

Assessment of the Impacts of Population Decline in the Town of Güzelyurt on the Socio-economic Structure of TRNC

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ABSTRACT According to this research, the population of Güzelyurt, a town located in the island of Cyprus, does not increase but has migration then and now. This study assesses the factors that cause migration in Güzelyurt and movements of migration. The existing natural, human and economic geography conditions are considered as migration factors. There are also driving factors arising from the natural, political and socio-economic conditions. This study aims to identify the characteristics of on-site movements of migration through censuses and statistics as well as face-to-face interviews conducted with the randomly selected people that migrated from Güzelyurt. The main reason of depopulation in Güzelyurt is migration. People living in the research constantly postpone the investment in the area due to psychological, economic, social and human despair. This structure surely slows down the development of economic activities in Güzelyurt and pushes on the migration to other regions, towns and even abroad.

INTRODUCTION

Population defines the number of people living in a region with specific borders and in a specific time. The number of people, movements of population, distribution and density of population in a region is very significant for countries (Atalay 2005). The utilization of natural environment richness is possible with human labour. The increase of population in geographic units has direct impact on settlement, transport, industrialisation, education, nutrition and health care services. Urbanisation develops with increasing population and economic growth with industrial movements (Ilseven 2012).

The population should increase in a balance. Over-decline and over-increase in population inhibits development. Over-increase in population causes unemployment and migration; and when it is beyond the production capacity and development rate of region, it becomes the basis of many obstacles. It generate problems in education, nutrition, infrastructure and health care. Over-increase in population brings insufficient resources. Consequently, the per capita income as well as welfare of country decline. Decline in population cause insufficient use of natural resources.

Natural, economic, social and political factors are at the core of migration. Such factors stand out as push factors that push people to migrate and pull factors that encourage people to migrate. Migration happens as a result of com-

plicated personal decisions. The interaction between push factors and pull factors determines the severity, scope, time, type and direction of migration movement. Severe climate conditions, high and defective relieve condition, non-arable lands or degraded lands are the strongest push factors. Also natural disasters and wars are among the push factors depending on their impact levels (Toroglu 2007). Climatic factors manifest in many guises and might impinge upon migration in myriad ways (Beine and Parsons 2015).

According to Neumann et al.'s study (2015) results, environmental drivers can be grouped into eight distinct clusters, and the researcher identified the most severe environmental constraints for each cluster. These results suggest that out-migration—both in absolute and relative terms occurs most frequently in a cluster that is constrained primarily by land degradation rather than water availability.

The problem of employment is one of the most important factors for the migration between countries, regions and towns, yet employment opportunities make many people displace. Social factors are similar to economic factors but generally the pull and push factor of social factors depends on the private conditions of individuals. The size of family is a general push factor. The newly married family members of big families tend to leave their parent's homes. Moreover, the young people have the tendency to migrate more than elderly people. The lack of

entertainment and other social activities in rural areas are defined as the cultural factors that cause frequent migration. Voluntary migration movements are not generally a result of political situation. However some of migration movements happen due to the unbalanced distribution of investments in the country due to political concerns. Existing natural, economic, social and political factors on a site create migration decision, thus the decisions to migrate might be individual or collective. On the other hand people were identified as having different behavioural skills (Whyne-Hammond 1979).

Internal Migrations in Cyprus

The migration is defined as the movement of population to change the permanent residence for a fundamental time (Atalay 2005). The permanent transposition within country is defined as internal migration. Such population movements may be from villages to towns, towns to villages or towns to other towns. In Cyprus, the migration from villages to towns is more obvious than the opposite movement. Recently, the infrastructure activities in villages (road-water-electricity etc.), developed education-health services, rural area lands given to young people in villages, having much shorter distances between villages and towns are the reasons that decline the migration from villages to towns (Ilseven et al. 2014).

Güzelyurt has the highest emigration rates within the territories of Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus. There is a migration from Güzelyurt to other towns due to having smaller agricultural lands by heritage, development of non-agricultural activities and loss of interest for agriculture, particularly the uncertainty of Güzelyurt for the future. People migrating from Güzelyurt choose the settlements such as Gönyeli, Nicosia and Kyrenia. According to the census dated December 4, 2011, there is an increase in the populations of Kyrenia, Nicosia, Famagusta and even Yeni Iskele, whereas there is a decline for Güzelyurt.

