

## → Municipal plan for social integration of youth

**Country** Turkey

**Project title** Kol Kola (arm in arm)

**Twinning** Municipality of Almelo (the Netherlands)  
Municipality of Denizli (Turkey)

**Project period** 1 December 2006 to 30 September 2007

**Project budget** € 53,011

### **Project objective**

To develop an approved municipal plan on social integration of youth in order to improve services for immigrants.

### **Project summary**

Within the scope of the project a municipal plan on social integration of the youth was developed in which the co-operation between the municipality, the schools and other relevant organizations was addressed, using neighbourhood activities as an instrument. The project fostered to improve the services for immigrants.

### **Core information**

Denizli, located in the southwest of the Aegean Peninsula, is a tourist and industrial city with around 300,000 inhabitants. The famous white cascades and healing hot springs of Pamukkale attract both local and foreign tourists. Geothermal energy offers potential. Industry is well developed, especially the textile sector. Denizli municipality is a local administration serving citizens with public services, especially infrastructure, city planning and social services.

### **Problem analysis**

Like its Netherlands twinning partner Almelo, Denizli has numerous immigrants, mainly from the eastern part of Turkey. A major local problem is their weak involvement in Denizli society. One reason is believed to be the lack of municipal support structures. The municipality of Denizli struggled with the question how to increase the social involvement of their citizens. It was important that the migrants would become familiar with the various municipal social structures and the many possibilities for personal development. To do so, the municipality wanted to establish appropriate co-operative structures at the neighbourhood level.

A practice to improve service delivery of local governments

### **Project implementation**

The project started with the creation of a training programme, together with Almelo, on how to involve immigrants in society and simultaneously overcome the language barrier. One municipal staff member was trained to coach teachers on this programme, which was then implemented on a broader scale at national education centres. Some 250 parents were involved at the start. Regular meetings between municipal staff and national education centres took place. The capacity of municipal staff was improved with the improved contacts with organizations in the field. Obstacles of authority limits of the provincial education directorate were overcome. A network of (public) organizations and primary schools offered information and activities for parents to improve their opportunities to participate in society. Finally, a transfer programme for parents in co-operation with primary schools and kindergartens and (public) organizations was developed.

### **Process management**

The project had many features including the set-up of new process and organizational units, extensive training and information transfer. The upgrading of municipal staff was the most effective part of the process. They taught numerous people to successfully implement the project, especially coaching. The provincial directorate of the Ministry of Education was a leading initiator together with schools and immigrant citizens.

### **Recommendations: do's and don'ts**

- Ensure active involvement of municipal staff in coaching of teachers. Municipal coaches were well trained and frequently visited the training programmes;
- Take into careful account the roles and restrictions of stakeholders, especially the governmental institutions while planning a policy paper;
- Implement strong public relations tools.