

MUNICIPAL GOVERNANCE UNDER THE CENTURY OF TÜRKİYE VISION





MUNICIPAL GOVERNANCE UNDER THE CENTURY OF TÜRKİYE VISION

© 2024 REPUBLIC OF TÜRKİYE DIRECTORATE OF COMMUNICATIONS
PUBLICATIONS



1st Edition, Istanbul, 2024

Contact

Kızılırmak Mahallesi Mevlana Bulvarı No: 144 Çankaya
Ankara / TÜRKİYE
T: +90 312 590 20 00 | webinfo@iletisim.gov.tr

Production

Koru Medya Yayınevi
Levent Mahallesi Manolyalı Sokak No: 3 Beşiktaş / İstanbul / TÜRKİYE
T: 0212 284 75 59
Publisher Certificate No.: 49379

**MUNICIPAL GOVERNANCE
UNDER THE CENTURY OF TÜRKİYE VISION**





CONTENTS

13 PREFACE

19 INTRODUCTION

Purpose and Scope of the Study

- 20 1. Historical Development of Municipalities
 - 20 2. Democratization and Municipalities
 - 20 3. Participatory and Smart Municipalism
 - 20 4. Cultural and Social Municipalism
 - 21 5. The Century of Türkiye Vision and Municipalities
-

25 SECTION ONE

THE JOURNEY OF MUNICIPALISM IN TÜRKİYE FROM PAST TO PRESENT

25 1.1. Municipalism in the Ottoman Period

27 1.1.1. The First Local Government Structure

29 1.1.2. Sehremaneti Institution and Altinci Daire-i Belediye
(The Sixth Municipality Department)

31 1.2. Municipalism in the Republican Era

32 1.2.1. Outlines of Municipalism in the Republican Era

34 1.2.2. Municipality Law and Subsequent Developments

36 1.2.3. Metropolitan Municipality System in Türkiye

38 1.2.4. Municipality Approach After 1994

40 1.3. Current Approaches of Municipalism in Türkiye

49 SECTION TWO

DEMOCRATIZATION AND MUNICIPALITIES

49 2.1. Historical Perspective: Municipalities and Democratization in Türkiye

50 2.1.1. From the Ottoman Empire to the Republic: Modernization and Transformation in Municipalities

52 2.1.2. Municipalities During the Democratization Process

52 2.1.3. The European Union Process and Strengthening Local Governments

53 2.2. Democratic Participation

54 2.2.1. Increasing the Rights Granted to Municipalities

54 2.2.2. Encouraging Public Participation in Decision Making Processes

55 2.2.3. Strengthening Local Democracy

56 2.2.4. Exemplary Practices and Projects

56 2.3. Local Development and Democratization

60 2.4. Future Perspective

62 2.5. Strengthening Transparency and Accountability

67 SECTION THREE

PARTICIPATORY MUNICIPAL APPROACHES AND EXEMPLARY PRACTICES

67 3.1. Theoretical Framework of Participatory Municipalism Models

68 3.1.1. Participatory Municipality Practices in Türkiye

70 3.1.2. Exemplary Practices

81 SECTION FOUR

SMART MUNICIPALISM AND ITS REFLECTIONS ON CITIZENS

82 4.1. The Impact of Technology and Innovation on Municipalities

82 4.1.1. Smart City Applications and Their Impact on Citizens' Life Quality

84 4.1.2. Exemplary Practices

91 SECTION FIVE

CULTURAL MUNICIPALISM AND EXEMPLARY PRACTICES

92 5.1. Cultural Activities and Social Policies of Municipalities

92 5.1.1. Exemplary Practices

103 SECTION SIX

SOCIAL MUNICIPALISM / SERVICE-ORIENTED MUNICIPALISM AND EXEMPLARY PRACTICES

104 6.1. Social Municipalism Practices

106 6.2. Social Policy Practices of Municipalities

107 6.2.1. Exemplary Practices

115 SECTION SEVEN

CITIZENS' EXPECTATIONS FROM MUNICIPALITIES

116 7.1. Public Opinion Surveys and Polls

117 7.2. The Importance of Public Opinion Surveys

118 7.3. Utilization of Survey Results

119 7.4. Levels of Expectation Satisfaction

122 7.5. Ways for Improvement

122 7.5.1. Participatory Municipality Practices

123 7.5.2. Effective Use of Technology and Innovation

123 7.5.3. Sustainable Development Oriented Projects Environmentally Friendly Transportation Solutions

124 7.5.4. Strengthening Transparency and Accountability

129 SECTION EIGHT

MUNICIPALITIES WITH THE CENTURY OF TÜRKİYE VISION

131 8.1. Reflection of the "Century of Türkiye" Vision on Municipalities

131 8.1.1. Global Competitiveness

133 8.1.2. Sustainable Development

136 8.1.3. Improving the Life Quality of Citizens

140 8.2. The Role of Technology and Innovation in Local Governments

140 8.2.1. Smart City Applications

141 8.2.2. Digital Transformation

141 8.2.3. Innovative Projects

142 8.3. Future Projection and Strategies

151 CONCLUSION



PREFACE

Local administrations are of paramount importance in facilitating the development and advancement of Türkiye, specifically in the delivery of essential services that directly impact the populace.

Services provided by municipalities and special provincial directorates are complementary to the functioning of central governments.

In tandem with evolving needs, municipal services are expanding in form, standard, and scope.

The globalization process has not eliminated local governments' relevance; on the contrary, it has strengthened them even more.

Municipalities are no longer just institutions dealing with roads, sewerage, water, garbage and sanitation but have become the conductors of many social, cultural, and artistic projects.

With the cities of the Century of Türkiye, we aim for a vision of local governments that goes far beyond classical municipalities, from advanced technology infrastructure to services that would improve the quality of life of our people.

With this understanding:

By establishing disaster-resistant, resilient, and sturdy settlements...

By developing infrastructures that are compatible with the next-generation digital technologies...

By strengthening local government models that support value-producing economies...

By broadening the scope of social municipal services to encompass all segments of society, especially children, elders, disabled people, youth, and women...

By preserving our family structure, the basis of our society, with material and moral support...

By expanding sustainable management practices that are sensitive to the environment and nature...

By establishing peaceful and safe cities with aesthetically pleasing architecture and preserved historical and cultural assets...

By improving living conditions in rural areas and encouraging people to stay where they were born and raised...

We are determined to prepare our cities for the future with participatory, high-quality, and satisfaction-based administrations.

I hope the book "Municipal Governance under the Century of Türkiye Vision" will illuminate our understanding of municipalities that fit our perspective. I extend my congratulations to everyone who participated in this book's preparation.

I hope the March 31 Local Administration elections will be auspicious for our cities, country, and nation.