When we look back to the history, the people of Cyprus have continuously displaced from the beginning of social conflicts. With 1958-1963 conflicts, around 100 Turkish villages were raided and razed to the ground by Ethniki Organosis Kypriou Agoniston. Many smaller Turkish villages migrated to other bigger villages

that deemed as more safe. 18,667 Turkish Cypriots from Turkish villages in smaller settlements and more than 30,000 living together with Greek Cypriots in other villages migrated to bigger and safer settlements to ensure their safety.

The most important internal migration in the Cyprus history is the population exchange that was realized with an agreement following 1974 Peace Operation. The agreement that was foreseen as the mutual exchange in Cyprus has its place in history as 1975 Population Exchange Agreement. The exchange performed after the signing of agreement in Vienna on 2 August 1975. This exchange had created a different structure where Turkish Cypriots deployed in the north and Greek Cypriots in the south, and thousands of Turkish and Greek Cypriots had to be displaced. During that time around 65000 Turkish Cypriot migrated from the south to the north and around 160000 Greek Cypriots migrated from the north to the south. Pursuant to the decision taken during the Vienna Talks that were conducted under the supervision of General Secretary of United Nations Kurt Waldheim; on behalf of the Republic of Cyprus, Head of Cyprus House of Representatives Glafcos Klerides, and on behalf of Turkish Cypriots in the northern part of island Prime Minister Rauf Raif Denktas signed the Population Exchange Agreement. According to this agreement, if Greek Cypriots wanted to move to the southern part of island, they could; and Turkish Cypriots, who lived in the south, would migrate to the north. Therefore, the northern part of Island got officially populated with Turkish Cypriots and the southern part with Greek Cypriot.

External Migration in Cyprus

Migration from one country to another is called as external migration. Throughout history, there is always an intensive migration from Cyprus to another countries. Due to the wars of pre- and post-1974, internal conflicts, economic problems, thousands of people had to leave the country. Thus today there are many Cypriots living in Turkey, England and Australia (Hatton and Williamson 2008).

By the mid-1950s, when inter-societal conflicts had begun, the escape to abroad had increased with employment issues in addition to safety issues. The spring and summer of 1958 was the most bloody and separatist period of Greek Cypriots' rebellion against British Admin-

istration. During this period, more than hundred Cypriots were killed and around two hundred people were injured because of political murders. The murders became more brutal between 1958-1959 and Cyprus was gradually pulled into an internal war (Morgan 2013). When we look at the migration statistics of relevant time period, 5700 in 1955, 6460 in 1956, 5450 in 1957, 5300 in 1958 and 6250 in 1958 migrated abroad.

With the proclamation of the republic (1960), there was a significant increase in the number of people migrating from the island. Not only Turkish Cypriots but also Greek Cypriots as well as the British migrated. Yet among 14,589 as the total number of those who emigrated in 1960, 2220 was Turkish Cypriot and 11,764 was Greek Cypriots. 90 percent (13534) of these migrated to England. The emigration had no significant decline in 1961 and realized as 13489. The rate of emigration had comparatively declined until 1973 but it continued.

Following 1974, the emigration accelerated again due to political uncertainty and economic reasons. The figures were 3346 in 1974, 5454 in 1975, 5647 in 1976, 3689 in 1977. The majority of emigration was realized to England but emigration to Australia had continued until the beginning of 1990s. With the developments in the sectors such as tourism, construction, manufacturing etc., there has been an opposite dynamism to emigration. For instance, there are many workers in Northern Cyprus that have come to work (50,601 registered). Additionally, many foreigners had an impact on population increase with their real estate purchases. The assigned military service officers from Turkey and university students are also other factors that increase the de facto population. Table 1 shows how there can be changes in the de-jure and de-facto populations in the island's provinces.

Table 1: Distribution of de - jure and de - facto population between towns

	<i>De Jure</i>	<i>Distribution (%)</i>	<i>De Facto</i>	<i>Distribution (%)</i>
<i>Total</i>	286.257	100.0	294.396	100.0
<i>Nicosia</i>	94.824	33.1	97.293	33.1
<i>Famagusta</i>	69.741	24.4	69.838	23.7
<i>Kyrenia</i>	69.163	24.1	73.577	25.0
<i>Güzelyurt</i>	30.037	10.5	30.590	10.4
<i>Iskele</i>	22.492	7.9	23.098	7.8

Source: T.R.N.C. 2011 Census Press Notice

Geographical Characteristics of the Town of Güzelyurt

The productivity of natural environment and compatibility to development, climate, water resources, soil, surface forms and mines are its assets. The factors on physical environment have significant roles for the formation of population distribution and size. However climate, surface forms, water, soil, and mines are environmental elements that this role as well. Even in the most developed societies, causal relationships were identified between natural environment and population and settlement (Tumertekin 1984). The location characteristics have major impact on the establishment and development of the town of Güzelyurt. Since alluvial cumulated land structure facilitates the settlement and agricultural opportunities, plain bases and mountain foot are selected as the most convenient settlement areas.

