mr. Bülent Açıkgöz, Cluster Lead of Local Socio-Economic Development, UNDP Turkey; and Ms. Simge Balaban, Corporate Communications Director of Anadolu Efes Turkey.



GELECEK TURİZMDE - 10 YIL, 10 SEHİR, 10 HİKAYE





### **“Future is in Tourism” 2018 Plan**

Boasting 16 national and international awards for its achievements, “Future is in Tourism” will support “Troy Culture Route” (Çanakkale), “Women will light up Perşembe” (Perşembe, Ordu), and “A Day in Ovacık Village” (Şile, Istanbul) this year.

### **“Future is in Tourism” has supported 13 projects to date**

The work started with a local development model on tourism axis in Çoruh Valley in the East Anatolia Region in the period of 2007 to 2013; the regional experience so derived was elevated to national level in 2013,

then carried on to date. “Future is in Tourism” ensured that tourism took root as an alternative instrument of sustainable development in Turkey; paved the ground for new local role models through encouraging entrepreneurship; and provided support to numerous projects across Turkey:

Projects were supported from the following localities: Misi Köyü (Bursa), Seferihisar (Izmir), Mardin, Safranbolu (Karabük), Şanlıurfa, Malatya, Edremit (Balıkesir), Saimbeyli (Adana), Keçiözümlü (Isparta), Foça (Izmir), Demre (Antalya) and Buldan (Denizli).

**“Future is in Tourism” provides funding support to three sustainable tourism ideas every year. In addition, support is provided to selected projects on training, planning, technical assistance, communications and consulting. The partners to “Future is in Tourism” act in the philosophy that sustainable tourism is the cornerstone of development in terms of policy making, partnering and local socio-economic development.**



### **“Future is in Tourism” and awards received**

2017: The Stevie Awards 15th International Business Awards, Best Social Responsibility Project in Europe, Bronze Medal;

Hermes Creative Awards Gold Medal;

Turkish Confederation of Employer Associations (TISK), Sustainability Refik Baydur Special Award;

JCI Culture – Junior Chamber International, Best Social Responsibility Project

2015: Turkish Public Relations Society (TUHID), 14th Golden Compass Public Relations Awards, Jury Special Award;

The Stevie Awards 12th International Business Awards, Best Social Responsibility Project in Europe, Bronze Medal Best Blog;

Silver Medal, Sustainability Academy

2nd Sustainable Business Awards, Cooperation Award;

Bilkent University, 2nd Bilkent Brand Awards, Best Value Adding Brand through Social Responsibility Projects,

PRNews, Digital PR Awards Institutional Blog, Honourable Mention;

