

## PROJECT PARTNERS

- 1- International Agricultural Training Center (UTEM) (TURKEY)
- 2- Ministry of National Education, General Directorate of Lifelong Learning (MEB) (TURKEY)
- 3- University of Évora (UEvora) (PORTUGAL)
- 4- Eskişehir Osmangazi University (ESOGU) (TURKEY)
- 5- Madrid Polytechnic University (UPM) (SPAIN)
- 6- Federal Institute for Agricultural Economics, Rural and Mountain Research (BAB), (AUSTRIA)

## EXPECTED RESULTS OF THE PROJECT

- Development of E-Learning Modules and Short Video Set on Social Capital as learning tools.
- Elaboration of an E-Book on "Current Situation and Good Examples of Social Capital across Europe".
- Selecting 6 trainers working in Public Training Centers in pilot provinces across Turkey and ensuring the participation of the selected group in the short-term training of trainers program to be organized in Spain.
- Increasing rural entrepreneurship, rural organization and good governance, and social solidarity as a result of training rural communities on social capital through a blended training module in the long term.



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## STRENGTHENING SOCIAL CAPITAL IN RURAL COMMUNITIES FOR RURAL DEVELOPMENT

### WHAT IS SOCIAL CAPITAL?

Social capital is the "capital" that increases the social, political and economic effectiveness of a society. The main elements of social capital are consisted of interpersonal trust, social networks, norms, institutions and participation. The components, types and utilization of social capital by individuals in rural areas are of great importance for rural development policies.





## WHY SOCIAL CAPITAL PROJECT?

Social capital plays an important role in the regional and rural development strategies of the European Union (EU). Similarly, in Turkey, social capital has become a very important concept in rural development policies in recent years. Strengthening social capital is essential for the development of rural areas, increasing entrepreneurship and sustainability, strengthening rural governance and local capacity, and improving rural cooperation.

In our country, the number of entrepreneurs (both economic and social) is quite insufficient, especially in rural areas. Social capital enables entrepreneurship and makes it easier for entrepreneurs to overcome resource constraints. In today's world, financial capital alone is not sufficient for entrepreneurial success. Social capital is an important resource in ensuring the effective use of social networks.

There are a number of problems with agricultural organisation in Turkey due to the lack of good management of rural/agricultural organizations and human resources. The development of social capital in rural areas will contribute to overcoming these problems related to rural organisation.

Again, problems in activities related to rural/agricultural production, such as short supply chain, governance and rural tourism marketing, stem from a weak culture of working together, and there is a need to strengthen social capital in these areas as well.

The social capital project has been prepared with the aim of contributing to the solution of the above-mentioned problems.

## PROJECT GOAL

To contribute to the increase of entrepreneurship in rural areas, the development of social solidarity and organization and the improvement of rural governance by training rural residents on social capital.

## PROJECT OBJECTIVES

- To provide training for trainers working in Public Training Centers of the Ministry of National Education in order to train rural residents on the development of social capital in rural areas.
- To develop an E-Learning Modules on "The Development of Social Capital in Rural Areas", a Short Video Set and an E-Book on "The Current State of Social Capital and Good Practice Examples across Europe".
- To train and raise awareness of rural people on Social Capital through the training material to be prepared within the scope of the Project and the courses to be organised by Public Training Centers.



## TARGET GROUPS OF THE PROJECT

The target groups of the project are trainers working at the Public Training Centers of the Ministry of National Education, experts working at the International Agricultural Training Center of the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, rural people especially rural leaders, farmers and rural entrepreneurs in selected rural areas.

