REPORT

MARMARA URBAN FORUM



REPORT

MARMARA URBAN FORUM

resilience and beyond





MARMARA MUNICIPALITIES UNION PUBLICATIONS

MARUF23 Marmara Urban Forum Report

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Contents

| | FOREWORD | 06 |
|----|---|-----|
| | About the Report | 08 |
| 1. | INTRODUCTION | |
| | Theme & Content Planning | 14 |
| | Process Planning | 16 |
| 2. | MARUF23 SUMMARY | |
| | MARUF on the Go | 30 |
| | Opening Session Resilience and Beyond | 42 |
| | Deep Dive | 46 |
| | Hype or Not | 56 |
| | Urban Basics | 66 |
| | Quick Takes | 78 |
| | Local in Action | 88 |
| | Dialogue Marmara | 116 |
| | Play Marmara Food | 130 |
| | Showcases | 152 |
| | Special Sessions | 162 |
| | Closed Meetings | 186 |
| | YoundTable | 190 |

| | Networking Events | 192 |
|----------|--------------------------------------|-----|
| | Urban Workshops | 200 |
| | Urban Library | 208 |
| | Urban Cinema | 214 |
| | Urban Routes | 220 |
| | Side Events | 228 |
| | Exhibitions | 232 |
| | Closing Session MARUF23 and Beyond | 238 |
| | World Metropolitan Day | 242 |
| 3. EVA | LUATION | |
| | Partners | 252 |
| | Statistical Information | 254 |
| AFTERWO | RD | |
| HOW WILL | WE GO REVOND DESILIENCE? | 264 |

Foreword

We are living in an age of multiple crises. These crises leave deep scars on human life, society, urban life, and the ecosystems that surround us. In light of these challenges, exacerbated by events like the February 6 Earthquakes, the ongoing climate crisis, and wars that have claimed lives and devastated cities, the importance of viewing solutions through the lens of "resilience" has never been more urgent. Resilience should be more than just the ability to withstand crises and recover to a previous state after overcoming challenges, or ensuring the survival of systems, institutions, communities, and individuals; it must also include the ability to adapt to developments and new situations in the face of uncertainties and disruptions.

This is why we embarked on a journey to go beyond resilience, aiming to develop a new approach in this field. In other words, through MARUF23, our goal was to break free from the limitations of merely returning to a pre-crisis state following crises experienced in urban life, and to go "beyond" resilience. We focused on transitioning to a better state, in a way as organic as life itself, and on building new, nature-aligned ways of living that adapt to emerging conditions.

Our cities' ability to handle various crises, such as natural disasters, climate change, economic challenges, population density, and cyberattacks, must be strengthened through the involvement of all urban stakeholders. To create such a resilient urban life, it is critical that we think of today as a bridge that functions between the past and the future. To effectively establish this sense of historical continuity, it is essential for experienced generations and younger generations to come together and maintain a collaborative dialogue. Here, MARUF plays a highly valuable role by providing a platform for practical, solution-oriented discussions, uniting all relevant stakeholders, embracing a holistic and cross-sectoral perspective, and fostering connections between different generations through shared experiences and a collective vision for the future.

Local governments, as indispensable pillars of democratic political life, are the closest public institutions to citizens and they have a direct impact on everyday life, and are thus, often the first public institutions that come to mind when it comes to solving local issues. As the Marmara Municipalities Union is a union of local governments, we prioritized creating an action-oriented platform focused on practical and tangible solutions to problems when designing MARUF. Just as a city should be a space where no social class, stratum, or group can claim privilege, but instead where all residents have equal rights to participate, their preferences respected, and life is built together, MARUF serves as a platform uniting all relevant stakeholders across disciplines and sectors. To bring this approach is to life, within MARUF, experts, academics, civil society organizations, private sector representatives, and local government officials from around the world come together to share knowledge and experiences, exploring ways to build safer, more inclusive, resilient, and sustainable cities. Only by drawing on such diverse perspectives, contributions, and ideas can we develop strategies that will lead our cities toward a better future and share successful practices.

One of MARUF's most defining qualities is that, from its name and colors to its design and content, it is a truly a product of a collective effort, belonging to no single person or entity.

resilience and beyond

This stance also shapes MARUF's approach to its production. In this sense, it is a platform that practices what it preaches, embodying and implementing the principles it promotes before anyone else. Another key feature of MARUF is that it serves as a global platform for the discussion and presentation of good practices and using various event formats to do so. MARUF goes beyond being a series of passive talks for attendees to merely observe. It is an active, creative, and exciting platform that engages stakeholders in urban issues through a wide range of activities, from serious games to PhD dissertations, from showcasing the good practices of municipalities to interactive workshops, all of which made possible by the network system we've established bringing relevant stakeholders together.

International city forums are vital platforms because of the pivotal roles cities play and the potential they hold in addressing global crises. Each country and city is unique. Each is home to a distinct culture and have one of a kind geographical settings. They have social norms accumulated over time by people living together and became practices of cohabitation. At the same time, they all share challenges stemming from globalization, such as raising the quality of life, climate change, migration, establishing democratic and open systems, creating checks and balances between powers, and addressing housing issues. In this sense, we have a collective responsibility to seek common solutions for our universal problems. Experts highlight that a substantial portion of the Sustainable Development Goals, signed by all countries in 2015, cannot be achieved without effective implementation in urban areas. This means that on one hand, there are issues unique to the city that need to be solved with local resources, while on the other hand, there are global challenges that affect our shared destiny as humanity. This is where a significant responsibility lies with urban governments. The importance of locally developed policies and designed applications comes to the forefront. MARUF is also progressing towards becoming a platform that examines how local actors respond to such global issues and develop solutions. It creates a space where people from different sectors and geographies can discuss good practices and learn from one another.

Today, when it comes to preparing our cities for the future, the critical importance of moving beyond resilience, developing the ability to adapt to new circumstances, tackle uncertainties, and emerge stronger from crises, rather than reverting to the past, could not be any clearer. In this process, the contributions, ideas, and collaborations from stakeholders further empower the hopes that fuel these efforts. It is a source immense joy to stand together on each step of the journey toward a better world, creating a platform where we can stand side by side.

We started by saying we are in an age of multiple crises. It is also an age filled with both irrepressible worries and dazzlingly radiant hopes. If Charles Dickens were among us today, he might he might have written a counterpart to "A Tale of Two Cities", telling the story of "two types of people". As we move forward together, we find ourselves on one side of this narrative. Call us "hopeless optimists" or "realistic hopefuls", it does not matter. What matters is that we are on this journey, and we value the journey itself. Thank you all for being fellow travelers on this path, for sharing in this dream, and for supporting this hope.

Dr. M. Cemil Arslan MMU Secretary General MARUF General Coordinator

About the Report

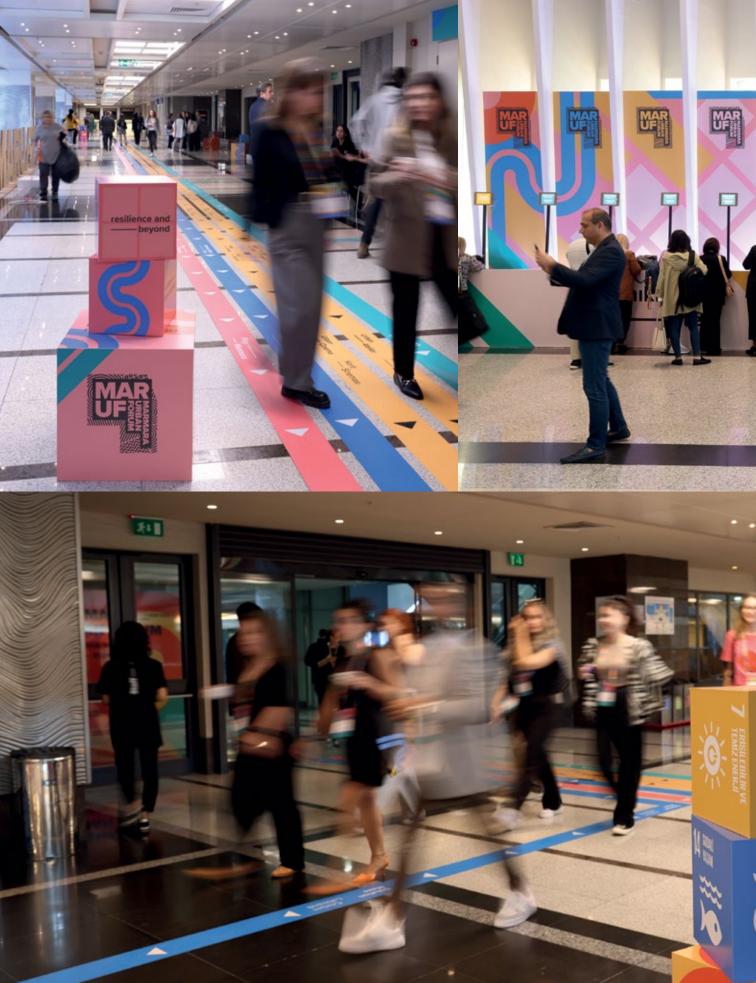
For the third time, we are pleased to present to you the report of MARUF, which was completed with valuable collaborations and effective participation under the theme "Resilience and Beyond". This report, structured around various discussion formats of the forum, offers a comprehensive framework that captures the key outcomes and summarizes the insights from the event.

We have organized the report into three main sections. In the Introduction, you'll find details on the planning process of MARUF23. The second section, titled MARUF23 Summary, forms the core of the report, highlighting the diverse topics explored through different event formats. The final section, Evaluation, presents partnerships, data-driven insights, and a conclusion centered on the forum's main theme. The entire report was shaped by the creative team of MARUF23. With this report, we invite you to open new conversations and inspire future studies based on the findings within. Whether or not you attended MARUF, we encourage you to read this report in its entirety and share your feedback with us. This is vital to the continuity of future forums and for achieving even better outcomes together.

We organized MARUF23 with a true sense of dedication, addressing the resilience of urbanization alongside local democracy amidst many challenges both in on a societal-level and in our individual lives. Held from October 1-3, 2023, at the Istanbul Congress Center, and on October 4, 2023, at the Istanbul Hilton Bosphorus as part of World Metropolises Day, MARUF23 also hosted several other key events about urbanism. As the result of contributions from over 140 partners, the program featured innovative event formats and welcomed more than 5,000 urban innovators and changemakers sharing their experiences. We hope this report not only serves as a record of MARUF23 but also as a guide for exploring the theme of resilience and beyond.

Editorial Team









INTRO DUC TION

THEME & CONTENT PLANNING

The third Marmara Urban Forum was held on 4-5-6 October 2023 at the Istanbul Congress Center and on 7 October at the Hilton Istanbul Bosphous as part of the World Metropolitan Day with the main theme of "Resilience and beyond". The planning and organization process of the forum, which brings together important stakeholders in the field of urbanization and local governments on a local, national and global scale with its permanent motto "Cities Developing Solutions", can be summarized in three stages. The first stage is the pre-forum process which involves the planning of the theme, topics, speakers and stakeholders of the MARUF23 and the communication process; the second is the execution of the forum; and the last is the carrying out of the post-forum organization and cooperation endeavors.

Within the scope of MARUF23, the MARUF creative team, working with the MARUF23 Executive Board and partners, created a program which puts participatory methods at the forefront and blends creative techniques. As a result of three separate Executive Board meetings and creative teamwork that took place over six months, we turned our focus to the reconsideration of the issue of resilience with the reflection of current local and global discussions in the field of urbanism and the shocking effect of the February 6 Earthquakes. We aimed to reach beyond resilience with the power of various types of activities that diversify according to their different duration and interaction styles as well as the topics discussed.



RESILIENCE AND — BEYOND

We expect everything to remain the same in the aftermath of a crisis, yet we wake up to a new day. Although the idea of not returning to the old state is alarming; there is a constant change, transformation, self-repair, making room for oneself and healing in the essence of nature.

Today's polycrisis age, and the fact that people, society, urban life, and the ecosystem that includes them are affected by various parameters reveal that we should seek solutions in "resilience". However, resilience should be considered beyond resisting crises and returning to the previous state, it should include the ability of not only surviving, but also thriving in the face of uncertainty and challenges, and adapting to new situations and times. For this reason, it is necessary to take a step beyond resilience.

At MARUF23, we aimed to focus on the beyond of resilience by getting rid of the limited, sometimes useless and impossible way of returning to the previous state after a crisis, and on the possibility of building a life suitable for new conditions in an organic way, like life itself.

With the main theme of MARUF23 "Resilience and Beyond", we questioned the basic requirements of a sustainable, quality life for everyone in cities. We know that cities gain the ability to cope with crises such as natural disasters, climate change, economic problems, population density, and human mobility from the stakeholders of the city. In light of these, and with our belief in re-thinking and co-acting, we came together at MARUF23 to share good practices, and develop new collaborations and solutions.



PROCESS PLANNING

METHODOLOGICAL DESIGN

From the planning process to the post-event, improving on the thinking and producing processes, MARUF also incorporates the experience of rethinking, divergent thinking, acting together and learning together. Rather than a system dominated by one-sided information and experience transfer, in order to gain 'know-how' from MARUF or to establish communication and interaction through the forum's facilities, we have increased the diversity of participation in the forum with tools such as urban cinema, urban library, urban workshops, Play Marmara networking room, and even urban routes where we question the real experience in the city outside the four walls where the forum takes place. Reflecting the city's own unique diversity, this diversity, the visibility of alternatives and experiencing all of this in a joint effort encouraged participants to be involved in the process of understanding what we can do better.

In MARUF23, we divided the program according to duration of the session, the topic of the session and the internal setup of the session. The "Deep Dive" sessions were the longest with a session duration of 90 minutes and included seven main contents that formed the basis for the main theme of MARUF23 "Resilience and beyond". In these sessions, governance, social resilience, environmental resilience, cultural resilience, economic resilience, public space design and earthquake resilience of the Marmara Region were discussed. The "Quick Take" sessions on the contrary were the shortest sessions for participants who wanted to reach more focused and fast information on a topic with a duration of 30 minutes each. The 60-minute "Hype or Not?" sessions were dedicated to discussing popular tools and concepts presented as solutions to urban problems from two different perspectives by two different speakers. Finally, as a MARUF classic, we hosted people from different cities and different sectors of the world who presented their practical solution proposals in the 60 and 45 minute "Local in Action" sessions. Of course, the list should also include other original events such as the "Dialogue Marmara" sessions which focused on discussions regarding our region, the "Urban Basics" sessions where we discussed our basic urban rights that we need to remember before taking a step into resilience and beyond and "PhD Showcase" session where we also received contributions from young academics.

In a session of MARUF23, it is possible to find practical and application-oriented solution ideas, as well as to discuss how it is possible to approach and find solutions to problems. While events such as the Good Practice Showcase where municipalities achieved effective results with different collaborations and presented them to the participants in a short span of 8 minutes revealed more concrete solutions, a transportation workshop where strategies were developed with the game method allowed the participants to experience how to move forward in the face of imaginary problems presented.

EVENT MODES

Deep Dive

In-depth and comprehensive discussions on carefully selected topics of MARUF23 took place in 90-minute Deep Dive sessions. Deep Dive sessions were designed to provide a comprehensive understanding of urban issues, encourage exchange of ideas among experts, policymakers and other relevant urban stakeholders, and produce a common discourse at the end of MARUF23.

Quick Takes

Instead of long and detailed explanations, we wanted to reach concise information and analyze more urban issues. Quick Take sessions served this goal by providing dynamic content that lays the foundation of various urban issues and focused on the essence of the issue in just 30 minutes.

Hype or Not?

These 60-minute sessions critically examined urban trends, technologies and ideas that are produced for a better urban life to determine their actual impact and potential for sustainable urban development and provided a framework for long-term results from different perspectives. Popular or 'trendy' concepts/tools were discussed through effective presentations to determine whether they are a hype or not.

Local in Action

In these sessions, which focused on exhibiting successful urban projects implemented at the local level, the main objective is to emphasize the value of bottom-up approaches and collaboration between different stakeholders and to inspire participants. Local actors led the dissemination of inclusive, safe, sustainable, creative solutions and strategies by sharing their work that has a positive impact on a local, regional or global scale in these 45- or 60-minute sessions.

Urban Basics

On the very first day of MARUF23, as we took a step into resilience and beyond, we refreshed our memories. We listened to our fundamental rights which are a part of urban life, from experts in the field at the 30-minute "Urban Basics" sessions.

Play Marmara

In Play Marmara, a MARUF classic, this year we brought together different actors working in the region and having expertise in the food sector to discuss the food and logistics issues specific to the Marmara Region in order to produce solutions with the power of gamification and making decisions together.

Dialogue Marmara

During the Dialogue Marmara sessions, we delved into a detailed discussion about the Marmara Region, exploring everything from its sea to its land, its leaders to its youth.

Networking

Networking events were designed to help organizations share knowledge and experiences, engage in interdisciplinary discussions, and develop partnerships with various stakeholders on specific issues. These events brought together representatives from different sectors working towards similar goals.

Urban Workshops

In the Urban Workshops, which can also be seen as short-term creative urbanism lessons, efforts were made to understand urban issues, collaboratively produce solutions to problems, and develop alternatives using different and entertaining content.

Urban Cinema

Urban Cinema, consisting of special film screenings and panel discussions, brought all film enthusiasts, city explorers, and urban visionaries to the bustling streets, hidden alleys, and vibrant stories of urban life.

Urban Library

Apart from offering a curated selection of books for urbanism enthusiasts, the Urban Library also hosted panels and workshops with authors and translators, host panels and workshops with authors and translators, was aimed at re-establishing the connection between text and the city.

Showcases

The showcase sessions provided a platform for PhD students, start-ups, and implementers to present their research, technologies and projects that aim to tackle urban challenges and the results of the MARUF On the Go events within minutes.

YoundTable

The YoundTable activities, which explored MARUF23 from the perspective of youth, were shaped to prepare us for MARUF25.

Special Sessions

The special sessions organized by MARUF23 partners fostered in-depth discussions led by expert speakers in their respective areas of expertise.

Closed Meetings

MARUF23 partners convene in Closed Meetings, brought together their networks to collaboratively seek solutions to urban challenges.

Side Events

Urban stakeholders participating in the forum through the MARUF23 Side Event call engaged with the forum participants through workshops, sessions, technical tours, and networking events.

Marmarathon

The increasing disasters and crises in recent years have reminded us once again of the importance of organizing at the neighborhood level and showed how important solidarity is. Especially considering what happened in the wake of the February 6 Earthquakes, the importance of strong, active and functioning neighborhood solidarity and what it can change was abundantly clear. While planning, we acted with the motive of putting forward new ideas on how to make neighborhood level volunteer organizations more effective pre, during, and post-disaster phrases, and what can be done to make the society more resilient against disasters. We designed Marmarathon as a platform that would enable participants to find new ways, come up with solutions that are previously unthought of, and pave the way for new paths that were undiscovered.

With the main theme of "Resilience and beyond" and a focus on development of sustainable, innovative and inclusive solutions, MARUF23 hosted the 2-day ideathon for young participants from different disciplines to come together and present their ideas on disaster management and neighborhood solidarity. Of the ideas proposed in the event, the winners were presented at the forum as part of the Dialogue Marmara session entitled "Marmarathon: Neighborhood for Resilient City".

DESIGN CONCEPT

Over time, MARUF has become an important brand that stands out with its innovative designs and sustainable solutions. Evolving over the years and constantly renewing itself, MARUF has strengthened its place among international forums with its strong aesthetic awareness, which has led to the need for renewal to respond to the dynamic and ever-changing needs of the MARUF ecosystem. At the core of the MARUF23 design was the search for differentiation from the 2019 event and self-renewal. Because after 4 years, we had a different MARUF that had proven itself.

After the MARUF23 theme was conceptualized as "Resilience and beyond", a brief was prepared within this scope. In this brief there was an expectation that the concept of "resilience" would emphasize the capacity to withstand challenges. Keywords such as "connection", "composite" and "resilience" formed the basis of the brief. Looking at the various design proposals in line with these concepts, the MARUF logo was re-examined based on the idea that the combination of different components would create a stronger resistance. The design team carefully examined the MARUF logo from this perspective based on the suggestion that the combination of different components instead of a single material would symbolize a stronger ability to resist.

In the creation of MARUF's main logo, elements that symbolize transportation, housing, water, agriculture and especially public spaces such as forums and agoras were reconsidered to reflect the resistance created by multiple materials. While the MARUF23 concept wanted to emphasize resilience, stability and adaptability were also important for the event space.

From the constant flow of water to the deep-rooted stability of agriculture, from the connectivity of transportation to the welcoming fabric of housing and the vibrant synergy of public spaces, every element was reshaped in a deliberate nod to resilience. The integration of these components was a intentional tribute to the strength found in unity. The design was illustrated with layers each of which is not only an independent aspect but also an indication of the interconnectedness and interdependence of durable structures. These different elements were consciously combined to celebrate not only durability but also the multifaceted nature of resilience. An ecosystem that transcends adversity and evolves through adaptation, that reflects the organic nature of life and celebrates adaptation, transformation and self-repair is embodied in this design narrative. Connections between space and design were made with lines that extend infinitely.

At the same time the color scale was diversified with the undertones of MARUF's color palette to emphasize plurality and inclusivity. The use of a black background combined with the MARUF23 interpretation of the Bauhaus style gave the design a modern touch and a universal aesthetic. The main purpose of this design was to symbolize the versatile resilience and enduring spirit of MARUF.

SPATIAL DESIGN

Cities provide their residents with a unique experience, shaped by their streets, squares, multifaceted structures, and the opportunities and challenges they present. For the forum where we discussed urban cities, we organized the main venue of the Istanbul Congress Center drawing inspiration from the organization of cities. As the Forum serves as a platform for all citizens to meet and connect, we explored how to enhance the MARUF experience for participants in this spirit.

It was crucial that MARUF's diverse colors and content were effectively integrated into the participants' experience. To achieve this, we conducted various qualitative and quantitative analyses to explore the space's potential by examining the relationship between user behavior and function. By dividing the event area into sub-components, we created a layout that harmonizes MARUF23's diverse activities with the character of the space. Drawing inspiration from MARUF elements that echo the essence of Marmara, we envisioned the foyer area as the city's public space, guided by principles of integrity, harmony, balance, and contrast. In this space, where participants could explore features like exhibitions, the Urban Library, the MARUF Shop, and the interaction wall, we guided the flow of movement and created spatial variety through the strategic use of structural elements such as floors, walls, and columns. The halls, in contrast, were designed as specialized areas tailored to accommodate sessions with varying needs and formats. To amplify the impact of our design choices, we applied a floor pattern that incorporated both horizontal and vertical surfaces. Without doubt, MARUF23's visual identity and material choices played a crucial role in enhancing the third dimensional spatial experience. We incorporated sound and lighting elements at key points to engage different senses. At the entrance to the Marmara Room, guests were welcomed with the sounds of seagulls and waves, setting a thematic tone. The circular stage layout was designed to symbolize concepts like circularity, unity, protection, equality, and completion, all of which align with the nature of creating dialogue. In the Solution Maze, which also featured a similar circular stage, stands were arranged to showcase successful practices implemented in the city.

For MARUF23, we prioritized using sustainable and environmentally friendly materials and designs, recognizing that the event extended beyond the three days at the Istanbul Congress Center into a broader process that began with "MARUF on the Go" and continued afterward. In line with the main theme, we carefully selected recyclable materials like wood and cardboard, chosen for their adaptability to other forms and uses, which was critical for ensuring that the materials' life cycle could continue beyond the event. Our spatial design decisions were guided by MARUF's principles and issues highlighted during the event, enabling MARUF23 to transcend its physical form and leave a lasting impact.

#MARUF23

BOOTHS SET UP AS PART OF MARUF23

MARUF23 BOOTH AREAS

Municipality Kocaeli Metropolitan Municipality

Balıkesir Metropolitan Municipality Sakarya Metropolitan Municipality

Bağcılar Municipality

Gaziosmanpaşa Municipality

Esenler Municipality

Büyükçekmece Municipality

Private Sector Dalmaçyalı İleri Isı Yalıtım Sistemleri

Intetra Parametre

Teknolojik İzolatör Sistemleri - TİS

Tomra

Other Friendship Project (Darhan Municipality)

Cube Incubation (Teknopark İstanbul)

EIT Urban Mobility Üretken Akademi

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MARUF ON THE GO

As the MARUF team, we aimed to ensure that the forum was not confined to just three days and a single location. Instead, we wanted it to be shaped by a structure based on participation and co-creation, extending across both time and cities. One of the tools we used to achieve this was the program series we called "MARUF on the Go." First introduced during MARUF21, these events refer to a series of activities organized before the forum, creating a common platform for multiple dialogues and offering solutions to urban issues by engaging different stakeholders. MARUF begins in August and September with these events, preparing us for Urban October and the upcoming MARUF. The "MARUF on the Go" events, which include dynamic learning and interaction processes, help extend MARUF across time and space while also generating various outputs that contribute to the thinking and discussion space the forum will open. These events, held in various formats such as workshops, seminars, and training programs, are open to participants from all disciplines connected to the city.

As part of MARUF23, we planned the "MARUF on the Go" events for the second time. These events spanned more than 30 locations beyond the borders of Istanbul, with over 50 partners, and included 15 different activities ranging from workshops to seminars, webinars to ideathons, and trainings to practical applications.

ATELIERS

MAPPING THE MARMARA REGION

14 August - 4 September 2023 Çanakkale

The "Mapping the Marmara Region" workshop, which first began during MARUF21 in partnership with the Marmara Municipalities Union and AURA Istanbul, examined areas such as Dilovası-Altınova, Orhangazi-Gemlik, Biga, Gelibolu, and Çorlu. The research yielded significant data about the rapidly changing urban-rural dynamics of the region, providing insights for understanding the Marmara Region on a macro-regional scale. It was found that between 2000 and 2018, construction in the Marmara Region increased by 93.2%, industrial areas expanded by 209.2%, while agricultural land decreased by 9.8% and green spaces by 6.5%. The workshop's findings were exhibited at the Chamber of Architects Büyükkent Branch from October 27 to November 7, 2021. During the second workshop held in the summer of 2022, technical tours were organized in İzmit-Sapanca, Yalova, and Bandırma. The research team completed their work to document stress points between human activities and natural resources along the ecological corridor surrounding the eastern part of the Marmara Sea basin, with plans to put more focus on resilience and disaster studies in the next workshop. In the workshop, organized for the third time as part of MARUF on the Go, the research team, consisting of architects, urban planners, and landscape architects, focused on

resilience and beyond

the ecological corridors surrounding the Marmara Sea and its western areas, with a particular emphasis on Çanakkale. They continued to document stress points between human activities and natural resources through field studies. The research aimed to identify new potential strategies for rural and urban development in this critical age of climate crisis and the capitalocene. The workshop's findings were shared with MARUF participants through a special session and exhibition at MARUF23.

Stakeholders:

- Marmara Municipalities Union
- Aura Istanbul
- Çanakkale Municipality
- Gallipoli Municipality
- Kalebodur

IMAGINING MARMARA: LIVING IN THE CITY ATELIERS

21 August - 23 September 2023

Marmara Region

In collaboration with the Marmara Municipalities Union, Arkki Türkiye, supported by Kalebodur, and hosted by municipalities, the "Imagining Marmara: Living in the City Ateliers" were organized to involve children aged 7 to 12 living in the Marmara Region in the creation of innovative solutions for inclusive, resilient, nature-compatible, and livable cities. These ateliers, hosted by 13 municipalities across 11 cities in the Marmara Region, aimed to help children perceive their living environment from different perspectives and equip them with the skills to evaluate urban spaces with a design-oriented point of view. The ateliers sought to instill a sustainable and inclusive understanding of urban and built environments, raise awareness in children about viewing their surroundings and the places they live in with a design mindset with different perspectives, and enable them to express their ideas through two- and three-dimensional representation methods. Following the ateliers, a report compiling the children's ideas and designs for the cities of the future was created, and the outcomes were shared with MARUF participants through a special session and exhibition at MARUF23.

Stakeholders:

- Marmara Municipalities Union
- Arkki Türkiye
- Kalebodur
- Istanbul Metropolitan Municipality
- Bursa Metropolitan Municipality
- Kocaeli Metropolitan Municipality
- Balıkesir Metropolitan Municipality
- Sakarya Metropolitan Municipality
- Edirne Municipality

- Çanakkale Municipality
- Kırklareli Municipality
- Yalova Municipality
- Ataşehir Municipality
- Bahçelievler Municipality
- Çorlu Municipality
- Osmaneli Municipality
- Türkiye Design Council

THE ROLE OF LOCAL GOVERNMENTS IN DISASTER RESILIENCE AND CIVIC PARTICIPATION ATELIER

15 August 2023

Kırklareli City Council

The Role of Local Governments in Disaster Resilience and Civic Participation Atelier was conducted by the Citizenship Association in partnership with the Kırklareli City Council, Istanbul City Council, and Edirne City Council Women's Assembly. The atelier, themed around resilient cities in the face of disasters, local democracy, and participation, was a part of the "Citizen's Word for Disaster Resilience" project, conducted throughout 2023 by the Citizenship Association in partnership with PAX for Peace, a civil society organization based in the Netherlands, and with the support of the MATRA Fund of the Royal Netherlands Embassy, which conducts peace work based in the Netherlands. It aimed to involve residents of cities around the Marmara Sea in examining and tracking the disaster resilience efforts of provincial, district, and municipal governments, and encourage civil society contributions. During this third field atelier, which took place in Kırklareli, participants collaboratively reviewed the strategic plans of regional municipalities in the context of disaster resilience and discussed the extent to which disaster resilience efforts are included in the activity reports.

Stakeholders:

- Citizenship Association
- Kırklareli City Council
- Istanbul City Council
- Edirne City Council Women's Assembly

ECOLOGICALLY BASED ALTERNATIVE TRAINING STUDIES ATELIER

11 August 2023

Avcılar Municipality Ecological Education Children's Park

The theme of the atelier, organized by Avcılar Municipality and INSEV (Foundation for Human Health and Education), is alternative education based on ecological education. In this context, the aim of the atelier was to bring together stakeholders to share experiences and ideas, synthesize various concepts, and address current issues and solutions in this field. This allowed local practices to engage in idea exchange with other practices, leading to the implementation of more advanced ecological education practices rooted in local dynamics. Although work in this field generally varies from one locality to another, sharing these differences and common challenges enabled each organization to learn from one another.

Stakeholders:

- Marmara Municipalities Union
- Avcılar Municipality
- INSEV

resilience and beyond

THE ROLE OF LOCAL GOVERNMENTS IN DISASTER RESILIENCE AND CIVIC PARTICIPATION ATELIER

15 September 2023

Istanbul Planning Agency (IPA)

Throughout 2023, the Citizenship Association, in partnership with PAX for Peace, a civil society organization based in the Netherlands and with support from MATRA Fund of the Royal Netherlands Embassy, which conducts peace work based in the Netherlands, conducted the "Citizen's Voice for Disaster Resilience" project. The project aimed to involve residents of cities around the Marmara Sea in examining and tracking the disaster resilience efforts of provincial, district, and municipal governments, and to enhance civil society's contribution to these efforts. The primary goal was to increase local participation and implement inclusive disaster policies that consider regional dynamics. As part of this initiative, field ateliers were organized, bringing together city councils, civil society organizations, neighborhood councils, disaster volunteers, and university representatives. These ateliers involved reviewing the strategic plans and action programs of municipalities, focusing on disaster resilience efforts. During the fourth field ateliers held in Istanbul, which was conducted as part of the MARUF on the Go series, participants analyzed the strategic plans of regional municipalities in the context of disaster resilience and observed how these efforts were reflected in the municipalities' activity reports.

Stakeholders:

- Citizenship Association
- Istanbul City Council

WORKSHOPS

YOUTH CORRIDOR FOR PARTICIPATORY DEMOCRACY

26 August 2023

Ankara City Council

The "Youth Corridor for Participatory Democracy" conference, organized by the Ankara City Council Capital Youth Council, with the participation of stakeholders such as the European Youth Forum, Ankara City Council, and the Union of Turkish City Councils, aimed to create a space within the ecosystem where young people live to empower youth in all aspects of life. As part of the event, policy participation tools and decision-making mechanisms were developed in collaboration with local governments in the cities where young people live. The corridor established between local governments and young people to develop innovative and creative policies not only increased participation but also contributed to the growth of local government. In this context, youth councils working to promote participatory democracy in different regions of Türkiye came together to organize workshops where they could discover tools for participatory mechanisms. Through this workshop, local decision-makers had access to a "youth policy and local action plan for youth cooperation module." As the program aimed to increase the effectiveness and potential of municipal youth councils in local decision-making processes, it targeted to reach representatives from 56 active youth councils across Türkiye.

Stakeholders:

- Ankara City Council
- European Youth Forum
- Union of Turkish City Councils

DESIGN OF RURAL TO URBAN: CONVERSION OF AGRICULTURAL WASTES IN LOCAL

26-28 September 2023

Tekirdağ Namık Kemal University Faculty of Architecture

The "Design of Rural to Urban: Conversion of Agricultural Wastes in Local" workshop, organized under the leadership of Tekirdağ Namık Kemal University, with the participation of various NGOs active in agriculture, the Chamber of Architects, the Chamber of Agriculture, local governments, aimed to contribute to the reduction of solid waste production, recycling of agricultural waste generated after agricultural production, and the conservation of the environment and natural resources within the framework of sustainable development goals in Türkiye. Organized as parallel events within the Maruf on the Go, the goal of the workshop was to strengthen national and regional development planning to support positive economic, social, and environmental connections between urban, peri-urban, and rural areas. The workshop aimed to bring together multiple stakeholders from rural and urban settings. One of the objectives was to explore the use of sunflower stalks, a agricultural waste in Tekirdağ, and transform

them into various urban equipments for local use through a design-oriented approach. The three-day in-person workshop gathered farmers, academics, designers, local officials, university students, and NGOs in a university environment. In the first stage of the workshop, seminars were held by farmers and experts on agricultural waste and management, innovative material design with natural raw materials, and the sunflower plant, followed by discussions. In the second stage, participants were expected to transform sunflower stalks into functional materials and performative products with various contributions. There are very few studies and applications in Türkiye regarding the use of sunflower waste in material and product design. The event anticipated to contribute to raising ecological and environmental awareness, increasing awareness of waste, and strengthening dialogue between rural and urban areas as an effort to address this gap.

Executives and Facilitators:

- Prof. Dr. Esen Gökçe Özdamar, TNKU Department of Architecture, Architect
- Assoc. Prof. Dr. Okşan Tandoğan, TNKU Department of Urban and Regional Planning, Urban Planner
- Dr. Şefika Aydın, TNKU Department of Management and Organization, Sociologist

Stakeholders:

- Marmara Municipalities Union
- Tekirdağ Namık Kemal University

CAFERAĞA ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION PLANNING WORKSHOPS

18-19-20 and 27 September 2023

Design Atelier Kadıköy (TAK)

The "Caferağa Active Transportation Planning Workshops" were organized under the leadership of WRI Türkiye, as part of MARUF on the Go and the ongoing "Istanbul Neighborhood-Focused Active Transportation Planning Study, Kadıköy Caferağa Neighborhood" project conducted in partnership with Istanbul Metropolitan Municipality and Kadıköy Municipality. The workshops and field visits, which were carried out under European Mobility Week and MARUF on the Go, evaluated livable neighborhood concepts and related contemporary themes, and facilitated discussions with experts on the criteria for a locally tailored livable neighborhood concept within the scope of transportation planning.

- Marmara Municipalities Union
- WRI Türkiye
- Istanbul Metropolitan Municipality
- Kadıköy Municipality
- Design Atelier Kadıköy

MEETING WALL: RETHINKING THE PUBLIC SPACE AROUND THE LAND WALLS OF ISTANBUL

29 - 30 September 2023

Fatih Municipality Neslişah Culture and Sports Center

The workshop aimed to discuss new approaches to the concept of public space and to carry out a concrete study on existing public spaces in the city in light of these discussions. Organized within the scope of MARUF on the Go in partnership with Fatih Sultan Mehmet University and Fatih Municipality, the workshop introduced new perspectives on the concept of public space, discussed examples from around the world, and provided information on newly developed public spaces in the Sur Dibi area.

Stakeholders:

- Marmara Municipalities Union
- Fatih Sultan Mehmet University
- Fatih Municipality

IDEATHONS

RETHINKING COASTAL AND LIVING AREAS WHICH SEA LEVEL RISE THROUGH SCENARIO DEVELOPMENT METHOD: TUZLA 2100

Marmara Municipalities Union

28 September 2023

This ideathon, organized by the Urban Design Application and Research Center of Mimar Sinan Fine Arts University, aimed to develop a different perspective for the future by imagining life and living spaces in a scenario where the sea level has risen, and to consider how to adapt to this situation while proposing solutions. The ideathon was a creative idea generation workshop aimed at developing innovative scenarios for the future within the proposed framework. It sought to explore how design can impact urban spaces, city culture, and lifestyles from macro to micro levels by discussing these aspects within the context defined by the scenarios. Tuzla/Istanbul was chosen as the research site where the method was examined and developed. Today, Tuzla not only has functional diversity, encompassing shipyards, universities, industrial zones, residential areas, commerce, and recreation, as well as significant potential in terms of urban landscape, natural, and cultural heritage. These qualities provided a fertile laboratory and discussion environment for the development of the method. In this context, the

scenario development method was used as an urban design tool to explore how the rising sea in Tuzla might influence new coastal cultures, relationships with water, and innovative design solutions. It aimed to answer questions about alternative uses in future coastal areas and generate innovative ideas for shaping future spaces. The study also aimed to create a common discussion platform for disciplines involved in planning, architecture, urban design, and other areas related to space.

Executives:

• Assoc. Prof. Dr. Melih Birik, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Bahar Aksel, Dr. Ahmetcan Alpan

Organizers:

Urban Design Application and Research Center of Mimar Sinan Fine Arts University

MARMARATHON: NEIGHBORHOOD FOR A RESILIENT CITY

7-18 August 2023

Online & Marmara Municipalities Union

The "Marmarathon | Neighborhood for a Resilient City" ideathon, organized in collaboration between Marmara Municipalities Union, Data and Technology Center, Üretken Akademi and Superpool, aimed to generate creative solutions for volunteer organizations at the neighborhood level involved in disaster management encompassing the pre, during, and post-disaster phases, and to develop sustainable, resilient, innovative, and inclusive projects for the future. With the theme of making communities and cities more resilient in the face of disasters, Marmarathon sought to encourage young people to contribute to the secure societies of the future and to establish a strong network of solidarity within neighborhoods in times of disasters Following the Kahramanmaraş Earthquakes and held physically on August 17-18, the anniversary of the Düzce earthquake, the Marmarathon was enriched by supportive training sessions and the participation of mentors. Participants applying as groups from different disciplines or as individuals collaborated for 36 hours to create new strategies and solutions to enhance neighborhood-level solidarity in disaster situations. The resulting ideas were evaluated by a jury, and selected works were presented in a special session at MARUF23 on October 5.

- Marmara Municipalities Union
- Üretken Akademi
- Superpool

ONLINE EVENTS

SWW SPORT WITHOUT WASTE

Online

12 September 2023

It's time to take action in the face of the climate crisis and the growing environmental challenges our world faces. By harnessing the power of sports in recycling to reduce excessive consumption, we can make a difference and promote sustainable practices. From small-scale events to large-scale sports activities, everyone can play an active role in addressing these issues.

The SWW Sport Without Waste - Erasmus+ Sport project of the European Union, coordinated by BG BEACTIVE in Bulgaria and in partnership with ENVERÇEVKO Association in Türkiye, is being conducted in collaboration with relevant national stakeholders and a total of 8 countries. The goal is to support the zero waste concept using the power of sports, raise awareness about the importance of recycling in sports events, and promote waste management. During the webinar held on September 12, discussions focused on inspiring an approach that emphasizes the importance of recycling in daily sports activities and promotes sustainable practices in daily physical activities spread among the public. Additionally, efforts were made to enhance the capacities of relevant stakeholders and coordinate waste-free recycling awareness activities.

Stakeholders:

- Marmara Municipalities Union
- ENVERÇEVKO Association

COOLING THE URBAN LANDSCAPE: DISCUSSING TOMORROW'S URBAN HEAT CHALLENGES

24 September 2023

Online

The event, designed to foster knowledge exchange and collaboration among researchers, policymakers, and stakeholders, aimed to create a greener, healthier, and more livable urban environment for everyone and focused on addressing the pressing issue of urban heat and heat islands. Throughout the event, the current urban heat situation in the Northern Hemisphere and its impact on communities were discussed, with examples provided from Poland, Spain, the UK, Türkiye, India, and the USA. The theme centered around exploring the multifaceted aspects of temperature rise and improving pedestrian environments through urban green infrastructure. Through informative presentations and insightful panel discussions, practical suggestions and innovative solutions were offered to mitigate urban heat and create sustainable, heat-resistant cities for the future.

- Marmara Municipalities Union
- Global Walkability Correspondents Network

TRAINING

PLAYGROUND SAFETY: TS EN 1176 TRAINING

14 September 2023

Boğaziçi Culture and Art Center

Playgrounds, which hold a critical significance in children's physical, mental, and emotional development as well as their lives, need to be designed as safe spaces that support children's needs and growth. The safety of playgrounds is covered by the European standard EN 1176 Playground Equipment and Surfacing Safety Rules, which includes general safety rules for equipment and ground arrangements.

The "Playground Safety: TS EN 1176" training program, organized by the Marmara Municipalities Union in collaboration with Nordic Playground Institute Türkiye, Superpool, and the Bernard van Leer Foundation, and hosted by Sarıyer Municipality, aimed to support the capacity development of MMU member municipalities and private sector manufacturers, designers, and implementers in applying TS EN 1176 standards. The training was led by Einar Jon S. Hansen, the founder of the Denmark-based Nordic Playground Institute and a playground inspector. Being a MARUF on the Go event, the training program was open not only to municipal representatives but also to professionals from the private sector engaged in producing, designing, and implementing playgrounds. With this aspect, the program also served as a networking event among public and private sector representatives working in the field of playgrounds. Additionally, a team composed of participants who attend the entire training program had the opportunity to apply and experience the theoretical knowledge conveyed during the training in the Playground Inspection workshop held within the scope of MARUF23.

