

# The Agricultural Strategy and Policy Development Center

## Erasmus+ Partner Information Form



### Partner Organisation

OID Number	E10374485
Full Legal Name (Turkish)	Tarımsal Strateji ve Politika Geliştirme Merkezi
Full Legal Name (English)	The Agricultural Strategy and Policy Development Center
Acronym	TARPOL
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### Profil

Type of Organisation	non-governmental organisation
Is the partner organisation a publicbody?	No
Is the partner organisation a non-profit?	Yes

## Accreditation

Has the organisation received any type of accreditation before submitting this application?

No

European Solidarity Corps Quality Label (supporting organization)

No

Has the organisation received / applied for any EU grants?

No

## Background and Experience

Please briefly present the partner organisation.

- The Agricultural Strategy and Policy Development Center (TARPOL) is a dedicated foundation established to address and shape sustainable agricultural practices within Turkey. As a multidisciplinary organization at the crossroads of agriculture, biology, economics, and ecology, TARPOL's mission is to drive strategic, sustainable growth in the agricultural sector while addressing critical issues impacting food security, environmental stability, and public health. The foundation's efforts are centered on mitigating the effects of global challenges such as climate change, epidemics, and trade disruptions, all of which threaten the stability of food supply chains.
- TARPOL's key activities span policy development, capacity building, and strategic initiatives that align with sustainable agricultural goals. Working in collaboration with a wide network of stakeholders—including farmers, producers, agricultural workers, policymakers, and consumers—TARPOL pursues an inclusive approach to developing holistic strategies that ensure food security and promote the sustainable use of natural resources. The foundation has established a strong knowledge base and offers hands-on training programs that cover diverse topics, including smart agriculture, food loss prevention, alternative food sources, sustainable aquatic resource management, and food safety.
- One of TARPOL's recent initiatives, the "Food Price Early Warning System," exemplifies its proactive approach to addressing agricultural volatility by forecasting fluctuations in food prices. In June 2024, TARPOL held a conference titled "How Prepared is Turkey's Agriculture and Food Sector for Climate Change?" in Ankara, gathering experts, policymakers, and stakeholders to discuss sustainable solutions. Such events not only raise awareness but also foster collaboration among various sectors, reinforcing TARPOL's commitment to building resilience in Turkey's agricultural landscape.
- Led by Chairman Dr. Mehdi Eker, a veteran in agricultural policy, TARPOL's governance is further strengthened by an extensive advisory board comprising sectoral and scientific experts. This structure enables the foundation to align closely with Turkey's agricultural policies and address emerging global challenges. With expertise across disciplines—including food safety, agricultural economics, veterinary sciences, and environmental management—TARPOL's team actively contributes to national and international initiatives that foster innovation and resilience in agriculture.
- In addition to its policy-focused activities, TARPOL is deeply invested in youth engagement and education. Through Erasmus+ projects, capacity-building workshops, awareness campaigns, and mentorship programs, TARPOL empowers young people

to play an active role in addressing pressing environmental and agricultural issues. By equipping youth with the skills and knowledge needed for effective environmental stewardship, TARPOL promotes a sustainable future driven by informed and engaged young leaders.

- As a respected foundation on both national and international stages, TARPOL's mission is to foster sustainable agricultural practices, promote food security, and drive policy innovation by engaging with all relevant stakeholders in the sector. The foundation's strategic initiatives contribute not only to economic development but also to the social well-being of communities, positioning TARPOL as a pivotal force in shaping the future of agriculture in Turkey and beyond.

### **What are the activities and experience of the organisation in the areas relevant for this application?**

The Center for Agricultural Strategy and Policy Development (TARPOL) is committed to promoting youth empowerment and encouraging youth participation in basic social, environmental and agricultural issues through a comprehensive package of structured initiatives. The Foundation's approach prioritizes equipping the younger generation with the skills, knowledge and practical experience needed to overcome critical global challenges, especially in the areas of climate change, sustainable agriculture and food security. Tarpol's youth participation activities cover various initiatives:

