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# NEW HORIZONS

UNDP Turkey Monthly Magazine



## WOMEN'S ROLE IN CLIMATE ACTION

TURKEY'S ENGINEER  
GIRLS GOT TOGETHER  
AT ISTANBUL

"I CAN MANAGE MY  
MONEY" MEETING

EXPERIENCING SOCIAL  
COHESION IN  
SOUTHEAST ANATOLIA





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# TURKEY'S ENGINEER GIRLS MEET FOR THE THIRD TIME IN ISTANBUL

*Turkey's Engineer Girls scholars met for the third time in Istanbul. Students studying engineering in 30 state universities in Turkey had conversations with various guests including Ms. Ebru Özdemir, Chair of Limak Foundation Board of Trustees and Mr. Mert Firat, UNDP Goodwill Ambassador.*





Having started 3 years ago to increase the number of women engineers, ensure that women are more effective in business life and take positions of decision-making, Turkey's Engineer Girls (TMK) project continues its activities.

Students studying various engineering disciplines in 30 state universities across Turkey and their mentors comprised of experienced women engineers met for the first time over the weekend in Istanbul.

### **SURPRISE BY UNDP GOODWILL AMBASSADOR**

An outstanding figure in both arts and social responsibility in recent years, UNDP Turkey Goodwill Ambassador Mr. Mert Firat was the surprise participant in the event. Facing great interest from engineer girls, Mr. Mert Firat focused on social responsibility and being a woman in business life during the conversation in the form of questions and answers. Mr. Mert Firat said "no one should be surprised that women become engineers as we get closer to 2020."

### **DREAMS OF ENGINEER GIRLS**

Meeting in Istanbul, scholars got acquainted with one another, told about the social responsibility activities that they would undertake under the project, and shared their

stories of how they got involved in the project. The meeting brought together outstanding names in the sector in addition to Mert Firat; Ms. Ebru Özdemir, Chair of Limak Foundation Board of Trustees; Ms. Pelin Rodoplu, Inclusive and Sustainable Growth Portfolio Manager of UNDP Turkey; Ms. Ebru Dorman, Chair of StartersHub Board and CEO of MV Holding; social entrepreneur Mr. Hakan Elbir, journalists Ms. Şebnem Burcuoğlu and Ms. Elif Ergu who conveyed their experiences to university students in inspirational presentations and motivational conversations.

Students watched also the show by the world-famous performers Blue Man Group who combined music, comedy and technology. Students also visited historical sites of Istanbul.

**NO ONE SHOULD BE  
SURPRISED THAT  
WOMEN BECOME  
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CLOSER TO 2020.**

*Mert Firat,  
UNDP Goodwill Ambassador*





## 40,000 HIGH SCHOOLERS WILL BE REACHED

Ms. Ebru Özdemir, Chair of Limak Foundation Board of Trustees, said Turkey's Engineer Girls was in its third year and on the way to becoming a brand. She said: "As Limak Foundation, we own and lead the field in our country, not only in university education, but also at high school level through an auxiliary programme of Turkey's Engineer Girls, and at primary education level through the project "Little Engineers of the Home" by our Foundation. We aim to make positive contribution to the field of STEM through gender equality perspective, instead of voicing "sitem" (meaning "complaint" in Turkish)." Emphasising that the university leg of the project exceeded this year 100 students from 30 universities, Ms. Ebru Özdemir stated that "We have 145 volunteer mentors in our mentoring pool. At the high school leg, we aspire to reach more than 40,000 high schoolers through training of trainers and practices in 10 provinces. Further, we reached about 1,000 little engineers through our Little Engineers of the Home."

## TWO SYRIAN STUDENTS IN THE PROGRAMME

It is aimed that students involved in the project create social good and generate solutions to social problems. This year, two students joined the project who migrated from Syria to Turkey where they are now studying

engineering. This figure is expected to increase in future years. The project also aims in this context to help Syrian students who are now in Turkey integrate with the Turkish society and create awareness for their continued education in Turkey. The overall purpose is thus to raise engineer women who are the responsible and sensitive leaders of tomorrow.



