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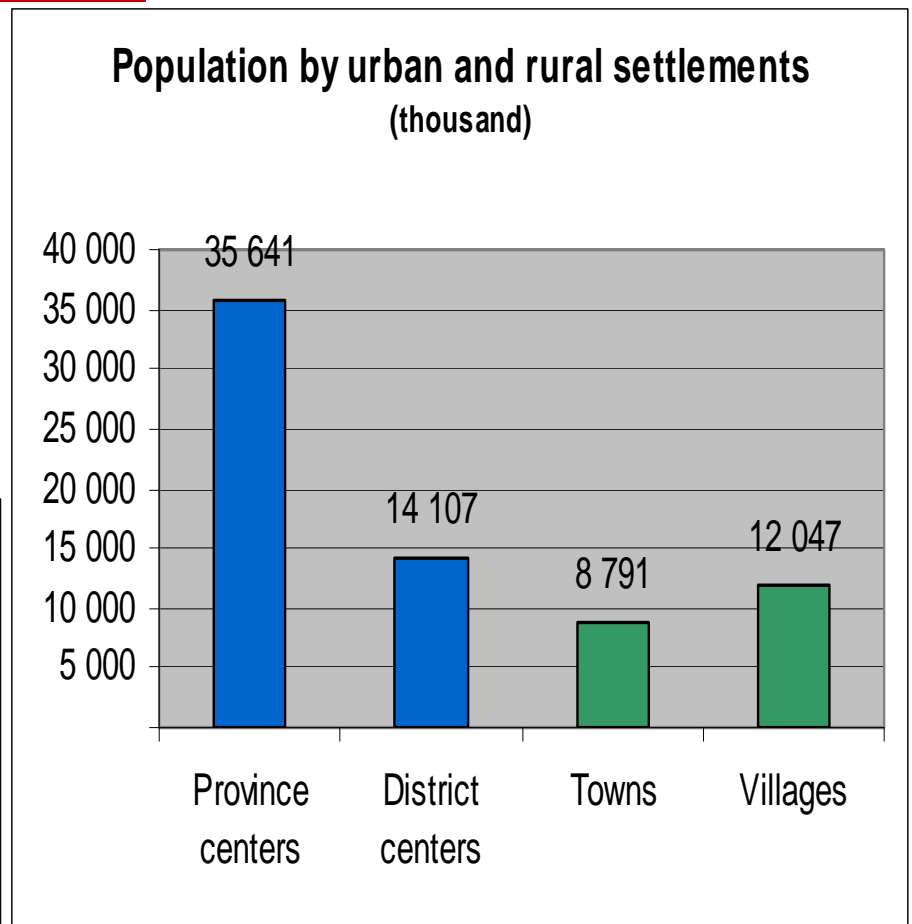
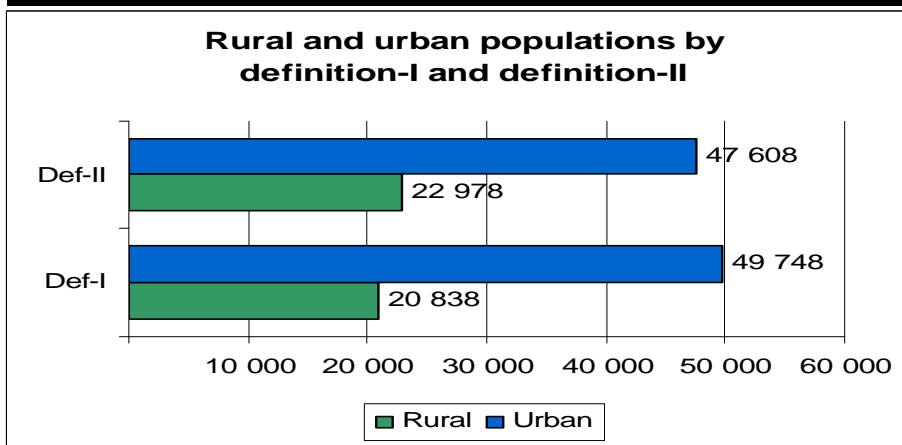
Village Infrastructure Support Program (VISP):
a new delivery mechanism enhancing the decentralization
process of rural infrastructure services in Turkey (KÖYDES)

