

NBS SEMINAR

Youth



May 8, 2026

14.00 – 16.30



Ankara University



PREPARED BY



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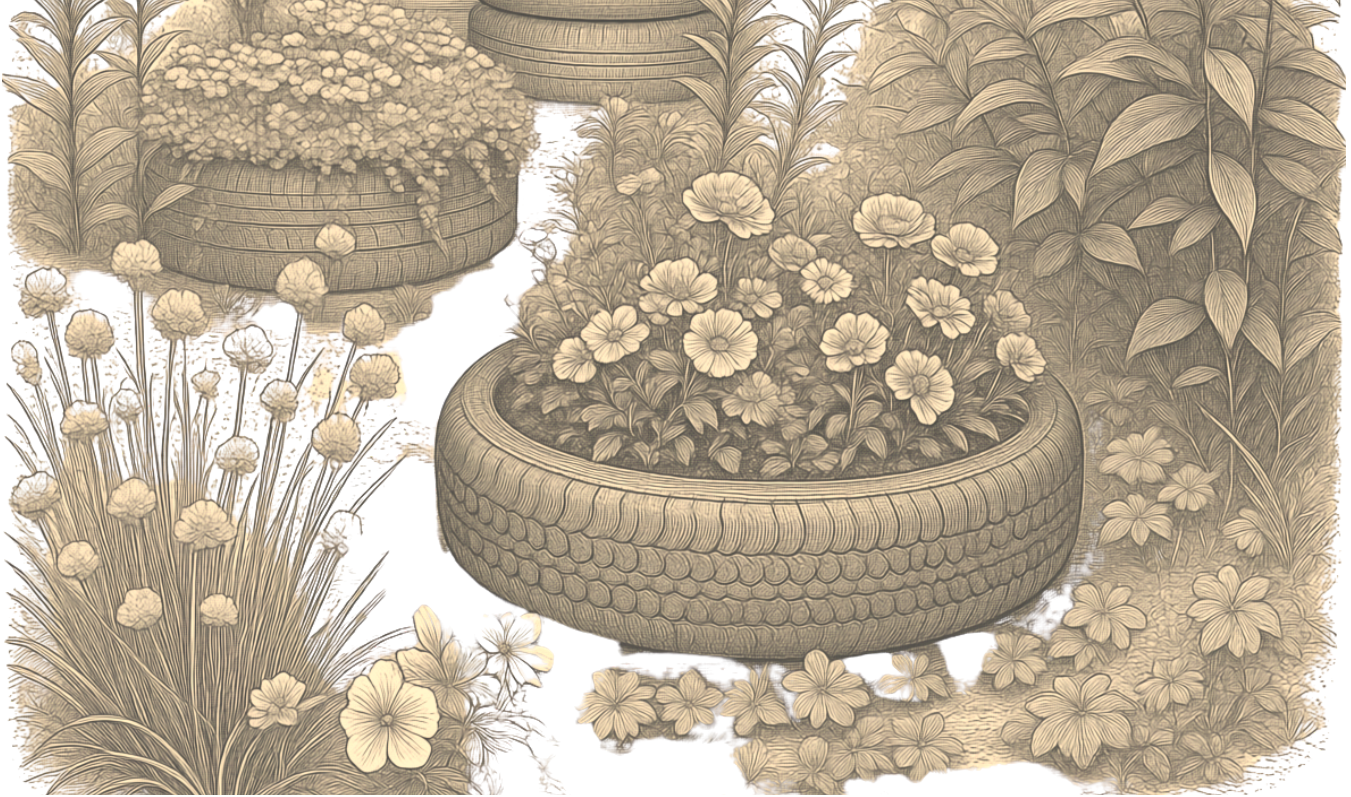
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1. GENERAL INFORMATION



This report was prepared as a result of the second stakeholder seminar organized by the Nature Conservation Center (DKM) at Ankara University on May 8, 2026, within the scope of the Harmony with Nature Project (Co-ADAPT). The full name of the project is “Community-Based Climate Adaptation and Biodiversity through Small-Scale Nature-Based Solutions (Co-ADAPT)” and it is co-funded by the European Union under the Erasmus+ KA2 Adult Education Programme (project duration: November 2025 - August 2027). The project is implemented in partnership with DKM, UfU Independent Institute for Environmental Issues from Germany, Innovative Education Center from Austria, and People and Water from Slovakia.

The aim of the project is to create more resilient, livable, and green cities by developing small-scale nature-based solution (NBS) applications with active community participation to address the effects of climate change and biodiversity loss in urban areas. DKM, as a project partner, coordinates local applications and stakeholder participation in Ankara. This seminar, following the first stakeholder seminar held on April 30, 2026, is the second and planned final seminar for Ankara.