Güzelyurt plain is in the shape of an equilateral triangle with its base on Güzelyurt gulf and top part around Filya and Avlona surrounding. The northern side of this triangle is constituted by the lower course of Alupos river and fault line going on the direction of Çamlıköy-Filya. The southern line may be roughly described with 150 metre contour. The most accepted statement on the formation of Güzelyurt plain is that the alluvial carried by the rivers that flow from the western part of Troodos Mountains to north, towards Omorfo gulf, formed a bar between Gaziveren and Yayla and Lagoon that was formed filled with the materials wafting from the high hills on south and became a plain. Particularly the dune hills accumulated by the strong western wind through the north Siryanohori facilitated such filling (Gursoy 1962).

The town of Güzelyurt has spread to a 381-kilometer area west of Cyprus, south and south-east of Güzelyurt gulf. The Güzelyurt Plain, located on the north of Troodos Mountains is an alluvial accumulation area. The Güzelyurt basin, the sediment discontinuously starting from upper Kretaseden until today, is located west of Mesarya Plain. Oligocene- Early Miocene late Lapithos group is constituted by Mid-Late Miocene Late Dhali group and Late Miocene-Late Pliocene Late Mesarya group (Gokcekus and Olgun 1993). It is a coastal plain with mid-part at 60 m elevation. The elevation composed by the hills limiting the research basin go up to 400 m.

northeast and 300m. southwest and border the basin from both sides.

A majority of plain is formed by the sediments of alluvial fan. The sediments of alluvial fan can be observed as 15-30m. high hills commonly outcropping near Doganci and Cengizköy, south of Güzelyurt and with low sloping layers (Olgun 1995). Doganci, Çakil, Çamlık, Lefke and Maden rivers flowing from Troodos Massif in south through north and northeast engrave the sediments of Güzelyurt plain into the deep. It is possible to see sections representing the internal structure of levels on the slopes of valleys that are formed by these rivers. The Güzelyurt Plain has generally mountainous and rugged land structure. The town territories are surrounded with Troodos Mountains in south, Güzelyurt Gulf in northwest and Kyrenia Mountains in northeast.

Güzelyurt is one of the five towns of Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus. The administration centre is Güzelyurt. It is located northwest of Nicosia District with 381 square kilometre surface area. Once it was a part of Nicosia then with the adoption of a law in 1998, it has become a town. Güzelyurt is mainly famous for its citrus agriculture. It is one of the main areas where citrus as a vital product in the economy of country is produced. Citrus, which is the most significant item in the export of country covers 40 percent of currency input. There are two universities within the territories of town as Middle East Technical University Güzelyurt Campus and European University of Lefke; however these two universities could not be that effective in making Güzelyurt a culture town. Yesilirmak Rocks (Petra Tou Limnidi) that is close to Yesilirmak village has a history to Neolithic Period. The ancient city of Soli goes back to 6 BC and Vouni to 5 BC and defined as the first settlement of island. Archaeology and Natural History Museum, St.Mamas Church, Tumba Tu Skouru are the other tourist attractions in town.

One of the important factors that has an impact on the development of Güzelyurt town throughout history and becoming an administrative centre is surely the closure of the copper mine. Following the closure of copper mine, Lefke had begun to quickly lose its population and was no longer a town centre. The town of Güzelyurt is divided to two sub-districts as Güzelyurt Sub-district and Lefke Sub-District. The sub-districts and villages of Güzelyurt are: Güzelyurt Sub-

district: Akçay, Aydıncık, Gayretköy, Kalkanlı, Mevlevi, Serhatköy, Sahinler, Yuvacık, Zümrütköy. Lefke Sub-district: Sub-district and villages; Bademliköy, Cengizköy, Çamlıköy, Doganci, Erenköy, Gaziveren, Günebekan, Madenliköy, Ömerli, Tasköy, Taspınar, Yesilirmak, Yukariye Silirmak and Yesilyurt (Fig. 1).