RECEP TAYYİP ERDOĞAN
PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF TÜRKİYE

INTRODUCTION

PURPOSE AND SCOPE OF THE STUDY





INTRODUCTION

PURPOSE AND SCOPE OF THE STUDY

Municipalities play a central role in Türkiye's political, economic and social structure. In this context, by going beyond being just an administrative and political institution, the municipalities also gain importance in terms of economic development, social justice and cultural enrichment.

The aim of this study is to examine in detail the development process of municipalism in Türkiye from past to present and its direction in the future with the "Century of Türkiye Vision". In addition, the study discusses the historical evolution of municipalism, the exemplary practices, challenges and opportunities that the municipalities face today, and how technological innovations and sustainable development goals can be integrated into the policies of municipalities.

The scope of the study has been shaped around the following main themes.



1. Historical Development of the Municipalities

The development of municipalism in Türkiye from the Ottoman period to the present day, the reforms made after the foundation of the Republic and the transformations, especially in the post-1994 period, will be examined.

2. Democratization and Municipalities

The role of municipalities in the democratization process, the importance of public participation in decision-making processes and its effects on social development will be evaluated.

3. Participatory and Smart Municipalism

The rise of participatory municipality approach in Local Governments, active participation of citizens in decision-making processes and the transformations created by smart municipality applications in the provision of local services will be discussed.

4. Cultural and Social Municipalism

The impact of municipalities on cultural heritage protection, social policies and social integration projects will be analyzed.

5. The Century of Türkiye Vision and Municipalities

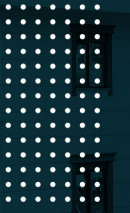
The importance of "the Century of Türkiye Vision", which was declared by our President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, in terms of municipalities, how this vision is reflected in local government policies and practices, and its potential future effects will be analyzed.



President of Türkiye and AK Party Chairman Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, "Century of Türkiye" Presentation Meeting, Ankara 2022



THE JOURNEY OF
MUNICIPALISM IN
TÜRKİYE FROM
PAST TO PRESENT





SECTION ONE

THE JOURNEY OF MUNICIPALISM IN TÜRKİYE FROM PAST TO PRESENT

1.1.1. Municipalism in the Ottoman Period

Urbanization and municipalism in the Ottoman period were closely related to the administration and restructuring of conquered cities. Particularly the conquest of Istanbul constitutes an important example of the Ottoman understanding of urbanization and municipal practices. After the conquest, the demographic structure and social order of the city underwent significant changes. However, thanks to the administrative policies of Mehmet the Conqueror, the freedoms of people with different ethnic identities and beliefs were protected. And this is an indication of the flexible policies implemented by the Ottomans towards the conquered communities.

In Ottoman urbanization, "sanjak/city code of laws" specific to each conquered region were prepared. This understanding shows that great importance was attached to the local conditions and previous cultural traditions of the region. The code of Laws would take into account the

demographics and local customs of the region, thus would ensure the preservation and integration of local traditions during the establishment of a new order under Ottoman rule.

The development of Ottoman municipalism during the modernization process was characterized by various reforms and innovations. Tanzimat Reform Era is a period in which modern municipalism understanding began to take shape in the Ottoman Empire. During this period, important changes were implemented in Local Governments and urbanization with models borrowed from Europe and new institutions were established for the administration of cities and the development of infrastructure services. These reforms led to significant improvements in the social and physical structure of Ottoman cities. Ottoman urbanism and municipalism are the reflection of the understanding of local administration that developed under the influence of Europe in the process of reshaping the social and cultural texture of the conquered regions and modernization.

“After the Tanzimat (Reorganisation), important steps were taken in urbanism and public services with the establishment of institutions such as Istanbul Sehremaneti and Altinci Daire-i Belediye (The Sixth Municipality Department). During this period, Ottoman municipality structure was characterized by the integration of traditional institutions such as foundations, guilds, neighborhoods and qadi (muslim judge) courts into the modern municipality structure.”



The first municipality building of the Ottoman Empire built by Sultan Abdulhamid Khan, Istanbul, 2015

1.1.1. The First Local Government Structure

The first local government structures in the Ottoman Empire consisted of a complex system established to effectively manage the expanding territory of the state. This system had a centralized state structure as well as a flexible structure that could adapt to local characteristics and needs. The first local government structures began to take shape in the early Ottoman period and they evolved into a system that supports the social and economic structure of the empire.

The Ottoman administrative system consisted mainly of sanjaks and provinces (eyalet). Each sanjak and province was being governed by a Beylerbeyi or sanjakhbeyi (governor of a sanjak). These administrators were the people appointed by the central government and were usually chosen from among military leaders. These administrative figures were responsible for the duties such as ensuring justice at the local level, collecting taxes, and maintaining security and public order. As the basic unit of local administrations, there was a mukhtar (headman) system in villages and neighborhoods.

Mukhtars were individuals elected by local communities and assigned to manage the internal affairs of the neighborhood or village. This system served as a mechanism to ensure the Ottoman administration to be responsive to the needs of communities at local level.

The Ottoman local administration system also included various foundation institutions. The foundations played an important role in the provision of social services. For example, public services such as education, health care and maintenance of waterways were being financed and managed through the foundations. This was an important tool for the Ottoman administration in ensuring social welfare and meeting the needs of the people.

With the modernization efforts, the Ottoman local administration structure underwent significant changes from the mid-19th century. With Imperial Edict of Reorganization (Tanzimat Fermani) (1839) and the subsequent reforms, important steps were taken towards a more modern and centralized structure in Local Governments. In this period, innovations such as the establishment of municipalities and the adoption of modern management approaches in urban administration made significant contributions to the modernization of the Ottoman local administration system.

The first local administration organizations in the Ottoman Empire adopted a balanced management approach in terms of both strengthening the central authority and the capacity to meet the needs of the society at the local level. This system played a critical role in ensuring social and economic stability across the vast and diverse territory of the empire. In this period, in addition to traditional institutions such as foun-

dations, guilds and neighborhoods, institutions such as Sehremaneti were established in the modern sense and important steps were taken in the regulation of urbanism and public services. The newly established institutions functioned as the main structures that organize the social and economic structure of Ottoman cities and provide public services such as health, education and infrastructure.

1.1.2. Sehremaneti Institution and Altinci Daire-i Belediye (The Sixth Municipality Department)

Sehremaneti and Altinci Daire-i Belediye (The Sixth Municipality Department) were important institutions where the foundations of modern municipality approach were laid in the Ottoman Empire.

Sehremaneti Institution: It was an official entity established to regulate city administration in the Ottoman Empire. This institution pioneered the implementation of modern management techniques in the administration of cities, especially after the Tanzimat (Reorganizations) Period. Sehremaneti played a key role in the organization of city life by operating in many areas such as the coordination of urban services, infrastructure works, health and cleaning services.