- Nordic Playground Institute Türkiye
- Superpool
- Bernard van Leer Foundation
- Sariyer Municipality

IMPLEMENTATION PROJECT

Street Transformation

In collaboration between the Marmara Municipalities Union, Superpool, and the Global Designing Cities Initiative, a call was launched in March 2023 with the aim of transforming urban streets into livable spaces for children and caregivers, as well as pedestrian-friendly and child-friendly public areas. As a result, eight municipalities were granted support. Within this context, the Istanbul Metropolitan Municipality, Kocaeli Metropolitan Municipality, Sakarya Metropolitan Municipality, Arnavutköy Municipality, Bahçelievler Municipality, İnegöl Municipality, Kadıköy Municipality, and Serdivan Municipality initiated work on selected areas. Beginning with the goal of conducting pop-up and pilot implementations, the program was designed as a multi-layered process that involves both learning and practical application, with active participation from the municipalities' project teams. These teams, composed of members from various municipal departments, came together in workshops where they developed appropriate street designs based on the data collected for their respective areas As part of the MARUF on the Go events, these street transformation pilot projects took place at eight locations across the Marmara Region and were later transformed into an exhibition during MARUF23.

- Marmara Municipalities Union
- Superpool
- Global Designing Cities Initiative
- Istanbul Metropolitan Municipality
- Kocaeli Metropolitan Municipality
- Sakarya Metropolitan Municipality
- Arnavutköy Municipality
- Bahçelievler Municipality
- İnegöl Municipality
- Kadıköy Municipality
- Serdivan Municipality



OPENING SESSION

Resilience and Beyond

4 October 2023



09.30-11.00



★ Moderator

M. Cemil Arslan, Dr., Secretary General, Marmara Municipalities Union & General Coordinator, MARUF



Speakers

Bernd Vöhringer, Dr., Lord Mayor of Sindelfingen & President of the Chamber of Local Authorities of the Congress at the Council of Europe

Louisa Vinton, Resident Representative, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

Maria Vassilakou, Advisor on Urban Transformation & Former Deputy Mayor of Vienna

Rafael Tuts, Director of the Global Solutions Division, **UN-Habitat**

Tahir Büyükakın, Assoc. Prof., President, Marmara Municipalities Union & Mayor, Kocaeli Metropolitan Municipality

NOTES FROM OPENING SESSION: RESILIENCE AND BEYOND

Recent economic crises, conflicts, and disasters, such as the two major earthquakes that struck Türkiye in February 2023, have once again highlighted the critical need for building resilient cities. The cities most affected by these shocks are now facing intensified economic, social, and environmental challenges. The opening session of MARUF23 focused on these issues, featuring esteemed speakers who discussed the importance of local development, city leadership, international solidarity, and cooperation in creating resilient cities. Under the theme "Resilience and Beyond," the opening session explored how cities can advance beyond mere resilience to address environmental, social, economic, and governance challenges in the context of ongoing polycrisis.

The session highlighted the need for stakeholder collaboration and collective action in addressing climate crises, pandemics, disasters, economic issues, human mobility, and other vulnerabilities and also emphasized the importance of rethinking decision-making mechanisms and institutional competencies. Now held for the third time with the motto "Cities Developing Solutions", the session also showcased MARUF's focus on participation and governance through a multi-voiced structure by providing a platform for dialogue among all city stakeholders to seek solutions to urban challenges in alignment with the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda and the New Urban Agenda.

The session emphasized the importance of prioritizing multi-level governance, cross-sectoral coherence, and multi-stakeholder participation to build sustainable and resilient cities. It also highlighted the growing role of metropolitan areas and regions in addressing urban challenges. The session addressed the difficulties faced by multilevel governance mechanisms, such as institutional, financial, and structural challenges on a global scale, and underscored the need for innovative solutions that combine local actions with sustainable development as a driving force.

While 50% of the world population currently live in cities, it is projected that this number will rise to over 80% of the world's population by 2050. With this projection in mind, the session stressed the significant impact of cities, which account for over 60% of global energy consumption and more than 70% of carbon emissions. It was noted that to create more livable urban environments, cities must go beyond mere resilience and undergo major systemic transformations to address ongoing global

urban growth, high housing costs and the housing crisis, and needs in areas such as labor market, social cohesion, and infrastructure investment. It was emphasized that societal and local action-driven transformation necessitates a shift in perspective, from decision-making to social leadership. Achieving this transformation requires setting clear goals with strong commitment, fostering inclusive cooperation among all stakeholders, and ensuring integrated financing. To find solutions to urban problems, the session emphasized the importance of prerequisites such as developing expertise and capacity, creating processes and environments conducive to participation, and establishing platforms for discussion and consultation. It was noted that meaningful change requires visionary, long-term leadership that encompasses all levels and stakeholders, targets cyclical and holistic change, possesses transformative power, is flexible and collaborative, and goes beyond traditional approaches.

In the session, a general assessment was conducted, revealing that globally, necessary measures are still not being adequately implemented in response to disasters such as earthquakes, forest fires, floods, climate change-related events, and human-induced degradation. Despite the signing of international agreements like the Paris Agreement and numerous warnings, there remains a reluctance to take decisive action, with the high costs, including loss of human lives, being treated almost as an accepted reality. The assessment underscored that one of the most critical investments for achieving global resilience and beyond is to act swiftly on climate change. It also highlighted the destructive impact of haphazard and rapid urbanization, especially in earthquake-prone areas, where a lack of preventive measures results in irreparable damage to cities and societies.

The urgent need for clean air and green spaces in cities was highlighted once again in the face of the global impact of the Covid-19 pandemic, which has adversely affected urban health and quality of life, as well as the rising temperatures due to climate change, which have reached deadly levels in

many urban areas. It was noted that people living in urban areas are heavily reliant on essential infrastructure such as water, sanitation, transportation, and electricity. The discussion pointed out the immense difficulty in addressing the damage to these infrastructures and the challenges in meeting basic needs, as evidenced by the aftermath of the earthquake in Türkiye. The importance of incorporating disaster risk analyses into policy development and implementation processes was emphasized, along with raising critical questions about potential alternatives to urban living and ways to enhance people's resilience.

It was emphasized that designing inclusive, accountable decision-making processes is essential to ensure that no one is left behind, and that in the process of urban recovery, nature-friendly solutions and governance must be at the forefront for a sustainable future. The session highlighted that cities should not only be viewed as physical structures but also in terms of their economic life, participation, inclusivity, accountable institutions, and the values embodied in SDG 16. The importance of cultural heritage, which is directly related to the spirit of cities, was also underscored. Additionally, the need for a mental shift to move beyond resilience and the necessity of respecting the boundaries of nature were emphasized.

Lastly, it was emphasized that the key question we should focus on should be how to prepare cities to effectively respond and provide solutions when confronted with sudden shocks and prioritizing risk assessments is crucial to address this question. It was also stressed that designing resilient structures and enhancing the strength of systems to withstand sudden shocks require the creation of open systems -those that learn from mistakes, make uncertainties more predictable, and facilitate forecasting- at local, national, and global scales.

OPENING PERFORMANCE

Fungistanbul, a group that creates music using instruments made from upcycled materials, performed for the attendees at the opening ceremony of MARUF23.





5 October 2023 I

U 09.30-11.00

90 min

In today's fast-paced and constantly changing world, We know how difficult it is to focus for a long time due to exposure to various stimuli. This becomes even more apparent during events that deal with complex and multi-dimensional issues. To overcome this, and to ensure that MARUF23 participants can gain maximum benefit and contribute effectively to the discussions, we limited the longest sessions at MARUF23 to 90 minutes. We called these sessions "Deep Dives," where we aimed to thoroughly explore various topics within the overarching theme of "Resilience and Beyond" in a holistic and inclusive manner. Focusing on the six dimensions of resilience, namely, social, environmental, spatial, cultural, economic, and governance, and centering on earthquake resilience in the Marmara Region, these well-attended and detailed discussions allowed for a better understanding of complex issues and the development of strategic approaches to address them. The Deep Dive sessions, held concurrently on the morning of the forum's second day, facilitated a comprehensive understanding of resilience. By encouraging meaningful exchanges among experts, policymakers, and all relevant urban stakeholders, these sessions formed the primary platform for discussion at MARUF23.



Deep Dive into Governance **Anti-fragile Systems**



Room 1



Moderator

Ebru Ertugal, Assoc. Prof., Department of International Relations, Ozyegin University

Speakers

Antonella Valmorbida, Secretary General, ALDA Jordi Vaquer, Secretary General, Metropolis Savaş Zafer Şahin, Prof., Head of School of Land Registry and Cadastre, Ankara Hacı Bayram Veli University Stephan Visser, Policy Analyst, Centre for Entrepreneurship, SMEs, Regions and Cities, Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)

Antifragile systems are defined as those that not only withstand significant changes and uncertainties but also adapt and grow stronger in response to such challenges. As the sophistication of antifragile systems is directly linked to their capacity for adaptation and learning, contributions and feedback from various sources such as data, information, and suggestions, are extremely valuable. Governance plays a crucial role in the sustainable and inclusive management of cities, especially those facing multiple crises simultaneously, as it enhances the ability to respond better and recover more quickly, particularly in times of crisis.

In this session, which explored the relationship between governance and antifragile systems, participants from the OECD, Metropolis, ALDA, and the Ankara City Council shared insights and experiences. The discussion emphasized that developing antifragile systems is strongly tied to effective governance, and several governance-specific recommendations were proposed to address the crises and shocks that cities face:

- Localization: Local governments confront their vulnerabilities directly during crises, making it essential for solutions to be developed locally. Rather than passively implementing central policies, local governments should actively create participatory and inclusive local policies.
- Stakeholder Participation: Municipalities should view citizen participation as a core value. By empowering residents, local communities, and civil society, governance processes should ensure the active involvement of a broader range of stakeholders.
- Collaboration and Collective Decision-Making: To enhance cooperation, governance models should expand beyond traditional approaches, incorporating new and creative governance models and tools. More informal and collective decision-making mechanisms should be developed. The resulting flexibility in processes and mechanisms will contribute to the resilience of antifragile systems.
- Interdisciplinary Approach: Governance should not be limited to public administration and urban sciences but should also be supported by fields such as informatics, communication, sociology, and psychology.

Deep Dive into Social Resilience Social Well-being



Room 2



★ Moderator

Nihal Eminoğlu, Assist. Prof., Academician, Department of International Relations, Canakkale 18 Mart University



Speakers

Defne Eraslan Öztürk, Assoc. Prof., Psychiatrist, SRH Klinikum Karlsbad, Germany

Ezgi Berktaş, Programs Coordinator, Maya Foundation Michael Ungar, Dr., Director of the Resilience Research Centre, Dalhousie University

Nazlı Avşaroğlu, Director, Department of Disaster, Field Management and Community Centers, Habitat Association

Serra Müderrisoğlu, Em. Prof., Bogazici University

One of the most fundamental layers of resilience is social resilience. In this session, social resilience was discussed as a critical concept that reflects how communities can maintain their continuity and well-being in the face of challenges such as natural disasters and social crises, and even emerge stronger from these experiences.

The importance of a multi-system approach in fostering and spreading social resilience and societal well-being was emphasized, highlighting the significance of considering educational systems, economic structures, social relationships, and environmental factors collectively. It was stressed that a better understanding of social resilience can be achieved by synthesizing scientific research with societal experiences. In this context, the discussion focused on how the integration of knowledge and active community participation play a crucial role in establishing social resilience.

The session underscored that flexibility, adaptability, and social solidarity are critical components for long-term and sustainable resilience. The panel discussions provided an important framework for understanding how preventive approaches and societal well-being can be strengthened in recovery processes after traumatic events. It was explored in detail how social resilience can be reinforced not only through the empowerment of individuals at the personal level but also through support at the social and institutional levels. The various case studies and their analyses presented during the panel offered valuable insights into understanding the impact of local conditions and cultural dynamics on resilience.

Deep Dive into Public Space Design | Resilient for All



Urban Atelier



★ Moderators

Gregers Tang Thomsen, Architect, Co-Founder, Superpool

Selva Gürdoğan, Architect, Co-Founder, Superpool



Speakers

Alexis Şanal, Architect, Urban Designer, ŞANALarc Alp Arisoy, Dr., Co-Founder, Urban.koop Ian Mostert, Child and Nature Project Leader, Institute for Nature Education

Understanding the complexity of public spaces is crucial for effectively managing that complexity. When it comes to resilience, public spaces should be considered not only in terms of environmental resilience, which is brought to the forefront by natural disasters and climate change, but also within the context of social and economic resilience. For this reason, this session focused on key issues that must be carefully addressed in the design of public spaces for resilience.

The session highlighted the principles of resilience and inclusivity in the planning and management of public spaces, drawing on lessons learned and reminders from the February 6th Earthqua-

kes. Discussions on disaster management centered on the strategic role of public spaces before, during, and after disasters. It was emphasized that public spaces must be designed with disaster resilience in mind in order for them to be used effectively after a disaster, and evaluations were made about how appropriate planning decisions could be made. The reality that temporary shelter areas can become permanent was discussed, underlining the need for long-term planning.

The need to create agile and resilient systems within urban planning processes, and continuously adapt these systems to changing conditions, was emphasized. The critical importance of public spaces in Istanbul, especially markets, for the city's resilience was noted, along with the significance of the centuries-old market culture. It was stated that public spaces not only foster community engagement and build social capital but also create economic cycles and support the event economy.

Additionally, the importance of child-centered design and participation was stressed, focusing on how projects that encourage children's interaction with nature and sustainability efforts contribute to their development. The active participation of local communities in project processes was highlighted, and the need to collectively address challenges at the policy level was acknowledged.

Deep Dive into Local Cultural Policies | What, Why, How?



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Ulaş Bayraktar, Assoc. Prof., Department of Public Administration, Mersin University



Füsun Üstel, Em. Prof. Dr.

Özlem Ece, Cultural Policy Studies Director, İKSV

Culture, though often overlooked or not prioritized, is a fundamental element in restoring normalcy after a disaster or crisis, as well as in fostering social resilience, coexistence, social cohesion, inclusivity, and a sense of belonging. This reality compels us to deeply consider and discuss why culture should be viewed as a public policy domain and how cultural policies should be shaped.

This session began by addressing the theoretical foundations and conceptual definitions of cultural policies, emphasizing that they involve much more than merely organizing cultural events, and explored the historical development of cultural policies and their current applications. Information was provided on how, during the post-World War II period with the emergence of welfare states, cultural policies began, how states intervened in the cultural sphere during the institutionalization process, how they supported cultural activities, and how cultural policies evolved into a form of pub-

lic policy. The necessity of institutional structures, bureaucratic regulations, and legal frameworks for the implementation of cultural policies was underscored.

The session also covered various models of cultural policy across a spectrum from centralization to decentralization, highlighting models where local governments play an active role in the cultural policy-making process. The implementation of these models in Europe and other regions, and how they are converging, were discussed. The impact of globalization and localization dynamics on cultural policies and the adoption of new approaches in the management of cultural activities were also shared.

Recognizing that cultural policies should be embraced not only by the state but also by local governments and private institutions, the session provided insights into the current state of cultural policies in Türkiye, along with examples of good practices. The focus was on how local governments and cultural professionals can more consistently and sustainably plan the cultural life of cities. Drawing from field observations and analyses of the current situation, various recommendations were offered for developing local cultural policies in Türkiye, including suggestions on localization, civic participation, sharing and use of financial resources, inter-institutional collaboration and coordination, and inclusive and participatory planning.

Deep Dive into Environmental Resilience | Nature-based Solutions



Room 4



★ Moderator

Andreas Kress, Dr., Coordinator of European Projects, Climate Alliance

Speakers

Çiğdem Çağlayan, Prof., Head of Department of Public Health, Faculty of Medicine, Kocaeli University Geoffrey Payne, Housing and urban development consultant, Geoffrey Payne and Associates (GPA) ilkay Dellal, Prof., Head of the Department of Climate Change and Sustainability, Ankara University João Dinis, Director of Climate Action Department, Cascais City

Mikdat Kadıoğlu, Prof., Istanbul Technical University Yakup Karaarslan, Deputy Director General of Water Management, Ministry Agriculture and Forestry

The increasing frequency, intensity, and impact of climate-related disasters in recent years have made it imperative to address the relationship between climate change and resilience. Our cities, along with our production, consumption, and lifestyles, contribute to climate change and its associated disasters, which in turn affect our cities and lives, creating a cycle. Understanding the strong connection between cities and climate change is crucial for identifying measures and actions needed to enhance environmental resilience. This session on environmental resilience explored what nature-based solutions can offer us and how they can be leveraged in the context of environmental resilience.

The session took a holistic approach to environmental resilience, focusing in detail on the effects of climate change on physical and mental health, food systems, water resources and water management, the economy, and infrastructure. The discussion addressed how extreme weather events and related disasters caused by climate change, such as air pollution, vector-borne diseases, etc., impact the physical and mental health of individuals, particularly vulnerable groups, and how these effects can be managed and minimized. The pressure exerted by climate change on agricultural production and food security was highlighted, emphasizing that planning urban agricultural areas and green infrastructure can contribute to making cities more sustainable by supporting ecosystem services. Strategies for the efficient use of water resources were shared, with nature-based solutions like sponge cities being discussed. Given that disasters pose risks not only to environmental and social resilience but also to economic resilience, the importance of pre-disaster measures and investments in risk management were also emphasized in the session. Examples of nature-based solutions and practices from various cities, including those in Peru, the UK, and Türkiye, were shared to demonstrate how environmental resilience to the effects of climate change can be achieved.

Deep Dive into Economic Resilience | Green Transition



Room 5



Moderator

Güven Sak, Prof, Founder-Director, The Economic Policy Research Foundation of Türkiye (TEPAV)



Speakers

Bülent Özcan, Director General of Financial Cooperation and Project Implementation, Directorate for European Union Affairs, Turkish Ministry of Foreign **Affairs**

idil Gürsel, Associate Director of Infrastructure Division, European Bank for Reconstruction and Development

Marine Karcher, Deputy Head AFD for Türkiye, French Development Agency

Rikke Agerholm Therkildsen, Regional Sustainability Advisor, Royal Consulate General of Denmark in Istanbul, Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs

One of the key pillars of resilience is undoubtedly economic resilience. The confidence and resources provided by economic conditions play a crucial role in enabling societies to take necessary actions to avoid potential risks and remain resilient during and after disasters and crises. In this session, the focus was on economic resilience as part of developing a roadmap for a resilient Marmara region. Lessons learned from past disasters and opportunities presented by the green transition were examined together as opportunities. The session addressed the current state of the green transition process, the financing sources available to support it, how to sustain projects in a way that

promotes local development, and how this can be integrated into local development projects.

The session highlighted the steps Türkiye has taken since the beginning of the green transition process, the significance of the European Green Deal for Türkiye, and the various financing sources offered by the European Union (EU) to Türkiye. Discussions also covered how green transition can be integrated into local development projects and the potential opportunities green funds could create in local restructuring processes.

In addition to the EU, information was shared on how the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development's (EBRD) Green Cities Program operates in cities such as Istanbul, Bursa, Ankara, Izmir, and Gaziantep. Examples were provided on how the French Development Agency (AFD) offers financial and technical support for sustainable projects in Türkiye and how these projects can be localized. The session also highlighted the importance of encouraging businesses to invest in green projects through public procurement, with examples from Denmark, and emphasized that education and awareness-raising efforts can significantly contribute to the success and sustainability of projects by fostering a shift in societal mindset.

This session offered an enlightening perspective on how the green transition process can be turned into a development opportunity for Türkiye, particularly the Marmara region, by focusing on the effective use of financial resources, enhancing the capacities of local governments, and fostering societal mindset transformation through education.

Deep Dive into Earthquake Resilience | Marmara Region



Marmara Room



★ Moderator

Emin Yahya Menteşe, Dr., Kandilli Observatory and Earthquake Research Institute, Boğaziçi University



Speakers

Mustafa Erdik, Em. Prof., Department of Earthquake Engineering, Boğaziçi University

Orhan Tatar, Prof., General Director of Earthquake and Risk Reduction, Disaster and Emergency Management Presidency (AFAD)

Yasemin Didem Aktas, Assoc. Prof., Civil, Environmental and Geomatic Engineering, University College London (UCL)

Experiencing the February 6th Earthquakes compelled us to revisit the concept of resilience in all its dimensions, leading us to dedicate a special focus on the relationship between the Marmara Region and earthquake risks. The Marmara Region is critically important due to its human and economic capital, rich cultural and historical heritage, and strategic geographical and geopolitical location. However, the fact that many cities and a significant population in this region are situated on a fault line and are at risk of disasters elevates the importance of this area even further.

In this context, the session aimed to comprehensively understand the existing urban challenges in the Marmara Region by addressing earthquake risks, risk reduction strategies, and disaster management. Experts from central government, academia, and civil society participated, offering their solutions.

The session included insights into the operations and coordination efforts led by AFAD (Disaster and Emergency Management Presidency) during the February 6th Earthquakes, highlighting the importance of earthquake risk reduction practices and discussing the types of projects that could be implemented to this end. Although intensive studies on earthquake hazards have been conducted in the Marmara Region, the existing risk analyses were deemed insufficient. Recommendations were made to develop building performance assessment systems and international reinsurance financing systems. Furthermore, it was pointed out that urban transformation should not be viewed merely as an economic opportunity but rather as a means to reduce loss of life and risks. It was stated that a mental transformation is as crucial as urban transformation in efforts for disaster preparedness and management. Additional points discussed included ensuring quality control at every stage of reinforced concrete construction, preserving traditional structures, integrating them into the rebuilding process, and enhancing disaster management and coordination efforts.











Room 1 I (2) 60 min

We posed the question "Hype or Not?" to expert speakers in the field of urbanism, focusing on concepts and tools that have been used for years but have recently gained popularity/ Our aim in questioning two well-established concepts, like "sustainability" and "participation," which are mentioned in nearly every project, was to assess how much we've diluted their meaning when it comes to actual practice and to remind ourselves of what needs reevaluation. On the other hand, we also questioned whether tools and concepts that suggest methods for city planning, such as "tactical urbanism" and "smart cities," are merely creating a breeze or if they are truly impactful; essentially, whether they are the best approaches for creating a more sustainable, participatory, resilient, and livable urban life. Furthermore, we brought emerging issues into the "Hype gence," and the "new rural," which have rapidly entered our lives, fueled by positive visions of the future and the curiosity surrounding their innovative outcomes. Despite their swift integration into our daily lives, these topics also raise concerns about their potential side or negative effects. Here, electric vehicles and artificial intelligence, primarily discussed within the domain of technological services, were examined from environmental and social perspectives, while the issue of the new rural presented a context that transcends the urban, focusing particularly on population dynamics and the reshaping of the socio-economic structure in rural areas.

Sustainability: Hype or Not?



4 October 2023 | 1



14.30-15.30



★ Moderator

Itir Erhart, Prof., Advisor to the Rector, Faculty of Communication, Istanbul Bilgi University



Speakers

Arda Öztaşkın, Head of Corporate Communication Management, Yapı Kredi

Laura Parry, Senior Manager, Partnerships and Fundraising, Cities, States and Regions, CDP

Sustainability is among the popular concepts with a high potential to be encountered in nearly every issue related to cities and urban life. In a session where the practices of this crucial concept were discussed and re-evaluated, a debate was framed between two approaches: those that have set serious plans and goals for sustainability, and those that have inflated into hollow narratives crafted by PR agencies. The discussion highlighted the risk of sustainability becoming a diluted buzzword or a case of 'greenwashing,' or still not being fully understood, while emphasizing three key solutions: mobilizing public opinion, ensuring transparency in institutional reporting processes, and leveraging the transformative power of financial

institutions. The session emphasized that sustainability encompasses not only environmental aspects but also social and economic dimensions. It underscored the critical importance of public pressure over centralized, local, international, small or large institutional structures, and governments to truly achieve sustainability. It was noted that sustainability should begin with individual responsibilities rooted in the relationship between citizens and the city, extending beyond just the environment, climate crisis, and subsequent disasters. Particularly from the perspective of CDP, which works with hundreds of cities, the importance of effectively integrating social elements into sustainability actions and ensuring active participation was stressed. To avoid turning sustainability into a mere hype or a case of greenwashing, it was deemed essential for institutions from all sectors to prepare transparent sustainability reports, which are vital tools for monitoring and measurement. The capacity and critical responsibility of financial institutions to transform the sectors they fund in terms of sustainability was also discussed. In summary, it was noted that what has turned the concept of sustainability into a hype today is the attempt by many entities to market their activities under the banner of sustainability. However, as seen in good practices, sustainability is, at its core, one of the most vital aspects of our lives.

Electric Vehicles: Hype or Not?



4 October 2023 | 1



16.00-17.00



★ Moderator

Susa Eräranta, Dr., Project Director, Climate Unit, City of Helsinki



Speakers

Fehmi Görkem Üçtuğ, Assoc. Prof., Deputy Dean of the Faculty of Engineering, Izmir University of Economics Haluk Akçalı, CEO, Fark Labs

As we gradually move away from fossil fuels, one of the first innovations we encounter is electric vehicles. But do electric vehicles really promise a future as grand as advertised? Are they, with all their pros and cons, a solution for transportation, energy, the economy, and other areas, or are they just hype? These were the questions explored from various perspectives by experts.

In the session, electric vehicles were primarily discussed in the context of sustainability. According to the data presented, the growing number of electric vehicles is seen as a way to improve air quality. Although they have lower operational costs, a smaller carbon footprint, and better terminal and mechanical stability, they face significant challenges for long-distance journeys if the charging infrastructure is inadequate and charging times are lengthy. In other words, the range of electric vehicles is lower compared to gasoline-powered cars. The environmental impact of electric vehicles

should be thoroughly assessed from a life cycle perspective, and it should be determined whether they are truly more environmentally friendly than conventional vehicles. While some studies have found that many electric vehicles perform worse in terms of sustainability indicators compared to conventional cars, it should be considered that electric vehicles have only been on the market for 20 years, compared to the 120 years of conventional vehicles, and they are still in the early stages of development.

When carbon footprint is taken as the most important indicator, electric vehicles perform better, though there are studies showing that, overall, both types of vehicles are nearly equal. Positive aspects of electric vehicles include providing employment in the automotive sector, requiring less maintenance, progressing towards net-zero emissions even though they are not there yet, reducing fuel or transportation costs for users, creating a transition that could reduce energy dependence, and improving air quality and public health. However, the session emphasized that the electric grid that powers these vehicles is crucial, and no country today has the infrastructure to convert all its vehicles to electric. Finally, it was noted that beyond electric cars, there are many other types of mobility devices and that other vehicles using organic fuels will also be developed. It was also highlighted that electric vehicles will not solve traffic problems, and therefore, mobility focused on public transportation needs to be supported.

Tactical Urbanism: Hype or Not?



4 October 2023 | 1



17.30-18.30



★ Moderator

Hayrettin Günç, Program Manager, Global Designing Cities Initiative



Speakers

Chiara De Grandi, Dr., Architect, AMAT Agency for Mobility Environment and Territory of Milan Municipality

Devrim Çimen, Assist. Prof., Architect, Proje Sekiz Artı Architecture and Urban Design & Istanbul Kent University

Is tactical urbanism a tool for creating cities with a high quality of life, or is it an ineffective solution that shifts the responsibility of planning onto temporary fixes and the residents themselves? In this session, the approach of tactical urbanism, used to address issues in public spaces, was examined both through the tangible benefits of the implemented practices and from a critical perspective questioning whether this approach truly offers the solutions it promises.

Tactical urbanism emerged in response to the crisis faced by comprehensive/classical planning approaches due to neoliberal policies since the 1980s. It's one of the various urbanization practices and the discussion around the concept during the session focused on two main arguments: the challenges that come with creating a participatory process model and the tendency for tactical efforts to lose their tactical nature as they tran-

sition into formal implementations. It was noted that in societies where top-down planning is prevalent in tactical urbanism practices, there must be an acknowledgment of the resistance from stakeholders to change-inducing practices. The session emphasized that the tactical urbanism process should be carried out with careful attention to the active involvement of city residents, managing conflicts among different groups and individuals, defining responsibilities between institutions and individuals, and fostering community building through social design, communication, and collaboration in the spaces that emerge from these processes.

Tactical urbanism, often described in relation to the crisis of surrender in the public space design process, provides a fast, practical, and lowbudget alternative to top-down systems, favoring bottom-up decision-making processes. This approach, which reaches its goal when transformed into an urban policy or a concrete implementation program, carries the risk of the positive impact of tactical urbanism dissipating if the process reverts back to a top-down system in the process of institutionalization. However, the ability to return to a previous state if trial implementations fail, the awareness it creates about the dynamics of urban life, and its usefulness in shaping shared public spaces and fostering collective decision-making among residents, as well as its application during disaster and crisis periods for rapid solutions, and its role in reclaiming public spaces from motor vehicles for pedestrian use, all suggest that tactical urbanism is more than just a passing trend but a valuable model for improvement.

Smart Cities: Hype or Not?



🗰 5 October 2023 🛾 I



11.30-12.30



★ Moderator

Melike Nur Ülsever, Smart Cities Expert Use Cases, **BABLE Smart Cities**



Speakers

Raffaele Gareri, Partner & CEO, Venturerock Urban Italy SpA

Sven Gerst, PhD Student, Political Economist, King's College London

The concept of smart cities, which has gained popularity and emerged from the integration of technological developments into urban areas, was thoroughly examined in this session. The discussion centered on whether smart cities truly represent a sustainable and livable future and questioned the foundations on which the smartness of cities is based

It was emphasized that viewing smart cities solely through the lens of technology risks hollowing out the concept. Instead, smart cities should be understood as a form of production and vision creation that involves the collaboration of all urban stakeholders, not just as a means of leveraging technology. Making cities "smart" requires planned economies, the development of governance models. the establishment of feedback mechanisms among urban actors, and the implementation of human-centered strategies alongside corporate-focused ones. This includes ensuring that city technologies facilitate greater participation, amplify the voices of disadvantaged groups such as minorities through digital tools, improve service levels, and better understand human needs.

While it was noted that policymakers are drawn to the concept of smart cities because it offers clear, defined goals for the next election cycle, it was also stressed that it is an illusion to tell people that technology alone can solve all urban conflicts and problems. On one hand, it was argued that what makes a city beautiful is not how technologically advanced it is, but how happy and connected its residents feel. On the other hand, it was pointed out that the digital systems used in smart city applications, which involve significant investments, should be tools to measure and address the real needs of cities with millions of inhabitants. The discussion highlighted that, rather than focusing on grand smart city plans, efforts that utilize small-scale data and are refined through feedback would be more beneficial. One of the top key points that could save this concept from being a mere hype is the consideration of socio-economic dynamics in smart city projects since technology is often accessible primarily to the middle and upper classes. However, smart city projects around the world make big promises, and failing to deliver on them could lead to significant setbacks. One of the questions we need to raise is where the human focus and the organically flowing social life fit into these smart city projects. Ultimately, the goal for society, which can now be understood in three dimensions, namely, built environment, human dimension, and digital dimension, should not be merely smart cities but cities where happy people live.

Artificial Intelligence: Hype or Not?



🚃 5 October 2023 🛛



14.30-15.30



★ Moderator

Burak Pak, Assoc. Prof., Altering Practices for Urban Inclusion U.A



Speaker

Gökhan Karakuş, Founder, Emedya Design

This session provided an in-depth examination of the use of artificial intelligence technologies in the public sector, beginning with a discussion on the necessity of their use in public governance. The discussion also explored the ethical concerns these technologies raise, their long-term effects, and their potential impact on governance processes

The session highlighted that if AI is not used appropriately, it could pose potential harm to society, threaten privacy and confidentiality, and lead to concerns about losing control over our actions to AI systems. Most AI frameworks are developed by the private sector, and when these are applied to public governance, issues such as data ownership, privacy, ethics, and accountability come into play. At this point, because the public sector often follows the guidance of large tech companies, these companies are granted significant power. The session emphasized that, beyond the power of AI itself, the control of this

power by large corporations is one of the most concerning issues. Open-AI, which markets itself as an open-source platform, could be seen as engaging in "open source-washing," meaning it may be part of the AI bubble hype. Training these models require immense computing power, and while we use advanced models, large companies already have these services in-house. Other risks associated with AI include the elimination of certain jobs, bias, privacy and confidentiality issues, deepfakes, persuasive AI (AI that can influence human decision-making, especially when used for military purposes), and political manipulation. However, the discussion also stressed that human-centered AI design and systems could prioritize human needs and values. To achieve this it is important that we operate on data-dependent, bottom-up systems and pay attention to issues of transparency, inclusivity, communication, and explainability. Additionally, the session underlined the need to address overarching questions related to the vision for AI, where investments should be focused, and the purpose of using data. Decision-makers were specifically encouraged to consider how AI can serve people in three main areas: mission-oriented sectors, back-office operations, and customer/citizen engagement. The session also touched on the importance of creating realistic models that can be created in real life with AI in architecture/spatial design, and it was noted that copyright issues could be a contentious area for years to come, with technologies like NFTs potentially offering good solutions.

Participation: Hype or Not?



🚃 5 October 2023 🛮 🗎



16.00-17.00



★ Moderator

Burak Pak, Assoc. Prof, Altering Practices for Urban Inclusion U.A



Speakers

Nico Carpentier, Culture and Communication Research Centre, Charles University Tülin Hadi, Chair, Istanbul Citizens' Assembly

In this session, the long-term effects of participation on democracy, social change, civil society activities, corporate governance, and various other fields were critically examined. Practices that encourage active and effective participation were evaluated, and their contribution to the future importance of participation was discussed. The session also explored how to sustainably encourage participation among different groups, the increasing role of digital participation, the challenges faced, and examples of successful cases.

The most critical points discussed in the session were the consideration of participatory processes as a matter of power-sharing, and the role of facilitators in these processes. To ensure the effectiveness of participatory processes, the discussion stressed the importance of understanding the dynamics of the target audience, determining the appropriate scale, reciprocity, time management, and patience in taking steps. It also

emphasized the need for continuous reevaluation of the tools used, the growth and maturation of civil society, the involvement of decision-makers in the process, the incorporation of feedback, and the establishment of a connection between general and specific interests. The discussion also highlighted that striving for perfection, imposing one-sided views that diminish pluralism and diversity, making decisions too quickly, and relying solely on digital platforms without sufficient face-toface communication can negatively impact the success of participatory processes. The fundamental opposition of participatory processes to decision-making by a single person or institution, and their inherent sensitivity to the perspectives, needs, dreams, and interests of different people and groups, prevent them from being dismissed as mere hype. On the other hand, the session suggested that asking not only 'who' but also 'how' when discussing participation could lead to the discovery and implementation of new and innovative methods for achieving the best versions of participation. As these methods are proposed and developed by society, progressing from the local level rather than being imposed by those in power, the likelihood of success increases. Another key point for effectiveness was starting with small groups and then applying these methods to larger ones. In conclusion, it was emphasized that rather than criticizing from outside these participatory processes, it is necessary to engage in them, explore different methods, and question not the concept of participation itself, but its execution.

Neo-Rural: Hype or Not?





10.00-11.00



★ Moderator

Candan Türkkan, Assist. Prof., Gastronomy and Culinary Arts, Ozyegin University



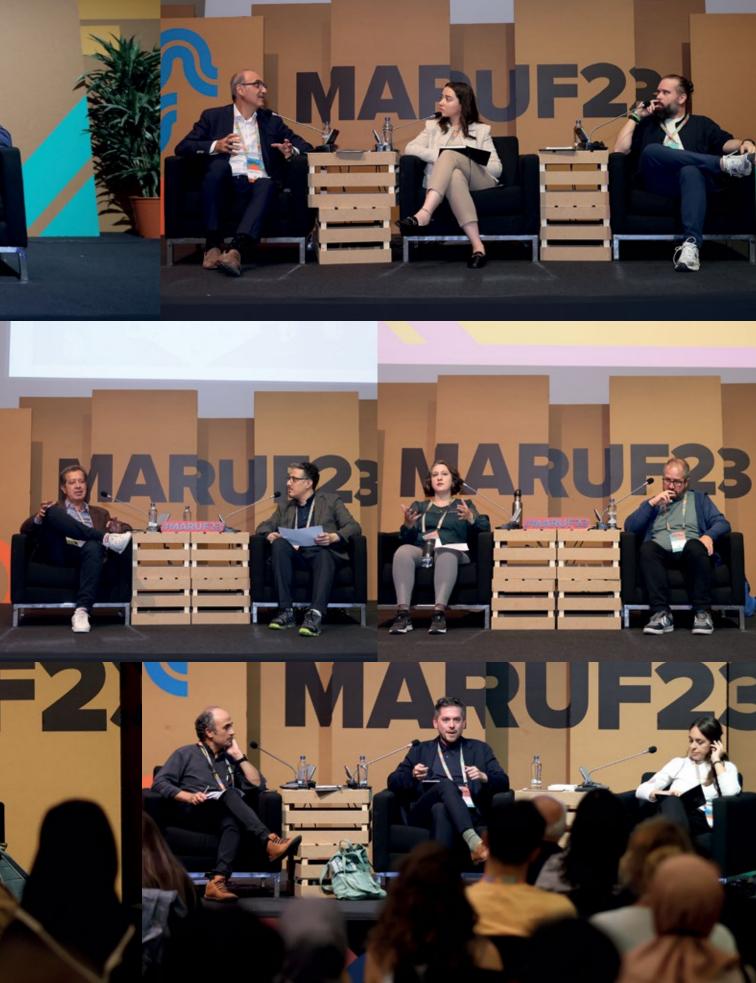
Speaker

İbrahim Emre Gündoğdu, Dr., Interior Architecture and Environmental Design, Istinye University

With the COVID19 Pandemic vividly highlighting the ongoing urban crises, the reverse flow of upper-middle-class migration from the city to rural areas has been accelerated, causing a shift in the understanding of rural and blurring the distinction between rural and urban areas. In doing so, does this migration result in rural gentrification as a consequence of upper-middle class's romanticization of the rural and producing new settlement models? Or does it create a space of hands-on learning and collaborative production, away from the conflicts inherent in urban life? In this session, we approached the ever-evolving "new rural" in terms of whether it's a "hype or not?" and discuss the implications of upper-middle-class migration on rural areas and the various transformations occurring in rural areas from different perspectives.

At the core of this session was a discussion about the life models established by urban migrants in rural areas, the problems these models create, and how these issues might be resolved. The countryside, for spatial designers, is becoming a place to escape to where they can create in a more relaxed environment; for white-collar workers, it's a space where they attempt to preserve their urban life while also engaging in farming and seeking access to clean food and a slower lifestyle. However, acting with the motivation to go back in time and nostalgic image of the past has been noted to exacerbate conflicts. Communication in the countryside is often better when it comes to collaborative production, and with the state's primary intervention focus being on cities, the influence of government is less felt in rural areas. Additionally, with the absence of a third-party actor, namely bureaucracy, it can be said that implementation of new practices is facilitated in these areas. What distinguishes the neo-rural from the old rural was defined as the mindset of those moving from the city to the countryside, who consider what they can transform the rural into, often projecting their ideas onto it. Research findings suggest that these urban migrants struggle to get along with locals, sometimes even resorting to arming themselves, acquiring guard dogs, and installing cameras and fences. This has been identified as the result of a significant economic conflict emerging in the neo-rural setting. In short, locals are frustrated that while they can't earn a living from agriculture, the new residents are able to make money while working remotely. The question of why and how the rural which is closed to outsiders should evolve, particularly in the face of the economic conflict between older farmers who are skilled in organic and traditional methods and younger generations less interested in farming, is becoming more pressing. Urban migrants, by successfully engaging in agricultural production and marketing processes, are creating a competitive social problem. On the other hand, it was argued that instead of establishing employer-like relationships with the locals, the urban migrants should engage in collaborative production processes, which has shown positive results, particularly in the field of design. While the neo-rural may be seen as a hype-perhaps the best option for urbanites feeling trapped in city life—the reality of rural transformation and its contributions to agricultural production cannot be denied. Moreover, the life practices emerging in these areas have the potential to evolve into more collective forms of living.





4 October 2023

Room 4



(2) 30 min

Before delving into resilience and beyond at MARUF23, we thought it would be beneficial to first refresh our understanding of basics and to revisit the fundamental rights that shape, or should shape, our cities. Therefore, on the first day of MARUF, we dedicated a room to a series of short sessions that would examine our basic rights in the city. This series, titled "Urban Basics", consisted of 30-minute sessions featuring a speaker, and sometimes accompanied by a moderator.

In selecting the fundamental rights to be addressed in the series, we focused on the most debated rights related to cities and the responsibilities of local governments. We presented these topics in a format where experts on each subject could share their insights. The series began with a session on 'Localization of Human Rights' as a way to lay the groundwork. Following this, we explored the 'Right to Food' and the 'Right to Housing,' both recognized as rights in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in 1948. We also examined the concept of 'Universal Basic Income,' which has gained renewed attention in recent years, as well as the 'Right to the City,' a concept introduced by Lefebvre, which highlights the idea of access to the city as a right. Additionally, we discussed the 'Right to Accessibility,' which arises from the notion that access to what the city offers is itself a right, and the 'Right to Open Data,' which has become a crucial tool in accessing these rights. However, we were unable to cover the 'Right to Public Space,' which is fundamental to our ability to gather and interact with others in the city, due to the scheduled speaker's absence. Undoubtedly, this selection remained incomplete in many respects. Essential rights such as health, education, and many others that fall within the local government's core responsibilities could not be included due to time constraints. Nevertheless, this provided us with a promising start toward envisioning a rights-based approach to cities.

Localization of Human Rights

11.30-12.00

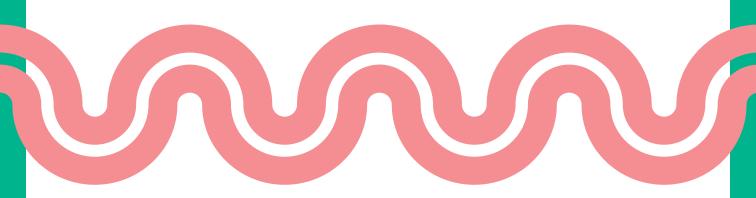


loanna Kuçuradi, Prof., Director of Centre for Research and Application of Human Rights, Maltepe University

In this session, we sought to answer what the concepts of "rights" and "human rights" fundamentally mean, the role of this understanding in the protection of human rights, and the responsibilities of municipalities within this framework. It was emphasized that the primary duty, and perhaps the very reason for the existence of municipalities, is to fulfill the requirements of human rights within cities. Despite the frequent use of the term "human rights" since its increased significance following World War II, it was argued that the concept has begun to lose its substance. This is attributed to a lack of understanding and insufficient connections being made between human rights and real-world situations.

