



REPUBLIC OF TÜRKİYE

SECOND NATIONAL PROGRESS REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE NEW URBAN AGENDA (2021-2025)



“Assessment of the 2021–2025 Period for
Sustainable, Resilient and Inclusive Cities”

APRIL 2026



REPUBLIC OF TÜRKİYE
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CONTRIBUTING INSTITUTIONS AND ORGANIZATIONS

The preparation process of this report was carried out in cooperation with Ankara Hacı Bayram Veli University, with the contributions of numerous institutions at the national and local levels, in line with the sustainable urbanization goals of the Republic of Türkiye.

The institutional opinions submitted throughout the process contributed to shaping Türkiye's vision of sustainable urbanization through a participatory approach. We would like to thank all experts, local stakeholders, and data-providing institutions that contributed to the preparation of this report.

- Presidency of Strategy and Budget of the Republic of Türkiye
- Republic of Türkiye Ministry of Family and Social Services
- Republic of Türkiye Ministry of Labour and Social Security
- Republic of Türkiye Ministry of Energy and Natural Resources
- Republic of Türkiye Ministry of Treasury and Finance
- Republic of Türkiye Ministry of Culture and Tourism
- Republic of Türkiye Ministry of National Education
- Republic of Türkiye Ministry of Industry and Technology
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- Directorate General of State Airports Authority
- Directorate General for State Hydraulic Works
- Directorate General of Turkish State Railways
- Turkish Statistical Institute
- Turkish Water Institute
- General Directorate of İller Bank Incorporated Company
- Housing Development Administration
- Union of Municipalities of Türkiye
- Marmara Municipalities Union
- Ankara Metropolitan Municipality
- Eskişehir Metropolitan Municipality
- İzmir Metropolitan Municipality
- Kocaeli Metropolitan Municipality
- Mersin Metropolitan Municipality
- UN Resident Coordinator Office
- Academic and civil society stakeholders

FOREWORD

By publishing its first comprehensive national report on the implementation of the New Urban Agenda in 2021, Türkiye made a strong statement of its commitment to sustainable urbanization. This Report is an update report prepared as a continuation of that first comprehensive report. It evaluates, within a multidimensional framework, the progress Türkiye has made during the 2021–2025 period in the areas of inclusive, resilient, environmentally sensitive, and innovative urban policies.

Today, cities are not merely settlements where populations are concentrated; they are strategic spaces where sustainable development, social inclusion, economic dynamism, and resilience to the climate crisis are shaped. With this understanding, Türkiye regards making its cities more livable, more equitable, greener, and more resilient as a fundamental public policy priority. This report presents, from a holistic perspective, the multilevel and multi-stakeholder efforts carried out across a wide range of areas, from social inclusion to urban prosperity and from environmental sustainability to implementation capacity; at the same time, it offers a common direction for the coming period.

I believe that this update report will serve not only as a study documenting Türkiye's progress, but also as a valuable reference supporting mutual learning, the sharing of experience, and stronger cooperation at both the national and international levels. I would like to extend my thanks to all those who contributed to the preparation of this report, especially the staff of our Ministry, as well as all institutions and organizations, local administrations, experts, civil society actors, academic stakeholders, and everyone else whose efforts made this work possible.



Murat Kurum

Minister of Environment,
Urbanization and Climate
Change Republic of Türkiye

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ABBREVIATIONS

UN	United Nations
UN-HABITAT	The United Nations Human Settlements Programme
Eurostat	Statistical Office of the European Union
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
İL BANK	General Directorate of İller Bank Incorporated Company
SMEs	Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises
MARUF	Marmara Urban Forum
OECD	Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
TOKİ	Housing Development Administration
TurkStat	Turkish Statistical Institute
UCLG	United Cities and Local Governments
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UMF	Global Urban Monitoring Framework

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report constitutes the Second National Progress Report evaluating the implementation of the New Urban Agenda in Türkiye. It has been prepared as an updated version of the first comprehensive national report published by Türkiye in 2021. In four main chapters, the report examines the progress achieved in the implementation of the New Urban Agenda in Türkiye along the axes of sustainable urbanization for social inclusion and ending poverty, sustainable and inclusive urban prosperity and opportunities for all, environmentally sustainable and resilient urban development, and effective implementation/monitoring capacity. A Strategic Road Map is presented as the concluding section.

Sustainable Urban Development U for Social Inclusion and Ending Poverty:

The urbanization process in Türkiye is shaped around reducing poverty, expanding access to basic services, and empowering vulnerable groups. Policies developed within the framework of the 12th Development Plan (2024–2028) and SDGs 11–16 aim to reduce the multidimensional effects of poverty in cities by strengthening social protection networks. In this context, with the increase in public resources allocated to social assistance expenditures, the Gini coefficient, which measures income distribution inequality, declined from 0.420 in 2023 to 0.413 in 2024 (UMF-24). The ratio of local administrations' social expenditures to their total budgets increased from 3.2% in 2016 to 5.8% in 2023. Progress in social policies is further reflected in life expectancy, which rose to 78.1 years (UMF-17).

In line with the goal of inclusive urbanization, reducing spatial inequalities, improving access to housing, and overcoming barriers that limit the economic participation of vulnerable groups have emerged as key priorities. Resolving housing access and shelter problems has become one of the priority areas for central government and local administrations. In this context, 91% of the housing units produced by TOKİ consist of social housing aimed at low- and middle-income groups. In the fight against urban poverty, municipalities have become increasingly effective; social assistance, services for disadvantaged groups, shelter support, and employment support have emerged as important tools. Significant progress has been made in ensuring equal and safe access for everyone to basic services such as clean drinking water, transportation, education, and health services. As of 2024, the rate of easy access to public transportation reached 84.6%, while the rate of easy access to health services rose to 83.6%. Nearly all housing units have access to a piped water system. The concentration of the migrant population in cities has created new policy areas in terms of social cohesion and access to urban services. Neighborhood-based social service models and participatory governance mechanisms such as city councils and thematic assemblies for vulnerable groups play a critical role in implementing the principle of "leaving no one behind" in urban areas. Local projects implemented in the areas of shelter, gender equality, age-friendly cities, and accessibility for persons with disabilities strengthen both social inclusion capacity and the participation of urban residents in economic and social life.

Sustainable and Inclusive Urban Prosperity and Opportunities for All:

Türkiye's urbanization process is undergoing a period where economic growth, digital transformation, and social welfare converge. Urban prosperity is evaluated within a holistic framework that addresses employment, housing, infrastructure, and access to public services together. This approach is based on assessing economic growth not only through production and employment indicators but also through quality of life, equality of opportunity, and the level of access to services. In 2024, the employment rate in cities rose to 51.4%, while the unemployment rate declined to 8.7% (UMF-27). At the same time, it is evident that İŞKUR programs and vocational training courses offered by local administrations are important in reducing structural inequalities in the economy and supporting the participation of women and young people in economic life. As of 2024, 1,178 women's cooperatives are actively operating across Türkiye.

In order to sustain urban productivity, investments focused on green and digital transformation in industry are being encouraged, while access to finance and the technological infrastructure of SMEs, which constitute 99.6% of all enterprises, are being strengthened. Türkiye has risen to 37th place in the

Global Innovation Index, while the contribution of creative industries and sustainable tourism programs to urban prosperity continues to grow. In addition, development agencies and regional development strategies support local projects in order to reduce disparities in development between regions and mobilize the internal potential of all regions. Through housing policies, infrastructure investments, transportation, and public space arrangement, it is aimed to improve the quality of life in cities. In this way, economic growth is intended to be shared in a more balanced spatial and social manner.

Environmentally Sustainable and Resilient Urban Development:

Urban development is addressed through a holistic approach aimed at increasing the resilience of cities in the face of climate change, disaster risks, and environmental pressures. In line with the 12th Development Plan and the 2053 Net Zero Emissions target, Türkiye has adopted the transformation of its cities into sustainable living spaces that are resilient to climate change and disasters and supported by green and digital technologies as a fundamental objective. Progress has been made in climate change mitigation and adaptation through national and local climate action plans, greenhouse gas emission reduction, energy efficiency, and renewable energy investments. Within the scope of environmental sustainability, the Zero Waste Project increased the waste recovery rate to 36% as of 2024. Innovative technologies such as the NEFES software, which monitors urban air quality at the neighborhood level, have been introduced, while the share of renewable energy resources in total installed capacity has reached 59.7%. At the same time, nature-based solutions, green infrastructure practices, and smart city technologies have come to the forefront as tools for improving environmental performance.

The 6 February 2023 earthquakes, in particular, created a turning point in the urban planning paradigm and led to the reconsideration of resilience policies. The identification that 7.5 million independent units are at risk, and that 2 million of them require urgent transformation, including 600,000 in Istanbul, demonstrates the importance of disaster-focused urban transformation policies. In this context, the Directorate of Urban Transformation was established in order to manage urban transformation processes more effectively, and as of September 2025, approximately 2.35 million independent units had been made resilient to disasters. With the restructuring of the Directorate of Urban Transformation in 2023, the principle of “on-site, voluntary, and rapid transformation” became the main guiding approach.

Effective Implementation

The implementation of the New Urban Agenda in Türkiye is carried out within a multilevel and multi-actor governance structure. Cooperation among the central government, local administrations, academia, civil society, and international organizations plays a decisive role in policy development and implementation processes. Implementation processes are supported through the legal framework of urban policies, institutional structure, financial resources, capacity development, and technology-based innovations. The 11th and 12th Development Plans set forth and implemented objectives such as strengthening the financial structure of local administrations, increasing their own-source revenues, and expanding strategic planning and performance-based budgeting. Integrated financial systems have been developed to enhance the fiscal sustainability of municipalities, and data-based and transparent financial management standards have been introduced. In order to strengthen financial sustainability, increasing the own-source revenues of local administrations is being encouraged, while blended finance models for infrastructure projects are being implemented through cooperation carried out via İLBANK with the World Bank and other international organizations.

In the field of spatial planning, 99% of environmental plans across the country have been completed, and a resilient urban structure is being targeted through the Türkiye Spatial Strategy Plan 2053 (Draft) and disaster-focused urban transformation legislation. Within the scope of digital transformation and innovation, the National Smart Cities Strategy and Action Plan (2024-2030) is institutionalizing a data-driven urban management approach. Through digital infrastructures such as the National Geographic Information System of Türkiye (TUCBS), the Spatial Address Registration System (MAKS), and the e-Plan Automation System, urban data are analyzed in order to improve the transparency and

speed of services. In addition, institutional networks and thematic platforms, particularly the Union of Municipalities of Türkiye and the Marmara Municipalities Union, support the development of the technical and administrative capacities of municipalities. Thematic learning programs, project support, mentoring, and matching mechanisms strengthen municipalities' exchange of experience in the areas of climate, social policy, migration, participation, and digitalization. Thus, an integrated implementation framework that addresses governance, finance, capacity, and technology together is being reinforced in order to achieve the goals of the New Urban Agenda. In order to strengthen data-based decision-making processes, monitoring mechanisms aligned with the Global Urban Monitoring Framework (UMF) have begun to be developed. Türkiye strongly demonstrates its commitment to sustaining the urbanization process and urban development activities within the framework of the New Urban Agenda; accordingly, is taking important steps across various policy areas.

INTRODUCTION

Purpose and Scope

The New Urban Agenda is a globally adopted road map for aligning urbanization with sustainable development goals. This national progress report aims to evaluate the progress Türkiye has made since 2021 in line with the three transformative commitments and implementation tools set out under the New Urban Agenda. The report comprehensively analyzes the achievements, challenges, and enabling factors in the areas of inclusive development, fair distribution of prosperity, environmental sustainability, and effective governance.

Principles and Approach

The preparation of the report was based on four main principles. These are: an evidence-based and realistic analytical approach, an analytical perspective evaluating structural trends, an implementation-oriented and results-focused content framework, and an inclusive, multilevel, and participatory process management approach.

Data, Indicators and Monitoring

The data architecture of the report was designed in alignment with the Global Urban Monitoring Framework (UMF) developed by UN-Habitat. Türkiye's data infrastructure and institutional reporting mechanisms were taken as the basis, while national and international databases were used in areas where data gaps existed. Within this framework, progress was assessed in four main thematic areas: social inclusion and poverty reduction, inclusive economic prosperity, environmental sustainability and resilience, and effective implementation.

Participation and Governance

The preparation of the report was carried out with the participation of numerous stakeholders at the national and local levels. Central government institutions, local administrations, regional development agencies, academia, local government unions, and international partners contributed to the process, and information on sectoral developments in this field was collected through representatives of institutional structures. This structure was shaped in accordance with the multilevel governance approach envisaged by the New Urban Agenda, through an understanding based on inclusive representation and shared responsibility.

Method and Data Sources

The preparation process of this report was conducted within the framework of a participatory and multilevel methodology. The study is based on a mixed-method approach combining existing national policy documents, institutional reports, official statistics, special commission reports, and implementation data from local administrations.

Methodological Approach

The reporting process consists of three main stages: (i) information gathering and data compilation, (ii) thematic analysis and trend assessment, and (iii) reporting of outputs. In the first stage, written contributions were collected from relevant national institutions, local administrations, civil society organizations, and academic stakeholders. In the second stage, this information was analyzed together with the findings and policies included in the 12th Development Plan (2024–2028), Specialized Commission Reports, the Medium-Term Programme (2026–2028), the 2026 Presidential Annual Programme, and national strategy documents. In the final stage, the report was prepared in line with the data obtained.

PART 1: Sustainable Urban Development Urbanization for Social Inclusion and Ending Poverty

In Türkiye, the urbanization process advanced in the second decade of the 21st century together with dynamics of social, economic, and spatial transformation, and as of 2023, approximately 93% of the population has come to live in administratively defined urban areas. This process has brought to the fore new policy needs not only in terms of economic growth, but also in areas such as spatial inequalities, housing problems, and social exclusion. With the adoption of the New Urban Agenda, Türkiye has begun to address urbanization not merely as a physical process, but also as a development axis integrated with social justice and inclusion.

The objectives set out under the “Human-Centered Development and Social Justice” axis of the 12th Development Plan provide a strategic framework for ensuring income justice at the urban scale, increasing the spatial coverage of social services, and taking into account the multidimensional nature of poverty. In this context, it has been aimed to integrate social policies in cities with planning, housing, transport, and environmental policies. The report evaluates this transformation process at both the institutional and spatial levels and documents examples of inclusive governance jointly formed by public institutions, local administrations, and civil society.

1.1. Vulnerable Groups Reducing Inequality and Promoting Social Inclusion and Empowerment of Vulnerable Groups

Over the last 20 years, Türkiye has implemented structural changes in social protection policies and practices targeting socially vulnerable groups in need of support. Persons in need of social assistance and services, the poor, and groups facing the risk of poverty have largely been brought under the social protection system, thereby strengthening the understanding of the social state.

Türkiye’s economic development over the last 20 years has been supported by increased public resources allocated to social assistance expenditures. As a result of the extensive health and social support programs that continue to be implemented in Türkiye, according to data from the Turkish Statistical Institute (TurkStat), average life expectancy increased from 77.3 years in the 2021–2023 period to 78.1 years in the 2022–2024 period (UMF-17).¹

It is aimed that social assistance should contribute, in the long term, to economic stability and social empowerment. Within this framework, new mechanisms have been established in line with the “Employment-Friendly Social Assistance Approach” by increasing the current employability levels of social assistance beneficiaries and strengthening the link between social assistance and employment.

As a result of the implementation of inclusive social transfers and income policies, the Gini coefficient declined from 0.420 in 2023 to 0.413 in 2024.²

Nevertheless, despite the improvement in income distribution, differences continue to exist at the regional and urban scales in the spatial distribution of poverty. This points to an important policy area requiring poverty to be addressed also in its spatial dimension and comprehensive instruments to be developed for reducing social inequalities. In this regard, the increasing role of local administrations in combating urban poverty is noteworthy. The ratio of municipalities’ social expenditures to their total budgets rose from 3.2% in 2016 to 5.8% in 2023.³

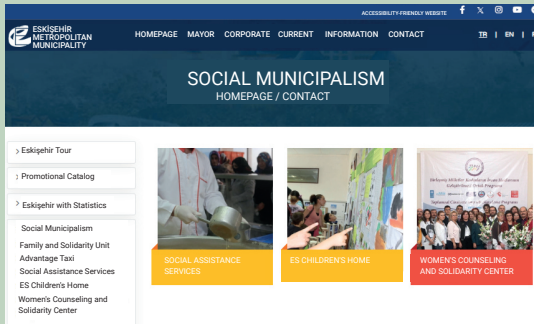
¹ Turkish Statistical Institute, “Life Tables, 2022–2024”, veriportali.tuik.gov.tr, access date: November 2025, <https://veriportali.tuik.gov.tr/tr/press/54081>

² Presidency of Strategy and Budget of the Republic of Türkiye (PSB), 2026 Presidential Annual Programme (Ankara, 2025)

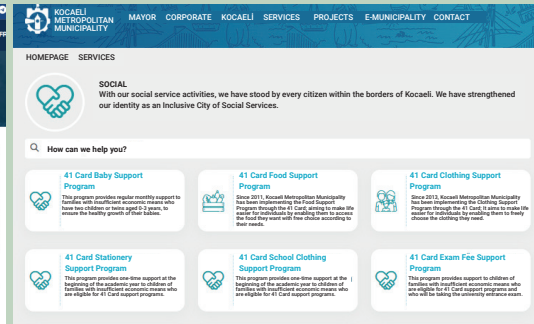
³ PSB, 2025 Presidential Annual Programme (Ankara, 2024)

This increase shows that the scope of social assistance programs has expanded and that the redistribution of welfare at the local level has been strengthened. Neighborhood-based social service models, data-driven targeting systems, and digital social assistance platforms contribute to making social services more effective and accessible. There are many different practices in the field of social assistance.

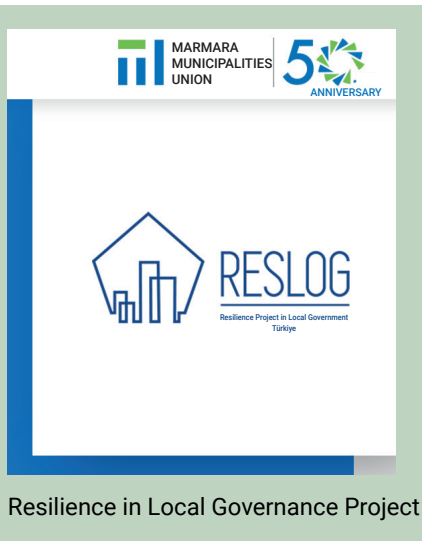
There are good practice examples such as Kocaeli Metropolitan Municipality and Eskişehir Metropolitan Municipality. The social assistance provided by Kocaeli Metropolitan Municipality particularly targets disadvantaged groups such as the elderly, persons with disabilities, and destitute individuals, and reached 125,577 households between 2021 and 2025.⁴ Eskişehir Metropolitan Municipality has ensured that all assistance is tracked through a single system. Through this integration, it met the social assistance requests of 82,986 citizens in 2024 through multidimensional practices carried out within an integrated system, such as the social card, soup kitchen, temporary shelter, and in-kind assistance.⁵



Social Service Activities of Eskişehir Metropolitan Municipality



Social Service Activities of Kocaeli Metropolitan Municipality



Resilience in Local Governance Project

As of September 2025, the number of foreign nationals in Türkiye is approximately 3.8 million; the number of Syrians under temporary protection is 2.44 million; the number of foreign nationals residing in the country with residence permits is 1.1 million; and the number of applicants for international protection is 160,000.⁶ A large proportion of this population lives in cities, and ensuring their integration into urban life is of critical importance both for social service capacity and for social solidarity. Through cooperation among the Presidency of Migration Management, municipalities, and international organizations, integration centers, language training, vocational development, and social interaction programs help increase participation in urban life. Alongside international projects such as the Resilience in Local Governance Project (RESLOG), efforts aimed at the social integration of migrants at the local level have become more widespread, while examples such as the establishment of migrant assemblies in city councils have also made migrants' participation in urban life possible.

