



[Community engagement experience on SDGs Localization/ Mezitli -Mersin/ Turkiye]

MEZITLI, TURKIYE



Mezitli is one of the mediterranean sea side located, with lovely archeological sites and 300 days sunny, central cities of Mersin Province in Turkiye.

Where citizens from different cultures and religions are living together in peace and respect since Clicia time.

Mezitli has almost 250 000 citizens with %51 of them are Women.

And hosting more then 60 000 registered and unregistered Syrians living in Mezitli.

Our city's Summer Population is almost 300 000 without Syrians.

- We have 40 neighbourhoods from seaside to the Toroslar Mountains of the city.
- Landscape of Mezitli is 416, 52 km2 and 36,82 km2 are constructed /planned.
- Main sectors of the city are Agriculture, service and tourism

2030 AGENDA IN MEZITLI



First of all we started to understand and explain what are the SDGs and it's target's.

Trying to understand global targets is crucial and hardest thing for local authorities and it's managerial units.

Each local authorities in countries have different dynamics in the managerial and implementation levels.

We started to create awareness of our staff, managers, decision makers on SDGs and the relevancies with our municipal services. We did prepared report of our municipal management under the goals umbrella.

During that process local staff and managerial units started to learn to think globally and act locally.

We started to localize the global goals with local needs and experiences.

We have lack of unemployment, education, environmental problems and needs...



CO-CREATION IN LOCALIZATION

Social and Economic Outputs



Women Producers in our country, no stand rent, electricity money, etc.

It was a situation that disturbed many people to establish a neighborhood market where only Women Producers took place without any cost, in the area allocated by the Municipality.

However, it was a Project that was possible with the decision of the city council.

9 Women's producer markets provide positive discrimination for 650 women in Mezitli to access free opportunities for employment.

Free sales stands, social, demographic, economic, cultural awareness, capacity-building trainings and social inclusion activities are held annually to include women in all our markets.

The idea was developed on the needs and offers of the women of Mezitli, taking into account global and local issues and objectives.

We made a SWOT analysis with volunteer neighborhood representatives.

- Self Confidence
- Supports to Kids
- Driving Licence Ownership
- Car Ownership
- House Ownership

CO-CREATION IN LOCALIZATION



We are working at different stages with different partnerships and volunteers in Mezitli.

Developing awareness on waste management at households of Syrians, Turkish and other nationalities living in Mezitli, partnership with Mezitli City Council, non governmental organizations representing all different social groups

Developing and raising our staff's awareness on waste management methodologies by Waste Wise Management project partnership with UN HABITAT.

We believe that when we work together with equal distances that brings success on social responsibility Works for all.

CO-CREATION IN LOCALIZATION

Our volunteers from different social and demographic parts of the city.

Almost 150 professors, entrepreneurs, housewives, mums, youths, kids with parents or grandparents.

From not only Mezitli but also neighbour cities and a group of volunteers from Mardin (an influencer, environment engineer and staff) are working on biodegradable food for green and agricultural areas.

Our main aim is to develop a sustainable and healthy food cycle in our city and world.

And to achieve higher levels of equality in terms of participation, including diversity as a criterion for inclusion by involving citizens from all kind of occupational groups.



Lessons learnt;

- Being open; transparent to all volunteers who wants to be volunteer for Mezitli is our innovation.
- From all education, origin, religion, social-demographic levels, political ideas, cultures.
- If i would change, like to employ a team for volunteer Works' coordination, training, Project development, etc. For all process management.
- They need more professional support from us.
- Being OPEN to all citizens; communities living in and out of the city is and asset.
- Being open to all communities/ humans for any kind of participation and common thinking is a key for participation.

Policy recommendations

- Link your policies with global, national and local levels with political and Professional dimensions.
- Start with analyses, needs and potential of your city and go on with organizing the legal instruments for a perfect implementation process.



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professionals involved.

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