NATURELDER
Akdeniz Naturel Yaşam Derneği
Mediterranean Natural Life Association

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Partner Information File

2026

Dear partner,

NATURELDER is a non-profit civil society organisation founded in Mersin, Türkiye, in 2013. We work with local and international partners to support learning, equal participation and sustainable development.

Our experience spans youth work, lifelong learning, entrepreneurship, employability and digital skills. It also includes agriculture and rural development, environment and climate, social inclusion, human rights and civil society cooperation.

We develop and take part in EU-supported projects and local initiatives, connecting people and organisations across different fields. We welcome new ideas and partnerships that respond to the needs of communities. Contact us at naturelder@gmail.com to explore how we can work together.

Kind regards,

Hasan Burak Taşyürek
Board Member Responsible for Projects

Organisation full legal name:	Akdeniz Naturel Yaşam Derneği
English name:	Mediterranean Natural Life Association
Acronym:	NATURELDER
Organisation ID:	E10205756
EuropeID:	TR-2015-FBV-0905866160
Type of organisation:	NGO – Non-Profit
Legal Status:	Association
Is Public Body:	No
Is Non-profit:	Yes
Legal address:	Alata Mah. Kardelen Sok. Safir Evler Apt. No: 19/A Erdemli
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Activity level:	International

Description of the organization

NATURELDER (Mediterranean Natural Life Association) is a non-profit association founded in Mersin, Türkiye, in 2013. Based in Erdemli, it works locally, nationally and internationally.

Its fields are agriculture and rural development; youth and lifelong learning; entrepreneurship and employability; digital skills; participation, equality and human rights; and environment and climate.

It works with young people, adult learners, farmers, rural women, entrepreneurs, youth workers and NGOs. It supports learning and participation for people with fewer opportunities, including people with disabilities, through training, workshops, exchanges and local initiatives.

Board members, project personnel and volunteers work with public institutions, municipalities, universities, producer organisations and NGOs in Türkiye and abroad. Its portfolio includes EU-funded projects and activities with local partners and its own resources.

What are the activities and experience of the organization in the areas relevant for this application?

NATURELDER coordinates projects and works as a partner on training, learning resources, local stakeholder engagement and dissemination.

As coordinator of Rural Development with Local Products Project (2016–2017), it worked with Italian and Turkish partners on prickly pear cultivation, processing and marketing. Outcomes included registering prickly pear as a crop, new food products and a cultivation and marketing handbook. The EU Delegation to Turkey recognised it as a flagship project. Follow-up work included training rural women in making prickly pear products.

It coordinated Civil Society Development in Rural Areas (2021–2022), combining a needs assessment of rural NGOs, advocacy training and cooperation with public institutions. The project produced a handbook and an online platform for civil society cooperation.

As a partner in Biz4Fun – Let's Have Fun with the Business Start-Up (2018–2021), NATURELDER contributed to entrepreneurship learning resources and piloted the partnership's 3D learning environment in Türkiye. In 5MEL: Five Matters of Eco-Love (2023–2025), it delivered adult environmental learning activities and a local workshop linked to the Eco-Love Guide.

Youth work experience includes Rural Boosters (2023), Growing Together (2024) and Sustainability on Stage 2.0 (2024). These partnerships involved rural entrepreneurship, social inclusion through permaculture, and theatre-based sustainability education. NATURELDER shared learning from Growing Together at Adana TAYEM. Save the mountain, Safe for you (2026–2027) adds outdoor safety and environmental learning to this work.

Current vocational education partnerships include BeeBridge (2025–2028), with responsibility for beekeeping modules and audiovisual learning materials, and OPEN FIELDS (2026–2027), with responsibility for regional workshops, evaluation and an inclusive entrepreneurship module for digital and smart agriculture.

Learning and Training

NATURELDER firmly believes that every initiative commences with learning and progresses through training. Establishing partnerships with relevant institutions and organizations, NATURELDER is dedicated to providing comprehensive education and training opportunities. Its practical experience includes organising workshops, contributing to learning materials and testing educational tools with participants. These efforts are aimed at empowering individuals to enhance their skills and knowledge. By fostering collaborations, NATURELDER actively contributes to the personal and professional development of people, promoting continuous learning as a cornerstone for individual and community growth.

INNOVATION

Innovation is the driving force behind NATURELDER's quest for excellence across all realms of work, proving indispensable for sustainable development. NATURELDER forges partnerships with regional and national projects, cultivating groundbreaking concepts for application in business, local development, and individual self-improvement. Rooted in a commitment to dynamic problem-solving, these innovative endeavors represent NATURELDER's distinctive approach, amplifying its impact in fostering progress, economic vitality, and self-development within the communities it serves.

