

JULY 2018 - ISSUE: 151

# NEW HORIZONS

UNDP Turkey Monthly Magazine

## WHERE TO GO THIS SUMMER?

SUSTAINABLE TOURISM ALTERNATIVES  
FROM İZMİR TO ADANA

TIME FOR ACTION  
FOR TURKEY'S PLASTIC WASTE

MOST EFFECTIVE WAY TO CONTROL  
PLASTIC WASTE

WOMEN TOUCH  
ENGINEERING

TURKEY RESILIENCE  
PROJECT IN RESPONSE TO  
THE SYRIA CRISIS



# INDEX

144 Tonnes of Plastics Go to Seas  
Daily in Turkey 2

Where Are You Going for Vacation  
This Summer? 4

Women Touch Engineering 26

Turkey Resilience Project in  
Response to the Syria Crisis 28

Impact Hub: İstanbul Global Impact  
Journalism Day 32

Most Effective Way to Control Plastic  
Waste 33

First Trainings in Model Factory 34

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# 144 TONNES OF PLASTICS GO TO SEAS DAILY IN TURKEY

*Workshop on Environment-Friendly Production, Responsible Consumption and Effective Recycling held with UNDP participation*

The “Time to Act for Plastic Waste in Turkey: Workshop on Environment-Friendly Production, Responsible Consumption and Effective Recycling” was held in Istanbul. Attention was drawn in the workshop to the fact that the Mediterranean, an environmental heritage, became a sea with highest plastic pollution in the world. It was emphasised that civil society, academia and national & local governments should collaborate for more intelligent and sustainable plastic production.

Meeting in the workshop organised by Boğaziçi University in cooperation with the United Nations Sustainable Development Solutions Network (UN SDSN Turkey) and WWF Turkey, stakeholders in the plastics sector discussed problems, projects for awareness-raising on plastic waste, and principles of work for positive change.

The workshop started with the opening remarks from Prof. Dr. Üstün Ergüder, the former Rector of Boğaziçi University; Etienne Gonin, Programme Analyst from UNDP Istanbul Regional Hub, and Nergis Yazgan, WWF Turkey President and CEO. The striking results were publicised for the first time of the report “Out of Plastic Trap: Saving the Mediterranean from Plastic Pollution” published by WWF Turkey across the Mediterranean. Presented by Tolga Yücel, Communications Director of WWF Turkey, the report “Out of Plastic Trap: Saving the Mediterranean from Plastic Pollution” reveals that 60 million tonnes of plastics are produced and 27 million tonnes of plastic waste created every year in the world. The report emphasises that the plastic waste quantity in the seas tops the list of most important problems that call for global solutions, and plastic waste causes 13 billion dollars in damage to marine ecosystems. It also notes that 144 tonnes of plastic waste go to sea daily in Turkey.

The workshop also discussed the likely contributions from civil society, academia and national & local governments for more intelligent and sustainable plastic production. Konca Çalkıvık, Secretary-General of the Sustainable Development Association said: “Every minute, a truck-load of plastic waste is dumped into seas. Every year, 9 million

tonnes of plastic waste is released to oceans. It is not possible to resolve the global issue of plastic waste without local-regional cooperation.” Çalkıvık underlined that voluntary basis would not suffice for the solution, legal regulations would be needed. Ahmet Varır, Head of Department of Waste in the Ministry of Environment and Urbanization said: “We must switch from the linear economy to the recycling-based circular economy” and noted that Turkey produced 31 million tonnes of domestic waste annually, 12% of which consisted of plastic waste. He indicated that the deposit system and various waste prevention plans should be included in priorities, reminded that the private sector had no waste prevention plan except for a few large organisations, and made a call to the private sector. He alerted that the current waste collection activities were not effective or sustainable, and emphasised that Turkey must switch from the linear economy to the recycling-based circular economy.

Varır informed that under the “Zero Waste” project initiated by the Ministry of Environment and Urbanization aiming to facilitate the sorting at source of waste, they were able to achieve 15% of recycling to date and aimed to reach 35% in recycling by 2023. He said: “While these rates are low, they are 15 times higher than the figures in the 1990s.”