"Human rights" refer to the treatment that every person owes to others, encompassing rights such as freedom of thought, security, food, and housing. These rights can be divided into "directly protected rights" and "indirectly protected rights." The latter depend on political decisions, and it is the fundamental responsibility of municipalities to protect these rights and meet their requirements within local contexts.

Although some of these rights are included in the Municipal Law, the law is often insufficiently internalized and does not encompass all rights, resulting in municipal actions frequently falling short of a rights-based approach. To address this, Kuçuradi recommended that those who will work in municipalities undergo additional training in ethics and human rights. This program would help them recognize and internalize the connection between their work and human rights.



Right to Food



12.00-12.30



Speakers

Cemal Taluğ, Em. Prof., Head of the Agricultural and Food Ethics Association

Hilal Elver, Prof., Member of the High Level Panel of Experts (HLPE), UN Committee of World Food Security (CFS), United Nations

During the session, the right to food, a fundamental human right protected by the 1948 Universal Declaration of Human Rights and international law, was discussed. However, it was noted that this right often faces serious risks due to the emphasis on political and civil rights, with economic and social rights falling behind. In this discussion, it was highlighted that it is crucial to make a distinction between the right to food and food security. Food security was defined as ensuring that everyone, at all times, has access to healthy and culturally appropriate food for themselves and their families. It was emphasized that having the right to food enshrined in the Constitution does not necessarily quarantee food security.

According to Elver, achieving food security requires a more equitable restructuring of the global economic system. At this point, when we consider the current economic order alongside realities like the climate crisis and environmental degradation, Taluğ stressed the need to change the system that exacerbates inequalities, destroys nature, erodes biodiversity, and increases carbon emissions. The session concluded with a discussion on what can be done to defend the right to food of urban residents. It was highlighted that as local and global policies are developed, it is crucial for citizens to question how much they can participate in the decision-making process. The importance of asking who holds the responsibility and what our obligations are in this matter was emphasized, reminding us that when we have the right to ask questions, we also have the responsibility to answer them. It was underscored that unless we come together as a society, it will be impossible to solve the issues surrounding food at both the local and global levels.

Right to Housing

14.00-14.30

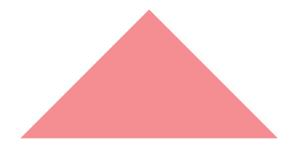
Speaker

Rușen Keleș, Prof., Faculty of Political Sciences, Ankara University

Discussing the history of the right, this session highlighted that, today, approximately one billion people worldwide are either homeless or living in inadequate housing conditions, and the right to housing is enshrined not only in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights but also in many other documents. While the general acceptance is that housing should be recognized as a human right, it was noted that the principles contained in the legal documents underpinning this right are not fully implemented in all countries.

Treating the right to housing as a human right involves ensuring housing security, preventing forced evictions, enabling individuals to benefit from urban services and infrastructure, making housing supply and prices affordable for families, and ensuring that housing protects against the climate and provides a livable environment. These elements define the qualities and characteristics of the right to housing, and it is equally important for the poorer segments of society to have access to housing finance.

Keleş argued that, just as with the crisis in food, the current economic system is deepening the housing crisis. He stated that movements such as downsizing the state, liberalization, and privatization make it harder to solve housing problems. In underdeveloped countries with imbalanced income distribution, a significant portion of the population is continually deprived of the chance to live in housing that matches their financial capabilities. The crucial role of the state in this matter was emphasized, stating that for housing to achieve true status as a right, it must be secured by legal regulations, which requires the existence of a genuine rule of law and a social state that respects human rights.



Universal Basic Income

14.30-15.00



Speaker

Haluk Levent, Prof., Lecturer, Faculty of Business, Istanbul Bilgi University

Although Universal Basic Income (UBI) is not directly related to poverty, it considers poverty as a starting point. To understand the discussions around UBI, it is essential to first understand poverty, and to understand poverty, one must understand neoliberalism. The withdrawal of the state from economic activities, the privatization of services like education, healthcare, and housing, along with the erosion of public consciousness and weakening of citizenship, are all factors that deepen poverty under neoliberalism.

Poverty is defined as living below the socially accepted standard of living. However, this definition focuses only on the symptoms without addressing the root causes of poverty. However, fighting poverty requires a rights-based approach. When poverty is viewed as a deprivation of rights, it encompasses many rights such as housing, employment, healthy living, education, social participation, and equality as an individual. Ensuring these rights should be recognized as a societal duty.

Factors that exacerbate poverty, increase social immobility, and widen intergenerational inequality include the wealth effect, the marketization of education, a culture of discrimination, and vulnerabilities in the labor market. Climate destruction and the potential of technology to transform production processes are two major emerging threats that also intensify this pressure. Therefore, according to Levent, combating poverty should be rights-based, respectful of privacy, institutionally grounded, and aimed at addressing the factors that create poverty.

UBI aims to ensure that individuals can live with dignity by providing a minimum income to everyone. The UBI experiment in Finland has shown positive effects, particularly on health and employment. It reduced reliance on precarious jobs, increased social trust, and gave individuals the opportunity to use their free time productively and achieve self-fulfillment. Levent emphasized the need to adopt rights-based approaches in the fight against poverty, protect public services, and ensure access to decent living conditions through programs like UBI.

71

URBAN BASICS

Right to the City



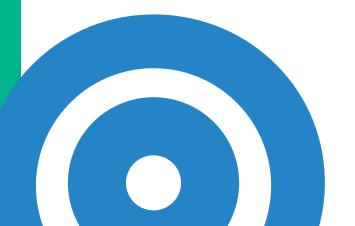


Selahattin Yıldırım, Former Secretary General, Marmara Municipalities Union

The concept of the right to the city was first introduced by Henri Lefebvre in the 20th century. The right to the city is a call and a demand; it reflects the need to transform and renew urban rights, rather than settling for the status quo. This right includes the rights of citizens and urban dwellers to access information, express themselves, assemble, and showcase their differences. These rights embody a strong call for resistance against oppressive, hierarchical, and unjust urban orders

and can be summarized as a demand for a new urban order that is more libertarian, egalitarian, and rooted in solidarity.

The world is facing serious crises on various fronts, and the proposed solutions to these crises vary. As a solution, Yıldırım proposes the idea of "liberating democracy". Liberating democracy is a way of coexisting for all people and living beings and a path to a meaningful life. It is a bottom-up system of self-governance that begins with the individual and extends to local, regional, national, and global levels. As an open system based on common rights, it is an unfinished process, and it is believed that establishing such a system would be beneficial for humanity. According to Yıldırım, rights like the right to the city can be more effectively implemented within such a democracy.



URBAN BASICS

Accessibility Rights

16.00-16.30

Speaker

Bronwen Thornton, CEO, Walk21 Foundation

Historically, accessibility has often been associated with people's physical access to spaces and services, particularly in relation to individuals with limited mobility. However, accessibility is fundamentally about everyone's right to mobility. The growth of cities and the widespread use of private motor vehicles have led to transportation poverty and environments that hinder people's access to essential services. This has not only driven up the costs of housing, vehicles, and land but also contributed to environmental and air pollution, leading to various forms of rights deprivation. In response, the focus has shifted from 'transportation' to 'mobility,' with an emphasis on searching for systems centered on people's movement rather than vehicles.

In recent years, the concept of 'accessibility' has gained importance, encompassing not just

the ability to move but also where that movement leads. For example, a study in Buenos Aires found that while women spent similar amounts of time commuting as men, they tended to travel shorter distances due to multiple stops for errands like shopping or picking up children. This meant that men, who covered longer distances in one trip, had access to more economic opportunities than women.

Another critical aspect of accessibility is the distribution of rights. For instance, when streets are primarily seen as the domain of vehicle owners, it can impede children's right to safely and actively access their schools. Another crucial aspect of accessibility is enhancing access to public transportation lines. SDG 11.2 aims to provide public transportation options within a 500-meter radius, but it lacks criteria to measure the frequency or quality of these services. Therefore, as Thorntan suggests, it is crucial to measure the different dimensions of accessibility. When collecting this data, tools like Walk21's Walkability App, which not only measure walkability or access but also the quality of the experience, should be used.

URBAN BASICS

Right to Open Data

16.00-16.30

★ Moderator

Itir Akdoğan, Dr., Research Director, Turkish Economic and Social Studies Foundation (TESEV)

Speaker

Teemu Ropponen, Director of Business Development, MyData Global

While open data is not a fundamental right, it can empower citizens to find solutions and serve as a building block for various other rights, such as the right to access information. Open data refers to data that is accessible, available for use, and can be combined with other datasets for different purposes, with the results also being shareable.

The right to the city encompasses many other rights, and these rights can be defined and monitored through data. For example, data can be used to track urban parks, population density, quality of life, or policies in cities. By using data, cities can foster economic growth, create jobs, and promote innovation to improve living conditions.

Human-centered data can be used as a valuable tool for enhancing community welfare and creating better urban environments.

The privacy and security of personal data are critical concerns in this discussions. Transparent data collection can build credibility. For instance, in Finland, the freedom of information law allows citizens to request information from government agencies, and this process is managed transparently.

Open data also plays a vital role in combating the climate crisis. For example, in a French experiment, data on gas, electricity, and water consumption were combined on a digital platform and gamified, allowing citizens to track their monthly expenses and save money.

The world of open data is often supported by the public sector, promoting transparency, access to information, and participation. However, not just the risks of data being misused, but also data being underutilized, or not effectively leveraged can result in missed opportunities to enhance urban resilience. Therefore, it is crucial for both individuals and institutions to use data correctly and effectively.

URBAN BASICS

Urban Basics

18.00-18.30

★ Moderator

Damla Özden, Corporate Communications Expert, Marmara Municipalities Union

Speaker

Sevin Okyay, Author, Translator

Instead of wrapping up the series with a concluding session, we decided to end it with a conversation meant to inspire and open up new perspectives. In this discussion, we explored the foundations of the Marmara Municipalities Union (MMU), formerly known as the Marmara and Bosporus Municipalities Union, by hosting Sevin Okyay, who had previously been an employee. The conversation was moderated by MMU's Corporate Communications Expert, Damla Özden, and revolved around the right to the city and resilience, viewed through the lens of memories, texts, and everyday urban practices. We listened along as this dialogue brought together two veterans of MMU, one of whom a doyenne translator and the other a promising one, who are both Harry Potter fans.

In the discussion, Okyay summarized the right to the city as being able to master the city, em-

phasizing that this is essential for a sense of ownership of the city. She shared her childhood memories of discovering different neighborhoods in Istanbul by bus and noted that as a young adult, her visits to "new" neighborhoods she had never seen before deepened her sense of belonging to the city. However, she reflected on how the city's growth has made it impossible to maintain such mastery, leading her to feel a nostalgic longing for the Istanbul where she grew up. Okyay expressed a yearning for the days when Istanbul was quieter and more familiar. She also shared how today's Istanbul and its spaces influence her translation and writing practices, adding that what she now finds most unbearable is not the crowds themselves, but the unhappy, complaining crowds, a sentiment she acknowledges is partly due to the hardships of life.

Okyay concluded by recounting her years working at the Marmara (and Bosporus) Municipalities Union, where she first realized the strength and potential of the bond between municipalities and their citizens, which was a realization that greatly excited her. She spoke about her work during those years, the friendships she formed, and the shared enthusiasm for making a positive impact during the establishment of various unions. She ended her talk by emphasizing the importance of strengthening this bond.







Sometimes, we need concise information rather than long and detailed explanations. To address some of the various urban issues—some that have long been on our agenda and others that are newly emerging—we designed 30-minute Quick Takes sessions keeping in mind the differing attention spans, listening preferences, and information needs of participants. In these sessions, we listened to experts discuss urban issues within the contexts of communication, sustainability, and ecology, framed by planning and implementation practices, all grounded in experience, knowledge, and critical inquiry. These Quick Takes sessions, which delivered inspiring content in a short time, offered participants maps to uncover hidden treasures and formulas for remedies to heal the urgent wounds of urban life. These were presented alongside the in-depth topics emphasized throughout MARUF23, aiming to ensure that every type of urban intervention could be applied inclusively and holistically to create more livable conditions.



Tales from the Concrete Jungle: The Art of Urban Storytelling



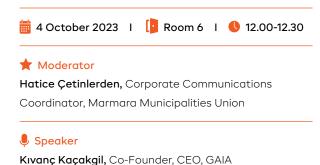
HIGHLIGHTS:

- Cities can use storytelling to strengthen historical and social bonds and turn these bonds into opportunities for branding and competition.
- Urban narratives, as seen in the case of Dublin, offer a great potential to strengthen social ties and keep the city's memory alive.
- Cities should be encouraged to discover and effectively communicate their own stories as a tool for development.

QUICK TAKES

Municipalities Union

Communication in Chaos: Urban Risk and Crisis Management



- Crisis communication is different from risk communication.
- Since risk is foreseeable, communication strategies can be prepared in advance.
- Unlike risk communication, crisis communication deals with uncertainties and may not be initiated until the crisis is confirmed.

- It is important to avoid reputational damage in crisis communication, clearly define the target audience, and be inclusive.
- In times of crisis, having strong figures and experts actively involved in the communication process enhances the perception of control and instills confidence.
- Leaders should base their communication on transparency and humility, openly acknowledging mistakes to prevent the crisis from escalating and to build public trust.
- Conducting a thorough process analysis immediately after a crisis is crucial to identify what actions were effective and to work on improving those that need refinement.
- To manage the communication process more easily and take swift action, different scenarios should be anticipated and prepared for in advance.

Mission Zero Waste: Minding the Circularity Gap



★ Moderator

Sadiye Bilgiç Karabulut, Head of Circular Economy and Waste Management, Directorate General of Environmental Management, Ministry of Environment, Urbanization and Climate Change

Speakers

Jordi Pascual Torner, Cities & Regions Programme Lead, Circle Economy

Mihail Dimovski, Team Leader, Circular Economy Policies Branch Office Department of Circular Economy and Waste Management, Ministry of Environment, Urbanisation and Cllimate Change, DAI Europe

- The circular economy promotes new business models where different sectors can collaborate.
- Recycling isn't just about waste management; it also requires preserving waste as a resource.
- One of the most significant opportunities for circularity lies in funding sources, this makes it crucial for cities and funding organizations to collaborate.
- Cities must reduce their dependence on raw materials to achieve circularity.
- Large-scale strategies alone are insufficient for circularity. Processes should be strengthened through a bottom-up approach and participatory mechanisms.
- Every city should develop its own circular economy program.
- Municipalities can collaborate with stores, restaurants, and other commercial institutions in their journey to become circular cities.
- It is essential that we find new ways to strengthen communication and cooperation between funders and municipalities.

Biodiversity: Volume of Life in/despite the City



HIGHLIGHTS:

- The expansion of urban populations and the design of human-centered urban spaces reduce habitats for other species and eliminate natural corridors.
- The growth of urban boundaries has led to intentional behaviors that endanger wildlife, posing significant threats to biodiversity.
- Power lines pose a deadly risk to migratory birds.

- Istanbul, which has been a migration path for birds for centuries, is home to over 20 bird species.
- The Istanbul Strait (Bosphorus) and Çanakkale Strait (Dardanelles) are migration routes for dolphins between the Mediterranean and the Black Sea, with three different species of dolphins observed in the Bosphorus.
- It is crucial for citizens to support and collaborate with municipalities to maintain the natural balance and make cities healthier environments for all living beings. The efforts of the IBB Green Istanbul team can be followed for those interested in Istanbul.
- Construction and mining activities areas should be planned in ways that do not harm the city's biodiversity areas.

QUICK TAKES

"Where Problems Find Solutions: FutureCity" Launch



Speakers

Büşra İnce, Urban Policy Expert,

Marmara Municipality Union

Ahmet Kerim Nalbant, Incubation Center Manager,

Teknopark Istanbul

 $\textbf{Samet Keskin,} \ \mathsf{Director} \ \mathsf{of} \ \mathsf{Data} \ \mathsf{and} \ \mathsf{Technology}$

Center, Marmara Municipalities Union

Hey Al! Plan This City







Moderator

Selim Pulcu, Training and Projects Expert, Marmara Municipalities Union

Speaker

Sophie Naue, Dr., Academic Lead of City Science Lab, UNITAC / HafenCity University Hamburg

HIGHLIGHTS:

- One of the primary uses of AI in urban planning is mapping areas that are time-consuming and require detailed attention.
- The data collected by AI in the field of planning should be processed ethically and with precautions to prevent any harm to individuals.
- It is crucial to sign agreements ensuring that Al will be used solely for improving public services, physical, and social infrastructure.
- Al can be used to analyze pre- and post-disaster situation of residential areas and identify damaged structures after a disaster.
- Municipalities should allocate budgets for AI training and use open-source models, such as those available from UNITAC and the City Science Lab, for their projects.

QUICK TAKES

Life Cycle of the Building









And Akman, Co-founder, Building Biology & Ecology Institute

- In the construction of a building, assessing its ecological, biological, social, and societal impact is just as important as the design, drawing, and construction phases.
- The main issue in a building's life cycle stems from the energy consumed in the production of building materials.
- Architects and other practitioners should foresee the social and societal impacts of the structures they create, developing projects with comprehensive evaluations from a social sciences perspective during construction.
- To achieve sustainability, it's essential to reduce the energy consumed throughout the process, from the production to the use of raw materials in the construction industry.

Everything Everywhere in 15 minutes: How cities change with fast delivery?









Hayrettin Günç, Program Manager, Global Designing Cities Initiative

Speaker

Hilmar Tevrüz von Lojewski, Alderman & Head of Urban Development, Building, Housing and Transport Department, German Association of Cities

- Planning approaches that include concepts like 15-minute cities or short-distance urban models have been on the urban planning agenda since the early 1980s.
- A 15-minute city emphasizes mixed-use developments that are accessible and environmentally friendly, incorporating essential housing and service areas within a short distance.

- In German cities, aside from the logistics sector, both shopping malls and the real estate sector have faced crises, highlighting the need for an integrated urban development process involving various disciplines.
- With the pandemic, dark stores providing home delivery and motorized courier services have significantly increased in many cities, including Istanbul.
- Dark stores have become potential problems in terms of mobility safety and public space usage in urban environments.
- The dominance of virtual restaurants or dark stores, which are essentially just kitchens occupying large parts of the streets, creates various issues for social life, public spaces, and urban design.
- Mixed-use developments, where all basic needs are accessible within a short distance. like in 15-minute cities, serve as a crucial solution during crises.
- The design processes for accessible urban areas planned under the 15-minute city model should strongly incorporate participatory mechanisms.

Creative and Collective: Altering Planning Practices



(Urban Strategy)

- A practice focused on interdisciplinary collaboration and youth can nurture creativity in spatial production.
- The Design Atelier Kadıköy (TAK), established in 2013 with a group of young people in Kadıköy, and other design ateliers later established in collaboration with municipalities from different cities, stand out as inspiring examples. They provide collective creative opportunities for young planners, designers, residents with ideas, and various institutions and experts collaborating with the ateliers.

- Addressing the issues of cities that resemble each other and giving them a distinct identity is possible through a design approach that places culture, creativity, the creative economy, and cultural industries at its core.
- It is necessary to develop solutions to local issues while considering global developments.
- Designers should engage with the residents of the urban area where they will work, activating participatory mechanisms throughout the production process.
- The design process should also include the stage of designing interaction spaces necessary for collaborative production.
- Municipalities that implement good practices should develop mechanisms to ensure the continuity of creative and productive processes, preventing them from ending with changing approaches following local elections.
- Social impact design and storytelling are emerging as areas that young urban planners should integrate into their professional practices to enable collective and creative production.

Changing Demography, **Unchanging Human Mobility:** A Rural and Urban Discourse









Nazlıcan Akcı, Training & Projects Expert, Marmara Municipalities Union



Zafer Yenal, Prof., Faculty, Sociology, Boğaziçi University

- Although a significant portion of Türkiye's population resides in urban areas, their connection to rural life remains intact.
- Türkiye's population dynamics have shifted, with an aging population becoming more evident.
- Two key factors driving changes in the structure of rural areas in Türkiye are environmental crises and demographic shifts.

- The main reasons for migration from rural to urban areas include the instability of village economies and the lack of social infrastructure, particularly in education and transportation.
- Migrant labor, especially in agriculture, plays a significant role in Türkiye's workforce.
- Post-pandemic migration from urban to rural areas now includes communities with high social and economic capital.
- This migration and the changing demographics of rural areas can be attributed to these more affluent populations engaging in agriculture and gaining easier access to sales channels, advertising, and marketing activities.
- Rural areas in Türkiye are undergoing transformation due to both ecological crises and changing demographics.
- To develop rural areas, it is essential to adopt ecological approaches, repair agriculture, utilize green technologies, and practice direct seeding.

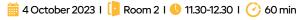




The local action sessions focused on showcasing successful urban initiatives and projects implemented at local level from around the world. The main objective of these sessions was to highlight the value of bottom-up approaches and collaboration between different stakeholders and to inspire the participants. Local actors led the dissemination of inclusive, safe, sustainable, creative solutions and strategies by sharing their work that has a positive impact on a local, regional or global scale in these 45- or 60-minute sessions.



How to Boost Energy Transition: Insights from the Western Balkans and Türkiye









★ Moderator

Piero Roberto Remitti, Co-managing Director, Global Secretariat, Global Covenant of Mayors



Jurate Lepardiniene, Deputy Director, Central Project Management Agency

Dubravka Bosnjak, Regional Project Manager for

Western Balkans, Open Regional Fund for SEE -

Energy, Transport and Climate Protection, GIZ

Ayşen Erdinçler, Prof., Head of Environmental

Protection & Development Department, Istanbul

Metropolitan Municipality

Zvonko Pekevski, Mayor, Berovo Municipality

Jelena Borovinić Bojović, Dr., President, the Assembly

of the Capital City Podgorica

Branko Koroman, President of the Assembly of the City of East Sarajevo

Amra Pepic, Senior Advisor for International

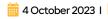
Cooperation, Tuzi Municipality

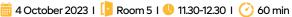
Daiva Matonienė, Project Leader in Türkiye, Central

Project Management Agency

This session aimed to illustrate SECAP's importance as a strategic document and the power local governments have in climate actions. In the session, project implementations from Western Balkans and Türkiye, and SECAPs as attraction points for climate actions were showcased as best practices.

By the Power of Foot and Pedal: **Leaving Cars Behind**









Moderator

Ela Babalık, Prof, Department of City and Regional Planning, METU



Arjen Uijterlinde, Consul General, Netherlands Consulate General

Dries Meers, Dr., Data Analist, Mobility Department, City of Ghent

Nermin Varol, Cities engagement officer, Innovation Hub Central, EIT Urban Mobility

Susa Eräranta, Dr., Project Director, Climate Unit, City of Helsinki

In the session on walking, cycling, and inclusive mobility, long-term cycling policies from the Netherlands and successful car-free zone initiatives from Belgium were showcased. Experts in the field shared best practices and insights on creating sustainable, inclusive, and active urban mobility systems.

In light of the February 6, 2023 earthquakes

that occurred in Türkiye, we discussed what we have learned, with a focus on social services and

LOCAL IN ACTION

Social Recovery After February Earthquakes | Episode 1: Local **Government Experiences**











★ Moderator

Metropolitan Municipality

Sezin Üskent, Key Expert, RESLOG Türkiye, SALAR International



Enif Yavuz Dipşar, Head of Social Services Department, Istanbul Metropolitan Municipality

Hasan Aydınlık, Dr., Deputy Secretary General, Kocaeli Metropolitan Municipality

Rüstem Keleş, Secretary General, Kahramanmaraş

the insights gained from them, regarding how societal well-being can be ensured and how to respond effectively in disaster situations. In Part 1, the experiences of local governments, that are located in earthquake-stricken areas and those trying to deliver aid, were shared.

Social Recovery After February Earthquakes | Episode 2: Different Institutions, Common Experiences



★ Moderator

Sezin Üskent, Key Expert, RESLOG Türkiye, SALAR International



Ebru Bakkaloğlu Tüzecan, Sustainability Coordinator, Corporate Communications and External Affairs, Koç Holding Esra Arslan, Board Member, Needs Map İbrahim Altan, Dr., Director General & CEO, Turkish Red Crescent In the 2nd part of the series, where we discussed the lessons learned from the February 6, 2023 earthquakes in Türkiye, with a focus on social services and the insights gained from them, regarding how societal well-being can be ensured and how to respond effectively in disaster situations, organizations specialized in crisis management and disaster response, with significant efforts in delivering aid to disaster areas, shared their processes of providing social services in the earthquake zone.

LOCAL IN ACTION

From Data to Action: Reporting for Climate Resilience



Nicola lezza, Officer, Sustainable Resources, Climate and Resilience - ICLEI Europe (Brussels Office)

Speakers

B. Aylin Alagöz, Secretary General, Integrated
 Reporting Association Türkiye (ERTA)
 Lea Busch, Manager, Middle East and Africa, Cities,

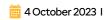
Lea Busch, Manager, Middle East and Africa, Cities, States and Regions, CDP

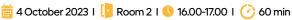
Mine İzmirli, Senior Manager, Sustainability Services, Deloitte Türkiye

Şerdil Dara Odabaşı, Mayor, Kadikoy Municipality

The session covered the importance of evidence-based approaches in tackling climate change, the relevant international standards, and why data collection and comprehensive reporting are necessary. CDP-ICLEI Track reporting platform, which municipalities can publish their environmental annual data was introduced, and the practices of municipalities and companies with successful reporting experience were showcased.

Critical Infrastructures in Critical Moments: Protection Against Disasters









Aslı Ceylan Öner, Prof, Vice-Chancellor, Architecture, Izmir University of Economics



Cristián Alfredo Wittig Grell, Prof., Design of Studies and Projects for the Development of Reconstruction Processes for Destroyed Cities, Thought Group Chile Kazım Gökhan Elgin, Director of Istanbul Project Coordination Unit, Istanbul Governorship Uğurcan Özçamur, General Manager, TIS Tecnologic Isolator Systems Co.

Aimed at highlighting the crucial role of critical infrastructure in disaster preparedness, experts shared their experiences in disaster-related infrastructure, planning, and construction with practices from Türkiye and around the world. In addition to showcasing best practices in making public buildings earthquake resilient, practical applications such as earthquake isolators, which have also become widespread globally, were included.



Environmental Management of Seabed Mud from Izmit Gulf (Kartepe Summit x MARUF)



🚞 4 October 2023 I 🚺 Marmara I 🌕 16.00-17.00 I 🕜 60 min





★ Moderator

Burcu Zeybek, Assoc. Prof., Faculty of Communication, Istanbul University



Kağan Özdemir, Assist Prof., Faculty of Engineering, Mining Engineering Department, Istanbul University-Cerrahpasa

Leyla Gamze Tolun, PhD., Senior Chief Researcher, Marine Research and Technologies Research Group, Vice Presidency of Climate Change and Sustainability, TÜBİTAK Marmara Research Center

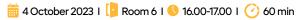
Melek İşinibilir Okyar, Prof., Dean of Faculty of Aquatic Sciences, Istanbul University

Tahir Büyükakın, Assoc. Prof., President, Marmara Municipalities Union & Mayor, Kocaeli Metropolitan Municipality

The massive project for managing the bottom mud in Türkiye's Izmit Gulf, one of the sensitive areas in Marmara Sea, was featured in this session; showcasing its importance not only for the Izmit Gulf but also for the entire Marmara Sea.



Social Entrepreneurs in the Times of Re-Building











★ Moderator

Pinar Gürer, Chairperson of the Board of Trustees, YADA Foundation



Speakers

Feyza Akınerdem, Dr., Sociology, Boğaziçi University Hakan Kahraman, Grants Coordinator, Support Foundation for Civil Society

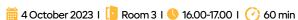
Rüstem Keleş, Secretary General, Kahramanmaraş Metropolitan Municipality

Yakup Işık, Executive Board Member, Syrian Work, İHH-Humanitarian Relief Foundation

In this session, questions such as how to support local social entrepreneurs and increase their social impact, how civil society and municipalities can support entrepreneurs while considering social benefits were discussed. Speakers from various fields, such as academia, civil society organizations, local governments and international organizations gathered to share their experiences and explore both common and diverse solutions.

LOCAL IN ACTION

Post Earthquake Early Recovery and Solutions











★ Moderator

Seher Alacacı Arıner, Assistant Resident Representative, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)



Speakers

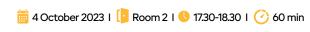
Arzu Karaarslan Azizoğlu, Local Economic Development Projects Coordinator, Inclusive and Sustainable Growth Portfolio, United Nations Development Programme

Hamit Doğan, Regional Coordinator, United Nations Development Programme

Hikmet Gümüşer, Member of Board, Kipaş Holding Mehmet Hasan Bereket, Culture and Social Affairs Manager, Adıyaman Municipality

Aiming to find ways to empower communities towards recovery and resilience in the aftermath of the destructive earthquakes in Türkiye in February 2023, this session revolved around discussions on early intervention, foresight, and solutions.

Culture for Collaboration: Local Approaches and Experiences



★ Moderator

Ulaş Bayraktar, Assoc. Prof., Department of Public Administration, Mersin University

Speakers

Ali Güney, Director, Social Innovation Agency Bengi İspir Özdülger, Coordinator of Cultural and Social Affairs Department, Mersin Metropolitan Municipality

Savaş Zafer Şahin, Prof., Head of School of Land Registry and Cadastre, Ankara Hacı Bayram Veli University Anatolia is a land where numerous cultures converge and each city offers a unique cultural life of its own. For this cultural richness to become a common ground that unites communities, local governments develop and experiment with different methods and practices. In this session, actors responsible for seminal experiences of the cities were given a platform, to inspire other cities in developing their own unique practices and mechanisms in cultural policies.

LOCAL IN ACTION

Sustainability Tools in Creation of Human Centric Mobility



★ Moderator

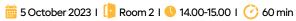
Ela Babalık, Prof, Department of City and Regional Planning, METU

Speakers

Feyzullah Gündoğdu, Head of Eurasia, UITP
Melda Horoz, Director of Transportation Planning,
Istanbul Metropolitan Municipality
Michael Pellot, Director of International Affairs,
Transports Metropolitans de Barcelona

In the session, sustainable tools for creating human-centered livable cities were examined. Experts from Istanbul and Barcelona shared their best practices on developing sustainable urban mobility plans, creating low emission zones, and integrating public transport to make it more attractive.

What Would You Do? Serious Game as a Planning Tool











Alexis Şanal, Architect and Urban Designer, SANALarc, Open Urban Practice

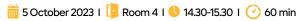


Ekim Tan, Dr., Founder & Director, Play the City Menno van Pelt-Deen, Dr., Facilitating Playful Dialogue About Social Issues, Super Menno Monster

The session focused on the implications of the "Serious Game" concept and discussed how these games are not merely tools for developing empathy, but can also contribute to evidence-based planning.

LOCAL IN ACTION

From Grey to Green: Sustainable Built Environment











And Akman, Co-founder, Building Biology & Ecology Institute



Sanem Şenler Özbil, Dr., Insulation Product Manager, Betek Boya ve Kimya

İlhami Akkum, Dr., Lecturer, Real Estate Development Graduate Program, Istanbul Technical University

Bolormaa Jamsranjav, CEO, Urban Construction

Development LLC

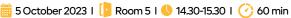
Zeynep Özleyiş Çetin, Deputy Mayor,

Çanakkale Municipality

In this session, the impacts of durable, flexible, and highly adaptable sustainable transformations in the built environment on human and environmental health were explored. The critical relationship between healthy building solutions and housing, and human health were examined, and engaged in an inspiring discussion about how to construct more livable environments for the future.

Streets Alive: A Transformation for People, Communities, and **Planet**





Hila Bar Ner, Program Associate, Global Designing Cities Initiative

This session highlighted the importance of active mobility and focused on how to reclaim our

streets for the benefit of people and the planet. The

speakers shared good practices from all around

the world, highlighting successful initiatives from the global Streets for Kids program and Milan's in-

spiring agenda for transforming their car-centric

streets into healthier, more resilient public spaces.



Moderator

Görsev Argın Uz, Director of Training and Projects, Marmara Municipalities Union



Bronwen Thornton, CEO, Walk21 Foundation Chiara De Grandi, Dr., Architect, AMAT Agency for Mobility Environment and Territory of Milan Municipality

LOCAL IN ACTION

Foundations of **Energy Transition in Cities**











Helena Monteiro, Global Focal Point for the Gap Fund-GCOM Partnership, Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy



Ahmet Cihat Kahraman, Dr., Coordinator of Environmental Management Department, Marmara Municipalities Union

Ahmet Mete Saatçi, Prof., Retired President, Turkish Water Institute

Aljaz Plevnik, Dr., Researcher, Urban Planning Institute of the Republic of Slovenia

Arkın Konak, Secretary General, VERİMDER Daiva Matonienė, Project Leader in Türkiye, Central Project Management Agency

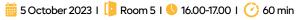
Dubravka Bosnjak, Regional Project Manager for Western Balkans, Open Regional Fund for SEE -Energy, Transport and Climate Protection, GIZ Jurate Lepardiniene, Deputy Director, Public institution Central Project Management Agency

Kelmend Zajazi, Executive Director, NALAS Michael Rosenberg, Head of Department, Drinking

Water, Aarhus Vand

The session covered the importance of planning in cities' equitable energy transition and addressed key components of energy transition. It also included a multidisciplinary discussion section.

From Analog to Digital: **Transformation Journey of Cities**











★ Moderator

Samet Keskin, Director of Data and Technology Center, Marmara Municipalities Union



Speakers

Cüneyt Yılmaz, Information Technology Director, Bağcılar Municipality

Özcan Ersoy, Group Sales and Marketing Manager, **INTETRA Group**

Sophie Naue, Dr., Academic Lead of City Science Lab, UNITAC / HafenCity University Hamburg

The use of digital tools in the delivery of urban services plays a crucial role in ensuring that these services are provided rapidly, cost-effectively, and efficiently. In this session, successful examples were shared by various stakeholders from different service areas with the aim of promoting best practices. The digital transformation journey of cities was discussed, including the challenges they have experienced, the digital tools and solutions they have utilized to address these problems, and finally the benefits derived from these solutions.

LOCAL IN ACTION

From Roots to Roofs: Housing for & by Communities





🚞 5 October 2023 | [Room 4 | 🌕 16.00-17.00 | 🕜 60 min







★ Moderator

Ervin Sezgin, Dr., Marmara Region Local Governments Consultant, RESLOG Türkiye, SALAR International



Elisabet Ràfols, Member of the Commission on International Affairs, Sostre Cívic

Geoffrey Payne, Housing and Urban Development Consultant, GPA

Thibault Leroy, Director, Community Land Trust Brussels

In this session we addressed the housing, which, despite being a basic human right, has become an expression of injustices through numerous inherent dynamics. Various solutions to the housing crisis which manifests as an area of contention in almost all cities worldwide were discussed. These solutions, found in different localities, encompassed accessible housing models established with a rights-based approach that includes vulnerable segments of their societies.

City's Logbook: Future Directions of Voluntary Local Reviews









Siniša Trkulja, Dr., Urban Advisor, UN Country Team Serbia, UN Habitat

Speakers

Çise Özçelik Kan, Mayor's Advisor, Strategy Development and R&D, Fatih Municipality Mariana Cammisa, International Cooperation Manager, Buenos Aires City Government Özge Sivrikaya, Senior International Affairs and Projects Expert & SDG Ambassador, Marmara Municipalities Union i

Simten Birsöz İnanç, International Affairs Coordinator, Istanbul Planning Agency, Istanbul Metropolitan Municipality

Cities prepare 'Voluntary Local Reviews' (VLR) reports to reveal where they stand in terms of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and their targets. This session, titled 'City's Logbook: The Future Course of Voluntary Local Reporting,' which follows on the 'City's Logbook: Voluntary Local Reporting on the SDG Journey' session held during MARUF21, discussed the contributions of report preparation to the development of various areas in city management, lessons learned during the report preparation process, and considerations for future reporting processes.

COP28 on the Go: Local Solutions, Global Impacts

🚞 5 October 2023 | 🚺 Room 1 | 🕔 17.30-18.30 | 🕜 60 min









Ahmet Cihat Kahraman, Dr., Coordinator of Environmental Management Department, Marmara Municipalities Union

Speakers

Ayşen Erdinçler, Prof., Head of Environmental Protection & Development Department, Istanbul Metropolitan Municipality Casimir Legrand, Climate Politics, Intelligence, and Diplomacy Manager, C40

Nicola lezza, Sustainable Energy Systems Officer, ICLEI Europe

Tuğba Dinçbaş, Dr., Deputy Director, Directorate of Climate Change, Ministry of Environment, Urbanization and Climate Change

How are cities, which play a crucial role in national climate policies, positioned in international climate negotiations? In this session, the importance and necessity of cities being among the parties to the United Nations Climate Change Conferences (COP) were emphasized.

Innovation-Driven Resilience: Metropolises Leading the Way



★ Moderator

Jordi Vaquer, Dr., Secretary General, Metropolis



Burcu Özdemir, Dr., Lecturer, Applied Informatics
Department, Istanbul Technical University &
Coordinator, Intelligent Transportation Systems,
Istanbul Metropolitan Municipality
João Dinis, Director of Climate Action Department,
Cascais City

Laura Parry, Senior Manager, Partnerships and Fundraising, Cities, States and Regions, CDP Nicholas You, Executive Director, Guangzhou Institute for Urban Innovation

This session addressed cities' innovative solutions and projects to manage global crises or disasters and how to incorporate innovation into their city management to deal with critical situations and respond disasters rapidly.

LOCAL IN ACTION

Dream of Participation: Strengthening for & by Communities



★ Moderator

Elif Avcı, Co-founder, Local Monitoring Research and Implementation Association

Speakers

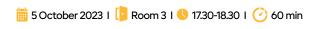
Daniel Grütjen, Dr., Director, German-Turkish Youth Bridge

Leonardo Da Costa Custódio, Dr., Researcher, Faculty of Arts, Psychology and Theology, Åbo Akademi University

Sibel Çetingöz, Founding Partner & Education Coordinator, Informal Education and Consulting – cocukistanbul

In this session, we explored three different local-participation initiatives, established through a rights-based approach in various geographic locations, which have empowered diverse groups to raise their voices about the places they inhabit. We learned about participatory practices with significant social and spatial impact, and discussed both the possibilities and limitations of participation.

Soil, Counter and Platter: Journey of Food in A City



★ Moderator

Ebru Seçkin, Assoc. Prof., Department of Urban and Regional Planning, Yildiz Technical Universityi



Volkan Yılmaz, Mayor, Silivri Municipality Nihal Poyraz Temürcü, Coordinator & Manufacturer, Tahtacıörencik Natural Living Collective Jan Willem van der Schans, Dr., Food Expert In the session where the processes from food production to consumption were discussed, new production methods, sustainable supplies, and future consumption habits were debated.

LOCAL IN ACTION

Green Recovery and Climate Resilient Cities



★ Moderator

Tanyeli Behiç Sabuncu, Climate and Energy Programme Director, WWF-Türkiye

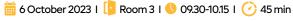
Speakers

Esra Ceylan, Industrial Engineer (M.Sc.), Directorate of Energy Management and Climate Change, Gaziantep Metropolitan Municipality

Hakan Baş, Dr., Architecture, Izmir Katip Celebi University

Meryem Kayan, Deputy Director, Climate Change Directorate, Istanbul Metropolitan Municipality The session organized in partnership with WWF-Türkiye, addressed the risks posed by climate change and natural disasters on cities, as well as the measures that municipalities have developed in response to these risks. Natural building materials and techniques that can mitigate these risks were also addressed. In the second part of the session, the concept of 'Green Recovery' was examined with a focus on the earthquakes that occurred on February 6th in Türkiye.

Together in the City | Episode 1: Co-Living in the City













★ Moderator

Gunnar Andersson, Senior Advisor, SALAR International



Alissar Hallak, Volunteer, RESLOG Lebanon, SALAR International

Ayet Elali Elnajjar, Student, Aviation Society, Orhangazi City Council

Jinan Saadeldine, Volunteer, RESLOG Lebanon, SALAR International

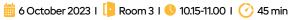
Suğra Güler, Orhangazi Aviation Society

Şinasi Kaya, Education Coordinator, Executive Board, Orhangazi City Council

Wael El Chami, Senior Field Officer, RESLOG Lebanon, Swedish Association of Local Authorities and Regions, SALAR International

This session, focused on coexistence and collaboration, took place in two parts. In the first part, social cohesion and practices of living together in the city were addressed, and young participants from Lebanon and Türkiye shared best practices from the Resilience in Local Governance (RESLOG) Project.

Together in the City | Episode 2: Co-Production in the City









★ Moderator

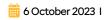
Burcu Özüpak Güleç, National Project Manager, RESLOG. SALAR International

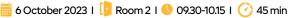


Ahmet Sarıkurt, Mayor, Çorlu Municipality Naz Sağlam, Project Expert, Project Management, Innovation for Development Oktay Yılmaz, Mayor, Yıldırım Municipality

The second part of the sessions, which focused on coexistence and collaboration, included discussions on local development, social cohesion, cooperatives, social procurement and women's participation in production.

Lifelong Cities | Episode 1: Early Childhood in the City











Z. Hande Sart, Assoc. Prof., Faculty Member, Department of Educational of Educational Sciences, Program in Guidance and Psychological Counseling, Boğaziçi University



Cemil Tugay, Op. Dr., Mayor, Karsıyaka Municipality Përparim Rama, Mayor of Prishtina Municipality

This session focused on age-friendly urban policies for all age groups. In Part 1, we brought together mayors from different countries and cities to discuss the early childhood period policies, which have a significant impact on a child's future. The session covered policies developed by mayors in their cities for early childhood and the current practices that have been implemented.

LOCAL IN ACTION

Lifelong Cities | Episode 2: Ageing in the City











Z. Hande Sart, Assoc. Prof., Faculty Member, Department of Educational of Educational Sciences, Program in Guidance and Psychological Counseling, Boğaziçi University



Abdullah Özdemir, Mayor, Bağcılar Municipality Octavio Vergara Andueza, Partner, Comov Consulting

In the second part of the sessions, which focused on age-friendly urban policies towards all age groups, with the demographic transformation marked by the general population increasingly concentrating in cities and the aging population, policies and practices for the elderly, which hold a significant place in the agenda of local governments, were discussed. Developed policies and implemented practices for the elderly were presented by the administrators from different regions.

