



## LOCAL OPENING CONFERENCE OF PROJECT HELD IN KONYA

ANKARA, 13 Mart 2014 - Konya local launching conference of the project **“More and Better Jobs for Women: Women’s Empowerment through Decent Work in Turkey,”** implemented by the International Labour Organization (ILO) and Turkish Employment Agency with the funding of the Swedish International Development Agency (SIDA), took place on March 13, 2014.

Moderated by journalist Şirin Payzın, the conference started with Ebru Aras, a beneficiary of İŞKUR services, who spoke about her own story and experience in working life.

Others making opening remarks included Lokman Ceylan, Konya Employment Agency Director and Konya Governor Muammer Erol.

Besides challenges before women’s employment specific to Konya, problems before women’s employment in Turkey in general were also discussed in the conference where Erol said the gap in employment in Konya was filled by the refugees coming from Syria.

A panel discussion “Women’s Employment in Konya: Challenges and Opportunities” was also held with the participation of social partners and relevant stakeholders in the conference.

Points made during the panel discussion included common patriarchal tendencies in Konya which negatively affects women’s prospects of employment; widespread stereotyping of women on the basis of their home-based roles; and over-concentration in such sub-sectors as textiles, food and dowry processing which points out to the need for the diversification of sectors and branding.

Participants to the panel discussion were as follows: Ozan Çakmak from ILO Turkey Office; İdil Soyseçkin from the Initiative for Women’s Labour and Employment (KEİG); Hüdaver Balaban from TÜRK-İŞ; Hatice Yaşa, Konya Chair of HAK-İŞ Women’s Committee; Esra Belen from the Confederation of Employers’ Unions (TİSK); Ebru Batik from Women’s Human Rights-New Solutions Association and Rahime Ülvanlı, a beneficiary of İŞKUR-KOSGEB services.