⁴ Compiled within the scope of the opinion submitted by Kocaeli Metropolitan Municipality for the New Urban Agenda Progress Report.

⁵ Compiled within the scope of the opinion submitted by Eskişehir Metropolitan Municipality for the New Urban Agenda Progress Report.

⁶ Presidency of Strategy and Budget (PSB), 2026 Presidential Annual Programme (Ankara, 2025)

The necessary legal and institutional arrangements for the population arriving through migration have been put into effect; access to health, education, social assistance, and other basic services for persons under temporary protection status has been secured. In order to manage the mobility of the large migrant population and to ensure living conditions consistent with human rights, Türkiye has developed an extensive migrant support network and institutional structure, and efforts in this field are being maintained with the support of the necessary legal infrastructure (UMF-15).

With funding from the European Union, various programs aimed at meeting the basic needs of foreign nationals and strengthening social inclusion are being implemented by the Ministry of Family and Social Services in cooperation with the Turkish Red Crescent Society. In these programs, particular attention is paid to the vulnerabilities of disadvantaged groups such as persons with disabilities, older persons, women, and single-parent households, and regular cash assistance is provided to meet household needs. In addition, through conditional support mechanisms that encourage children to continue their education, the aim is both to meet basic needs and to strengthen human capital. In this way, stronger participation of foreign households in social life is supported, contributing to social cohesion and inclusive development.

The Migration and Social Policies Center, established within the Marmara Municipalities Union, may also be regarded as a good local practice example. Gaziantep Metropolitan Municipality has many good practices concerning migrant integration that involve national and international cooperation. Gaziantep Metropolitan Municipality established the Migration Management and Integration Department, the first of its kind at the local government level in Türkiye, thereby institutionalizing migration governance. The Department expanded its activities in the areas of education, health, employment, and social cohesion, and aimed to ensure equal access to services for both refugees and the local population. Through multi-actor cooperation established with international organizations (IOM, UNDP, UNICEF, UN Women, ILO, etc.), civil society, and public institutions, various programs were implemented in areas such as social cohesion, vocational training, and women's empowerment. With the Gaziantep Declaration, which emerged from international cooperation carried out in 2019, a policy framework for migration management at the local level was developed. In addition, the BEUs EU Scholarships Project increased access to higher education by providing scholarship support to approximately 500 students with limited financial means, including Syrian students under temporary protection as well as Turkish citizens.⁸



⁷ Union of Municipalities of Türkiye (UMT), 2021, Migration Policies of Local Governments, access date: 24 February 2026, <https://www.tbb.gov.tr/sites/default/files/publications/2025-04/TBB%20Bask%C4%B1%20web-.pdf>

⁸ Marmara Municipalities Union, BEUs – European Union Scholarships, marmara.gov.tr, access date: 24 February 2026, <https://www.marmara.gov.tr/en/beurs-european-union-scholarships>

In addition, local administrations provide temporary shelter services for female university students, persons with disabilities, and university students who are unable to find accommodation. For example, Ankara Metropolitan Municipality provides temporary shelter support for university students coming to the city to study until they are able to secure permanent accommodation.

In Türkiye, the proportion of persons living below 50% of the median income, by sex and age group, was 14.4% in 2021 (14.8% for women, 14.4% for men), while in 2024 it stood at 13.6% (14.2% for women, 13% for men).⁹

Policies developed for vulnerable groups (women, youth, older persons, persons with disabilities, and low-income households) help concretize the goal of inclusive urbanization. Practices that have become widespread at the municipal level, such as women's counseling centers, youth offices, accessible transport solutions, and neighborhood solidarity networks, have become important tools for strengthening equality in urban services. Since the First National Progress Report, major developments have included the entry into force of the Women's Empowerment Strategy Document and Action Plan 2024–2028 and the establishment of the Women's Empowerment Coordination Board through Presidential Circular No. 2025/4 on Women's Empowerment. The main policy axes of the action plan were determined as Education, Health, Economy, Participation in Leadership and Decision-Making Mechanisms, Environment and Climate Change.

In order to support the psychosocial, sociocultural, vocational, and personal development of women benefiting from social assistance, various activities are carried out through Family Support Centers (ADEM) and Social Solidarity Centers (SODAM) in provinces and districts. During the 2021– 2025 period, a total of 600,359 people across the country benefited from ADEM and SODAM projects.

Gender equality is addressed as a cross-cutting policy area in urban governance. Practices of local administrations such as the Women-Friendly City Program, Local Equality Action Plans, and Women's Assemblies strengthen women's participation in decision-making processes. Awareness on this issue is also rising rapidly, and the perspective that women's rights should be protected not through isolated approaches but through effective approaches embedded horizontally and vertically in all stages of social life has come to the forefront.

The work of institutions has focused particularly on combating urban poverty, ensuring equality of opportunity, and increasing the participation of disadvantaged groups in social life in cities. These advances have been achieved through social support mechanisms, vocational training, and accessibility-oriented urban planning projects.

For example, according to data from the Ministry of Labour and Social Security, between 2021 and 2025, 541,225 students were able to attend school thanks to financial support. In addition, the loans of 38,658 disadvantaged higher education students were converted into scholarships, thereby supporting them in continuing their education. Furthermore, in order to support participation in the labour market, 34,177 disadvantaged individuals were enabled to join the workforce.

⁹Turkish Statistical Institute, Sustainable Development Goal Indicator 10.2.1, sdg.tuik.gov.tr, access date: 20 February 2026, <https://sdg.tuik.gov.tr/10-2-1/>

The Social Development Support Programme (SOGEP), implemented by Development Agencies, has aimed to enable disadvantaged groups to participate more actively in economic and social life by supporting 748 projects with approximately USD 308 million (TRY 5.9 billion) since 2019.



The poster features logos for the Ministry of Industry, Trade and Technology and the National Technology Institute. It includes the SOGEP logo (a gear with icons) and the text 'SOGEP SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT SUPPORT PROGRAM'. On the right, it states: 'Deadline for submitting SOGEP 2024 Project Applications via email: Date: 26 April 2024 Time: 18:00'. There is also a graphic of colorful human figures.

Social Development Support Programme

In carrying out these efforts, cooperation among the central government, local administrations, and civil society actors at different scales has acted as a significant force multiplier.

For example, through its activities, the Marmara Municipalities Union strengthens the capacities of local administrations, reinforces cooperation with national and international stakeholders, and undertakes efforts to produce interdisciplinary solutions to migration, social policies, and urban problems. Through projects implemented by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), various initiatives are being carried out for both citizens and migrants. Likewise, many local administrations, through national and international cooperation, implement projects on issues such as climate change, urban mobility planning, and democratic participation, thereby increasing social awareness. Both central institutions and local administrations fulfill an important function in reducing urban poverty by implementing social assistance and welfare programmes in many areas.



UNDP Migrant Project

In addition to providing social support to vulnerable groups, support is also provided through labour and employment policy instruments. For example, the Social Entrepreneurship, Empowerment and Cohesion Project (SEECO), implemented by the Development Agencies, aimed to improve the livelihoods of women and young people by supporting social entrepreneurship, and entrepreneurship training was provided under the Project at the national level.¹⁰ In addition, local administrations have long been successfully implementing various programmes at the local level by organizing vocational and skills courses to improve the qualifications of low-skilled workers.



In a region covering 14% of our country, encompassing 11 cities and impacting 15 million people, we are increasing the participation of women, youth, and vulnerable groups in economic activities, improving livelihood opportunities, strengthening the capacity of local institutions, and supporting local development through the development of a social entrepreneurship culture.

Social Entrepreneurship in Ayvalık



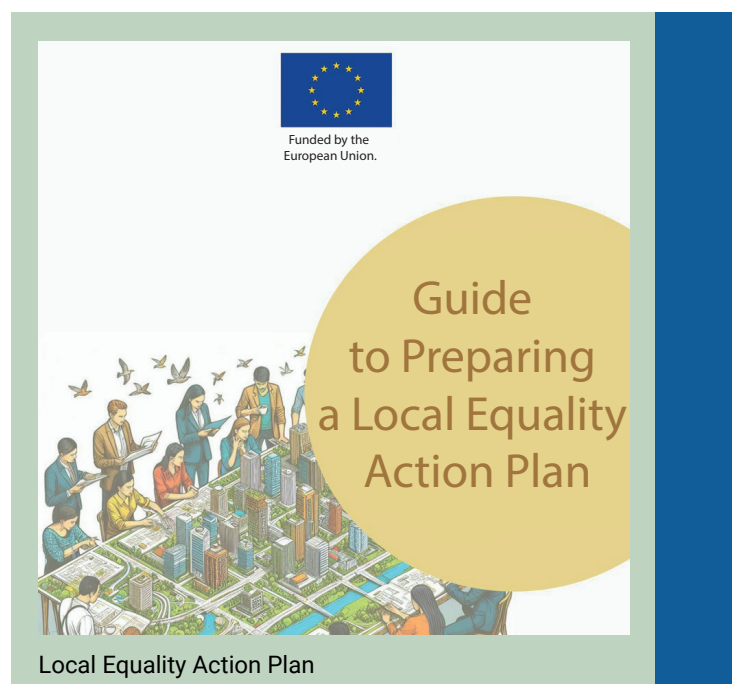
Social Entrepreneurship, Empowerment and Cohesion Project

The housing issue, which is one of the most important factors in reducing inequalities, has become a major priority area at both the central government and local administration levels. For example, of the 1,720,877 housing units produced by the Housing Development Administration (TOKİ) from 2003 to September 2025, 91% consisted of social housing targeting low- and middle- income groups. In addition, local administrations are making serious efforts to improve permanent and temporary shelter opportunities for students, young people, and vulnerable groups.

In order to promote gender equality, with the contributions of the Ministry of Labour and Social Security, significant emphasis has been placed in budget preparation guides and investment programmes on the principle of Gender-Responsive Budgeting; projects contributing to gender-responsive budgeting and sensitive to equal opportunities for women and men have been given priority.

¹⁰ Social Entrepreneurship, Empowerment and Cohesion (SEECO) Project, "SEECO – Social Entrepreneurship, Empowerment and Cohesion Project", seeco.org.tr, access date: 21 February 2026, <https://seeco.org.tr/homepage>

In addition, during the period under review, Local Equality Action Plans (LEAPs) began to be prepared and implemented at the local level. In this regard, awareness-raising activities are carried out through widespread and lifelong learning programmes organized by local administrations and municipal unions. Within this framework, women are provided with training and counseling services on various issues aimed at improving their social conditions. In particular, various mapping and transport practices to ensure that women can live in a safe city are becoming more widespread at the local administration level. As women's employment increases at the local level, the scope of efforts to enhance women's socio-economic security is also expanding through practices such as support for women's cooperatives.



With regard to the participation of older persons and persons with disabilities in social life, it is evident that, in addition to the extensive programmes long maintained by the central government, each local administration has developed projects addressing local needs. Services such as accompaniment and care for older persons and persons with disabilities, practices that improve safety in home life, independent living training, active ageing, and support for participation in social life are becoming rapidly widespread.

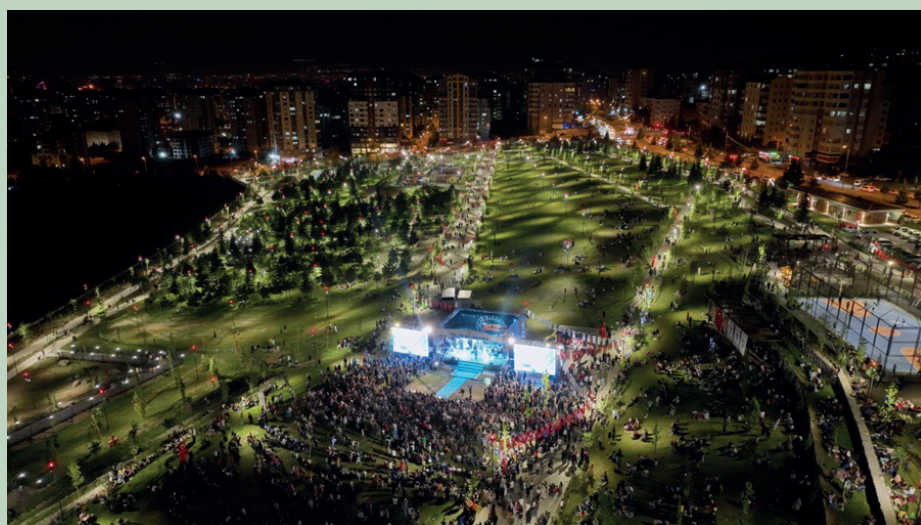
International programmes such as Child-Friendly Cities are being supported with regard to the participation of children and young people in social life, and projects are being implemented at the national level. In addition, various awareness projects are being carried out by local administrations. During the same period, it is also observed that local administrations have created equality of opportunity by providing free pre-school education services, especially for socio-economically disadvantaged children, and have provided technology support to individuals living in rural areas and facing difficulties in accessing the internet. Such support was particularly critical in sustaining basic education during the Covid-19 pandemic.

Work is also continuing at the central government level to improve legislation concerning standards for access to and use of public spaces. In order to improve these standards at the local level, accessible city infrastructure is being developed, while pedestrian areas and bicycle use are being encouraged. Many local administrations are also implementing design guides and innovative design practices in order to improve urban design quality. These efforts are further reinforced by the increasing amount of public space.

Efforts undertaken by the central and local administrations to reduce the urban heat island effect in the face of climate change and to increase the amount of accessible open space per capita have produced results, and the amount of open green space per capita has continued to increase. Local administrations and the central government are also carrying out efforts for the ecological rehabilitation and restoration of degraded areas used by sectors such as mining and energy.

The average share of built-up areas that are fully open for public use in cities across Türkiye increased from 13.6% in 2019 to 17.15% in 2024 (UMF-44).¹¹

Since 2018, efforts have continued for the creation of Millet Gardens, which bring people together with nature, contribute to urban social life, and can also function as assembly areas in the event of disasters. In addition to the construction of bicycle lanes within Millet Gardens, infrastructure works and bicycle-sharing systems aimed at promoting bicycle use across cities are also being encouraged. Through the Millet Gardens initiative, approximately 1,580 km of bicycle lanes have been built, contributing to the wider use of bicycles.



Talas/Kayseri Millet Garden

The ability of urban social policies to produce lasting effects depends on the strengthening of local governance mechanisms. Across Türkiye, both the number and effectiveness of city councils and active neighborhood assemblies have increased, and it has been observed that social organization was strengthened during disasters and events such as the Covid-19 pandemic. The inclusion of these structures in decision-making processes has increased the direct contribution of citizens, especially vulnerable groups, to urban governance. Participatory budgeting and local social policy platforms have emerged as new governance models that strengthen urban solidarity.

The Inclusive Neighborhood Planning practices carried out under the coordination of the Ministry of Environment, Urbanization and Climate Change increase the capacity to conduct social impact assessments at the local level. At the same time, social impact maps contribute to the prioritization of public investments by making the spatial distribution of poverty more visible. These developments show that Türkiye has made significant progress in implementing the principle of “leaving no one behind” within the framework of the New Urban Agenda.

¹¹ Turkish Statistical Institute, Sustainable Development Goal Indicator 11.7.1: Average share of the built-up area of cities that is open for public use, sdg.tuik.gov.tr, access date: 21 February 2026, <https://sdg.tuik.gov.tr/11-7-1/>

In conclusion, Türkiye's urban social policies entered a process of transformation during the 2021– 2025 period; significant progress was achieved in the areas of poverty reduction, housing policies, migrant integration, and inclusive governance. However, there remains a need for sustainable policy instruments in the areas of eliminating spatial inequalities, balancing the housing market, and increasing the economic participation of vulnerable groups.

1.2. Access to Adequate Housing

The Republic of Türkiye regulates the right to housing within a constitutional framework (Article 57) and assigns the State the duty of taking measures to meet housing needs and, in particular, supporting mass housing initiatives for low-income groups within a planning framework that takes into account the characteristics of cities and environmental standards.

Housing is one of the most decisive elements of social inclusion policies in Türkiye. During the 2016–2023 period, approximately 640,000 social housing projects were completed, and the share of social housing in the housing stock reached 8%. Of the housing units produced to date, 46.13% were built for the lower-middle income group, 15.72% for the low-income/poor income group, and 17.08% within the scope of slum transformation projects.^{12 13} In addition to TOKİ, local housing production programmes of metropolitan municipalities have also diversified the supply of social housing. However, the fact that the housing price index increased by 720% during the same period deepened the problem of housing affordability.¹⁴



Düzce Gümüşova 187 Houses

TOKİ Project in Düzce Province



Bolu Mudurnu 496 Houses

TOKİ Project in Bolu Province

¹² TOKİ, 2023, Activity Summary, access date: 20 February 2026, <https://www.toki.gov.tr/faaliyet-ozeti>

¹³ PSB, 2023, Twelfth Development Plan 2024–2028, access date: 20 February 2026, https://www.sbb.gov.tr/wp-content/uploads/2023/12/On-Ikinci-Kalkinma-Plani_2024-2028_11122023.pdf

¹⁴ CBRT, 2025, Housing Price Index, access date: 22 February 2026, <https://www.tcmb.gov.tr/wps/wcm/connect/TR/TCMB+TR/Main+Menu/Istatistikler/Reel+Sektor+Istatistikleri/Konut+Fiyat+Endeksi>

As an example of efforts to increase housing affordability, rather than directly producing housing, TOKİ cooperates with the private sector by using its land stock as leverage and sells housing units through long-term mortgage loans in line with the payment capacity of low- and middle-income groups. In order to finance its own social housing projects, TOKİ also produces housing for the upper-middle income group through revenue-sharing projects (approximately 15% of the total housing stock) and uses the income generated to finance housing projects for poor and disadvantaged groups. In TOKİ projects, special quotas are also allocated for disadvantaged groups (families of martyrs, persons with disabilities, and retirees).