SOLUTION PROPOSALS & BEST PRACTICES:

TOPIC: SUSTAINABLE, GREEN, AND DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION OF CITIES

Keywords: Environment, green, sustainability, mobility, smart city, VLR

- Nearly 70% of emissions originate from cities, and 64% of energy consumption occurs within urban areas. Cities, which are major contributors to climate change, are also among the most vulnerable to its effects. Therefore, combating climate change should not only focus on reducing emissions but also on making economies and cities more resilient. For this reason, cities must play a central role in planning, legislation, and actions related to both adaptation and mitigation, cutting across all sectors. Local governments should be actively represented at COP and other international climate meetings and negotiations.
- International city networks should advocate for the role of cities in climate action and facilitate their participation in climate negotiations under the supervision of national and international organizations. Example: ICLEI and C40 support their members' involvement in climate action and negotiations.
- By joining international city networks, cities can strengthen collaboration with other municipalities and stakeholders.
- Local governments can organize events each October as part of "Urban October" to raise awareness about climate action.
- To create greener and more sustainable cities, multi-level governance mechanisms should be established, promoting collaboration and coordination among stakeholders from various sectors and levels.
- Cities should conduct risk and vulnerability analyses and prepare greenhouse gas emission inventories to develop Sustainable Energy and Climate Action Plans. These action plans should aim to reduce carbon emissions while focusing on multiple sub-themes such as energy, transportation, waste, water, and biodiversity. Example: Sustainable Energy and Climate Action Plans prepared by Istanbul Metropolitan Municipality and Gaziantep Metropolitan Municipality in Türkiye.
- Municipalities should coordinate climate action across all relevant departments and subsidiaries. Example: In Podgorica, Montenegro, a multidisciplinary working group was formed within the municipality, including representatives from environmental protection, urban planning, search and rescue, firefighting, and housing.
- Urban transformation projects should also aim to achieve greener, more sustainable transformation, and energy-efficient transformations. Examples: The transformation and re-planning of Darhan city in Mongolia using sustainable and smart methods.
- Public buildings and urban infrastructure, such as municipal buildings, schools, cultural
 centers, and care homes, can be renovated to improve energy efficiency. Examples:
 Energy-efficient heating systems, lighting, flooring, roofing, photovoltaic systems, and
 evergreen tree planting to prevent air pollution implemented by Berovo Municipality
 in North Macedonia. Smart, green, and sustainable transformations in street lighting,
 traffic lights, fuel, and energy sources carried out by Sarajevo Municipality in Bosnia and

Herzegovina. Thermal insulation of municipal buildings in collaboration with Dalmaçyalı by Muğla Metropolitan Municipality in Türkiye. Water storage capacity enhancement, watershed protection, and stream rehabilitation projects conducted by Istanbul Metropolitan Municipality in collaboration with ISKI in Türkiye. The "Green Local Government and Cultural Center" building selected through a competition in Çanakkale Municipality in Türkiye, designed to be energy-efficient and environmentally friendly.

- To enhance the energy, environmental, and health efficiency of buildings, insulation, thermal mass, and moisture-balancing buffers should be used. Example: Viva Research Park in Austria.
- Due to the challenges in renewable energy storage, cities can establish systems that allow for energy transitions. Example: Alqueva Solar Farm in Portugal, which improves energy efficiency by switching between solar energy and pumped-storage hydropower.
- Instead of relying on their own resources for climate action, cities can seek international financing and technical support from programs like the EU Cities Mission and networks such as the Covenant of Mayors.
- To create greener, more sustainable, and resilient cities, the availability of green and sustainable financing sources should be increased. International organizations, including financial institutions, should support the smart, green, and sustainable transformation of cities.
- Municipalities should organize awareness-raising and educational initiatives for citizens and stakeholders on climate change. Example: The climate change lab event in Tuzi Municipality, Montenegro, which involved representatives from NGOs, the municipality, schools, hospitals, and energy organizations.
- To reduce water consumption year by year, appropriate water pricing should be implemented. Example: In Denmark, companies finance their operations and investments by themselves based on water prices.
- To prevent and clean up pollution in seas, bays, and water basins, manage waste, and protect biodiversity, local governments should collaborate and take action with stakeholders ranging from central government and universities to the private sector, research institutions, international organizations, and NGOs. Example: The seabed sludge removal project in Izmit Bay and the Marmara Sea Action Plan led by Kocaeli Metropolitan Municipality in Türkiye.
- In the context of urban mobility, which is crucial for climate adaptation, there needs to be a paradigm shift not only toward electrifying private vehicles but also in reducing their numbers, while prioritizing alternative transportation methods like public transit and cycling. Instead of building new parking spaces and roads for private vehicles, local governments can reduce existing spaces and roads and repurpose them for sustainable transportation options. Examples: Parking and road adjustments aimed at reducing car usage in Barcelona, Spain, and Leuven, Belgium.
- To lower carbon emissions from mobility in cities, micro-mobility solutions should be
 minimized, and sustainable mobility systems should be promoted. Existing infrastructure should be adapted for walking and cycling paths as much as possible, and new
 infrastructure should be built if necessary. Citizens should be encouraged through
 the creation of bike parks and dedicated lanes. Bike paths and parks should be in-

- tegrated with public transport stations to facilitate easy transitions. Example: In the Netherlands, where cycling is highly popular, there is significant integration between cycling and public transport infrastructure. Additionally, there is an insurance system that holds vehicles responsible in accidents involving bikes, unless there is clear intent.
- To improve urban quality of life, strategies such as creating car-free zones, reducing parking in city centers, and restricting direct vehicle access to city centers can be implemented. Examples: The Sustainable Urban Mobility Plan by Ghent Municipality in Belgium, which incorporates all these methods, and the bus route adjustments by Barcelona Municipality in Spain.
- Cities can implement sustainable, energy-efficient, and safe mobility solutions such as expanding rail transit systems, transitioning to electric buses, creating special regulations and pathways for e-scooters that ensure pedestrian safety, and pedestrianizing certain areas. Example: Projects under the Istanbul Metropolitan Municipality's Transportation Vision in Türkiye.
- Women, who cycle at lower rates compared to men, should be encouraged and supported in using bicycles. Example: The TandEM Women in Cycling project by EIT Urban Mobility.
- Cities should conduct annual reporting through environmental reporting platforms to analyze climate risks, monitor their contributions to climate change, provide reliable and comparable data for access to funding and technical support, and develop data-driven policies. Example: The CDP-ICLEI track offers annual reporting opportunities for municipalities, companies, and organizations worldwide that want to conduct environmental reporting. Kadıköy Municipality in Türkiye, which is placed on the CDP's A-list with its reporting through the CDP-ICLEI track, monitors its carbon emission targets through this platform.
- In addition to data production, platforms should be established where decision-makers
 and experts who can convert existing data into policies can come together. Example:
 Urban forums like MARUF.
- Cities can prepare Voluntary Local Reviews (VLRs) to demonstrate the extent to which
 they have localized the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). These VLRs should
 establish a monitoring framework that takes into account social, economic, environmental, cultural, and governance dimensions. They should also connect with National
 Voluntary Reviews (VNRs) and be prepared through an integrated approach with contributions from relevant stakeholders.
- For the successful localization of the SDGs, local governments need to take ownership, institutionalize these goals, and implement and report on them through data-driven policies. To monitor and evaluate cities' progress in achieving the SDGs, measurable and comparable indicators should be established with the collaboration of all relevant stakeholders. Example: The VLR study conducted by Buenos Aires Municipality in Argentina.
- The urban data collected for the VLR studies can be shared through open data platforms. When setting indicators, it is important to consider both local-specific data that reflects the unique conditions of each area and more generic data that allows for comparisons across different cities.

- Local governments can align the strategies, policies, and targets in their existing plans
 and programs with the SDGs to establish data-driven and trackable roadmaps. Example: The VLR and Vision 2050 studies conducted by the Istanbul Metropolitan Municipality in Türkiye.
- Local governments can conduct index studies to measure and improve urban quality
 of life, aligning these efforts with SDGs and VLR indicators. Example: The VLR study by
 Fatih Municipality in Türkiye.
- Cities should adopt a citizen-centered and participatory approach to digital governance. Local governments should provide digital channels where citizens can submit requests, complaints, and suggestions, manage their transactions, and participate in decision-making and planning processes. Examples: Digital municipal services by Bağcılar Municipality in Türkiye. Citizen participation in urban planning and decision-making processes through digital participation tools in Hamburg, Germany. The digital planning tool used in Gaborone, Botswana, to gather public feedback on river corridor planning.
- To enable more efficient urban planning, analyze the relationship between the city's demographic structure and infrastructure, monitor urban growth, and make data-driven decisions and policies, cities can implement geographic information systems and Al-based mapping applications. Example: Innovative tools and applications developed by UNITAC for integrated urban planning in various cities.

TOPIC: SOCIAL AND SPATIAL RESILIENCE IN CITIES

Keywords: Disaster, design, planning, housing, infrastructure, production, employment

- Critical infrastructure includes vital structures such as power grids, water systems, transportation networks, financial systems, and hospitals that are all essential for maintaining daily life. The sustainability of these infrastructures during disasters is crucial for the well-being of cities and their inhabitants.
- Chile's large-scale infrastructure projects have gained international recognition, particularly for their earthquake resilience. Chile's experience highlights its expertise in earthquake-resistant structures and strategic design approaches.
- In Istanbul, the ISME project focuses on enhancing the city's disaster resilience by reinforcing and reconstructing public buildings to withstand earthquake risks. The project aims to prevent loss of life and minimize economic damage through strategies such as constructing seismically isolated hospitals and schools.
- Post-earthquake recovery and reconstruction efforts are supported by coordinated actions from both the international community and local stakeholders. Human-centered and well-coordinated efforts, especially during the early recovery phase, are crucial for the region's long-term resilience and sustainability.
- Affordable housing is a global priority. It's important to recognize that informal settlements continue to expand rapidly worldwide, often outpacing the development of planned housing. This trend will significantly impact urbanization in 2030 and 2050.
- Local actions and financial incentives play a critical role in addressing the housing crisis.

- Silivri is an important region in Istanbul that preserves its agricultural potential and
 has the capacity to significantly boost local food production to help sustain the city.
 Improving Istanbul's food supply chain can be achieved through the development of
 sound agricultural and livestock policies by local governments and the use of native
 seeds.
- Social services, which are part of disaster management, are critical not only in material support but also in addressing psychosocial needs during and after a disaster.
- Since citizens first turn to municipalities during crises, a crisis hotline should be established. Separate lines could be dedicated to specific groups such as women, children, the elderly, and people with disabilities.
- The logistics of aid delivery to disaster areas, including planning, loading, organizing, and distribution to those in need, must be coordinated from start to finish.
- After a disaster, local governments should engage in a participatory process, working alongside NGOs, other public institutions, and citizens to provide services.
- Local needs should be addressed with local solutions first. For example, social aid in earthquake-affected areas should be sourced from local wholesalers.
- In cases where communication is disrupted, support systems that connect neighborhoods to districts and districts to a central hub can be developed to ensure needs are communicated and aid distribution is balanced. This system would also make needs visible to both domestic and international audiences.
- Local governments must understand the sociological landscape of their regions to develop an effective disaster communication strategy.
- After the first week of a disaster, shelter becomes a primary need. Temporary housing
 areas should be designed like a city, focusing on community to encourage solidarity
 and socialization among residents. Social facilities should be designed with the needs
 of different groups in mind, ensuring accessibility.
- The community should be educated on how to respond during crises, both institutionally and individually, through effective communication strategies.
- One of the most important steps to promote regional development is supporting local SMEs and cooperatives, with a particular emphasis on increasing women's participation in the workforce.
- In the aftermath of disasters, rapid solutions should be developed to boost employment in affected areas, particularly by integrating SMEs into production and trade.
 Example: Measures taken after the 1999 Marmara earthquake and the 2023 Kahramanmaraş earthquakes in Türkiye.
- Initiatives and projects to increase collaborative production in disaster-affected areas should be carried out through cooperation between local governments, NGOs, entrepreneurs, and citizens. Civil society should play an active role in ensuring that post-disaster recovery and the restoration of socio-economic life are inclusive of all segments of society.
- To ensure that cultural and artistic activities are widespread and inclusive in cities, local governments and NGOs should collaborate.
- A connection between the cultural industry and social innovation should be established to develop cultural and artistic policies that address the social issues of cities.

Data-driven cultural policies should be created, taking into account the city's dynamics and needs.

- Thematic committees that collaborate with all relevant stakeholders in different branches of culture and the arts could be established by local governments to coordinate efforts in these areas. Example: Mersin Metropolitan Municipality in Türkiye has established MEDEKA (High-Value Contributors of Mersin) and TADEKA (High-Value Contributors of Tarsus) committees for various fields such as literature, music, photography, cinema, performing arts (theater-opera-ballet-dance), and visual arts.
- City councils can serve as a tool to connect existing cultural production with creativity and transform cultural policies in a way that resonates with the public, and they can bring together cultural actors in the city. Example: The work of Ankara City Council in Türkiye.

TOPIC: TRANSFORMING CITIES WITH INCLUSIVE AND PARTICIPATORY METHODS FOR COMMUNITIES

Keywords: Inclusivity, Participation, Community, Collaboration, Vulnerable Groups

- Municipalities should develop specialized support programs for children and families during early childhood (ages 0-3), a period crucial for shaping their worldviews and social interactions. These programs should aim to educate and inform families during both the prenatal and postnatal periods. Example: As part of the Karşıyaka95 Project, Karşıyaka Municipality provides information to expectant mothers starting from the 7th month of pregnancy and supports parents through home visits and various programs for two years after birth.
- Cities should create safe spaces where children can play, interact, and develop healthily. Example: The Pristina Municipality has converted school streets into safe play and activity areas for children and families by closing them off to traffic.
- In Türkiye and many other countries, the proportion of the population aged 60 and over is steadily increasing. This reality highlights the need for cities to be prepared for changes. Aging should be addressed not just as a matter of age but as a needs-based issue, focusing on providing care according to individual needs rather than age alone, supporting active aging, and enhancing opportunities for individuals to continue living in their own environments. Example: The World Health Organization's "Age-Friendly Cities and Communities" program provides tools for local governments to address aging issues at the local level. Bağcılar Municipality's Vefahane Life Center is a comprehensive and multifunctional facility designed to meet the social, psychological, and physical needs of aging individuals.
- Walking is a critical solution in cities for combating climate change, reducing traffic
 congestion, and promoting healthy living. To motivate decision-makers and policymakers, it's important to focus on topics that capture their interest. Projects should
 address not only areas like road safety, public life, physical activity, and the environment but also fundamental life skills acquired early in life, such as concentration, stress
 levels, and cognitive functions in children. Attracting policymakers' attention requires

- setting clear priorities and developing projects aligned with these goals.
- Streets should be redesigned to better serve children and caregivers. This can be achieved through simple interventions such as prioritizing pedestrian access or adding play areas. Instead of large-scale, long-term projects, adopting low-cost and rapid tactical urbanism approaches can be more effective. These interventions provide a quick response to community needs and offer an opportunity to test the feasibility of changes. Recommended strategies include meeting basic needs, implementing speed-reducing measures, creating space for people, establishing activity areas, and expanding to include not just the streets but also surrounding unused spaces. Example: GDCI's Streets for Kids program has made streets safer and more accessible in various cities, including Cuenca, Leon, Fortaleza, Recife, and Istanbul, using low-cost and rapid tactical urbanism approaches.
- For changes to the city that promote active mobility to be successful, community involvement and engagement in the process are crucial, as well as designing based on data. This is necessary to better understand community needs, make appropriate adjustments, and increase adoption rates of projects. Example: Milan, with its Piazza Aperte program launched in 2018, created over 30 public spaces and expanded the program with public participation, receiving 65 proposals for new spaces by 2020.
- It is important to ensure that children can share their observations and solutions about their urban experiences with local governments, create regular dialogue platforms to allow children to voice their opinions, and support their active participation in projects through collaboration with a broad network of stakeholders. Example: The "Istanbul Asks Children" project.
- Efforts to encourage young people, especially during crisis periods, to support local development and address social needs should be promoted. Local governments should collaborate with them to facilitate data collection and research on social issues. Example: In Akkar, Lebanon, young people initiated projects to address social needs despite the municipality's limited resources, demonstrating a successful approach.
- To increase youth involvement in local governance and decision-making processes, youth councils and advisory boards should be established. This helps amplify young people's voices and allows them to contribute to society. Municipalities and local authorities should be encouraged to provide opportunities and support for youth. In turn, this can facilitate youth's active participation in their communities and projects.
- Young people should be encouraged to build friendships and develop mutual understanding by interacting with peers from different cultural and social backgrounds, such as refugees. This fosters social solidarity and cooperation.
- Organizing international exchange programs to expose young people to different cultures and perspectives helps reduce prejudices, encourages participation in democratic processes, and fosters innovative solutions to local issues. Example: The Turkish-German Youth Bridge program.
- To enable young people to play an active role in local politics, youth parliaments can be established and digital workshops organized. Creating projects for this purpose is an effective method for local governments. This approach allows young people to learn about political decision-making processes and develop democratic participation

skills. It is important for youth councils to be inclusive, to elect members through voting, and to provide necessary resources. Examples: The youth parliaments established in Çanakkale and Ataşehir, the inclusive youth councils elected in Osnabrück, and the "Design Your City!" project all encourage young people to actively participate in and shape their local communities.

- The participation of disadvantaged groups, immigrants, and women in production and employment should be increased. Including these groups in economic development strengthens social cohesion and drives economic growth. Municipalities can support economic development by collaborating with local stakeholders and developing solutions tailored to local issues. Structures such as women's cooperatives and commercial cooperatives are crucial tools for revitalizing the local economy and enhancing social cohesion. Examples: Yıldırım Municipality's centers for women entrepreneurs and women's cooperatives. Çorlu Municipality registering its Barrier-free Cafe and Seymen melon as geographical indications.
- The social procurement model should be adopted instead of the traditional purchasing model. In this model, the environmental and social impacts of purchases should be considered, and participation from small producers, cooperatives, and social enterprises should be encouraged. Example: Antalya Metropolitan Municipality's direct procurement from the Korkuteli Agricultural Development Cooperative.
- Sales development efforts should be implemented for women producers, refugee producers, individuals with disabilities, and other disadvantaged groups operating in earthquake-affected areas. These activities should be supported by creating whole-sale purchasing opportunities. Example: I4D's solidarity platform called Social Chain.
- Making social issues and demands visible through creative communication tools such
 as music, art, and digital media helps groups that are unable to voice their concerns
 reach wider audiences. Example: The book "Favela Media Activism" and the Complexos
 documentary highlight how residents of favelas use music and digital media to address
 their social issues.
- Experiencing participatory planning processes through serious games enables individuals and organizations to collaboratively design living spaces, see the potential outcomes of their decisions, and materialize the desired changes.
- The "build-live" project, which began in 2010 and was implemented in three neighbor-hoods in Istanbul, was carried out over an extended period with the involvement of central government, NGOs, and local residents. The project aimed to design pre-earth-quake transformations and new Istanbul structures with wooden blocks; although games were used to facilitate communication and collaboration among stakeholders, the anticipated tangible impacts were not achieved in practice.













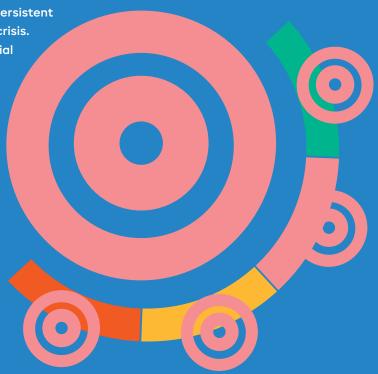


Marmara Room

Just as establishing dialogue often requires multiple participants, discussing Marmara—home to over 25 million people—also necessitates the involvement of various city actors. Embracing this idea, we came together to explore the region's resilience and more. In the Dialogue Marmara sessions, now a hallmark of MARUF, we engaged with mayors, local government representatives, experts, academics, rectors, as well as the insights of young people and children. We tackled the region's agenda and dynamics, delving into challenges, problems, and potentials, while collaboratively developing solutions.

In these sessions, three main topics took center stage. Some sessions delved into the results of studies from MARUF'S MARUF on the Go events, while others presented insights from decision-makers, academics, and practitioners. The first major topic was the February 6th Earthquakes, which have become a pivotal issue for the region, posing the greatest challenge to resilience along with the potential for subsequent crises. The second

focus was marine pollution, a persistent concern since the mucilage crisis. The third was energy, a crucial element in the global climate crisis. Across nine sessions in various formats, intersecting with Marmara, we explored the region's past, present, and future through social, environmental, and economic lenses, offering a comprehensive view that extends beyond the region's borders.



Imagining Marmara: Living in the City

🚞 4 October 2023 🏻 🕓 11.30-12.00 🔻 🕜 30 min





Aygül Çınar Sevim, Coordinator of Arkki Türkiye, Türkiye Design Council



Riym Güler, Workshop Facilitator of Arkki Türkiye, Türkiye Design Council

Action methods based on creative problem-solving, empathy with children, and collaboration methods, known as 21st-century skills, hold significant importance in contemporary urban thought processes. As part of MARUF's MARUF on the Go events, design-focused workshops involving children aged 7-12, conducted in collaboration with Marmara Municipalities Union and Arkki Türkiye, were hosted by 13 municipalities across 11 provinces. The outcomes were presented both in an exhibition and during this session. By including social sciences related to architecture and planning, we explored how children perceive their cities, the relationships they form with various concepts, and their proposed solutions for urban issues.

- The concept of safety is often associated with small towns. Decision-makers should examine how urban density in metropolitan areas can be managed and how perceptions of safety in crowded areas can be improved. One possible solution is to create open spaces where children can play and interact, and to develop different methods for facilitating these interactions.
- From a planning and design standpoint, cities are often criticized for high building density, excavation sites, narrow streets, and outdated, poorly maintained playground equipment, which can pose safety risks for children.

- Accessibility is closely tied to easy and safe access to parks. There should be no obstacles hindering pedestrian movement around parks, and parks should be designed to accommodate various age groups and interests.
- For children who complain about the density of built environments, vacant lots and unused spaces within the city should be repurposed as playgrounds to increase green areas.
- Policies and practices should be developed to boost social activities and strengthen community bonds.
- Cleanliness needs a comprehensive approach, with sustainability principles more broadly embraced, especially by local governments. Communication strategies should be developed to promote recycling and raise awareness about environmental responsibility among city residents.
- Resource usage, including food, water, and electricity, should be conserved in daily life. A "sufficient use" mindset should be fostered to increase energy efficiency, and renewable energy sources should be promoted and diversified.
- Biodiversity in cities should be considered in terms of both terrestrial and marine life. Cats and dogs should live in harmony with nature and not be considered "stray animals". Seas should not be polluted, and all living beings should inhabit their natural environments. Policies and planning to protect marine and terrestrial ecosystems should be developed.
- Children associated resilience with earthquakes. Mechanisms should be established to address safety deficiencies in construction, oversight, and implementation by enhancing ethical understanding and responsibility in the construction sector.

Mapping the Marmara Region: Çanakkale

🚞 4 October 2023 🛾 🕓 12.00-12.30 🗸 🕜 30 min



Moderator

Seda Altan, Urban Planner, Director, AURA Istanbul



Gülhis Duygun, Dr., Architect, Designer and Researcher, Kocaeli University

Su Sezer, Mimar, Architect, Research Group Member, AURA Istanbul

Yağmur Solaz, Landscape Architect, Research Team Member, AURA Istanbul

In the past, spatial readings and concepts were largely shaped by perceptions. Today, however, new perspectives are emerging, driven by global issues such as sustainability, resilience, green environments, and ecosystems. In response to the mucilage crisis, workshops were initiated to map the stress points at the intersection of industry and nature along the shores of the Marmara Sea, in collaboration with the Marmara Municipalities Union and AURA Istanbul. The third of these workshops, held as part of the MARUF on the Go events, focused on Çanakkale, which encompasses the western part of the region. During the session, the workshop's findings were presented, and potential strategies for rural and urban development in Çanakkale and its surroundings were explored in the context of the climate crisis and the critical era of the capitalocene. A database created with maps, photographs, videos, and visuals was shared. Discussions were held on how to address the identified challenges and capitalize on positive aspects. The synthesis maps and collages were organized into seven themes according to contextual elements, the area's diverse identities, and interpretations of perceptual shifts over time. These themes are as follows:

View Not the Soil You Tread on as Mere Farth: In the layers of history, the soil of Çanakkale is not just a part of the ecosystem but also holds

historical values spanning from the archaic periods. Although the soil is of great significance as a place of memory, it was identified that the tourism experience in the city does not interact with the city center.

- The Top is More Valuable Than The Bottom: The soil of Çanakkale, especially in the Mount Ida region, is at risk of becoming overly popular due to its ecological value. Highlighting the importance of its biodiversity, an alternative ecological route was suggested to replace the traditional historical route.
- The Waters Rising: Historically, Çanakkale's relationship with water has been a determinant of its cultural life, presenting both risks and opportunities. Projections of climate change were overlaid with expected sea level rises due to global warming, analyzing the risk of the city center being submerged and its coastal relationship with water.
- Halt, the Wanderer!: With the construction of the Çanakkale Bridge, a new trade and urbanization route emerged as an alternative to Istanbul. This session examined the risks associated with the influx of migration, the development of new urban areas, and changes in protected areas.
- Would You Eat Anything from the Sea?: Çanakkale, situated at the center of fish migration and spawning routes, was discussed in the context of both industrial and individual fishing and the impacts of fishing villages and the ships docking at its ports were conveyed.
- Who Is the Native of Çanakkale?: The issue of migration was examined through the lenses of earthquakes and the pandemic, questioning earthquake resilience, fault lines, and potential risks. The popular concept of returning to the countryside was also discussed within the framework of resilience.
- Does The Wind Burn?: The cultural connections, dynamics, and physical experiences established with the wind were analyzed. The advantages of wind as a renewable resource, its ecological harms, and its role as a disaster threat in relation to topography, climate, and temperature in fireprone areas were examined.

Tale of the Marmara Sea

🚞 4 October 2023 I 🌑 14.00-14.30 I 🕜 30 min





Mustafa Sarı, Prof., Dean of Maritime Faculty, University of Bandırma Onyedi Eylül

In this session, we embarked on a journey through the past, present, and future of marine life, delving deep into the Marmara Sea, which is an integral part of our life in Marmara, and listening to its story from Mustafa Sarı. As a sea unlike the Mediterranean or the Black Sea, the Marmara Sea surpasses both in terms of carbon production. This is not due to its natural structure but rather a result of intense settlement and pollution carried by rivers. The sea's dual current system, which fascinates oceanographers, is seen by decision-makers as a natural purification system. Despite harboring around 3,000 species thanks to receiving from both seas, the Marmara Sea faces significant threats due to climate change and pollution, especially plastic waste, habitat loss, inter-basin wastewater transfers, coastal degradation, maritime traffic, and more. These ongoing threats became everyone's concern with the mucilage crisis of 2021.

Sarı highlights that three parameters played a crucial role in the mucilage disaster. The first is the significantly above-average sea surface temperatures due to climate change. Although all seas

are warming due to global warming, the most pronounced deviation in temperature was observed in the Marmara. The second is the sea's inherent structure of vertical rather than horizontal circulations. The third is the excessive nutrient load. meaning pollution. Since these three factors together trigger mucilage, eliminating at least one is necessar.: While the effects of climate change and the sea's original structure cannot be mitigated, the pollution must be addressed. The proposed solutions are summarized as follows:

- The sewage waste of twenty-five million people must be treated using advanced treatment methods and discharged deep into the sea, focusing not only on organic but also on plastic pollution.
- Out of the 22 articles in the post-crisis Marmara Sea Action Plan, signed by decision-makers following the disaster, 14 concern reducing pollution. However, the sea is running out of time. The process must be supported by individual campaigns as well.
- While local governments work on advanced biological treatment, citizens should also be involved in the process.
- Projects aimed at protecting valuable elements of the ecosystem, such as fan mussels, corals and seagrass, should be supported, and public awareness should be raised regarding the potential harm caused by fishing boats.

How to Manage the Seas: Shores Apart, Solutions Together

🚞 4 October 2023 🏻 🕓 14.30–15.30 🔻 🕜 60 min







★ Moderator

Barış Salihoğlu, Prof., Director, METU Institute of Marine Sciences



Speakers

Çiğdem Budak, Environment and Urbanization Expert, Directorate General of Environmental Management, Ministry of Environment, Urbanization and Climate

Erol Çavuş, Programme Management Officer (Pollution), Mediterranean Pollution Assessment and Control Programme (MED POL), United Nation Environment Programme/Mediterranean Action Plan (Barcelona Convention

Iryna Makarenko, Pollution Monitoring and Assessment Officer, Permanent Secretariat, Black Sea Commission

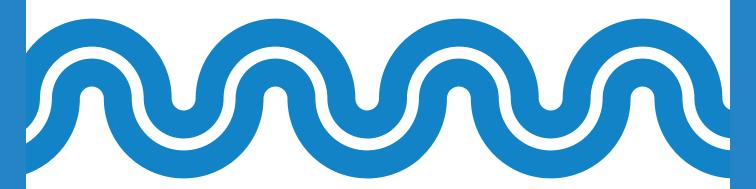
Mesut Önem, Head of Department of Environmental Protection and Control, Kocaeli Metropolitan Municipality

In this session, which centered on the environmental management of seas that cross city and country borders, experts discussed the multi-stakeholder environmental management structures of the Black Sea, the Mediterranean, and the Marmara Sea. Key issues highlighted included the inadequacy of treatment plants under the strain of growing populations, the need to expand energy-efficient technologies, and the importance of improving material recovery in waste facilities. The challenges and solutions related to environmental management presented during the session are outlined below:

- The Marmara Sea is grappling with significant challenges, such as biodiversity loss, rising temperatures and acidification due to climate change, the spread of invasive species, and the resulting "Mediterranization", alongside the mucilage problem which is a sign of ecological imbalance. These problems are primarily driven by urbanization, industrial and economic activities in the region, and pressures from agricultural areas.
- The Ministry of Environment, Urbanization, and Climate Change is conducting pointsource pollution assessments and cost analyses to identify pollution loads and implement necessary measures.

- Under the Marmara Sea Action Plan, the ministry is developing the Marmara Sea Integrated Strategic Plan. This plan includes key activities such as advancing wastewater treatment plants, promoting the plan's adoption, creating artificial wetlands, encouraging good agricultural practices, generating financial resources, improving permits and inspections, addressing marine debris, and enhancing zero-waste initiatives. However, the plan which will act as a precedent to future studies still faces unresolved financial, technical, and economic challenges.
- The Barcelona Convention, to which Mediterranean countries have committed, includes sub-protocols that serve as a good practice example of a circular mechanism for protecting the seas. Data is collected and assessed, and these evaluations inform interventions and pressures that are incorporated into action plans. The outcomes of these implemented plans are then monitored and reassessed, continuing the cycle.
- Population growth necessitates the implementation of third-degree treatment processes in marine areas. In order to make the shift to these advanced treatment methods, local

- governments require various financing models.
- The reuse of valuable wastewater should be recognized as a necessity for climate change adaptation.
- Nature-based solutions should be promoted even in smaller settlements.
- The production sector should shift toward cleaner technologies that offer more economical and energy-efficient solutions.
- In areas with multiple ports, management should be holistic and centralized to ensure effective cleaning, control, inspection, and emergency response activities. Example: The 37 ports of Kocaeli.
- Municipalities should develop action plans addressing eutrophication, biodiversity, maritime activities, hazardous materials, and marine debris to foster the growth of marine ecosystems and the blue economy. For example, Kocaeli Metropolitan Municipality is preparing a plan in collaboration with Middle East Technical University.
- Specific norms and standards tailored to Türkiye should be established for wastewater treatment plants. Current efforts are underway, aiming to transform these facilities into carbon-neutral operations.



(Un)Learning from Disasters: A Roadmap for a Resilient Marmara



🚞 5 October 2023 I 🌑 11.30 – 12.30 I 🕜 60 min









★ Moderator

Ezgi Orhan, Assoc. Prof., City and Regional Planning, Çankaya University



Speakers

Shinichi Fukasawa, Senior Manager, International Geohazard Management Dept., Nippon Koei Co., Ltd. Funda Atun, Dr., Urban and Regional Planning and Geoinformation Management, University of Twentei Ali Faruk Göksu, Founder, Kentsel Strateji (Urban Strategy)

B. Burçak Başbuğ, Prof., Department of Statistics, Middle East Technical University

In a session where practitioners and experts from around the world shared solutions and strategies for earthquake resilience, Türkiye's current situation was closely examined, with a focus on risk reduction, assessment, management, and planning. Key points highlighted the importance of learning from past experiences to develop effective urban policies and laws, fostering a culture of collective action starting at the neighborhood level, and employing a multidisciplinary, holistic approach to planning. Additional strategies and solutions shared during the session included:



- When preparing for disasters and learning from the past, it's essential to account for rapid changes in socio-economic and political factors, such as global trends, economic conditions, vulnerable population groups, and historical values that may trigger risks.
- Adaptation to evolving conditions and current dynamics is essential.
- To accurately assess the situation against multiple hazards, it is necessary to consider the scenarios and needs of different stakeholders rather than relying solely on sector-specific actions, ensuring adaptability to changes.
- Investments should be made to raise awareness and encourage participation among youth and children, specifically in disaster preparedness and response, to secure the reaion's future.
- Instead of creating zoning plans at the city level, a broader vision should be established at the regional level by looking at the bigger picture and developing urban systems accordingly. For example, in the Marmara Region, there are three rings which can be referred to as the golden, green and blue rings. The gold-

- en ring refers to the northern and southern Marmara highways; the blue ring includes the coastal cities along the Marmara Sea; and the green ring represents the region's rich natural diversity. When forming a vision for Marmara, factors such as the multiplier effect of transportation, the interaction of coastal cities, and the balance between economy and ecology must be considered.
- To make the Marmara Region more resilient, scenarios that integrate blue-green economies should be developed.
 - As a good practice example, Japan's disaster preparedness management cycle should be examined. This cycle is divided into three stages: the planning phase, the investment phase, and the phase of raising public awareness and education. It includes making neighborhoods or regions earthquake-resistant in terms of density, reinforcing bridges, implementing flexible piping systems, and integrating urban transformation practices with comprehensive environmental regulations to protect against other disasters triggered by earthquakes, such as tsunamis.

Mayors Speak-up

🚃 5 October 2023 I 🕔 14.00-15.30 I 🕜 90 min



Moderator

Tahir Büyükakın, Assoc. Prof., President, Marmara Municipalities Union & Mayor, Kocaeli Metropolitan Municipality

Speakers

Mehmet Ergün Turan, Mayor, Fatih Municipality & President, NALAS

Melek Mızrak Subaşı, Mayor, Bilecik Municipality Hasan Tahsin Usta, Mayor, Gaziosmanpaşa Municipality

Hasan Akgün, Dr., Mayor, Büyükçekmece Municipality Alinur Aktaş, Mayor, Bursa Metropolitan Municipality & President, Turkish Healthy Cities Association Ekrem Yüce, Mayor, Sakarya Metropolitan Municipality M. Mustafa Özacar, Mayor, Gelibolu Municipality

Resilience refers to a system's or community's ability to maintain functionality during a crisis and to recover afterward. In this session, the resilience policies implemented in the Marmara Region were discussed, along with the preparations made and the agenda for before, during, and after disasters. Regional mayors shared their perspectives, focusing on answering the question how better coordination can be achieved. While earthquake preparedness and urban transformation were the primary topics, other critical issues such as global warming, drought, food security, vulnerable groups, floods, and migration were also highlighted. The key issues and solutions, explored from physical, social, and economic perspectives, include:

Decentralization should be a key principle in urban transformations, with a strong emphasis on the relationship between local governments and citizens during the process. While reducing urban density is possible through legal and planning measures, it often fails to be implemented due to citizen not being convinced, resulting in in-place transformations.

- Urban transformation projects should integrate aesthetic and landscape practices into the zoning process to foster a holistic approach to city development and this integration should be carefully monitored during the settlement phase.
- As part of earthquake preparedness, the locations for temporary housing areas should be selected, and public buildings, especially schools, should be made capable of providing healthcare services.
- Water and energy resources should be used efficiently. Investments should be made for both industrial and domestic waste, and the collection, transportation, and disposal of solid waste are crucial for both public health and the economy. Renewable energy sources should be prioritized.
- To enhance social resilience, education and awareness efforts should be undertaken to increase the capacity of urban residents to cope with resilience-related challenges.
- For economic resilience, efforts should be directed toward strengthening the local economic infrastructure.
- For sustainable cities, it is essential to focus on risk management, resource utilization, ensuring the needs of future generations, creating alternative resources, protecting community welfare, promoting inclusivity, maintaining a strong economy, employing qualified personnel within institutions, and supporting and enhancing innovation.
- A master plan at the national level should be developed to address needs, detailing the population, industrial zones, reserve and transformation areas, water resource management, transportation routes, and logistics centers within administrative boundaries.

Sectoral Risks, Opportunities and **Development Areas**







★ Moderator

Ezgi Orhan, Assoc. Prof., City and Regional Planning, Çankaya University



Speakers

Tuğrul Günal, Chairman, Association for Supply Chain Management (TEDAR)

Güven Sak, Prof., Founder-Director, The Economic Policy Research Foundation of Türkiye (TEPAV)

İsmail Erkam Tüzgen, Secretary General, Istanbul Development Agency

In this session, the regional, national and international importance and the strategic role of Istanbul as a megacity and the key sectors within the Marmara Region, along with the mechanisms driving these sectors, were discussed. The conversation centered on how the megacity influences and transforms the region, highlighting both the sectoral risks present in the Marmara Region and the opportunities it offers for regional and national development. The session also explored how Marmara's connection with other regions of Türkiye can contribute to the country's overall transformation. The key points emphasized were:

- Global resources emerging for climate risk mitigation should be closely monitored.
- Risk plans for crises should be developed at various levels, including institutions, cities, and the nation.
- Sustainability should encompass not only carbon footprint, wastewater management, and

energy management but also ethical values such as the rule of law, workplace safety, and equal opportunity.

- The European Union's Green Deal calls for a focus on both digital and green transformations.
- While the Ministry's incentives for green energy usage are important, the focus should be on the direct contributions to the local area rather than green energy investments made by a company in different regions of the country. For an effective roadmap, EU regulations should be studied.
- It's crucial to identify which sectors are shifting within the region and to develop new business plans in areas like digitalization and biotechnology. This shift should be taken into account when planning urban transformations in the region.
- When discussing institutional resilience, the resilience strategies of supply chains should be detailed, particularly in the context of digital maturity and human resources.
- Information technology platforms should be updated to ensure end-to-end visibility, in other words, transparency, within supply chains, and a clear roadmap should be established.
- As a pioneer in the entrepreneurial ecosystem, Istanbul also has potential in digital and green transformations. The Istanbul Development Agency is already collaborating on projects with regional development agencies for digital transformation. However, there is a need to develop the capacity to provide consultancy support to companies and industries for green transformation efforts.

Marmarathon: Neighborhood for a **Resilient City**

🚞 5 October 2023 🛾 🕔 17.30 – 18.30 🗸 🕜 80 min



★ Moderator

Hasan Ustaosmanoğlu, Founder, Antaset Technology

Speakers

Samet Keskin, Director of Data and Technology Center, Marmara Municipalities Union

Şeyma Çelik, Co-Founder, Business Development, Üretken Akademi

Beyza Gürdoğan, Architect & Urban Designer, Urban Design, Superpool

The Award-Winning and Presenting Teams in **Marmarathon:**

First Team: Lokal

Ece Kaya, Hüseyin Şahin, Melis Nur Koyuncu

Second Team: SolarPulse

Ali Osman Yalçın, Beyza Nur Çakmak, İrem Akçıl, Büşra Akçıl

Third Team: ReGenBuild Sude Mengen, Zühal Işıklı

Jury Special Award: AFDEP

Funda Tutuş, Nurtane Başak Çervatoğlu, Rabia Ertan

Organized as part of the MARUF on the Go events, this year's Marmarathon, a brainstorming marathon focused on the Marmara Region, focused on "neighborhood organizations in the event of disasters". Under the disaster management approach, which includes pre-disaster, during-disaster, and post-disaster phases, teams that developed sustainable, resilient, innovative, and

inclusive ideas presented their projects to MARUF participants. Additionally, speakers from Marmara Municipalities Union Data and Technology Center, Uretken Academy, and Superpool provided evaluations on resilience, participation, collaboration, and the Marmarathon process. The winning projects are as follows:

- Lokal: This project aims to improve disaster management and urban planning processes using location-based data. Its main components are the "digital muhtar" and "local application," which facilitate social integration and activity sharing before a disaster and transform into a needs map after the disaster, enabling rapid and effective intervention. The project seeks to enhance local solidarity by moving existing neighborhood support networks to a digital platform.
- SolarPulse: Designed to ease energy access during daily life and after disasters, this project offers a next-generation emergency energy solution. It aims to establish portable energy hubs at gathering sites by utilizing solar energy. These hubs will provide power bank rental services before disasters and offer free energy supplies after disasters.
- ReGenBuild: This project provides low-cost and sustainable building reinforcement solutions for earthquake-prone areas. It targets the reinforcement of earthquake-vulnerable Class D and E buildings using recycled construction materials, aiming to reduce financial and environmental costs.
- AFDEP: Focusing on the first 72 hours after an earthquake, this project develops self-sufficient storage designs to ensure food security for 800 households until basic aid arrives, addressing the needs of the local community.

Cooperation Potentials: from Universities to Urban Actors



🚞 6 October 2023 🛾 🕔 09.30–11.00 📗 🕜 90 min







★ Moderator

Alim Arlı, Assoc. Prof., Sociology and Anthropology of Middle East, Marmara University



Nuh Zafer Cantürk, Prof., Rector, Kocaeli University Hamza Al, Prof., Rector, Sakarya University Sondan Durukanoğlu Feyiz, Prof., Rector, Kadir Has University

Universities are not only institutions that produce knowledge and train individuals who will benefit the city but also structures that advance the institutional capacity of the region. They influence the demographic, economic, socio-cultural structure, and spatial development of the cities where they are established. In a session with the rectors of leading universities in the Marmara Region, the contributions of higher education institutions to the region's and the country's ecosystem were discussed, along with their potential to shape the future of cities in collaboration with local governments. Key observations from the session include:

- Universities should serve the local community with the intellectual knowledge they produce. To address global and complex issues, a research and collaboration ecosystem should be established between universities and municipalities, or existing interfaces should be enhanced with innovative research and collaboration experiences focused on urban problems.
- Universities should produce regular follow-up and evaluation reports based on the protocols established with city stakeholders.
- Local governments should have strong financial structures and financially support the research conducted by universities addressing urban problems.
- Universities should align their missions with the goals and needs of the local community and the country, thereby transferring their potential effectively.
- In small and medium-sized cities with a high concentration of students, collaboration with local governments should be fostered to encourage students and alumni to remain in the city.
- Opportunities should be provided for students to meet with local governments, enabling them to contribute economically and socially to the city.