# WHERE ARE YOU GOING FOR VACATION THIS SUMMER?

**If you are planning a vacation other than sea,  
sand and sun tourism this summer,  
here are some different destinations.**

*Located in various regions of Turkey, these are sustainable community-based tourism venues supported under “Future is in Tourism” implemented jointly by the Ministry of Culture and Tourism, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and Anadolu Efes. Work undertaken in these destinations of culture, nature, history, gastronomy, local experience contributes also to local economic development.*





# 1- Misi Village, Bursa

Misi village of Nilüfer district of Bursa has the Ottoman prints architecturally while it is an old Greek village. With a history of 2000 years, the major means subsistence for local people was sericulture until 15 years ago. The project “Let’s Be a Misian” supported by Future is in Tourism aimed to rejuvenate the declining historical craft and make it a part of the tourism sector. Forty-four women received training on tourism to work at workshops, stores and enterprises in line with the objective of utilising women’s local products in the context of the project. Today, best local dishes are served to guests at the Cocoon House, a registered Misi home. Further, products manufactured by women are sold at the Cocoon House.

## Where?

Misi village, or Gümüştepe neighbourhood as it is named today, is located in Nilüfer district of Bursa. It is 160 km from Istanbul, and merely 12 km from Bursa.

## When to visit?

You can visit in any month of the year.



## Things you can do:

- Take a hike in the historical streets of Misi village, declared an Urban Protected Site in 1989, and see Misi homes reflecting the Ottoman architecture.
- Have your tea sitting by the creek enjoying the scenery.
- Taste local dishes at the Cocoon House supported by Future is in Tourism.
- Buy silk textiles, jewellery etc. at display at the Cocoon House supported by Future is in Tourism.
- Spend time with your children at the children’s library of Misi village.
- Taste wines and molasses made of muscatel grapes specific to Misi.
- See garments, household goods, weaving looms and handicraft specific to the village at Misi Ethnography House; and watch Karagöz Shadow Show if you are lucky.
- Have a picnic at Dağyenice, a picnic site by the pond.



## 2- Seferihisar, İzmir

Seferihisar, the first “Citta Slow” in Turkey, is remarkable as one of the 12 ancient Ionian cities. The project “Traditional Seferihisar Cuisine” supported by Future is in Tourism aimed to organize the nationwide branding and promotion of the vast variety of regional flavours unique to Seferihisar, İzmir, and to facilitate the contributions of the culinary culture in regional tourism. An atelier of dishes was established to share the culinary culture and experiences of local women the visitors, the branded flavours were also successfully brought to the broader masses through the online shopping site [www.seferipazar.com](http://www.seferipazar.com).

### Where?

It is 50 km from İzmir.

### When to visit?

You can visit any season. However, the best time to visit Seferihisar is the period from April to October.



### Things you can do:

- Start by visiting the antique city Theos to learn the region’s history, where the Dionysus Temple is located as the prominent feature.
- Stop by Sığacık Castle right by the port, and take a tour in the streets.
- Enjoy sea at Akkum and Ekmeksiz beaches.
- Visit Sığacık Bazaar held every Sunday.
- Find, at Sığacık Bazaar, many delicious local dishes from Traditional Seferihisar Cuisine supported by Future is in Tourism.





## 3- Foça, İzmir

Foça, or Phokaia of the antiquity, named after the Mediterranean seals living on one of the islands surrounding the city, is a significant tourism centre of İzmir.

The project “Four Seasons Foça” supported by Future is in Tourism aimed to spread tourism activities over four seasons, and embed in tourism activities the nature-friendly production and operation models for sustainable tourism in Foça and environs where traditional viticulture, fruit-vegetable farming, olive farming and coastal fishing.

A comprehensive sustainable tourism plan was prepared which laid down activities that could be carried out over four seasons in Foça. To diversify souvenir products, marketable handicraft and industrial products specific to Foça were identified. Branding work started under the name Four Seasons Foça. A tour plan of Foça was created under the sustainable tourism approach. Day tours, biking, hiking, diving, fishing tours, activity tours of nature sports, and experiential tourism tours were identified. Training on sustainable tourism was delivered to tourism enterprise owners (hotels, restaurants, boats).

### Where?

It is 65 km from the provincial centre of İzmir.

### When to visit?

You can visit all seasons.