Hatay-Hassa Karşıyaka Neighbourhood 248 Houses

TOKİ Project in Hatay Province



İzmir-Çeşme Reisdere Neighbourhood 1.153 Houses

TOKİ Project in İzmir Province

REPUBLIC OF TÜRKİYE
MINISTRY OF FAMILY AND
SOCIAL SERVICES

SOCIAL
ASSISTANCE
FOR
FAMILIES

SOCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR FAMILIES

ASSISTANCE FOR ORPHANED AND HALF-ORPHANED CHILDREN

These are cash benefits provided to children living in low-income families whose mothers, fathers, or both have passed away, within the scope of Law No. 3294 on the Encouragement of Social Assistance and Solidarity. As of 2023, a monthly payment of 150 TRY is provided.

FOOD ASSISTANCE

Food assistance is provided by the Social Assistance and Solidarity Foundations to households in need who do not have social security, as well as to those who have social security but whose per capita monthly household income is less than one-third of the net minimum wage. These aids are aimed at meeting basic food needs and are provided throughout the year as needed, particularly before religious holidays.

HOUSING ASSISTANCE

Within the scope of Law No. 3294, housing assistance is provided to citizens in need who live in locations that are too old, neglected, or unhealthy to inhabit. This assistance aims to meet their essential housing needs through support for house construction and repair. In addition, following disasters and in cases of need, household goods assistance is provided either in kind or in cash.

Social Assistance Projects of the Ministry of Family and Social Services

The new approach in housing policies focuses not only on housing production, but also on design principles aimed at improving quality of life at the neighborhood scale, strengthening social amenities, and promoting urban integration. Accessible housing models have been developed for women, youth, older persons, and persons with disabilities; and spatial planning approaches that preserve social cohesion in post-disaster resettlement processes have become more widespread.

In Türkiye, the proportion of the adult population owning land, by sex, was 45.1% in 2016 (35.3% women, 53.1% men), while in 2024 it stood at 50% (42.9% women, 57.2% men) ¹⁵(UMF-12).

In order to meet the housing needs and improve the quality of life of needy persons and households in socio-economically disadvantaged situations, which constitute one of their most basic and essential needs, the Shelter Assistance Programme is also being implemented by the Ministry of Family and Social Services. This Programme is a type of cash assistance provided in the form of home repair, house construction, and house purchase. Within this framework, since the beginning of 2021, a total of 11,877 households have been supported under the Programme, including 2,214 households for home construction/purchase and 9,663 households for home repairs.

¹⁵ Turkish Statistical Institute, Sustainable Development Goal Indicator 1.4.2: Proportion of adult population with secure tenure rights to land, by sex, sdg.tuik.gov.tr, access date: 24 February 2026, <https://sdg.tuik.gov.tr/1-4-2/>

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In Türkiye, as reflected in the 12th Development Plan, housing policies and financing have recently been addressed under the axis of “Disaster-Resilient Living Environments, Sustainable Environment”.

Accordingly, in addition to the production of new housing, significant efforts have recently been undertaken to address the housing problem through the renewal of the existing building stock. Türkiye’s building stock renewal efforts have focused on the transformation of disaster-prone areas. Of the country’s 36 million independent units, approximately 7.5 million are at risk, and 2 million of them require urgent transformation, including 600,000 in Istanbul. In order to renew the building stock and make the country more resilient to disasters, the Directorate of Urban Transformation was restructured on 16 October 2023.

Within the scope of the urban transformation needs of cities in our country, as of September 2025, work is continuing nationwide on 269 Risky Areas, 1,063 Reserve Building Areas, and Risky Structures. Within the scope of the urban transformation processes carried out in this framework, as of September 2025, approximately 2 million 350 thousand independent units in risky structures and transformation areas across the country have been renewed in accordance with the Türkiye Building Earthquake Code, the Building Inspection System, and the planning, project, construction techniques, and building materials defined in the relevant legislation, thereby making them resilient to disaster risks.

As a result of the Kahramanmaraş- and Hatay-centered earthquakes of 6 February 2023, efforts are continuing to provide all kinds of superstructure, infrastructure, and social facility construction, as well as loan support, for rights-holder citizens whose homes, workplaces, and barns were destroyed or suffered severe or moderate damage. In newly designated settlement areas determined under the coordination of the Disaster and Emergency Management Presidency (AFAD) by the Ministry of Environment, Urbanization and Climate Change, housing construction is being rapidly carried out by TOKİ, Emlak Konut REIC, and the Ministry. In addition, in line with the requests of post-disaster beneficiaries, housing is also being produced under the On-Site Transformation Project. In the earthquake region, as of September 2025, tenders had been completed for 452,983 housing units, and 304,836 housing units had been delivered to post-disaster beneficiaries. Following the earthquakes, approximately USD 1.3 billion (TRY 41 billion) in rental assistance has been provided to date.¹⁶

Again, in İstanbul, where earthquake risk is very high, the “Half is on Us” campaign began to be implemented as of 2024 in order to encourage the identification and renewal of risky structures, and support from the central government has been provided for buildings to be transformed. In addition, the problem of slums and illegal construction has been brought to an end through comprehensive urban transformation practices implemented over the last 20 years. Urban transformation strategies have replaced slum improvement programmes.

Accordingly, in Türkiye, instead of UMF-23 (SDG 11.1.1), the proxy indicator published by TurkStat titled “the proportion of households whose monthly net housing expenditure exceeds 30% of total monthly household income” stood at 15.52% in 2016 and 10.26% in 2024.¹⁷

In order to support developments in the use of new technologies in new housing production, efforts are being made to increase Smart Urban Transformation Financing with the support of İLBANK, and related regulations are being introduced. In addition, within the scope of interest-free banking,

¹⁶ PSB, 2026 Presidential Annual Programme, (Ankara, 2025)

¹⁷ Turkish Statistical Institute, Sustainable Development Goal Indicator 11.1.1/proxy: Proportion of households whose monthly net housing expenditure exceeds 30% of total monthly household income, sdg.tuik.gov.tr, access date: 24 February 2026, <https://sdg.tuik.gov.tr/11-1-1/>

sukuk (lease certificates) are used as alternative financing instruments in place of housing loans. Although local administrations have certain practices regarding temporary and permanent shelter opportunities, it appears that in Türkiye the most effective institutional structures in this field are those of the central government. While the search for such alternative financing mechanisms continues, the very long-term housing credit system seen in developed countries has not yet been established (UMF-21).

1.3. Access to Basic Services

Access to basic needs is addressed as a critical component under the main heading of social inclusion and ending poverty in the New Urban Agenda. Basic services refer to public services that meet fundamental human needs, such as drinking water, sanitation, hygiene, energy, transport, waste collection, health, education, and information technologies. In Türkiye, policies are implemented with the commitment to ensuring equal and safe access to basic services for everyone, including vulnerable groups, particularly in the areas of water, sanitation, transport, education, and digital services.



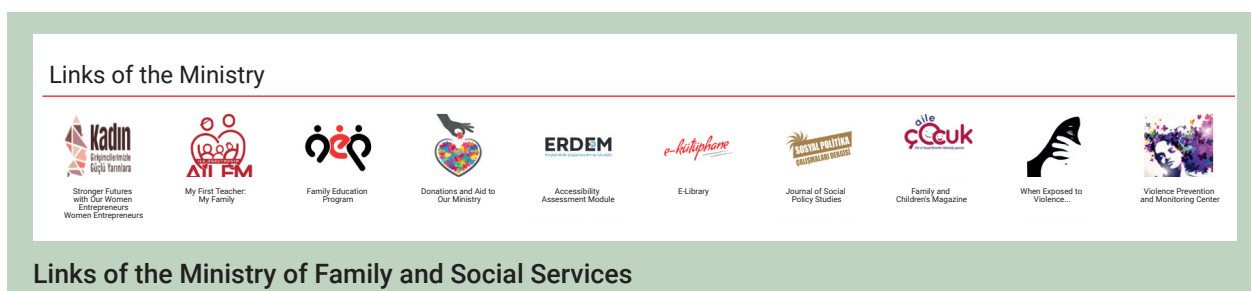
Educational Activities

The indicators on access to basic services in Türkiye were measured as follows (UMF-3, 9, 10):¹⁸

	2016 (%)	2024 (%)
a) Proportion of the population with easy access to a health center	82.2	83.6
b) Proportion of the population with easy access to compulsory education	86.3	87.3
c) Proportion of the population with easy access to public transportation	82.6	84.6
d) Proportion of the population living in a dwelling with access to a piped water system	99.0	99.8
e) Proportion of the population living in a dwelling with an indoor toilet	94.8	98.0
f) Proportion of the population with access to electricity	100	100 (2023)
g) Proportion of the population covered by an LTE mobile network	84.4	99.8 (2023)
h) Proportion of women of reproductive age (15-49) whose need for family planning is satisfied with modern methods	60 (2018)	-
i) Proportion of children achieving at least minimum proficiency in mathematics at the end of primary school	88 (2019)	92.6 (2023)
j) Proportion of children achieving at least minimum proficiency in mathematics at the end of lower secondary school	80 (2019)	81.1 (2023)
k) Proportion of the population using safely managed drinking water services	98.3	98.2 (2022)
l) Ratio of municipal waste that is regularly collected and subjected to appropriate final treatment to total municipal waste	70.1	85.3 (2022)

Türkiye has made significant progress in increasing access rates to safe drinking water and sanitation services. In particular, the extension of the service boundaries of metropolitan municipalities, where nearly 80% of the population lives, to provincial boundaries has provided an important benefit in expanding these services.

Innovative approaches to access to social services are becoming more widespread. The Social Service Centers (SHM) affiliated with the Ministry of Family and Social Services provide protective, preventive, supportive, guidance, and counseling services for children, youth, women, men, persons with disabilities, older persons, and their families through a service-oriented, decentralized, and traceable social service approach. In addition to central government institutions, local administrations also perform a complementary function in social assistance and care services.



¹⁸ Turkish Statistical Institute, Sustainable Development Goal Indicator 1.4.1/proxy: Access to basic services, sdg.tuik.gov.tr, access date: 24 February 2026, <https://sdg.tuik.gov.tr/1-4-1/>

In rural areas and in places where the provision of educational services is difficult, approaches based on positive discrimination have been put into effect. The Ministry of National Education supports equality of opportunity by facilitating, under certain conditions, the opening and continued operation of pre-primary education institutions and primary schools in villages and similar settlements with small and dispersed populations. Inclusiveness at the neighborhood level is high in terms of access to primary healthcare and basic education services.

The pandemic and the earthquakes once again underscored the importance of communications and information technology infrastructure.

Across Türkiye, the proportion of individuals using the internet increased from 58.3% in 2016 to 87.3% in 2024 (UMF-30)¹⁹ The number of fixed broadband internet subscriptions per 100 persons was 13.17 in 2016 and 23.93 in 2024 (UMF-34).²⁰

In many local administrations, public Wi-Fi applications in public spaces have become part of the services offered.

In the New Urban Agenda, ensuring everyone's access to safe, affordable, and accessible public transportation systems, with particular attention to the needs of vulnerable groups (women, children, persons with disabilities, and older persons), is a core commitment. As of 2024, the proportion of the population with easy access to public transportation approached 85% nationwide, and this rate is higher in metropolitan municipalities. In some metropolitan municipalities, internationally supported Sustainable Urban Mobility Plans have been prepared, establishing a certain basis for optimum accessibility to transport infrastructure and services for all people. For example, Kocaeli Metropolitan Municipality has developed and is piloting an application to enable persons with disabilities to use public transportation more easily; this application includes voice-guided navigation for visually impaired persons and the possibility for the driver to provide assistance at the stop. Eskişehir Metropolitan Municipality implements the Between Two Stops Practice, which allows women to get off at the nearest point along the bus route after dark so that they can use urban public transport more safely.

Access to cultural infrastructure and social services is addressed as part of urban prosperity and social cohesion. Local administrations are increasing access to culture in many areas by opening local museums.

¹⁹ Turkish Statistical Institute, Sustainable Development Goal Indicator 17.8.1: Proportion of individuals using the internet (%), [sdg.tuik.gov.tr](https://sdg.tuik.gov.tr/17-8-1/), access date: 24 February, <https://sdg.tuik.gov.tr/17-8-1/>

²⁰ Turkish Statistical Institute, Sustainable Development Goal Indicator 17.6.1: Fixed broadband internet subscriptions per 100 inhabitants, [sdg.tuik.gov.tr](https://sdg.tuik.gov.tr/17-6-1/), access date: 24 February 2026, <https://sdg.tuik.gov.tr/17-6-1/>

PART 2: Sustainable and Inclusive Urban Prosperity and Opportunities for All

As of 2025, urban economies worldwide produce approximately 82% of national gross domestic product (GDP), and 75% of total employment is concentrated in cities.²¹ This shows that cities are not merely places of residence, but have become centers of production, innovation, and employment. Türkiye's urbanization process has likewise entered a period in which economic growth, digital transformation, and social welfare intersect.

This heading of the New Urban Agenda has constituted a fundamental policy axis in Türkiye for increasing the resilience of the urban economy, reducing regional inequalities, and ensuring the equal participation of urban residents in economic life. The 12th Development Plan has reinforced this approach through the headings of "competitive production, qualified employment, and decent work".

2.1. Inclusive Urban Economy

An inclusive urban economy is not only one of the most important elements of sustainable development, but also commits to providing everyone with full and productive employment and decent job opportunities by making use of the benefits of planned urbanization, including high productivity, competitiveness, and innovation.

Thanks to policies aimed at strengthening economic and social equality in Türkiye, improvements in income distribution have been observed over the last 30 years. The Gini coefficient, which indicates income inequality, declined from 0.420 in 2023 to 0.413 in 2024 (UMF-24).²² The target set in the 12th Development Plan for 2028 is 0.380.

In order to ensure an inclusive urban economy, increasing employment and creating qualified job opportunities are regarded as the main instruments for combating poverty and improving income distribution. As of 2024, the shares of the agriculture, industry, and services (including construction) sectors in total employment in Türkiye were 14.8%, 20.7%, and 64.5%, respectively. In cities, the employment rate rose from 45.7% to 51.4% between 2016 and 2024. In 2024, despite the adverse effects of the tightening in monetary conditions, employment maintained its strong course, while the unemployment rate declined from 13.7% in 2019 to 8.7% in 2024 (UMF-27).²³ However, structural disparities in the employment of women and young people continue, and with the policies set out in the 12th Development Plan, it is aimed to reduce the unemployment rate to below 7.5% by 2028.

Employment offices, vocational training centers, and local entrepreneurship centers operated by local administrations, development agencies, and public institutions strengthen the capacity to create employment in cities. In particular, skills development programmes designed for young people and women contribute to increasing economic participation. Efforts made to support green jobs approaches backed by public institutions responsible for employment, and especially cooperative initiatives established by women, constitute examples that bring together environmental sustainability and social equality.



²¹ World Bank, 2025, Cities as Growth Hubs: Knowledge Framework, access date: 26 February 2026 <https://openknowledge.worldbank.org/entities/publication/928d19cf-ad95-4ab3-a7e9-4aaf3ef26d87>

²² Presidency of Strategy and Budget (PSB), 2026 Presidential Annual Programme, (Ankara, 2025)

²³ PSB, 2026 Presidential Annual Programme, (Ankara, 2025)

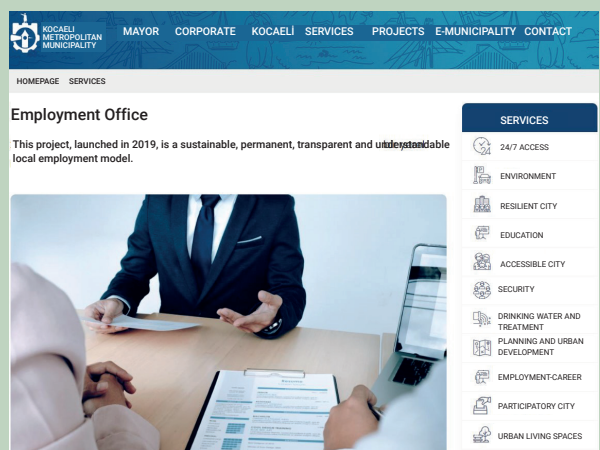
As of 2024, a total of 1,178 women's cooperatives are actively operating throughout Türkiye.²⁴ Such initiatives make it possible to develop inclusive and equitable productivity approaches, especially in critical and vital sectors such as agriculture and forestry.

Türkiye frames the fight against the informal economy as an effort to strengthen the formal economy. Owing to the impact of measures such as premium incentives, the rate of informal employment was 26.5% in 2024. In addition to on-site inspections, efforts are continuing to expand social security coverage through activities such as improving databases, reducing informal employment, and developing programs for groups not covered by the legal framework.²⁵

Employment, which plays a decisive role in the empowerment of women, is an area in which progress has been made in recent years; however, women's employment and labor force participation rates remain considerably lower than those of men. In 2024, the female employment rate was 32.5%, the male employment rate was 66.9%, the female unemployment rate was 11.8%, and the male unemployment rate was 7.1%. In the same year, the female labor force participation rate was 36.8%, while the male labor force participation rate was 72%. Among the main reasons for women's low participation rates is being occupied with care work and household duties. This highlights the importance of focusing on solutions aimed at reconciling work and family life on the basis of equal opportunities for women and men, and of expanding quality and accessible care services for children, older persons, and persons with disabilities.²⁶

In this context, various projects are being carried out in cooperation with the Ministry of Family and Social Services, the Ministry of Labour and Social Security, international organizations, and NGOs. In the work carried out by the Ministry of Family and Social Services, it has been targeted to increase the female labor force participation rate to 40.1% and the female employment rate to 36.2% by the end of 2028.

Women's employment is also increasing in local administrations. For example, at Kocaeli Metropolitan Municipality, the share of women in total personnel has been reported as 29%.



Employment Office of Kocaeli Metropolitan Municipality

Increasing youth employment, improving labor productivity, and enhancing adaptation to working life are among the main priorities. As of 2021, 26% of the population aged 15–24 in Türkiye was neither in education nor in employment (NEET). This rate was 34% for women and 18.3% for men. Youth unemployment is approximately twice as high as adult unemployment. In 2024, the NEET rate declined to 22.9%.²⁷ With the opportunities provided at the level of the central government and local administrations, it is aimed to reduce this rate even further in the near future.

In order to develop human capital in line with the needs of the economy and to update skills, vocational education plays a critical role.

²⁴ Ministry of Trade of the Republic of Türkiye, 2024, Cooperative Data Bulletin, September 2024, access date: 05 March 2026, <https://esnafkoop.ticaret.gov.tr/data/670cc06f13b876dc68d93013/Kooperatif%20%20B%C3%BClteni%20Eyl%C3%BCl%2011.10.2024.pdf>

²⁵ PSB, 2026 Presidential Annual Programme, (Ankara, 2025)

²⁶ PSB, 2026 Presidential Annual Programme, (Ankara, 2025)

²⁷ TurkStat, Labour Force Statistics, 2024, access date: 20 January 2026, <https://veriportali.tuik.gov.tr/tr/press/54061>

Within this framework, efforts are continuing to ensure long-term cooperation between the private sector and vocational and technical education institutions in areas including curricula, financing, teacher training, internships, and employment.[28] In line with the protocols concluded by the Ministry of National Education with institutions/organizations and the private sector, cooperation is being maintained in order to increase the vocational qualifications of students enrolled in vocational and technical secondary education institutions by enabling them, on the basis of equality of opportunity, to participate in vocational training in enterprises located in places where sectoral concentration exists, to improve infrastructure, to foster sectoral clustering, and to strengthen alignment with labor market needs.²⁸

In order to support sustainable and inclusive prosperity in Türkiye, access to employment has been facilitated through certification activities, and since 2021, approximately 1.8 million people have obtained a vocational qualification certificate. Efforts have also been carried out in areas related to the occupations of the future (green jobs, digital skills) that will increase the participation of young people in education and employment. In addition, the requirement for certification in hazardous and very hazardous occupations has contributed to reducing informality.