## KNOWLEDGE HELPS SURVIVE HARDSHIPS

Speaking to the students in the event, Ms. Pelin Rodoplu, Inclusive and Sustainable Growth Portfolio Manager of UNDP Turkey said they were happy to support both gender equality and sustainable growth through "Turkey's Engineer Girls" project. Ms. Rodoplu further elaborated that "While this project touches your lives, we also prepare a more egalitarian working environment at national level in the sectors

where you will work. We recommend that you equip yourselves professionally as well as take social responsibility as a part of your lives as this programme expects you to do so in your endeavour of getting ready for life. Make learning and continuous sharing your fundamental principle. Never forget that knowledge grows as it is shared, and knowledge helps people survive hardships." Turkey's Engineer Girls project is jointly implemented by Limak Foundation, Ministry of Family and Social Policies and United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).



# WOMEN'S ROLE



# IN CLIMATE ACTION

Climate change today tops the list of global problems and is recognised as an all-out strife for humanity. In addition to the international climate conventions in effect for years, the Paris Climate Agreement that entered into force in November 2016 explicitly recognised the gender link with climate change. Such statement at the United Nations is viewed as a significant opportunity to strengthen women's role in climate change policies (low carbon economy, renewable energy, climate-smart agriculture, climate-friendly cities etc.).

Women's role in climate response is increasingly occupying the global agenda. The gender equality perspective is recently being included the climate policies of Turkey, a signatory to the Paris Agreement. The project "Women: Missing Component in Turkey's Climate Response" took up the issue first time in Turkey to accelerate the process, and was completed by the logistic partnership of Global Balance Association and Turkish Women's Association through efforts lasting nearly a year. The project is supported by the United Nations Development Program and a grant from the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and Small Grants Programme (SGP).

The project's final report "Women's Solutions to Climate Change in Turkey" was shared with the participants in the closing meeting in Ankara on 8 February 2018 with participation from many segments of the society engaged in climate response, including particularly women's civil society organisations. The report offers a roadmap on how women may be involved as decision-makers in a range of sectors and policies relating to climate response in Turkey, and areas such as climate economy and funding, energy, agriculture, food, urban planning, nature protection, water management and healthcare.

Climate is not only women's, but everybody's issue; however, this initiative emphasises women's leadership in solving the problem. It is thus reminded that women, rural and urban, are active actors in forging gender responsive climate policies. This endeavour both prepares women's rights organisations in Turkey for climate response and identifies obstacles to implementing gender responsive climate policies in the country. Such a process that will create a new space of policy in the area of action by women's rights organisations is also the first of its kind in Turkey in that sense.



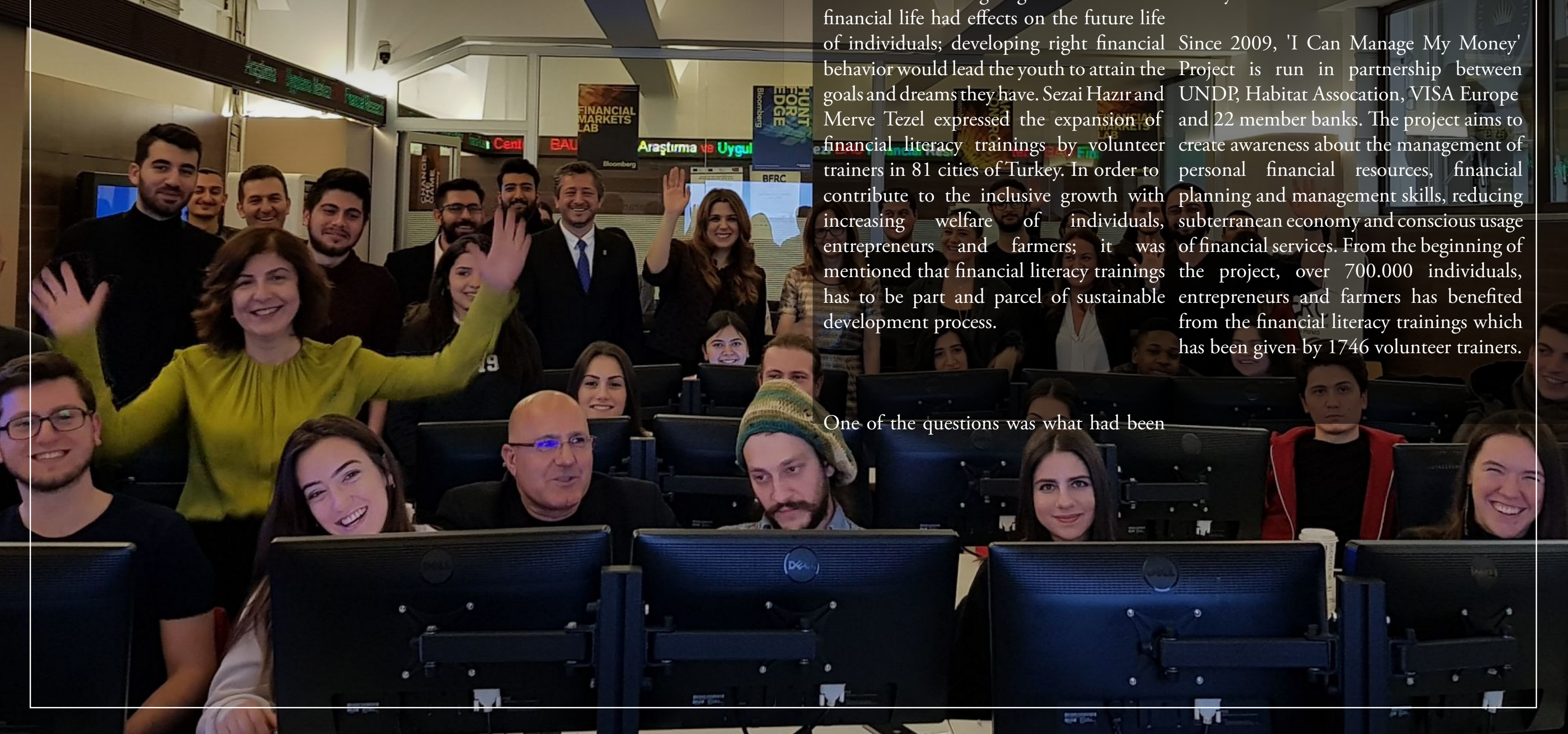
# EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF 'I CAN MANAGE MY MONEY' PROJECT MET WITH STUDENTS IN BAHÇEŞEHİR UNIVERSITY

