

## Meeting report

# Rebuild Hatay - Information session

Date: 26 October 2023

Time: 13.30 – 15.00h

Location: Malietoren, Bezuidenhoutseweg 12, The Hague



## Discussion and conclusions

1. **Goals:** goals of the meeting where:

- To clarify the reconstruction needs of the region of Hatay in rebuilding the area;
- To discuss the potential for Dutch businesses to help in the reconstruction;
- To underline the need to clarify the road to international blended finance and funding of the reconstruction, and;
- To provide insight in the current political and economic situation in Türkiye in general and Hatay, more specifically after the devastating earthquakes.

See the movie: [Hatay Earthquake before and after](#)

2. **The impact of the earthquake:** On February 6, three earthquakes hit eleven provinces and radically changed the lives of millions of people in Türkiye and Syria. More than 50,000 people died and 107,000 people were injured. Over 2 million buildings have been damaged. 700,000 houses have become uninhabitable, water & sanitation systems have been severely damaged. Local society, economy and the system of local government have been devastated and disrupted. Since the earthquakes Dutch people, businesses, universities and governments have been committed to helping the people in the region affected by the earthquakes.
3. **Factfinding missions:** In June and July two factfinding missions took place to Hatay. Türkiye has a strong national and local government, as well as a strong construction sector that are well equipped to rebuild after the earthquakes. However, the destruction is of such a scale and magnitude, and the need for fast reconstruction so high, that international assistance is required. Particularly, support is needed in the field of circular construction (e.g. re-use of debris), restoring the water and sanitation systems, and modular buildings.
4. **Politics and economics:** The elections, in May 2023, had a positive effect on the economic situation in Türkiye. Inflation is still high (approximately 60% per year). The economy is expected to grow with 3% this year. The Netherlands is one of the largest investors in Türkiye. However, doing business in the country remains challenging, especially in Hatay where the local society and economy has been severely affected by the destruction caused by the earthquakes. With an average income of €5000,- per capita, already before the earthquakes, the area was less developed compared to the rest of Türkiye where the average income per capita is €12.000,-. The large influx of Syrian refugees put further pressure on the local economy. The Turkish national government provides financial support to the regional and local governments and to individual homeowners for rebuilding. Additionally, there is a large workforce eager to rebuild local society and economy.
5. **Collaboration:** Together with De Meeuw, DMT, Kuiper Compagnons and Hatay Metropole, NLWorks will develop a partnership, around the construction of a modular neighbourhood in Hatay.

In addition, during a visit to The Netherlands on October 20<sup>th</sup>, Mayor Savaş of Hatay Metropole added that The Netherlands could assist in rebuilding housing, the construction of a large fruit and vegetables market and an omni sports and conference centre. Businesses interested to play a role in a public-private partnership, are welcome to reach out to NLWorks.

See this movie: [Hatay fruit and vegetable market.](#)

See these movies: [Hatay Metropolitan Municipality Sports Complex and Life Centre](#) and [Hatay Metropolitan Municipality Sports Complex and Life Centre after the earthquake.](#)

6. **Finance & Funding:** The Netherlands Embassy in Ankara will commission an assignment to define the road to blended financing and funding. In addition, Hatay Metropole has shown commitment to seek blended funding. The Netherlands Enterprise Agency (RVO) can assist Dutch businesses with subsidies, among others.

#### Participation:

In case your business or organisation wants to receive additional information or is interested in actively becoming involved, you can reach out to:

- **NLWorks** for more information on the consortium around the construction of a modular neighbourhood in Antakya.  
[frank.eysen@nl-works.com](mailto:frank.eysen@nl-works.com) or [katrien.volleman@nl-works.com](mailto:katrien.volleman@nl-works.com)
- **RVO** for results on the market study on financing opportunities, support with individual business plans and possible additional instruments such as demonstration projects and feasibility studies for SMEs.  
[auke.boere@rvo.nl](mailto:auke.boere@rvo.nl) or [christina.vanderlaan@rvo.nl](mailto:christina.vanderlaan@rvo.nl)
- **Netherlands embassy in Ankara** for understanding the Turkish context and assistance with establishing contacts, especially with government officials.  
[paul.zwetsloot@minbuza.nl](mailto:paul.zwetsloot@minbuza.nl)

#### Attending organizations

Apcon Building Systems
Association of Dutch Municipalities
Denge Degerleme
DMT Modular Constructions BV
European-Turkish Trade and Investment Council Istanbul
Getir
Haos design
Holland Composites
Hollanda İşbirliği Derneği / Dutch Business Association Turkey
Krim Remote Services B.V.
Kuiper Compagnons
LQL HR advice
Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Ministry of Infrastructure and Water Management
Modular Netherlands
Musiad Netherlands
Netherlands Embassy Ankara
Netherlands Enterprise Agency (RVO)
NLWorks

NP2E
ROP Architects
TOV The Hague
Trendyol
TU Delft   Technical University Delft
TUSIAD The Netherlands Network
VNO NCW – MKB Netherlands
YAŞAR HOLDİNG