In order to transform social assistance beneficiaries who are able to work into self-sufficient and productive individuals, persons registered with the Turkish Employment Agency (İŞKUR) are directed, in line with their circumstances, to suitable job postings, vocational training, and other active labor market programs such as the on-the-job training programme, the public benefit programme, and the labor force adaptation programme; since 2020, approximately 1.4 million people have benefited from these programs.

For example, pilot projects such as the Art Vocational Training Courses (ESMEK) of Eskişehir Metropolitan Municipality, and Employment Academies, the My Master Project, and Vocational and Art Training Courses (KOMEK) of Kocaeli Metropolitan Municipality, which are aimed at reducing unemployment, help disseminate the culture of lifelong learning. These courses address all segments of society, including low-income families, the unemployed, women, and young girls.



Projects such as the Project for Social and Economic Cohesion through Vocational and Technical Education (SEUP)²⁹ and the Vocational Education Programme for Employment (IMEP)³⁰, implemented by the Ministry of National Education, provide vocational training for individuals under international protection and temporary protection, as well as for host communities, with the aim of strengthening their social and economic cohesion.

²⁸ PSB, 2026 Presidential Annual Programme, (Ankara, 2025)

²⁹ Ministry of National Education of the Republic of Türkiye, Project for Social and Economic Cohesion through Vocational and Technical Education (SEUP), seup.meb.gov.tr, access date: 24 February 2026, <https://seup.meb.gov.tr/en>

³⁰ Ministry of National Education and partners, IMEP – Vocational Education Programme for Employment”, access date: 25 February 2026, <https://imep.org/en/main-page/>

The rate of participation of young people and adults in formal or non-formal education and training within the last 12 months was 48.9% for youth and 20.9% for adults in 2016, while in 2022 it stood at 51.7% for youth and 21.7% for adults (UMF-32).³¹ These data show that demand for lifelong learning has remained strong and that the supporting infrastructure has been maintained at adequate levels.

In line with the new demands that digital transformation and climate change will create in Türkiye's labor market, there remains a need to improve the quality of the workforce, expand active labor market programs and increase their effectiveness, enable more people to benefit from flexible forms of work, strengthen the employment and labor force participation of groups requiring special policy attention, reduce informal employment and brain drain, and improve the quality and efficiency of occupational health and safety services. The main objective is to offer all segments of society, especially groups requiring special policy attention, employment opportunities with sufficient income and under conditions where occupational health and safety are ensured; to turn the effects of the twin transition process into opportunities; to maximize the employment of the working-age population; and to establish an efficient labor market in which the quality of human resources is upgraded and used effectively.³²

2.2. Urban Productivity and Prosperity

In the New Urban Agenda, urban productivity and prosperity are emphasized as one of the most important elements of sustainable urban development. This concept aims to foster vibrant, inclusive, and sustainable urban economies based on local potential, competitiveness, and cultural heritage.

In line with the objective of transforming the country's manufacturing industry into a technology-intensive and high value-added structure, the approach of supporting investments focused on green and digital transformation, strengthening high-technology enterprises, developing industry-university-public sector cooperation, and expanding planned industrial areas has been maintained.

The annual growth rate of real GDP per employed person, which indicates the country's level of economic productivity, continued to increase during this period as well. According to annual data, independent annual GDP calculated through the chain-linked volume index increased by 3.3% in 2024 compared to the previous year.³³

The manufacturing industry capacity utilization rate, which averaged 75.9% in 2024, stood at an average of 74.3% in the first nine months of 2025. Employment in manufacturing industry increased by 0.5% in 2024 compared with the same period of the previous year, reaching 6.26 million, which accounted for 19.2% of total employment.³⁴

In 2024, small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) constituted 99.6% of the total number of enterprises. In contrast, they accounted for 68.5% of employment, 43.5% of personnel costs, 44.1% of turnover, 39.8% of production value, and 41.2% of value added at factor cost. Of the total exports in 2024, 29.6% were carried out by SMEs, while 15.9% of imports were realized by SMEs.³⁵

³¹ Turkish Statistical Institute, "Sustainable Development Goal Indicator 4.3.1: Participation rate of youth and adults in formal and non-formal education and training, by sex", [sdg.tuik.gov.tr](https://sdg.tuik.gov.tr/4-3-1/), access date: 25 February 2026, <https://sdg.tuik.gov.tr/4-3-1/>

³² PSB, 2026 Presidential Annual Programme, (Ankara, 2025)

³³ Turkish Statistical Institute, "Annual Gross Domestic Product – 2024", veriportali.tuik.gov.tr, access date: 25 February 2026, <https://veriportali.tuik.gov.tr/press/54187>

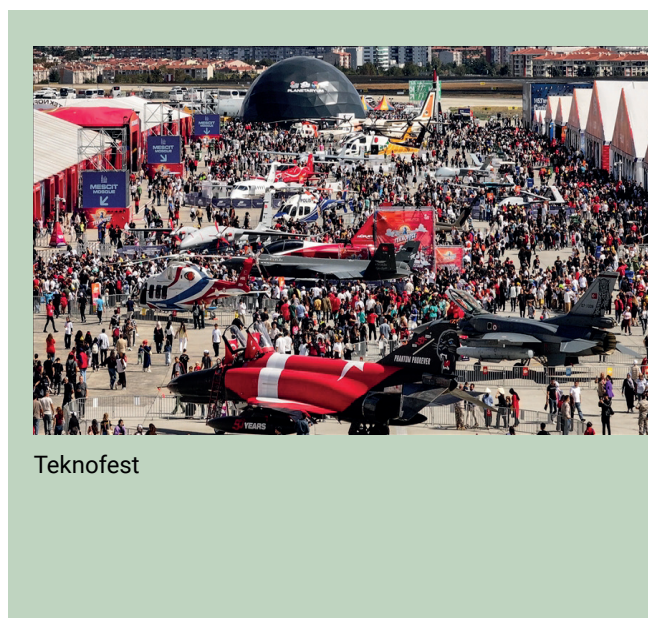
³⁴ Turkish Statistical Institute, "Labour Force Statistics – 2024", veriportali.tuik.gov.tr, access date: 26 February 2026, <https://veriportali.tuik.gov.tr/press/54059>

³⁵ Turkish Statistical Institute, "Küçük ve Orta Büyüklükteki Girişim İstatistikleri - 2024", veriportali.tuik.gov.tr, access date: 26 February 2026, <https://veriportali.tuik.gov.tr/press/54054>

The Treasury-backed guarantee system continues to improve financing opportunities and allocates at least 70% of its resources to SMEs. The system also provides special support packages for women and young entrepreneurs in order to address access to finance through an inclusive approach. In addition, investments to be made by SMEs in order to implement the application projects included in the SMEs Digital Transformation Road Map are supported through the support programmes of the Ministry of Industry and Technology and the Small and Medium Enterprises Development Organization (KOSGEB).³⁶ Local administrations provide employment training and support and promote the establishment of cooperatives.

The close integration of productivity policies with the social policy components is necessary for lasting and inclusive prosperity. In this context, it is important to strengthen investments at the local level in education, skills development, and digitalization.

Clusters and entrepreneurship ecosystems established through the cooperation of higher education institutions, organized industrial zones, and local administrations are important models that enhance the productivity capacity of urban economies. These structures directly contribute to the digital transformation of the labor market. Through these programmes, which are developed in coordination with formal and non-formal education programmes, it is seen that a wide range of public institutions, the private sector, professional organizations, and civil society organizations are making efforts to improve the quality of employment in the economy. It is also observed that the organization of national events such as the Aviation, Space and Technology Festival (TEKNOFEST)³⁷ makes a very important contribution in bringing these efforts together and in sustaining the interest and motivation of young people.



Teknofest

Bureaucratic and administrative barriers to starting a business have been removed, making it possible to complete the process digitally within a single day (UMF-36).³⁸

Urban economies are diversified not only through industrial and service production, but also through culture, tourism, creative industries, and social entrepreneurship.

The cultural economy has significant potential for Türkiye's sustainable development. The share of the value added generated by copyright industries in GDP was calculated as 3.8% in 2023. In the 2019–2023 period, the contribution of creative industries to total employment remained above 5% (UMF-57).

³⁶ KOSGEB (Small and Medium Enterprises Development Organization), "SME Digital Transformation Support Programme", [kosgeb.gov.tr](https://www.kosgeb.gov.tr), access date: 27 February 2026, <https://www.kosgeb.gov.tr/site/tr/genel/destekdetay/9144/kobi-dijitallesim-destek-programi>

³⁷ TEKNOFEST Aerospace and Technology Festival, [teknofest.org/en](https://www.teknofest.org/en), access date: 26 February 2026, <https://www.teknofest.org/en>

³⁸ Ministry of Trade of the Republic of Türkiye, 2022, "Support for Digital Activities in Market Entry, access date: 03 February 2026, <https://ticaret.gov.tr/destekler/ihracat-destekleri/pazara-giriste-dijital-faaliyetlerin-desteklenmesi/>

According to the Global Innovation Index 2024 Report published by the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), Türkiye rose by two places compared to the previous year and ranked 37th among 133 countries. It also recorded significant momentum in the Creative Outputs category, rising to 16th place.³⁹

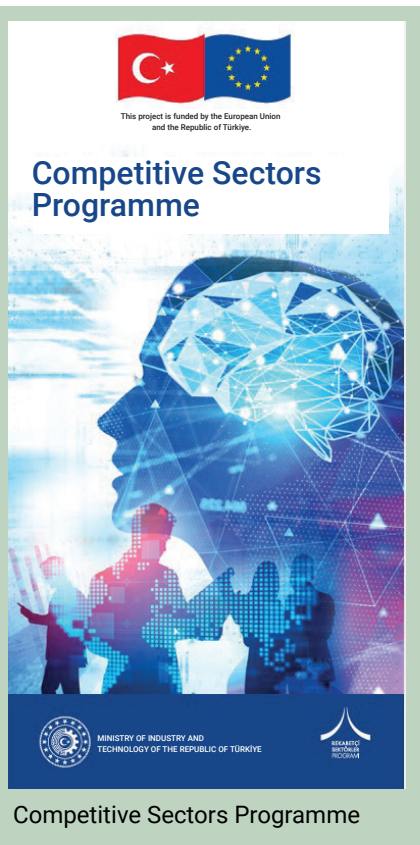
The global recognition attained by cinema and television productions creates opportunities in the fields of cultural interaction and tourism. Municipal investments in cultural infrastructure—cultural centers, design workshops, city museums, and creative incubation spaces—support both economic diversification and social cohesion. Developments in these sectors also support the development of other sectors and contribute to the expansion of innovation areas.

Among the 116 members of the UNESCO Creative Cities Network, the cities from Türkiye that have been designated are Gaziantep for Gastronomy, Hatay for Gastronomy, İstanbul for Design, and Kütahya for Crafts and Folk Arts; in 2019, Afyonkarahisar for Gastronomy and Kırşehir for Music; in 2021, Bursa for Crafts and Folk Arts; and most recently, in 2023, Şanlıurfa for Music.

In 2022, Türkiye launched the National Sustainable Tourism Programme by signing a three-year partnership agreement with the Global Sustainable Tourism Council (GSTC). This was the first cooperation of its kind at the governmental level. The aim of the Programme is to achieve full alignment with international standards by 2030, ensure sustainable and inclusive growth in the tourism sector, and develop a shared understanding of tourism through the participation of all stakeholders. The Programme was designed in three phases: accommodation facilities were expected to meet 30% of the standards by the end of 2023, 70% by 2025, and for all facilities to obtain the Sustainable Tourism Certificate by 2030. As of June 2024, 17,811 facilities had been verified and certified.⁴⁰

These developments are progressing in parallel with the approach of the 12th Development Plan toward integrating cultural production with local economies.

Policies of the Ministry of Culture and Tourism include the preservation and enhancement of cultural heritage and the development of support for cultural industries and cultural enterprises. The Ministry of Culture and Tourism and the Ministry of Industry and Technology offer incentives aimed at increasing value added by strengthening the link between creative industries and R&D. Under the Competitive Sectors Programme, support was planned for 5 projects in the field of “Creative Industries” with a budget of EUR 19.2 million, one of which was the “Development of the Digitalization and Creativity Ecosystem Project” of Kütahya Municipality, with a budget of EUR 3.7 million.⁴¹



³⁹ PSB, 2026 Presidential Annual Programme, (Ankara, 2025)

⁴⁰ Türkiye Tourism Promotion and Development Agency (TGA), “About the Sustainable Tourism Program”, [tga.gov.tr](https://tga.gov.tr/en/safe-and-sustainable-tourism/sustainable-tourism-program/about-the-sustainable-tourism-program), access date: 26 February 2026, <https://tga.gov.tr/en/safe-and-sustainable-tourism/sustainable-tourism-program/about-the-sustainable-tourism-program>

⁴¹ IPA – Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance, “Development of the Digitalization and Creativity Ecosystem in Kütahya”, [ipa.gov.tr](https://ipa.gov.tr/kutahyada-dijitallesme-ve-yaraticilik-ekosisteminin-gelistirilmesi/), access date: 26 February 2026, <https://ipa.gov.tr/kutahyada-dijitallesme-ve-yaraticilik-ekosisteminin-gelistirilmesi/>

Municipal investments in cultural infrastructure (cultural centers, design workshops, city museums, and creative incubation spaces) support economic diversity and strengthen social cohesion.



Kocaeli Büyükşehir Belediyesi Kağıt Müzesi

As of 2024, the share of own-source revenues in total revenues in local administrations stood at 35.55% (UMF-72).⁴²

In order for inclusive prosperity to become lasting, productivity policies need to be integrated more closely with the components of social policy; investments at the local level in education, skills development, the green economy, and digitalization need to be strengthened. A new development framework in which economic prosperity is linked with fundamental rights, environmental priorities, and technological elements will play an important role in revealing Türkiye's true potential in this field.

⁴² Ministry of Environment, Urbanization and Climate Change of the Republic of Türkiye –Directorate General of Local Administrations, 2024 General Activity Report of Local Administrations. Access date: 27 February 2026. <https://yerelyonetimler.csb.gov.tr/faaliyet-raporlari-i-88463>

PART 3: Environmentally Sustainable and Resilient Urban Development

In Türkiye, environmental sustainability and urban resilience have become one of the fundamental components of the national development strategy over the last decade. In line with the New Urban Agenda, the 12th Development Plan, which is Türkiye's highest-level policy document, has identified as a fundamental objective the creation of sustainable cities that are resilient to climate change and disasters and are based on green and digital technologies. In this context, the general orientations that have been set aim to strike a balance between global goals and national priorities.

The main factors affecting the environmental performance of cities – air quality, water resources, energy use, waste management, climate change, and disaster risk – are now being assessed in an integrated manner through national monitoring systems, and systems and approaches are being developed accordingly. In line with the 2053 net zero emissions target set out in the Green Deal Action Plan (2021)⁴³ and in the Second Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC)⁴⁴ documents of the Republic of Türkiye announced at the United Nations Summit (COP30), local carbon reduction plans, green infrastructure solutions, and nature-based resilience practices are becoming increasingly widespread.



Green Deal Action Plan



Türkiye's Nationally Determined Contribution - COP30

3.1. Resilient and Adaptive Urban Development

Due to its geological and climatic characteristics, Türkiye is exposed to many natural hazards, especially earthquakes, as well as landslides, floods, inundations, droughts, forest fires, and avalanches. In addition, human-induced risks such as migration movements, industrial accidents, and environmental pollution also diversify the disaster risk profile. Factors such as rapid and unplanned urbanization, improper land use, infrastructure deficiencies, and lack of disaster awareness increase the likelihood of these hazards turning into disasters and lead to significant loss of life and property. In this context, resilient and adaptive urban development occupies a central place as a priority in Türkiye's national policy documents and local government strategies.

⁴³ Ministry of Trade of the Republic of Türkiye, Green Deal Action Plan, [ticaret.gov.tr](https://ticaret.gov.tr/data/60f1200013b876eb28421b23/MUTABAKAT%20YE%C5%9E%C4%B0L.pdf), access date: 27 February 2026, <https://ticaret.gov.tr/data/60f1200013b876eb28421b23/MUTABAKAT%20YE%C5%9E%C4%B0L.pdf>

⁴⁴ Republic of Türkiye, Second Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC 3.0), access date: 27 February 2026, <https://iklim.gov.tr/uluslararasi-bildirimler-i-60>

The financing of urban resilience projects is provided through national budget policies, international grants, and the own-source revenues of local administrations. Within the scope of the National Financing Framework, the Presidency of Strategy and Budget identifies the measures and reform areas required to ensure financing for disaster-resilient structures. İLBANK aims to improve environmental quality in infrastructure and superstructure works, promote the efficient use of resources, and support the creation of disaster-resilient cities.

In the 12th Development Plan, institutional strategy documents, and legal regulations, holistic approaches have been adopted to increase the resilience of cities against disaster risks, particularly earthquakes, as well as extreme weather events linked to climate change.

Disaster risk reduction and the strengthening of resilience are pursued through the renewal of the building stock and spatial planning. Türkiye adopts integrated disaster policies aligned with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction. Efforts to identify and reduce disaster risks are carried out in line with the Türkiye Disaster Risk Reduction Plan 2022 (TARAP), while response processes are conducted within a multi-stakeholder and coordinated structure under the Türkiye Disaster Response Plan 2022 (TAMP).

The February 2023 earthquakes created an unprecedented humanitarian, social, and economic impact in Türkiye's history. Covering 11 provinces, this disaster directly affected approximately 14 million people, and more than 680,000 buildings were destroyed or severely damaged. Following the event, disaster resilience policies at both the national and local levels were fundamentally restructured. In carrying out these efforts, alongside inclusive and participatory approaches, efforts to develop emergency measures gained prominence. The destructive scale of the disaster led to a reconsideration of public policies in many areas.

The Türkiye Post-Disaster Recovery Plan 2025 (TASIP), which systematizes post-disaster recovery processes, entered into force. Through the Disaster Management Decision Support System (AYDES), planning and response processes are monitored digitally.

Within the scope of risk reduction investments, efforts to strengthen and reconstruct public buildings are continuing, while the scope of compulsory earthquake insurance is being expanded. The infrastructure of earthquake observation stations has been strengthened, and monitoring and analysis capacity has been increased. The total number of installed earthquake observation stations in the country has reached 1,204. As a result, Türkiye has become the country with Europe's largest earthquake observation network and has reached an annual average capacity of 25,000 earthquake analyses.