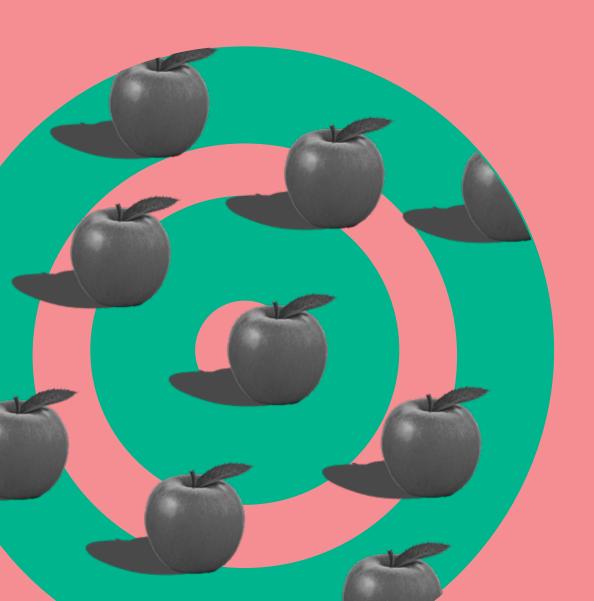


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PLAY MARMARA FOOD

Play Marmara Room



resilience and beyond

Played during MARUF23 on October 4-5, 2023 and developed in collaboration with the Play the City team and the Marmara Municipalities Union (MMU), the Play Marmara Food game is the third installment of the Play Marmara series and a serious game initiative themed around urban resilience and sustainability. As the third edition of the Play Marmara 2019 and Play Marmara 'Sea' games series, the game brought together relevant stakeholders to collaborate.

The Play the City method aims to understand and manage cities and urban development processes by using board games and digital interfaces. These games provide an interactive platform for city planners, architects, urban managers, and other stakeholders. By modeling urban problems, they enable stakeholders to engage with these issues. The core element of the game is that it allows players to devise strategies based on data. Players take on various roles in a specific city or urban area, carrying out tasks to guide the urban development of that region. Designed with this approach and played during MARUF23, the Play Marmara Food game emerged as the result of a long preparation process and extensive research based on the collaboration between Play the City and the Marmara Municipalities Union, ongoing since 2019.

The design and development of the game are based on the analysis of data collected from various sources to understand the Marmara Region's agricultural production, sustainability issues, and food-related infrastructures. Our methodology is built upon comprehensive field research, in-depth interviews with local stakeholders, and the analysis of data gathered from various sources. This database was used to enhance the realism of the game and to help players better understand the true impact of their decisions. As a result, the Play Marmara Food game has become a strategic tool that sheds light on the future of regional food systems. This meticulous effort allowed us to gain a deeper understanding of the agricultural ecosystem and sustainability goals of the Marmara Region.

While playing the Play Marmara Food game, participants aimed to evaluate sustainable food production and food supply chains from a spatial perspective and developing innovative solutions. Players worked to generate innovative solutions in food systems by addressing the Marmara Region's agricultural ecosystem and environmental sustainability challenges. Throughout this process, we fostered a more participatory approach by enhancing communication between different stakeholders and encouraging collaboration. This approach aimed to facilitate and support participants in shaping the future of sustainable food production and supply chains through collective wisdom.

The game successfully brought together many stakeholders, including mayors, academia, and civil society organizations, creating a platform for them to collectively explore innovations and alternative solutions in the food systems of the Marmara Region. With the goal of evaluating sustainable food chains and develop innovative solutions from a spatial perspective through the Play Marmara Food game, mayors, experts, representatives, and civil society organizations collectively searched for the answers to the following questions:

"Sunflower, olive, wheat, potato, grape, peach... How much can the Marmara Region with a population of 25 million feed itself? What innovative and sustainable changes are possible in the supply chains of the most produced and consumed foods in Marmara? Is it possible to reduce air, water and soil pollution while increasing productivity? How can we imagine energy-intensive production and transportation in a cleaner and more circular way?"

Each team defined both spatial and strategic steps, such as food networks, food policy councils, and urban farms, to ensure a sustainable food supply chain for their respective products. One of the notable approaches that emerged during the game was the East Marmara sub-region team, which chose perishable products like peaches and strawberries, collaborating on a "Food loss prevention incentive protocol". Throughout the game, the players not only developed strategies specific to their own sub-regions but also collaborated on alternative models for our complex food system and identified meaningful partnerships.

Similar to how the Play Marmara game was used as a reference by the Marmara Municipalities Union (MMU) for the Marmara Region Spatial Development Strategic Framework Document, the Play Marmara Food game could also serve as a foundation for a regional strategic food plan. The Play Marmara Food game continues to be played today and sparks discussions aimed at forming a sustainable food supply chain on a regional scale. Additionally, universities, NGOs, and local municipalities are showing continuous interest in the game which indicates that the game's influence and importance will be maintained in the long run. These collaborations and discussions will contribute to the development of stronger and more comprehensive solutions for sustainable food systems. Play Marmara will continue to play a role in strengthening regional cooperation and paving the way toward a sustainable future.

Fkim Tan

Dr., Founder & Director,, Play the City

SESSIONS

Play Marmara "Food" **Mayors' Special Session**



4 October 2023 I 11.30 – 12.30



★ Moderators

Ali Emre Soner, Urban Policy Expert, Marmara Municipalities Union

İrem Özdarendeli, Designer/Researcher, Play the City Müge Yorgancı Ozar, Urban Policy Expert, Play the City

PLAY MARMARA FOOD

Play Marmara "Food" **Experts' Special Session - 1**





★ Moderators

Cansu İlhan, Dr., City Planner İrem Özdarendeli, Designer/Researcher, Play the City Müge Yorgancı Ozar, Urban Policy Expert, Play the City

PLAY MARMARA FOOD

Play Marmara "Food" Participants' Session - 1

🧰 5 October 2023 🏻 🌑 11.30 – 12.30

★ Moderator

Ekim Tan, Dr., Founder & Director, Play the City

Play Marmara "Food" Experts' **Special Session - 2**

🚃 5 October 2023 🏻 🌑 14.00 – 15.30



★ Moderators

Cansu İlhan, Dr., City Planner irem Özdarendeli, Designer/Researcher, Play the City Müge Yorgancı Ozar, Urban Policy Expert, Play the City

REPORT

The Food System Crisis and Urban-Regional Food Systems

The food system is a complex and interactive structure composed of various societal, economic, and environmental components. This complex and interactive nature of the food system, often referred to as a 'cross-cutting issue,' encompasses numerous issues and generates social, economic, and environmental outcomes across several domains that go beyond just production, distribution, and consumption. The food system is shaped globally by factors like international trade agreements, food aid, and the impact of climate change on agriculture; regionally and nationally by issues such as public health, nutrition, and natural resource use; and locally by elements like market location, urban farming areas, emergency food distribution logistics, and the local food economy. This situation enables different forms of interventions and policies at various scales, ultimately requiring a multidimensional approach to analyzing and addressing the system.

While the interactive structure of the food system requires a holistic approach, recent events such as the escalating climate crisis, the COVID-19 pandemic, and the Russo-Ukrainian war have heightened concerns about the sustainability of food systems and revealed the fragile nature of supply chains once again. The shocks and crises experienced in the supply system have made policies and interventions aimed at making the food system more resilient and sustainable crucial, increasing interest in urban-region food systems. As can be observed in various cities in Türkiye in recent years as well, food has become a significant part of the urban agenda. Today, cities, both globally and in Türkiye, stand out as key areas where food policies are shaped and play a crucial role in making food systems more sustainable.

With a population exceeding 26 million, the Marmara Region is Türkiye's most densely populated geographical area and it holds significant importance due to its large population as well as its agricultural production areas and product diversity. Effectively managing the processes of food production, distribution, processing, and waste management is critical for ensuring that residents of the region have access to healthy, safe, and sustainable food. While the fertile soils, climate conditions, and water resources of the Marmara Region allow for the cultivation of various agricultural products, rapid urbanization and industrialization are leading to a decrease in agricultural land.

Due to its large population, the Marmara Region constitutes a large market; therefore, the effective distribution of food produced in the region is a critical issue for both producers and consumers. Consequently, strengthening the logistics infrastructure and enhancing distribution networks is essential for reducing food waste and ensuring that products reach consumers in the freshest state and with minimal loss. Lastly, the issue of food waste is a pressing issue in the Marmara Region, as it is globally.

Food waste generated during production, distribution, and consumption stages leads to both economic losses and environmental problems. Developing comprehensive policies for reducing and managing food waste, along with methods such as recycling and composting, not only supports environmental sustainability but also decreases the volume of waste.

To summarize, cities in the Marmara Region play a key role in the design and implementation of food policies. The development of effective food policies in the Marmara Region is vital for both the economic and social well-being of the region, as well as its environmental sustainability. Managing all processes from production to consumption in line with sustainability principles will ensure access to healthy and safe food in the future. In this context, the role and contribution of cities in the region are decisive for the success of food policies.

In 2023, the Play Marmara Food game, developed by Play the City for the Marmara International Urban Forum (MARUF), brought together various groups of actors to make the regional food system of Marmara more sustainable and resilient, presenting solutions based on the evaluation of regional dynamics.

Game Setup

The Play Marmara Food Game is played on a rectangular game table measuring 240cm x 400cm, using Role Cards, Strategy Cards, Sub-Region Identity Cards, and Partnership Cards. In the game, the Marmara Region is divided into five sub-regions based on food production and suitability: Thrace, Istanbul, East Marmara I, East Marmara II, and South Marmara. In each region, there are six different role cards: Local Government, Producer, Logistics, Cooperative, Consumer/Large Markets, and Non-Governmental Organization.

How to Play:

1. Form Your Team, Choose a Product

Players select specific role cards corresponding to their field of expertise and form teams. Each team selects one product for the supply chain.

2. Sustainable Supply Chain

Each player chooses an action card suited to their role for a sustainable supply chain, and each team devises strategies for their region..

3. Partnerships

Teams establish partnerships between sub-regions for sustainable supply chains. For each partnership, they earn a partnership card and the right to pick a new action card.

4. Evaluation, Facing the Facts

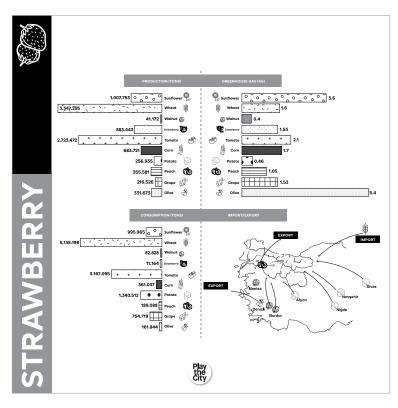
In the final round, teams tally the points on the cards and determine the highest-scoring region. Experts provide feedback on the strategies.

Marmara Region's Food Supply Chain

The Marmara Region, located in the northwest of Türkiye, is home to approximately 30% of the nation's population. In terms of the economy, the region serves as the driving force of Türkiye, contributing nearly 50% of the national GDP. Cities such as Istanbul, Tekirdağ, Edirne, Kırklareli, Balıkesir, and Çanakkale stand out with their service sectors in the region, while the industrial sector is dominant in Bursa, Eskişehir, Bilecik, Kocaeli, Sakarya, Düzce, Bolu, and Yalova.

• East Marmara Region

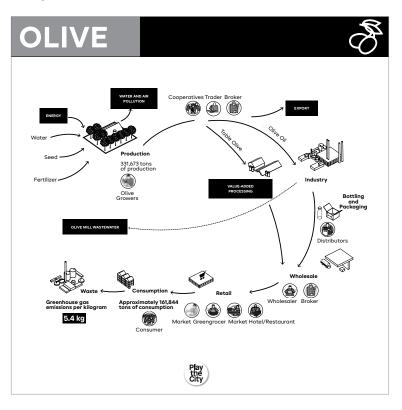
The East Marmara region, covering an area of 20,272.28 km², accounts for 2.6% of Türkiye's total surface area. In terms of sectoral distribution, the services sector stands out, followed by the industrial and agricultural sectors, respectively. According to 2007 data, the region has 290,025 hectares of irrigable land, and as per 2009 Turkish Statistical Institute (TÜİK) data, it contributed 6.13% to Türkiye's gross agricultural product. In livestock production, the provinces of Bolu and Sakarya are prominent for poultry meat production, while Sakarya leads in crop production across the region (East Marmara Development Agency, 2012). According to 2011 data, there are 1,976 agro-industrial enterprises in the region, primarily concentrated in Sakarya and Kocaeli. Of these, the grain, flour, and bakery products group ranks first, accounting for 41.90% of total production (East Marmara Development Agency, 2012).



• South Marmara Region (Balıkesir, Çanakkale)

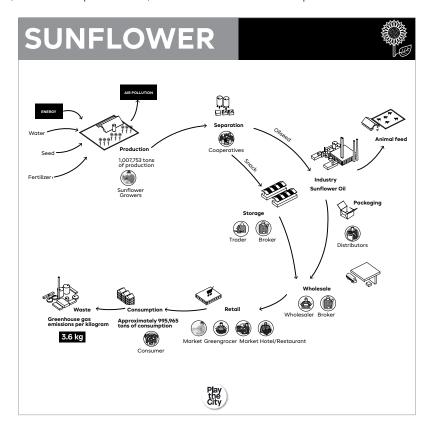
The South Marmara region, known for its important rivers, plains, lakes, and groundwater resources, stands out for its productivity and diversity in agricultural production. The region is notable for its cultivation of grains (wheat and rice), forage crops, vegetables (especially tomatoes and peppers for making paste), and fruits (nectarines, peaches, olives, apples). In terms of workforce size, the food industry makes up 36.2% of the region's manufacturing sector. The region also excels in modern livestock practices, and is especially competitive in the field of poultry farming. The area produces 14.4% of Türkiye's meat chickens and 6.4% of its ega-laying chickens. (Ministry of Industry and Technology of Türkiye, Directorate General of Development Agencies, 2021). Similar to agricultural production, the food industry in the region is also developed. There are two Food Industry Specialized Zones in the South Marmara region. According to 2019 data, 1,596 firms are operating in the food products manufacturing sector. These industrial zones host a variety of operations, including olive and olive oil production, fruit and vegetable processing, dairy production, liquid and solid oil manufacturing, feed production, meat processing, poultry farming, fish and seafood processing, and grain processing (Ministry of Industry and Technology of Türkiye, Directorate General of Development Agencies, 2021)

With increasing temperatures driven by climate change, the region is expected to face agricultural yield losses caused by drought and heat stress. The high level of water stress in the region makes it imperative to urgently implement measures related to climate change (Ministry of Industry and Technology of Türkiye, Directorate General of Development Agencies, 2021)



• Thrace Region

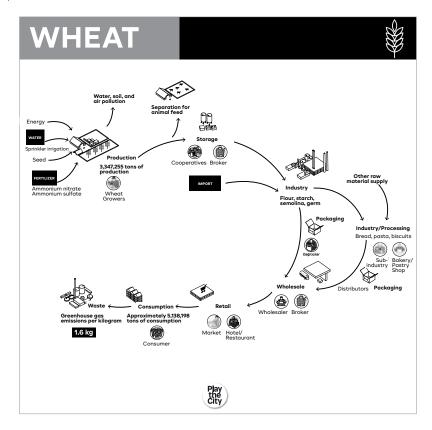
The Thrace Region is one of Türkiye's important agricultural basins, known for its fertile agricultural lands and farming enterprises. The agriculture sector accounts for approximately 8% of the region's GDP. While the agricultural output per capita in Türkiye is \$565, in the Thrace Region, this figure is around \$790. The average farm size in the region is 70.7 decares, which is above the national average. The share of enterprises with land holdings of 50 decares or more in the total number of enterprises is 63%. The region hosts 932,600 hectares of cultivated agricultural land, accounting for 4% of Türkiye's agricultural areas. Approximately 97% of agricultural land is used for grain cultivation, while the remaining 3% is dedicated to fruit and vegetable production (Edirne, Kırklareli, Tekirdağ Agriculture and Rural Development Sector, n.d.) According to 2012 TÜİK data, 79% of the region's agricultural production value comes from plant production, while 21% comes from animal production (Thrace Development Agency, 2017). The region supplies approximately 11% of Türkiye's wheat production, 45% of sunflower production, 47% of rice production, and about 54% of canola production.



• Istanbul Region

Home to 16 million residents, Istanbul is not only the largest city in the Marmara Region but also the most populous in Türkiye, responsible for about one-third of the country's total food consumption. In 2018, Istanbul's share of Gross Domestic Product was 31%, with agriculture contributing 0.13%. However, from 2004 to 2017, the real value of agricultural production in Istanbul declined by an average of 17%. According to 2018 data, the proportion of those employed in agriculture within the total workforce in Istanbul is 1.2%. In other words, among the 5.9 million people employed in Istanbul, 70,000 work in the agriculture sector. Additionally, according to the Farmer Registry System, of the 2.1 million registered producers, 4,158 reside in Istanbul, and 0.13% of the total land area registered in the system is in Istanbul.

Between 1996 and 2018, cultivable agricultural land in Istanbul decreased by 47,000 hectares. According to 2018 data, the cultivated agricultural land in Istanbul corresponds to 0.3% of Türkiye's total agricultural land and 13.2% of Istanbul's land area (Greenpeace, 2019).



Game Sessions

The players consist of experts involved in various stages of the food supply chain in the Marmara Region, participants from MARUF, and relevant officials from local governments. A total of five sessions were held, including the Mayors' Session on the first day with the participation of Tahir Büyükakın, President of the Marmara Municipalities Union, and Hasan Akgün, Mayor of Büyükçekmece.

NOTES FROM MAYORS' SPECIAL SESSION

In the Mayors' Special Session of Play Marmara Food, the environmental, social, and economic dimensions of the food system were evaluated along with existing problems, proposed solutions, and the approaches of cities in the Marmara Region. Key points that were highlighted included:

- It was emphasized that cities' data sets related to the food system play a crucial role
 in urban planning, food security, environmental safety, and sustainability. It was noted
 that these data significantly contribute to understanding agricultural areas in the city,
 food production and processing facilities, distribution networks, and consumption habits, indicating the potential for providing reliable and comprehensive information about
 the city's food system.
- The integration of the agriculture and tourism sectors was emphasized in the context of urban food strategies, and the idea of providing incentives such as zoning and building regulations to support ecotourism enterprises was put forward.
- The effective use of industry 4.0 systems for the sustainability of food exports and strategies for the sustainable production of bioenergy, waste management, and the sustainable use of energy resources were emphasized.
- Attention was drawn to the significance of R&D activities in alternative farming methods and soil-less agriculture, with mechanization support noted as a key measure to boost agricultural competitiveness in rural areas.
- It was noted that the Covid-19 pandemic has shifted perspectives on soil and the environment, and the significance of clean air, clean food, and clean soil was stressed.
- While drawing attention to the increasing demand for urban gardens, the need for
 effective planning and management strategies to minimize the negative impacts of
 urban development on agricultural lands was noted.
- Finally, the potential of a digitally integrated electronic market system in fruit and vegetable wholesale markets for providing effective management in food trade was highlighted.

NOTES FROM EXPERTS' SESSION - I

In this session, the game was played across four sub-regions (Thrace, Istanbul, South Marmara, and East Marmara) with the participation of various experts connected to the food system in different ways. In these regions, the teams respectively identified sunflower, wheat, tomato, and strawberry as products in the supply chain.

HIGHLIGHTED STRATEGIES / PROJECT PROPOSALS

TR21 THRACE

During the game, the Thrace Group identified the following strategies based on the sunflower product:

- Increasing soil fertility through an Organic Fertilizer strategy.
- Strengthening regional food trade with a Food Networks strategy.
- Coordinating regional food policies and supporting sustainable agriculture by establishing a Food Policy Council.
- Protecting agricultural lands in urban planning and promoting urban agriculture through Urban Agriculture and Zoning Regulation strategy.
- Supporting cooperative models for young farmers through a Young Farmers Cooperative
 Support strategy to empower the new generation of entrepreneurs in the agricultural sector.

These strategies aim to enhance the sustainability and economic development of regional agriculture through the Thrace Group's sunflower product-focused strategic planning.

TR10 ISTANBUL

During the game, the Istanbul Group identified the following strategies based on the wheat product:

- Increasing efficiency at every stage of the supply chain through smart logistics.
- Enhancing food production in urban areas and facilitating individual participation in food production processes through urban farming.
- Raising awareness of nutrition through food literacy initiatives.
- Ensuring the city occupies an effective position in the global economy through international trade networks and a global city mission.

These strategies reflect the Istanbul Group's aim to be an active player not only locally but also on a global scale.

TR22 SOUTH MARMARA

During the game, the South Marmara Group identified the following strategies based on the olive product:

- Combating food waste through a national waste strategy.
- Prioritizing the production of drought-resistant crops.
- Supporting the local economy and increasing community welfare through Local Seed Incentive Packages.
- Developing an effective distribution system through Regional Food Supply Network Regulations.
 With these strategies, South Marmara not only aims to ensure food security but also presents a vision that supports economic and environmental sustainability.

TR42 EAST MARMARA

During the game, the East Marmara Group identified the following strategies based on the strawberry product:

- Promoting innovation in strawberry production and supporting new participants in the sector through a Food Incubation Center strategy.
- Strengthening regional collaborations through an Agricultural Cooperative strategy to ensure the effective distribution of agricultural products.
- Managing the supply chain more sustainably and transparently through a strategy that utilizes Blockchain for Food Waste Monitoring and Data Analysis.

These strategies aim to modernize regional agriculture and enhance the efficient management of food systems through the East Marmara Group's strawberry-focused strategic planning.

PARTNERSHIPS

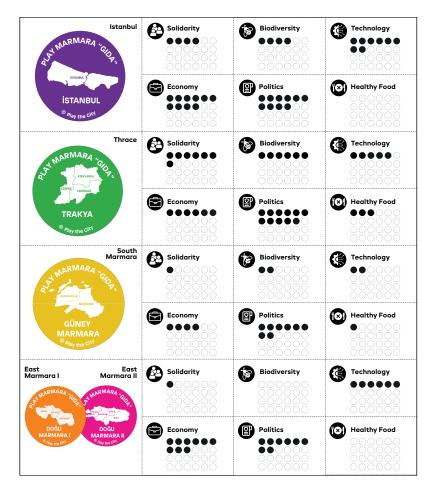
Meanwhile, strategic partnerships formed between different regions foster collaboration across multiple sectors:

- The cooperation between Istanbul and East Marmara regarding the incubation center aims to support innovation in the food sector and promote local economic development. This collaboration reflects a strategy to effectively evaluate regional resources and support new initiatives in the food industry.
- The clustering partnership established by East Marmara with Istanbul aims to create a more effective production and marketing strategy by consolidating regional strengths.
- Istanbul's collaboration with South Marmara focuses on the development of drought-resistant seeds, aiming to make a joint effort in combating climate change.
- The blockchain technology partnership between Thrace and East Marmara aims to create a more secure and transparent trade network by combining the strengths of these two regions in the field of information technology.

The goal of these partnerships is to achieve success by establishing a strong network of solidarity and cooperation among regions.

SCORES

In the Play Marmara Food Game, the strategies chosen by the players are scored under six main categories: Solidarity, Biodiversity, Technology, Economy, Policy, and Healthy Food. Each proposed strategy contributes to these categories in varying degrees.



SESSION EVALUATION

In the Play Marmara Food game, the products chosen by the groups from Istanbul, Thrace, South Marmara, and East Marmara, along with their scores, reveal the priorities and strategies of each region.

Looking at the strategic priorities of the Istanbul group, it is evident that they have placed a significant emphasis on strategies related to the economy and politics. With their strategies based on technology, they reflect an embrace of modern agricultural practices. While there was a moderate interest in solidarity and biodiversity, no strategies were developed concerning healthy food. In summary, the Istanbul group was primarily focused on economic and political advantages, embraced technological advancements, but did not adequately concentrate on environmental and healthy food issues.

The Thrace group selected sunflower as their product and focused on strategies that are based on solidarity and politics. Their strategies focusing on biodiversity reflect their intention to enhance agricultural diversity. It is observed that the Thrace group emphasized solidarity and political cooperation, while placing less focus on technological innovation and economic sustainability.

The South Marmara group chose olives as their product and primarily developed strategies in the field of politics. Strategies related to solidarity, biodiversity, healthy food, and technology were given less consideration.

The East Marmara group, chosing strawberries as their product, focused on strategies based on economy and politics. The high economic score indicates that their strategies capitalized on the high added value of strawberries. While the East Marmara group developed strong strategies in the fields of economy and politics, they did not prioritize issues such as solidarity, biodiversity, or healthy food.

When evaluating the decisions made by the groups, politics -oriented strategies emerged as a prominent focus for all groups, with the Thrace group taking the lead in developing the most strategies in this area. While both the Istanbul and East Marmara groups placed great emphasis on economy- and politics-driven strategies, they overlooked issues related to healthy food and biodiversity. The Thrace group stood out by giving more attention to solidarity and biodiversity, showing strong efforts in community-supported agriculture and promoting diversity, though they paid less attention to strategies around technological innovations and economic sustainability. Meanwhile, the South Marmara group, developed strategies across multiple fields, rather than concentrating solely on one area.

NOTES FROM EXPERTS' SESSION - II

In this session, the game was played across five sub-regions (Thrace, South Marmara, Istanbul, East Marmara I, and East Marmara II) with the participation of various experts connected to the food system in different ways. In these regions, the teams respectively identified sunflower, olive, wheat, peach, strawberry, and tomato as products in the supply chain.

HIGHLIGHTED STRATEGIES / PROJECT PROPOSALS

TR21 THRACE

During the game, the Thrace Group identified the following strategies based on the sunflower product:

- Promoting, preserving, and marketing local and unique food products through the Special Food Products Gastronomy Focus Area strategy.
- Manage logistics and supply chain operations more efficiently, sustainably, and with integration into digital technologies through the Smart Logistic Village strategy.
- Turning food waste into livestock feed strategy, intended to reduce food waste, lower animal feeding costs, and support the circular economy.

These strategies aim to modernize regional agriculture and manage food systems more efficiently and sustainably through the Thrace Group's sunflower-focused strategic planning.

TR22 SOUTH MARMARA

During the game, the South Marmara Group identified the following strategies based on the olive product:

- Optimizing local food production and distribution through regional food supply network regulations to strengthen the supply chain.
- Using blockchain technology to monitor food supply chain waste in a transparent and reliable way, and using data analysis to minimize waste and increase efficiency.
- Turning organic waste into compost to be used in food production.

With these strategies, the South Marmara group aims to make olive production sustainable, enhance supply chain efficiency, and minimize environmental impact.

TR10 ISTANBUL

During the game, the Istanbul Group identified the following strategies based on the wheat product:

- Using organic waste for biogas production through anaerobic fermentation.
- Utilizing energy generated from public buildings, market spaces, and rooftops for cold chain logistics.
- Prioritizing fast-growing crops in agricultural food parks and organizing fairs within these parks.
- Creating specialized Food Waste Recycling Zones where food waste is collected, sorted, and processed.

With these strategies, the İstanbul group aims to offer innovative and sustainable solutions in wheat production, enhance energy efficiency, and ensure the effective management of food waste.

EAST MARMARA-II:

During the game, the East Marmara-II Group identified the following strategies based on the wheat product:

- Encouraging agricultural activities through Urban Agriculture Zoning Regulation Amendments, supporting urban agriculture, protecting agricultural lands, promoting sustainable urbanization, and increasing local food production.
- Establishing Online Farmers' Markets to allow farmers to sell their products directly to
 consumers, reducing intermediaries, supporting local products, increasing access to
 fresh and healthy food, utilizing digital technology in the agricultural sector, and enhancing marketing efficiency.
- Strengthening regional food trade with the Food Networks strategy.

With these strategies, the East Marmara-II group aims to make strawberry production and distribution more efficient, support local agriculture and economy, and develop innovative solutions in the agricultural sector by utilizing digital technologies.

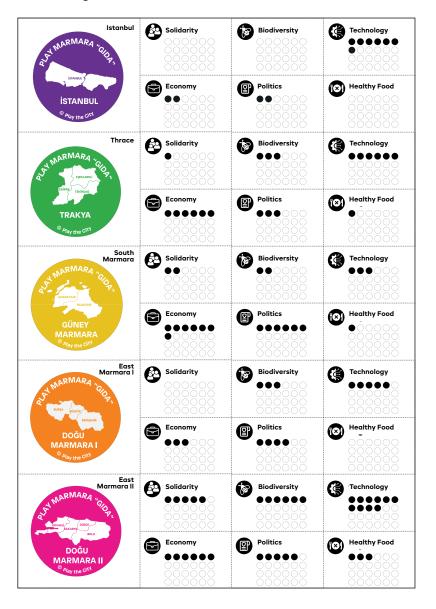
PARTNERSHIPS

Strategic partnerships formed between different regions foster collaboration across multiple sectors:

- The partnership between Thrace and Istanbul under the Smart Logistics Village project aims to facilitate the transportation of staple foods such as wheat and sunflower. The focus is on improving logistics processes for these high-volume products.
- Two separate partnerships have been established between Thrace and South Marmara.
 First, a gastronomic focus area has been designated in the Thrace region for special food products, identifying an area of collaboration with South Marmara due to its rich product diversity. Second, a partnership has been formed for the use of sunflower production waste as animal feed, with a decision made to utilize this waste in South Marmara's livestock activities.
- Another partnership between Istanbul and Thrace focuses on the Smart Logistics Village strategy. This partnership aims to increase supply chain efficiency, optimize logistics processes, reduce costs through increased use of technology, and support environmental sustainability.
- A partnership has been established between Istanbul and East Marmara-II focused on a biogas production strategy. This partnership aims to convert organic waste into energy, contribute to sustainable energy sources, improve waste management, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, support environmental sustainability, and promote the use of renewable energy.
- Two partnerships have been formed between East Marmara I and East Marmara II concerning the use of organic fertilizers and optimization of irrigation times. The partnership on irrigation optimization aims to manage water usage on agricultural land more efficiently by optimizing irrigation times through technology (e.g., sensors, automated irrigation systems) and data analysis. The partnership on organic fertilizer use promotes the use of organic fertilizers derived from natural resources instead of chemical fertilizers, aiming to improve soil health, reduce environmental impact, and support sustainable agriculture.

SCOREBOARD

In this session of the Play Marmara Food game, the products selected and the scores achieved by the groups from Thrace, South Marmara, Istanbul, East Marmara I, and East Marmara II reveal the areas each region prioritized and how they shaped their strategies.



SESSION EVALUATION

When examining the strategic priorities of the Istanbul group, it becomes evident that the highest emphasis was placed on technology-focused strategies. These strategies indicate that they have adopted modern agricultural practices. The strategies concerning the economy and policies show that these areas received less attention, implying that maximizing economic returns and political support was of secondary concern. Their lack of any points in solidarity, healthy food, and biodiversity suggests that they overlooked social cohesion, environmental diversity, and healthy food production.

The Thrace group has prioritized strategies that are focused on technology and economy. This indicates that they have adopted modern agricultural practices and are striving to optimize economic returns In summary, it can be understood that the Thrace group aims to support sunflower production by emphasizing technology and economics, but has shown less interest in politics, biodiversity, solidarity, and healthy food issues.

On the other hand, the South Marmara group, which selected olive as their product, has focused on strategies related to economic and political regulations. These strategies are followed by those concerning technology, solidarity, and biodiversity. In summary, it can be understood that the South Marmara group aims to support olive production by focusing on economic and political advantages, but places less importance on technology, solidarity, biodiversity, and healthy food issues.

The East Marmara-I group's prominent strategies in technology and politics indicate a need for modern agricultural practices and regulatory frameworks. Their focus appears to be supporting peach production by focusing on technology and political strategies, yet they seem to overlook developing strategies for solidarity and healthy food, while maintaining a limited focus on biodiversity and economics.

In contrast, the East Marmara-II group, which has chosen strawberries as their product, stands out due to the emphasis they place on technology. These strategies suggest that they are heavily adopting modern agricultural practices and digital solutions. On the other hand, strategies related to biodiversity and economics indicate their aim to optimize environmental sustainability and economic returns. In summary, the East Marmara-II group aims to support strawberry production by prioritizing technology and biodiversity, while also pursuing a balanced strategy in economics, solidarity, and politics. However, it is evident that they place less importance on healthy food issues.

Overall, technology was at the forefront of strategies, with a particular emphasis on high technology usage and modern agricultural techniques for products like strawberries and wheat. Economic and political regulations also emerged as important strategies across various regions, highlighting economic efficiency and politics regulations for products such as olives and sunflowers. On the other hand, issues of solidarity, biodiversity, and healthy food were generally given low priority. Most regions did not devote adequate attention to these areas, resulting in social cohesion and environmental sustainability being pushed to the background. Strategies have been tailored to meet the specific needs of each product. For example, perishable items like strawberries and peaches require a heightened focus on technology and environmental sustainability, while strategic products like wheat prioritize production efficiency. This indicates that strategies prioritize certain areas based on the characteristics of the products, often neglecting other issues.

Conclusion

The Marmara Region holds significant strategic importance as one of Türkiye's economic and agricultural centers. Its economic strength and high population density are key factors that influence the diversity of the food supply chain and agricultural strategies. The outcomes of the game illustrate how this dynamic structure reflects in strategic approaches and aligns with global trends.

Overall, the region's strategies have predominantly revolved around technology and economics. The emphasis different regions place on technology supports the adoption of modern agricultural methods and digital solutions, while economic strategies aim to enhance regional efficiency and competitiveness. However, it is clear that these strategies fall short in adequately addressing environmental and social dimensions.

Politics and solidarity issues hold significant importance, particularly in the Thrace and South Marmara regions. These strategies are essential for strengthening agricultural policies and promoting community-supported agriculture practices. It is crucial that the Marmara Region to focus more on these areas, as they are crucial for adapting to the social dimensions of global food systems.

Meanwhile, environmental sustainability and healthy food production are gaining increasing importance worldwide. In the Marmara Region, these topics stand out as areas that receive less attention in current strategies. Climate change, rising water stress, and environmental impacts are leading to productivity losses in agricultural production. As global trends prioritize environmental sustainability and healthy food production, it is essential to strengthen regional strategies in these areas as well.

In conclusion, it is important to develop regional strategies in the Marmara Region in a balanced manner across areas, addressing economic competitiveness, environmental sustainability, social cohesion, and healthy food production. This approach will contribute to establishing a more sustainable and comprehensive food system in the Marmara Region at both local and global levels.

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SHOWCASES

Solution Maze

As the MMU and MARUF teams, we believe that "learning from one another" is the most effective method in urban and local governance studies. This belief guides our work, including the Mentor Program, which stands out as a prime example of this approach. At MARUF23, this approach manifested in our Showcases, which were designed to facilitate knowledge exchange among local governments, researchers conducting their doctoral theses in urban studies, private sector organizations developing solutions for more livable cities, and startups creating their own innovative solutions. In line with these goals, we organized the Good Practice Showcase, PhD Showcase, Start-up Showcase, MARUF on the Go Showcase, and Booth Showcase, all of which were selected through an application and evaluation process. These showcases, held in the Solution Maze, showcased the products of urban thinkers and practitioners from various sectors and fields, offering them to MARUF23 participants.



SHOWCASES

Good Practice Showcase



90 min

In the Social Focus session, we listened to presentations of successful practices that focus on solving social issues, particularly those aimed at empowering vulnerable communities such as migrants, fostering social cohesion, and addressing childhood and youth issues.

In the Environmental Focus session, we highlighted projects contributing to climate action, adopting climate-friendly waste management practices, and developing social entrepreneurship initiatives to raise awareness and literacy about the climate crisis among urban residents. This section also included projects producing artificial reefs and protecting aquatic life, ecosystems, and biodiversity.

The Spatial Focus session featured projects that transformed urban spaces into pedestrianand child-friendly public areas, promoted cycling within cities, centered on the slow city model, and effectively spatialized social service applications for disadvantaged communities. We also included presentations of projects that applied urban design with a participatory design model at its core and prioritized the establishment of robust pedestrian infrastructure.

In the Innovative Focus session, we looked at projects that actively use digital tools and technology to address crises facing cities and communities, with a particular emphasis on mobile applications and social innovation.

Social Focus



iii 4 October 2023 | 🕔 11.30-12.30





★ Moderator

Büşra Yılmaz, Urban Policy Expert & Sociologist, Marmara Municipalities Union

PRACTICES PRESENTED IN THE SHOWCASE:

- **EPIC (The European Platform of Integrating Cities)**
 - 🌷 Speaker: Mariaelisa Aloi, Event Manager, ALDA
- Atölye Nilüfer
 - 🤚 Speaker: Gülşah Ayzit, Strategy Department Manager, Nilufer Municipality
- #CircularCityChallenge
 - Speaker: Özlemnur Ataol, Dr., Maastricht University
- Kaizen Akademi
 - Speaker: Naz Uzuner, Project Coordinator, Ataşehir Municipality
- Evde Çocuk Gelişim Desteği Hizmeti
 - 🌷 Speaker: Pınar Gürpınar, Child Development Specialist, Beykoz Municipality
- Fikrimiz Adana
 - 🜷 Speaker: Alper Çalapkulu, Founder, Videa

Innovative Focus

PRACTICES PRESENTED IN THE SHOWCASE:

- BAYKOCA REGA (Rehber Elektrikli Gezi Aracı)
 - Speaker: Mehmed Akif Aslan, Expert Instructor, Inegol Municipality
- Yenilikçi Bir Sosyal Yardım Aracı: Bizim Esnaf Mobil Uygulama Projesi
 - Speaker: Murat Karaca, PhD., İnternal Auditor, Bahçelievler Municipality
- Kadınız Biz Mobil Uygulaması
 - Speaker: Nefise Ateş Demir, The Manager of Family, Women and Child Department, Bursa Metropolitan Municipality
- Sosyal İnovasyon Ekosistemi Geliştirme Programı
 - 🌷 Speaker: Elif Büşra Öztürk, Social Solution Unit Manager, Social Innovation Agency
- Stratejik Karar Destek Sistemleri
 - 🜷 Speaker: Meryem Çağış, MSc City Planner, Fatih Municipality
 - Jegeaker: Kübra Kaygısız, Urban Planner, Fatih Municipality
- Sürdürülebilirlik ve İnovasyon Merkezi ve Gönüllü Katılım Platformu
 - Speaker: Filiz Basmacı, Research and Development Manager, Buca Municipality
- Hizmet Kalitesi Yönetim Modeli (HKYM) & İnteraktif Proje Etkinlik Karnesi (İ.P.E.K.)
 - Speaker: Serbay Öztürk, Director of Strategic Development, Bağcılar Municipality

Environmental Focus



PRACTICES PRESENTED IN THE SHOWCASE:

- İzmit Körfezi Balıklandırma Projesi
 - Speaker: Meriç Deniz, Environmental Protection and Climate Change Branch Manager, Kocaeli Metropolitan Municipality
- Önder Kadın Çiftçilerle Tarlada Sıfır Atık
 - Speaker: Goncagül Gültekin Özbayram, Sociologist, Project Expert, Balıkesir Metropolitan Municipality
- Karadenizde Pedal Çevirelim | Let's Cycle at the Black Sea
 - 🌷 Speaker: Veysel Çıplak, Strategy Development Department, Sakarya Metropolitan Municipality
- Avcılar Yeşil Dönüşüm Üçlemesi: AVÇİM, Ekolojik Park ve Ekobil
 - 🌷 Speaker: Işılay Beste Bayrak, Landscape Architect / Perma Culture Unit Director, Avcılar Municipality
- Rota Optimizasyon Projesi
 - Jeseker: Başak Kılıç, IT Manager, Büyükçekmece Municipality (Presented by GIS Expert Yasin Türk)
- Doğa Kart
 - Speaker: Fatih Yüksel, Climate Change and Zero Waste Manager, Sancaktepe Municipality

Spatial Focus

5 October 2023 | **1** 16.00 – 17.00

★ Moderator

Hatice Kübra Baştuğ, Training and Projects Expert, Marmara Municipalities Union

PRACTICES PRESENTED IN THE SHOWCASE:

- Gebze Çocuk Dostu Sokak Dönüşüm Projesi
 - Speaker: Beyza Günaydın, Urban Planner, Gebze Municipality
- Otizm Spor ve Yaşam Evi
 - 🌷 Speaker: Yasemin Gözkonan Kahveci, Social Support Services Manager, İzmit Municipality
- Burhaniye İlçesi Ali Çetinkaya Caddesi Yayalaştırma Projesi
 - Jege Speaker: Müge Evren, Architect, Burhaniye Municipality
- **Bisiklet Tamir Noktaları**
 - Speaker: Erhan Akcan, Youth and Sports Services Manager, Esenler Municipality
- Cittaslow Metropol Projesi Sakin Mahalle Programı
 - 🌷 Speaker: Kamuran Bülent Köstem, Sociologist / Project Coordinator, İzmir Metropolitan Municipality
- Tuzla Yaşam Vadisi Etkileşimli Alan Uygulaması
 - Speaker: Hazal Akova, Urban Planner, Istanbul Metropolitan Municipality
- Burada Birlikte Katılımcı Tasarım Modeli
 - 🌷 Speaker: Gökçer Okumuş, Dr., Public Design Office Coordinator, Istanbul Planning Agency

SHOWCASES

PhD Showcase



🚞 4 October 2023 | 🕔 16.00 – 17.00 | 🕜 60 min





★ Moderator

Büşra Yılmaz, Urban Policy Expert & Sociologist, Marmara Municipalities Union

Q Jury Member

Antonella Contin, Assist. Prof., Politecnico di Milano Burak Pak, Assoc.Prof, Altering Practices for Urban Inclusion U.A

Ela Babalık, Prof. Dr., Middle East Technical University Fatih Terzi, Prof. Dr., Istanbul Technical University Geoffrey Payne, Housing and Urban Development Consultant, GPA

Hasan Akgün, Mayor, Büyükçekmece Municipality

Kelmend Zajazi, Executive Director, NALAS Nihal Eminoğlu, Asst. Prof., Çanakkale 18 Mart University

Özlemnur Ataol, Dr., Maastricht University

Researchers pursuing their doctoral studies in the fields of urbanization and environment, competed by presenting their dissertations to the jury in 3 minutes, aiming to impress the jury with their most effective delivery. Among the 14 researchers who have not yet completed their dissertations but have made significant progress, the presentation that received the highest votes from the jury was awarded 25,000 TL, while two other presentations were honored with 10.000 TL each as honorable mentions.

