

Bartın citizens engaged for a healthy future

The case

On 9 April 2010 Bartın Platform was established on a meeting of the citizens and institutions who were united in their belief that if a thermal power plant is to be constructed in Amasra/Bartın it will damage the environment and human health. Citizens of Bartın came together to oppose the construction of two coal thermal power plants with a total capacity of 2640 MW by HEMA Company of Hattat Holding and Western Black Sea Energy Company. In a special declaration adopted during the meeting it was stated: “We invite all institutions not to allow endangering the future of Bartın”.



The change process

One member of the Parliament, 3 mayors, 8 political parties, 3 City council members, all members of the Amasra and Municipality Councils, Bar of Bartın, Medical Doctors of Bartın, trade unions, associations, chamber of engineers, cooperatives joined the declaration and Bartın Platform.



Bartın Platform has used different tools to inform the citizens and to gain public support: they visited villages, organized town meetings, meetings with institutions, press conferences and distributed brochures and posters. Reports about the damages of the thermal power were also prepared and distributed among the public.

The outcome

Due to success of the awareness raising campaign the EIA public participation meetings that were scheduled for 24 and 25 November 2010 could not be held due to the protest of thousands of people who opposed the construction. This was a little victory for the Bartın Platform in their attempt to preserve the environment.

Another rally against the construction of the two thermal power plants using local coal was held on 22 April 2011. It took out to the streets 10 000 people from a total of about 50 000 living in Bartın under the slogan “I live and I shall live in Bartın - No to the thermal power plant!”. The Platform united over 125 citizens’ organisations and managed to attract the local authorities on its side.