PARTICIPATION AND ORGANIZATION

Project	Co-ADAPT
Date	8 May 2026
Place	Ankara University Ankara/Türkiye
Organisation	DKM
Participants	29
Groups	5
Materials	Solution Evaluation Checklist, Maps of the Pilot Sites in Ankara, and Descriptive Documents
Material Sharing	Solution Evaluation Checklist, Maps of the Pilot Sites in Ankara, and Descriptive Documents

SEMINAR OBJECTIVES AND METHODS

The seminar aimed to increase participants' awareness of WTC (Wholesale Environmental Protection), to discuss small-scale WTC applications that could be implemented in Ankara to make it a more environmentally friendly city, and to develop suggestions. Accordingly, participants were first given a project introduction (Appendix 1), then their opinions and expectations from this meeting were collected through a mentee application (Appendix 2), and finally, the participants, divided into 5 small groups, were presented with the following, as in the first seminar:

- Solution Assessment Checklist (a 7-item assessment tool including ecological impact, climate adaptation, social benefit, feasibility, multiple benefits, connectivity, ownership & participation criteria) (Appendix: 3), and
- By working with maps and site descriptions of 5 different application areas in Ankara, they developed a proposal for a Technical Framework for Proposals (TFP) and presented this work to other participants at the end of the seminar. At the end of the program, anonymous evaluation forms were collected from the participants and evaluated within the scope of this report.

2. APPLICATION AREAS AND GROUP WORK

In the seminar, 5 groups developed a WTO proposal for their assigned application area. Below, for each area, are: a map of the area and preliminary assessment notes prepared by the WTO, followed by a transcribed summary of the work presented by the group spokesperson during the presentation.

LARGE MEDIAN AREA

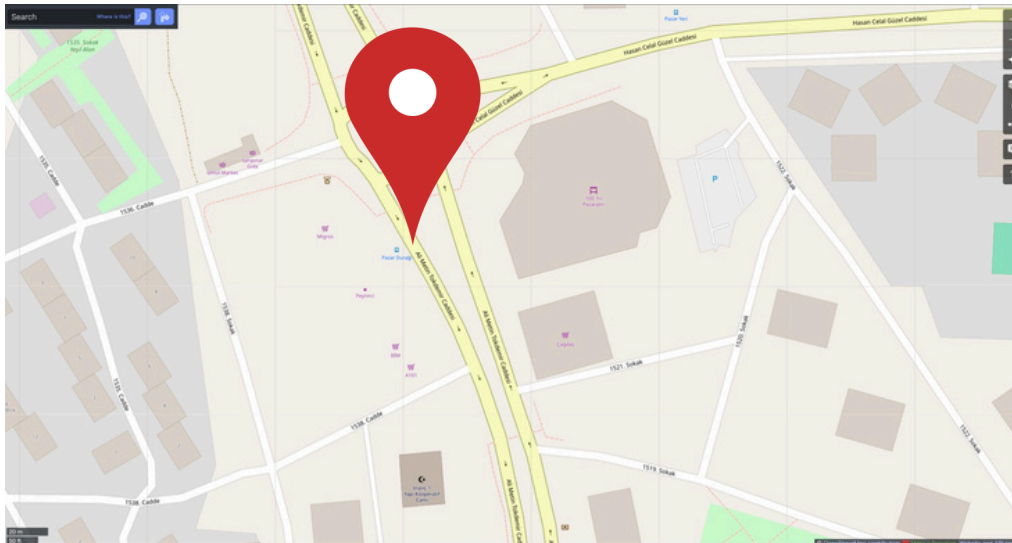


Figure 1: Wide Median Area

Regarding the Application Area: Due to its long and narrow linear structure, accessibility, visibility, and maintenance are important criteria. Traffic impact, dust, noise, and safety must be considered. Plants that reduce air pollution, rainwater ditches focused on "ecological connectivity," and a green corridor approach can be evaluated.

Group Work Summary

- **Climate Adaptation:** Small rain gardens on the sloping area; flood prevention and water reuse with a water drainage system that functions as a reservoir in the middle of the median.
- **Social Benefits:** Reduction of dust, noise, safety, and air pollution; preference for low shrubs to allow vehicles to see each other on the return journey.
- **Connectivity:** Creating a wildlife passage for pine species and small animal species (e.g., squirrels) along the median edges.

Multiple Benefits: Water control, dust/noise reduction, and biodiversity transition all addressed together in a single median design.

The group highlighted the need for water control along with general dust, noise, safety, and air pollution issues in the median. Therefore, it was proposed to create a sloping area in the median and design small rain gardens with water-resistant, cooling plants. To prevent flooding, the central area of the median was supported by a water drainage system that could be used as a reservoir, allowing water to be reused when needed. It was suggested that tall plants be avoided on the return route, pine species be planted along the edges of the median to reduce dust and noise, and shorter shrubs be used to improve visibility for vehicles. As a bonus, it was suggested that a wildlife passage could be created for any small animals (e.g., squirrels) that might be present in the area.