THE RESEARCHERS WHO PRESENTED AT THE PHD SHOWCASE AND THEIR RESEARCH **TOPICS ARE AS FOLLOWS:**

- Aygün Karlı, Hacettepe University
 - Marine Environmental Policy and Climate Crisis: Comparative Analysis of Turkey, European Union and United States of America
- Büşra Eser, Kadir Has University

Falafel and Hummus Restaurants in Istanbul: Possibility of a Cosmopolitan Canopy

First Place PhD Candidate:

- Güzide Miray Perihanoğlu, Istanbul Technical University
 - Investigation of the Current and Post-Earthquake Signal Path Loss Conditions of Base Stations with Spatial and Machine Learning Methods and Application Development
- Meltem Yağcıoğlu, Gebze Technical University

Application of the QUAL2K Model with Different Scenarios for Water Quality Management In Dilderesi (Dilovasi/Kocaeli) Drainage Area

Merve Güroğlu Ağdaş, Yildiz Technical University

Rethinking the Concept of Livable City Within the Framework of Social Sustainability: An Evaluation in the Case of Luleburgaz City

PhD Candidate Awarded Honorable Mention:

Müzeyyen Sağıroglu, Middle East Technical University

The Capabilities Approach to the Quality of Urban Life of Women Living in Urban Neighborhoods: Measuring the Intra-Urban Disparities in the City of Amasya

PhD Candidate Awarded Honorable Mention:

• Özge Öğüt, Politecnico di Milano University

Multidimensional examination of vertical green structures in a changing urban environment

• Pelin Gunay, Ozyegin University

Design of urban seats as 'triangulation elements' in encouraging citizens towards social interaction

• Serim Dinç, Istanbul Technical University

City-region Food Systems Planning and Governance in the Age of Crises: The Case of Istanbul Metropolitan Area

• Süleyman Adahi Şahin, Sakarya University of Applied Sciences

A Systematic Approach to Assessing the Integration of Entry Points into Cities with Public Transport: Determination of Public Transport Integration Score (TTES)

• Zeynep Özen Aslan, Okan University

Elderly persons' assessment and expectations on local government health services: the case of Kadıköy

SHOWCASES

Start-up Showcase



90 min

Innovation in Urban Mobility



🚃 4 October 2023 🛾 I



14.00-15.30



★ Moderator

Ceren Çakır, Knowledge Miner, Strategy, Fark Labs İnovasyon A.Ş

In this session, organized by EIT Urban Mobility RIS Hub Türkiye, innovative startups showcased their practices in various fields, ranging from electric vehicles to micro-mobility, from mobility optimization to safe transportation for children, and passenger transportation to water transportation.

ENTREPRENEURS WHO PARTICIPATED IN THE EVENT:

- Esra Korkmaz, Voltla
- **Sarp Tardu Orduhan,** Vita (Kodnova)
- Altay Bozkurt, Parkera
- Sevim Örs Sutüven, Kidu
- Semih Dilsiz, GreenMile
- Yasemin Bayar, EvBee
- Murat Çetiner, Electroop
- izem Dişlitaş, Bygee
- Burak Karataş, Bybike
- Ataberk Şuekinci, Sutech
- Çetin Kosifoğlu, Newky
- Tayfun Selamoğlu, Merlyn
- Tuğçe İşık, Parabol

Open Door - Meeting with the Business World



🚃 5 October 2023 🛾 I



14.00-15.30



★ Moderator

Büşra İnce, Urban Policy Expert, Marmara Municipality Union



Speakers

Ahmet Kerim Nalbant, Incubation Center Manager, Teknopark Istanbul

Samet Keskin, Director of Data and Technology Center, Marmara Municipalities Union

FutureCity, established through a collaboration between the Marmara Municipalities Union Data and Technology Center, Teknopark Istanbul, and Cube Incubation, was designed to better identify the problems faced by local governments and enable entrepreneurs to develop

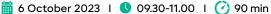
various solutions and products to address these issues. During the launch event, representatives from partner institutions shared the process of establishing and operating FutureCity. At the end of the session, professionals from the business world and local governments were introduced to products and solutions developed by start-ups operating within Cube Incubation.

ENTREPRENEURS WHO PARTICIPATED IN THE EVENT:

- Sedat Mança, Co-founder, Arventek
- Gülhan Akgül, Co-founder, ArVis
- Onur Özmen, Founder, Hydrolyx
- Hümeyra Ergin, Founder, Lightway
- Çetin Kosifoğlu, Founder, Newky
- İsmail Şahin, Founder, Renlob
- Esma Saltık Çiçek, Founder, Solis Teknoloji
- Alperen Savaş, Co-founder, Spatium
 - Burak Şükrü Çetinkaya, Founder, Quark Optical

SHOWCASES

MARUF on the Go Showcase







Halenur Dönmez, Training and Project Expert,

Marmara Municipality Union

PRESENTED EVENTS AND SPEAKERS:

- Afet Dayanıklılığında Yerel Yönetimlerin Rolü ve Sivil Katılım Atölyeleri Orkun Doğan, Project Coordinator, Citizens Assembly
- Buluşma Duvarı: İstanbul Kara Surları Çevresinde Kamusal Alanı Yeniden Düşünmek Seher Kalender Çetinkaya, Assist. Prof. Dr., Fatih Sultan Mehmet Foundation University
- Caferağa Aktif Ulaşım Planlaması Çalıştayları

Mert Yaman, City Planner, Project Manager / Kadıköy Municipality Directorate of Strategy Development and External Relations

- Ekolojik Temelli Alternatif Eğitim Çalışmaları Atölyesi
 - Zozan Cengiz, Ecological Education Children's Park Coordinator, Availar Municipality
- Katılımcı Demokrasi için Gençlik Koridoru
 - Halil Ecer, dent, Capital City Youth Assembly
- Kentsel Peyzajı Soğutma: Yarının Kentsel Isi Sorunlarını Tartışmak

Merve Özhan, Mobility Oriented Architect and Urban Designer, Co-Facilitator- Global Walkability Correspondents Network (GWCN)

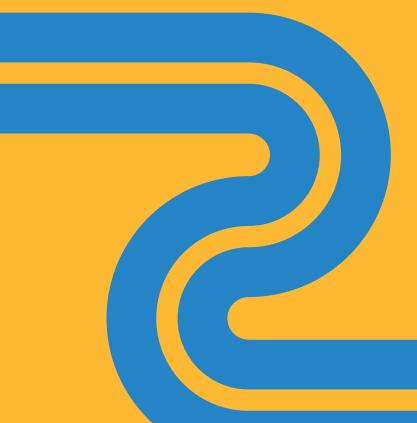
- Kırsaldan Kente Tasarım: Tarımsal Atıkların Yerelde Dönüşümü
 - Esen Gökçe Özdamar, Prof. Dr., Faculty Member, Tekirdağ Namık Kemal University Okşan Tandoğan, Assoc. Dr., Faculty Member, Tekirdağ Namık Kemal University
- Senaryo Geliştirme Yöntemi ile Denizin Yükseldiği Kıyı ve Yaşam Alanlarını Yeniden Düşünmek: Tuzla 2100 Bahar Aksel, ssoc.Dr., Faculty Member, Mimar Sinan Fine Arts University Urban Design Application and Research Centre (MSGSU KENTTAM)
- **SWW Sport Without Waste**

Feridun Ekmekci, President of Association, ENVERÇEVKO Association

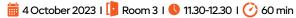




Special sessions cover a broad range of topics, from green transformation and digitization to climate action, urban financing, cultural heritage, child-friendly cities, migration, and women's leadership, all within the context of resilience and anti-fragility. These sessions not only open up conceptual discussions on various aspects of urban resilience but also present good practices and solution proposals. Here, each session, organized with the participation leading experts in their respective areas, is summarized to highlight the core concepts, approaches, and solutions discussed.



Resilient is the New Smart: **Practices in Smart Cities**





★ Moderator

Akın Kısa, Dr., Deputy General Manager of Geographic Information Systems, Ministry of Environment, Urbanization and Climate Change

Speakers

Cüneyt Taşkesen, Head of Smart Urbanization and Innovation Department, Bursa Metropolitan Municipality

Dursun Yıldırım Bayar, Head of Department of Smart Cities, Ministry of Environment, Urbanization and Climate Change

Bestami Kara, Manager, Department of Smart Cities, Ministry of Environment, Urbanization and Climate Change

Smart city applications and solutions offer a wide range of opportunities for urban dwellers. Today, our cities are experiencing severer and more disasters, where solutions and practices for resilience are becoming increasingly prominent. Within this session, various studies and good practices carried out on the axis of smart cities and resilience, with the participation of representatives from central and local governments, were shared. The key points and proposed solutions highlighted in the session can be summarized as follows:

- National and regional public institutions and local governments should collaborate to create livable and smart cities.
- The smart city index and urban quality of life index should be developed in a complementary manner. Smart cities should aim to enhance citizens' life satisfaction through a

human-centered approach. Citizens must be informed about the concept of smart cities.

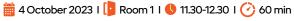
- Digital twins can be used to make urban planning processes more efficient during city transformations. Local governments in Türkiye can benefit from three-dimensional digital twins created by the Ministry of Environment, Urbanization, and Climate Change.
- As with international indicators, sustainability and resilience standards for cities should be addressed together and be part of smart city indicators.
- Smart cities should be built on geographic data infrastructure. Actions taken under the 2020-2023 National Smart Cities Strategy and Action Plan, which aims to establish an effective smart city ecosystem in Türkiye, should be disseminated across all cities nationwide.
- Local governments should leverage local data platforms, legislative frameworks, financial resources, good practice examples, and guidelines provided by the Ministry. To ensure effective data consolidation, municipalities should integrate with national-level spatial planning, urban transport, and infrastructure applications.
- Local governments should make data about their cities accessible by sharing it through open data platforms, ensuring that residents, academics, experts, and all interested parties can access it.
- The concept of smart cities, which focuses on how technology can be used to improve urban life, should be evaluated alongside the concept of resilience, which addresses how cities can become stronger against various crises and stress factors. This evaluation should lead to the development of sustainable and

#MARUF23

- future-oriented planning and governance approaches in cities. In this context, local governments should prioritize technology use, data analytics, infrastructure, transportation, and energy management.
- Local smart city strategies should be designed serve various purposes such as to support sustainable development, enhance the city's resilience to climate change, improve air quality for a sustainable environment, ensure access to food and clean water, create an inclusive and participatory governance system, and use resources efficiently and effectively.
- Within the framework of a smart environment, activities aimed at ensuring energy and water efficiency in city centers, which play a crucial role in combating climate change, can be carried out. The Climate Street Project implemented in Bursa city center can be considered a good practice example.

- By utilizing smart city technologies and establishing a shared energy management platform, cities can enhance energy efficiency, security, and resilience. Support for climate change adaptation can be achieved through environmentally friendly practices such as sustainable energy use, waste management, and water conservation.
- Developing sensor-based city monitoring projects allows for measurements of air quality, noise, building health, and flood risks in various parts of the city. This data can then be used to formulate evidence-based policies and preventive measures.
- Within the framework of smart mobility, traffic management centers can be established to control heavily trafficked intersections with smart systems. Measures taken in the field of mobility can also contribute to increasing a city's resilience to disasters and emergencies.
- Under smart space management, cities can be made more disaster-resilient by creating earthquake risk maps and emergency response maps based on geographic information systems, as well as conducting fire service accessibility analyses.

Migration, Asylum and Local **Cohesion Debates in the Framework** of National and Global Policies









M. Murat Erdoğan, Prof., Head of IGAM-Academy, Faculty of Political Sciences & Mülkiye Centre for Migration Studies, Ankara University

Speakers

Anne Güller-Frey, Coordinator, Transnational Activities, Metropolis International

İbrahim Vurgun Kavlak, General Coordinator, SGDD-ASAM

Kemal Kirişci, Prof., Senior Fellow, Brookings Institution Merve Ağca, Senior Expert, International Affairs & Migration Policy, Marmara Municipalities Union Nihal Eminoğlu, Assist. Prof., Academician, Department of International Relations, Çanakkale 18 Mart University

The issue of migration and asylum, in particular with the influence of Syrian and Ukrainian refugees, has become one of the world's most significant political and social challenges, especially in Europe. In the session that emphasized how migration, a phenomenon that has existed since the dawn of humanity, is increasing daily due to various political, economic, and environmental factors, responsibility-sharing in migration governance on a global-scale, initiatives developed by civil society and local governments in local integration processes, and collaboration models, including their limitations, were discussed. The key points and proposed solutions highlighted in the session can be summarized as follows:

- To effectively implement the three solution strategies provided to refugees by the 1951 Geneva Convention, which are 'voluntary repatriation to their country of origin', 'resettlement to a third country', and 'local integration in the host country', a decisive and cooperative attitude must be adopted on both national and international scale.
- Migration projects and funding should be tailored to local needs through accurate analysis and should aim to contribute to migration governance by bringing together academia, civil society, and local actors. The same standardized projects should not be implemented universally in every location.
- To ensure social cohesion and reduce societal tensions, access to education and employment for refugees should be increased.
- Migration should be addressed with a focus on development. Migrants should be employed in ways that support their personal development and contribute to the development of their new location, considering the human resource needs in host countries.
- For the inclusive integration of migrants into the job market, attention should be given to three stages: (1) recruitment, (2) job adaptation and orientation, and (3) ensuring the necessary conditions for continued employment within the organization and in the city/region.
 - Municipalities should play a crucial role in the employment of migrants. The individual skills of migrants, the characteristics of the institutions hiring them, and the local resources of the region should be taken into account.
- In the era of multiple crises such as COVID-19,

- earthquakes, and climate change, urban planning should consider population dynamics from both internal and external migration and be inclusive of everyone living in the city.
- Social integration should be approached through a sense of belonging to the city, and municipalities should take an active role in this regard.
- In places with migration, there should be a focus on developing coexistence models, as there is no alternative to social integration.
 To ensure coexistence, both the resilience of refugees and the resilience of the local community should be strengthened, and the local community should be supported in social integration.
- Municipal services should be customized by considering the needs of different social groups.
- Data-driven, participatory, inclusive, and comprehensive local migration policies should be developed.

- The issue of migration and social integration should be addressed not only by the Presidency of Migration Management but also through collaboration and coordination among all relevant organizations at both national and local levels, including ministries, NGOs, international organizations, academia, municipalities, ISKUR (Turkish Employment Agency), city councils, and neighborhood associations.
- The principle of 'anti-discrimination' should be expanded into a more positive discourse of 'respect for diversity' and 'intercultural interaction'. A rights-based approach, including principles like combating hate speech and prejudice, should be adopted by all stakeholders.
- Providing external trade facilitation to countries hosting a large number of refugees and ensuring that a certain percentage of the employment created is allocated to refugees for formal work can support both social integration and economic development.

Women's Leadership for Resilient Communities



Boran Ivanoski, Programme Officer, NALAS

Speakers

Emiriana Sako, Mayor, Durrës Municipality
Fatma Kaplan Hürriyet, Mayor, Izmit Municipality
Gabriela Ilievska, Chairwoman, Bitola Municipality
Ivana Stojicic, Mayor, Babušnica Municipality
Violeta Crudu, Mayor, Cruzesti Municipality

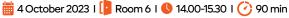
Women leaders play a crucial role in governance and decision-making processes for sustainable and resilient cities. This session, led by women leaders, addressed the construction of resilient communities and efforts to reduce inequalities, with insights from female mayors in Southeastern Europe. The key points and proposed solutions highlighted in the session can be summarized as follows:

 Considering that fewer than 600 out of the 7,000 municipalities in Southeastern Europe are led by women mayors, it is evident that women are significantly underrepresented in leadership positions within local governments.

- Women and girls are disproportionately affected by global crises such as climate change-induced disasters, shortages, droughts, fires, earthquakes, air pollution, and forced migrations. On the other hand, women are insufficiently represented in stages addressing these crises, including prevention, risk reduction, preparedness, response, recovery, strategy development, and policy making. Empowering women leaders in disaster management and building resilient communities is of utmost importance.
- Communities that are resilient are defined by not only their physical and economic resilience but also their social and cultural resilience.
 Women leadership plays a critical role in enhancing this resilience, promoting a governance approach where every community member's voice is heard, every individual's potential is recognized, and that potential is reflected in practices.
- In situations of disaster, emergency, and forced migration, it is crucial to provide customized services that address the needs of different social groups, such as women, children, migrants, and individuals with special needs, rather than offering generic solutions. Given that women's safety risks increase during such extraordinary times, services should be tailored to ensure their protection and necessary measures should be implemented. Solutions must be developed to ensure women and children have access to safe living spaces, healthcare, education, and employment.
- Local governments, relevant public institutions, and NGOs must work together to create safe living spaces for women who have experienced or are at risk of violence and to ensure the sustainability of services provided in these spaces.
- In local governments, attention should be given not only to the gender ratio of all employees but also specifically to the proportion of women in managerial positions and actions

- should be taken to address inequalities at the managerial level. Establishing quotas for mayoral and executive positions could be a method to reduce these disparities.
- Women should be supported to occupy senior positions in politics and the business world. Local governments should develop programs to promote and empower women. Awareness and capacity-building programs should be conducted to enable women to have a say, particularly in male-dominated fields.
- Local authorities should allocate specific budgets for efforts aimed at empowering women and addressing inequalities faced by women.

Antifragility and De-Risking in the Face of Climate Change **Challenges: A Collaborative Action**











Moderator

Antonella Contin, Assist. Prof., Department of Architecture and Urban Studies, Politecnico di Milano

Speakers

Carmine Pacente, Dr., Head of the Department for EU Programs and Funds and LEAR, Metropolitan City of Milan

Eda Ünlü Yücesoy, Assoc. Prof., Urban and Regional

Planning, Istanbul Technical University

Eric Huybrechts, Manager of International Affairs, Institut Paris Regio

Fioralba Vela, Assoc. Prof., Head of Business Department, University of Vlora

Hatice Kurşuncu, Deputy Coordinator of the Vision 2050 Office, Istanbul Planning Agency

Oriol Illa i Garcia, Director of International and Digital Metropolis, Barcelona Metropolitan Area

Rafael Forero, Policy, Governance and Metropolitan Expert, UN-Habitat

Valeria Fedeli, Ord. Prof., Department of Architecture and Urban Studies, Politecnico di Milano

Individuals, institutions, cities, and especially metropolises are becoming more vulnerable over the years. While many stakeholders contribute to improving the quality of life and making cities more resilient, the solutions need to go beyond resilience to ensure "anti-fragility". This session focused on "anti-fragility" solutions at the local level and metropolitan scale, highlighting the roles of municipalities and planning agencies in these

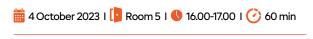
efforts and their related projects. Local actors shared their work that has had positive effects on a metropolitan scale, discussing "anti-fragile" creative solutions and strategies while emphasizing the importance of multi-layered approaches and collaboration between stakeholders. The key points and proposed solutions highlighted in the session can be summarized as follows:

- Institutions involved in urban planning and design, when developing solutions to urban vulnerabilities, may create new fragilities through limited interventions due to restricted resources and authority. Short-term, non-participatory planning and designs that lack a spatial focus, do not prioritize implementation, and fail to adopt a collaborative governance approach can impose additional burdens in terms of vulnerability.
- It is crucial to develop "anti-fragile" solution proposals and projects that go beyond resilience, connect space and society, allow collaboration with various institutions, and consider the differences between cities in terms of scale, local characteristics, inequalities, and vulnerabilities. Particularly at the level of metropolises, mega-cities, and regions, comprehensive and inclusive solutions need to be developed.
- National, regional, and local governments require access to international financing in order to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, manage their cities and regions in a collaborative, transparent, and flexible manner, and enhance their ability to adapt and respond to crises, thus becoming anti-fragile. They need to secure funding and technical ca-

- pacity to turn planning into action.
- Due to the multi-layered nature of crises like climate change, disasters, pandemics, social conflicts, and forced migration, solutions at various scales need to be addressed through collaboration between different stakeholders. Planning agencies can bring together all relevant solution partners at the regional level to implement anti-fragility solutions, creating plans that tackle resilience and inequalities from multiple angles. As key stakeholders in the ecosystem, they can leverage their expertise to help define innovative strategies and policies.
- While managing processes like green transformation and digital transformation, it is crucial
 to develop innovative and sustainable solutions without losing the focus on people and
 society, ensuring no one is left behind. By encouraging urban communities and citizens to
 participate in these processes, more inclusive
 and comprehensive anti-fragility models must
 be designed.
- Global agendas such as the 2030 Agenda and the New Urban Agenda can be implemented most effectively through the development of strategies at the regional or metropolitan

- level, coordinated with local administrations in provinces and districts. It is crucial that different levels of governance work collaboratively on a metropolitan scale, the critical role of metropolitan governance in developing anti-fragile solutions be recognized nationally and internationally, and the provision of necessary authority and resources to metropolitan administrations is ensured.
- Given that one-third of the world's population lives in metropolitan areas, the importance of metropolitan governance in reducing risks and vulnerabilities becomes even more apparent. In the context of metropolitan governance, it is vital to ensure both horizontal and vertical coordination across various fields, from waste management to water management, and from economic development to environmental protection.
- The path to developing more flexible, proactive, and innovative solutions in the face of various crises lies in proper planning and effective crisis management. Collecting data on risks before a crisis occurs, making future projections, and informing both city residents and local administrators about risk reduction measures is of critical importance.

Turning Climate Ambition into Action: Learn more about the Gap Fund



★ Moderator

Şafak Özsoy, Founder, TULIP Sustainability Centre

Speakers

Carolina Mesa, Global Technical Support, Finance and Climate Change, Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy (GCoM)

Helena Monteiro, Global Focal Point for the Gap Fund-GCOM Partnership, Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy (GCoM)

Piero Roberto Remitti, Co-managing Director, Global Secretariat, Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy (GCoM)

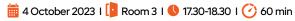
Economic stability is crucial in building cities that are resilient to climate change and sustainable. This session was designed to provide a comprehensive understanding of the City Climate Finance Gap Fund, including eligibility criteria, support sectors, and the application process. Participants were also guided through the process of submitting an Expression of Interest (EOI) for the fund. The key points and proposed solutions highlighted in the session can be summarized as follows:

- Access to climate finance for cities, which account for a large portion of emissions, significantly facilitates the achievement of national and international commitments such as the European Green Deal, the Paris Agreement, and the 2053 Net Zero Emission Target.
- The majority of international financial resources are accessed through central gov-

ernments. Expanding the availability of funds directly accessible to local governments, especially small and medium-sized municipalities, is vital for implementing local action plans and enhancing the resilience of cities. It is critical for international organizations to shift their financial approaches in this direction.

- While larger cities and capitals with more developed capacities have greater access to human and financial resources, smaller and medium-sized cities face more limited institutional capacity and access to funding. The City Climate Finance Gap Fund aims to reduce this funding gap by providing technical support to cities with relatively limited institutional capacity, helping them implement climate actions.
- Projects focused on low-carbon and climate-resilient urban development in cities from developing countries are supported by the Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy.
 - Priority is given to cities that present integrated projects in various climate action areas such as green buildings, building retrofitting, nature-based solutions, eco-friendly construction approaches, green energy, urban mobility, clean air, water and wastewater management, climate risk adaptation, risk reduction and adaptation, health, and urban greening. These cities receive support in feasibility studies, data collection, setting goals and priorities, directing investments and stakeholders, aligning with national and international climate-neutral goals, and improving institutional capacity.

Green Future and Sustainability of **Municipal Services**





★ Moderator

A. Hakan Atik, Head of Department of Project Implementation, Ministry of Foreign Affairs Directorate For EU Affairs

Speakers

Kayhan Özüm, Deputy Secretary General, Union of Municipalities of Türkiye

Orhan Ertürk, Project Leader, Town Twinning Between Türkiye and the EU

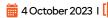
Salih Kumbar, Deputy Mayor, Bağcılar Municipality Yıldırım Gündüç, EU Affairs Expert, Department of Project Implementation, Directorate for EU Affairs

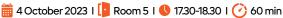
The session explored the green transformation driven by EU policies and practices following the European Green Deal and its effects on municipal services. It examined how the European Green Deal influences the policies and practices of local governments in Türkiye, how ongoing EU-funded programs and projects can be leveraged, and how municipalities are preparing for this green transition. The key points and proposed solutions highlighted in the session can be summarized as follows:

The European Green Deal, which outlines the EU's framework for environmental protection and climate change adaptation, covers a wide range of areas spanning from agriculture and energy, to transportation, culture, the environment, and smart cities. The primary goal of the Deal is the mitigation of carbon emissions. These mitigation efforts largely require the decarbonization of industry and cities.

- The decarbonization of cities is becoming mandatory in line with national commitments and the obligations outlined in international agreements and documents that countries are party to. At the same time, as citizens grow increasingly aware of environmental issues, cities are being pushed to take more serious steps in addressing environmental concerns.
- Local government associations play a supportive role in bridging the gap between local and central governments on climate action.
- Cities have the potential to be both victims and solutions to climate change. Local governments can commit to making their regions climate-neutral through the Covenant of Mayors and can develop and implement Sustainable Energy and Climate Action Plans.
- In order for municipalities to effectively implement their action plans, they need to ensure coordination among all relevant departments and foster collaboration with external stakeholders. The interdisciplinary nature of climate action, which impacts a wide range of issues, makes it insufficient for a single department or institution to take action alone.
- Achieving a green transition requires access to green and sustainable financing sources. Therefore, local governments should maximize their use of financial support provided through EU programs such as Erasmus+, Horizon Europe, Digital Europe, and IPA, as well as from international financial institutions.

Common Solutions to Urban Challenges: Cross-Border **Cooperation Programmes**







Moderator

Kubilay Sitrava, EU Affairs Expert, Cross-border Cooperation Unit, Directorate for EU Affairs, Republic of Türkiye Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Speakers

Ayşe Deniz Arıcan, EU Affairs Expert, Department of Project Implementation, Directorate for EU Affairs Ceyda Peközer, Project Manager, Bulgaria-Türkiye IPA Cross Border Programme, Directorate for EU Affairs Joint Secretariat Support Office in Edirne Umut Sasmaz, Assistant EU Affairs Expert, Department of Cross-Border Cooperation, Directorate for EU Affrairs

The session was designed to provide information on Cross-Border Cooperation Programmes, introduce available funding opportunities within these programmes, share experiences on finding joint solutions to urban problems through past projects, and raise awareness about potential areas for new project submissions. Key points from the session included:

The Bulgaria-Türkiye Cross-Border Cooperation Programme offers 100% grant funding and supports projects aimed at solving regional issues through collaboration. Involving the cities of Edirne and Kırklareli from Türkiye, the programme aims to promote cross-border cooperation aligned with green transition goals across areas such as sustainable environment, sustainable tourism, preservation of natural,

- cultural, and historical heritage, and social, environmental, and economic development. For the 2021-2027 period, a diverse group of stakeholders, ranging from public institutions and universities to for-profit organizations and civil society groups, are eligible to participate.
- The Black Sea Basin Cross-Border Cooperation Programme is designed to enhance collaboration among countries in the Black Sea Basin and to provide funding for joint projects developed at the regional scale. Including 25 provinces from Türkiye, the programme aims to promote cross-border cooperation and good governance in line with the objectives of a smarter, more competitive Europe, as well as a greener, low-carbon Europe. Projects focusing on combating climate change and natural disasters are eligible to be evaluated under this programme. Non-profit organizations such as regional branches of ministries, municipalities, civil society organizations, chambers, associations, and universities in the region can participate as stakeholders in the programme during the 2021-2027 period.
- The Black Sea Basin Cross-Border Cooperation Programme covers a wide geographical area in Türkiye, stretching from Edirne to Hatay. The programme aims to foster cross-border collaboration in areas such as research, innovation, production, energy efficiency, ecosystems, and water access, in pursuit of a smart and competitive Europe. Between 2021 and 2027, a broad range of stakeholders, from public institutions and universities to the private sector and civil society organizations, can participate in the programme.

Navigating Climate-Resilient Cities: Urban Leadership in Sustainable Development Across the Middle East



★ Moderator

Wafa Al-Daily, Dr., Director of Arabia Chapter, Virginia Tech International Metropolitan Fellowship & EHAAR

Speakers

Omar Musa Naji Amireh, Prof., Department of Architecture, University of Jordan Saja Zeadeh, Architect & Lecturer and Researcher, Arabia Chapter, International Metropolitan Fellowship

In this session, experts and professionals from Middle Eastern countries gathered to discuss the critical intersection of sustainable urban development, climate change, and effective urban leadership in the Middle East. The session focused on strategies, challenges, and innovative approaches toward sustainable urban development in the face of climate change, with an emphasis on supporting climate-resilient cities. The key points and proposed solutions highlighted in the session can be summarized as follows:

 If the concept of resilience is approached through three aspects, namely response, recovery, and transformation, climate resilience can also be approached similarly. The steps toward climate-resilient cities include the response of cities to crises caused by climate change and the meeting of basic needs, the recovery made after the shock wave passes, and the actions taken toward the transformation of the city based on the lessons learned.

- The Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region faces severe risks related to climate change. Majority of the countries in the region have limited financial capacity to respond to numerous disasters, including extreme weather events, droughts, water scarcity, food insecurity, landslides, and air pollution. Political instability and ongoing conflicts further heighten the vulnerability of cities in this region.
- It's necessary to analyze the vulnerabilities and risks unique to each region and city and to implement innovative, proactive, citizen-centric solutions that respond to the region's needs and enable collaboration among various stakeholders. Efforts should focus on "anti-fragile" approaches that go beyond resilience, aiming for cities to emerge stronger from crises.
- In the MENA region, it is crucial for local projects to address as many urban problems as possible while maintaining a focus on climate change adaptation, ensuring the efficient use of resources.
- The path to making cities resilient starts with the citizens, meaning the society. Urban leaders must raise awareness on this issue and ensure that citizens become part of the transformation process.

Rethink for Children

🚃 5 October 2023 I [Room 2 I 🕔 11.30-12.30 I 🕜 60 min

★ Moderator

Gülfem Kıraç Keleş, International Affairs Manager, Union of Municipalities of Türkiye

Speakers

Alberto Musatti, Social Policy Specialist, Europe and Central Asia Regional Office, UNICEF

Gökçen Yılmaz Tokgöz, Programme Specialist, Emergency, UNICEF

Hayriye Görkem Güner, Dr., Social Policy Officer, UNICEF

Önder Yalçın, Director of Migration Management, Gaziantep Metropolitan Municipality

Serkan Yorgancılar, Assoc. Prof., Head of Department, Women and Family Services, Ankara Metropolitan Municipality

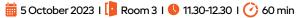
In the session discussing the importance of public funding at the local level for social services aimed at children, local governments from different cities shared good practice examples of initiatives focusing on children. The key points and proposed solutions highlighted in the session can be summarized as follows:

- Public policies must allocate dedicated funding for services aimed at children.
- Local governments need to design inclusive, child-sensitive policies and align their budgets to support these efforts.
- Child policies should be embedded into the core of local governance, coordinated by a specialized unit that works closely with all related departments.
- Participatory tools should be provided to allow children to evaluate the services of local go-

vernments and the cities they live in through their own perspectives, and to express what kind of city they envision. Children should have a say in the transformation of cities with a focus on children's rights. Establishing children's councils within city councils could be one way to achieve this.

- As part of its 5-year programme, UNICEF
 Türkiye conducts numerous joint activities in
 partnership with public institutions and civil
 society organizations to develop child-friendly
 policies at both national and local levels. Some
 areas where local governments can collaborate with UNICEF include:
 - ◆ Joint activities and capacity-building programmes for child-friendly strategic budgeting and policymaking, as well as child-centered local governance programmes.
 - ◆ Capacity building on child protection and services for at-risk children, psychosocial support and awareness-raising, and early childhood education.
 - Integrating the private sector into child-friendly initiatives, gaining support from the private sector for technical assistance and funding.
 - Providing special services for disadvantaged children, including migrant children, increasing the capacity for inclusive services during disasters and emergencies, and conducting child-centered disaster risk reduction efforts.
 - Ensuring that children benefit from rights outlined in the Convention on the Rights of the Child, such as the right to education, the right to play, and the right to grow, and the right to development.

Achieving Climate-Neutral and Resilient Cities TÜBİTAK x MARUF)











★ Moderator

Deniz Çelik Bulgurlu, Climate Neutral Cities Advisor, Cities Team, EIT Climate-KIC



Speakers

Çağrı Yıldırım, Head of EU Framework Programmes Department, TÜBİTAK

Daniel Freitas, Dr., Head of Carbon Neutrality in Porto, Porto Ambiente

Elena Simion, International Projects Expert, CapaCITIES Coordinator

Elvin Öksüz Bayazıt, Environmental Engineer, Climate Change Directorate, Istanbul Metropolitan Municipality

Ercan Türkoğlu, Dr., Chairman, İZENERJİ Fatma Tok, City Planner, Department of Climate

Change Adaptation and Local Policies, Directorate of Climate Change

Serhat Melik, Horizon Europe Programme National Contact Point for EU Missions, TÜBITAK

Tarek El Azzouzi, NetZeroCities Partnership Manager, EIT Climate-KIC

Tsvetana Stoycheva, Program Manager, Socio Economic Development, European Commission

As part of the Horizon Europe Programme, research and innovation activities are being supported within the framework of the "Climate-Neutral and Smart Cities Mission (Cities Mission)" to ensure that 100 European cities adopt and monitor green and sustainable policies to achieve climate neutrality by 2030. In this context, a session organized under the coordination of TÜBİTAK brought together local government representatives from Türkiye and Europe, all committed to the goal of

climate neutrality, to share their experiences. Information about national efforts carried out within the scope of urban climate actions were provided. The session also presented the approaches adopted by the Cities Mission within the broader context of EU climate actions and urban transition, and the significant opportunities presented through EU-supported projects. The key points and proposed solutions highlighted in the session can be summarized as follows::

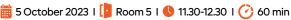
- To reduce the impacts of climate change on cities, local adaptation activities must be undertaken in addition to emission reduction efforts.
- To strengthen local climate change strategies, all cities should prepare climate action plans. These plans should include targets aimed at enhancing urban resilience and focusing on mitigation and adaptation activities. Implementation guides should be developed to detail how adaptation actions can be realized.
- Vulnerability and risk analyses related to climate change should be conducted to determine the resilience levels of cities, create climate models, and develop intervention plans.
- Good practice examples within the Cities Mission, which aims to implement at least 100 climate-neutral and smart city initiatives by 2030, can be utilized.
- All relevant stakeholders in Türkiye can access information on climate change through a "climate portal" that gathers all data and information in one place.
- Municipalities must act as catalysts in creating safe spaces for collaboration among various stakeholders in the fight against climate change and in facilitating joint actions. The Porto Climate Pact, developed by Porto, and

- the Global Climate Community, established by İzmir, serve as examples of commitments and platforms that bring all stakeholders together to work toward carbon neutrality in cities.
- When preparing sustainable energy and climate action plans, local and regional governments should address energy poverty by considering the needs of diverse socio-economic groups.
- The CapaCITIES Project supports cities from 15 European countries, including Türkiye, by enhancing their capacities to achieve climate neutrality and facilitating the exchange of knowledge and experience both among each other and with EU mission cities.
- The Driving Urban Transitions (DUT) program supports the capacity development of cities and promotes mutual learning to find innovative solutions to urban problems. It contributes to the inclusion of all urban actors, such as local governments, citizens, and urban service providers, in the transformation of cities.



Sustainability and Resilience in Megacities: Global Financial **Centers as Gateways**









Moderator

Mehmet Onur Partal, Dr., Director, Istanbul Financial Center, Presidency of the Republic of Türkiye Finance Office

Speakers

Aigul Kussaliyeva, Sustainable Development Director, Astana International Financial Centre Authority Gabriella Borda, Climate Finance and Sustainability Advisor, Finance Malta

Marco Sorge, Principal Investment Officer, International Finance Corporation

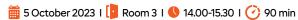
Serkan Yüksel, Dr., Head of Department, Istanbul Financial Center, Finance Office of the Presidency of Türkiye

Financial center ecosystems play a significant role in ensuring the financial sustainability of cities. In a session that provided an overall evaluation of global financial centers, managers from financial centers around the world discussed their experiences and examples of good practices from a sustainability perspective. The key points and proposed solutions highlighted in the session can be summarized as follows:

- Financial centers should act as facilitators in helping countries and cities achieve their carbon neutrality goals. They need to focus on developing investment and financing tools to support the green transition.
- Financial centers must adopt a participatory and sustainable approach that leverages technology effectively and appropriately. A structure that fosters cooperation between

- relevant organizations at both local and national levels should be established.
- To make cities more sustainable, financial centers should prepare companies and stakeholders to meet their corporate responsibilities in sustainable finance, aligning with national and international regulations.
- To boost sustainable projects in the green and blue economy sectors and create long-term value in cities, financial centers should engage with stakeholders to create an optimal ecosystem, promote sustainable finance, and attract investors who will join the sustainability
- Financial centers play a critical role in ensuring green and sustainable transformation and raising social awareness. By highlighting sustainable and green bonds, interest rates should be lowered if key performance metrics, such as reducing air pollution, improving corporate governance, promoting gender equality, and achieving social or environmental governance targets, are met. At the same time, measures should be taken to prevent greenwashing.
- The large and diverse job market of major and megacities is essential for the development and growth of financial centers.
 - Financial centers provide significant benefits by attracting investors to the cities they are located in. At the same time, local governments can leverage green, sustainable, or social bonds to finance essential infrastructure projects like transportation, water, and energy.
 - Collaboration among international financial centers is crucial to implementing the sustainability agenda on a global scale.

Cities Learning from Cities: Planning and Implementing Green and Smart Urban Transitions (TÜBİTAK x MARUF)







★ Moderator

Şiir Kılkış, Assoc. Prof., Senior Researcher, The Scientific and Technological Research Council of Türkiye (TÜBITAK)

Speakers

Alejandro Gomez Gil, Energy Officer, València Clima i Energia

Marcel Pivru, Assist. Prof., Babes-Bolyai University & Head, Sports Facilities Department, Cluj-Napoca Municipality

Mathilde Chaboche, Councillor, Marseille Municipality Mauro Bigi, Dr., Coordinator, Policy Design and Research, Urban Innovation Foundation

Panagiotis Voulelis, Dr., Urban Planner, Mytilene Municipality

Vural Yıldırım, Dr., Data Scientist, Climate Change and Zero Waste Department, Eskişehir Metropolitan Municipality

Yunus Balık, Air Management Branch Manager, Department of Climate Change and Zero Waste, Konya Metropolitan Municipality

As part of the Horizon Europe Programme, research and innovation activities are being supported within the framework of the "Climate-Neutral and Smart Cities Mission (Cities Mission)" to ensure that 100 European cities adopt and monitor green and sustainable policies to achieve climate neutrality by 2030. In this context, the

session organized under TÜBİTAK's coordination featured local governments from Türkiye and Europe involved in projects related to the Cities Mission, and shared knowledge and experiences regarding their policies aimed at becoming green and smart cities. The key points and proposed solutions highlighted in the session can be summarized as follows:

- Cities hold remarkable potential and play a pioneering role in reducing climate impacts, paving the way for a future that is more resilient, secure, sustainable, and low-emission.
- Mechanisms should be developed for cities, which serve as living laboratories, to learn from each other and share good practices regarding climate action.
- To achieve climate action, urban components such as water, green spaces, energy, and buildings should be addressed in an interconnected manner, with a broad and multidisciplinary city planning perspective and in conjunction with other public policies.
- The green and smart transformation process should be conducted with an integrated approach and a participatory method. The process should not be considered independently of justice, equality, and social transformation.
- Stakeholders and citizens should work collaboratively to identify priority issues and projects in urban transformation, and participatory budgeting processes should be implemented. All projects should align with the climate neutrality goal. Incentives for renewable energy usage should be promoted in renovation initiatives.

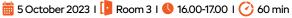
- Urban mobility plans, energy transformation strategies, and all local strategies should be developed with active participation from citizens and relevant stakeholders. When developing policies, the city's population structure and dynamics should be taken into account.
- Cities should conduct vulnerability and risk analyses at the district level to identify actionable steps for adapting to climate change. Various practices, such as reducing carbon emissions, improving energy efficiency in buildings, implementing clean air action plans, conserving water resources, transforming energy sources, protecting biodiversity, supporting agriculture and rural development, increasing green spaces, ensuring smart transformation, and reducing natural disaster risks, should be planned based on analytical reports.
- Cities should be supported in getting access to innovative, green, and sustainable financ-

- ing. Incentive mechanisms for sustainable and green projects should be established. In some regions, restrictions such as green taxes should be implemented.
- To promote social justice, measures must be implemented that hold individuals and institutions with greater authority and resources accountable for their contributions to pollution, imposing necessary restrictions on them.
- e Efforts should be made to raise awareness among citizens regarding climate change. Citizens should be involved in transformation projects that prioritize climate change adaptation and enhance quality of life. It should be emphasized that the urgency of climate action and social justice are not opposing issues but should go hand in hand, and the impacts of climate change disproportionately affect low-income communities.



