

→ A new waste management policy

Country Turkey

Project title Towards a new waste management policy

Twinning Municipality of Haarlem (the Netherlands)

Municipality of Emirdağ (Turkey)

Project period 1 December 2006 to 30 September 2007

Project budget € 48,609

Project objective

Realization of an integrated waste management policy for the municipality of Emirdağ, which is sustainable, economically viable, effective, efficient and broadly supported by the stakeholders.

Project summary

The municipalities of Haarlem and Emirdağ already co-operate for some years and also participated in a training programme on waste management. The two municipalities worked together to develop an integrated local waste management practice. Awareness raising activities, practical planning, and know-how transfer ensured an upgraded and sustainable waste processing activity.

Core information

Emirdağ, located at 220 km southwest of the capital Ankara, is a small place in the Afyon province with some 20,000 inhabitants. Many of its citizens have moved to Europe, a.o. to Brussels and Haarlem. In the summer these emigrated European Turks return home, significantly increasing the local population in Emirdağ. Emirdağ has rich marble resources which are widely exported. Agriculture is strong. The municipality is the local administration dealing with infrastructure, social and public services.

Problem analysis

At present, Emirdağ waste is collected by a private company and dumped 7 km from the town centre in an uncontrolled landfill. Municipalities now have to comply with EU regulations concerning waste. The municipality of Emirdağ prefers to set-up a controlled landfill combined with waste separation at source. However, the province of Afyon (of which Emirdağ is a part) formed a regional union, in which 84 municipalities participate. The initial plan was to build a waste incinerator. During the project this plan

A practice to improve service delivery of local governments

was substituted by a controlled landfill scheme. At present, it is still uncertain what the exact conditions for future regional waste disposal will be: transfer stations will have to be built and decisions as to cost allocation need to be made.

Project implementation

The project started with a research on the present waste collection and treatment situation. A seminar was organized, being the first during which the various players in the field of waste management met each other and discussed regional problems and possible solutions. A working conference was then organized in Afyon with the target groups and stakeholders from which a concept plan emerged. Outlines of the plan were discussed. Emirdağ, although only a small municipality, influenced the union in re-assessing its policy. The decision for a landfill instead of an incineration was taken by the province of Afyon. Markets for recyclables are being investigated. The future expenses and financial options and institutional arrangements for the many involved municipalities were discussed during a study visit and provided Emirdağ with a broad frame of reference for their decision making. Finally, an awareness campaign was conducted for the community.

Process management

The project envisaged a major change in policy and practice. Cost allocation promised to be a challenge. Awareness raising and involvement of all stakeholders was important. The realization of the project demanded the participation and involvement of all stakeholders, including the citizens and NGOs of Emirdağ, the national NGO TEMA, businesses, other municipalities, the regional union of municipalities, district and provincial politicians. The professional presentation of the cost-benefit picture was critical in convincing involved parties. Sustainability will be a function of properly balancing all the various local interests.

Recommendations: do's and don'ts

- Involve regional and environmental service associations in drafting the waste management plan;
- Provide an awareness campaign for citizens and other stakeholders;
- Ensure good meeting chairmanship.