ESAT MARKET AND ITS SURROUNDINGS

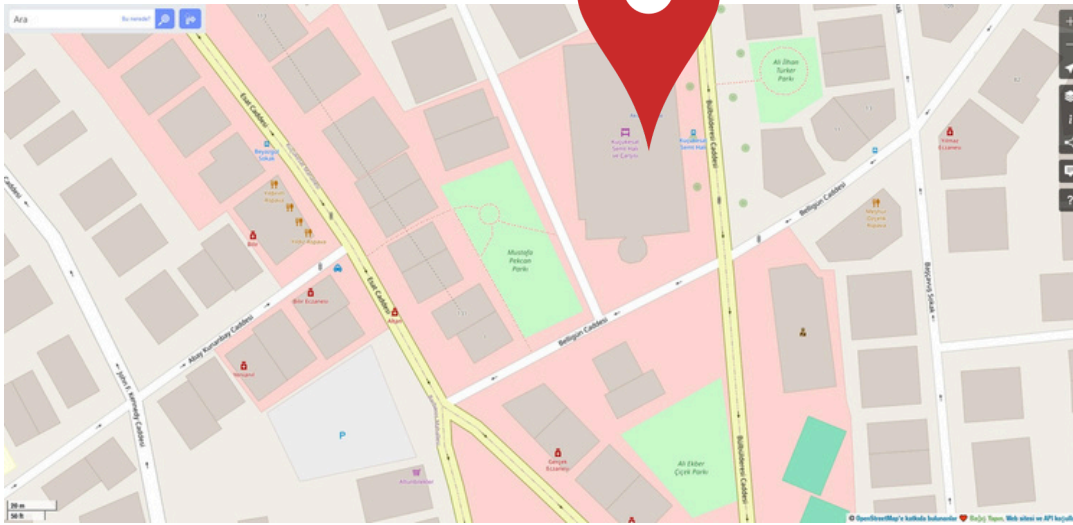


Figure 2: Esat Market and its surroundings.

Application Area: Areas with high building density and hard surface pressure. Shading, permeable surfaces, and facade/vertical green elements that reduce the heat island effect may be prominent.

Group Work Summary

- **Climate Adaptation:** The rooftop garden on the terrace of Esat Hal reduces the heat island effect, and rainwater harvesting areas and complementary biological ditches are determined according to the direction of water flow.
- **Ecological Impact:** Ecological corridors and green fronts against soil compaction and ecological fragility.
- **Social Benefit:** Utilizing Mustafa Pekçan Park in the central area as both a park and a potential public square, instead of a hard surface.

It has been determined that soil compaction in this area leads to water impermeability and ecological weakness, and that the heat island effect is also present along with dense construction. The group designed a rooftop garden on the terrace of the top floor of Esat Hal, creating ecological corridors and green facades, thus aiming to reduce the heat island effect. For a community meeting area, which is another need in the area, it was suggested that Mustafa Pekçan Park, located in the central area, be considered as both a park and a potential square, instead of a hard surface. In addition, a rainwater harvesting system was established, determined according to the direction of water flow; in other areas where harvesting cannot be done, biological ditches positioned at the exact midpoint of the water flow were proposed.



PARK NEAR THE MUNICIPAL BUILDING (MAMAK)

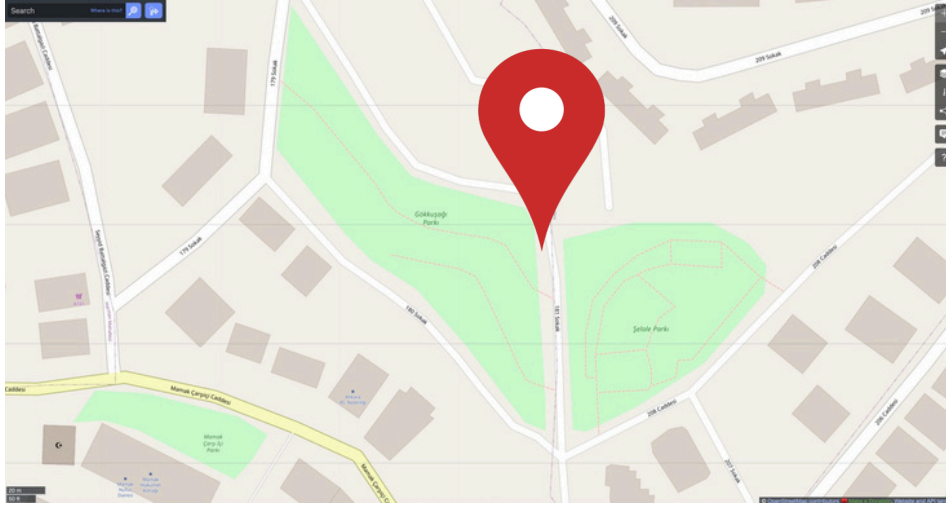


Figure 3: Park near the Municipal Building (Mamak)

Regarding the Application Area: Although partially green, it should be considered a functionally weak area. It is important that the existing green space is transformed into a functional, inclusive, and attractive use.

Group Work Summary

- **Climate Adaptation:** A water catchment area that takes advantage of the natural slope of the terrain; rainwater is collected downstream along the slope.
- **Connectivity:** A green pathway system connecting the two parks, with shade-providing plants.
- **Ecological Impact:** Choosing more suitable tree species such as Oriental Plane (*Platanus orientalis*) instead of completely shade-providing ground cover species.
- **Social Benefit:** Creating a safe space for women.