Following the Kahramanmaraş- and Hatay-centered earthquakes, temporary shelter, rental assistance, and other support mechanisms were activated, while construction works for permanent housing and infrastructure continue.

Within the framework of urban transformation and structural resilience, and given the importance and priority attached to urban transformation in our country, a significant part of which is in the earthquake zone, the issue was addressed under a separate heading in the 12th Development Plan. The main objective was defined as improving and expanding practices aimed at transforming areas under disaster hazard and risk, as well as risky structures outside such areas, in a manner that ensures healthy and safe living conditions. The Directorate of Urban Transformation was restructured in 2023 in order to renew the building stock and make the country more resilient to disasters. As of September 2025, approximately 2 million 350 thousand independent units had been renewed and made resilient against disaster risks.

The Türkiye National Risk Shield Model, developed in the post-disaster period, has introduced a new framework that integrates spatial planning with disaster risk reduction. As of 2024, the risk analyses of 75 provinces had been completed, earthquake hazard maps had been updated, and these data had been integrated into zoning and planning processes. Although certain important amendments have been made to zoning legislation, academic and institutional bodies continue their work to ensure the full implementation of the concept of resilience in planning and urbanism.

It is important that cities affected by the earthquake be rebuilt with an urbanism approach that takes into account their historical, social, and cultural fabric, is resilient to climate change and disasters, and enhances quality of life.

Work is continuing on geological-geotechnical and microzonation studies that form the basis of spatial plans, in order to ensure that planning takes disaster hazards into account and that possible disaster risks in settlement areas are eliminated. Efforts have also been carried out to improve the information systems infrastructure so that these studies can be stored electronically and the necessary data can be accessed more quickly and accurately. In this context, the software and hardware components of the Geoscientific Survey Information System (YERBİS), established for the purpose of evaluating local ground conditions, identifying disaster hazards and risks, conducting land suitability analyses, and integrating these data into spatial planning processes, have been restructured; and its database, mapping, and reporting infrastructure has been improved.⁴⁵

In addition, in order to meet the urgent needs of earthquake-affected cities, İLBANK, in cooperation with international stakeholders, has launched a comprehensive reconstruction process. In these rebuilding efforts, a “build back better” strategy based on long-term sustainability and resilience has been adopted, going beyond short-term recovery approaches. Accordingly, a reconstruction and recovery programme amounting to a total of EUR 1.8 billion is being carried out together with the World Bank, the European Investment Bank, the Japan International Cooperation Agency, the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, the Islamic Development Bank, and the Asian Development Bank. This process has become an exemplary practice for international organizations in the development of resilient cities and infrastructure.

The budgets of development agencies include an Emergency Response Component, designed to ensure the rapid reallocation of funds in the event of natural- or human-induced disasters or crises. After the February 2023 Kahramanmaraş-centered earthquakes, the regional plans of the affected areas as well as those of Istanbul were revised with a focus on disaster resilience.

At the local administration level, preparatory work is being carried out in provinces with high earthquake risk. As of 2020, the proportion of provinces that have adopted and implement local disaster risk reduction strategies aligned with national disaster risk reduction strategies is 100% (UMF-74).⁴⁶

The post-earthquake reconstruction process aims not only at physical rebuilding, but also at rebuilding social and economic resilience. In reducing the social and psychological effects of disasters, community-based approaches have gained importance. City councils, civil society organizations, and volunteer groups have played an active role in building a participatory model in post-disaster recovery processes. This model transforms disaster management from a centralized field of intervention into a process of continuous learning and preparedness at the local level.

⁴⁵ PSB, 2026 Presidential Annual Programme, (Ankara, 2025)

⁴⁶ Turkish Statistical Institute, “Sustainable Development Goal Indicator 11.b.2: Number of countries with national and local disaster risk reduction strategies”, sdg.tuik.gov.tr, access date: 27 February 2026, <https://sdg.tuik.gov.tr/11-b-2/>

In order to strengthen disaster risk governance, the Türkiye Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction was established, and projects and activities are being carried out to raise public awareness. At the level of local administrations, disaster-resilient city strategies are being discussed that can be effective from the neighborhood scale to the scale of the entire city and that can bring together voluntary efforts and institutional structures; mechanisms such as early warning systems, risk-based databases, and neighborhood disaster volunteer networks are being strengthened. As of 2024, 40 metropolitan municipalities had restructured their disaster management units and Disaster Training and Coordination Centers had been established.

In conclusion, the February 2023 earthquakes created a profound turning point in Türkiye's urban planning paradigm. This experience demonstrated that the concept of a resilient city must be addressed not only through physical structures, but also together with the dimensions of institutional coordination, data management, social solidarity, and local participation.

According to the reports of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), one of the regions that will be most affected by climate change is the Mediterranean Basin, and Türkiye is located in this region. Due to its location, Türkiye is already being affected by disasters such as drought, floods, and extreme weather events caused by climate change, and it is projected that Türkiye's vulnerability to these disasters will increase in the future. Between 2010 and 2021, 8,274 meteorological disasters occurred in Türkiye.⁴⁷

In response to the increasing flood risk associated with climate change, Flood Management Plans have been prepared for all 25 basins in line with the European Union Floods Directive (2007/60/EC), and efforts are continuing to expand early warning systems on a basin basis.

In the 12th Development Plan, the preparation of road maps for greenhouse gas emission reduction and climate change adaptation actions at the national level, as well as the strengthening of inter-institutional coordination, are among the priority policies.

Accordingly, the Climate Change Adaptation Strategy and Action Plan 2024–2030 was prepared with the vision of “a greener, more sustainable, and more resilient Türkiye in economic, social, and ecological terms, in order to ensure that people living in Türkiye and public and private sector institutions are prepared for and adapt to the effects of climate change”.⁴⁸

One of the action areas included in the Climate Change Adaptation Strategy and Action Plan (2024–2030) is the urban sector. In order to eliminate the problems identified for urban settlements, ensure adaptation to climate change, and increase urban resilience, actions have been defined under three categories: technological actions (hard-grey), societal actions (soft), and nature-based actions (green). Technological actions include practices such as building materials, levee and infrastructure construction, and green roofs and facades; societal actions include actions related to education, capacity building, legislative amendments, coordination, cooperation, and the preparation of Local Climate Change Action Plans in 81 provinces. Nature-based actions include actions such as increasing and conserving green areas, establishing ecological corridors, urban agriculture practices, and rainwater harvesting systems.

⁴⁷ Ministry of Environment, Urbanization and Climate Change of the Republic of Türkiye Directorate of Climate Change, Climate Change Adaptation Strategy and Action Plan (2024–2030), iklim.gov.tr, access date: 27 February 2026, [https://iklim.gov.tr/db/english/icerikler/files/Uyum\(1\).pdf](https://iklim.gov.tr/db/english/icerikler/files/Uyum(1).pdf)

⁴⁸ Ministry of Environment, Urbanization and Climate Change of the Republic of Türkiye – Directorate of Climate Change, Climate Change Adaptation Strategy and Action Plan (2024–2030), iklim.gov.tr, access date: 27 February 2026, [https://iklim.gov.tr/db/english/icerikler/files/Uyum\(1\).pdf](https://iklim.gov.tr/db/english/icerikler/files/Uyum(1).pdf)



Kocaeli

Many of the aforementioned actions are actions for which local administrations are either responsible or relevant.⁴⁹

Cities are both a driver of the greenhouse gas emissions that fuel climate change and among its most vulnerable victims. In cities in Türkiye, the temperature difference between cities and their surrounding areas—that is, the urban heat island intensity—reaches 0.5°C. The greatest effect is observed in İstanbul and Kocaeli, which are on average 5.5°C and 4°C warmer, respectively, than their surrounding areas.⁵⁰

In addition, within the scope of the Enhancing Adaptation Action in Türkiye Project,⁵¹

vulnerability and risk analyses related to climate change were conducted for the four pilot provinces of Konya, Samsun, Sakarya, and Muğla, and Climate Change Adaptation Strategies and Action Plans (2025–2030) were prepared for these provinces. Within the scope of the same project, in addition to workshops held since 2020, climate change adaptation trainings and awareness-raising activities involving local stakeholders were carried out in 20 provinces. The project also includes a grant programme aimed at providing financial support to non-profit institutions and organizations, such as local administrations, that wish to prepare local climate change action plans and implement climate change adaptation projects. In this context, a total of EUR 6.8 million in grant support was provided for 29 projects to municipalities, universities, and civil society organizations for climate change adaptation efforts.⁵²



Türkiye’de İklim Değişikliğine Uyum Eyleminin Güçlendirilmesi Projesi

Within the scope of different projects, local climate change action plans have been prepared by local administrations in many provinces, and various strategy and planning studies, such as the Sustainable Energy and Climate Action Plan (SECAP), are being carried out. Municipalities also participate in matching activities with European cities within the scope of the NetZeroCities – Twin Learning Programme, carried out under the European Commission’s 100 Climate-Neutral and Smart Cities Mission.

⁴⁹ Ministry of Environment, Urbanization and Climate Change of the Republic of Türkiye – General Directorate of Local Administrations, 2024 General Activity Report of Local Administrations. Access date: 27 February 2026. <https://yerelyonetimler.csb.gov.tr/faaliyet-raporlari-i-88463>

⁵⁰ İPA, 2025, Traces of the Climate Crisis: Urban Heat Island Effect and Drought in İstanbul, September 202, access date: 2 March 2026, <https://ipa.istanbul/images/Calismalar/iklim-krizinin-izleri-istanbulda-kentsel-isi-ada-53964.pdf>

⁵¹ UNDP Türkiye, Enhancing Adaptation Action Türkiye Project, undp.org, access date: 3 March 2026, <https://www.undp.org/turkiye/projects/enhancing-adaptation-action-turkiye-project>

⁵² Ministry of Environment, Urbanization and Climate Change of the Republic of Türkiye – General Directorate of Local Administrations, 2024 General Activity Report of Local Administrations Access date: 27 February 2026. <https://yerelyonetimler.csb.gov.tr/faaliyet-raporlari-i-88463>

The legal umbrella unions of municipalities also carry out activities aimed at ensuring institutional coordination and cooperation in these areas. Through the Sustainability and Climate Change Center (SiM), established in 2022, the Marmara Municipalities Union aims to strengthen the capacities of its members in combating climate change, and supports the acceleration of the transition to climate neutrality by bringing local administrations together on the Türkiye Climate-Neutral Cities Network (İNŞA) platform. On the other hand, UNDP Türkiye has prepared the document titled Strategic Guidance on Nature-Based Solutions in Urban Contexts to support municipalities in implementing nature-based solutions against urban risks and sustainability challenges, and has disseminated this knowledge in cooperation with the Union of Municipalities of Türkiye.



3.2. Climate Change Mitigation

Türkiye is pursuing a determined roadmap at both the national and local levels regarding the mitigation of climate change impacts, within the framework of the Paris Agreement and the Nationally Determined Contribution. Türkiye became a party to the Paris Agreement in 2021. Subsequently, Türkiye's Long-Term Climate Strategy, prepared in line with the country's 2053 net zero emissions target, was submitted to the Secretariat of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change in November 2024. In accordance with the Paris Agreement, Türkiye's Second Nationally Determined Contribution was announced at the United Nations Climate Summit, and it committed to reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 466 million tonnes of CO₂ equivalent for 2035, bringing total emissions down to 643 million tonnes of CO₂ equivalent.⁵³

In line with Türkiye's 2053 net zero emissions and green growth targets, the Climate Law, which establishes the legal framework for combating climate change, entered into force in 2025. The Law established the legal basis for the Emissions Trading System, and laid the groundwork for the Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism and the national carbon market. In addition, the Law introduced mechanisms based on green finance and the Türkiye Green Taxonomy, and strengthened the legal framework for the protection of carbon sinks and for increasing the contribution of protected areas to ecosystem services.⁵⁴

With the measures taken in recent years, greenhouse gas emissions in Türkiye have entered a downward trend. In 2023, total greenhouse gas emissions were calculated at 552.2 million tonnes (Mt) CO₂ equivalent, representing a 3.8% decrease compared to 2021 (UMF-50). In total greenhouse gas emissions in 2023, the largest share in CO₂ equivalent terms, at 71.6%, consisted of energy-related emissions, and thus of the energy demand arising from activities such as industry carried out in cities.⁵⁵

⁵³ PSB, 2026 Presidential Annual Programme, (Ankara, 2025)

⁵⁴ PSB, 2026 Presidential Annual Programme, (Ankara, 2025)

⁵⁵ Turkish Statistical Institute, "Greenhouse Gas Emission Statistics, 1990–2023," veriportali.tuik.gov.tr, access date: 27 February 2026, <https://veriportali.tuik.gov.tr/press/53974>

This situation has made it strategically important to expand the use of low-carbon technologies in the building, transport, and industrial sectors and to increase the share of renewable energy sources.

The 12th Development Plan also identifies as one of its main objectives the provision of energy in a continuous, high-quality, sustainable, secure, and affordable manner; the diversification of energy supply sources; and, on the basis of the 2053 net zero emissions target, maximizing self-sufficiency through the utilization of domestic and renewable energy sources.

At the end of 2022, the Ministry of Energy and Natural Resources published the long-term Türkiye National Energy Plan, covering the period 2020–2035, based on the country's 2053 net zero target. In addition, according to the 2035 Renewable Energy Road Map published in 2024, the total installed solar and wind capacity, which stood at 32.7 GW as of the end of 2024, is targeted to reach 120 GW by 2035 (approximately four times the current level).

Türkiye's installed renewable energy capacity increased from 34.57 GW in 2016 to 69.41 GW by the end of 2024. The share of renewable-based installed capacity in Türkiye's total installed capacity rose from 44.05% in 2016 to 59.7% by the end of 2024. In addition, the share of electricity generation from renewable energy and waste increased from 33.2% in 2016 to 46.3% by the end of 2024. The share of renewable energy in total final energy consumption was 6.6% in 2016, while this figure stood at 6% in 2023 (UMF-46).

Efforts are continuing to strengthen local performance in line with national commitments regarding emissions that contribute to climate change. In cities, municipalities are developing their own energy generation infrastructure and reducing energy costs, particularly through solar and biogas facilities. The participation of urban residents in renewable energy investments through cooperatives and similar business models further reinforces this trend.

In order to support sustainable urban development, the Ministry of Environment, Urbanization and Climate Change promotes smart city technologies and aims to minimize environmental impacts through practices such as smart lighting systems, buildings that optimize energy consumption, and environmentally friendly transport solutions. In addition, the Rooftop Solar Energy Potential Analysis Application has been developed to assess the solar energy potential of building roofs. Many municipalities are increasing their installed solar and biogas-based capacity, thereby meeting a large part of their institutional energy use from renewable sources.

In the context of energy efficiency and energy saving, buildings rank second after industry in energy consumption in Türkiye and have the greatest emission reduction potential. For public buildings, the Savings Target and Implementation Guide for Public Buildings was published to support the 15% energy efficiency target by 2023.

Between 2021 and 2024, energy consumption in public buildings in Türkiye declined significantly, with an average reduction of nearly 18% achieved through various saving measures and rehabilitation projects. With the update of the Regulation on Energy Performance in Buildings, energy efficiency criteria were strengthened in both the public and private sectors, and more than 1,200 buildings received an energy efficiency certificate. Municipalities, particularly by switching to LED systems in street lighting, achieved a conversion rate of approximately 70%. These developments have made energy efficiency a fundamental component of urban service policies and have made a concrete contribution to environmental sustainability.

A total of 115 local administrations from Türkiye have become signatories to the Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy and have committed to preparing adaptation and mitigation strategies. Cities such as İstanbul, İzmir, and Konya have set significant targets for reducing carbon emissions by 2030. Türkiye's hosting of the 31st session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP31) in 2026 has the potential to provide strategic momentum to national climate policies, strengthen climate change awareness across all sectors, and, in particular, enhance the climate adaptation and resilience capacities of cities.

By activating air quality management practices, emission control is being ensured and air quality is being improved. Research is being carried out on the modelling and monitoring of air quality, and relevant infrastructure is being developed. As of October 2025, the number of stations in the National Air Quality Monitoring Network had reached 383.⁵⁶

Within the scope of the Clean Air Action Plans, the necessary work has been and continues to be carried out in order to improve air quality by increasing the effectiveness of measures related to the control of the type of fuel used for heating purposes, the improvement of combustion systems, thermal insulation in buildings, the training of boiler operators, and the reduction of pollution loads caused by motor vehicles.



Figure 2. Annual average levels of fine particulate matter (PM10) in cities (µg/m3) 2024⁵⁷

Figure 3. Annual average levels of fine particulate matter (PM2.5) in cities (µg/m3) 2024⁵⁸



⁵⁶ PSB, 2026 Presidential Annual Programme, (Ankara, 2025)

⁵⁷ Turkish Statistical Institute, "Sustainable Development Goal Indicator 11.6.2: Daily per capita waste generation and the proportion of the municipal population served by regularly collected waste and controlled disposal," [sdg.tuik.gov.tr](https://sdg.tuik.gov.tr/11-6-2/), access date: 28 February 2026, <https://sdg.tuik.gov.tr/11-6-2/>

⁵⁸ Turkish Statistical Institute, "Sustainable Development Goal Indicator 11.6.2: Daily per capita waste generation and the proportion of the municipal population served by regularly collected waste and controlled disposal," [sdg.tuik.gov.tr](https://sdg.tuik.gov.tr/11-6-2/), access date: 28 February 2026, <https://sdg.tuik.gov.tr/11-6-2/>

A software system called NEFES has been developed to monitor the air quality of cities across Türkiye through a data-based analytical infrastructure. Through the NEFES software, neighborhood- and street-level air quality analyses are conducted in cities, and emission management plans are prepared.

The mitigation of climate change impacts covers not only the energy and transport sectors, but also areas such as waste management and land use. Domestic material consumption per capita (ton/person) decreased from 12.9 in 2016 to 11.75 in 2023, while domestic material consumption per unit of GDP (kg/USD) fell from 1.15 in 2016 to 0.8 in 2023.⁵⁹



HATAY WATER AND SEWERAGE ADMINISTRATION
ARSUZ SEWERAGE NETWORK



İZNIK (BURSA) MBR TECHNOLOGY WASTEWATER
TREATMENT PLANT



GAZİANTEP GASKİ CENTRAL TREATMENT PLANT

Waste Management Facilities Constructed by İLBANK

In Türkiye, the amount of food waste generated per capita in households (kg/person-day) declined from 0.42 in 2020 to 0.39 in 2022.⁶⁰

3.3. Biodiversity and the Ecosystem Conservation

Biodiversity and ecosystem conservation are regarded as a fundamental component of environmentally sustainable urban development in Türkiye. At the policy level, the aim is to ensure the sustainable management of natural resources, reduce pollution, and enhance ecosystem resilience to climate change impacts.

Adopted in 2022, the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (2022–2030) is an important agreement intended to halt the rapidly increasing loss of biodiversity worldwide and build a future in harmony with nature. In order to align the National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs) with this Framework, the Global Biodiversity Framework Early Action Support Project, implemented by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) under the GEF-7 period of the Global Environment Facility (GEF), was launched. Within the project, it is planned to compare and analyze the indicators adopted under the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework against the data collected in Türkiye and to prepare a monitoring action plan.