Physical Factors that Have an Impact on the Population Decline in Güzelyurt

Güzelyurt Plain is one of the places with the least amount of rainfall in Mesarya plain. Since the moist air masses leading to Güzelyurt Gulf over Mediterranean do not hit any obstacles, the amount of rainfall is very low in this area (West Mesarya average 286 mm). This is the most arid location of Cyprus. Due to the excess of dams built on valleys down from Troodos Mountains, the utilization from surface waters decline each year. Economic development, in parallel with the population distribution throughout the period, has increased the water demand. High water demand in Güzelyurt and over extraction from aquifer caused the sea water intrusion and led to a destruction that is very difficult – and even impossible- to reverse. The biggest share in water consumption is the agricultural water utilization; the methods like fresh water generation from sea water is far from being economic for these purposes. Measures to diminish the demand such as using water efficiently, giving priority to plants that require less water but have economic benefit in order to diminish the demand and supply gap, should be taken.

Although all the provinces face a population increase in North Cyprus between the years of 2006-2011, only the Güzelyurt province, as can be seen from the Table 2, had faced the only population decrease.

Table 2: Distribution of de-facto population between towns in Cyprus in 1996, 2006 and 2011

Towns	1996	2006	2011	Growth rate (%)
<i>Nicosia</i>	62.295	84.893	97.293	36.3
<i>Famagusta</i>	52.875	64.429	69.838	21.9
<i>Kyrenia</i>	38.715	61.192	73.577	58.1
<i>Güzelyurt</i>	27.523	31.116	30.590	14.5
<i>Yskele</i>	19.179	22.978	23.098	15.2