The study focused on reducing the heat island effect. To this end, it proposed creating a green pathway system connecting the two parks and using shade-providing plants, while also creating a water catchment basin by utilizing the natural slope of the area. The aim was to collect rainwater downhill along the slope and integrate the area by separating it slightly from the usage area. In the "see the unseen" assessment, it was determined that there was no connection between the two parks and other green areas, and that there was no accessible area for people living in the immediate vicinity. Therefore, the goal was to establish a system that does not obstruct airflow from the park and is integrated with other green areas. Creating a safe space for women emerged as a primary need. Furthermore, it was suggested that more suitable tree species, such as Oriental Plane (*Platanus orientalis*), be used instead of ground cover trees that provide complete shade in the park.



AYRANCI BACKYARD GREEN LINE

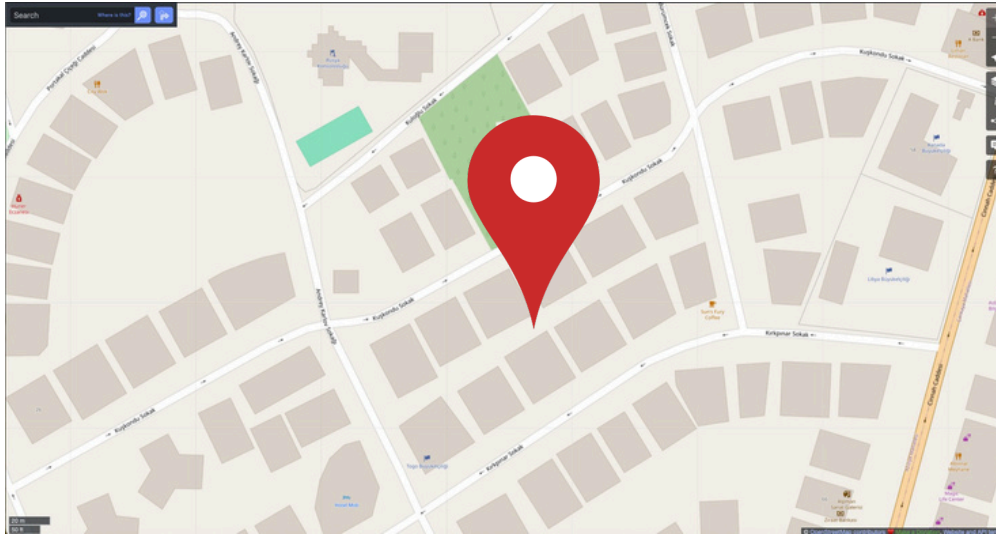


Figure 4: Ayrancı Backyard Green Line

About the Application Area: The linear structure offers opportunities in terms of ecological connection and pedestrian experience within the neighborhood. Continuity and a corridor concept should be encouraged instead of fragmented use.

Group Work Summary

- **Climate Adaptation:** Slowing down water flow with buffer plant areas that absorb water on impermeable surfaces along the roadside, and slowing and redirecting water flow with raised ditches and redirection to green areas.
- **Ownership & Participation:** To address the lack of a sense of belonging among residents, a pocket park/storage area where residents can plant and cultivate crops.
- **Community Benefit:** A space where neighborhood residents can plant trees and develop a sense of belonging to the area through the work they do themselves.

It has been noted that the area suffers from sudden rainfall and flooding. Therefore, it is suggested that water be slowed down by creating buffer zones of vegetation to absorb water before it reaches the impermeable surfaces along the roadside. One of the two large areas in the site is green, and the other is empty; after checking the map to see if it is a green area, elevated ditches have been planned to slow down the water and then direct it to these areas. It has been determined that the residents lack a sense of belonging; therefore, a green area and a section where residents can plant and cultivate trees have been proposed. It is thought that a sense of belonging to the area can develop as a result of the work they do themselves, and the area has been designed as a pocket park/storage area and a place where the neighborhood residents can plant trees.