## Things you can do:

- Plan your Foça tour by reviewing Foça tour plan prepared under the project “Four Seasons Foça” supported by Future is in Tourism.
- Select one or more options of day tours, biking, hiking, diving, fishing tours, activity tours of nature sports, and experiential tourism tours to engage in an activity of four seasons in Foça.
- Take a hiking or biking journey on any of the four historical trails (Kybele Trail, Herodotus Trail, Theodoros Trail and Megaron Trail) identified for Foça. Following these trails, you can explore Ionian, Greek, Seljuk and Ottoman prints in Foça.
- Take a biking tour between Bostanlı and Foça to sight-see the colours of nature changing by season at fields, Gediz river delta and Foça hills.
- Engage in diving at Foça in all months if you wish to explore the deep and clear underwater world of the Aegean and are interested in diving.
- Join tours to go fishing in the touring boats for sports fishing in winter months which have authorisation for tourism and sports fishing trips.
- Join day tours of touring boats in summer months in Foça visiting Sirene rocks, Foça isles and bays.
- Visit Fadime-Kaplan Zülfikargil TaTuTa Farm (Agriculture Tourism Exchange) at Ilipınar village of Foça if you are seeking to produce as much as consumed and enjoy touching the soil. You can experience here many types of production such as planting vegetable seedlings, dib roman, grape juice, soap making and everything related to olives. The farm admits groups of at least ten by appointment because it is also the living space of ranch owners.
- Buy season’s herbs, fruits and vegetables of the Aegean Region at the neighbourhood bazaar every Tuesday and from the Earth Bazaar at Itfaiye square every Sunday 08.30 to 18.30.
- Visit the “Four Seasons Foça” stand and product spots at tourism enterprises to buy various handicraft products specific to Foça as souvenirs for your beloved ones and memorabilia of Foça when leaving the town.





## 4- Edremit, Balıkesir

By the Aegean coast, Edremit province of Balıkesir is renowned for Kaz Mountain Range and olive farming. The project “Local Flavours of Edremit with Nar Kadın” supported by Future is in Tourism aimed to highlight and brand the local olive oil dishes of Edremit, Balıkesir and support gourmet tourism. The goal is to set an example for sustainability in tourism by helping local women transform into touristic products the local products they make by means of providing them with personal and occupational development training. These products were offered at a house that reflects Edremit’s traditional culture under the project, which also supported the economic empowerment of women. The local olive oil dishes cooked by women are offered to visitors at Nar Kadın Gourmet House.

[www.narkadin.com](http://www.narkadin.com)

### Where?

It is 135 km from Balıkesir, 150 km from Çanakkale, 220 km from İzmir.

### When to visit?

You can visit Edremit all seasons, located on the Mediterranean climate belt.



### Things you can do:

- Take time with nature and camp in the National Park of Kaz Mountain Range.
- Visit the antique city Antandros by the skirts of Kaz Mountain Range.
- Visit Kurşunlu Mosque of Seljuk Architecture.
- Visit Edremit Ayşe Sıdika Erke Ethnography Museum where many important works of Edremit’s history and culture.
- Visit Güre Hot Springs, a significant thermal zone only 12 km from the district, to rest yourself in the healing waters of Edremit.
- Enjoy Zeytinli Rock Festival, a major music event in our country, held by Akçay coast every August.
- Participate in the Festival of Infinite Possibilities held at Kaz Mountain Range every May to refresh your health and fitness.
- Taste local flavours of Edremit while doing above. You can visit Nar Kadın Gourmet House supported by Future is in Tourism to enjoy local olive oil dishes, particularly the olive oil baklava of Edremit.



## 5- Kuyucak Village - Isparta

You do not need to go to Provence, France to see the lavender fields of attractive purple landscape. Kuyucak village of Isparta produces 93% of all lavender in Turkey. The project “Lavender Scented Village” supported by Future is in Tourism aimed to revive rural tourism in Isparta, ensure that local people earn income, and mobilize the employment and entrepreneurship potential in the region. As a first step in that direction, a study visit was organised to Provence, France as an example of rural tourism to serve as a model. The Lavender Scented Village Women Entrepreneurs Cooperative was established. Training was delivered to women on area promotion, cooperativism, rural tourism, souvenir making etc. Before the project, there were no visitors to the area, where after the project 20,000 visited in 2016 and 140,000 in summer 2017.

[www.lavantakokulukoy.com](http://www.lavantakokulukoy.com)

### Where?

It is 135 km from Isparta, 200 km from Antalya.

### When to visit?

Time to sight-see lavender fields is restrict. Lavenders start to become purple about end June, and remain purple through July. Harvest starts about August. You can visit the area both to witness harvest and sight-see the fascinating colours of the fields. The best time is the first or second week of July to see the lavenders in their most beautiful form.



