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# NEWSLETTER | 02

## "MILK MATTERS: ALL YOU NEED IS QUALITY MILK" PROJECT

### The First Focus Group Meeting was held on 17th of September in İzmir

As SETBİR, the "Milk Matters: All You Need is Quality Milk" Project, which we are carrying out within the scope of the "EU-Turkey Civil Society Dialogue VI Programme", the 1st Focus Group Meeting regarding the A1.2 current situation analysis activity of the dairy sector in Turkey was held on 17 September 2021, in İzmir.

The meeting was attended by the milk industrialists who are members of SETBİR in İzmir, the representatives of the İzmir Dairy Producers Union, raw milk producing farmers, representatives of Tire Dairy Cooperative and our valuable associates from Ege University

In this context, with the representatives of the sector, what should be done to improve the microbiological and chemical quality of raw milk, the feasibility of applying a penalty-premium system in improving the quality of milk, when an action plan is prepared to improve the quality of raw milk, how financial resources should be provided for the execution of this plan, and who and how often the training activities should be carried out to increase the quality of raw milk were discussed.



# The Second Focus Group Meeting was held on 30th of September in Ankara

The meeting was attended by the representatives of the National Milk Council, Agricultural Dairy Producers Union of Turkey, Cattle Breeders' Association of Turkey, AOÇ Dairy Factory, Feed Manufacturers Association of Turkey, Turkish Veterinarians Association, and the relevant general directorates of the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry which has representatives from related departments.



The Word Cafe system was applied, with the meeting participants seated at two separate tables in equal numbers and in a way to represent the sector equally.

Participants were accompanied by the project coordinator, food safety expert and project assistant.



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**After all the views of the participants were received, a plenary session was held to summarize the discussion points and the main findings of the discussions. The meeting was concluded with the final comments of the meeting participants.**

# The First Study Visit was held on 27-30th of October in the Hague, the Netherlands

Within the scope of the project, the first study visit abroad was held in The Hague, Netherlands, with the participation of SETBIR members, between 27-30 October 2021, in order to exchange ideas with sector representatives in Europe and to see examples of good practice on site.

First, a meeting was held with the Dutch Milk and Dairy Products Association (NZO) under the leadership of ZuivelNL, a dairy cooperative. NZO officials shared information about the structure and organization of the Dutch dairy industry.

In the afternoon of the first day of the study visit, a meeting was held with Deputy Commercial Counselor Aşkın Peker, by visiting our embassy in The Hague, Netherlands. With Mr. Peker, evaluations were made on the Turkish meat and dairy sectors and the Dutch dairy sector, and information was obtained on Dutch working conditions and investment opportunities.

On the second day of the study visit, two different dairy farms were visited and good practice examples were seen on site.

On the same day, CRV company Regional Manager Marcel Hartjes made a presentation to the participants about their work on dairy cattle breeding in the Netherlands.





## About the Project

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“Milk Matters: All You Need is Quality Milk” Project, which is being carried out by SETBİR, started on April 1, 2021. Project partners; Union of Dairy, Beef, Food Industrialists and Producers of Turkey (SETBİR) and Italian Food Industry Federation (FEDERALIMENTARE). The project duration is 15 months.

The overall objective of our project is to encouraging the civil society in Turkey to take an active role in food hygiene and safety in the production process of dairy and dairy products.

The aim of our project is to develop a roadmap to improve the quality of raw milk based on comparative analysis of the European and Turkish experience and to maintain quality, hygiene and safety in raw milk production.

The specific goal of the project is to maintain quality, hygiene and safety in raw milk production with this roadmap to be developed; to accomplish an exemplary model for Turkey in accordance with the EU legislation, to mobilize non-governmental organizations and representatives of the dairy sector to take an active role in the implementation of special hygiene provisions in raw milk production within the scope of Food Law No. 5996.