Cologne, April 2008

Facts about rural Turkey

Population and settlements

	How rural is defined in Turkey?	
	By administrative units (DEF-I)	By population threshold (DEF-II)
RURAL	Villages Towns (M)	Settlements having population less than 20 thousand
URBAN	Province centers (M) District centers (M)	Settlements having population more than 20 thousand



Rural services in Turkey

responsible bodies

	Infrastructure	For other services (Education, Health/social service, Business/Finance)
Central institution or agency	Mof Public Works and Settlement Provinces Bank	Line ministries
Local institution or agency	Local administrations	Provincial directories of line ministries

Before the VISP, the responsible body for the rural infrastructure services was **Directory General of Village Services (DGVS)** closed in 2005 and its duties were delageted to **Mof Public Works and Settlements, and Mof Agriculture and Rural Affairs at central level**, and to **Special Province Administration at local level**

Rationales facilitated the decentralization process

for the rural infrastructure services

1. 9th Development Plan (2007-2013)
 - Basic principles
 - The 5th development axe: “Increasing Quality and Effectiveness in Public Services”
 2. Law No 5018 (December 2003): Public Financial Management and Control Law
 3. The basic laws re-adopted in 2004 and 2005
 4. Rural development policy (2007-2013)
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Local administration unions: village service union

	Types of local administrations		
	Special Province Administration(SPA)	Municipalities	Villages
Law No	5302 (2005)	5216 (2004) and 5393 (2005)	442 (1924)
Number of units	81	3225	34171
Geographic scope	Province (but out of municipal borders)	Municipality (within municipal borders)	Village (within village borders)
Head	Province governor	Mayor	Mukhtar(village headman)

Local Administration Unions: Law No. 5355 (2005)

The Law makes the different or same types local administrations to come together and establish an union so as to cooperate in their neighbored area for common supply of the local services which they serviced separately before. The unions are admitted as public corporation.

Village Infrastructure Support Project (VISP)

A new;

Period → started after the closed down of the DGVS in March 2005

Authority → SPA as a local administration was defined as single authority for the supply of village infrastructure services

Project → VISP started to implement in May 2005.

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Objective of the VISP: improve the quality of road standards and ensuring sufficient drinking water for the village settlements whose achievement to these services are still very limited

Beneficiary : all villages, but priority is given to those having lower achievement

Population : 11,8 million (16,7% of Turkey)