⁵⁹ Turkish Statistical Institute, "Sustainable Development Goal Indicator 12.2.2: Domestic material consumption, domestic material consumption per capita and domestic material consumption per unit of gross domestic product (GDP)," sdg.tuik.gov.tr, access date: 3 March 2026, <https://sdg.tuik.gov.tr/12-2-2/>

⁶⁰ Turkish Statistical Institute, Sustainable Development Goal Indicator 12.3.1/proxy: Food waste generated in households," sdg.tuik.gov.tr, access date: 3 March 2026, <https://sdg.tuik.gov.tr/12-3-1/>

In the 12th Development Plan, the protection of terrestrial and marine ecosystems and ecosystem services, as well as the sustainable use of biodiversity, has been identified as a priority policy. In order to protect biodiversity, protected areas serve as refuges, particularly for the survival of threatened and endangered species and for ecological processes. Owing to their carbon sequestration capacity, protected areas are also important carbon sink areas.

With its rich biodiversity, Türkiye increased the number of protected areas under different statuses for the conservation of genetic resources to 5,891 in 2024, and the total surface area of protected areas on land and at sea reached approximately 10.4 million hectares. In 2024, the ratio of total protected land areas to the country's surface area was 7.86% (UMF-49).⁶¹



Lake Sapanca, Kocaeli



Lake Sardalya, Kocaeli

According to 2023 data, environmental protection expenditures by the public sector, private sector, non-profit organizations, and households in Türkiye increased by 56.8% compared to the previous year, reaching TRY 224.6 billion. Of this expenditure, 66.8% was made by the private sector, 28.1% by the public sector and non-profit organizations, and 5.1% by households.⁶²

Efforts are continuing to identify ecological corridors in order to protect Türkiye's natural structure, connect habitats across regions, enable the movement of species, and link protected areas both with each other and with natural and artificial green areas in cities. Projects are also being carried out in highly sensitive ecological areas such as the Tuz Lake Special Environmental Protection Area and the Salda Lake Special Environmental Protection Area in order to identify the impacts of climate change and develop adaptation action plans.



Flamingos, İzmit Körfezi

⁶¹ PSB, 2026 Presidential Annual Programme, (Ankara, 2025)

⁶² PSB, 2026 Presidential Annual Programme, (Ankara, 2025)



Drinking Water Facilities Constructed by İLBANK

In order to protect the environmental values of protected areas that include Special Environmental Protection Areas and natural protected sites, and to eliminate environmental problems, financial support is provided to local administrations in areas such as tourism, sewerage, drinking water, and environment.

Local administrations and local government unions also carry out work in this field.

The Mersin, Adana, Antalya, and Hatay Metropolitan Municipalities, acting in cooperation, are implementing the Clean Mediterranean Ecosystem-Based Monitoring and Management Plan Project; within this scope, activities are planned to monitor marine pollution and prepare an ecosystem model.

Local administrations also support dryland farming and xeriscaping practices in order to use water resources in a manner consistent with natural climatic conditions. These efforts contribute to the protection of terrestrial ecosystems and to combating land degradation.

In Türkiye, the ratio of land consumption rate to population growth rate was 0.18% as of 2019 (UMF-51).⁶³ As the population growth rate of cities declines, the land consumption rate is also decreasing, especially in large cities such as İstanbul and İzmir, where available land has become more limited.

According to TurkStat data, as of 2024, the amount of tree-covered green space per capita in Türkiye increased to an average of approximately 13 m² (UMF-47).

The nature-based solutions approaches of local administrations have begun to create a new planning culture that supports both environmental and social resilience.

As regards water resources, Türkiye is not a water-rich country. In terms of the annual amount of water per capita, the country is in the category of countries experiencing water scarcity. Türkiye has an annual water potential of 1,652 m³ per capita. Considering that the population of Türkiye is projected to reach 87.9 million by 2030, and that water use will increase accordingly, the country faces the risk of a decline in annual water potential per capita. It is therefore extremely important to carry out planning studies in order to protect water resources, use them sustainably, and leave clean and sufficient water resources for future generations. As a result, River Basin Management Plans have been prepared in 12 of the 25 river basins in the country, while planning studies continue in 7 basins.⁶⁴

⁶³ Turkish Statistical Institute, "Sürdürülebilir Kalkınma Amaçları Göstergesi 11.3.1: Arazi tüketim oranının nüfus artış hızına oranı", sgd.tuik.gov.tr, access date: 28 February 2026, <https://sdg.tuik.gov.tr/11-3-1>

⁶⁴ Ministry of Environment, Urbanization and Climate Change of the Republic of Türkiye, 7th State of the Environment Report of Türkiye, 2025, csb.gov.tr, access date: 28 February 2026, http://webdosya.csb.gov.tr/db/ced/icerikler/7.-state_of_environment_report_of_turkiye-3-20251219140541.pdf

Türkiye prepares Integrated Coastal Area Plans, which address the country's coasts together with their interaction zones through a holistic approach encompassing all sectoral activities and plans, as well as social and economic issues; these plans include spatial objectives, strategy and action proposals, and a management plan that ensures a balance between protection and use, and they guide zoning plan decisions. Such plans have been prepared for 64% of the total coastline of the country (by length).

In order to prevent sea snot (mucilage) in the Sea of Marmara, the Marmara Sea Action Plan was adopted in 2021 by senior administrators of all provinces bordering the Sea of Marmara, and the necessary work was carried out.

Through the implementation of the Zero Waste Blue Movement and the Provincial Action Plans on Marine Litter, approximately 220,000 tons of marine litter had been collected and sent for disposal by the end of 2023.

As a result of efforts undertaken to protect the environment within the scope of environmental wastewater infrastructure, together with the financial and technical support provided from the central to the local level, the rate of treated domestic wastewater has shown a steady increase over the years and reached 85% in 2022. In the same year, the rate of treated industrial wastewater was 58.7%.⁶⁵

Rainwater harvesting and greywater reuse systems are being encouraged in new zoning practices, and the necessary legal infrastructure for this has been prepared. Within the framework of the view that wastewater is an alternative water resource and in line with the principles of the circular economy, it is aimed to expand the reuse of treated wastewater in different areas.

Within the scope of sustainable water management, 15 municipalities joined this year the Municipal Water Brotherhood initiative, which was launched to increase the sharing of knowledge and experience among municipalities; in total, 62 municipalities are sharing good practice examples and experience.

İL BANK contributes to planning processes for the protection and sustainable use of water resources by analyzing data such as groundwater levels, flood risk, and hydrogeological structure. At the same time, through microzonation and infrastructure-focused studies, it supports the development of practices that enhance water circularity, reduce flood risk, and increase water efficiency.⁶⁶

Within the framework of the Türkiye Water Circularity and Efficiency Enhancement Project, the Directorate General of State Hydraulic Works carries out activities aimed at ensuring a more effective and controlled use of water by modernizing irrigation infrastructure.

By converting existing open canal systems into closed and pressurized pipe systems, transmission losses are reduced; and by expanding modern irrigation methods such as drip irrigation and sprinkler irrigation, water saving and agricultural productivity are increased. In addition, through practices such as the rehabilitation of irrigation facilities and the reuse of treated wastewater, it adopts a circular management approach that promotes the reuse of water, thereby aiming to strengthen the protection and sustainability of water resources.⁶⁷

⁶⁵ Turkish Statistical Institute, "Indicator 6.3.1: Proportion of safely treated domestic and industrial wastewater flows", sdg.tuik.gov.tr, access date: 28 February 2026, <https://sdg.tuik.gov.tr/6-3-1/>

⁶⁶ Compiled within the scope of the opinion submitted by İLBANK for the New Urban Agenda Progress Report.

⁶⁷ DSI, 2023, Türkiye Water Circularity and Efficiency Enhancement Project, access date: 22 February 2026, https://cdn.iys.tarimorman.gov.tr/api/File/GetGaleriFile/425/DosyaGaleri/4350/sdvap_paydas_katilim_plani_ocak_2023.pdf.

In Türkiye, the proportion of municipal waste that is regularly collected and subjected to appropriate final treatment rose from 70.1% in 2016 to 85.3% in 2022 (UMF-41).⁶⁸

The recovery rate, which was 13% in 2017, increased to 27% in 2021, 30% in 2022, 35% in 2023, and 36% in 2024. The targets have been set at 60% for 2035 and 70% for 2053. The Zero Waste Project launched by Türkiye has also gained recognition at the global level, and in 2022, 30 March was declared “International Day of Zero Waste” by the United Nations General Assembly. Under the Zero Waste Project, the number of municipalities that have obtained a Zero Waste Certificate has approached 150, and the separate collection of waste at source has become systematic.

In order to disseminate the gains achieved through the Zero Waste Project and to monitor results-oriented targets in waste management, the National Waste Management Strategy and Action Plan (2025–2035) was prepared by the Ministry of Environment, Urbanization and Climate Change. Efforts are continuing to integrate different systems related to the recycling of solid waste. Work is also ongoing to integrate the informal solid waste collection processes of vulnerable groups and the poor into the system in accordance with the principle of social justice. A legal arrangement has been introduced to ensure that the contribution of city councils is taken into account in refining the content of the social policies to be determined in this field. Preparations for a national-scale deposit management system have reached the final stage, the Procedures and Principles Regarding the Implementation of the Mandatory Deposit Management System have been determined, and the deposit system is expected to be put into practice as soon as possible.

Moreover, in order to determine strategies and set short- and long-term targets at the local level, Provincial Zero Waste Management Plans prepared in 81 provinces have been put into effect. In addition, in line with Türkiye’s 2053 Net Zero Emissions Target, the National Circular Economy Strategy and Action Plan (2025–2028) has been prepared in order to increase resource efficiency, reduce import dependency, and support green employment.⁶⁹



Türkiye Zero Waste Project

Example practices implemented by many local administrations are published on the Zero Waste website.⁷⁰

⁶⁸ Turkish Statistical Institute, “Sustainable Development Goal Indicator 11.6.1: Proportion of urban solid waste regularly collected and adequately managed in controlled facilities”, sdg.tuik.gov.tr, access date: 28 February 2026, <https://sdg.tuik.gov.tr/11-6-1/>

⁶⁹ PSB, 2026 Presidential Annual Programme, (Ankara, 2025)

⁷⁰ Ministry of Environment, Urbanization and Climate Change of the Republic of Türkiye, “Zero Waste / Sıfır Atık”, zerowaste.gov.tr, access date: 27 February 2026, <http://zerowaste.gov.tr/>

PART 4: Effective Implementation

Türkiye's sustainable urbanization policy is implemented within a multi-level governance structure. The central government, local administrations, regional development agencies, the private sector, and civil society organizations assume responsibilities at different stages of the urbanization process.

The New Urban Agenda defines "effective implementation" not only in terms of project execution capacity, but also through the principles of institutional coordination, fiscal sustainability, data-driven decision-making, and participatory governance. In Türkiye, these principles have been reframed, particularly under the concept of "good governance" through the 12th Development Plan.

4.1. Building the Urban Governance Structure: Establishing a Supportive Framework

Urban governance includes multidimensional elements such as the principle of subsidiarity, the development of legal frameworks, inclusive participation mechanisms, and fiscal decentralization.

In Türkiye, in accordance with Article 127 of the Constitution, local administrations are public legal entities whose establishment principles are determined by law and whose decision-making bodies are formed through election by voters, in order to meet the common local needs of the people of provinces, municipalities, or villages.

As of October 2025, there were 51 special provincial administrations and 1,404 municipalities in Türkiye. As of the end of 2024, there were 18,243 villages and 701 local administration unions of which special provincial administrations, municipalities, and villages are members. In Türkiye, 81,262,079 people live within municipal boundaries, corresponding to 94.86% of the total population.⁷¹

Within the framework of legal regulations governing the principles of duties, powers, resource sharing, and service relations between the central government and local administrations, efforts are continuing to determine the standards required by the central government to ensure a certain level of service nationwide and to secure compliance with those standards. Work is also continuing to strengthen the administrative, financial, and technical capacities of local administrations. In this context, efforts are ongoing to transition local administrations to a performance-based programme budgeting system in order to ensure the effective, economical, and efficient use of public resources and to increase fiscal transparency and accountability. Within this framework, the budget preparation guide for local administrations has been prepared and published in accordance with the programme-based budgeting system.

Another principle set out in the Constitution regarding local administrations is the principle of providing these administrations with revenues proportionate to their duties. Accordingly, in parallel with the expansion of the areas of responsibility of local administrations, the amount of resources they use has also increased continuously.

The process has been initiated to extend the Integrated Public Financial Management Information System, used by the central government, to local administrations; this integration aims to improve data confidentiality, quality, and security by enabling instant/daily/monthly access to the financial transactions of local administrations. Local administrations are also experimenting with innovative resource-generation methods, combining such methods with income-generation approaches linked to employment and workforce development.

⁷¹PSB, 2026 Presidential Annual Programme, (Ankara, 2025)

In Türkiye, the level of satisfaction with public services was measured as follows (SDG 16.6.2):⁷²

Satisfaction with public services	(%) 2023
Satisfaction with judicial services	58,6
Satisfaction with public order and security services	74,6
Satisfaction with education services	57,7
Satisfaction with health services	65,4
Satisfaction with Social Security Institution services	61
Satisfaction with transport services	68,2

Participatory and transparent governance constitute the main mechanisms for strengthening local democracy. In Türkiye, a participatory mechanism has continued to exist since the early 2000s, both through the preparation of institutional strategic plans for participatory urban governance and through city councils at the level of local administrations.



Gaziantep City Council – Children's Assembly

In Türkiye, city councils are governance mechanisms based on voluntarism, comprising structures such as women's, youth, retirees', and children's assemblies, and aiming to enable various segments of society to contribute to urban governance. These mechanisms, which operate in five-year learning cycles, have deepened institutional experience in this area. As of 2024, city councils exist in 61 of Türkiye's 81 provinces and in 250 districts nationwide (UMF-67).⁷³

In addition, at the level of local administrations, council meetings and municipal tenders are broadcast live, financial data are shared with the public, and activities are carried out in cooperation with civil society on issues such as participatory budgeting and digital participation. For example, through Eskişehir Metropolitan Municipality's Bi'Fikirle Eskişehir participatory budgeting project,⁷⁴ residents were enabled to participate in urban decision-making, contribute directly to the budget formation process, and reinforce the principles of transparency and accountability.

It is observed that local administrations make increasingly widespread use of digital administrative tools and smart city approaches through urban information systems and various communication platforms. Local services that are beginning to be integrated into the e-Government system make it easier and more effective for citizens to reach the administration. A common e-municipality platform, designed in line with a service-oriented and local-administration-focused approach, has been established to bring municipalities together on a shared platform. Of Türkiye's 1,404 municipalities, 938 are members of the e-municipality platform, together with 19 water and sewerage administrations and 24 municipal unions (UMF-68).⁷⁵

⁷²Turkish Statistical Institute, "Sustainable Development Goal Indicator 16.6.2: Satisfaction rate with public services", sdg.tuik.gov.tr, access date: 28 February 2026, <https://sdg.tuik.gov.tr/16-6-2/>

⁷³Turkish Statistical Institute, "Sustainable Development Goal Indicator 11.3.2: Proportion of cities with a direct participation structure of civil society in urban planning and management that operate regularly and democratically", sdg.tuik.gov.tr, access date: 28 February 2026, <https://sdg.tuik.gov.tr/11-3-2/>

⁷⁴Eskişehir Metropolitan Municipality, "Bi'Fikirle Eskişehir Participatory Budgeting Practice", access date: 28 February 2026, <https://bifikirle.eskisehir.bel.tr/>

⁷⁵Ministry of Interior of the Republic of Türkiye, "e-Municipality Information System", access date: 28 February 2026, <https://www.belediye.gov.tr/>

Although not all municipalities are members of the said platform, e-municipality services are available in all municipalities. For example, in Kocaeli Metropolitan Municipality, the number of citizen applications and service access records received through digital platforms increased from 43,124 in the 2021–2022 period to 167,784 in the 2024–2025 period, showing that access to and use of digital services has increased significantly. Ensuring the full participation of women in decision-making mechanisms at all levels and in every field is one of the core commitments of the New Urban Agenda. The share of seats held by women in municipal councils increased from 9.9% in 2014 to 10.1% in 2019, and further to 11.5% in 2024 (UMF-69).⁷⁶

In Türkiye, the positions of sex, age, persons with disabilities, and population groups in national and local institutions, relative to their national distributions, were measured as follows for (a) legislative bodies and (b) public service (SDG 16.7.1):⁷⁷

Grand National Assembly of Türkiye	(%)2023
i) Proportion of women members of parliament in the Assembly	19,8
ii) Representation ratio of women eligible for election in the Grand National Assembly of Türkiye (GNAT)	0,39
iii) Proportion of young members of parliament in the Assembly (members of parliament aged 45 and under)	23,5
iv) Representation ratio of young people eligible for election in the Grand National Assembly of Türkiye (GNAT)	0,56
b. Public Service	(%)2024
i) Proportion of women employed in public service (under Article 4/C status)	38,3
ii) Representation ratio of women eligible to work in public service within the public sector	0,77

In the 12th Development Plan, policies were defined to ensure that the priority of equal opportunities for women and men and the empowerment of women is incorporated into all planning, programming, policy development, and implementation processes; accordingly, it is targeted that the representation rate of women in parliament will reach 25% by 2028.

4.2. Planning and Managing of Urban Spatial Development

Türkiye’s cities have experienced a rapid urbanization process over the last 50 years, especially with dynamics similar to those observed in many developing countries. As of 2022, TurkStat, on the basis of the Degree of Urbanisation (DEGURBA) developed by Eurostat, aims through the new classification of “densely populated areas, intermediate-density areas, thinly populated areas” to develop a structure compatible with international standards and to produce statistics at this level. Accordingly, 67.9% of the population resides in settlements classified as dense urban areas, which account for only 1.6% of Türkiye’s total surface area.

⁷⁶ Turkish Statistical Institute, “Sustainable Development Goal Indicator 5.5.1: Proportion of women in full and effective participation in decision-making positions”, sdg.tuik.gov.tr, access date: 1 March 2026, <https://sdg.tuik.gov.tr/5-5-1/>

⁷⁷ Turkish Statistical Institute, “Sustainable Development Goal Indicator 16.7.1(a) legislative bodies, (b) public service and (c) judiciary: Proportions of positions in national and local institutions, by sex, age, persons with disabilities and population groups, relative to national distributions”, sdg.tuik.gov.tr, access date: 28 February 2026, <https://sdg.tuik.gov.tr/16-7-1/>

While 14.8% of the population resides in settlements classified as intermediate-density areas, 17.3% of the total population lives in settlements classified as rural areas.

Whether countries have policies and plans to guide the urbanization process at the national scale, and whether these documents address spatial, economic, social, and environmental dimensions in an integrated manner, constitutes—together with the relevant legislation—the overarching framework for the planning and management of urban spatial development.

