

## Introduction

Sustainable development has been defined in many ways, but the most frequently quoted definition is from *Our Common Future*, also known as the *Brundtland Report*:

*"Sustainable development is development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. It contains within it two key concepts:*

- *the concept of needs, in particular the essential **needs** of the world's poor, to which overriding priority should be given; and*
- *the idea of **limitations** imposed by the state of technology and social organization on the environment's ability to meet present and future needs."*

In these terms, as an NGO, Gokkusagi Dernegi works social, cultural, educational, and economic development for needs and limitations of people in the region. With its educational department, summer courses including general school subjects and basic sports for children are provided for children. Furthermore, general courses for certain exams are also provided for adults by voluntary teachers. Seminars, conferences and conversational sessions are other activities held for local people. The medical department consists of doctors and nurse who organize voluntary check-ups for primary and secondary schools in the rural parts of the city. While these departments organize local activities for people in the region, the commission of education prepares and applies for national and international projects. So far several projects such as *Home Design for Disabled*, *Reading Workshops and Research Techniques*, and lastly *ASAP-Art for Sustainable Action Projects* have been held and participated.

## Process

In ASAP Project, the target group of the organization were housewives who were accepted as disadvantaged group and should be cared for in terms of their needs and limitations. Through this project:

- about 20 women received a certificate of handcrafts from two sessions of courses assigned by Public Training Center,
- 24 mobilities have been carried out to partner countries: The Netherlands, Poland, Romania, and France,
- 12 of these mobilities were women,
- 8 of whom were housewives who had never *even* been on a flight, and would never imagine to be abroad or make friendships with foreigners,
- most of whom would like to learn English to keep communicating with those new friends and right after the implication of this need, an English course was started in Gokkusagi Dernegi by voluntary teachers.

## Methodology

The methodology followed through the project was to start a course for handcrafts which consisted two sessions and was assigned by Public Training Center. The handcrafts trainees met twice a week in the organization and made their handcrafts through the process of the course. By the time the course was finished, the products were collected and presented in the following meetings in partner countries.



## Evaluation

The main goal of the course and project was to help these housewives take part in the activities of the organization social life more efficiently. They had a chance to present what they had created. Through the mobilities some of them were able to travel abroad. On the other hand, during the project meeting in Turkey, they had a chance to host and welcome their foreign friends (project participants) with a local and traditional lunch they had prepared in a friendly atmosphere.

