DEVELOPMENT AGENCIES IN TURKEY

Development Agencies in Turkey were founded pursuant the 5949 law to develop cooperation between public sector, private sector and NGOs, as well as to ensure the effective use of resources, to accelerate regional development, to reveal the local potential and to ensure the sustainable development of the region, in parallel with the national policy and to reduce interregional and intra-regional disparities.  

A classification of the statistical levels through the *Nomenclature of Territorial Units for Statistics* (NUTS) which divides the space into five hierarchical levels was applied within the framework of the European Union in 2002. Development Agencies as new territorial entities at regional level were embodied based on this classification in 2006.

26 Development Agencies have been founded since 2006 in Turkey. They work with the principle of regionalisation and *good governance*. At this stage, they aim at using resources efficiently and productively, and reducing special disparities. In this concept, each development agency prepares a *Regional Plan* that specifies the priority topics and determines the agency’s strategy, consulting regional throughout a participatory process. In each agency, the SWOT analysis of sectors and region is applied so that the potentials and requirements of regions are determined. Then this data is used in order to prepare the *Regional Plans*.

Development Agencies are defined as regional bodies that are not in central nor local authorities, that use innovation as a political instrument and aim the local development, financed by the public authority. In contrast to the top-down approach that focuses on infrastructure and financial support, development agencies implement the bottom-up approach that covers a single region and they target to increase the competitiveness among enterprises in this region by supporting educational policies and novelties. The fundamental principles are to encourage sectors where the region is able to compete with other regions on a global scale, to grow employment and exports and to support enterprises with high added value.

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1 Kalkınma Ajanslarının Kuruluşu, Koordinasyonu ve Görevleri Hakkında Kanun, Kanun n°5949, Resmi Gazete, 08/02/2006.
2 Kalkınma Ajanslarının Kuruluşu, Koordinasyonu ve Görevleri Hakkında Kanun, Kanun n°5949, Resmi Gazete, 08/02/2006.
3 SWOT analysis (or SWOT matrix) is a strategic planning technique used to help a person or organization identify the Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats related to business competition or project planning. "SWOT Analysis: Discover New Opportunities, Manage and Eliminate Threats". www.mindtools.com. 1006. Retrieved 24 February 2018.
4 Pre Regional Development Plan 2010, Karacadağ Development Agency