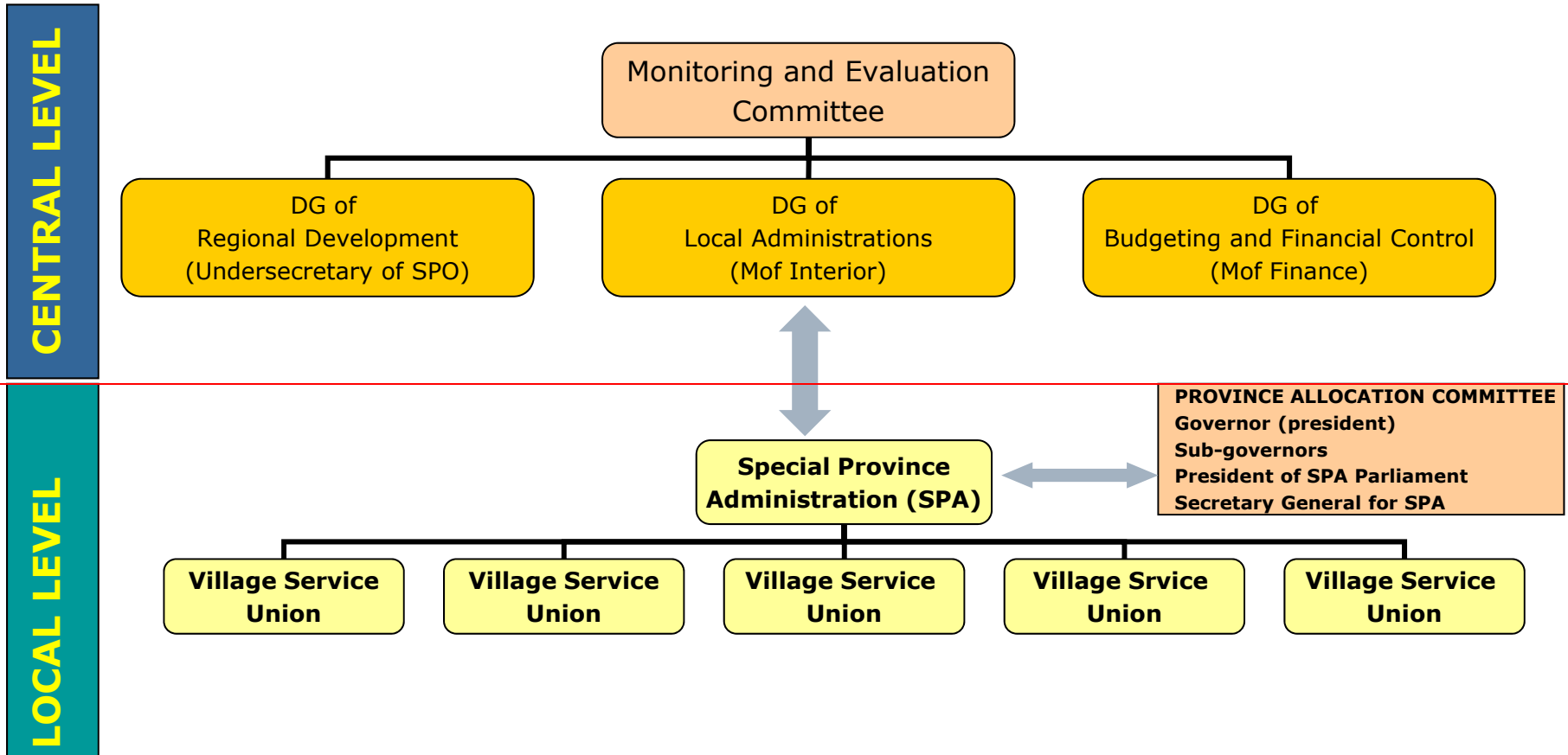
Geographic Scope : 79 provinces, except İstanbul and Kocaeli

Components : road, drinking water + irrigation

Budget : from 2005 to 2008 almost 3,5 billion USD (2,700 billion Euro)

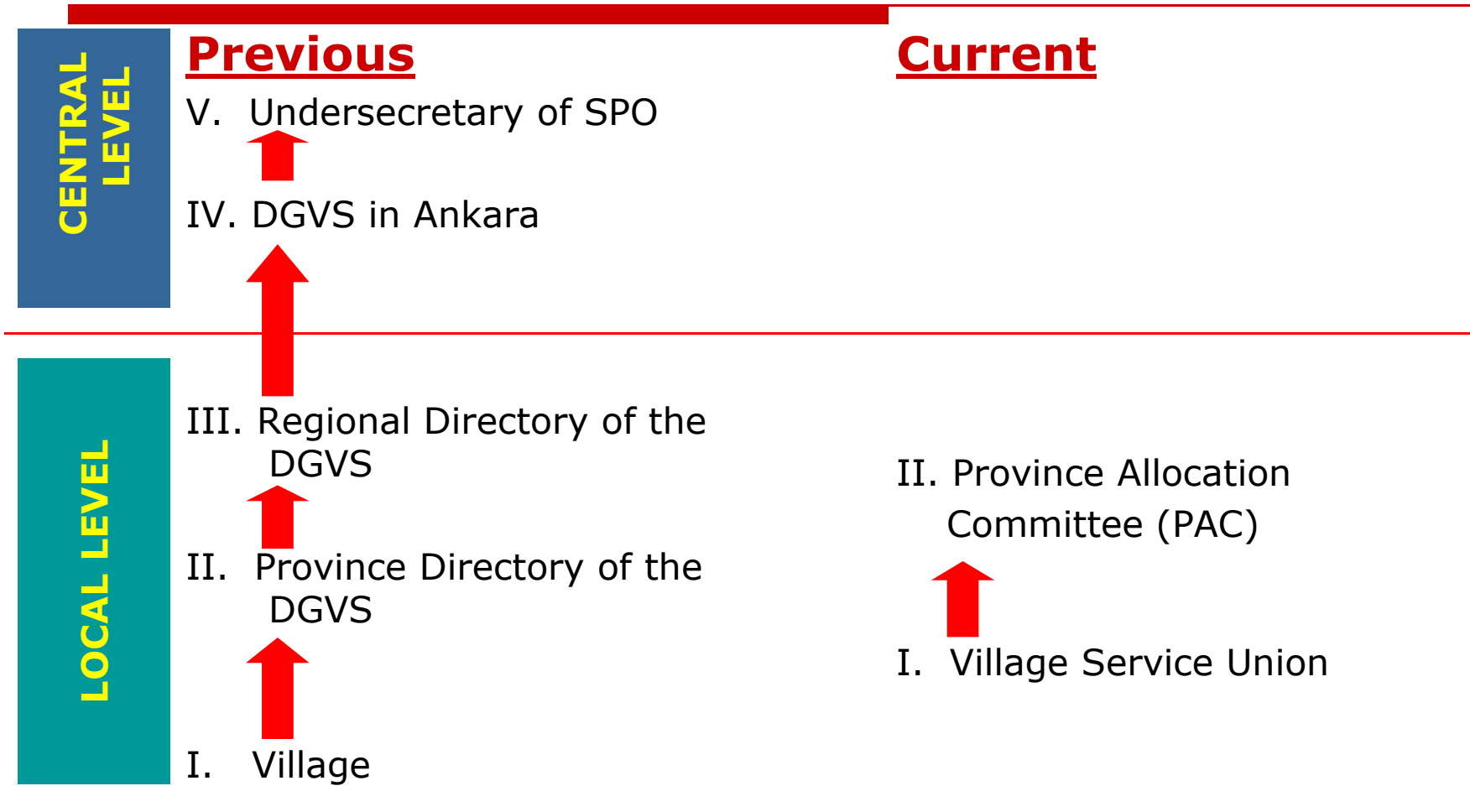
Implementing agency: Village Service Unions (VSU)