### Things you can do:

- Stop by the Women Entrepreneurs Cooperative through the project “Lavender Scented Village” supported by Future is in Tourism and get information on what to do in the village.
- Take a hike in the streets of the lavender scented village with stone roads and mudbrick houses, and a small tour in the village riding bicycles rented from the cooperative building.
- Take a hike in the fields in the company of lavender scent, shoot marvellous photographs.
- Visit the cooperative building to taste lavender honey, lavender tea and coffee, and lavender ice-cream.
- Buy such lavender products as lavender oil, lavender soap, lavender bath glove and lavender bundles from the cooperative.
- Stay at boarding houses at the village established under the project “Lavender Scented Village” if you like to experience lavender longer.



## 6- Saimbeyli, Adana

Saimbeyli district of Adana is renowned for hosting approximately 160 of the 412 butterfly species. The project “Discover Your Own Butterfly” supported by Future is in Tourism highlighted the endemic Saimbeyli Blue of the district included among the top 10 butterfly areas in Turkey, and transformed the district into an important niche tourism spot. The project aimed to develop ecotourism through butterfly watching, boost the low levels of income in the district, preserve and enhance the nature and biological diversity, and secure natural park status for the area in the region. The work under the project enabled Obruk Waterfall to secure the status of natural park. Thereby, the future of 161 butterfly species in the region were secured.

[www.ekosaimbeyli.com/](http://www.ekosaimbeyli.com/)

### Where?

It is 160 km from Adana, 103 km from Kayseri.

### When to visit?

The best time is the period from April to September. The best time is late July to early August to watch Saimbeyli Blue.

### Things you can do:

- Participate in Saimbeyli Culture, Arts and Cherry Festival every June.
- Watch 160 butterfly species including the endemic Saimbeyli Blue in Obruk Waterfall declared as a national park owing to the project “Discover Your Own Butterfly” supported by Future is in Tourism.
- Take a nature hike around Obruk Waterfall.
- Have picnic at Çatak Plateau, set tent and camp to listen to birds singing merged with water sounds. You can explore mills, old mosques, plateau homes; experience the life of Turkomans in plateau traditions.
- Take a tour in the ruins of Saimbeyli Castle.
- Have a nature hike and observation at Saksağan Pass rich in plants and butterflies, and black pine forests of Cöbük.



Saimbeyli Blue



## 7- Demre, Antalya

Demre, or Myra of the antiquity, is a nice town of 25,000 population in Antalya. The Lycian Way is Turkey's first-ever long distance route and among the top 10 long distance hiking route preferred by many tourists every year; and partially passes through Demre.

The project "A Historical Break at Lycian Way" supported by Future is in Tourism was designed on the basis of tourism potential in the region and considering tourists' basic needs as resting, accommodation. The project aimed to create awareness on sustainable tourism in the region, and merge the three different hiking routes Lycian Way at Hoyran and Kapaklı villages of Demre.

The training programmes created awareness on sustainable tourism in the region as well as ensured continuity of local production through women in the villages. In addition, resting and accommodation facilities became available for visitors and hikers. Historical areas in the area became more attractive, accessible and publicised, and a women's association was established. Women started to operate as cafes the buildings at Kapaklı and Hoyran villages opened under the project. Thereby, women started to earn income through producing handicraft and local dishes at two different premises. Through the project, Kapaklı and Hoyran villages became a centre where visitors could rest and select as an alternative route.

### Where?

It is 140 km from Antalya.

### When to visit?

The best time is the period from April to November.



### Things you can do:

- Visit the antique city of Myra dating back to B.C. 500, and Museum of Lycian Civilisations.
- See St. Nicholas Church where the tomb of Saint Nicholas, known across the world as Santa Claus, is located.
- Take a historical break at Kapaklı and Hoyran villages where the three different hiking routes Lycian Way meet, and taste local flavours at cafes supported under Future is in Tourism.
- Buy souvenirs produced by women at Kapaklı and Hoyran villages.
- Reach sea by a 20-minute hike on the path from Kapaklı village.
- Watch cormorants, coots and wild ducks in the Bird Sanctuary hosting 149 species of birds in the wetlands between Çayağzı Port Road and Museum of Lycian Civilisations.
- Go to Kekova island with boats departing from Andriake, immerse yourself in the unique natural and historical beauties of the Mediterranean.