After 'I Can Manage My Money Project's financial literacy seminar Hansin Doğan, Private Sector Programme Manager of UNDP; Charlotte Hogg, CEO of VISA Europe; Merve Tezel, CEO of VISA Turkey; Sezai Hazır, President of Habitat Association answered the questions of the students. The importance of financial literacy on sustainable development process was emphasised by Hansin Doğan. He mentioned making right decisions in financial life had effects on the future life of individuals; developing right financial behavior would lead the youth to attain the goals and dreams they have. Sezai Hazır and Merve Tezel expressed the expansion of financial literacy trainings by volunteer trainers in 81 cities of Turkey. In order to contribute to the inclusive growth with increasing welfare of individuals, entrepreneurs and farmers; it was mentioned that financial literacy trainings has to be part and parcel of sustainable development process.

the hardest time of careers of the committee members. Charlotte Hogg mentioned that looking for a job had been one of the hardest time of career. It had been expressed by committee members that saving money and budgeting for difficult times was necessary. The committee members said that they were going to continue to provide financial literacy trainings within 'I Can Manage My Money' Project to create awareness in the society.

Since 2009, 'I Can Manage My Money' Project is run in partnership between UNDP, Habitat Association, VISA Europe and 22 member banks. The project aims to create awareness about the management of personal financial resources, financial planning and management skills, reducing subterranean economy and conscious usage of financial services. From the beginning of the project, over 700.000 individuals, entrepreneurs and farmers has benefited from the financial literacy trainings which has been given by 1746 volunteer trainers.

One of the questions was what had been







**WOMEN IN SOUTHEASTERN  
ANATOLIA REGION EXPERIENCED  
THE SOCIAL COHESION**

Within the activities conducted on the scope of “Strengthening Social Stability in Southeast Anatolia Region Project”, implementing partners of GAP Regional Development Administration and United Nations Development Program (UNDP) and financial support of the Government of Japan, trainings on social cohesion, communication and empathy have been conducted with the financial support of Unilever. The trainings on social cohesion, communication and empathy in Midyat, Omerli, Mardin Meydanbaşı, Gül Medrese and İstasyon Multi-Purpose Community Centers (ÇATOMs) received high participation from Syrians and local communities.

The trainings have reached out over 300 women including Syrians and host community member women. The trainings that have targeted to strengthen the social cohesion between Syrian and local community members constitute as the continuation of the project activities in the region. UNDP will continue to work closely with the government, national and local partners to deliver on building resilience for the individuals, communities and institutions most affected by the Syrian crisis.