- **Erasmus+ Projects:** TARPOL actively participates in Erasmus + programs and plays an effective role in supporting the development of young people through international exchange and Intercultural cooperation. These initiatives offer invaluable experiences to young participants, broadening their perspective on sustainable agriculture and equipping them with the various competencies necessary to navigate today's interconnected world.
- **Capacity Building Workshops:** Regularly organized capacity building workshops serve as a training cornerstone for youth workers, providing both theoretical and practical information on sustainable agriculture, climate change and food security. These sessions equip young people with the necessary tools to develop effective, community-oriented solutions to contemporary environmental challenges.
- **Awareness Campaigns and Environmental Advocacy:** TARPOL leads various campaigns and awareness initiatives aimed at educating young people about environmental sustainability. These campaigns, which address issues such as climate resilience, food security and sustainable food systems, encourage young participants to become proactive advocates and conscious leaders in environmental protection.
- **Youth Conferences and Forums:** By organizing and participating in youth-oriented forums, TARPOL provides a platform for young voices to participate in climate change and sustainability discussions in Turkey's agricultural sector. "How Ready is Turkey's Agriculture and Food Sector for Climate Change?" was held in June 2024. This event enabled the young participants to interact with experts, engage in critical discourses and develop a collaborative spirit to address pressing environmental issues.
- **Collaborative Community Projects:** TARPOL cooperates with a wide network of stakeholders to develop projects that actively involve young people in community service and environmental management. These projects promote a strong sense of social responsibility among the young participants.
- **Mentoring and Professional Support Programs:** TARPOL brings young people together with experienced professionals in fields such as agriculture, environmental science and policy making. These mentoring programs facilitate both personal and professional growth by providing career paths in sustainability-oriented fields.

Digital Learning Initiatives: Through the "Digital Agriculture Academy", TARPOL offers digital learning resources that enable young people to explore critical topics such as smart agriculture and technological innovation. These resources are crucial in preparing the younger generation to take advantage of digital tools to address the evolving agricultural challenges.

- Hands-On Training and Internships: TARPOL provides internship and practical training opportunities, immersing young individuals in applied agricultural and environmental science. These experiences deliver essential insights into sustainable practices, policy development, and food security, preparing participants to address future challenges within the agricultural sector.

Additionally, TARPOL engages in pioneering initiatives directly relevant to this application. For example, the "Food Price Early Warning System" represents TARPOL's proactive approach to addressing agricultural volatility through forecasting food price fluctuations. This project reflects TARPOL's dedication to promoting stability within food systems, a subject of profound importance to youth as future custodians of environmental and agricultural sustainability.

Further reinforcing TARPOL's commitment to sustainable development, TARPOL organized a significant event in June 2024 titled "How Prepared is Turkey's Agriculture and Food Sector for Climate Change?" This search conference gathered experts, policymakers, and sector stakeholders, fostering a collective awareness and intersectoral collaboration. Such gatherings not only heighten awareness among young participants but also enhance collaboration across various sectors, reinforcing TARPOL's role in building resilience within Turkey's agricultural landscape.

In addition to events and awareness campaigns, TARPOL has also contributed to public knowledge through impactful publications, including:

- "The Transformation Process of Turkish Agriculture – Wheat and Sheep, the Rest is Mere Play": This publication provides a comprehensive reflection on the transformative reforms in Turkey's agricultural sector, highlighting economic growth and food security advancements.
- "Feeding Dairy Cows and Calves": A scientific resource tracing the history and advancements in animal nutrition, emphasizing sustainable livestock management practices crucial to food security.

Through these diverse initiatives, TARPOL endeavors to cultivate a generation that is socially responsible, environmentally conscientious, and prepared to address the complex challenges posed by the climate crisis. By providing youth with essential knowledge, skills, and a strong ethical foundation, TARPOL aims to empower young leaders capable of driving positive change within their communities and contributing to global sustainability efforts.

## What are the skills and expertise of key staff/persons involved in this application?

### Dr. Mehmet Mehdi EKER

- Position: Chairman of the Board of Directors
- Expertise: Veterinarian, Agricultural Economics
- He graduated from Ankara University Faculty of Veterinary Medicine. He received a master's degree in Agricultural Economics from the University of Aberdeen, England. He completed his master's degree in Pilotage at University of Turkish Aeronautical Association, Institute of Aviation and Space Sciences. He received his doctorate from Ankara University.
- He held various positions in different departments of the Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Livestock. In 2011, he was awarded the Terra Mariana Honorary Rank by the Estonian Presidency and in 2012, he was awarded the "Chevalier dans l'Ordre du Merite Agricole" (Knight of Merit in Agriculture) by the French Government for his contributions to the fight against global hunger. He has many articles published in newspapers and magazines on various subjects and 2 books on the agricultural sector.

- He was elected as an MP for Diyarbakır in the 22nd, 23rd, 24th and 26th terms. He worked as a parliamentarian at the Council of Europe. He served as Minister of Food, Agriculture and Livestock in the 59th, 60th, 61st and 62nd Governments.