Source: T.R.N.C. Statistics Department Press Notice, 2012

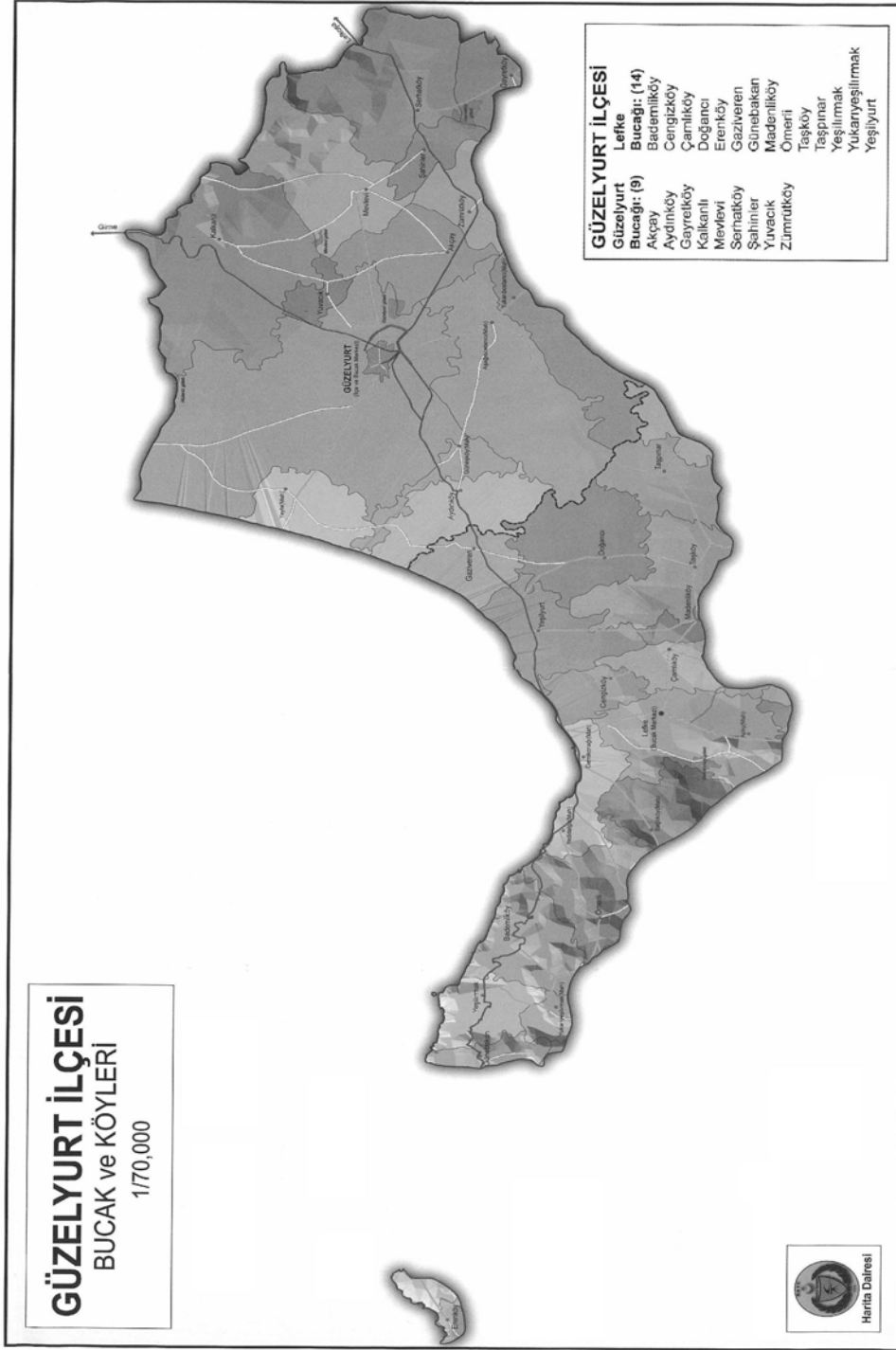


Fig. 1. Guzelyurt Province and its villages

In order to prevent further decrease in population, some measures as well as rigid controls for using underground waters, pricing water might be beneficial. Additionally water import from Turkey via pipes as carrying water from one point to points of use of an area that is bigger than 3000 square meter would have significant engineering and economic problems and urgent measures should be taken to eliminate such problems (Turkman and Elkiran 2005).

Human Factors for Population Decline in Güzelyurt

Until major industrial and associated economic activities arise, agricultural activities that are under the impact of climate and physical geography conditions were shaping the population distribution and made it possible explain population distribution with agricultural distribution in general terms (Tümertekin 1984). Together with the high state control on economic activities, political impacts also become a significant factor for population distribution. Political events and wars cause mass migration of population.

Factors such as international unrecognized status due to Cyprus issue, embargoes, negative investment climate, high operation risks are the main reasons for the unsustainable structure of T.R.N.C. The disadvantages caused by such challenges are not reflected in every region of T.R.N.C and not equally shared on the basis of towns. Güzelyurt is affected by this situation more when compared with other regions. Particularly under Annan Plan, Perez de Cuellar, Boutros Ghali and other plans and statements, and in every map introduced in territory issue regarding the solution of Cyprus issue, Güzelyurt is in question to be passed on Greek Cypriot Administration of Southern Cyprus. In the introductory booklet of Annan Plan that was subject to referendum in 2004, Güzelyurt and its surrounding were explicitly stated to be given to Greek Cypriots in 2 years and eight months at the latest following the signing of agreement. Due to this political uncertainty, inhabitants of Güzelyurt continuously postponed an investment in their area under the psychological, economic and social despair. This structure consequently has slowed down the development of economic activities in Güzelyurt and accelerated the migration to other regions and towns.

Financing is not one of the main problems of businesses of Güzelyurt. According to the result of research conducted by (Safakli 2012), craftsmen in the town of Güzelyurt were indecisive whether there is a business issue of businesses. The most important problems of businesses located in the area are respectively identified as “the status of Güzelyurt region in Cyprus Issue in terms of territorial adjustment”, “tax practices” and “impacts of Cyprus issue”. Especially post-1974, development in Güzelyurt region has realized under uncertainties. Thus especially under the 2004 Annan Plan that solution to Cyprus issue was very close, Güzelyurt has foreseen to be given to Greek Cypriot Administration of Southern Cyprus in almost any negotiations. Therefore, the community of Güzelyurt has taken its steps in all commercial and economic activities under the shadow of this uncertainty. The study of Safakli concerning the businesses in T.R.N.C. Güzelyurt has the indications of this peculiar fact. The businesses in Güzelyurt Region are generally financed by their own funds. Consequently, probably due to *assumed or learned* helplessness, the businesses do not consider financing as their priority problem and “the Status of Güzelyurt Region in Cyprus Issue in terms of territorial adjustment”, “Tax Practices” and “Impacts of Cyprus Issue” are agreed as the most significant problems by businesses. Especially the refusal of title deeds as security by the banks is the biggest problem of community.

