



BEGINNING FARMERS EXTENSION
Grundtvig Learning Partnerships

The second meeting of BEFARMEX Project" took place in the city of Kalamata, Greece aprox. 250 klm South-West of the city of Athens. The meeting was held from 8th to 11th of Feb. 2011.

The participants in this 2nd mobility where twenty three (23) in total and more analytically where from the following countries: TURKEY:6, ROMANIA:8, ITALY:4, SPAIN:2, GREECE:3

During the **first day**, Feb. 8th, which was the date of arrival a brief tour in the city of Athens took place.

During the **second day**, Feb. 9th, all participants where in the meeting room of KEK AIAS in the village of Mikromani, aprox. 5 klm outside the very city centre of Kalamata.

During the meeting which held between 09.00 am to 17.00 pm various managerial and technical aspects of the Befarmex Project where discussed such the work packages, the formation of the questionnaire for the farmers and other interest groups. Furthermore, during the first day all participants had the chance to participate in a study visit to an artichoke farm and an artichoke factory. During the visit an official tour took place with an expert who explained in depths all aspects for farming the artichoke, packaging of the artichoke as well as others technical details about cultivation, the use fertilizers, economical and cost issues and so on.

During the **third day** Feb. 10th, three study visits where held. In specific:

a) Study visit to olive/olive oil and vinegar production outside the city of Kalamata.

The whole region around Kalamata which is the Messinia region, is a massive producer of olives but more especially for olive oil. Participants had a chance to have guided tour with experts with in the Production area. Details about the production, packaging and distribution of olive oil, olives and vinegar where given in this study visit. From educational point of view this study visit was beneficial for those wish to have a factory of their own packaging and exporting olive oil, olives and vinegar to other countries. The highlight of the visit was firstly the machinery used in all steps of the production and the packaging and secondly the hygiene precautions taken both for employees/workers and also for the visitors of the installa-

tion. Such precautions secure at the maximum the quality of the final outcome/ product which aims directly to the consumer.

b) Study visit to sheep pen outside of the city of Kalamata

This study visit has given a chance to the participants to view a sheep pen and how this activity combined with most of the agricultural farming. In fact, in Greece most farmers have their own sheep, even in a small number which partially assists their farming income.

Last but not least, it has to be taken under consideration that milk form sheep is equally popular to the Greek market as yogurt from sheep.

c) Study visit to biological olive trees' farm outside of the city of Kalamata

The visit in this farm although had nor visual either tangible impact on potential farmers of olive trees, has given to the participants a chance to view a plantation of olive trees farm that can produce biological olives and olive oil with low cost and without use of fertilizers.

During the **fourth day** Feb. 11th, which was the date of departure, due to late departure of that day of some participants, a chance was given to the Turkish and Spanish team, on the way to Athens, Nafplion. In Nafplion's inhabitants gain their income both as farmers and working in small & medium enterprises of the local tourism industry.



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