Management of the VISP at central and local level



Project selection stages from bottom to up

comparison of the previous and current mechanisms



Fund allocation / Implementation / Monitoring & Evaluation

The allocation method

The resource existed in the state budget are distributed to the 79 Provinces by Decree of High Planning Council headed by Prime Minister and other related ministers

At local, the fund is allocated to the projects offered by VSUs to the PAC.

The PACs accept or eliminate the projects according to the principles and priorities defined in the Decree.

Implementation

The cost of the projects accepted by the PAC determine the total amount of money to be transmitted to the VSUs. Thus, province's fund is re-distributed among VSUs.

VSUs are responsible for the project implementation and management.

To do that, they must obey to the rules and principles defined in the Decree, and to the Tender Regulation for VSU.

Monitoring&Evaluation

At local: monitoring and evaluation activities are managed under the head of sub-governor at VSU level (district), and of governor at SPA level (province).

At central; Monitoring and Evaluation Committee is responsible body. Monthly and annual monitoring reports are submitted by DG Local Administration.

The reports are produced by the data compiled from the Monitoring and Information System (MIS) established in 2007.

For 2008, MIS are being modified to allow the payment and accounting transactions.

The major outputs of the VISP

- Improved the project management, implementation, monitoring and evaluation capacity at local
- Enhanced the institutional capacity of the public bodies closest to the rural community
- Developed the human resources which were not active before
- Contributed to partnership and governance capabilities for local development
- Increased the life quality of the rural community
- Strengthen the motives for rural development activities
- Opened new employment opportunities for local people
- Boosted the growth of local economies
- Eliminated the bureaucracy in rural infrastructure services and consolidated the subsidiarity
- Increased the efficiency of public resources, accountability, costing, and transparency
- Extended the decentralization of rural infrastructure services one step further

Impacts of the VISP on other sectors

- Justified the delegation of powers and duties from the central government to local administrations
- Provided a nation-wide experience for the implementation of programmes and partnerships among central and local bodies.
- Facilitated the establishment of monitoring and information systems for public investments
- Fostered the tendencies for the decentralization of other public investments
- Prompted other large-scale infrastructure projects like Municipal Infrastructure Support Programme (BELDES)
- Became a model application for the combination of regional policies and sectoral ones
- Reinforced the importance of rural development for regional development in a developing country



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