5. THE NEGLECTED AREA BETWEEN TWO SCHOOLS

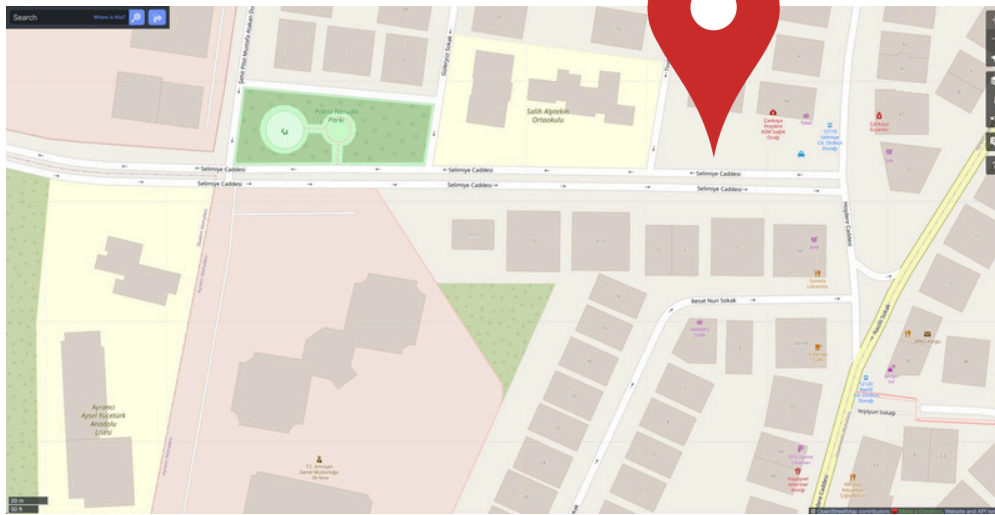


Figure 5: Neglected Area Between Two Schools

Regarding the application Area: The space between the two structures could be a potential shared open area for children and nearby users. Water management, shade creation, nature play, and safety should be considered together.

Group Work Summary

- **Climate Adaptation:** Water management through rainwater harvesting systems and groundwater replenishment.
- **Multiple Benefits:** The rooftop garden designed on top of the two structures increases pollination and biodiversity (lavender, rosemary, sage, thyme, chamomile).
- **Social Benefits:** Pine and medlar trees placed along the road for safety purposes; an interactive activity area for children such as pine cone collecting; an outdoor workshop for interaction among different age groups; and fruit trees in the front garden of the health center.

In the area, environmental protection measures have been implemented in conjunction with water management, shade areas, nature play, and safety. Trees and plants have been placed along the road axis for safety purposes. Pine trees or shrubs were considered as suitable conifers, and medlar was chosen. An entrance/passage from the school area has been provided; an activity area for children has been designed, where they can interact with nature by collecting pine cones. A rooftop garden has been designed on top of the two structures, using species such as lavender, rosemary, sage, thyme, and chamomile to increase pollination and biodiversity. Furthermore, a water management area has been established with rainwater harvesting to replenish groundwater. An open-air workshop has been planned as an interaction space for different age groups; the aromatic plants produced here are intended to serve as a source for tea and activities. Fruit trees have been proposed for the front garden of the local health center, aiming to provide a space where people can come and taste these fruits.



3. EVALUATION SURVEY RESULTS

At the end of the seminar, evaluation forms were collected anonymously from the participants. A total of 11 forms were collected; 10 of them contained complete answers to both the "Yes/No" question and the Likert scale items; 1 form only contained the Likert scale items, and the question "Did the meeting meet your expectations?" was not answered. The scale ranges from 1 (Strongly Disagree) to 5 (Strongly Agree).

DID THE MEETING MEET YOUR EXPECTATIONS?

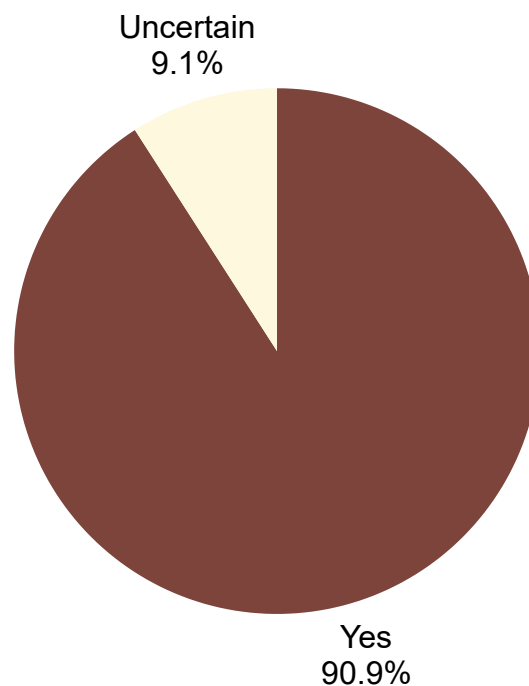


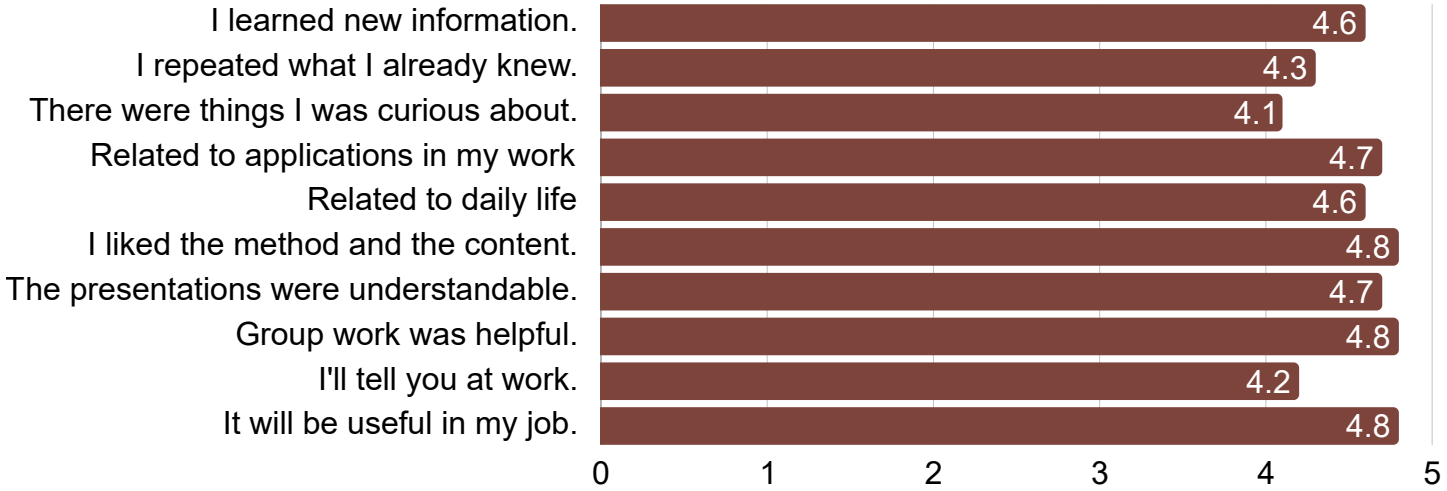
Figure 6: Percentage of meeting expectations achieved.