SPECIAL SESSIONS

Financial Tools for Climate-Neutral Cities (TÜBİTAK x MARUF)











★ Moderator

Çağrı Yıldırım, Head of EU Framework Programmes Department, TÜBİTAK

Speakers

Burcu Akyol, Expert for EU Affairs, Programming Department, Directorate for EU Affairs

Emrah Baydemir, Deputy Director General, İLBANK Gonca Şanlı, Loan Officer, European Investment Bank idil Gürsel, Associate Director of Infrastructure Division, European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD)

Özgür Öcal, Programme Manager, Green Development and Inclusive Growth, Delegation of the European Union to Türkiye

Cities, which are responsible for more than 65% of global energy consumption and over 70% of carbon dioxide emissions, play a crucial role in achieving climate neutrality. To halt negative progress at this point, the European Green Deal, a key component of the Great Green Transition Movement initiated by the EU, aims to reduce emissions by 55% by 2030 and achieve a climate-neutral continent by 2050. Türkiye's commitment to climate neutrality by 2053 also aligns with the European agenda. The biggest factor to achieving these goals, which require coordination with cities, is financing. In a session organized by TÜBİTAK, local governments and relevant organizations came together to facilitate information exchange and collaboration on the national and international financing instruments needed for the establishment of climate-neutral cities and achieving sustainability. The key points

and proposed solutions highlighted in the session can be summarized as follows:

- Local governments can utilize EU funds through initiatives like the "Cities Mission" and develop investment plans.
- Investment banks allocate a certain percentage of their investments to green projects to support green economic transformation. Given that cities host the public, industry, academia, and citizens, it is possible to view every area where sustainable climate financing is provided as an investment in cities.
- The European Fund for Sustainable Development plays a crucial role in supporting investments aimed at combating climate change. This fund is available to countries across all EU member states and those under regional organizations. It covers investments in various areas related to sustainable cities, such as smart cities, waste management, and energy efficiency.
- Under the EBRD Green Cities Programme, infrastructure projects in areas like transportation, water, and wastewater that contribute to green transformation are prioritized for financing. Likewise, the EIB, known as the EU's climate bank, prioritizes projects with climate components. Both banks require investments to align with the Paris Agreement.
- Many international financial institutions provide financial support to local governments in Türkiye through strategic partnerships and collaborations with İlbank. Funding opportunities are available in various areas, including climate action, sustainable cities, migration, and earthquakes.
- İlbank is working on projects to provide financial support to all cities across Türkiye, not just

- the major cities prioritized by international financial institutions.
- Projects aimed at solving urban problems should be approached with an integrated project mentality, adopting a regional approach that encompasses all cities and can be part of a common solution. Investments should be designed with a holistic approach rather than focusing on a single urban issue.
- EU funds prioritize "impact investment," which considers not only financial but also environmental and social returns. Sustainability and inclusivity are the core of impact investment.
- Conducting feasibility studies, developing strategies, and creating roadmaps for cities working towards climate neutrality facilitate access to financing by identifying the cities' specific needs, risks, and evidence-based policy approaches.
- Rather than relying solely on their own resources, municipalities can turn to international financing sources to carry out activities related to climate action and sustainable development.



SPECIAL SESSIONS

Cultural Heritage and Metropolis



★ Moderator

H. Murat Güvenç, Prof., Director of Istanbul Studies Center, Kadir Has University

Speakers

Antonella Contin, Assist. Prof., Department of Architecture and Urban Studies, Politecnico di Milano Eric Huybrechts, Manager of International Affairs, Institut Paris Region

When examining the history of cultural heritage, we can observe that it has been addressed through an approach that extends from the scale of individual buildings to the scale of surrounding environment, street, city, region, and now the metropolitan areas. In the session where comprehensive field research findings on the approach and institutional measures for the preservation of cultural heritage in major global metropolises were shared with the public for the first time, new concepts, approaches, and perspectives such as the integration of nature and culture in preservation, the DNA of metropolises, and the transformative power of metropolitan heritage were discussed. Heritopolis, an international network which explores the value of the metropolis and its importance for future generations as one of the fundamental heritages of the 21st century, was explored within the scope of this session. The key points and proposed solutions highlighted in the session can be summarized as follows:

Defining the cultural heritage that metropolises, which host one-third of the world's population, will leave for future generations by considering various dimensions such as geography, economy, and social issues is crucial for

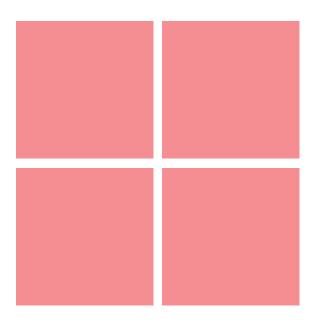
a comprehensive preservation approach.

- Metropolises not only refer to large cities in terms of geography or population but also represent an economic space where rural and urban areas coexist. They host centers like airports and universities that connect both tangibly and intangibly with the rest of the world.
- The heritage of a metropolis should be preserved with an innovative rather than a conservative approach, in a way that enhances the value of the metropolis. While preserving heritage, the aim of the efforts should be to improve the quality of life and increase efficiency.
- To determine how the value of a metropolis can be defined, tools should be developed by utilizing global agendas. The Heritopolis network is conducting studies aimed at identifying the DNA, spirit, and identity of metropolises.
- Since metropolitan cities are centers where different cultures come together, it is increasingly important to study the metropolitan culture rather than just the identity of metropolises and to preserve the cosmopolitan culture that emerges in metropolises. Metropolises should include strategies and policies in their master plans for preserving cultural heritage in a broad sense, going beyond preserving buildings and historical structures. Intangible heritage should be valued and preserved just as much as tangible heritage.
- In regions located on the outskirts of major cities, what heritage means and how it should be preserved should also be addressed accordingly.
- Investments in metropolitan areas are simultaneously both highly impacted by and significant contributors to climate change. In metropolises, which must have a sustainable

system, heritage should be addressed holistically, especially in light of to environmental crises. Considering that heritage cannot be preserved within the administrative boundaries of metropolises alone, planning should be done on a broader regional scale.

- The concept of heritage encompasses the relationship between culture, technology, the biosphere, and time. Therefore, its preservation calls for a collaboration among urban planners, politicians, and various professional groups, and must be approached from an anti-fragile development perspective.
- To eliminate urban risks, it is not enough to merely adapt existing heritage; it also involves developing new routes in an innovative and participatory manner.

- By combining culture-based and nature-based solutions, common good can be created in areas such as environmental justice, equity, and cultural heritage.
- Given that geography is a continuous system and preservation is a transformative process, environmental governance methods should be employed. It is important to engage with communities by utilizing the environment, water, and green infrastructure and invite urban residents to improve their own environment.







CLOSED MEETINGS

Room 7

During MARUF23, the core requirements for achieving a sustainable and high-quality life for everyone were critically examined through the lens of cities and our local and international partners gathered in exlusive meetings to discuss urban challenges, exchange insights and experiences, and explore opportunities for collaboration in creating solution-driven cities. As part of this, five closed-door meetings were held in-person at the Istanbul Congress Center between October 4-6, 2023, with the goal of enhancing institutional interactions.



CLOSED MEETINGS

Development, Migration, and Local Governments Nexus



In this closed meeting, supported by the International Centre for Migration Policy Development

(ICMPD Türkiye), representatives from public institutions, civil society organizations, international bodies, and academia gathered to focus on how local governments can be empowered to support economic growth and local development in the aftermath of mass migration.

CLOSED MEETINGS

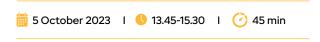
Uniting for Resilient Cities: A Local Government Association Gathering



Local government associations that work towards increasing the development of the democratic local governance movement in Türkiye, enhancing the authority and resources of municipalities, adopting sustainable urban approaches, finding solutions to common problems of municipalities through cooperation and enhancing their institutional capacity play a significant role in creating resilient cities. In this closed meeting, supported by the Resilience in Local Governance (RESLOG-Türkiye Project), regional municipal associations in Türkiye gathered to discuss resilient cities and areas of cooperation.

CLOSED MEETINGS

NALAS Committee of Liaison Officers Meeting



The Committee of Liaison Officers (CLO) of the Network of Associations of Local Authorities of South-East Europe (NALAS), which was presided over by Marmara Municipalities Union in 2023, came together in a closed meeting organized under the framework of MARUF23 to discuss the NALAS work plan and the global agenda related to urban resilience and sustainable cities.

CLOSED MEETINGS

NALAS Task Force Meeting on Energy and Climate

🚞 5 October 2023 I 🌕 16.00-18.30 I 🕜 150 min

The Task Force on Energy and Climate of the Network of Associations of Local Authorities of South-East Europe NALAS, which was presided over by Marmara Municipalities Union in 2023, came together in a closed meeting organized under the framework of MARUF23 to discuss the resilience of cities to climate change and energy efficiency for sustainable cities within the global agenda.

CLOSED MEETINGS

Shaping Climate Safe, Disaster Resilient, Future Proof Sustainable Cities and Infrastructure

🚞 5 October 2023 🛾 🕓 16.00-18.30 📗 🕜 150 min

Supported by Strengthening EU- Mongolia Friendship through Equitable, Resilient and Innovative Growth in Darkhan-Uul Province Friendship Project and conducted in a closed meeting format, the networking event focused on strategies and good practices needed for building sustainable and resilient cities in the face of multiple crises. Participants shared knowledge and experiences on environmental sustainability and disaster management to develop future-ready infrastructures.



YOUNDTABLE

YoundTable is an innovative MARUF platform that merges the concepts of "young" and "round table". Launched for the first time at MARUF21 in 2021, the event brought together over 40 young people eager to discuss, produce, and contribute to urban development. Over three-day long MARUF23, YoundTable members closely followed the events. At the end of each day, they held debriefing sessions to critique the forum and made preliminary notes for shaping MARUF23.

We formed a core YoundTable team of 15 young individuals from various youth networks and Marmarathon winners. This team acted as observers throughout the forum, actively participating in at least four sessions, asking questions, and thoroughly analyzing the event. On the third day of MARUF23, the team convened for a workshop titled "YoundTable: MARUF23 Under the Scope." They conducted a general critique of the forum and the concept of "resilience," and prepared the MARUF23 Youth Manifesto. A brief summary of this manifesto was shared with all participants during the MARUF23 Closing Session on behalf of YoundTable.

In this manifesto, young people highlighted their perspective on defining resilience, what actions are needed to go beyond resilience, and why and how young people should be given meaningful and authentic roles in this process. They defined a resilient city as "a city that is prepared with systematic and sustainable measures for potential disasters and challenges, open to change and integration, and encompasses both the problem and its solution within itself. Moreover, it is a city where community resilience is enhanced, anxiety is reduced, and people do not feel the constant obligation to be resilient but instead feel secure".



YOUNDTABLE

MARUF23 Under the Scope

🛗 6 October 2023 I 🚺 Room 6 I

● 09.30-11.00 I 🕜 90 min

★ Moderator

Elif Avcı, Co-founder, Yereliz Association

YoundTable Team

Belinay Hira Güney, Berra Sarıgül, Cemre Özipek, Doruk Sivri, Ece Kaya, Fatma Nur Tosun, Funda Tutuş, Hüseyin Şahin, Maide Dönmez, Melis Nur Koyuncu, Musa Can Durmaz, Rabia Ertan, Tuğrulhan Ata Türkel, Yaren Öz, Zülal Karaman





NETWORKING EVENTS

Networking Room

While MARUF itself serves as a networking event, we aimed to extend beyond that. One of the goals we wanted to achieve was to create an interactive space that addresses participants' practical needs and contributes to solving urban issues. The networking events offered a platform for participants to connect with each other and with stakeholders they might not have had the chance to collaborate with otherwise. At MARUF23, which focused on the multifaceted concept of "resilience" which cannot be achieved by the efforts of a single institution, we emphasized "collaboration" by organizing several sessions and meetings under the "Networking" theme in a dedicated room. The networking events can be categorized into three main areas based on the organizing institutions:

NETWORKING EVENTS ORGANIZED BY MMU:

The events titled "Networking: Projects Meets Funds" and "Networking: Local Governments Meet International City Networks" were entirely planned and promoted by MMU. These events aimed to link local governments with international organizations or their representatives in Türkiye to enhance the financial and institutional capacities of local governments. During these networking events, local governments and other relevant stakeholders had the opportunity to meet with funding organizations to discuss project ideas and financial support options. In the event that brought together international city networks and local governments, participants learned about the city networks they could join, as well as the working areas and services offered by these networks. All the city networks present were international networks that Turkish municipalities could also join.

NETWORKING EVENTS DETERMINED BY OPEN CALL:

One of MARUF's primary goals was to design the event in a participatory manner, driven by the need to involve participants in every aspect of urban production. To achieve this, we issued an open call for networking events, similar to our approach for other activities. After the application period, we completed the evaluation process and selected three proposals that aligned with MARUF's theme, maximized interaction, and were well-designed in terms of content and format. The three chosen organizations whose applications were accepted developed their own event formats to promote their institutions and foster potential future collaborations. Ankara Aks organized "Networking: New European Bauhaus LAB," Circles of Impact Foundation held "Networking: Sectoral Transformation for Blue-Green Future", and the 65+ Elder Rights Association hosted "Networking: Aging in the City."

NETWORKING EVENTS CONDUCTED BY MARUF PARTNERS:

As part of MARUF23, partner organizations that contributed to the forum's preparation organized three different networking events. Some partners designed their own content, while others supported the event organization. Urban.koop held "Networking: Civil Meeting for Green Future", ICMPD organized "Networking: EduBridge - Uniting Scholars and Industry Visionaries". Additionally, a session titled "Networking: Engaging and Exploring Inter-Regional Cooperation between Europe and Mongolia through FRIENDSHIP Project" was conducted under the MARUF partnership.

Civil Meeting for Green Future







Alp Arısoy, Dr., Urban Studies Project Coordinator, Urban.koop



Nelih Akay, Consultant, European Union Programmes, Sustainable Development and Environmental Management, Sinerji Education & IPCEU Consultancy Tunahan Altundaş, General Manager, International Project Consultancy

Ageing in the City



🚞 4 October 2023 | 🌑 14.00-15.30 | 🕜 90 min







Esra Akan, Dr., Board Member, 65+ Elder Rights

Gülüstü Salur, Dr., Founder and Board Member, Board, 65+ Elder Rights Association

Rümeyza Kazancıoğlu, Prof., Chairman, 65+ Elderly Rights Association

NETWORKING EVENTS

EduBridge - Uniting Scholars and **Industry Visionaries**









★ Moderator

Pınar Yapanoğlu, Western Balkans and Türkiye Migration and Development Portfolio Manager



Speakers

Beril Boyacıoğlu Bakır, Dr., Manager, KWORKS, Koç University

Burcuhan Sener, Director of International Affairs & Migration Policy Center, Marmara Municipalities Union M. Murat Erdoğan, Prof., Head of IGAM-Academy, Faculty of Political Sciences & Mülkiye Centre for Migration Studies, Ankara University

Meltem Hamit, Interdisciplinary Portfolio Manager, International Center for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD)

Murat Ünver, Mentor & Trainer, SPED Education Consultancy

Rasha Alfakhry, CEO, Startup Consultancy, ANGELS BOARD

Tamer Kılıç, President, Western Balkans and Türkiye Regional Office, International Centre for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD)

NETWORKING EVENTS

Engaging and Exploring Inter-Regional Cooperation between Europe and Mongolia through **FRIENDSHIP** Project



🚞 4 October 2023 | 🌑 17.30-18.30 | 🕜 60 min







Bolormaa Jamsranjav, CEO, Urban Construction Development LLC

Erdenebayar Davaasambuu, Dr., Head of Regional and Local Development Policy Department, Ministry of Economy and Development-Mongolia

Khurelchuluun Ochir, Chair of Governor's Cabinet, Darkhan-Uul Province Municipality

P.Mend-Amgalan, Dr., Director for EU-DIEH, Friendship Project, Mongolian University of Life Sciences

NETWORKING EVENTS

Projects Meets Funds



🚞 5 October 2023 | 🕔 09.30-11.00 | 🕜 90 min







★ Moderator

Özge Sivrikaya, Senior International Affairs and Projects Expert & SDG Ambassador, Marmara Municipalities Union



Ali Bekin, Senior Program Officer, Loan Projects, Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA)

Ayşe Deniz Arıcan, EU Affairs Expert, Department of Project Implementation, Directorate for EU Affairs

Elif Ergin, Specialist, Culture and Creativity Unit, Istanbul Development Agency

Hannah Schabert, Project Manager, GIZ

Helena Monteiro, Global Focal Point for the Gap Fund-GCOM Partnership, Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy

Hüseyincan Eryılmaz, THE:PLACE Program Coordinator, Urban Policies Program, the Center for Spatial Justice

Leyla Barlas Aslan, Senior Policy Officer MATRA Programme, Consulate General of the Netherlands in Istanbull

Selen Akçalı, Dr., Project Coordinator, Cultural Policy Studies, Istanbul Foundation for Culture and Arts

NETWORKING EVENTS

Local Governments Meet International City Networks



🚃 5 October 2023 | 🌑 11.30-12.30 | 🕜 60 min







Burcuhan Şener, Director of International Affairs & Migration Policy Center, Marmara Municipalities Union



Andreas Kress, Dr., Coordinator of European Projects, Climate Alliance

Antonella Valmorbida, Secretary General, ALDA (European Association for Local Democracy)

Ayfer Yazkan Kubal, Dr., Vice President, European Coalition of Cities Against Racism - UNESCO Network

Azize Ökten, Dr., PhD Scholar, UNESCO National Commission for Türkiye

Barbaros Büyüksağnak, Head of Foreign Relations Department, Istanbul Metropolitan Municipality Casimir Legrand, Climate Politics, Intelligence, and Diplomacy Manager, C40

Helena Monteiro, Global Focal Point for the Gap Fund-GCOM Partnership, Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy

Jordi Vaquer, Dr., Secretary General, Metropolis Katharina Bamberg, Head of Migration, Social Affairs Forum, Eurocities

Nicola Iezza, Sustainable Energy Systems Officer, ICLEI Europe

Osman Çorumlu, Coordinator for International Relations, UCLG-MEWA

NETWORKING EVENTS

Sectoral Transformation for Blue-Green Future



NETWORKING EVENTS

Ankara Aks

New European Bauhaus LAB

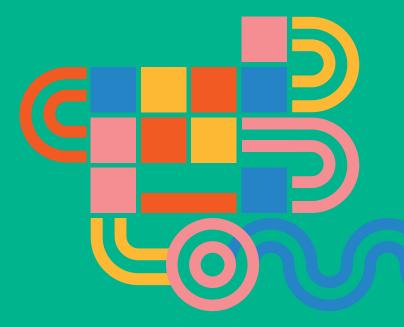




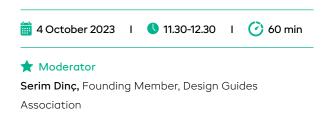


Urban Atelier

The "Urban Workshops" series at MARUF23 was designed to foster a culture of collaborative production, shared learning, cooperation, and solidarity, which are core values in urban studies. Our aim was to create a production space focused on these values, addressing the multifaceted and complex network of interactions around urban issues and solutions. In developing the workshop program, we tailored each session to its theme and production method, targeting different audiences and encouraging creative thinking through gamification techniques. Some workshops were designed for specific expertise, while others were open to all MARUF participants. These workshops provided a platform for discussions on topics such as public spaces, urban mobility, accessibility, and urban concepts. For each workshop, we collaborated with various institutions and organizations to plan the spatial arrangements, ensuring active participation from attendees. The MARUF23 Urban Workshops series evolved into an interactive learning program that focused on producing and implementing solutions of varying dimensions, relying on the power of gamification. Over three days, in a dedicated space called Urban Atelier, the series conducted nine different workshops, utilizing peer learning methods extensively.



Game R+4: A Scenario Game for Rural Resilience



8 Facilitators

İnci Olgun, Kumru Çılgın, Özge Türkü Mert, Doğa Erdem The Rural Resilience Scenario Game, facilitated by members of the Design Guidelines Association (TARGE), encouraged participants to think about scenarios that help local and central decision-makers, researchers, entrepreneurs, and civil initiatives understand existing and future risks (such as disasters) facing rural areas. The game also explored what rural resilience means for communities and helped participants define their roles within organizational structures.

URBAN WORKSHOPS

Beyond Campus: Students Developing Solutions Workshop

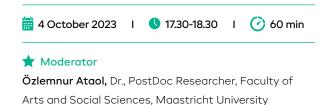


Gizem Ölmez Saylam, Coordinator Responsible for Participation Studies, Istanbul Citizens' Assembly

8 Facilitators

Mehmet Demir, Simay Ayas, Çağrı Eker, Sude Çağlar, İlkcan Kemer, Miraç Özdemir, İrem Pekin In a workshop facilitated by the Istanbul City Council team, university students worked on generating solutions to the problems they encounter both on campus and in its surrounding areas, organized under thematic areas. The discussion also involved stakeholders and explored the relationship with them in addressing these problems.

Circular Solution Lab for Cities

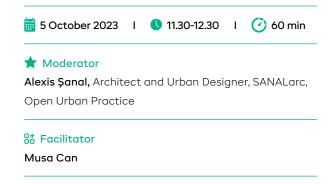


8 Facilitators

Bahar Aksel Enşici, Arzu Erturan Topgül, Melike Şengül, Merve Akı Yaman, Sinem Çolak In the workshop focused on the five-stage program of the #CircularCitiesChallenge project, which is part of the ERA-NET Urban Transformation Capacities funded by the European Union's H2020 research and innovation program, young people aged 18-24 developed solutions by applying circular city principles to the urban problems they identified.

URBAN WORKSHOPS

City Making 101: Play to Plan a Resilient Public Space



In this workshop, the released Neighborhood Making - HEY! Imaginable Guidelines: Community edition created by Alexis Şanal (ŞANALarc) was played, and the flexible and resilient public spaces highlighted in the previous "Deep Dive into Public Space Design | Resilient for All" session was discussed. This game created a platform for everyone in the community who desires to live in sustainable, lovable, walkable, and resilient public spaces.

Imaginary Municipality on Duty: A Solution-Focused Competition



The urban.koop team led imaginary municipality teams, composed of experts from various municipalities and departments, to discuss the questions posed in the competition. The teams worked to find effective solutions to internal municipal problems through participation and governance tools. The urban.koop team led imaginary municipality teams, composed of experts from various municipalities and departments, to discuss the questions posed in the competition. The teams worked to find effective solutions to internal municipal problems through participation and governance tools.

URBAN WORKSHOPS

Hacking MARUF



器 Facilitators

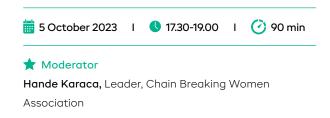
Good

Kaya Demiral, Musa Can Durmaz, Müge Gümüş.

In the "Hacking MARUF" workshop, conducted by Youth for Good and EKA Creative Studio, young participants sought answers to the question, "How should MARUF be?". This workshop, aimed at supporting the future development of MARUF, provided a platform for young participants to express their ideas and suggestions for its improvement.

8 Facilitators

From Wheels to Wisdom: Bicycle Mechanics in Theory and Practice

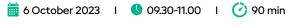


Banu Kovulmaz, Feyza Akyürek, Şebnem Mısır

In a workshop conducted by the Chain Breaking Women Association team, participants received technical information about bicycle components, and tips for preparing for bicycle travel were shared. The workshop also incorporated Derrida's "deconstruction" theory to enhance participants' problem-solving skills.



Micro Mobility Solutions for **Macro City Challenges**







Emre Elmas, Fundraising and Project Responsible & Coordinator of EIT Urban Mobility RIS Hub Türkiye, Fark Labs

In the workshop organized by EIT Urban Mobility Ris Hub TR, the advantages and disadvantages of eco-friendly and safe transportation methods, including micro-mobility vehicles, were examined. Policies for micromobility vehicles were discussed with the participation of representatives from transportation departments of various metropolitan cities.

URBAN WORKSHOPS

Climate Fresk



15.30-16.00

(7) 30 min

5 October 2023

17.00-17.30

(7) 30 min



Hélène Olympe Andırır, Coordinator for Türkiye, Climate Fresk

In these half-hour mini-workshops, held at the City Library during coffee breaks over two days, participants were introduced to the Climate Puzzle, which has been translated into over 45 languages and reached 45,000 volunteers and 1 million participants in 130 countries. As part of the workshops, a short version of the game, which normally takes three hours to play and aims to raise awareness and prompt action on climate change, was presented.





URBAN LIBRARY



As the forum space would be visited by city enthusiasts throughout MARUF23, the Urban Library aimed to capture the essence of libraries as vibrant spaces that embody a city's memory, archive, and cultural identity. It served as a repository for the city's development and vitality, contributing to social improvement and ensuring that all visitors meet on equal ground, addressing and eliminating inequalities. The Urban Library was designed to offer both a curated selection of books appealing to those interested in urban studies and city planning, and a series of discussions, panels, and interactive games that highlight and reconstruct the relationship between the city and its language, literature, and translation. Our primary goal was to provide a unique experience for readers who wish to delve into the depths of urban life through carefully chosen books on urbanism and urbanization. In curating this book selection, we focused not only on a comprehensive array of works about the city but also on archival research related to city history and heritage by local governments. We aimed to make the Urban Library a platform for sharing best practices in city documentation for local governments. The library's collection was enriched with works on urban themes by authors and translators, allowing visitors to connect not only with written words but also with the thoughts behind them. Furthermore, through organized talks and games within the library, we enabled participants to explore the text-city relationship more deeply. The Urban Library became a vibrant gateway for everyone eager to embark on a journey through not just books, but also the streets and stories of the city.

URBAN LIBRARY

Lost in Terminology: Taboo **Explorations of Urbanism**



🚞 4 October 2023 🏻 🕒 14.00 – 15.30





Facilitators

Alp Arısoy, Dr., Urban Studies Project Coordinator, Urban.koop

Turgay Kurultay, Em. Prof., Researcher, & Trainer, bilArk

How do we perceive words? When we hear the word "square," do the mental images that arise differ between an urban planner and a child? Which urban-related terms exist in other languages but not in our own language? In this session, we used a taboo game to explore the meanings and perceptions of urban concepts. We discussed concepts absent from Turkish, interpreted them alongside their equivalents in other languages, and sought counterparts for terms that lack specific terminology.

URBAN LIBRARY

Beyond Fiction: Urban Sci-Fi



🧰 4 October 2023 🏻 🕓 17.30 – 18.30





★ Moderators

Ervin Sezgin, Dr., Marmara Region Local Governments Consultant, RESLOG Türkiye, SALAR International Kerem Yavuz Arslanlı, Assoc. Prof., Real Estate Development Programme Coordinator, Urban and Regional Planning, Istanbul Technical University



Fatma Cihan Akkartal, Author, Editor, Translator Nihat Can Kantarcı, Film Critic, Altyazı

Is a city merely a backdrop for events, or does it hold a deeper significance? This session delved into how science fiction, influenced by the industrial developments and sociopolitical and economic changes of the late 19th century, frequently features urban settings. We examined the relationship between cities and science fiction, using examples from various works to highlight how many science fiction narratives are set in urban environments.

URBAN LIBRARY

A Talk on "Istanbul, **Metropolis of Fear"**



📅 5 October 2023 🔠 🕓 11.30 – 12.30





★ Moderator

Alim Arlı, Assoc. Prof., Sociology and Anthropology of Middle East, Marmara University



Speaker

Uğur Tanyeli, Prof., Dean of Faculty of Fine Arts, Design and Architecture, Istinye University

Is it a capital of empires? Or a metropolis of fears? In the panel "A Talk on "Istanbul, Metropolis of Fear''', organized around Uğur Tanyeli's book "Istanbul, Metropolis of Fear", we explored the historical context of fear associated with Istanbul. With Tanyeli's participation, we discussed how Istanbul's development as a metropolis contrasts with European cities, focusing on themes such as public space, migration, diversity, and urban aesthetics.

URBAN LIBRARY

Translating Crises for Resilience and Beyond





🧰 5 October 2023 🏻 🕒 14.00 – 15.30



★ Moderator

Alev Bulut, Prof., Member of Task Assignment Force and Trainer, Emergency and Disaster Interpreters (ARÇ)



Speakers

Aslı Takanay, Assist.Prof., Operational Task Force Member, Emergency and Disaster Interpreters (ARC) Rana Kahraman Duru, Assist. Prof., Operational Task Force Member, Translation and Interpreting Association Turkey-Emergency and Disaster Interpreters (ARÇ)

In a session focused on community translation within the context of resilience, we explored the intersection of language and crises, emphasizing the critical importance and future of disaster, migration, and court translation. As we face an era marked by increasing crises, the session highlighted international cooperation and disaster relief as essential tools. It stressed the need to enhance our understanding of the communicative and interlingual aspects of crisis intervention, address the psychosocial dimensions of migration translation, and establish community translation services locally after disasters and several suggestions were offered to improve these practices.

URBAN LIBRARY

A Talk on "Ghost Stories: The Carrier Bag Theory of Architecture"

🗰 5 October 2023 🛾 🕒 16.00 – 17.00



★ Moderator

Cemre Gökpınar, Founder & General Coordinator, Ankara Aks



Speakers

Oral Göktaş, Architect, SO?

Sevince Bayrak, Architect, SO?

"...all stories are, more or less, ghost stories." Julian Wolfreys

Can abandoned structures be repurposed as 'laboratories for the future' rather than being demolished? Can a new architectural approach transform buildings into containers that foster community? Can architecture listen to the stories of abandoned structures? In the session on Sevince Bayrak and Oral Göktaş's book Ghost Stories: The Carrier Bag Theory of Architecture, prepared for the Türkiye Pavilion at the Venice Architecture Biennale, we discussed adapting carrier bag theories, which emphasize shared life stories over individual heroism, to architecture. The session opened a dialogue on defining the future of architecture in Türkiye. We explored the potential of a transformation approach that values the stories of abandoned structures, rather than demolishing and rebuilding, and the possibility of centering shared life stories in architectural design through various example applications.







URBAN CINEMA

For three days, the Urban Cinema provided a framework to highlight the elements and communities resisting the erosion of urban life amidst daily practices driven by consumption and speed. In curating the film selection, we focused on communities threatened by the loss of their habitats due to shifting social and economic systems, and those struggling to preserve their existence, and we aimed to avoid a human-centric perspective in this approach. In alignment with this conceptual framework, we collaborated with the Altyazı Cinema Association to curate a film program that adhered to this framework, creating a narrative that connected every component from the first film to the final discussion. While envisioning the cities we dream of in the context of MARUF, we also needed to consider the accessibility and inclusivity of cinema and the arts. Thus, another key criterion for Urban Cinema was to ensure an accessible cinema experience for all participants.



LOCAL GOVERNMENTS AND CINEMA

Through Urban Cinema, we aimed to share experiences from municipalities that effectively use cinema as a powerful tool and to disseminate knowledge about these good practices. Another key objective was to create a platform for discussing the relationship between cinema and urban spaces from the perspective of local governments. To meet these goals, we organized a panel titled "Panel | Local Governments and Cinema: Experiences, Opportunities, and Needs", featuring representatives from Kadıköy Municipality, Nilüfer Municipality, İzmir Cinema Office, FilmKoop, Mavi Kuş Dayanışması, and Sinemasal. The panel provided insights into how local governments and civil society can leverage various tools and collaborations to offer accessible cultural and artistic services through cinema to disadvantaged communities. It also highlighted the importance of NGO-local government partnerships and the need for effective cultural and artistic policies at a higher level.

PROGRAM OF URBAN CINEMA

The Urban Cinema program explored topics ranging from designing mega-cities with a human-centered planning approach to the housing struggles prevalent in cities worldwide, while also showcasing good practices from local governments and cinema institutions across Türkiye, and engaging residents beyond just their human aspects, through a series of four film screenings and four talks.

The program began with the screening of "Rent Eats Soul," a documentary focusing on a solidarity network and neighborhood organization initiated by Turkish immigrants in the Kreuzberg district of Berlin to protect their housing rights. This was followed by the screening of "The Human Scale," which highlights the work of Jan Gehl, known for his professional practice in planning mega-cities with a human-centered approach that fosters social interaction. Following these two screenings, a panel moderated by Ayça Çiftçi featured director Angelika Levi of Rent Eats Soul, along with Ceren Lordoğlu and Fırat Genç. The panel explored the struggle for urban rights as a battleground that encompasses all the diverse elements within communities and builds the power to act together despite these differences. The discussions prompted by both films were examined on a scale relevant to Istanbul, opening up debates on scale, neighborhood, and public space through the lenses of gender, urban issues, and security. In the panel titled "Trailing Behind Taşkafa: Looking at the City with more-than-humans", which followed the film screening of Taşkafa: Stories of the Street, the city was defined as a meeting point for multi-species. The discussion explored the possibilities of evolving the relationship between humans and non-humans from one of merely "protector and protected" into a shared living experience and collective struggle. After the screening of Invisible to the Eye, a film that layers contemporary Istanbul with a travelogue perspective from the 1600s, the panel discussion "On the Trail of a Gaze: Invisible to the Eye" featured director Zeynep Dadak and art director Aslı Dadak. The panel centered on the documentary that offers a visual and auditory experience of Istanbul's 350-year history through the means and tools of cinema, allowing viewers to simultaneously feel the city's heritage and losses while giving insight into its creation process.

FILM SCREENING



RENT EATS SOUL

(Angelika Levi, 2015)

4 October 2023 | \bigcup 11.30-12.30



THE HUMAN SCALE

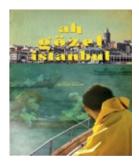
(Andreas Dalsgaard, 2012)



TAŞKAFA: STORIES OF THE STREET

(Andrea Luka Zimmerman, 2013)

iii 5 October 2023 | 🕒 10.00-11.00



INVISIBLE TO THE EYE

(Zeynep Dadak, 2020)

iii 5 October 2023 I • 15.45-17.15

Cities Transforming by Experience: **Reimagining Cities**

★ Moderator

Ayça Çiftçi, Faculty Member, PhD., Istanbul Bilgi University



Speakers

Angelika Levi, Director, Rent Eats Soul Ceren Lordoğlu, Dr., Sociology, Mimar Sinan Fine Arts University

Firat Genç, Assistant Professor, Istanbul Bilgi University

URBAN CINEMA

Trailing Behind Taşkafa: Looking at the City with more-than-humans



Özlem Güçlü, Assoc. Prof., Sociology, Mimar Sinan Fine

Arts University

Gülen Güler, Yalan Dünya Films Ltd.

Sevgi Ortaç, Artist

Mine Yıldırım, Dr., Core Program, Kadir Has University

URBAN CINEMA

Local Governments and Cinema: Experiences, Opportunities, and Needs

★ Moderator

Melis Behlil, Assoc. Prof., Faculty Member, Department of Radio, TV, and Cinema, Kadir Has University

Speakers

Aliṣan Çapan, Director of Culture and Social Affairs, Kadıköy Municipality

Esen Tan, Volunteer, Mavi Kuş Solidarity

Gülen Gözkara, Cinema Coordinator, Izmir Foundation

İlkay Bilgiç, Member of Board of Directors, Sinemasal

Nejla Aslan, Director, Culture and Social Affairs,

Nilüfer Municipality

Önder Özdemir, Board Member, Filmkoop

URBAN CINEMA

On the Trail of a Gaze: Invisible to the Eye

★ Moderator

Ekrem Buğra Büte, Editor-in-Chief, Altyazi Cinema Magazine

Speakers

Zeynep Dadak, Dr., Screenwriter & Director, Fenafilm **Aslı Dadak,** Producer & Production Designer, Invisible to the Eye





URBAN ROUTES

6 October 2023



resilience and beyond

On the third day of MARUF23, we invited participants to step out of the Istanbul Congress Center and into the city itself, organizing 17 simultaneous Urban Routes that spanned across Istanbul. Through these Urban Routes, we aimed to explore and discuss many of the issues debated at MARUF by experiencing the city first-hand, walking through it with knowledgeable guides who offered insights from cultural, historical, architectural, technical, and technological perspectives.

Some of the Urban Routes focused directly on Istanbul itself, taking advantage of the city as a living laboratory for many urban issues. Collaborating with the Istanbul Tükenmeden (Istanbul Before It Runs Out) team, we organized walks called "Walking Istanbul 101" in three distinct areas rich in history: the Historic Peninsula, Galata-Pera-Beyoğlu, and Cibali-Fener-Balat. Other routes, in partnership with stanbul Metropolitan Municipality Heritage, focused on the city's layers of history, from the unearthed heritage buildings of Beyoğlu to the underground relics of the Historic Peninsula. Additionally, two walks with the Docomomo_Türkiye team traced 20th-century architectural landmarks both within and beyond the City Walls, while Urbanwalks.ankara led a "Microcosmos" journey in Yeşilköy, exploring similar periods far beyond the city limits. Of course, Istanbul's heritage couldn't be fully appreciated on foot alone. MARUF participants interested in the deindustrialization and culture-focused transformation of the Golden Horn embarked on a boat journey, guided by Urban.koop, tracing the historical evolution along the Golden Horn.

Urban Routes can also be seen as a reflection of the spirit of MARUF in the city. Indeed, many of the event formats experienced within MARUF could also be encountered along the Urban Routes. For instance, MARUF's games, exhibitions, good practice showcases, and workshops extended into the city through these routes. In the "Following the Sound of Water" route organized with Urban.koop, participants explored Istanbul's water spaces, heritage, and people through an interactive game set up at the Cendere Art Museum. Another route, 'Wandering Through the Pages of Istanbul Encyclopedia, invited participants to explore an exhibition at Salt Galata, which showcased the city's image and its residents as portrayed by Reşad Ekrem Koçu in his Istanbul Encyclopedia. The Good Practice Showcase, which welcomed participants in the Solution Maze at MARUF, was experienced in a different format through the Urban Routes. Participants had the chance to closely explore and engage with various good practices, including Şişli Municipality's food-based social services route, Maltepe Municipality's street transformation route for children, and Çekmeköy Municipality's cross-border cooperation programs project route.

This year, the numerous workshops featured at MARUF also became walking workshops that adapted to the city's rhythm. In a walkshop organized with GDCI and Superpool, participants used Reverse Periscopes to view the city from a height of 95 cm, sharing their observations and experiences as they explored the city from a child's perspective. The Nordic Playground Institute Türkiye conducted a "Playground Inspection Walkshop" in Maçka Park for participants of the Playground Safety training organized under MARUF on the Go. The focus of Urban Routes extended beyond just the man-made city to the wild aspects of the city. In the "Into the Wild" walkshop held at Yıldız Park with Istanbul Metropolitan Municipality, participants closely explored the city's flora and fauna. Of course, the rhythm of the city cannot be discovered by walking alone. Finally, the "Pedalling Together" Urban Route, organized by Chain Breaking Women, featured a team cycling workshop.

ROUTES

WALKING ISTANBUL 101: GRAND BAZAAR AND HANS OF HISTORIC PENINSULA

11.30-12.30

Location: Fatih, Istanbul **Facilitator:** Paulina İonita

Organizer: İstanbul Tükenmeden

WALKING ISTANBUL 101: CIBALI, FENER, BALAT

14.00-18.00

Location: Fatih, Istanbul
Facilitator: Sakis Leonidis
Organizer: İstanbul Tükenmeden

WALKING ISTANBUL 101: GALATA, PERA, BEYOĞLU

14.00-18.00

Location: Beyoğlu, Istanbul **Facilitator:** Mois Gabay

Organizer: İstanbul Tükenmeden

TRACING THE PAST IN THE GOLDEN HORN: DEINDUSTRIALIZATION AND CULTURE-ORIENTED TRANSFORMATION ROUTE

14.00-17.00

Location: Haliç, Istanbul **Facilitator:** Alp Arısoy **Organizer:** Urban.koop



REVERSE PERISCOPE WALKSHOP: WALK THE CITY THROUGH A CHILD'S EYES

14.00-16.00

14.00-15.30

WALKSHOP

Location: Harbiye, Istanbul

Facilitators: Hila Bar Ner, Beyza Gürdoğan Organizers: Global Designing Cities Initiative,

Superpool

TRACING THE 20TH CENTURY IN THE WALLED CITY: THE HISTORIC PENINSULA AND THE PROST PLAN

14.00-18.00

Location: Fatih, Istanbul

Facilitators: Yıldız Salman, Hayriye İsmailoğlu

Organizer: DOCOMOMO_Türkiye

INTO THE WILD: FLORA AND FAUNA OF YILDIZ PARK

WALKSHOP

Location: Yıldız Park, Beşiktaş, Istanbul

Facilitator: Ahmet Yaşar Yıldız

Organizer: Istanbul Metropolitan Municipality

FOLLOWING THE SOUND OF WATER: A GAME ON ISTANBUL'S WATER SPACES, HERITAGE, AND PEOPLE

14.00-18.00

GAME

Location: Cendere Art Museum, Sarıyer, Istanbul

Facilitators: Onur Atay, Volkan Altınok

Organizer: Urban.koop



ROTALAR

PEDALLING TOGETHER: CYCLING TEAM RIDING WORKSHOP

14.00-18.00

CYCLING WORKSHOP

Location: Şişli, Istanbul

Facilitators: Banu Kovulmaz, Gamze Güngör,

Aslı Orakçı, Şebnem Mısır

Organizer: Chain Breaking Women

A CLOSE-UP LOOK: FOOD JUSTICE FOCUSED SOCIAL SERVICES ROUTE

14.00-17.00

Location: Şişli, İstanbul **Facilitator:** Alper Yiğit Yılmaz

Organizer: Şişli Municipality

PLAYGROUND INSPECTION WALKSHOP

14.00-15.30

WALKSHOP

Location: Maçka Parkı, Şişli, Istanbul **Facilitators:** Derya İyikul, Ege Sevinçli

Organizer: Nordic Playground Institute Türkiye

TRACING TRANSFORMATION: MALTEPE'S STREETS RECLAIMED FOR CHILDREN

14.00-18.00

SIDE EVENT

Location: Maltepe, Istanbul
Facilitator: Bahadır Keşan
Organizer: Maltepe Municipality

MICROCOSMOS YEŞİLKÖY

14.00-18.00

Location: Yeşilköy, Istanbul Facilitator: Cemre Gökpınar Organizer: urbanwalks.ankara

LAYERS OF ISTANBUL: EXPLORING UNDERGROUND HERITAGE OF HISTORIC PENINSULA

14.00-18.00

Location: Fatih, Istanbul **Facilitator:** Kerim Altuğ

Organizer: Istanbul Metropolitan Municipality

Heritage

TRACING THE 20TH CENTURY BEYOND THE CITY WALL: MODERN HOUSING

14.00-18.00

Location: Bakırköy, Istanbul

Facilitators: Şeyda Şen, Cem Dedekargınoğlu

Organizer: DOCOMOMO_Türkiye

LAYERS OF ISTANBUL: EXPLORING HERITAGE STRUCTURES OF BEYOĞLU

14.00-18.00

Location: Beyoğlu, Istanbul **Facilitator:** Özge Altuntaş

Organizer: Istanbul Metropolitan Municipality

Heritage

WANDERING THROUGH THE PAGES OF ISTANBUL ENCYCLOPEDIA

14.00-16.00

EXHIBITION

Location: Salt Galata, Beyoğlu, Istanbul

Facilitator: Salt Research and Programs team

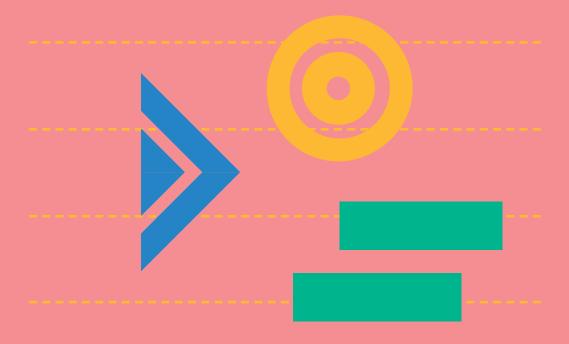
Organizer: Salt





SIDE EVENTS

Side Events are events that are facilitated through an open call and designed to foster the sharing good practices and encourage interaction while providing an opportunity for various institutions and organizations to contribute to MARUF. Through the Side Event call, as the MARUF team, we created a platform for public institutions, non-governmental organizations, private sector organizations, international organizations, universities, research centers, student communities, and other urban stakeholders from Türkiye and abroad, who produce knowledge, practices, and ideas related to urban matters, eager to take an active role in the forum and become part of MARUF, to design and submit their own event proposals giving them the opportunity to connect with MARUF participants. We aimed to create innovative communication channels to facilitate the sharing of knowledge and experience from these institutions, transforming their experiences into visible sources of inspiration.