### **Vedat MİRMAHMUTOĞULLARI**

- Position: Deputy Chairman of the Board of Directors, Senior Agricultural Engineer
- Expertise: Zootechny
- He was born in 1950 in Sivas. In 1975, he graduated from Atatürk University, Faculty of Agriculture, Department of Animal Husbandry as a Master of Agriculture Engineer. In the same year, he joined the Ministry of Agriculture and worked in Kastamonu, Ankara and Erzurum provinces for a long time. Afterwards, he worked as a manager in various units of the Ministry of Agriculture.
- In the meantime, he received trainings at Texas A&M University (USA), Georgia University (USA) and Bradford University (UK) on sectoral and various subjects, especially on "Preparation, Implementation, Monitoring and Evaluation of Agricultural and Industrial Projects". He also presented papers on projects implemented in Turkey at international congresses in Italy, Germany and Hungary. He worked as a manager in various outsourced projects.
- In Turkey, he served as the Chairman of the Board of High Commissioners and Vice Chairman of the Sugar Board. He prepared the Animal Husbandry Development Project of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus. Italy (Rome) - Served two terms as a member of the Board of Directors of the International Food and Agricultural Development (IFAD) on behalf of Turkey. France (Paris) - Served as a board member of the International Center for Advanced Mediterranean (CIHAEM) on behalf of Turkey for two terms of three years each. Uzbekistan (Tashkent) - He worked as an advisor to the President of Uzbekistan and the Ministry of Agriculture of Uzbekistan. After serving as the Undersecretary of the Ministry of Agriculture between 2005-2015, he retired in 2015 due to retirement age. He has a book on "Nutrition of Dairy Cows and Calves".

### **Prof. Dr. Mehmet Ersin İSTANBULLUOĞLU**

- Born in Ankara in 1942, he graduated from Ankara University, Faculty of Veterinary Medicine in 1967. Between 1968-1974, he completed his Master's (M.Sc.) and Doctorate (Ph.D.) studies at the Department of Virology, Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, University of Illinois, United States of America. In the same year, he started to work as a Dr. Assistant at A.U. Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, Department of Microbiology. In 1979, he received the title of Associate Professor. Positions held:
- Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs (MoAF) Deputy General Directorate of Project Implementation
- Professorship at the Department of Microbiology, Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, Selçuk University
- Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs General Directorate of Protection and Control
- TÜBİTAK Veterinary Animal Husbandry Group membership
- Republic of Turkey Prime Ministry Deputy Undersecretary
- Agricultural Counselor at the Permanent Representation of Turkey to the European Community in Brussels-Belgium
- Board Member and Vice President of the World Bank International Drylands Agricultural Research Center in Aleppo-Syria

- Vice Rector of Kırıkkale University and Head of the Department of Clinical Sciences and Diseases of the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine of the same university
- Part-time Presidential Counselor at the Prime Ministry Southeastern Anatolia Project (GAP) Administration
- Advisor to the Undersecretary at the Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Livestock

### **Prof. Dr. İrfan EROL**

- Position Food Microbiologist
- Area of Specialization: Food Safety and Public Health

İrfan Erol graduated from Ankara University, Faculty of Veterinary Medicine in 1985. He did his doctorate at the Institute of Food Hygiene, Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, Freie University Berlin, Germany with the scholarship of German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) between 1987-1991. He became an associate professor in October 1993 and a professor at Ankara University, Faculty of Veterinary Medicine in March 1999. In 1996, he worked as a visiting scientist at Freie Universität Berlin and in 2000 and 2001, he worked as a visiting scientist at the Department of Food Microbiology and Toxicology, Food Research Institute, University of Wisconsin, USA. During this period, he introduced PCR and PFGE techniques based on molecular biology to the field with his research, projects and laboratories he established. Between 2003 and 2012, he served as the Head of the Department of Food Hygiene and Technology at Ankara University, Faculty of Veterinary Medicine. His areas of expertise are food microbiology and molecular microbiology, food safety and public health, national and EU food legislation.

- Positions held and duties performed:
- General Director of Food and Control at the Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Livestock
- He was CVO (Chief Veterinary Officer) and OIE (World Organization for Animal Health) Turkey delegate during his General Directorate
- Member of EFSA (European Food Safety Authority) Advisory Board,
- FAO/WHO Codex Alimentarius Commission National Representation
- EU-FMD (European Foot and Mouth Disease Commission) Board Member
- Chairing the Negotiating Delegation on behalf of the Ministry in Chapter 12 Negotiations with the EU
- Member of the High Commissioners Board of the Ministry
- Member of the National Food Codex Commission
- Chairing 3 national/international congresses including the 32nd World Veterinary Congress (September 13-17, 2015, Istanbul)
- ILSI (International Life Sciences Institute), European Scientific Advisory Committee, World Veterinary Association (WVA) Turkey Representative,
- Member of the Advisory Board of the European Federation of Veterinarians (FVE) Hygiene Group
- Member of YÖK Veterinary Publication Ethics Commission
- TÜBA-Food and Nutrition Working Group membership
- Member of TUBITAK VHAG Executive Committee
- Member of TUBITAK TOVAG Advisory Board
- TUBITAK ÇPDK membership
- TUBITAK UME Advisory Board membership
- He served as a member of TÜRKAK Advisory Board.
- Faculty member at Eastern Mediterranean University Faculty of Health Sciences
- He is currently a faculty member at Atılım University and Lokman Hekim University Faculty of Health Sciences.

## Legal Representative

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### Person responsible for the contact in the project

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