In Türkiye, the policy and planning framework that may be evaluated in this context consists of the Integrated Urban Development Strategy and Action Plan 2010–2023 (KENTGES), the Türkiye Spatial Strategy Plan 2053 (Draft), whose preparation process is ongoing, the National Strategy for Regional Development 2024–2028, and the regional development plans in force in the 26 NUTS-2 regions (Nomenclature of territorial units for statistics) in line with that strategy. When these national- and regional-scale policy documents are considered together, a multi-scalar policy approach is seen to be adopted that is sensitive to population dynamics, supports balanced regional and national development, and aims to strengthen the financial and institutional capacity of local administrations (UMF-76).

In addition, the policies and targets concerning urbanization, spatial development, and regional development included in the 12th Development Plan provide an upper-scale policy basis that supports the said national urban policy and regional planning framework.

According to OECD reports, regional disparities in GDP per capita in Türkiye have remained relatively stable over the last nine years; the GDP per capita of the richest 20% of regions is 3.2 times that of the poorest 20% of regions.⁷⁹ In Türkiye, an approach has been adopted that aims to reduce interregional development disparities and enable regions to contribute to the national development process by using their endogenous potential. Within this framework, the National Strategy for Regional Development 2024–2028 and, in alignment with it, the regional plans prepared at the local level under the coordination of development agencies have set out the medium-term development priorities of all regions and developed the project and investment ideas needed to implement them.

The Türkiye Spatial Strategy Plan 2053 (Draft), which has the character of a national urbanization policy and guides spatial plans, is a document that ensures the linkage of urban development with national development goals. The document was prepared in light of the principles of the New Urban Agenda and in line with the outcomes of the participatory Urbanization Council.

In order to support data-based planning and policy-making processes at the local level in Türkiye, the Urban and Rural Settlement Systems Research (YER-SİS) has been completed, and the Socio-Economic Development Ranking Index (SEGE) studies at the provincial and district levels have been updated.

In line with these national- and regional-scale policy documents, the highest-level spatial plans currently in force are the environmental plans. 99% of the environmental plans prepared at the NUTS-2 regional or provincial level—which determine settlement and land-use decisions in areas such as housing, industry, agriculture, tourism, and transport—have been completed nationwide.

Within the framework of Türkiye’s spatial planning legislation, development plans and implementation plans are prepared and approved by local administrations in conformity with upper-scale plans.

⁷⁹OECD, 2022, Regions and Cities at a Glance: Türkiye, access date: 1 March 2026, https://www.oecd.org/en/publications/oecd-regions-and-cities-at-a-glance-2022-country-notes_69ca668c-en/turkiye_bf877e52-en.html

In line with the requests of local administrations, İLBANK continues to carry out development plans and the geological-geotechnical surveys and microzonation studies that form the basis for those plans. Since 2021, it has completed 76 development plans covering an area of approximately 60,000 hectares.

The e-Plan Automation System, through which plan reference numbers, processes, automation, and archiving procedures relating to development plans are managed, has been used since 2020 by all local administrations and institutions vested with planning authority. Through the e-Plan Automation System, digital plan display services are provided to citizens via public-facing modules. Through this system, all plans that are on display and in force throughout the country can be viewed, and objections to plans on display can be submitted via e-Government. Owners of parcels located within the boundaries of plans placed on public display are notified of the display announcement through e-Government.⁸⁰

As of 2023, there were 7,096 urban planners registered with the Chamber of City Planners of the Union of Chambers of Turkish Engineers and Architects in Türkiye.⁸¹ The Designer Information System has been developed for determining the certificate classes of plan designers, carrying out activation procedures, issuing the Plan Preparation Qualification Certificate digitally, and preparing and delivering the Certificate of Completion to the relevant persons through the e-Plan Automation System.

The Regulation on the Implementation of the Value Increase Share Regarding Development Plan Amendments, which sets out the procedures and principles for transferring to the public, as a value increase share, the increase in the value of immovable property resulting from amendments to development plans, was published in 2025. This is regarded as an instrument for expanding the revenue base of local administrations. It is also intended, through this instrument, to help prevent increases in urban density in certain areas.

Disaster-resilient urban development has long been an important policy priority in Türkiye, and following the earthquakes that occurred in 2023, efforts in this area have further intensified. Taking into account the decisions adopted at the Council on Earthquake Reality and Urban Transformation held following those earthquakes, various amendments were introduced in 2023 and 2024 to the Law on the Transformation of Areas Under Disaster Risk and the related regulations, with the aim of ensuring that procedures related to urban transformation activities are carried out more effectively and that problems encountered in practice are resolved. In addition, national- and regional-level plan and policy documents were revised with a focus on earthquakes. In the 12th Development Plan, issues relating to urbanization are also addressed under the axis of "Disaster-Resilient Settlements, Sustainable Environment." Within the urban transformation process, efforts are continuing to formulate strategies aimed at applying a transformation scenario according to the characteristics of the area and its function within the city, developing transformation areas in line with a strategy, and ensuring harmony with the city as a whole by planning them in an integrated manner together with the city and its surrounding area, without disregarding coordination among plans at different levels. As of September 2025, approximately 2 million 350 thousand independent units in risky structures and transformation areas throughout the country had been renewed in accordance with the Türkiye Building Earthquake Code, the Building Inspection System, and the planning, design, construction techniques, and building materials defined in the relevant legislation, thereby making them resilient to disaster risks.

⁸⁰ Ministry of Environment, Urbanization and Climate Change of the Republic of Türkiye, "e-Plan Automation System", Access date: 5 March 2026, <https://eplan.csb.gov.tr/>

⁸¹ Union of Chambers of Turkish Engineers and Architects (TMMOB), "The Number of Members of Chambers Affiliated with TMMOB Reached 677 Thousand", [tmmob.org.tr](https://www.tmmob.org.tr), Access date: 1 March 2026, <https://www.tmmob.org.tr/icerik/tmmoby-bagli-odalarin-uye-sayisi-677-bin-oldu>

In Türkiye, the death rate due to road traffic accidents (per 100,000 population) was 7.4 as of 2024 (UMF-8).⁸² Traffic safety is among the priority policy areas in the country, and in this context, training and inspection activities continue. Within the scope of the Road Traffic Safety Action Plan (2021–2023), projects related to urban transportation have been implemented.

Significant investments are being made in order to reduce traffic congestion in urban transportation, together with the resulting loss of time, fuel consumption, and environmental and noise pollution, through the development of public transport and non-motorized transport modes. In addition to zero-emission public transport vehicles such as trolleybuses and electric buses, the use of rail system vehicles such as trams and metros is becoming more widespread. As of October 2025, public transport services through rail systems were continuing in 12 of the 30 metropolitan municipalities. The proportion of the population with easy access to public transport vehicles was 84.6% in 2024.⁸³

In Türkiye, important projects have been carried out in the field of sustainable urban mobility both to raise awareness and to strengthen planning capacity. In recent years, Sustainable Urban Mobility Plans (SUMP) and smart transport systems have facilitated the implementation of environmentally sensitive and accessible transport policies. Practices such as accessible stops for persons with disabilities and the older population, digital ticketing systems, and safe pedestrian infrastructure have become fundamental components of inclusive transport policies. By being used together with smart city management systems, transport systems also pave the way for municipalities to develop data-based approaches to the city. Local administrations actively participated in European Mobility Week events; a Green and White Paper was prepared to identify the current situation and policy priorities of sustainable urban mobility; and SUMP were prepared for İstanbul, Ankara, İzmir, Konya, Eskişehir, Trabzon, Gaziantep, Kocaeli, and Düzce. On the other hand, efforts have been made toward the electrification of public transport systems and the transition to clean-fuel public transport vehicles. In this context, many cities have undertaken efforts to shift to electric or hybrid buses. The “Project for the Promotion of Electric Mobility in Türkiye”, financed by the European Union and implemented by the World Bank, is ongoing.

The creation of safe and inclusive cities is one of the key priorities in the planning and management of urban space. Whether individuals feel safe in their living environment is an important indicator in terms of the accessibility and usability of public spaces and the sustainability of social life. The proportion of the population who feel safe walking alone at night in the area where they live was 59.4% in 2021 in total (70.9% men, 48.1% women), while it increased to 65.9% in 2023 (75.8% men, 56.3% women) (UMF-06).⁸⁴

In line with the 12th Development Plan, efforts will continue in order to create smart, safe, and sustainable cities and settlements that are resilient to climate change and disasters, possess qualified residential areas compatible with their historical and cultural heritage, provide accessible urban services for all, ensure a high quality of life, and are based on green and digital technologies.

⁸²Turkish Statistical Institute, “Sustainable Development Goal Indicator 3.6.1: Death rate due to road traffic accidents”, [sdg.tuik.gov.tr](https://sdg.tuik.gov.tr/3-6-1/), Access date: 1 Mart 2026, <https://sdg.tuik.gov.tr/3-6-1/>

⁸³Turkish Statistical Institute, “Sustainable Development Goal Indicator 11.2.1: Proportion of the population with convenient access to public transport”, [sdg.tuik.gov.tr](https://sdg.tuik.gov.tr/11-2-1/), access date: 2024, <https://sdg.tuik.gov.tr/11-2-1/>

⁸⁴Turkish Statistical Institute, “Sustainable Development Goal Indicator 16.1.4: Proportion of population who feel safe walking alone around the area they live”, [sdg.tuik.gov.tr](https://sdg.tuik.gov.tr/16-1-4/), access date: 2024, <https://sdg.tuik.gov.tr/16-1-4/>

4.3. Mobilization of Financial Resources

The success of sustainable urbanization is directly related to the strengthening of financial capacity. In Türkiye, the revenue sources of local administrations consist of own-source revenues, transfers from the central government, and borrowing. In 2024, local administration revenues increased by 69.9% as a result of the real increase in general budget tax share revenues and factor revenues. The share received by local administrations from general budget tax revenues accounts for 57.78% of their total revenues.⁸⁵

Financing support is also provided from the central budget for projects such as water and sewerage infrastructure, solid waste facilities, bicycle paths, green walking trails, and Millet Gardens.

The Supporting Village Infrastructure Project (KÖYDES) was launched in order to resolve, within a short time, villages' problems relating to drinking water, roads, small-scale irrigation, and wastewater, through special provincial administrations and village service unions, including local contributions. In 2024, an appropriation of TRY 5 billion was allocated under the Project, and the entire amount was transferred to the accounts of the village service unions held with İLBANK.

In order to protect the environmental values of protected areas that include Special Environmental Protection Areas and natural protected sites, and to eliminate environmental problems, financial support is provided to local administrations in the sectors of tourism, sewerage, drinking water, urbanization, environment, and municipal services.

Support is provided for tourism-oriented environmental arrangements and infrastructure investments in tourism regions that cannot be completed due to the budget insufficiency of local administrations.

In order to enable local administrations to deliver public services effectively, treasury immovable properties are used as a source of support through various mechanisms. In 2024, a total of 1,191 treasury immovable properties covering 18.6 million m² were allocated to local administrations for service buildings, social and cultural facilities, and infrastructure services. In addition to the support provided for Millet Gardens, parks and green areas, solid waste disposal sites, solar energy investments, special education rehabilitation centers, and animal shelters, immovable property support is also provided for infrastructure, environmental, and social investments.



⁸⁵ Ministry of Environment, Urbanization and Climate Change of the Republic of Türkiye – Directorate General of Local Administrations, 2024 General Activity Report of Local Administrations. Access date: 27 February 2026. <https://yerelyonetimler.csb.gov.tr/faaliyet-raporlari-i-88463>

In order to create disaster-resilient settlements, urban transformation practices carried out at the local level are supported through various financial mechanisms. In this context, within the framework of the Law on the Transformation of Areas Under Disaster Risk, rental and relocation assistance, interest support, and exemptions are provided, while models such as the “Half is on Us” Campaign offer grants and long-term loan opportunities for the transformation of risky structures.

Within the scope of the reconstruction efforts carried out by the central government after the February 2023 Earthquakes, tenders were completed for the construction of a total of 342,134 housing units and 74,824 village houses in the provinces of Adana, Adiyaman, Diyarbakır, Elazığ, Gaziantep, Hatay, Kahramanmaraş, Kilis, Malatya, Osmaniye, and Şanlıurfa affected by the earthquakes. The investments made in this context constitute an important financing mechanism provided by the central government in terms of accelerating housing production at the local level and financially supporting the reconstruction of settlements in post-disaster recovery processes. In addition, within the scope of the on-site transformation practices initiated after the February 2023 Earthquakes, grant and loan support are being provided to post-disaster beneficiaries pursuant to Law No. 7452, thereby financially supporting reconstruction processes at the local level.⁸⁶

Under the coordination of the Ministry of Environment, Urbanization and Climate Change, support is being provided to municipalities, especially for the construction of environmental infrastructure, through the Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance (IPA) funds of the European Union. During the IPA III period (2021–2027), under the thematic priority of “Green Agenda and Sustainable Connectivity”, financing approval has so far been obtained for a total of 19 projects amounting to EUR 84 million for 2021, 2022, and 2023, while 2 capacity-building projects amounting to EUR 6 million for 2024 have been accepted by the European Commission. The Financing Agreement for the 2024 programming year is awaited. In addition, for the period covering 2025 and 2027, a total of 11 projects amounting to EUR 49.3 million have been submitted to the European Commission under the Multi-Annual Programme. Apart from this, tender processes are continuing for a technical assistance project with a total budget of EUR 35 million under the Post-FRIT Additional Fund.⁸⁷

The financing of urban projects is provided not only through national budget resources, but also through multilateral institutions and regional development funds. The possibility for local administrations to obtain funds directly from international financial institutions has been facilitated. İLBANK cooperates with international financial institutions such as the World Bank, the European Investment Bank (EIB), the French Development Agency (AFD), the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), and the Islamic Development Bank (IsDB) in order to meet the infrastructure needs of local administrations.

By using innovative financing instruments, İLBANK also implements a blended finance model that combines grant and loan opportunities within the same project. This model aims to mobilize additional financing for sustainable development.

Since their establishment, Development Agencies have provided support to 27,182 projects under financial and technical assistance programmes in order to support local development at the regional level; at 2025 prices, approximately USD 2.2 billion (TRY 86.9 billion) has been provided, and together with the co-financing contributions of beneficiaries, a total investment of approximately USD 3.7 billion (TRY 145.3 billion) has been mobilized.

⁸⁶ Ministry of Environment, Urbanization and Climate Change of the Republic of Türkiye – Directorate General of Local Administrations, 2024 General Activity Report of Local Administrations. Access date: 27 February 2026.

⁸⁷ <https://yerelyonetimler.csb.gov.tr/faaliyet-raporlari-i-88463>
Ministry of Environment, Urbanization and Climate Change of the Republic of Türkiye – General Directorate of Local Administrations, 2024 General Activity Report of Local Administrations. Access date: 27 February 2026.
<https://yerelyonetimler.csb.gov.tr/faaliyet-raporlari-i-88463>

In addition, the 12th Development Plan has identified, as priority policies within the scope of combating climate change, the development of sustainable financing models, the expansion of access to green finance, and the diversification of financing resources for the transition to a low-carbon economy. In this context, green finance and climate funds have begun to be used at the local level in Türkiye for the first time. Within the scope of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) supported Green Cities Programme, the municipalities of Ankara, İzmir, and Gaziantep are carrying out climate adaptation projects.

Within the framework of public financial management reforms, a strategic management process is being implemented in municipalities. This process constitutes the basis for allocating resources according to strategic priorities, monitoring whether they are used effectively, and developing a sense of accountability.

The central government is establishing digital and integrated systems that will increase the reliability and consistency of the financial management systems of local administrations. The process of extending the Integrated Public Financial Management Information System, used by the central government, to local administrations has been initiated. In this way, the financial transactions of local administrations will become accessible on an instant/daily/monthly basis, and data confidentiality, quality, and security will be enhanced.

The Union of Municipalities of Türkiye is carrying out work on thematic issues such as bond issuance, green bonds, sukuk issuance, leasing, and the valuation of municipal assets in order to develop the financial instruments of municipalities. The Union also provides capacity-building programmes on financial planning and financial management for local administrations. Through the “Municipal Finance and Financial Capacity Development Academy,” it has delivered training to more than 20 metropolitan municipalities.

The 12th Development Plan aims to strengthen the fiscal autonomy of municipalities and to develop and expand the performance-based budgeting system, and efforts in this direction will continue in the coming period.

4.4. Capacity Development and Enhanced Knowledge-Sharing

In order to achieve the goals of the New Urban Agenda, the systematic strengthening of the institutional, financial, and technical capacities of local administrations and the promotion of mutual learning experiences among cities are among the main implementation tools. In Türkiye, for this purpose, specialized structures and platforms have been established at both the national and regional levels. Strengthening the institutional capacities of local administrations is of critical importance in enabling them to fulfill their duties effectively.

Institutions such as the Ministry of Environment, Urbanization and Climate Change and the Ministry of Interior provide in-service training to local administrations on issues such as spatial planning, financial management, legislation, urban policy, smart cities, geographic information systems, climate change, zero waste, and environment.

As an example, within the scope of the Zero Waste Movement, the Ministry of Environment, Urbanization and Climate Change continues its training and awareness-raising activities, especially for municipalities, and between 2017 and 2024, approximately 22.5 million people received training. In order to build the capacity of practitioners, 11 Zero Waste Management System implementation guides were prepared, and the Zero Waste Information System was established for the purposes of data entry, inventory creation, monitoring ongoing activities, reducing paper waste, reporting, and managing the Zero Waste certification process. In addition, many municipalities continue their efforts to establish the Zero Waste Management System in municipal service areas, while also carrying out work related to the establishment of waste collection centers and training and awareness activities.

In Türkiye, the Development Agencies operating in the 26 NUTS-2 regions are institutions that foster cooperation among the public sector, the private sector, and civil society organizations, ensure the effective and appropriate use of resources, and mobilize local potential. In this context, the agencies carry out activities aimed at developing human and institutional capacity at the local level, disseminating the culture of project preparation and implementation, creating the investment environment necessary to enhance the global competitiveness of regions, and ensuring that local needs and demands are reflected as accurately as possible in investment planning.

In addition, joint projects carried out with organizations such as UN-Habitat, the OECD, the World Bank, and the European Union have brought global experience to Türkiye's urban governance capacity.

In Türkiye, local administrations strengthen their institutional capacities and actively participate in global knowledge-sharing processes through membership in international networks and cooperation platforms. In this context, representatives of local administrations are represented within the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe, which is one of the major platforms of local and regional governments in Europe; Türkiye is represented in the Congress by 18 full delegates and 18 substitute delegates.

Local administrations in Türkiye also take part in regional platforms such as the Euro-Mediterranean Regional and Local Assembly (ARLEM), which aims to strengthen cooperation among local and regional governments in the Mediterranean basin and supports knowledge sharing and joint project development processes at the regional scale in areas such as sustainable development, spatial planning, and local governance. Within this platform, which operates under the European Committee of the Regions and consists of a total of 80 members, Türkiye is represented by 5 full members and 5 alternate members.

