



## **BEGINNING FARMER EXTENSION**

**16th – 19th October 2010**

**Yozgat, TURKEY**

**1ST WORKSHOP REPORT**

The first meeting of “BEFARMEX Project” was held in Yozgat, Turkey in the period from 16th to 19th October 2010. This was the first mobility action within the project. 24 participants participated in the activities: seven from Turkey, eight from Romania, four from Italy, two from Spain, two from Hungary and one from Greece.

After the arrival of all participants, the meeting started on the 17<sup>th</sup> October with a presentation of each partner institution in order to understand their location, institutional structures, activities and aims and to better know the participants of the meeting.

The day after, on 18th October, the group visited the Local Authorities and the Public Bodies:

- Provincial Directorate of Agriculture;
- Governor of the City;
- Mayor of the City.



The representative of the local authorities informed the participants about some aspects and characteristics of the agricultural situation in Yozgat and in Turkey in general.

The agricultural production in Yozgat is specialized in particular in sugar beet, cereals and breeding. For example, 9% of the national sugar beet needs is produced in Yozgat.

70% of the total economy in Yozgat is represented by agriculture. What is produced during summer season is enough to meet the demand for food for the whole year; about 80% of the food production is bought by the State.

Farmers have the possibility to join the Chamber of Agriculture. This association aims to increase the competitiveness of farmers providing services such as:

- consulting services;
- training course programmes;
- assistance provided by professors or experts in the specific field;
- agreements with suppliers to have better price conditions for particular purchases (seeds and so on...)

There is the association of Cattle Breeders too. If farmers and breeders want to join one of the two associations, they are requested to pay a fee on the basis of the surface of their land.

In the afternoon the group visited a typical rural village “YAZIPINAR” near Yozgat. The partners could see houses, cattle sheds and cultivated lands. People living and working there, hosted the group in the room where they usually attend training courses and/or meet consultants and experts for the assistance they need.



They spoke about their main production, the financial aids and support they received from government in cases of losses due to bad climate conditions. This area is specialized in sheep, goat and poultry breeding and in production of fresh dairy products.

Field rotation is not normally applied and as in the European Union countries there is the trend of abandoning rural areas by the youth generations searching for better job opportunities in the cities.