All 10 participants who responded (100%) indicated that the meeting met their expectations by selecting "Yes"; 1 participant left the question unanswered. No "No" answers were given. Some of the reasons given by the participants for their responses to this question are:

- "Because it gave us the opportunity to quickly generate rational solutions in an area we were seeing for the first time," "It was very educational and allowed us to have different experiences," "In this meeting, I learned about many things I was curious about regarding DKM and also had a productive time," "It fostered intellectual development," "We developed ideas for the cards given in a short time; it was both creative and fun."

LIKERT SCALE ITEM RESULTS

● Average Score (1-5)



#	Madde	N	Ort.	Std. Deflection	Dağılım (1→5)
1	There were things I was curious about.	10	4.1	0.83	1:0 · 2:0 · 3:3 · 4:3 · 5:4
2	I'll tell my learnings at work.	10	4.2	0.75	1:0 · 2:0 · 3:2 · 4:4 · 5:4
3	I repeated what I already knew.	10	4.3	0.78	1:0 · 2:0 · 3:2 · 4:3 · 5:5
4	I learned new information.	10	4.6	0.49	1:0 · 2:0 · 3:0 · 4:4 · 5:6
5	Toplantı konularının günlük hayatımız ile ilişkili olduğunu düşünüyorum.	10	4.6	0.49	1:0 · 2:0 · 3:0 · 4:4 · 5:6
6	Related to applications in my work.	10	4.7	0.46	1:0 · 2:0 · 3:0 · 4:3 · 5:7
7	The presenttaions were understandable.	10	4.7	0.46	1:0 · 2:0 · 3:0 · 4:3 · 5:7
8	I liked the method and the content.	10	4.8	0.4	1:0 · 2:0 · 3:0 · 4:2 · 5:8
9	Group work was helpful.	10	4.8	0.4	1:0 · 2:0 · 3:0 · 4:2 · 5:8
10	It willbe useful in my job.	10	4.8	0.4	1:0 · 2:0 · 3:0 · 4:2 · 5:8

Figures 7 and 8: Evaluation questionnaire results and item means (n=11)

Overall average (all items, all forms): 4.56 / 5

- The findings show that participants generally rated the seminar content and methodology very positively. The highest-rated items were “I liked the method and content of the meeting”, “The interactive activities/group work were helpful”, and “What I learned here will be useful in my work” (4.80 each), while the lowest-rated (but still near positive) item was “There were other things I was curious about at the end of the meeting” (4.10). The overall average is seen to have increased (4.56/5) compared to the first seminar on April 30th (4.23/5).

4. QUALITATIVE FEEDBACK

The most prominent opinions compiled from the free-text sections of the evaluation forms are summarized below.

ELEMENTS THAT WERE LIKED AT THE MEETING

"Group discussions, evaluating the maps, designing solutions, and presenting them."

"Working together by discussing visualizations of the places we live in made the activity both engaging and educational."

"The workshop was well planned, and using the cards encouraged conversation and the exchange of ideas."

"Assigning a different site to each group and giving them time to develop nature-based solutions tailored to the specific challenges of their area was highly appreciated."

"Moving directly into the group work after the presentation helped maintain momentum."

THE MOST ENJOYABLE ACTIVITIES

"Designing the selected site using NbS."

"Having dedicated time for everyone to share and discuss their ideas were particularly valuable"

"The questions provided on the cards helped participants generate practical solutions."

"Working collaboratively on the maps gave groups the opportunity to think creatively within a limited time and present their ideas."

"Presenting the group's work and listening to the solutions developed by the other groups were also considered valuable parts of the workshop"

3. IMPROVEMENT SUGGESTIONS

“Extending the duration of the meeting/group work to allow participants to develop more detailed solutions (the most frequently repeated suggestion)”

“Sharing visuals and more detailed information about the designated study area. ”

“I hope events like this will continue.”

It was a very comprehensive meeting. I don't have any suggestions—everything was very well organized.