Municipalities also participate in experience sharing and capacity development processes through membership in international local government networks. In this context, work carried out within local government networks such as United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG), UCLG Middle East and West Asia (UCLG-MEWA), and the Council of European Municipalities and Regions (CEMR), as well as thematic platforms such as Local Governments for Sustainability (ICLEI) and the C40 Cities Climate Leadership Group, strengthens cooperation and knowledge sharing among municipalities.

As of 2024, the UCLG-MEWA regional network has 254 members in 16 countries, of which 96 are municipalities from Türkiye. Through its General Secretariat in Istanbul, the network supports experience sharing and capacity development among municipalities through thematic committee work in areas such as culture, smart cities, urban mobility, environment, social inclusion, and city diplomacy.

Local administrations also expand their cooperation networks through sister city relations and meetings held on international platforms such as the Mayors Forum organized under the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) and the World Urban Forum. Sister city relations established between municipalities are one of the important instruments of international cooperation at the local level. As of 2024, there are a total of 2,224 sister city relationships in Türkiye, and approval was granted for the establishment of 60 new sister city relationships in 2024 alone.⁸⁸ Such international cooperation contributes to the implementation of global urban agendas at the local level by increasing knowledge and experience sharing among local administrations.

⁸⁸ Ministry of Environment, Urbanization and Climate Change of the Republic of Türkiye – General Directorate of Local Administrations, 2024 General Activity Report of Local Administrations. Access date: 27 February 2026. <https://yerelyonetimler.csb.gov.tr/faaliyet-raporlari-i-88463>

In Türkiye, the total number of local government unions established to carry out local administration services jointly was 701 as of 2024, comprising 2 nationwide unions, 42 municipal service unions, 9 special provincial administration–municipal service unions, 5 development unions, 67 environmental infrastructure service unions, 30 tourism infrastructure service unions, 78 drinking water unions, 451 village service unions, and 17 other unions.⁸⁹

The Union of Municipalities of Türkiye is the national local government union established by law, operating since 1945, of which all municipalities in Türkiye are natural members. The Union carries out various training, technical support, and knowledge-sharing activities aimed at strengthening the institutional capacity of local administrations. In this context, through the Municipal Academy, training programmes are organized for mayors, municipal council members, and municipal personnel in areas such as strategic planning, disaster management, combating climate change, digital municipalism, and financial management; in addition, municipalities' access to technical knowledge is supported through guidance documents and practice-oriented manuals. These activities support the dissemination of good practice examples; and, thanks to cooperation established with international local government networks, municipalities are enabled to benefit from global knowledge and experience.

The Management Development Center within the Marmara Municipalities Union aims to improve the management capabilities of local leaders, enhance institutional management systems, and provide a platform for discussion on strategic thinking, institutional transformation, and a new-generation governance approach. The Mentor Programme is a staff exchange and experience-sharing programme created to improve inter-municipal cooperation, institutional capacities, and staff competencies in areas such as Voluntary Local Reviews (VLRs) and project development.

Organized biennially by the Marmara Municipalities Union, the internationally recognized Marmara Urban Forum (MARUF) brings together all urban stakeholders—including local administrations, public institutions, the private sector, academia, and international organizations—and offers opportunities for dialogue and cooperation across a wide range of issues, from disaster management and climate change to governance and digitalization. Through distinctive events such as the “Good Practice Bazaar” and the “Urban Workshop,” MARUF aims both to showcase good practices that generate urban benefit and to develop creative solutions through workshops shaped by the contributions of participants.⁹⁰

Over the last twenty years, new challenges emerging in urbanization processes, such as climate change and migration movements, have brought about change in the planning discipline. Accordingly, city and regional planning education has been restructured in a way that strengthens students' abilities to develop strategic approaches in spatial planning, produce adaptive and applicable alternatives for current urban problems, and carry out geographic information systems (GIS)-based analyses.

The quality approaches implemented in universities by the Council of Higher Education provide an important basis, especially for the development of the competencies and qualifications of professional groups that play a significant role in shaping the built environment. In national university entrance examinations, quota planning is carried out for these professions by taking into account labor market and employment market conditions.

Under the umbrella of the Union of Chambers of Turkish Engineers and Architects, the professional chambers of disciplines active in the built environment—such as urban planners, civil engineers, and architects—carry out activities and organize training programmes in order to support the development of their professions. The Chamber of City Planners, by organizing training activities and student camps on issues such as spatial analysis, geographic information systems (GIS) applications, and urban transformation, aims to improve the quality of planning practice.

⁸⁹ Ministry of Environment, Urbanization and Climate Change of the Republic of Türkiye – General Directorate of Local Administrations, 2024 General Activity Report of Local Administrations. Access date: 27 February 2026. <https://yereyonyetimler.csb.gov.tr/faaliyet-raporlari-i-88463>

⁹⁰ Marmara Urban Forum, “Marmara Urban Forum”, marmaraurbanforum.org, Access date: 27 February 2026, <https://marmaraurbanforum.org/?l=en>

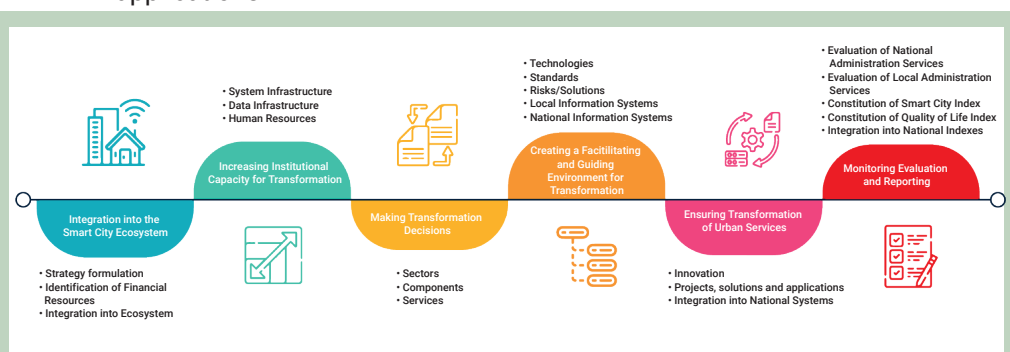
In order to monitor the performance of cities in Türkiye more systematically in light of international indicators, the UMF was adapted to Türkiye by the Ministry of Environment, Urbanization and Climate Change so as to translate the targets set out in the 12th Development Plan into concrete steps, and its first pilot implementation was carried out in Konya. Through the Project, conducted within the framework of institutional cooperation among TurkStat, Konya Metropolitan Municipality, Ministry units, and universities, a methodology was developed to enable the UMF indicators to be calculated in a comparable manner across Türkiye. In the coming period, it is planned to expand the implementation to other cities as well. In this way, the development of cities will be monitored and evaluated in line with the Sustainable Development Goals and the principles of the New Urban Agenda; municipalities will be able to see clearly the strengths of their cities and the areas open to improvement, support decision-making processes, use their resources more effectively, and improve service quality.

4.5. Technology and Innovation

In Türkiye, the smart city approach is being developed with the aim of promoting sustainable development, improving quality of life, and making cities more environmentally, economically, and socially resilient.

Prepared under the coordination of the Ministry of Environment, Urbanization and Climate Change, the National Smart Cities Strategy and Action Plan 2020–2023 aimed to strengthen a data-driven management approach in cities and to develop the smart city ecosystem. During this process, capacity development activities were carried out, support was provided for the establishment of data infrastructures, and pilot practices were implemented in different cities. The National Smart Cities Strategy and Action Plan (2024–2030), prepared on the basis of this experience, aims to make cities more livable, sustainable, and resilient. Within the scope of the Strategy, it is envisaged that data-driven solutions will be developed in areas such as transport, energy management, water, and waste management by making use of big data, artificial intelligence, and digital technologies. In addition, a transparent and human-centered urban governance approach that strengthens citizens’ participation in governance processes is being adopted.

In Türkiye, the creation of data infrastructures occupies an important place in the development of smart city applications. In this context, the National Smart City Open Data Platform enables data produced by municipalities and public institutions to be shared through a central system, thereby increasing data transparency and interoperability between institutions. Through the Platform, numerous datasets in different thematic areas are made available to researchers, entrepreneurs, and public institutions, thus supporting data-driven policy development and the development of innovative applications.



National Smart City Roadmap

In order to increase the capacity of local administrations in the field of smart cities, the Ministry of Environment, Urbanization and Climate Change has made available to municipalities guidance documents, training books, and videos in 29 different areas related to smart cities.

In order to monitor and improve the technology use capacity of cities, the Smart City Maturity Assessment Program is being implemented. Within the scope of this program, the smart city capacity of 81 provinces in Türkiye is analyzed, and an annual Smart City Index is prepared on the basis of the findings obtained. These studies contribute to identifying the strengths of cities and the areas open to improvement, and they introduce a data-driven approach into the strategic planning processes of local administrations.

In order to ensure the holistic and harmonized development of the technological infrastructure, work is also being carried out at the national level on smart city standards and reference architecture. In this context, the National Smart City Architecture and the data dictionary developed aim to increase the interoperability of systems developed by different institutions and to ensure the adoption of a standard approach in smart city investments. In this way, the effectiveness of technological investments is increased and efficiency in the use of resources is ensured.

The digital solutions developed in the field of smart transport also constitute an important component of technology and innovation applications. Through urban mobility analysis software and traffic safety and traffic density analysis platforms, traffic flow, density, and accident data are analyzed using big data and location data; the data obtained are used as a decision-support mechanism in transport planning. In addition, local administrations use applications such as fleet management programmes that enable the tracking of public transport vehicles and the digital management of route planning and fuel consumption, as well as smart intersection systems, digital passenger information systems, micromobility vehicles, and bicycle-sharing systems. Through these systems, it is aimed to plan transport investments more efficiently and to improve traffic safety.



Digital transformation efforts are also being carried out in the fields of urban planning and spatial data management. Through the e-Plan Automation System, it has become possible to prepare, monitor, and manage spatial plans in a digital environment; plan display processes and objection procedures relating to plans have also been made executable electronically. In this context, by transitioning to the smart plan data model called PlanGML, it has been ensured that plan data are produced as “smart data” in a standard and open data format, enabling their effective use in analyses and decision-support systems.

In order to strengthen Türkiye's geospatial data infrastructure and improve data sharing among public institutions, the Türkiye National Geographic Information System (TUCBS) Integration Project, carried out by the Ministry of Environment, Urbanization and Climate Change, was launched in 2018 and completed in 2024. Within the scope of the Project, integration activities were carried out with 214 institutions from the public sector and local administrations. In addition, in order to strengthen institutional capacity, the TUCBS Academy Training Portal was established to support the enhancement of the technical knowledge and skills of public institutions and local administrations in the field of geographic information systems.

Within the scope of developing the national geospatial data infrastructure, efforts are also being carried out to establish geospatial data standards, strengthen data-sharing mechanisms, and monitor institutional capacity. In line with the National Geographic Information Strategy and Action Plan prepared in this framework, maturity assessments were conducted for public institutions, local administrations, universities, and the private sector; in addition, geospatial data themes aligned with national and international standards were developed. Through the National Geographic Information Platform that has been established, inter-institutional data sharing is ensured, and the platform manages approximately 950,000 metadata records, nearly 1,200 geospatial data services, and around 8,500 geospatial data layers. These efforts contribute to strengthening the approaches of evidence-based planning and data-driven urban governance, thereby enabling cities to be managed in a more effective, transparent, and sustainable manner.

In addition, through National Urban Information System applications based on geographic information systems, the spatial data production and management of local administrations are supported, and citizens are enabled to access urban information through web and mobile applications. The Urban Information System currently includes 1,352 municipalities.

The Spatial Address Registration System (MAKS), developed in recent years in Türkiye, is a system that visualizes addresses by combining text-based address data with geographic coordinates, and provides the possibility of spatial analysis for disaster management, smart city applications, building permitting, and population planning.

The data infrastructure for the creation of digital twins of cities is being developed through the 3D City Models Production and Creation of 3D Cadastre Base Maps Project. The integrated spatial data produced within the scope of this Project are analyzed through applications such as the Smart City Digital Management Platform, thereby providing decision-makers with advanced decision-support mechanisms.

As a result of all these efforts, institutional, technical, and digital capacity in the field of smart cities has been strengthened in Türkiye; and concrete progress has been achieved at the municipal level in areas such as strategy development, project prioritization, data management, and implementation guidance.

CHAPTER 5: Strategic Ways Forward

In the 12th Development Plan, Türkiye's vision for urbanization is to develop sustainable and inclusive cities that preserve cultural heritage, are resilient to climate change and disasters, and are supported by smart infrastructures and innovative technologies. While this approach aims to make cities attractive centers with a higher quality of life and the capacity to compete internationally, it also guides the strengthening of sustainable urban development in line with the New Urban Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals.

The experience gained in the process of implementing the New Urban Agenda—particularly the achievements in the areas of social inclusion, inclusive prosperity, environmental sustainability, and effective governance—has strengthened Türkiye's institutional maturity toward its 2036 targets. In this period, the objective is not merely to continue existing policies, but to transform cities into “resilient ecosystems of the future.

Resilient Cities and Disaster Risk Reduction

The February 2023 earthquakes once again reminded us that, due to its geographical location, Türkiye regards making cities more resilient to disasters—especially earthquakes—and to the increasing effects of climate change as a fundamental priority.

In this context, the preparation of disaster risk maps for all settlements, the strengthening of a risk-based spatial planning approach, the acceleration of efforts to increase preparedness capacity against natural disasters—especially earthquakes—and the development of rapid post-disaster recovery mechanisms are among the main policy areas for enhancing the long-term resilience of cities. In addition, it is envisaged that spatial planning and urban transformation practices will be addressed in an integrated manner; that disaster and climate risks, as well as the building stock and social vulnerabilities, will be taken into account in prioritizing transformation areas; and that financial instruments will be developed in order to expand transformation practices. Through this approach, the aim is to create sustainable and disaster-resilient settlements.

In addition, it is aimed to complete the reconstruction efforts in settlements affected by the February 2023 earthquakes and, in this process, to increase the multi-dimensional resilience of cities by adopting nature-based solutions (green infrastructure, micro-energy grids, modular housing systems, etc).

Among the priority goals is also the strengthening of adaptation capacity in urbanization and urban development processes against disaster risks such as floods, drought, and extreme weather events, which are increasing due to the effects of climate change. Accordingly, it is planned to complete and regularly update flood management plans, develop national flood and drought forecasting and early warning systems covering all basins, and prepare guidance documents for public institutions on climate-induced disaster risks, taking account of regional differences. At the same time, it is aimed to increase training and awareness-raising activities on extreme weather events, desertification, erosion, and water and soil conservation, and to integrate nature-based solutions and green infrastructure practices more strongly into disaster risk reduction policies.

Sustainable Urban Development and Spatial Planning

In Türkiye, it is aimed that spatial planning and urban development processes should be shaped in accordance with the principles of increasing resilience to climate change and disaster risks, protecting natural and cultural assets, and ensuring accessibility to green and public spaces.

The restructuring of urbanization processes in line with the 2053 Net Zero Emissions Target and the principles of the green transition is among the main priorities of sustainable urban development. In this context, it is aimed to reduce urban carbon emissions, identify ecological corridors, expand carbon sink areas by increasing terrestrial and marine protected areas, increase energy efficiency and the share of renewable energy resources in urban energy use, manage water resources effectively within the framework of the protection–use balance, reduce water loss rates, and expand local climate change action plans.

With regard to urban infrastructure, it is aimed to strengthen the circular economy approach in waste management, increase recovery rates, and expand Zero Waste practices. While this transformation is supported through increased green infrastructure investments, data-driven planning, and the strengthening of environmental infrastructure systems, it will also contribute to the creation of greener, more resource-efficient, and more resilient cities by encouraging low-emission public transport, micro-mobility, and accessible transport solutions in urban transportation.

In the coming period, priority is attached to giving stronger consideration to disaster risks and resilience criteria in spatial planning processes; developing legislation and implementation standards; strengthening technical and social infrastructure standards and green space planning in cooperation with local administrations; protecting historical and cultural heritage; increasing citizen participation; and expanding the use of spatial analyses by strengthening digitalization and data infrastructures.

Inclusive Cities and Social Welfare

The strengthening of social justice in Türkiye’s urban policies is one of the fundamental pillars of its future goals. In this period, the aim is to transform social assistance into sustainable welfare, equalize opportunities for housing and education, and make the participation of vulnerable groups in urban life permanent.

Among our goals for the coming period are reducing the urban poverty rate, strengthening the production of social housing, and increasing the budget share of social services in cities.

In line with the “leave no one behind” principle of the New Urban Agenda, it is aimed to develop policies that strengthen the access of women, older persons, persons with disabilities, migrants, and other vulnerable groups to urban services. In this context, participatory structures such as city councils and assemblies for persons with disabilities and older persons will be supported; and it is envisaged that projects aimed at integrating migrants and vulnerable groups into urban life will be expanded—especially in cities with a high concentration of migrant populations—and transformed into permanent social cohesion mechanisms.

In addition, it is aimed to integrate gender equality more strongly into urban policies, increase women’s labor force participation, and develop policy instruments to reduce the gender pay gap.

Smart Cities, Digital Transformation and Data-Driven Governance

It is aimed to strengthen data-driven decision-making processes in city governance by making use of the opportunities offered by digital technologies. Within the scope of the policy framework developed, particularly the National Smart Cities Strategy and Action Plan (2024–2030), a more effective and integrated approach is being developed for the planning, monitoring, and management of cities through smart city applications, geographic information systems, and digital city models.

The development of digital infrastructures that facilitate data sharing between public institutions and local administrations, the dissemination of data systems for monitoring the performance of cities, and the more effective use of innovative technologies in urban services are among the priority policy areas.

In addition, it is aimed to increase access to digital public services in cities, expand open data and urban information systems, develop AI-supported decision-making mechanisms in the fields of transport, energy, and water management, and strengthen digital inclusion, especially for disadvantaged groups such as women, older persons, and migrants.

Local Governance, Capacity Development and International Cooperation

Türkiye's achievement of its future goals is possible through strengthening the capacity of local administrations and expanding international cooperation. In this direction, it is envisaged to increase the revenue sources of local administrations, expand participatory budgeting and open data platforms, and enhance the effectiveness of city councils.

It is aimed to strengthen the institutional capacity of local administrations in order to make service delivery more effective, support personnel through training, and establish platforms where good practices are shared.

Development Agencies, regional development administrations, and local administrations will be supported in developing more advanced mechanisms in the areas of project management, data analytics, and international cooperation.

It is planned to implement a national indicator set to be integrated with the UMF in a way that will ensure the regular monitoring of local implementation capacity.

In the context of accelerating the implementation of the New Urban Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals, priority is attached to maintaining and developing cooperation with global city networks, international organizations, and regional platforms.

General Assessment

Türkiye's progress within the scope of the New Urban Agenda is evolving into a vision of holistic transformation. The green economy, digital urbanization, social justice, disaster resilience, and strong governance have become the main pillars of Türkiye's urbanization model. The coming decade will be decisive in terms of strengthening the applicability of these axes and making urban transformation fully aligned with both national and global sustainability goals. Türkiye demonstrates a strong commitment to being not merely a country of growing cities, but a country of equitable, environmentally conscious, innovative, and resilient cities.



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