## 8- Buldan, Denizli

The project “Birds Are Calling You” was designed to explore the tourism potential of the natural wonder Yayla lake at 1,150 m from sea level at Buldan district of Denizli. Under the project supported by Future is in Tourism, work was undertaken to highlight bird species, rich biodiversity and ecotourism at Buldan’s Yayla lake and promote the lake. An inventory of birds was taken at Yayla lake and environs to reveal that Yayla lake hosted 163 bird species. An alternative hiking route was created from Buldan to Yayla lake to serve nature lovers. Through training delivered to local women, the birds of Yayla lake were engrossed in Buldan fabrics of 8,000 years of tradition. Efforts were made to raise awareness of regional people and visitors on Yayla lake, preserve biodiversity and activate the region’s ecotourism potential. The project both rejuvenated sustainable tourism and contributed to local economy in the region.

### Where?

It is 47 km from Denizli, 200 km from Izmir.

### When to visit?

The best time is summer to visit Buldan where continental climate prevails. However, you may visit Yayla lake in January and July as well to see water birds.

### Things you can do:

- Visit Süleymanlı Yayla lake hosting 163 bird species, watch birds and set camp.
- Take a hike from Buldan to Yayla lake through the forest.
- Visit Evliyazadeler Mansion and BELKÜM where you can see Buldan weaving tradition and handicrafts, buy products made of local Buldan fabrics.
- Take a trip in the streets of Buldan to see historical Buldan houses.





## **Sustainable Community Based Tourism**

A type of tourism that is built on local natural and cultural assets, where these assets are preserved and at the same time enable local people including particularly women and vulnerable to derive economic benefits.



*Buldan, Denizli*



## **FUTURE IS IN TOURISM**

Our story started in 2007 as a partnership between the Turkish Ministry of Culture and Tourism, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and Anadolu Efes, as Eastern Anatolia Tourism Development Project (DATUR) with a view to developing a tourism-oriented local development model in Çoruh Valley. Based on our regional experience of five years, we decided in 2013 to go national; and launched the Tourism is the Future Sustainable Tourism Support Fund with a view to establishing tourism as an alternative developmental tool in Turkey. Every year, we provide three projects with implementation support in training, planning, technical, communication and consultancy as well as funding to ensure their feasibility and sustainability. Under Future is in Tourism, we granted support to 15 projects to date.



# WOMEN TOUCH ENGINEERING; MORE WOMEN CHOOSE ENGINEERING IN TURKEY

*The Turkish Union of Chambers of Engineers and Architects (TMMOB) data show that 11,000 of the 106,000 registered members of the Chamber of Civil Engineers are women whereas 9,492 of the 103,700 members of the Chamber of Mechanical Engineers are women.*

The ratio of female engineers, according to TMMOB membership, is above 22% in Turkey. Turkey's Engineer Girls Project implemented jointly by Limak Foundation and UNDP Turkey Office makes great efforts to increase the number of female engineers. Instrumental in such increase are the social responsibility projects involving scholarship support to girls studying engineering, and employment assistance.

Implemented in cooperation of Limak Foundation, Ministry of Family and Social Policies and United Nations Development Programme, Turkey's Engineer Girls Project provided support to 102 girls who are successful, need support and study in the departments of electrical-electronic, industrial, civil, mechanical and environmental engineering of state universities.

Engineer girls who are granted scholarships work in large projects including the construction of a new airport in Istanbul. Assistance is provided to girls, after graduation, for employment in Limak and other organisations in the sector on availability basis.

## "We Want Them As Future Managers "

Ms. Ebru Özdemir, President of Limak Foundation, the project's architect, and herself an engineer, said: "We have more girls every year. Each has own mentor. We provide courses including English. We arrange for internship and business interviews. This is not only a scholarship programme. The scholarship carries a pre-requisite. They

work 4 hours a month in social responsibility projects for everyone will teach others what she has learned. Our purpose is to see them as managers in the companies in the future. We raise fully-equipped girls. We never let them go before our girls have full self-confidence, are independent and aspire to manage something."