Historic Kadıköy Municipality Building by Architect Yervant Terziyan, Istanbul, 1930



Sehremaneti Beyoğlu Department, Istanbul, 1930s



Sehremaneti Eminönü Department, Istanbul, 1930s



Opening ceremony of the Fatih Office of the Sehremaneti, Istanbul, 1910s

Altıncı Daire-i Belediye (The Sixth Municipality Department)

Altıncı Daire-i Belediye, one of the first municipal organizations of the Ottoman Empire, is considered the pioneer of modern municipalism. This municipal organization, founded in 1857 in the Beyoğlu district of Istanbul, implemented innovative practices in the field of urbanism and municipalism. Altıncı Daire-i Belediye was particularly involved in the organization of public services, urban planning and infrastructure development projects. This institution set the basic principles of the municipal laws enacted in the second half of the 19th century and served as a model for other municipalities in the Ottoman territories.



Altıncı Daire-i Belediye, Istanbul

The establishment of Altıncı Daire-i Belediye is an important turning point showing that municipalism understanding of the Ottoman Empire entered the process of modernization. This institution played a pioneering role in the adaptation of the Western-inspired modern urban understanding to Ottoman cities. As a part of the reform movements that began with the Tanzimat



Construction of Istanbul City Hall and the tram passing in front of it, Istanbul

Edict, Şehremaneti and Altıncı Daire-i Belediye enabled the beginning of a new era in Ottoman urbanism and shaped the works carried out in this field.

1.2. Municipalism in the Republican Era

Municipalism in the Republican Era refers to the process of modernizing the municipalism structure inherited from the Ottoman Empire. With the proclamation of the Republic, understanding and practices of municipalities in Türkiye underwent significant changes. The reforms and practices in this era laid the foundations of today's understanding and practices of the municipalities. This period witnessed the urbanization and municipal activities based on more planned, systematic and scientific foundations.

The innovative and planned approach adopted

since the early years of the Republic also played a critical role in the modernization and development of the cities of Türkiye.

1.2.1. Outlines of Municipalism in the Republican Era



Legal Regulations and Structural Reforms

Since the early years of the Republic, legal regulations on municipalities were made and the structure of municipalities was reorganized.



Urban Planning and Infrastructure Development

In the Republican era, great importance was attached to urban planning and urban infrastructure works. During this period, comprehensive city plans were prepared and implemented in various cities across Türkiye, particularly in Ankara. The planning activities aimed to develop cities in a healthy, orderly and aesthetic way.

“The Municipality Law adopted in 1930 redefined the duties and responsibilities of municipalities and laid the foundation of municipal activities.”



Development of Social Municipalism

The municipalism in the Republican era was not limited to infrastructure and urbanization; social municipalism was also adopted during this period. In this regard, public services were provided in areas such as education, health, culture and sports.



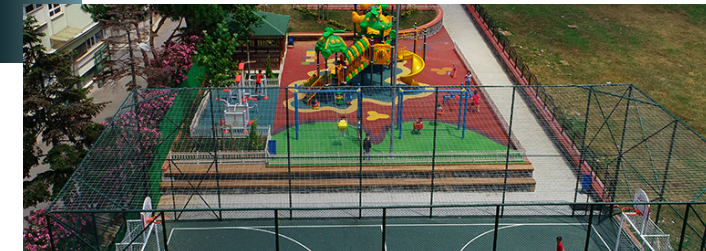
Empowerment of the Financial Structure of Municipalities

Steps were taken to strengthen the financial structures of municipalities to enable them to provide effective services. For this purpose, various sources of revenue were allocated to municipalities and municipalities' financial rights were increased.



Urban Transformation and Environmental Awareness

Since the second half of the 20th century, urban transformation projects and raising awareness for environmental protection have been among the important elements of the municipalism of the Republican Era. In this process, various projects were implemented to improve the quality of life in cities and support sustainable development.



Sultanbeyli / İstanbul



Süleymaniye Mehmet Tuz Swimming Pool, Şanlıurfa



Oruçreis Urban Transformation Project, Kayseri

1.2.2. Municipality Law and Subsequent Developments

Municipalism in the Republican period entered a new era with the adoption of the Municipality Law in 1930. This law aimed to establish the structure, duties and powers of municipalities on a modern basis and to ensure that municipalities provide services in a more efficient and organized way. As part of the Republic's modernization and urbanization policies, the Municipal Law provided a framework to support the healthy, planned and orderly development of cities.

Important Features of the Municipality Law



Regulation of the Management Structure

The Law ensured that municipalities have a structure in line with democratic governance approach by regulating the election, duties and powers of local administration bodies such as the mayor and the municipality council.



Determination of Duties and Responsibilities

The main duties and responsibilities of municipalities were expanded to include urban planning, infrastructure services, health, education, environmental protection and social services.



Empowerment of Financial Structure

Regulations were introduced to strengthen the financial structures of municipalities, to enable them to generate their own sources of income and to provide services separately from the central government.

Developments after the Municipality Law

Following the adoption of the Municipality Law, Türkiye has experienced a number of developments in urban transformation, urban planning and municipalism. The innovations introduced by the Law have enabled municipalities to contribute more effectively to the development of cities.



Urban Planning and Infrastructure Investments

Municipalities attached great importance to urban planning and infrastructure investments and carried out efforts to create modern and healthy living spaces.



Social Municipalism

In addition to social aids and services, municipalities worked to improve the citizens' life quality by supporting culture, arts and sports activities.



Environmental Protection and Increasing Green Spaces

The municipalities, acting with an awareness of environmental protection and sustainable development, took measures to increase green areas in cities and prevent environmental pollution.

1.2.3. Metropolitan Municipality System in Türkiye

The Metropolitan Municipality system in Türkiye was introduced in the mid-1980s with the aim of restructuring local governments and improving the understanding of urban management. The Metropolitan Municipality Law was first adopted in 1984 and established a new local administration model in large-scaled cities of Türkiye. With this law, it is aimed to provide local services more effectively and efficiently in cities with large populations and sprawling large territories and to adopt a holistic planning and management approach in fields such as urban transportation, infrastructure, environment and urban planning.

Main Features of the Metropolitan Municipality Law



Management Structure

Metropolitan municipalities have a centralized administrative structure and work with the metropolitan mayor, municipality council and district municipalities. While the mayor of the metropolitan municipality has responsibility for the metropolitan area as a whole, district municipalities are responsible for carrying out specific services within their borders.



Expansion of the Service Areas

Metropolitan municipalities provide a wide range of services such as transportation, infrastructure, environmental management, urban planning and social services. With this law, it is aimed to provide services more effectively by ensuring holistic planning and coordination throughout the city.



Financial Structure

Metropolitan municipalities have their own sources of revenue and use them for the financing of city-wide services. They can also receive support and resources from the central government.



Planning and Development

Metropolitan municipalities have the authority to carry out comprehensive city-wide urban planning and development projects. Thus, large-scale works such as urban transformation, development of transportation systems and social infrastructure projects are undertaken with a holistic approach.