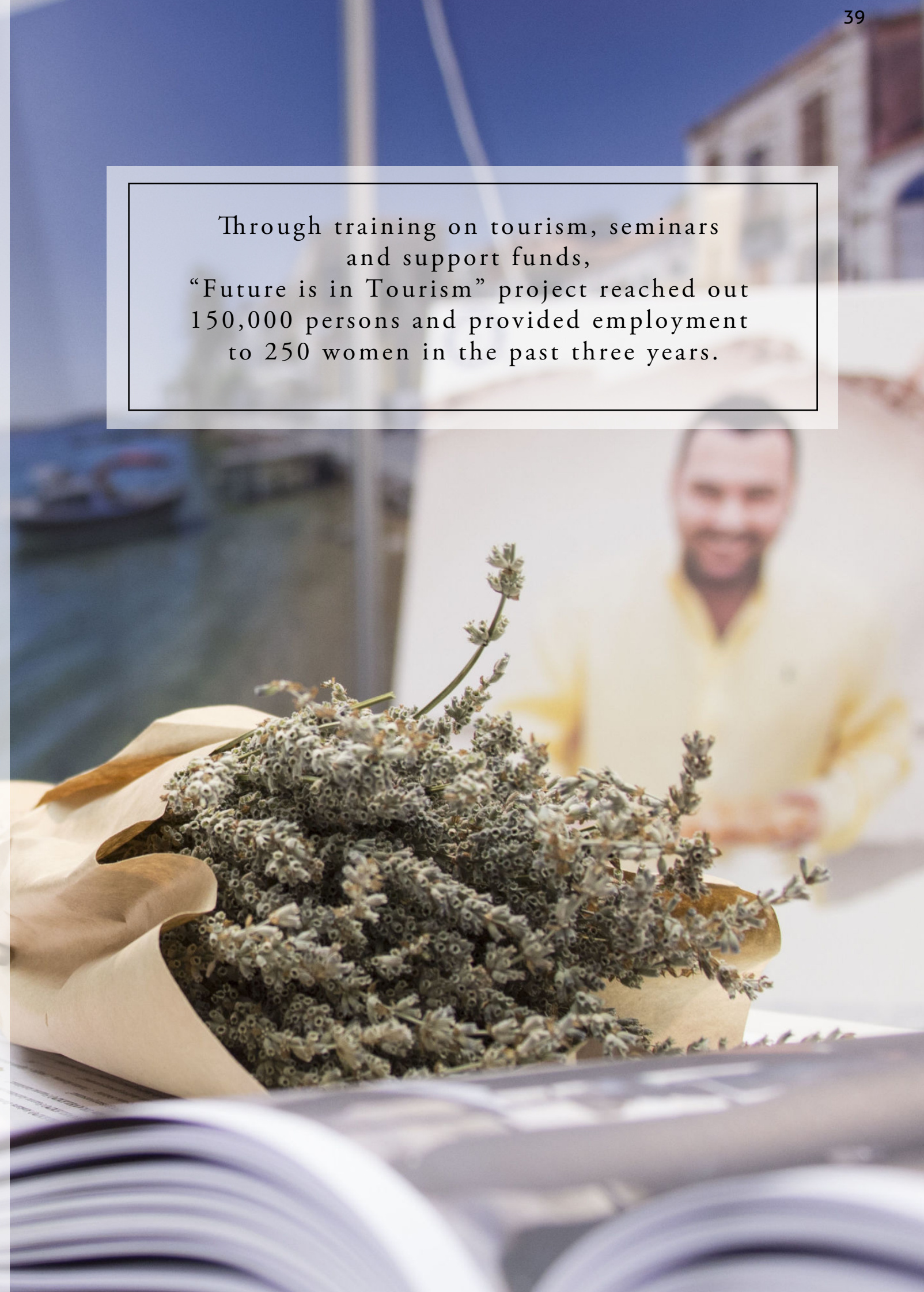
2014: The Stevie Awards 11th International Business Awards, Best Social Responsibility Project in Europe, Bronze Medal; Best Public Relations Project, Bronze Medal;

2011: The Stevie Awards 8th International Business Awards, Best Social Responsibility Project in Europe, Gold Medal;

First project representing Turkey in the map for CSR Europe “Skills for Jobs”;

2010: Turkish Public Relations Society (TUHID), 14th Golden Compass Public Relations Awards, Best Social Responsibility Project.

Through training on tourism, seminars  
and support funds,  
“Future is in Tourism” project reached out  
150,000 persons and provided employment  
to 250 women in the past three years.





## VACANCIES FROM UNDP IN TURKEY

Impact Consultant

Outreach and Capacity Building Consultant

RBM and UN Coordination Intern

Consultancy for SDG Capacity Building

Project Associate

Human Rights and Rule of Law Intern

Junior Consultancy on Inclusive Employment and Social Protection

Re-advertisement - UN Women: Statistics Specialist – Gender, Europe and Central

Asia Region

Project Clerk

Training Associate

CCE Portfolio Monitoring and Evaluation Advisor

Programme Intern (2 intern positions)

Project Manager

Project Associate

Partnerships and Resource Mobilization Intern

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Resilient nations.*