# PRODUCTIVITY IN TURKEY IS IDENTIFIED THROUGH THE “SYNTHESIS REPORT”

*The Synthesis Report is completed within the Total Factor Productivity (TFP) Project, which is being implemented to define the obstacles in front of economic efficiency and to determine the solutions. The report was prepared to contribute to policies aimed at increasing the productivity in the manufacturing industry in Turkey. The findings of econometric analysis of the survey results and the data obtained from various activities such as in-depth interviews and surveys with companies, global value chain analyzes, international analysis, thematic and sectoral workshops draw attention in the report.*

## **Productivity and innovation attract customers**

According to the survey results, big companies stand out more productive and more innovative than small companies. The number of long-term customers of productive and innovative companies also increases.

## **Digitalization is on the agenda of companies**

The results also show that subjects such as digitalization, information technology, automation and compliance with Industry 4.0 are on the agenda of companies. A significant number of the companies interviewed said that the main deficiencies according to foreign competitors are the lack of information and communication technologies and automation.

## **Productive firms say technology, unproductive ones say financing is the most important problem**

The most important differences between productive and unproductive companies arise in terms of financing problems and inadequacies of suppliers. Compared to the

unproductive companies, the productive ones think that both problems are less important and they see the lack of technology infrastructure as a bigger problem. This situation is considered as the result of the insufficiency of technological activities of firms in the manufacturing industry of Turkey.

## **Companies wait for support**

The report also includes various demands and expectations of the companies. Among these requests, in which requests for government support hold the majority, some demands come up such as making state support and application processes simple, trust based, related to productivity performance, and providing local software developers to develop solutions in areas where the companies need them.



# FUTURE IS IN TOURISM

## TROIA



*Supporting the local development for 11 years, Future is in Tourism supports Çanakkale in the Troy Year of 2018. The project Troy Culture Route protects cultural identity and heritage while strengthening the links between visitors and local people. The project will feature the construction of walking and biking trails from Çanakkale to the villages of Ezine and Ayvacık districts. Local production on the same route will be sustained, and visitors will be offered leisure and accommodation services.*

The Troy Culture Route is one of the projects supported by Future is in Tourism implemented jointly by the T.R. Ministry of Culture and Tourism, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and Anadolu Efes. Covering a route that will traverse 21 villages from Çanakkale to the antique port of Assos, the project intends to re-arrange roads and paths, install signage and deliver training programmes.

Under the project, cultural heritage on and along the walking trail will be protected. Walking and biking trails of 90 km will be built in this geography of vast cultural and natural riches including antique settlements, antique quarries, bridges, hot springs, beaches, saltpans and agricultural areas; and support will be given to efforts to increase the number of incoming visitors. The project will also include signage works on the routes, improve safety measures, rearrange landscaping and roads/paths, and draw up a detailed map of walking trail. Information meetings will be

held for local and central officials and tourism enterprises; training will be delivered on sustainable tourism and legislation. For local people, training programmes will be delivered on protecting historical and natural assets, sustainable tourism and development.

Works aim to increase the length of stays of local and foreign visitors, and spread the tourism season around the year. Being implemented in Çanakkale, the project will also contribute to events to be organised in the context of Troy Year of 2018.

The project has started through “Future is in Tourism” which provides funding, training, planning, communications, consultancy and technical assistance to three tourism ideas on the basis of sustainability every year, and is being implemented with the cooperation of Governorship of Çanakkale and the History and Culture Foundation of Çanakkale.



## VACANCIES FROM UNDP IN TURKEY

Consultant on Inclusive Employment and Social Protection

Programme Services Center (PSC) Assistant

UNDP Livelihoods Sector Coordinator

Intern for the Czech-UNDP Partnership for Sustainable Development Goals

Consultant on Rule of Law, Justice, Security and Human Rights

Communication & Visibility Assistant

Project Assistant

Monitoring and Evaluation Advisor

Monitoring and Evaluation Advisor

UNOCHA-Special Assistant/Reporting and Public Information

Center Director

Admin and Finance Officer

Gender and Social Inclusion Advisor

RBM and UN Coordination Intern

Editor: Faik Uyanık

Assistant Editor: Ömer Kavuk

Design: Bikem Ahıska

Reporter: Bora Akbay, Deniz Tapan, Kıvanç Özvardar

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Resilient nations.*