“The Metropolitan Municipality Law and subsequent regulations were designed to find solutions to the complex urban problems faced by metropolitan cities in Türkiye, to ensure the sustainable development of cities and to provide quality services to citizens. This law is seen as an important step towards improving the quality of life of people living in metropolitan areas and it has a critical role in the development of urban management and planning in Türkiye.”

1.2.4. Municipality Approach After 1994

The understanding of municipalism in Türkiye after 1994 represents a period characterized by significant transformations and reforms. This period is important in terms of making municipalities more effective, transparent and participatory, improving urban infrastructure and services, and adopting holistic approaches in urban planning.



Mayor of İstanbul Metropolitan Municipality Excellency Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, Nurettin Topçu Primary School, İstanbul, 1998

The post-1994 transformation in the understanding of municipalism in Türkiye is closely related to the vision and practices of the prominent mayors of the period, such as the President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan. The term of Excellency Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, who took office in 1994 as the Mayor of İstanbul Metropolitan Municipality pioneered the change of İstanbul's appearance and beginning of a new era in the understanding of municipalism.



Restructuring in the Municipalities

The municipalism in Türkiye in 1994 and afterwards can be characterized by the following main features and developments:

The post-1994 period began with reforms in municipalities. During this period, the revenue sources of municipalities were expanded, and they were given more say in decision-making processes. In addition, mechanisms were strengthened to make municipalities more transparent and accountable.



Urban Transformation and Infrastructure Projects

After 1994, municipalities in Türkiye gave great importance to urban transformation projects and infrastructure developments. The risk of earthquakes, the problem of shanty houses and the need for urban renewal were among the prioritized agenda items for the municipalities. During this period, basic infrastructure services such as transportation, water and sewerage systems, green areas and social facilities were significantly improved.



Participatory Municipalism and Social Services

In the post-1994 period, the participatory management approach was strengthened in the service delivery of local administrations.



Mayor of İstanbul Metropolitan Municipality Excellency Recep Tayyip Erdoğan and his wife Mrs. Emine Erdoğan, 3rd Local Governments Festival, Ankara, 1997

Municipalities encouraged the active participation of city residents in decision-making processes and worked to improve the quality of life of the population through various social, cultural and educational programs. In addition, social municipal activities such as social aid and support services, services for the disabled and elderly people were also expanded.



Environmental Management and Sustainability

In the post-1994 period, municipalities, particularly in Istanbul, focused more on environmental issues in line with increasing awareness of environmental protection and sustainable development goals. Important steps were taken in waste management, water conservation, energy efficiency and protection of green areas. Municipalities contributed to the sustainable development of cities by promoting environmentally friendly practices and projects.



Utilization of Technology and Digitalization

In the post-1994 period, the role of technology and digitalization in municipal services expanded. E-municipality and smart city applications have made services faster, more efficient and easily accessible. Municipalities have increased their interaction with citizens through various online platforms and applications and developed innovative solutions in service delivery.

1.3. Current Approaches of Municipalism in Türkiye

Current approaches in municipalism in Türkiye

are constantly evolving and being renewed in order to respond to today's rapidly changing social, economic and environmental needs. These approaches are shaped around basic principles such as compliance with sustainable development goals, integration of technological innovations, participatory governance models and sensitivity to environmental issues.

Prominent current approaches to municipalism in Türkiye:



Sustainable Urbanization and Urban Transformation

Sustainable urbanization aims at the balanced development of cities in terms of economic, social and environmental aspects. The municipalities in Türkiye prioritize energy-efficient, environmentally friendly and green buildings by conducting urban transformation projects within the framework of sustainability principles. In addition, projects for the development of alternative forms of transportation such as public transport and bicycle lanes contribute to reducing the carbon footprint of cities.



Image of a completed phase of Esenler Municipality Urban Transformation Project, 2023



Smart City Applications

Municipalities in Türkiye attach great importance to smart city applications that aim to use technology effectively in the management of city services. In this context, technological tools such as data analytics, IoT (Internet of Things), artificial intelligence and mobile applications are used in areas such as transportation, waste management, water conservation and management of public areas.



Participatory Municipalism and Governance

Participatory municipalism is an approach that encourages the active participation of the public in the decision-making processes of local administration. Municipalities receive citizens' opinions and suggestions through public assemblies, online surveys, public meetings and social media platforms and use this information to shape policies and projects.



Ahmet Mergen Park and Sports Facility, Keçiören / Ankara



Participatory Municipalism and Governance

Participatory municipalism is an approach that encourages the active participation of the public in the decision-making processes of local administration. Municipalities receive citizens' opinions and suggestions through public assemblies, online surveys, public meetings and social media platforms and use this information to shape policies and projects.



Social Municipalism and Inclusive Approach

Municipalities adopt an inclusive municipalism approach by providing social services for disadvantaged groups of the society. Health, education, employment and social support programs designed for people with disabilities, the elderly people, children and low-income families are an important part of municipalities' service range.

Current municipal approaches are constantly being developed and renewed to meet the challenges faced by Turkish cities and to deliver a higher quality of life for their inhabitants.

In this process, municipalities' adoption of principles such as innovation, environmental sensitivity and public service orientation plays a critical role in shaping the future of urban life.

“In conclusion, municipalism in Türkiye is the product of a deep-rooted and constantly evolving adventure. The municipalism concept, which has been shaped since the Ottoman Empire, entered a new transformation process with the establishment of the Republic of Türkiye. The traditional governance structures inherited from the Ottoman Empire were reshaped in line with modernization and westernization efforts with the proclamation of the Republic, and important reforms were realized in the fields of urbanism and public services.”

The Municipality Law adopted in 1930 laid the foundations of local administrations in line with modern standards and redefined the duties, powers and responsibilities of municipalities. The practice of metropolitan municipalism has introduced a new approach to the management of cities with large populations and sprawling large territories. This era aimed at the sustainable development of cities, planned urbanization and comprehensive service provision.

After 1994, the transformation in the municipalism approach witnessed a more effective, transparent and public service-oriented operations of local administrations.

Elements such as urban transformation projects, social municipalism practices, environmental protection efforts and the integration of technology constitute the foundation stones of municipalism in today's Türkiye.

Today, municipalism is shaped within the framework of up-to-date approaches such as sustainable urbanism, smart city practices, participatory governance, environmental protection and social inclusiveness. These approaches aim to generate innovative and effective solutions to the challenges faced by cities and their inhabitants. To achieve these goals, the municipalities adopt a management approach that takes into account technological innovations, environmental sensitivity and social needs, and play a critical role in urban transformation and development of Türkiye.



Digital Transformation and Competency Development Center, Sultanbeyli / İstanbul

DEMOCRATIZATION AND MUNICIPALITIES





SECTION TWO

DEMOCRATIZATION AND MUNICIPALITIES

Making a comprehensive analysis on the democratization process in Türkiye and the impact of municipalities on this process requires much more than a few paragraphs. Thus, this study on municipalism aims to provide a broad perspective, including historical development, analysis of the current situation, challenges faced and proposed solutions.