When the businesses are assessed in terms of financing problems but free from the peculiar conditions of Güzelyurt, the main problems are respectively listed as “high prices of investment credits”, “high credit costs”, “general economic situation and development level of capital market” and “limited incentive opportunities”.

One of the human reasons behind the migration from Güzelyurt town borders to other towns or countries is the salinization of well waters. In the early 1960s, there was no problems in the region regarding underground waters, however with the rapid expansion of agricultural areas, the demand for underground water has increased. Over extraction caused significant decline in underground water level. When the underground water level change maps are assessed, it can be possible to identify that the water levels of wells located in 20 square kilometre are of Güzelyurt plain are below average sea level. This area went up to 75 square kilometre in 1980 and 100 square

kilometre in 1988. The salinization of these wells in such wide area caused significant problems in terms of utilisation of waters for drinking water and agricultural purposes (Gokcekus 2002).

DISCUSSION

In Güzelyurt region, the biggest share in water consumption is the agricultural water utilization; the methods like fresh water generation from sea water is far from being economic for these purposes. Measures to diminish the demand under today's circumstances such as using water efficiently, giving priority to plants that require less water but have economic benefit in order to diminish the demand and supply gap, should be taken.

The agricultural constriction in T.R.N.C. has a negative impact on agricultural production, trade and agriculture-based industry. Taking account of limited lands and water resources, prices of products including citrus in world market and soil structure, the conversion to agricultural products with high advantage that have comparative distinction within the framework of EU agricultural policy should become a current issue. In order words, instead of insisting on the products without any comparative distinction in agriculture sector, the introduction to new production pattern, improvement of productivity and having a population that works in agriculture sector at EU average could be achieved with financial support within the process. Surely there are some problems within the E.U. As Popp and Jambor (2015) asserts the latest reform of the Common Agricultural Policy has just been accepted, identifying important challenges for EU agriculture but proposing only limited changes to existing policy. Now it is time for the implementation of new measures. Turkish Cypriot founding state should solve the agriculture issue first itself, which is extended over the process by Greek Administration of Southern Cyprus, in a much shorter time (Balkir 2003).

The lack of raw material and water in North Cyprus restricts the development of agriculture and agriculture based industry. Since there is not an appropriate agricultural policy implementation, the investments on agriculture have become limited. Due to lack of modern production techniques, machinery park, available inputs such as quality seed, breeding animals, fertilizer, pesticides etc. it was not possible to have product

diversity in compliance with internal and external product demand. Consequently, the agriculture is dependent on semi-arid climate conditions and far from being effective and productive. The most concrete example to wrong agricultural policy is the incentive of state to grow products such as grapefruit that do not any demand. Since Cypriot businessman Asil Nadir had to pull out of the market, it has become a failure to find a market for citrus products. Therefore; many agricultural lands are idle and farmers as well as people working in agriculture sector have become unemployed. Especially the community in Güzelyurt and its surrounding used to live in welfare once but now having financial difficulties (Safakli 2012).

In case of not putting a structure, which covers permanent solution to production, pricing, incentive system, harvest, product processing, stocking, marketing, financial difficulties, payment measures and similar problems, into practice, the existing problems would become more in depth and continue. Particularly the problems regarding the salinization of well waters should be solved and rejuvenation of the trees that lost their productivity, regulation of price policies should be in place (Zhou and Yang 2014). The farmers should be supported with incentives towards making low-cost production and growing quality products. A product range including a diversity that meets a 9 and even 10-month harvest period should be urgently projected and implemented. Old trees that lost their productivity should be rejuvenated so that productivity can improve.

CONCLUSION

Particularly under Annan Plan and Perez de Cuellar, Boutros Ghali and other plans and statements, and during the Cyprus Talks conducted by Turkish Cypriot leader Akinci and Greek Cypriot leader Anastasiadis and in every map introduced in territory issue regarding the solution of Cyprus issue, Güzelyurt is in question to be passed on Greek Cypriot Administration of Southern Cyprus. This structure consequently has slowed down the development of economic activities in Güzelyurt and accelerated the migration to other regions and towns.

The main reason of population decline in Güzelyurt is the migration. The town, starting with the end of 1980s, has intensive emigration.

Uncertainty, unemployment, water problems in citrus orchards and severance of lands by inheritance as well as desire to be close to workplace (Nicosia) are the major reasons for migration. Due to same reasons, the settlements under Güzelyurt had population decline. While Güzelyurt could not be able to increase its existing population due to these negative reasons, the figures declined in the last census.

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