## Number Of Female Members Of Chambers Of Engineers According To TMMOB Data As Of 31 December 2017

Chamber of Civil Engineers: 11017  
 Chamber of Mechanical Engineers: 9492  
 Chamber of Computer Engineers: 1173  
 Chamber of Environmental Engineers: 6423  
 Chamber of Electrical Engineers: 5603  
 Chamber of Physical Engineers: 547  
 Chamber of Shipbuilding Engineers: 163  
 Chamber of Maritime Machinery Operation Engineers: 21  
 Chamber of Food Engineers: 10022  
 Chamber of Cartography and Cadastral Engineers: 2247  
 Chamber of Geophysical Engineers: 1491  
 Chamber of Geological Engineers: 4509  
 Chamber of Chemical Engineers: 8567  
 Chamber of Mining Engineers: 2176  
 Chamber of Meteorological Engineers: 240  
 Chamber of Forest Engineers: 2675  
 Chamber of Petroleum Engineers: 131  
 Chamber of Textile Engineers: 729  
 Chamber of Agricultural Engineers: 12400



## TURKEY RESILIENCE PROJECT IN RESPONSE TO THE SYRIA CRISIS

The infrastructure development and technical support in 4 municipalities in Gaziantep, Hatay, Kilis and Şanlıurfa help to better cope and recover from the impact of displacement.

The large number of Syrians residing in Southeast Anatolia region of Turkey, is increasingly straining the capacities of local municipalities to provide required basic services. Thus, strengthened municipal services and infrastructure are among the most pressing needs of the provinces that host high number of Syrians. The provinces of Kilis, Hatay, Gaziantep and Şanlıurfa host more than 1,5 million Syrians (May 2018).



## SOCIAL COHESION AND EMPOWERMENT FOR SYRIAN WOMEN

UNDP's response serves to both Syrians and host communities, noting the needs of both population groups and aiming to enhance peaceful coexistence.

UNDP provides support for Syrian women and women in host communities to enhance their social and economic empowerment and to enable them to engage actively within the community. UNDP's language trainings for over 52,000 Syrians in 2018-2019 aims to contribute to enhance local social and economic integration. UNDP also supports Multi-Purpose Community Centers (ÇATOMs) and local organizations by providing equipment, technical assistance and counselling.

Among the trainees provided with vocational trainings and competency development programmes UNDP supports, 34% of them are young people and 46% of them are women.





## UNDP IMPROVES LIVELIHOODS AND JOB OPPORTUNITIES THROUGH ADDRESSING BOTH THE LABOUR MARKET SUPPLY AND DEMAND SIDE

In terms of labor supply side, UNDP's support focuses on adult language skills training, vocational training, strengthening local capacities in terms of registration, counseling and job matching, including Turkish Employment Agency (ISKUR). In terms of labor demand side, UNDP helps job creation through support to the establishment of Small and Medium Enterprises' (SME) Capability and Innovation Centers, the transformation of industrial zones, business development services and value chain development.

*To support Syrians, host communities and municipalities to meet the challenges of the changing development landscape, UNDP strengthens stability through various increased livelihoods opportunities and better municipal services in Southeast Anatolia.*

With the support of the project implemented for over 2 years in Southeast Anatolia, the self reliance of Syrians and host communities were enhanced and institutional capacities of local and national partners were strengthened.

There is a common recognition among partners that a resilience-based approach is becoming increasingly important in the response, noting that the impact on host communities, Syrians, national and local institutions has been growing due to the protracted nature of the situation.

With the project's support, a mix of 1,750 Syrian and local people completed high-demanded vocational trainings in 33 different fields including service, manufacturing and local agriculture sectors in the region. 1,200 Syrians attended Turkish language courses. 5 pilot and demonstrative initiatives improved the productivity of local value chains and provided opportunities for labour absorption.

Regarding the strengthening municipal services, through construction of 2 waste transfer stations and addressing the most pressing challenges through urban level investments, waste management services became stronger.





## SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS DISCUSSED ON THE IMPACT JOURNALISM DAY EVENT OF IMPACT HUB ISTANBUL

*Impact Journalism Day marked by Impact Hub and communications platform Sparknews jointly in various countries was held this year for the first time in Turkey.*

Sustainability was discussed with the representatives from development-oriented organisations in a panel moderated by Mr. Faik Uyanık, UNDP's Communications Officer, where successful social entrepreneurs such as Fazla Gıda (More Food), Önemsiyoruz (We Care), Reflect and Minorpreneurs working on aims in line with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals shared their stories.

