

**A European Mentoring Programme for University Women –  
An Intercultural Study 2008 – 2010**

**Annex 1e - Additional mentee experience / A mentee from Turkey**

Ayten is an academician from the Mediterranean region of Turkey. Her study field is watershed management. She met with the project team in the meeting in Turkey, after which she, through Sonya Höstman of the Finnish project team, was matched with a mentor from Åbo Akademi University (Turku, Finland).

The mentor was a director at the university. Ayten and her mentor met with each other over Skype during a period of nearly six months. Although the mentor was a very busy person at the university, she was very interested and supportive with her mentee. For example, she met with one of her professor friends in the department of Earth Science, Air and Water Science in Uppsala University in Sweden. Professor L.H. was a co-mentor of the Sustainable Water Management (SWM) courses online, open to worldwide students with no charge. As a consequence Professor L.H. has proposed Ayten to attend the online course.

The first time Ayten and her mentor met face to face was in connection with the last mentoring project meeting in Helsinki. The meeting was an emotional one and Ayten and her mentor agreed to keep in touch over Skype even when the mentoring project ended.

The mentee's thoughts about her mentor and the mentoring;

“I always felt my mentor would support me and show me the way. Even though we had different backgrounds (her academic field was in biology and my in soil science) we had rich relations because of my mentor's fine academic efforts and support from her academic network.”

“My dialogue with my mentor is a great experience in my academic life. Now I know that I have a friend and a guide in Finland and I might even have an opportunity to do academic research there. I would like to extend a sincere ‘thank you’ to everyone who created this opportunity to me”.