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## FLOWER – Fostering Local Opportunities for Women’s Effective Participation

### Summary activities’ implementation

The activities implemented during the reporting period have successfully contributed to the overall objective of the action, which is to develop CSOs capacity from the Hatay province in terms of building sustainable participatory mechanisms and promoting sustainable models of participation in public decision-making processes.

An online kick-off meeting took place on the 04th of February 2015, after a number of preparatory e-mail exchanges and telephone calls.

In order to foster an exchange of information and sharing of experiences, we have organized the first face-to-face meeting with all the partners, which consisted in a study visit in Rome (FGB headquarters, 27-28 February), with the goal of sharing experience and practices from the Italian side, but also have a first glimpse of the situation in Turkey and the needs of our partners.

The meeting was followed by a debate organized in Ankara, on the 31<sup>st</sup> of March. The debate had as a goal to gather further information on women's participation in public life, social and political, in Turkey in general and in Hatay Province in particular. This information would serve as a basis for the two two-day capacity building seminars to be organised in Hatay.

Based on the information collected during the implementation of the previous activities, the needs expresses by our Turkish partners, as well as on FGB's previous experience on participatory processes, two two-day capacity building seminars were conceived and implemented in Hatay, the 29-30 May and the 26-27 June.

These seminars were meant to equip participants with the tools needed to participate at the three Local Action Group meetings, organised on the 05.09, 12.09 and 10.10, in Hatay and Samandađ. In order to ensure continuity, the participants at the LAG were CSOs representatives that participated at the capacity building seminars, to which new participants were added. A concrete result of the three Local Action Group meeting is a Protocol drafted with the goal of being signed by the Hatay Greater





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Municipality, Samandađ Municipality, Arsuz Municipality and İskenderun Municipality and establishing shared rules to engage women into the policy making decision process.

Through the effort of our local partner, Yeşilpınar Kadınları Sosyal Yardımlaşma ve Dayanışma Derneđi, the protocol was signed by the mayor of all 4 Municipalities involved (Antakya Greater Municipality, Samandađ Municipality, Arsuz Municipality and İskenderun Municipality).

Another result of the seminars was the creation, translation, publication and distribution of a toolkit referring to participatory approaches, which was distributed 17 women's organizations in Ankara, 13 CSO's and municipalities in Hatay, and 3 governmental organizations (Ministry of Development, Ministry of Family and Social Policy and İŞKUR-Public Employment Centre). 10 toolkits were sent to each organization, it was estimated that toolkit reached to 330 people. Though parts of toolkit were used during the capacity building seminars (May – June 2015), the final version was approved and printed in January 2016.

The period between November 2015 and January 2016 was dedicated to the organisation of the final conference and visibility campaign. The final conference was organized on the 20<sup>th</sup> of November, in Savon Hotel, Hatay and it had 39 participants, members of CSOs, local representatives, municipalities' representatives, past participants as well as the deputy governor of Hatay, Representative of Hatay Greater Municipality. It aimed to present and discuss the project results.

Posters publicizing the signature of the protocol were displayed on billboards in Hatay, while leaflets with the text of the protocol were distributed to CSO's and municipalities' women centres. 100 copies of leaflet were sent to each organization.