Mr. Semih Boyacı, a founding partner of Impact Hub, drew attention to the institutionalised companies which focused on the works done, current work and potential future work for Sustainable

Development Goals, and said: "Today, it is not enough for organisations to emphasise "sustainability" alone in their work. It is necessary to augment works based on multi-stakeholder cooperation models to achieve the goals."

The media took great interest in the Impact Journalism Day in Istanbul supported by the most prestigious 50 media organisations to publicise every year the stories of people who worked to make the world more liveable.

## MOST EFFECTIVE WAY TO CONTROL PLASTIC WASTE: RECYCLING FACILITIES

*As per capita plastics consumption in Turkey has reached 90.1 kg by an increase of 11.5% in the last 3 years, experts suggest environmental and economic impact of plastic waste can be alleviated by recycling.*

According to the data by Plastic Industrialists Association (PAGDER), the per capita plastic consumption of 80.8 kg in 2015 increased by 11.5% in the last 3 years to reach 90.1 kg last year in Turkey. Mr. Nuri Özbağdatlı, Climate Change and Environment Portfolio Manager of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Turkey Office offered his views on plastics consumption. Noting that plastics production was annually 1.5 million tonnes in the world in the 1950s and currently stands at 300 million tonnes to have become almost the most consumed commodity, Özbağdatlı stated that Turkey produced 9.6 million tonnes of plastics annually. He said: "Only 2.2 million tonnes of the 9.6 million tonnes of plastics produced in Turkey is used as packaging material, and only 501,000 tonnes of which is recovered. While plastics make life easier, they adversely affect human health and environment. Therefore, holistic solutions are required to solve the plastics problem."

Mr. Selçuk Gülsün, PAGDER's Board Chairman, indicated that the plastics sector's contribution to economy was 37.8 billion dollars last year and the recycling of plastics was important for

environment and economy. Noting that 1,439 firms in Turkey worked on recycling plastic waste, Gülsün said: "16 cities with a total population of nearly 4.2 million in our country have no recycling facilities." A large part of waste arising from daily domestic life, Gülsün underlined that there was individual progress realising the importance of recycling, however the prevalent societal view of packaging waste as "garbage" needed to change. Emphasising waste sorting, Gülsün said: "We must explain the importance of sorting at source and recycling of waste to our people who do not sort the packaging waste at source, put it in the garbage bin, or even dump it in the environment, and inculcate such culture and awareness in our people of all ages." Pointing out that plastics should not be buried in the soil, but be sorted and recycled, Gülsün added that "The use of plastics for other purposes and excessive consumption causes economic losses to our country dependent on imports of raw materials. We should improve our recycling system now to save our future generations."



# FIRST TRAINING OF THE TRAINERS STARTED AT TURKEY'S FIRST SME CAPABILITY CENTER (MODEL FACTORY)

Establishment and operationalization of the first SME Capability Center of Turkey is proceeding at ASO1. Organized Industrial Zone (OIZ) in Ankara. SME Capability Center initiative is being implemented in cooperation with Ministry of Science, Industry and Technology, Ankara Chamber of Industry (ASO), ASO 1. OIZ and UNDP.

The first training of the trainers' program was realized in 1-8 June 2018 to develop capacity and lay the groundwork before the official opening of the Center. Through this training program fulltime and part-time trainers, who will be conducting seminars on improving the productivity of SMEs, providing applied transformation programs and consultancy services in the center, came together for the first time.

Theoretical and applied training was given in the classroom and model factory environment by experts with worldwide proven competence on lean manufacturing. The participants of the training were composed of fulltime staff of the center, academicians from various universities, professionals working in manufacturing sector and representatives of the project partners.

It is planned to realize the second phase of the trainings in the end of July. Until the second phase of the training, it is expected from the trainers to organize trainings based on the principles they learned in the first phase of the training in SME Capability Center and to take first steps for transformation to lean manufacturing program.



What is a SME Capability Center (Model Factory)?

A capability center is defined as a tool to disseminate principles of operational excellence by using experiential learning techniques.

It aims to improve knowledge and capabilities of employees on process improvement, energy efficiency, lean manufacturing, product development, digital transformation, etc.



# VACANCIES FROM UNDP IN TURKEY

Intern for Communications Unit

Editor: Faik Uyanık  
Assistant Editor: Ömer Kavuk  
Design: Bikem Ahıska  
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D P

*Empowered lives.  
Resilient nations.*