2.1. Historical Perspective: Municipalities and Democratization in Türkiye

The democratization and evolution of local governments in Türkiye dates back to the late Ottoman Empire period and the establishment of the Republic.

Modernization and efforts to transition from centralism to decentralization that started in the last years of the Ottoman Empire continued in different forms in the Republican period. While a centralist administration approach prevailed in the early years of the Republic, especially the alignment process with the European Union after the 1980s paved the way for important steps towards democratization and participation in municipalities.

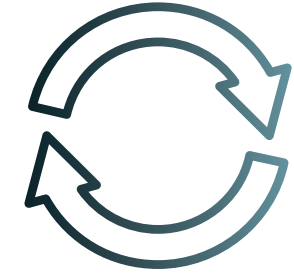
The historical development of municipalities and the democratization process in Türkiye is closely related to the evolution of the country's political and administrative structure. This process starts from the late Ottoman Empire period and extends to the Republican period and the present day. Within this framework, each period contains different dynamics, challenges, and transformation processes in itself.

2.1.1. From the Ottoman Empire to the Republic: Modernization and Transformation in Municipalities

In the late period of the Ottoman Empire, the modernization process was initiated with reforms such as the Tanzimat (Reorganization) Edict (1839) and the Islahat (Reform) Edict (1856). With these reforms, an important basis was laid for increasing the participation of the people in the governance processes and modernizing the administration.



Plan of Beyoğlu Şişane Police Station and its surroundings, 1932, Jacques Pervititch



“With the establishment of the Republic, the governance structure in Türkiye underwent a radical transformation. A strong central government structure was established in the early years of the Republic and municipalities were given limited powers. Ensuring national unity and integrity, modernization and nation-building efforts were among the primary objectives in this period.”

2.1.2. Municipalities During the Democratization Process

Since the 1980s, especially with the impact of the process of adaptation to the European Union, some important steps have been taken towards democratization in Türkiye and the granting of more powers to municipalities in terms of local government. In this regard, with the legal arrangements made in the late 1980s and early 1990s, local governments were granted more financial and administrative rights. Various mechanisms have also been developed to increase public participation in the decision-making processes of local governments.



2.1.3. The European Union Process and Strengthening Local Governments

The process of alignment to the European Union accelerated the efforts for democratization and empowerment of municipalities in Türkiye.

This process encouraged the transfer of more powers and resources to municipalities, empowerment of municipalities and more active public participation in decision-making processes.

Harmonization with the norms and standards of the European Union requires increased transparency, accountability and increasing participation in local governments and this plays an important role in Türkiye's democratization process.

“*In summary, the historical development of municipalities and the democratization process in Türkiye involves a complex and dynamic process that extends from the late Ottoman Empire period to the present day. This process reflects the transformation of the political, social and economic structure of Türkiye at both national and local levels. The empowerment of local governments and the democratization process, together with Türkiye's European Union integration efforts, are critical to the country's progress towards a modern, democratic, and participatory governance concept. This period also offers important opportunities in terms of increasing public participation in governance processes, strengthening local democracy, and supporting community development.*”

2.2. Democratic Participation

In the post-1980 period, various mechanisms were developed to increase public participation in municipal decision-making processes. In this period, strengthening local democracy and in-

creasing the transparency and accountability of local governments came to the fore.

Strengthening municipalities and increasing democratic participation are considered an important part of the democratization process in Türkiye. Some important aspects of this process and its practices in Türkiye are detailed below:



2.2.1. Increasing the Rights Granted to Municipalities

The regulations in this period strengthened the capacity of municipalities to create their own sources of income, manage their budget and make more independent decisions in the provision of services at the local level. This process is of critical importance for municipalities to manage their own resources effectively and to develop projects in line with local needs.

2.2.2. Encouraging Public Participation in Decision Making Processes

The contribution of local governments to the democratization process is not only limited to financial and administrative rights. Ensuring

the active participation of the public in decision-making processes at the local level is also a part of this process. For this purpose, various mechanisms such as neighborhood assemblies, public meetings and referendums were developed. Such practices ensure that local people have a say in decisions concerning their communities and increase the legitimacy of decisions taken by local governments.

2.2.3. Strengthening Local Democracy

Strengthening local democracy is closely related to increasing public participation in decision-making processes. Increasing the transparency and accountability of municipalities builds public trust in governance processes and encourages democratic participation. Clear communication of decisions taken by municipalities, making how these decisions were reached understandable, and being open to public feedback are essential for a healthy local democracy.

2.2.4. Exemplary Practices and Projects

Various exemplary practices and projects have been implemented in Türkiye to strengthen local governments and increase democratic participation. Among these projects there are the establishment of digital platforms that diversify municipalities' channels of interaction with the public, participatory budgeting practices that enable the public to have a direct say in local projects, and workshops on developing local development strategies. Such practices contribute to the invigoration of democratic processes at the local level by strengthening the interaction between municipalities and the public.



Solar power plant,
Akkus/Ordu

These efforts are important in terms of improving municipal service provision, increasing public trust in governance processes, and encouraging community participation.

2.3. Local Development and Democratization

The contribution of municipalities to the democratization process is also considered from a local development perspective. Local development is not limited to economic growth, but also includes dimensions such as social justice, equity and environmental sustainability. The establishment of regional development agencies in Türkiye and supporting the projects of local governments are important steps in this direction.

Through development agencies, local governments develop and implement projects that promote economic and social development on a local level.

Dimensions of Local Development

Local development includes the economic growth as well as the social, cultural and environmental well-being of a region or local community. This multidimensional approach considers the needs of all segments of society and aims for an inclusive development model.



Economic Growth: It means invigorating local economies, creating new job opportunities, encouraging local production and entrepreneurship.



Social Justice and Equality: This includes meeting the needs of disadvantaged groups, increasing their access to education and health services, and strengthening social services.



Environmental Sustainability: It includes the protection of natural resources, encouraging environmentally friendly technologies, sustainable urbanization, and infrastructure projects.

The Role of Regional Development Agencies

The regional development agencies in Türkiye have a central role in local development efforts. These agencies provide coordination of policies at local and national level, and implement local projects by financing them. It also serves important functions in building local capacity and

bringing local actors together. Regional development agencies also help local level initiatives to create synergies by promoting cooperation between local governments, the private sector, civil society organizations and academic institutions.

Supporting Local Government Projects

Local governments, with the support they receive through development agencies, develop and implement projects that promote economic and social development at the local level. Among these projects; there are rural development, supporting women and young entrepreneurs, boosting local industry and tourism, green energy and environmental protection projects. The fact that local governments design these projects taking into account the needs and expectations of the public contributes to strengthening democratic participation and local decision-making processes.

