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PRESS RELEASE

TURKISH EMPLOYMENT OFFICES ARE BEING MODERNIZED

Within the scope of the Active Labour Market Strategy Programme (ALMS), the European Union is modernising the offices of the Turkish Employment Agency (İŞKUR).

The Active Labour Market Strategy Programme, which was launched in October 2003, aims to contribute to the solution of the unemployment problem in Turkey. The overall budget of the project is 50 million Euros and 25% of this amount is borne by the Republic of Turkey. The amount allocated for the construction of modern employment offices, which constitutes one of the activities planned under the project, is around 8 million Euros. In 16 provinces (Bandırma, Gebze, Antalya, Samsun, Çorum, Niğde, Tokat, Kilis, Hatay, Elazığ, Diyarbakır, Muş, Siirt, Ağrı, Iğdır and Ardahan) new buildings will be constructed whereas in 4 others (Ankara, İstanbul, Kayseri, Aydın-Söke) current buildings will be renovated. The buildings will become operable by the end of 2005.

The design of the buildings complies with European standards, and will be able to meet the requirements of modern employment services. Modern İŞKUR offices will not only be places where the registration procedures of the unemployed are conducted but also where representatives of local labour market come together. The new services provided in the İŞKUR offices will ensure that a greater number of clients (employers, unemployed, representatives of enterprises and institutions) benefit from the institution.

Information about vacant posts will be displayed in special sections of the buildings. Jobseekers will be able to have easy access to information about vacant posts, training facilities, and labour market related information from computers. The unemployed with special conditions and needs will have a chance to conduct private appointments with İŞKUR staff. Trainings will be provided on how to look for a job. Regular meetings will be held with local administrations, employers' and employees' organisations and representatives of other organisations.

In short, the new İŞKUR offices have been designed to ensure that İŞKUR plays a more effective role in Turkey's economic and social policies, and to support its changing vision and image. İŞKUR is getting prepared to open its new offices to meet the needs of its employees and of all social partners, with a view to creating an attractive meeting point.

For more information on the project and it's activities you can contact:

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