

→ Waste campaigning

Country Turkey

Project title Controlling Hazardous Waste

Twinning Municipality of Haarlem (the Netherlands)
Emirdağ Municipality (Turkey)

Project period 1 June 2008 to 30 November 2009

Project budget € 44.077,67

A practice to improve the service delivery of local governments

Project objective

To improve the separate collection and treatment of hazardous waste through cooperation between the municipal, regional, and provincial level, taking into account the interests of all stakeholders involved.

Project summary

An integrated waste management plan for Emirdağ was adopted in the fall of 2007. Derived from this plan, a follow-up project was developed that focused on the prevention of nature, environment, and health risks as a result of uncontrolled dumping of hazardous waste. The project dealt with the short-term approach of hazardous and oil waste management, which will ultimately lead to long-term sustainability in terms of the prevention of nature and environment damage, and the elimination of health risks.

Core information

Emirdağ, located at 220 km southwest of the capital Ankara, is a small place in the province of Afyonkarahisar with some 20,000 inhabitants. Many of its citizens have moved to Europe, a.o. to Brussels and Haarlem. The high number of citizens working abroad has resulted in a substantial inflow of capital, which unfortunately has not largely been channelized into investments. Agriculture and livestock are important sources of income. Trade, especially shipping, is also a considerable element of the town's economy. The municipality of Emirdağ is the local administrative institution, handling the infrastructure issues, as well as providing social services for the community.

Problem analysis

The Turkish national government issued a law which forces municipalities to tackle the problem of hazardous waste at the local level. However, a policy plan for hazardous waste and oil collection was lacking in Emirdağ. Hazardous waste constitutes a problem that needs specific attention as infrastructure has to be built. Awareness needed to be raised among citizens and companies and these

stakeholders needed to become aware of the ways in which they should handle oil and other hazardous waste.

Project implementation

A workshop and training session was held for the related staff from the municipality, TEMA (an environmental NGO), and teachers from the National Educational Department of the district with support of stakeholders.

A conference in Emirdağ followed, with the objectives of providing information to the participants about the project and explaining the importance and the influences of hazardous waste. As a follow-up, a working visit to Haarlem was organised to get information on the spot regarding the technical aspects as basis in creating the policy and an action plan for implementation. A draft policy plan and a hazardous waste management plan were prepared. A closing conference in Afyonkarahisar was held with the objectives of discussing the policy plan and to share the results.

Process management

The municipalities of Emirdağ and Haarlem have been the twinning partners for this project. The participation and involvement of different stakeholders was also present, namely the citizens and NGO's of Emirdağ, TEMA, university, business companies, other municipalities in the region, the district, and the province.

Recommendations: do's and don'ts

- Involve all stakeholders, and related NGOs/institutions for support.
- Logistical procedures and infrastructure for separate collection and temporary storage of hazardous waste.
- Develop municipal bylaws and regulations in order to enable enforcement of the existing legislation.
- Run an awareness campaign to ensure knowledge and participation on part of the citizens.