4. GENERAL ASSESSMENT

Overall, participant feedback indicates that the interactive format of the seminar (particularly the group work and map/card-based problem-solving exercises) was perceived as its strongest aspect. Areas for improvement include time constraints and a need for more visual materials related to the areas discussed; this request was also recurring in feedback from the first seminar.

5. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The Co-ADAPT stakeholder seminar, held at Ankara University on May 8, 2026, was conducted as a participatory study where 29 young participants, divided into 5 groups, developed WTC (Wholesale Trade and Development) proposals for local-scale areas in Ankara. The evaluation survey results (overall average 4.56/5, 100% "Yes" response rate among participants) indicate that the meeting was very positively received by the participants.

Key Findings

- Participants rated the meeting's methodology and content (4.80) and group work (4.80) as the most useful aspects.
- The fact that the meeting topics are related to work practices (4.70) and daily life (4.60) indicates the practical value of the content.
- The vast majority of participants plan to use what they have learned in their work (4.80) and share their experiences in the workplace (4.20).

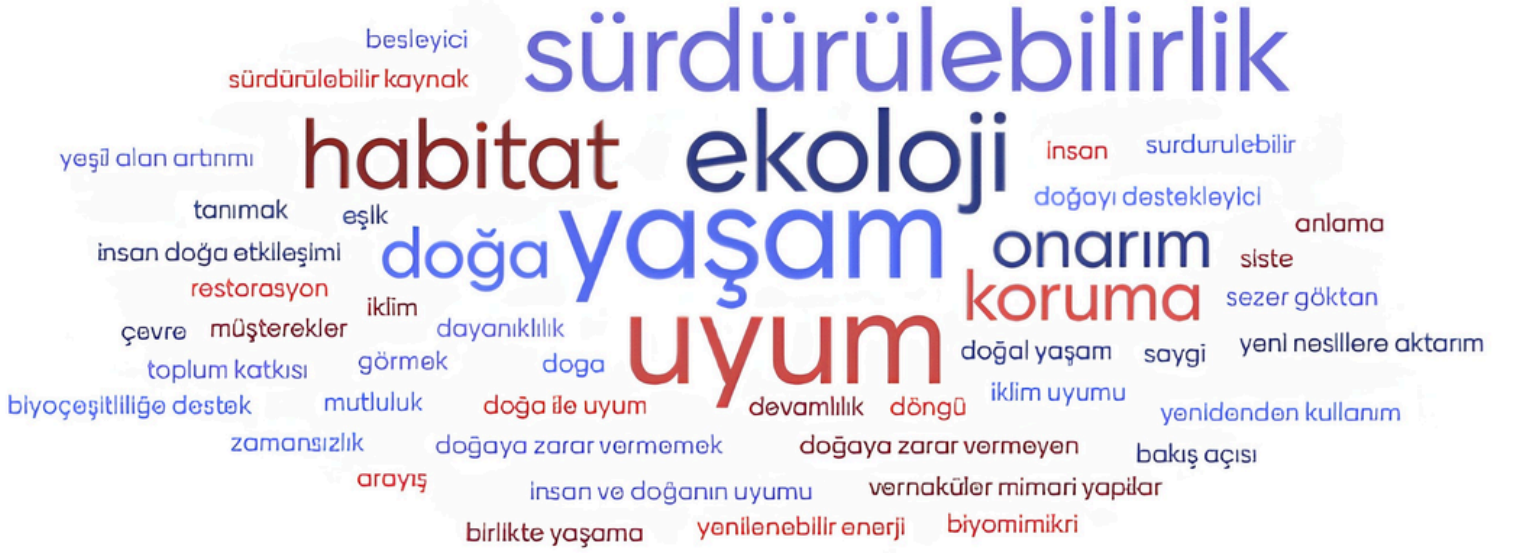
Comparison with the Second Seminar

- The overall average has increased compared to the first seminar on April 30th (4.23/5 → 4.56/5).
- The requests for "time/detailed idea generation" and "visual materials relevant to the field," which were reiterated in the first seminar, continued to be highlighted in the feedback from May 8th; this indicates that prioritizing time planning and visual material support for subsequent seminars is necessary.
- Group work and the interactive format were considered the strongest aspects by participants in both seminars.

This report was prepared by DKM, as a stakeholder in the Co-ADAPT project, based on the evaluation forms, group presentations, field studies, and seminar materials from the May 8, 2026 seminar.

APPENDIX 1: MENTI RESULTS

Doğa Temelli Çözümler deyince ne anlıyorsunuz?