Information Communication Technology (ICT)

Recognizing the pivotal role of Information Communication Technologies in contemporary life, NATURELDER is dedicated to integrating and imparting ICT knowledge within its projects. Understanding the transformative potential of digital literacy, the organization strives to harness the power of ICT to enhance project effectiveness and community engagement. By incorporating ICT into its initiatives, NATURELDER seeks to bridge technological divides, empowering individuals and communities with the tools and skills essential for navigating the challenges and opportunities of the modern world. It has piloted a digital learning environment with users and used their feedback to guide improvements.

Youth

NATURELDER recognizes the immense potential inherent in young individuals and is committed to providing them with opportunities for entrepreneurship and career guidance. Understanding that the youth represent the future of society, NATURELDER organizes activities and projects designed to not only unlock their economic and social potential but also foster cultural interaction. Through these initiatives, the organization strives to introduce young people to natural life experiences and economic prospects, contributing to their holistic development and preparing them for active roles in the broader community.

Entrepreneurship

According to NATURELDER, entrepreneurship stands as a vital catalyst for both economic growth and a sustainable solution to unemployment. In alignment with this perspective, NATURELDER actively endeavors to propagate the spirit of entrepreneurship through innovative projects leveraging Information Communication Technologies (ICT). It has worked with partners to develop entrepreneurship curricula and learning materials. It has also tested digital learning tools with young participants and used their feedback to improve them. By nurturing a culture of innovation and enterprise, the organization aims to empower individuals, fostering not only economic development but also a dynamic response to the evolving challenges in the community. NATURELDER's commitment to disseminating entrepreneurship reflects its dedication to cultivating resilience and ingenuity within the regions it serves.

Agriculture and Rural Development

Agriculture stands as the primary economic pillar in southern Turkey, and NATURELDER places paramount importance on advancing farming and irrigation techniques to enhance the region's prosperity. Beyond agricultural improvements, NATURELDER actively engages in comprehensive development initiatives aimed at rural areas. Its project coordination experience includes producer training, local product development and marketing. It also covers needs assessment, advocacy training and cooperation between rural civil society organisations and public institutions. These efforts extend to fostering sustainable practices, community empowerment, and holistic growth to fulfill NATURELDER's overarching objectives in the agricultural and rural landscape.

Women

NATURELDER has consistently prioritized the active participation of women in social life and their ongoing development. As an organization, we are steadfast in our efforts to inclusively involve women in the projects we develop and collaborate on. Our support for women is proactive and positive, aiming to create opportunities for their advancement. Through these initiatives, NATURELDER seeks to foster an environment where women can flourish, contributing to the overall growth and prosperity of the communities we engage with.

Beekeeping

Recognizing the crucial role of bees in ecological balance and agricultural sustainability, NATURELDER actively promotes beekeeping initiatives. The organization has brought beekeepers, specialists and local partners together for honey bee health and biosafety training. Through BeeBridge, it is responsible for updating vocational training modules and contributes to practical learning resources and their local testing. This work supports the transfer of knowledge between generations of beekeepers.

Water

Given the significance of water resources for both agricultural development and overall community well-being, NATURELDER places emphasis on water-related projects. This may involve implementing initiatives to improve water management, irrigation systems, and conservation practices. NATURELDER may collaborate with local authorities, communities, and experts to address water challenges, ensuring sustainable use and conservation of this vital resource. Additionally, educational programs may be conducted to raise awareness about water conservation and efficient usage in agriculture and daily life.

Climate Change

Recognizing the urgent global need to address environmental challenges, NATURELDER is actively engaged in initiatives to mitigate and adapt to climate change. The organization views climate change as a critical factor influencing various aspects of life, from agriculture to sustainable development. NATURELDER works to raise awareness, implement sustainable practices, and collaborate with stakeholders to promote resilience in the face of climate-related impacts. Through its commitment to environmental stewardship, NATURELDER endeavors to contribute to a more sustainable and resilient future, advocating for responsible practices that safeguard the planet for generations to come.

What are the skills and expertise of key staff/person involved in this application?

NATURELDER's staff and volunteers bring together expertise in project management, education and training, agriculture and rural development, food safety, environmental protection, and information and communication technologies. Their experience includes entrepreneurship, youth work, social and economic development, and employability. Team members share practical knowledge and develop new skills to support project development and implementation. Key staff members and volunteers include:

Avni Taşyürek

NATURELDER's Chairman, Avni Taşyürek, holds a degree in Business Administration and has more than 20 years of experience in agriculture and rural development. His solid background in business administration and leadership combines management and coordination skills with experience in supporting entrepreneurs' business development. He has also worked with vulnerable young people and adults through local activities that support their development and inclusion. At the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, where he continues to work, his experience includes 11 years in management roles. Other responsibilities have included 5 years as General Secretary of the Mezitli City Council and 5 years representing the Presidency of Bozyazı Chamber of Agriculture. These roles have made him an effective manager who is well regarded by public and civil society organizations working in agriculture and rural development in Turkey.