Relationship between Local Development and Democratization

The relationship between local development and democratization is based on the development and implementation of policies and projects in line with the needs and demands of local people. The activities of local governments and regional development agencies aim to improve the life quality of local people and strengthen social cohesion, while supporting participatory and transparent governance at the local level. This process also constitutes an important step towards revitalizing local democracy and increasing the accountability of local governments.

“As a result, local development and democratization are processes that support and reinforce each other. The steps taken in Türkiye in this regard have significant potential to increase sustainable development and democratic participation at the local level.”



Capacity Deficiencies of Municipalities

Capacity deficiencies of municipalities constitute an important obstacle to effective management and service delivery. Not having sufficient human resources, technical knowledge, and administrative capacity limits the ability of local governments to respond to complex and diversifying local needs. In addition, this situation may prevent municipalities from developing and implementing innovative and sustainable development projects.

2.4. Future Perspective

Various suggestions can be offered to enable municipalities in Türkiye to contribute more effectively to the democratization process. These suggestions may include providing more resources to municipalities, creating new mechanisms to increase public participation in decision-making processes, providing training and advisory services to increase the capacity of municipalities, and strengthening the transparency and accountability of local governments.

A series of strategic recommendations and future perspectives can be developed to enable municipalities in Türkiye to contribute effectively to the democratization process and to ensure the sustainability of this process. These suggestions can help municipalities overcome the challenges they face and adopt a more effective, participatory, and transparent management approach in service provision.

Providing Resources for Municipalities

Making legal and administrative arrangements to strengthen the capacity of municipalities to increase their own revenues is important. In this regard, efforts such as setting reasonable fees and tariffs for local services can also be taken into consideration.

Increasing Public Participation in Decision Making Processes

Another important factor is the development and popularization of platforms and mechanisms (e-participation tools, public meetings, referendums) to encourage public participation in local decision-making processes. Citizens can be informed through information and training programs on how they can participate and contribute to local governance processes.

Increasing the Capacity of Municipalities



Training and Consultancy Services: Training and consultancy services can be provided to increase the capacity of municipal staff in management, financing, project development and public relations.



Good Practice Sharing: It may be useful to create and promote platforms for sharing successful municipal practices with other municipalities.

PARTICIPATORY
MUNICIPAL
APPROACHES AND
EXEMPLARY
PRACTICES





SECTION 3

PARTICIPATORY MUNICIPAL APPROACHES AND EXEMPLARY PRACTICES

3.1. Theoretical Framework of Participatory Municipal Administration Models

Participatory municipalism is a governance model that strengthens democracy by ensuring the direct participation of citizens in the decision-making processes of municipalities and increases transparency and accountability. This model increases the influence of citizens on municipalities and ensures that the services and

projects of local governments are better aligned with the needs and expectations of society. Participatory municipalism practices in Türkiye have been put into practice in various forms in recent years. In this section, the theoretical framework of participatory municipalism models and successful examples from Türkiye will be discussed.

3.1.1. Participatory Municipality Practices in Türkiye

Participatory municipality practices in Türkiye enable citizens to be included in local government processes by various methods. Some of these practices are:



Main Features of the Metropolitan Municipality Law



Participatory Budgeting

Participatory municipalism practices in Türkiye allow citizens to be involved in local government processes through various methods. Citizens can actively participate in the processes of determining local projects. This model increases the interest and participation of citizens in local governments, while ensuring that local services become more appropriate to the needs.



City Councils

The city councils, which bring together representatives of municipalities, civil society organizations, professional chambers and citizens, provide platforms for discussion and decision-making on local policies and projects. These councils increase diversity and participation in local government decision-making processes.



Digital Platforms

Digital participation platforms developed by municipalities facilitate citizens' participation in municipal governance processes. Via these platforms, citizens can communicate their views and suggestions directly to municipalities, receive information about local projects and participate in various surveys and voting.

3.1.2. Exemplary Practices

In Türkiye, participatory municipalism practices have been adopted and successfully implemented by many municipalities. The municipalism approach implemented especially after 1994 is recognized as an important turning point in the municipalism concept in Türkiye. This period comes to the fore with the adoption of a new approach in many metropolitan municipalities, especially Istanbul Metropolitan Municipality. The practices of municipalities in this period are noteworthy in terms of strengthening the participatory municipalism approach and encouraging citizen participation. These practices contribute to the strengthening of local democracy by enabling citizens to be more involved in decision-making processes of local governments.

Here are Some Successful Examples of Participatory Municipalism from Türkiye

Istanbul Metropolitan Municipality

Participatory Projects and Platforms

In the post-1994 period, Istanbul Metropolitan Municipality developed various projects and platforms to increase citizen participation in local government processes. Participatory municipalism practices, which began in this period and developed in the following years, aimed to find innovative solutions to Istanbul's complex urban management problems and to make citizens' voices heard more effectively.



City Councils and Neighborhood Assemblies

Istanbul Metropolitan Municipality encouraged citizen participation in local government processes through city councils and neighborhood assemblies. These structures functioned as platforms that sought solutions to various problems of the city and enabled the direct participation of citizens in shaping policies and projects.



Digital Participation Tools

By following technological developments, Istanbul Metropolitan Municipality developed digital platforms to facilitate citizens' interaction with the municipality. Through these platforms, citizens can directly submit their complaints and suggestions, receive information about the services and projects offered by the municipality, and contribute to the management of the city by participating in various surveys.



Participatory Budgeting Applications

The municipality in Istanbul also included practices of allocating budgets for specific projects and services based on citizens' suggestions and preferences. As a result, citizens can have a say in projects that directly affect the environment in which they live.

Gaziantep Metropolitan Municipality

"Gaziantep'te Ben de Varım" Platform

Gaziantep Metropolitan Municipality has created a participatory budgeting platform called "Gaziantep'te Ben de Varım" to encourage citizen participation in municipal decision-making processes. Through this platform, citizens can get information, share their opinions and vote on projects planned to be realized in various parts of the city. This process allows the municipality to shape its projects according to the needs and preferences of citizens.

Bursa Metropolitan Municipality

"Neighborhood Assemblies"

Bursa Metropolitan Municipality initiated "Neighborhood Assemblies" to ensure citizens' participation in local governance processes. The neighborhood assemblies function as a participatory platform where residents come together to discuss the problems of the neighborhood, develop proposals and communicate these proposals directly to local governments. This practice allows residents to directly contribute to decisions about their own living environment.



Gölyaka Neighborhood - Neighborhood Assembly Meeting, Orhangazi / Bursa, 2018



konya.bel.tr / Website

Konya Metropolitan Municipality

"Konya Smart City Application"

Konya Metropolitan Municipality developed the "Konya Smart City Application", which enables citizens to obtain information about municipal services and projects, communicate their opinions and suggestions, and benefit from various municipal services online. This application aims to increase the transparency and accessibility of municipal services.