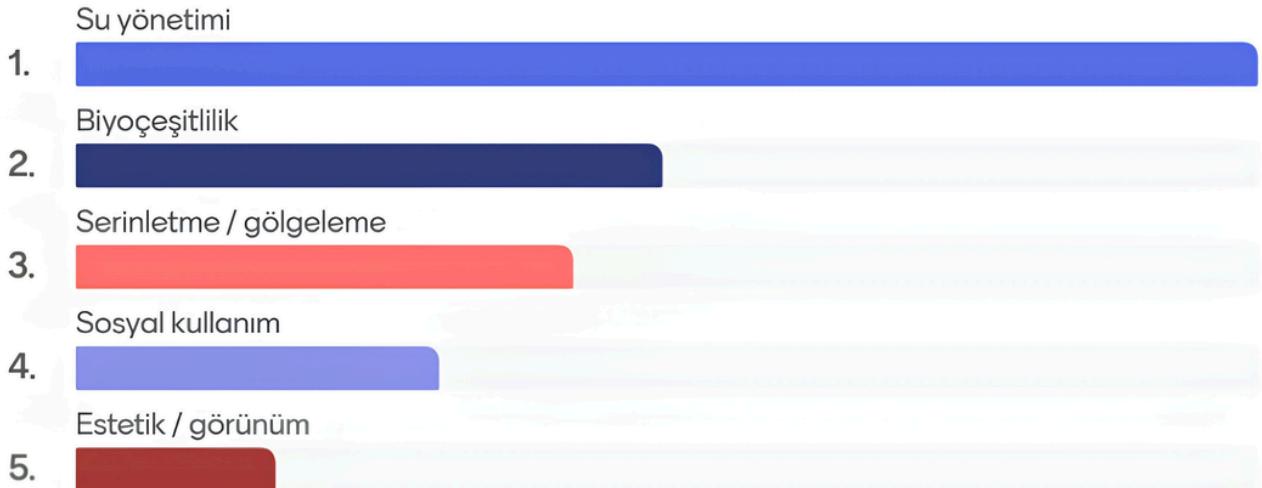
Bu toplantıdan beklentileriniz neler?



Mahallenizde eksikliğini en çok hissettiğiniz şey nedir?



Hangi etki daha öncelikli olmalı?



APPENDIX-2: SOLUTION EVALUATION CHECKLIST

The following checklist was used to assess participants' nature-based solution proposals during group work. The list included thinking questions under seven headings: ecological impact, climate adaptation, societal benefit, feasibility, multiple benefits, connectivity, and ownership & participation.

ÇÖZÜM DEĞERLENDİRME KONTROL LİSTESİ

Doğa Temelli Çözümler – Etkisini Değerlendir, Gücünü Artır!

1 EKOLOJİK ETKİ

- ☐ Biyolojik çeşitliliği artırıyor
- ☐ Yerel bitkiler ve canlılar için yaşam alanı oluşturuyor
- ☐ Toprak ve su gibi tüm ekolojik süreçleri destekliyor

Düşünme soruları

- Bu çözüm sadece "yeşil" bir görüntü mü sunuyor yoksa gerçekten yaşayan bir sistem mi kuruyor?
- Bu alana hangi canlılar geri dönebilir?

2 İKLİME UYUM

- ☐ Yağmur suyunu tutuyor, yönlendiriyor veya yavaşlatıyor, suyun toprak tarafından emilmesine katkı sağlıyor
- ☐ Isıyı azaltıyor ya da gölge sağlıyor
- ☐ Aşırı hava koşullarına karşı dayanıklılık sağlıyor

Düşünme soruları

- Bu çözüm kuraklıkta nasıl işler?
- Aşırı yağış durumunda ne tepki verir?
- Alanın mikro iklimini değiştiriyor mu?

3 TOPLUMSAL FAYDA

- ☐ İnsanlar tarafından kullanılabilir
- ☐ Farklı yaş ve kullanıcı grupları için kapsayıcı
- ☐ Güvenli ve ilgi çekici

Düşünme soruları

- Bu alanda kim(ler) zaman geçirir?
- Kim dışarda kalıyor olabilir?

4 UYGULANABİLİRLİK

- ☐ Küçük ölçekli ve düşük maliyetli
- ☐ Yerel malzeme ve bilgiyle uygulanabilir
- ☐ Bakım ve süreklilik açısından gerçekçi

Düşünme soruları

- Bu çözüm gerçekten uygulanabilir mi?
- Bakımı kim üstlenebilir? Bunu sürdürecektir?

5 ÇOKLU FAYDA

- ☐ Birden fazla sorunu aynı anda ele alıyor
- ☐ Ekolojik ve toplumsal faydayı birlikte üretiyor
- ☐ Uzun vadede değer oluşturuyor

Düşünme sorusu

- Bu çözüm tek bir sorunu mu çözüyor yoksa bir ilişkili / sistemi mi dönüştürüyor?

6 BAĞLANTISALLIK

- ☐ Diğer yeşil alanlarla bağlantı kuruyor
- ☐ Ekolojik koridor veya süreklilik oluşturuyor

Düşünme sorusu

- Bu alan tek başına mı çalışıyor, yoksa daha büyük bir ağın parçası mı?

7 SAHİPLENME & KATILIM

- ☐ İnsanlar bu alanı sahiplenir
- ☐ Topluluk katılımı mümkün

Düşünme soruları

- İnsanlar buraya bakım yapar mı?
- Bu alan zamanla "bizim yerimiz" olabilir mi?

GENEL DEĞERLENDİRME

EN GÜÇLÜ YÖNÜ:

GELİŞTİRİLECEK YÖNÜ:

Ekibimiz:

For more information about the project:

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Contact: dogaejitimi@dkm.org.tr