Hasan Burak Taşyürek

Hasan Burak Taşyürek combines more than 10 years of project management experience with senior software engineering expertise. As NATURELDER's Board Member Responsible for Projects, he has served as the association's project manager in all projects it has led or joined as a partner. An Electrical and Electronics Engineer, he holds 2 certificates in Long-Term Project Cycle Management. His technical expertise covers ICT, web development, software architecture and applied artificial intelligence (AI). In his professional work, he has led an engineering team and developed digital platforms and AI-based knowledge services. These include an Erasmus+ knowledge service for AI assistants. He also brings more than 10 years of experience as a trainer, researcher and technician, together with knowledge of agriculture and rural development. Active in youth work, protection of natural life, healthy food, information technologies and advocacy, he continues to develop his skills.

Ahmet Mellaş

Volunteer of NATURELDER, retired Agricultural Engineer. He has long-standing experience in agricultural production, rural development and farmer training. Throughout his career, he worked directly with producers, supported the implementation of modern cultivation techniques and contributed to improving agricultural productivity in various regions. He has strong knowledge of plant production, irrigation and field management. With his practical background and community-focused approach, he plays an important role in NATURELDER's rural development and environmental activities.

Barış Kılınç

Volunteer of NATURELDER, Food Engineer with experience in food safety, quality control and sustainable food systems. He has worked on topics such as hygienic production processes, food preservation, HACCP procedures and nutritional awareness. Barış actively contributes to projects related to healthy food, rural product development and local food value chains. His technical expertise and analytical approach support NATURELDER's initiatives in agriculture, environmental sustainability and community education.

Mehmet Babür Çiftçi

Mehmet Babür Çiftçi is a NATURELDER volunteer with a degree in Agricultural Engineering and 15 years of experience in agriculture and nature. Drawing on extensive knowledge of these fields, he also works as an instructor.

Havva Gökçe SERİN

Havva Gökçe SERİN is a NATURELDER volunteer with a degree in Agricultural Engineering and experience in many projects. As an educator in the association, she works well with young people and women.

Legal Representative	
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The daily rates below are NATURELDER's reference rates for estimating staff costs in lump-sum project proposals.

Staff Category	Daily Rate
Manager	200 EUR
Researcher/Trainer	180 EUR
Technical	160 EUR
Administrative	140 EUR

Some Projects Funded by the EU

Programme or initiative	Year	Identification/contract number	Applicant/Beneficiary Name	Title of the project
European Union Civil Society Programme	2017	TR2011/0135.15-08/008	Mediterranean Natural Life Association	Rural Development with Local Products
Erasmus+	2018	2018-1-SK01-KA202-046271	Slovak University of Agriculture in Nitra	Let's have fun with the business start-up
Erasmus+	2020	2020-2-IT03-KA105-018963	Cooperativa sociale META Onlus	GREEN GO
Erasmus+	2020	2020-1-SI02-KA105-015477	Mladinska zveza Brez izgovora Slovenija	Rešimo naš planet
EuropeAid - Civil Society Support Program III	2021	TR2016/DG/03/A3-01/018	Mediterranean Natural Life Association	Civil Society Development in Rural Areas
Erasmus+	2021	2021-1-ES02-KA153-YOU-000011004	Asociación para el Desarrollo Juvenil y Cultural Almenaras	Rural Boosters
Erasmus+	2023	2023-2-SK01-KA210-ADU-000176244	New Edu,n.o	FIVE MATTERS OF ECO-LOVE
Erasmus+	2024	2024-1-ES02-KA153-YOU-000231267	Creando Floresta	Sustainability on Stage 2.0
Erasmus+	2024	2024-1-FR02-KA153-YOU-000233693	Regain	Growing Together
Erasmus+	2025	2025-1-PL01-KA220-VET-000350136	Uniwersytet Przyrodniczy we Wrocławiu	Strengthen of the Beekeepers Generation Bridging [BEEBRIDGE]
Erasmus+	2025	2025-3-ES02-KA153-YOU-000376410	Creando Floresta	Save the mountain, Safe for you
Erasmus+	2026	2026-1-SK01-KA210-VET-000449079	New Edu,n.o	Open and Inclusive Skills Development for Digital and Smart Agriculture [OPEN FIELDS]

For Erasmus+ entries, the year is the call year recorded in the project reference.

To see our other projects please visit our website.