

## AYAŞ SKIES ARE LIVENING UP

#### Support for tourism infrastructure

Ayaş Local Action Group (Ankara) implemented the paragliding take-off runway project under the theme of "Developing rural tourism products".

Ankara's Ayaş district is a region that has shined out primarily with spa tourism so far. The district, which is one hour away from the capital, now aims to add value to its other tourism products in order to benefit more from this potential. One of them is the paragliding area located in Kumludoluk near the district.

#### PROJECT INFO

**PROJECT PARTNERS:** Ayaş Municipality Civil Society Organisations

**PROJECT SUBJECT:** Building paragliding runway

**PROJECT BUDGET:** 41.250 TRY





The runway where Turkey records were broken

Kumludoluk Hill is one of the popular places for professional and amateur paragliders throughout Turkey. Kumludoluk location, which is the runway with the most departures according to official records, carries the title of the runway where Turkey's distance records are broken for men and women. Aiming to diversify rural tourism products in Ayaş region, Ayaş Local Action Group aimed to make the runway an attractive center for athletes by eliminating the deficiencies within the scope of its local development strategy.

Setting out to work in this direction, Ayaş LAG came together with stakeholders, primarily athletes, and made a feasibility study. As a result of the discussions, it was concluded that the most important problem of the runway was its uneven structure. Thereupon, it was decided to build a rubber runway in the take-off area. In this process, a division of labor was made among the relevant stakeholders and the sleeves were rolled up for the project.

### All partners take on responsibiliy

First of all, Ayaş Municipality undertook the necessary concrete and iron works for the implementation of rubber tiles to the floor. Later, paragliding sports clubs supported the project by carrying out earthmoving works. Ayaş LAG, on the other hand, completed the project by covering the take-off runway with 2,5 cm thick and 375 m2 rubber tile with the support of the LEADER budget. Thus, with the cooperation of local stakeholders, Turkey's largest take-off runway was brought to the region.

# The aim is to bring together tourists and producers.

After the completion of the runway, there was a significant increase in the number of paragliders coming to the region. Ayaş LAG representatives state that this has led to a noticeable increase in the economic life of the district. At the forefront of these are the artisans dealing with the sale of local products in the district. Continuing its projects to diversify rural tourism products, Ayaş LAG's next goal is to create venues that will bring visitors together with local producers and tradesmen.