During the open call for Side Events, we received 35 submissions from 33 different institutions. As part of MARUF23, from October 4-7, 2023, we had the opportunity to host 9 events organized by 8 different institutions that share MARUF's principles and goals.

SIDE EVENT SUBMISSIONS (35 SUBMISSIONS, 33 INSTITUTIONS)

- 5 Urban Routes
- 1 Exhibition
- 15 Workshops
- 11 Sessions
- 1 Networking Event

ACCEPTED AND COMPLETED EVENTS (10 EVENTS, 8 INSTITUTIONS)

3 Workshops

- Circular Solution Lab for Cities, Organizer: Maastricht University
- Game R+4: A Scenario Game for Rural Resilience, Organizer: Design Guides Association
- Beyond Campus: Students Developing Solutions Workshop, Organizer: Istanbul Citizens' Assembly

5 Sessions

- Turning Climate Ambition into Action: Learn more about the Gap Fund, Organizer: Global Covenant of Mayors - City Climate Finance Gap Fund
- Antifragility and De-Risking in the Face of Climate Change Challenges: A Collaborative Action, Organizer: Politecnico di Milano
- Green Future and Sustainability of Municipal Services, Organizer: Ministry of Foreign Affairs Directorate For EU Affairs
- Common Solutions to Urban Challenges: Cross-Border Cooperation Programmes, Organizer: Ministry of Foreign Affairs Directorate For EU Affairs
- Navigating Climate-Resilient Cities: Urban Leadership in Sustainable Development Across the Middle East, Organizer: International Metropolitan Fellowship Arabia Chapter

1 Networking Event

Networking: Engaging and Exploring Inter-Regional Cooperation between Europe and Mongolia through FRIENDSHIP Project, Organizer: Darkhan-Uul Province Municipality

1 Urban Route

• Tracing Transformation: Maltepe's Streets Reclaimed for Children, Organizer: Maltepe Municipality

SIDE EVENTS

Livable Cities Symposium

🚞 6 October 2023 | 🌑 10.00-17.30 | 📔 Room 5

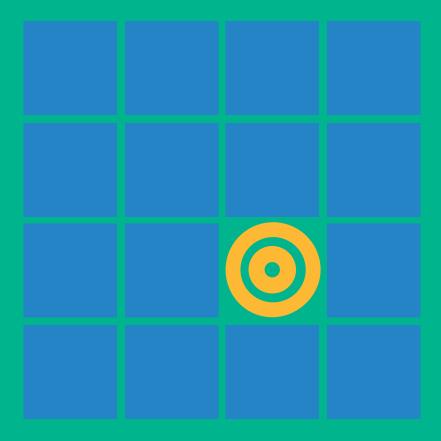
The global fight against the climate crisis and Türkiye's pursuit of its 2053 net-zero emission targets heavily depend on sustainable urban transportation. In light of this, the theme of this year's Livable Cities Symposium, organized for the 11th time by WRI Türkiye, was determined as "Kavsak Network International Event". Hosted at MARUF23, the symposium explored sustainable urban transportation from environmental, social, and economic perspectives. During the event, experts from around the world shared their insights and experiences on topics such as social impact, sustainability strategies, and sustainable urban transportation plans. By reviewing inspiring good practices from various countries, participants worked together to find solutions for creating and realizing more livable cities.





EXHIBITIONS

In the foyer area, designed as MARUF's public space, participants had the chance to explore six different exhibitions. Three of these exhibitions, organized by partner institutions, covered a diverse range of topics, from social issues like refugees, children, and women to more technical subjects such as digitalization and new technologies. The other three exhibitions showcased the outcomes of workshops and practices held across the Marmara Region as part of the MARUF on the Go events. Some of these exhibitions featured at MARUF continued after the forum, providing an opportunity for residents to engage with them in various locations throughout the city.



EXHIBITIONS

Istanbul Through Children's Eyes

The exhibition showcasing Istanbul through the eyes of refugee and local children featured the work of 10 multicultural children who used analog cameras, a medium rarely chosen in today's age, to document urban life in the city from their own perspectives. The photos displayed in the exhibition offered glimpses into the children's perceptions of daily life, touching on themes such as transportation, culture, environment, climate, education, and play.

Organizer: Association for Solidarity with Asylum Seekers and Migrants

Letters from Women

In this exhibition, created with women from refugee and local communities, participants were asked to photograph an object related to their lives and write letters sharing their feelings, thoughts, and wishes connected to that object. Through these letters, the exhibition aimed to highlight the common values and emotions from a woman's perspective, reflecting on how life in Istanbul today and in the future impacts and could impact women's lives.

Organizer: Association for Solidarity with Asylum Seekers and Migrants

Pioneer the Possible Exhibition

Curated by the Swedish Institute, this exhibition highlighted how digitalization and new technologies can address societal challenges and contribute to Sweden's journey toward a sustainable future. The exhibition highlighted the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals, detailing the steps taken to achieve these global objectives.

Organizer: Consulate General of Sweden in Istanbul

Mapping Marmara Region: Çanakkale

In the third iteration of the "Mapping the Marmara Region Project", as part of the MARUF on the Go events, Çanakkale has been selected as the "Preliminary Biopsy Area" and twelve young professionals specializing in urban studies participated in this workshop, using a multi-layered and cross-referenced approach to analyze Çanakkale's value systems. They examined the factors shaping the region's natural and social conditions, as well as the physical layers extending from ancient cultures to the present. Within the workshop, the aim was to create a multi-layered re-evaluation approach to archival information and to provide an assessment of Çanakkale's current situation. The regional asset-based mapping approach categorized Çanakkale's value systems under seven exploratory headings. By conducting a critical analysis of Çanakkale's past and present, the project aimed to develop a future projection addressing the identified positive and negative conditions. The foyer area of MARUF23 showcased the synthesis maps and collage works that presented the preliminary biopsy results of Çanakkale.

Organizer: Architecture and Urbanism Research Academy Istanbul (AURA Istanbul)

Partner: Marmara Municipalities Union

Municipal Partners: Çanakkale Municipality and Gallipoli Municipality

Sponsor: Kalebodur

Imagining Marmara: Living in the City

In collaboration with Arkki Türkiye and the Marmara Municipalities Union, and supported by Kalebodur, a series of workshops were conducted with 187 children from 13 municipalities as part of the MARUF on the Go events. The exhibition showcased the outcomes of these workshops, where the children's dreams for the environments they wish to live in were shared. Children aged 7-12 from the Marmara Region explored what kind of city they would like to live in, creating models that presented innovative solutions for a beautiful city that is inclusive, resilient and in harmony with nature. Through concepts like safety, accessibility, green spaces, cleanliness, resource use, biodiversity, resilience, planning, and design, the children illustrated their visions of ideal cities.

Organizer: Arkki Türkiye

Partners: Marmara Municipalities Union, Kalebodur

Municipal Partners: Ataşehir Municipality, Bahçelievler Municipality, Balıkesir Metropolitan Municipality, Bursa Metropolitan Municipality, Çanakkale Municipality, Çorlu Municipality, Edirne Municipality, İstanbul Metropolitan Municipality, Kırklareli Municipality, Kocaeli Metropolitan Municipality, Osmaneli Municipality, Sakarya Metropolitan Municipality, Yalova Municipality

Street Transformation

The exhibition showcased the outcomes of the Street Transformation program, led by the Marmara Municipalities Union, Local Governance Academy, Superpool, and the Global Designing Cities Initiative. It featured Interim Implementations by municipalities that transformed selected streets as part of a learning and support program. These Interim Implementations, a form of tactical urbanism, used temporary and flexible materials, enabling citizens to actively participate in the transformation process. The focus was on creating safer, more livable public spaces, prioritizing the safety of children, caregivers, and pedestrians. The exhibition included highlights from four implementations carried out in 2022 and eight more conducted in 2023 as part MARUF on the Go.

Program Partners: Marmara Municipalities Union, Local Government Academy, Superpool, Global Designing Cities Initiative

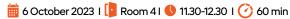
Municipal Partners: Arnavutköy Municipality, Bahçelievler Municipality, Gebze Municipality, İnegöl Municipality, Istanbul Metropolitan Municipality, Kadıköy Municipality, Kocaeli Metropolitan Municipality, Malkara Municipality, Maltepe Municipality, Sakarya Metropolitan Municipality, Serdivan Municipality





CLOSING SESSION

Closing Session MARUF23 and Beyond









★ Moderator

Ezgi Küçük Çalışkan, Dr., Urban Planning Coordinator, Marmara Municipalities Union

Speakers

Burcuhan Şener, Director of International Affairs & Migration Policy Center, Marmara Municipalities Union Görsev Argın Uz, Dr., Director of Training and Projects, Marmara Municipalities Union

M. Cemil Arslan, Dr., Secretary General, Marmara Municipalities Union & General Coordinator, MARUF Tahir Büyükakın, Assoc. Prof., President, Marmara Municipalities Union & Mayor, Kocaeli Metropolitan Municipality

Guest Speakers

Rafael Forero, Policy, Governance and Metropolitan Expert, UN-Habitat

Alim Arlı, Assoc. Prof., Sociology and Anthropology of Middle East, Marmara University

Selva Gürdoğan, Founding Partner, Superpool Belinay Hira Güney, Member of YoundTable Samet Keskin, Director of Data and Technology Center, Marmara Municipalities Union Emrehan Furkan Düzgiden, Corporate

Communications Dep. Coordinator, Marmara Municipalities Union

HIGHLIGHTS:

Young participants described resilience as living without the burden of daily worries, free from the trials of housing struggles, lengthy commutes, reliance on antidepressants, and the weight of fear, creating a space that

fosters human well-being and inclusivity and where existence is as vibrant and sustainable as life itself, encompassing everyone under one roof. Adding to this, they defined beyond resilience as a state of preparedness to face uncertainty

- The youth expressed their desire to be more actively involved in decision-making mechanisms for urban practices, including the planning of future MARUF events, and for their potential in urban production to be recognized and utilized.
- The Street Transformation initiative, which had been long-running project and concluded its final phase within the MARUF on the Go process, was highlighted at MARUF23, where its concrete and impactful results were exhibited.
- Through the neighborhood for resilient citythemed Marmarathon, organized as part of MARUF23, the significance of community-focused thinking, acting together, being united, and finding this collective strength in the creativity of youth was emphasized as an essential element beyond resilience.
- Information was provided about the World Metropolises Day, which took place on the 4th day of MARUF23 on October 7th, which focused on nature-based solutions and all participants were invited to this event, where discussions would center on building networks, improving cities collectively, and fostering international and regional development.
- It was noted that although MARUF is an open public space accessible to everyone, communication efforts, especially in Istanbul, had not reached the desired level, and it has not spread sufficiently across the city. Additional-

- ly, the need for more diverse stakeholders to participate was emphasized.
- MARUF, described as the best meeting point for a better future and Hailed as a mega event, was acknowledged as a product of joint and continuous efforts toward improvement, stressing that problem-solving must be an inclusive process involving academia, bureaucracy, practitioners, and all stakeholders.
- The session drew attention to the importance of building systems that learn from mistakes and can continue to operate and sustain themselves. It was stated that there is a need for producing applicable knowledge to bridge

- the gap between academic research and its implementation in administrative processes.
- The session also highlighted the impact of communication and understandability on producing and implementing solutions for the public good in the short, medium, and long term. In addition to underscoring the importance and necessity of institutionalization, the discussion emphasized the role of local governments, central government, academia, civil society, and the private sector in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals and the importance of engaging local, national, and international actors in these processes.



MMU President's Closing Speech

🚞 6 October 2023 I 🔃 Room 4 I 🌑 11.30-12.30

Reflecting on how MARUF was set in motion in 2019 with the theme of "Cities Developing Solutions" and how it emphasized "Re-thinking" and "Co-Acting" in 2021, Tahir Büyükakın, President of the Marmara Municipalities Union for the 2019-2024 period, outlined the objectives of MARUF23 stressing that this year's forum aimed not only to discuss resilience but also to explore topics beyond resilience, focusing on sustainable cities and improving the quality of urban life. Opening his speech by explaining that the main theme, "Resilience and Beyond," was chosen to enable a more comprehensive approach to urban issues, he celebrated the strong participation in the forum. Büyükakın expressed gratitude to the mayors and council members who dedicated their time to the Union's leadership, as well as the more than 100 partner institutions from universities, public bodies, and the private sector, alongside the team of volunteers and professionals, many of whom were young, who worked tirelessly to make MARUF23 a success.

Reflecting on previous meetings where he described it as "the best meeting point for a better future", Büyükakın emphasized that MARUF is an ongoing, collaborative effort dedicated to continuous improvement and pointed out that the key is striving and searching for betterment. He noted that while we are always moving toward something good, the next improvement is always just a few steps ahead, and the journey itself is a quest for ongoing refinement and progress.

Drawing on his experience both in academia and bureaucracy, Büyükakın addressed the communication gap between academia and practitioners, highlighting the need for an interface that bridges the long-term, theoretical focus of academic minds with the immediate problem-solving approach of practitioners. He stressed the importance of creating mechanisms that connect these two perspectives. By comparing academia to the "brain" and practical implementation to the "muscle and skeleton" of a system, he underlined the critical role of filtering laws and regulations through academia, developing proper frameworks, and conducting evaluation and improvement processes to foster practical applications.

Büyükakın also emphasized that systems that will be built must be sustainable and long-lasting and noted that knowledge confined to academia alone cannot fully translate into real life solutions. He emphasized that at some point, discussions must end, and action beyond academic discussions must begin, no matter the imperfections or deficiencies and he argued the success of realizing projects relies on the availability of implementable knowledge. Using the mucilage crisis in the Sea of Marmara as an example, he spoke of his experience of listening to the remarkable presentations de-

resilience and beyond

veloped within the framework established by TÜBİTAK, from local governments' digital control systems to biologists explaining which enzymes would be used to clean the waters, emphasizing how vital it is to establish a common language and communication framework, especially when navigating unfamiliar topics.

Continuing his speech, Büyükakın stressed the importance of keeping the dialogue alive and up-to-date. Considering that MARUF is held every two years, he pointed out that steps must be taken to ensure that the discussions from the previous forum are not forgotten by the next one, and proposed taking concrete steps to turn good ideas into action and ensuring the continuation of their momentum. In this context, his main recommendation was institutionalization. Among the actions to be taken were the establishment of permanent working groups under the leadership of the MMU, differentiated according to the scale of municipalities, and corresponding to each SDG. These groups would include decision-makers as well as representatives from academia, the private sector, and civil society organizations. He also made suggestions for creating publications in a discussion format for sharing good practice examples and ideas, which would provide a space for interactive learning and thinking. Another proposal was to create "thesis tanks" to connect municipalities with students in academia on specific topics based on needs. Another suggestion focused on MARUF's communication process. He pointed out that conveying the magnitude of the work should be handled in a way that resonates with the fast-paced, ever-changing agenda of today's world. He underlined the importance of running campaigns to ensure that society doesn't quickly forget our efforts to build resilient and sustainable cities, and the need for building a supporting institutional framework. Büyükakın concluded his remarks by underscoring the significant role that academia must play in ensuring the long-term sustainability of this communication mechanism.

WORLD **METROPOLITAN** DAY



7 October 2023 | | Hilton Istanbul Bosphorus | • 09.00-13.15



Organised by:

metropolis • (iii)



2023 Partner:



in the framework of





WORLD METROPOLITAN DAY

Opening Remarks

10.00-10.15



Jordi Vaquer, Dr., Secretary General, Metropolis



Claudia López Hernández, Mayor, Bogotá Municipality Hasan Akgün, Mayor, Büyükçekmece Municipality Hasan Aydınlık, Dr., Deputy Secretary General, Kocaeli Metropolitan Municipality

WORLD METROPOLITAN DAY

Global Experiences and Solutions for Transforming Metropolises

10.20-11.05



Antonella Contin, Ph.D., Department of Architecture and Urban Studies, University of Politecnico di Milano

Speakers

Claudia López Hernández, Mayor, Bogotá Municipality Elisenda Alamany, Vice President of International Relations and Digitalisation, Metropolitan Area of Barcelona

Issa Kassis, Mayor, Ramallah Municipality

WORLD METROPOLITAN DAY

The Metropolis as a Territorial Solution to Urban Challenges





Rafael Forero, Policy, Governance and Metropolitan Expert, UN-Habitat



Ana Cristina Wanzeler, Deputy Secretary of International Affairs, São Paulo City Hall Taufiq Zahidur Rahman, Advisor to the Mayor, Dhaka North City Corporation

Yahya R. A. Alsarraj, Mayor, Gaza Municipality

WORLD METROPOLITAN DAY

Global Perspectives

12.00-12.45



Laura Valdés Cano, Head of Policy, Metropolis



Ana Cristina Wanzeler, Deputy Secretary of International Affairs, São Paulo City Hall Claudia López Hernández, Mayor, Bogotá Municipality Elisenda Alamany, Vice President of International Relations and Digitalisation, Metropolitan Area of Barcelona

Issa Kassis, Mayor, Ramallah Municipality
Taufiq Zahidur Rahman, Advisor to the Mayor,
Dhaka North City Corporation
Yahya R. A. Alsarraj, Mayor, Gaza Municipality

WORLD METROPOLITAN DAY

Wrap-up & Closing Remarks





Jordi Vaquer, Dr., Secretary General, Metropolis

M. Cemil Arslan, Dr., Secretary General, Marmara

Municipalities Union & General Coordinator, MARUF

NOTES FROM WORLD METROPOLITAN DAY:

On October 7th, hosted by the Marmara Municipalities Union in collaboration with Metropolis and UN-Habitat, World Metropolitan Day was celebrated at the Marmara Urban Forum (MARUF23) in Istanbul with the theme "The Power of Nature in Our Metropolises". The 2023 celebration marked the fifth edition of World Metropolitan Day, which aims to raise awareness about the challenges and opportunities faced by metropolises around the world and this year's event was part of a global celebration that included major cities from Türkiye to Spain, Mexico to China.

The event titled "Beyond Urban: How Nature Can Transform Metropolises" featured discussions focused on nature-based solutions, with participation from leaders of local governments. The discussions addressed how nature can be prioritized in urban visions as a source of inspiration and innovation in the face of multiple crises, including disasters, climate change-related issues, pollution, floods, pandemics, and health problems, all of which intersect with various forms of inequality. The program highlighted the importance of integrating nature into urban planning and investments, including the construction of green corridors and the restoration of urban ecosystems. It emphasized the significance of regional perspectives and metropolitan governance, underlining the need for collaboration and coordination across different levels and sectors. The discussions also emphasized the need to consider each region's different characteristics and unique conditions when developing regional solutions, along with the necessity of viewing urban and rural areas as interconnected. For developing unique solutions from the local level, the program stressed the importance of assessing needs at the neighborhood and community level within metropolitan areas and take into consideration the diversity in these areas.

The program, aimed at promoting nature-based solutions as a powerful way of raising awareness of the challenges cities face due to disasters and climate change and improving level of prosperity in cities, served as a platform for networking and collaboration among leaders at the local, national, and international levels. Aimed at contributing to efforts to build resilient, sustainable, and inclusive cities through the exchange of knowledge, experiences, and the development of partnerships, the event brought together 240 participants from metropolises worldwide in Istanbul for World Metropolitan Day. Mayors and leaders shared their insights on navigating leadership in a changing world, expressing optimism for the future of metropolitan areas while reaffirming their commitment to creating more sustainable, equitable, inclusive, and livable cities. They also issued a collective call to action, emphasizing the critical role of nature-based solutions.

During the event, the emphasis was on enhancing the potential of nature-based solutions to tackle urban challenges, particularly in light of the growing threats posed by climate change, natural disasters, and environmental inequalities. It was noted that metropolises are ready to overcome these challenges by sharing innovations and solutions beyond their own borders. Speakers pointed out that cities have long been viewed as opposites to nature, and they advocated instead that

we need to make nature our ally, especially in the face of the climate crisis. With more than half of the global population now living in cities, and this number expected to reach two-thirds by 2050, the urgency of accelerating the shift from fossil fuels to clean energy was emphasized considering the transportation sector is the primary contributor to emissions. It was stressed that crises like climate change, migration, refugee crises, economic crises, pandemics, food supply issues, earthquakes, and environmental disasters directly threaten the resilience of cities and that tackling these issues requires global cooperation, active participation from local governments, and financial solutions. To boost the environmental and social sustainability of cities, acting while considering the integration of diverse clean energy-powered public transportation systems and nature-based solutions was highlighted as crucial. The discussion also pointed out that green, digital, and circular economies, alongside recycling practices, can promote fair employment opportunities, particularly for women and youth. It was emphasized that, in cities, which incorporate diversity and collective effort and play a key role in fostering democracy at the local level, there is a need to define the areas of authority and financial resources related to urban governance, as well as multi-level governance and collaboration in order to provide inclusive services aimed at improving the quality of life.

In the panel titled "Global Experiences and Solutions for the Transforming Metropolises", discussions focused on nature-based solutions aimed at promoting the state of mental and physical well-being of urban residents, as well as the concept of the "city of care" in the context of mutual metropolitan well-being. Examples from Bogotá, Colombia, highlighted efforts to reduce the unpaid care burden, primarily carried by women and immigrants, and to improve their access to social infrastructure, employment, and social life, as well as their socioeconomic status. Good practice examples showcasing innovative, data-driven tools for ensuring the efficient and effective use of re-

sources in developing sustainable and healthy cities, and for implementing urban planning that is in harmony with nature were discussed with a focus on Barcelona, Spain. Additionally, post-Covid-19 practices toward achieving the Sustainable Development Goals' indicators and the roles of youth and women in local economic development were illustrated with examples from Ramallah, Palestine.

In the session titled "The Metropolis as a Territorial Solution to Urban Challenges", discussions addressed the challenges in meeting basic humanitarian and infrastructure needs, particularly in terms of security, in Gaza, Palestine. Despite these difficulties, efforts to support volunteer work, participation, partnerships, and capacity development, especially among the youth, were highlighted, with an emphasis on the relationship between peace and development. The challenges arising from the lack of institutional cooperation and coordination among administrative authorities in cities, particularly in metropolises, and its impact on human and nature-based practices were examined through examples from São Paulo, Brazil, and Dhaka, Bangladesh. It was stressed that to drive effective collective action, there is a need for accountable structures at local, national, and global levels, active involvement of local communities, and improved public administration systems through multi-level, cross-sector collaborations and holistic approaches.

In the program, global perspectives pointing to the importance of local action were shared and one of the key points emphasized was the need for a regional and holistic approach when delivering services in metropolitan areas, ensuring access to rural regions and disadvantaged groups as well. The need for fostering technical collaborations at lower administrative levels and working toward consensus-based decisions was highlighted as essential for collective action and practical cooperation. In addition to cities learning from each other, it was emphasized that raising awareness and learning from challenges and mistakes encountered during implementation processes is critical.

It was also highlighted that, to reduce inequalities at a societal level, public spaces and community areas must be developed with nature-based solutions that foster coexistence, encounters, interactions, and social well-being. The discussion also emphasized the importance of moving away from a human-centered, domination-based view of nature. Instead, humans should recognize themselves as part of nature, balancing responsible production and consumption while fulfilling responsibilities toward nature and future generations. It was stressed that nature belongs to the metropolis and is our ally in building healthy, safe, and well-connected cities. Additionally, a call was made for urgent action and the need for new gov-

ernance systems that are based on local democracy, that prioritize inter-institutional cooperation, coordination, and communication, and are more transparent and accountable in order to develop solutions at both national and global levels.









PARTNERS

A core strength of MARUF lies in its collaborative organization, uniting individuals and institutions across diverse sectors. Serving as a meeting point for all stakeholders related to the urban agenda, MARUF23 brought together local governments, ministries, academia, civil society, international organizations, development agencies, the public sector, the private sector, and citizens at local, regional, national, and global levels, providing stakeholders with a platform for discussing urban issues and putting forward their proposals for solution at this gathering.

As in previous years, planning and preparation processes, MARUF on the Go events, and all processes during and after the forum have been shaped by a participatory method, with the support and contributions of stakeholders. The number of partners for MARUF, which stood at 66 in 2019 and grew to 113 in 2021, surpassed 120 in 2023. Notably, around 65% of the partner organizations that played a significant role in the success of MARUF23 are from Türkiye, while 35% are international organizations. In terms of sectoral distribution, civil society organizations, international organizations, academia, and local governments constitute a large majority of the partners, while the private sector, central government, development agencies, professional organizations, and local authority unions are also included among the partners. The representation of various sectors and areas of expertise among the partners is one of the key reasons behind the diversity and inclusive approach that MARUF23 embodies.



resilience and beyond

MARUF23 partners contributed to the shaping of the sessions and reaching the interested parties by providing content, speakers, planning, organization, and promotion support. The Ministry of Environment, Urbanization and Climate Change and UN-Habitat, which can be considered the most important and influential participants of city forums on a national and international scale, were also among the partners of MARUF21. Additionally, numerous organizations such as the Ministry of Foreign Affairs EU Presidency, the Union of Municipalities of Türkiye, all five development agencies in the Marmara region, UNDP, ICLEI, Eurocities, GIZ, WWF, ALDA, NALAS, JICA, TEPAV, TE-SEV, and the Istanbul Policy Center continued to contribute as partners to the forum. Furthermore, alongside many stakeholders from MARUF19 and MARUF21, new partners such as the Global Covenant of Mayors, UNICEF, EIT Urban Mobility, European Metropolitan Authorities, UNESCO National Commission for Türkiye, the French Development Agency, Politecnico di Milano, MetroHUB, the Presidency for Turks Abroad and Related Communities, Technopark Istanbul, PwC, and Koç added significant value to MARUF23 by spanning a wide range of sectors from public to private, academia to civil society, and local governments to international organizations. Through the official websites and social media accounts of national and international partners promoting MARUF, many individuals and organizations interested in urban issues from various parts of the world, including Europe, America, Africa, and Asia, participated in the forum. Additionally, Dalmaçyalı Advanced Heat Insulation Systems, TİS Technologic Isolator Systems, INTETRA, TOMRA, and PARAMETRE provided financial support for the forum while sharing their services and products developed to address urban challenges with the participants.

A highlight of MARUF's institutional collaborations was the World Metropolitan Day, held on October 7 in partnership with UN-Habitat and Metropolis. This annual event, celebrated every October since 1985, unites metropolitan municipalities around the world in the pursuit of creating fairer and more livable cities. Since 2022, it has served as a global platform for metropolitan leaders, hosted each year by a different metropolis. In 2023, the World Metropolitan Day event, hosted by MMU, centered around the theme "Beyond Urban: How Nature Can Transform Metropolises?" and marked the fourth and final day of MARUF23.

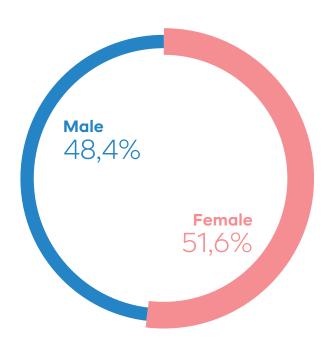
STATISTICAL INFORMATION

DATA AND STATISTICS ON SESSIONS AND SPEAKERS

The MARUF23 event, held from October 4-7, 2024, featured a total of 144 sessions spanning 17 different event modes.

Speakers

Over 380 speakers participated in the sessions as panelists, keynote speakers, and moderators; among them, 51.6% were women and 48.4% were men.

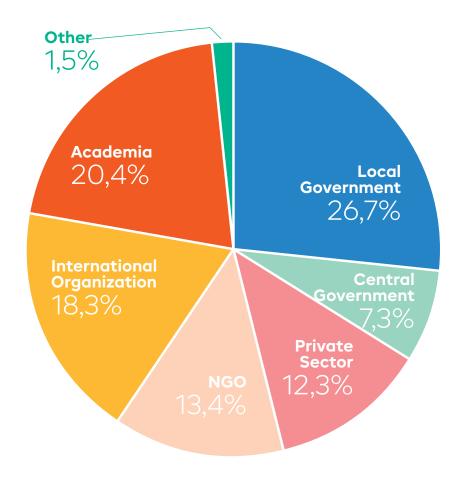


| SESSION MODE | NUMBER OF SESSIONS | |
|------------------|-----------------------|--|
| Opening | 2 | |
| Workshops | 13 | |
| Hype or Not? | 7 | |
| Showcase | 9 | |
| Deep Dive | 7 | |
| Dialogue Marmara | 9 | |
| Quick Take | 10 | |
| Closed Meeting | 7 | |
| Closing | 2 | |
| Urban Library | 4 | |
| Urban Cinema | 8 | |
| Networking | 8 | |
| Special Session | 18 | |
| Play Marmara | 4 | |
| Urban Basics | 8 | |
| Local in Action | 27 | |
| YoundTable | 1 | |
| TOTAL | 144 | |

Sectoral Distribution of Speakers

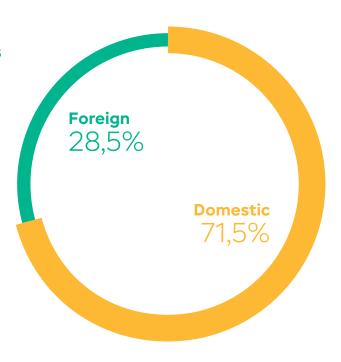
Analyzing the sectoral distribution of the speakers, local governments ranked first with 26.7%. This was followed by academia (20.4%), international organizations (18.3%), civil society organizations (13.4%), the private sector (12.3%), and central government (7.3%).

| SECTOR | PERCENTAGE | |
|----------------------------|--------------|--|
| Local Government | %26,7 | |
| Central Government | %7,3 | |
| Private Sector | %12,3 | |
| NGO | %13,4 | |
| International Organization | %18,3 | |
| Academia | %20,4 | |
| Other | %1,6 | |
| | | |



Nationality Distribution of Speakers

71.5% of the speakers were from Türkiye, while foreign speakers made up 28.5%. A total of 44 different countries were represented among the speakers. These countries include Albania, Argentina, Austria, Bangladesh, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, Czechia, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kosovo, Lebanon, Lithuania, Malta, Moldova, Mongolia, Montenegro, Netherlands, North Macedonia, Palestine, Portugal, Romania, Serbia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Syria, Türkiye, Ukraine, United Kingdom, United States and Yemen.



| COUNTRY | NUMBER OF SPEAKERS | | |
|------------------|-----------------------|--|--|
| United States | 2 | | |
| Germany | 10 | | |
| Argentina | 1 | | |
| Albania | 2 | | |
| Austria | 1 | | |
| Bangladesh | 1 | | |
| Belgium | 6 | | |
| Bosnia and Herz. | 2 | | |
| Brazil | 3 | | |
| Bulgaria | 1 | | |
| Czechia | 1 | | |
| China | 1 | | |
| Denmark | 3 | | |
| Palestine | 2 | | |
| Finland | 2 | | |
| | | | |

| COUNTRY | NUMBER OF SPEAKERS |
|-----------------|--------------------|
| France | 3 |
| Netherlands | 6 |
| United Kingdom | 3 |
| Spain | 7 |
| Sweden | 1 |
| Italy | 11 |
| Japan | 1 |
| Canada | 2 |
| Montenegro | 2 |
| Kazakhstan | 1 |
| Colombia | 2 |
| Kosovo | 1 |
| Lithuania | 2 |
| Lebanon | 2 |
| North Macedonic | 5 |
| | |

| COUNTRY | NUMBER OF SPEAKERS | |
|----------|-----------------------|--|
| Malta | 1 | |
| Mongolia | 4 | |
| Moldova | 1 | |
| Portugal | 2 | |
| Romania | 2 | |
| Serbia | 2 | |
| Slovenia | 1 | |
| Syria | 3 | |
| Chile | 2 | |
| Türkiye | 270 | |
| Ukraine | 1 | |
| Jordan | 2 | |
| Yemen | 2 | |
| Greece | 2 | |
| | | |

TOTAL

382

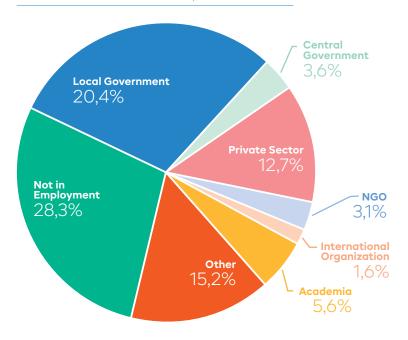
DATA AND STATISTICS ON PARTICIPANTS

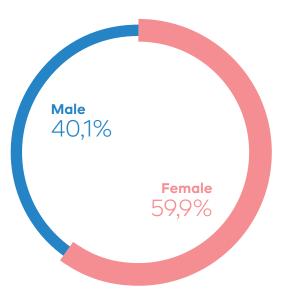
MARUF23 attracted over 5,000 participants at the Istanbul Congress Center from October 4-7, 2023. When looking at the gender distribution of participants, it can be seen that 60% were women and 40% were men.

Participants

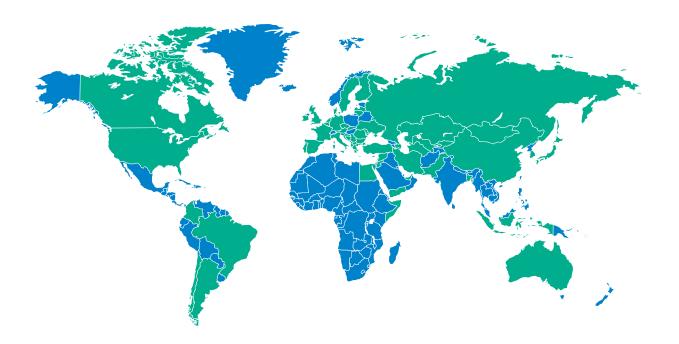
In terms of age demographics, 33.4% of participants were in the 25-34 age range, followed by 35-44 years (25.3%) and 19-24 years (20.9%). Participants aged 19-44 accounted for approximately 80% of all attendees. The remaining 20% consisted of those aged 45-54 (12%), 55-64 (4.4%), 0-18 (2.1%), and 65+ (1.8%).

| AGE RANGE | PERCENTAGE |
|-----------|------------|
| 0-18 | 2,1% |
| 19-24 | 20,9% |
| 25-34 | 33,4% |
| 35-44 | 25,3% |
| 45-54 | 12,0% |
| 55-64 | 4,4% |
| +65 | 1,8% |





When analyzing the sectoral distribution of participants, local governments take the lead with 30%. They are followed by the private sector (12.7%) and academia (5.6%). In addition to local governments, the public sector also saw participation from central government institutions (3.6%) and other public agencies (4.5%). Civil society organizations accounted for 3.1% of MARUF participants, while international organizations represented 1.6%. Apart from the specified sectors, 15.2% of participants fell into other categories, and 28.3% indicated that they were not affiliated with any specific sector. Upon reviewing participant age data and other details, it is evident that a large portion of this group consisted of students.

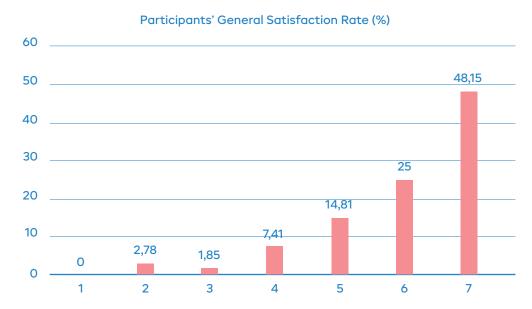


Participants From Across The World

94% of MARUF23 participants were from Türkiye, while 6% were international participants. Participants represented 62 different nations, including Albania, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, Croatia, Czechia, Denmark, Egypt, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Indonesia, Iran, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kosovo, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Lebanon, Lithuania, Macedonia, Malta, Moldova, Mongolia, Montenegro, the Netherlands, North Macedonia, Pakistan, Palestine, Portugal, Romania, Russia, Serbia, Slovenia, Somalia, South Korea, Spain, Sweden, Syria, Türkiye, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, the United Arab Emirates, the United Kingdom, the United States, Uzbekistan, and Yemen.

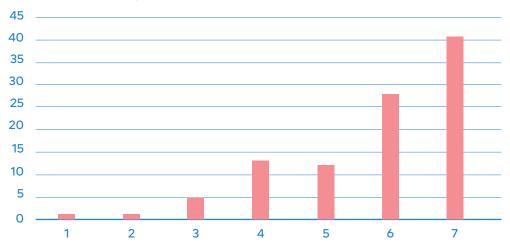
PARTICIPANTS' EVALUATIONS

Following MARUF23, an online survey was sent to participants to gather their evaluations. Through the evaluation form, the goal was to assess participants' overall satisfaction with MARUF23, as well as whether they found the content presented during the forum, the venue, simultaneous interpretation and sign language services, and the MARUF23 mobile application to be satisfactory. In the survey, participants were asked to rate the forum on a 7-point Likert scale, with "1" being the lowest and "7" the highest, to express their satisfaction levels regarding the specific topics.



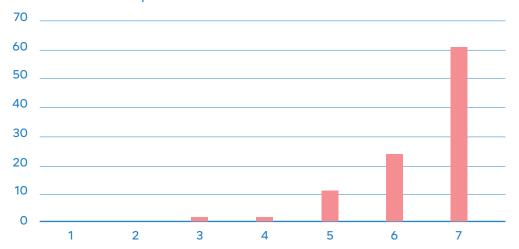
When looking at the distribution of scores given by participants, nearly half rated their satisfaction with MARUF23 at the highest level (7 points). On average, the satisfaction score was 6.08 out of 7, equating to approximately 87 points out of 100. Participants who rated their satisfaction below the average level of 4 points made up about 4.7% of the total.





When participants were asked to evaluate the session content specifically, approximately 41% expressed the highest level of satisfaction. The average score was 5.81 out of 7, corresponding to around 83 points out of 100 for satisfaction. Participants who rated the session content below the average satisfaction level of 4 points made up about 6.4% of the total.

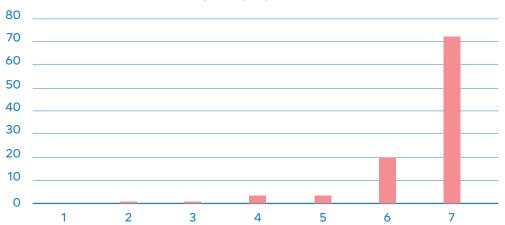




In terms of the venue and the facilities it provided, 61% of participants expressed the highest level of satisfaction. The average satisfaction score for the venue was 6.41 out of 7, which equates to approximately 92 points out of 100. Those who gave a score below the average satisfaction level of 4 points comprised about 2% of the participants.

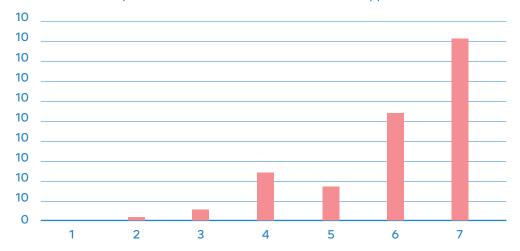
#MARUF23





When evaluating participants' satisfaction with simultaneous interpretation and sign language services with a focus on accessibility and inclusivity, 71% of the survey respondents expressed the highest level of satisfaction. The average satisfaction score was 6.54 out of 7, equivalent to approximately 93 points out of 100. Participants who rated below the average satisfaction level of 4 points represented about 1.8% of the total respondents.





We developed a mobile application to enhance the MARUF experience and make following and interacting with the forum easier. In regard to the mobile app, 45% of the participants expressed the highest level of satisfaction. Looking at the average score, a satisfaction level of approximately 84 points out of 100 was achieved, with an average score of 5.86 out of 7. Participants who rated the mobile app below the average satisfaction level of 4 made up about 3.7% of the total participants.

AFTERWORD: HOW WILL WE GO BEYOND RESILIENCE?

At the opening of MARUF23, the concept of going beyond resilience was summarized as "developing resistance based on experience". The forum's YoundTable youth expressed that in order for cities to go beyond resilience, "there needs to be an awareness that small or large groups (neighborhoods, city councils, etc.) that are aware of the problems and willing to solve them can initially engage in small-scale, long-term, adaptable, and participatory interventions" and emphasized the importance of learning from past experiences, not forgetting, and all actions should be taken accordingly. To them, "not having resilience is like carrying Sisyphus's boulder in these times marked by uncertain struggles, where challenges of life wear us down. However, going beyond resilience means being prepared, even when we don't know what obstacles lie ahead in this seemingly endless, Don Quixote-like battle".

At MARUF23, representatives from local governments, academia, civil society organizations, international institutions, and the private sector came together and shared their knowledge, ideas, and questions from their own perspectives on how to contribute to urban resilience and provide solutions to obstacles on the way to resilience. The discussion platform provided by MARUF23 encouraged a return to fundamental issues, a questioning of the tools at our disposal, and efforts to promote successful results to serve as guiding examples. During the forum, it was emphasized that unempowered communities, approaches that do not evaluate systems holistically or fail to listen to one another, and practices detached from ethical principles or those not contributing to democratization processes, regardless of the label used, such as livability, sustainability, or inclusiveness, would hinder resilience in spatial, environmental, social, economic, and cultural contexts.

Overcoming the barriers to resilience and moving beyond this perpetually debated concept will be possible through lessons learned from vulnerable areas and the realities we confront. This transformation must begin today and create opportunities for our better selves in the future. The question of "how to go beyond resilience" is a question without an easy answer, and has been posed to all of us, individuals, communities, institutions, and urban leaders alike, once again during MARUF23. We believe that MARUF23 has provided various answers to this question, raised new questions, and, and most importantly, laid the groundwork for a new community determined to push beyond boundaries in search of answers.

































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