Sakarya Metropolitan Municipality

"Sakarya Innovative Ideas Platform"

Sakarya Metropolitan Municipality initiated the "Sakarya Innovative Ideas Platform" where innovative ideas about the city are shared and discussed. This platform is designed to ensure the direct participation of citizens in city management and to develop innovative projects that will contribute to the social and economic development of the city.

Malatya Metropolitan Municipality

"Participatory Decision-Making Mechanisms"

Malatya Metropolitan Municipality developed various participatory decision-making mechanisms to enable citizens to make their voices heard more effectively in municipal governance processes. In this regard, through various platforms and events established within the municipality, the citizens can directly convey their opinions and suggestions on issues related to the management and development of the city to the municipal administration and contribute to the development and implementation of projects.

Especially the "Public Meetings" and "Workshops" organized by the municipality provide important platforms for citizens to communicate directly with municipal administrators and exchange ideas on various issues of the city. These meetings allow residents to actively discuss and propose solutions for their neighborhoods and city-wide issues.

In addition, Malatya Metropolitan Municipality encourages citizens' participation through various digital tools and social media platforms, collects the views of residents through online surveys and opinion platforms, and incorporates these views into the development of municipal management policies.

These kinds of participatory decision-making mechanisms help municipalities to develop services that are more responsive to citizens' needs and expectations, strengthen local democracy and increase social cohesion among various segments of society. The practices of the Malatya Metropolitan Municipality are among the examples that demonstrate the diversity and potential of efforts to increase citizen participation.

"As a result, the success of participatory municipalism practices shows that citizen participation in municipal governance processes should be seen not only as a democratic principle, but also as a way to improve the quality and efficiency of municipal services. The examples from Türkiye indicate how municipalities can engage citizens in and benefit from citizen participation in a variety of innovative ways."

These examples also demonstrate that participatory municipalism practices can be successful not only through the cooperation of municipalities and citizens, but also through municipalities adopting the principles of transparency and accountability in their internal processes.



Workshop on Integrated Urban Water Management, Malatya

The efforts of municipalities to involve citizens in decision-making processes lay the foundations for more participatory, fair and sustainable local governance models, not only for current generations but also for future generations.

It is important for municipalities in Türkiye to further expand and deepen participatory municipalism practices in order to further strengthen local democracy for the future. This process can be supported through the effective use of technological innovations and digital participation tools, capacity building efforts of local governments and the promotion of active citizen participation in the processes.

Participatory municipalism models and successful practices in Türkiye help municipalities to provide services that are more responsive to the needs and expectations of the community by enabling stronger cooperation and dialogue between municipalities and citizens. This approach should be seen not only as a model of governance for municipalities in Türkiye, but also as a tool to increase social development and welfare.



SMART MUNICIPALISM AND ITS REFLECTIONS ON CITIZENS





SECTION 4

SMART MUNICIPALISM AND ITS REFLECTIONS ON CITIZENS

Nowadays, the rapid development of technology and innovation is transforming every aspect of city life. This transformation also includes how municipalities deliver services and how citizens access these services. “Smart Municipalism” stands out as a management approach pioneered by this new period and offers solutions towards making cities more sustainable, accessible and livable. Smart city applications bring innovations in a wide range of areas, from traffic to waste management, from energy saving to citizens’ participation in the decision-making processes of municipalities, and significantly improve the life quality of citizens.

The impact of technology and innovation on municipalism, the scope of smart city applications and their impact on the life quality of citizens will be examined in detail in this section. This analysis, enriched with examples from Türkiye, will demonstrate how smart municipality practices make a difference in practice and what potential they have for municipalities in the future.

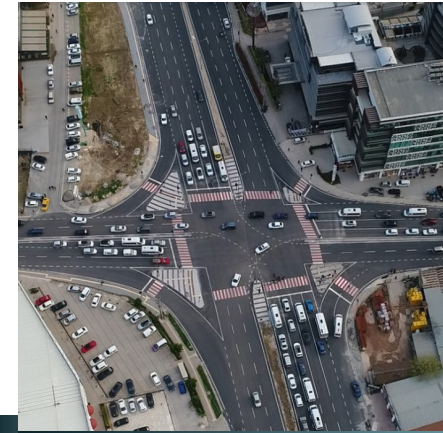
4.1. Impact of Technology and Innovation on Municipalities

The rapid advancement of technology and innovation has caused significant changes in service delivery styles of municipalities. Smart municipalism refers to municipalities providing services in a more effective, efficient and participatory way by using technology. This approach aims to improve city management using technologies such as data analytics, internet-based services, mobile applications and IoT (the Internet of Things). The integration of technology and innovation in municipalities offers new opportunities to meet citizens' expectations faster and more accurately.

4.1.1. Smart City Applications and Their Impact on Citizens' Life Quality

Smart city applications improve the quality of life of people living in cities significantly. These applications can be utilized in many areas such as traffic management, smart lighting systems, waste management, efficient use of water resources, energy saving and emergency management.

Thanks to smart city solutions, citizens have the opportunity to live in a safer, cleaner, greener and more sustainable environment.



Smart Intersection, Bursa



Smart Lighting, Konya



Traffic Management and Transportation

Smart traffic management systems reduce transportation durations within the city and lower carbon emissions by optimizing traffic flow. The applications include real-time traffic information systems, smart parking solutions and mobile applications for public transportation. These solutions enable citizens to save time in their daily lives and improve their transportation experience.



Energy and Environmental Management

Smart lighting and energy management systems play a major role in reducing the carbon footprint of cities by reducing energy consumption. The integration of smart grids and renewable energy sources increases energy efficiency and supports a sustainable city life.



Efficiency in Public Services

Smart water management systems reduce loss of water and optimize water consumption. Smart waste management systems contribute to environmental sustainability by making waste collection and recycling processes more efficient.



Citizen Participation and Access to Services

Smart municipality practices facilitate citizens' interaction with local governments. E-municipality services allow citizens to perform many municipal procedures without leaving their homes. These applications increase citizens' participation in the operational processes of municipalities and facilitate access to the services.

4.1.2. Exemplary Practices

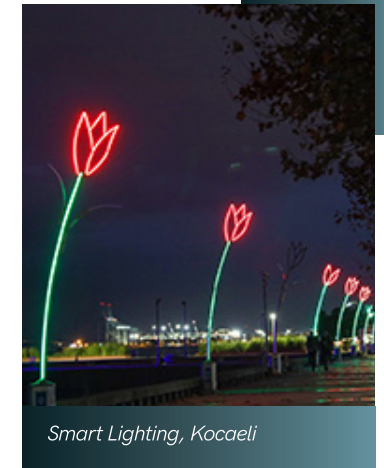
Smart municipality practices ensure that the services provided by municipalities are citizen-oriented by utilizing the power of technology and innovation. Smart city solutions will continue to play a critical role in overcoming the many challenges that cities will face in the future.

