

Selected projects



Turkey Minimizing the Bird Flu Threat

Official title of the project

Avian Influenza Preparedness and Response Project

Country

Turkey

Sector

Health

Budget/EC contribution

Total budget : 10.400.000 Euros

EC Contribution : 8.350.000 Euros

National Co-Financing: 2.050.000 Euros

Implementation period

2006 – 2007

Beneficiary

The Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs
General Directorate of Protection and Control; the Ministry of Health General Directorate of Primary Health Care

Expected results

The threat of avian influenza infection minimised and preparedness and response mechanisms improved

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The “Avian Influenza Preparedness and Response Project” is one of the most important projects recently conducted with funds from the EU financial support to Turkey. Bird flu outbreaks have occurred occasionally since 2005 and pose a significant threat to public health as well as to the poultry industry. The project is crucial in that it not only aims to minimise the threat of avian influenza infection, but also focuses on improving preparedness and response mechanisms.

Important progress has been made in the fight against bird flu thanks to the activities of the project, which has achieved cooperation between institutions working on bird flu, development of country-wide strategies, and enhancement of veterinary services relating to technical aspects and human resources. Protection of the poultry industry is crucial in Turkey, as it generates annual revenue of 3 billion dollars and employs over 2 million people. Aside from the economic aspect of the issue, increasing the capacity of early response by enhancing diagnosis methods is vital for public health.

The project is divided into 4 working packages, each of which deals with a specific aspect of the fight against bird flu:

- **Strategy and Regulation.**
- **Studies/ Surveillance and Information Systems**
- **Strengthening Veterinary Services and Coordination.**
- **Awareness and Control Measures:**

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