Many concrete examples can be given from Türkiye regarding the reflection of smart municipality practices on citizens and the impact of technology and innovation on local governments. Some of these are given below;

Kocaeli Metropolitan Municipality

"Intelligent Lighting System"

The "Intelligent Lighting System" implemented by Kocaeli Metropolitan Municipality offers an environmentally friendly solution by minimizing energy consumption. This system automatically adjusts light levels in certain areas of the city according to demand, avoiding unnecessary energy use. The system saves energy and reduces carbon emissions as well.



Smart Lighting, Kocaeli

Bursa Metropolitan Municipality

"My Bursa"

Bursa Metropolitan Municipality's "My Bursam" application enables citizens to access all kinds of information about the municipality and easily communicate their complaints and suggestions.



bursa.bel.tr / Website

The application allows citizens to report city-related incidents, receive information about municipal services and events, and even be informed about issues such as city council decisions.

These examples demonstrate how smart municipalities are improving the quality of citizens' daily lives and how municipalities are transforming the way of their service delivery. Thanks to technology and innovation, municipalities can develop citizen-oriented services and cities become more livable, sustainable and effectively managed.

“As a result, smart municipality applications contribute to improving the ways in which municipalities deliver services in a wide range of fields, from traffic management to energy saving, from the efficiency of public services to the participation of citizens in decision-making processes. Projects realized in many cities provide concrete examples of how municipal services can be transformed by utilizing the power of technology.”



Through these applications, citizens' participation in the functioning of municipalities increases, access to services is facilitated and innovative solutions are generated to various problems faced by cities. Smart municipalism also increases citizens' trust in local governments by strengthening democratic values such as transparency and accountability.

It is expected that in the future, local governments will continue their efforts to improve the quality of life of citizens by further developing smart municipality applications. Continuous follow-up of technological innovations and citizens' needs will contribute to the sustainable development of smart cities and improve the city life in Türkiye even more.



Electric Bus, Samsun



CULTURAL
MUNICIPALISM AND
EXEMPLARY
PRACTICES





SECTION 5

CULTURAL MUNICIPALISM AND EXEMPLARY PRACTICES

Cultural municipalism refers to the role of municipalities in cultural activities, arts, history and heritage protection. Municipalities' cultural policies not only enrich the social texture of cities, but also protect local identity and historical heritage. Furthermore, these policies increase inter-community interaction, support social cohesion and contribute to the tourism potential of cities. In this section, exemplary practices will be examined through municipalities' cultural activities, social policies and strategies for protecting and promoting cultural heritage.

5.1. Cultural Activities and Social Policies of Municipalities

The municipalities revive the cultural life of cities by organizing culture and art festivals, exhibitions, concerts, theater performances and similar events. These events ensure the active participation of citizens in cultural life and allow groups from different cultural backgrounds to come together.



Strategies for the Protection and Promotion of Cultural Heritage

The protection and promotion of cultural heritage is one of the important responsibilities of municipalities. Activities such as restoration of historical buildings, providing support to museums and art galleries, and putting cultural heritage on digital media are considered within this scope. For example, Gaziantep Municipality's support for the Zeugma Mosaic Museum and Saffranbolu Municipality's protection of its historic city center are successful examples of efforts to protect and promote the cultural heritage.

5.1.1. Exemplary Practices

Municipalities in Türkiye implemented many successful projects within the scope of cultural municipalism. These projects generally focused on preserving the city's historical and cultural heritage, supporting local arts and artists, organizing cultural events and increasing the brand value of cities. Here are some cultural municipalism examples from the municipalities:



Gaziantep Metropolitan Municipality

"Gastronomy Projects"

Gaziantep is included in the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) Creative Cities Network with its cuisine. Gaziantep Metropolitan Municipality organizes various festivals, workshops and training programs to preserve and promote the city's rich culinary culture. These efforts both preserve Gaziantep's cultural heritage and support gastronomy tourism.





Konya Metropolitan Municipality

"Konya Culture and Art Events"

Konya Metropolitan Municipality hosts many cultural and artistic events, especially the "Şeb-i Arus" ceremonies organized every year in memory of Mevlana Celaleddin-i Rumi. These events reflect the spiritual and cultural heritage of Konya and increase the tourism potential of the city. The municipality also organizes various art galleries and workshops that support local artists and young talents.



750th Vuslat Anniversary International Commemoration Ceremonies, "Şeb-i Arus", Konya



Kayseri Metropolitan Municipality

"Kayseri Historical Heritage Projects"

Kayseri Metropolitan Municipality undertakes various restoration and renovation projects to preserve and promote the rich historical heritage of the city. These projects include the restoration of Kayseri Castle and the renovation of its surrounding historical buildings. The municipality also provides local and international visitors with the opportunity to discover the history of Kayseri by activities such as exhibitions and cultural tours organized to promote historical and cultural values.



Restoration of Kayseri Castle, Kayseri



Bursa Metropolitan Municipality

"Bursa Culture Art and Tourism Events"

Bursa Metropolitan Municipality carries out activities for the protection of cultural heritage in areas such as the historical bazaar and inns region, which are included in the UNESCO World Heritage List. In addition, it contributes to the artistic and cultural life of the city by organizing important cultural events such as the International Bursa Festival and Bursa Book Fair. The municipality also strengthens the tourism potential of Bursa through projects that allow locals and tourists to experience the city's historical and cultural richness.



March 14th Medicine Day Week Kayseri, Bursa



Sakarya Metropolitan Municipality

"Sakarya Culture and Art Events"

Sakarya Metropolitan Municipality organizes various events and projects to enrich the cultural and social life of the city. In this regard, it supports many artistic activities such as theater, music, dance performances and exhibitions, and organizes cultural tours and festivals to promote Sakarya's natural beauties and historical sites.



Photo Exhibition Depicting Çanakkale Naval Victory, Sakarya

“In conclusion, cultural policies and projects of municipalities have a critical role in preserving and developing the social and cultural richness of cities. Cultural municipalism practices are considered in a wide range of areas such as protecting historical heritage, supporting culture and arts, increasing citizens’ participation in cultural activities and promoting cultural tourism. These practices increase the brand value of cities and create centers of attraction for local and international visitors.”

From Konya to Bursa, municipalities across Türkiye are doing important works to protect and promote the cultural heritage of cities, engage citizens in social and cultural life and celebrate cultural diversity. While enriching the cultural texture of cities, these works also support social cohesion and social peace.

Taking the future into consideration, the municipalities are expected to develop more innovative projects in the field of cultural municipalism, to use technology effectively in the protection and promotion of cultural heritage, and to further increase citizen participation in these processes. As a result, the cultural and artistic life of cities will be further revived, historical and cultural heritage will be passed on to future generations, and the national and international recognition of cities will increase.



SOCIAL MUNICIPALISM /
SERVICE-ORIENTED
MUNICIPALISM AND
EXEMPLARY PRACTICES

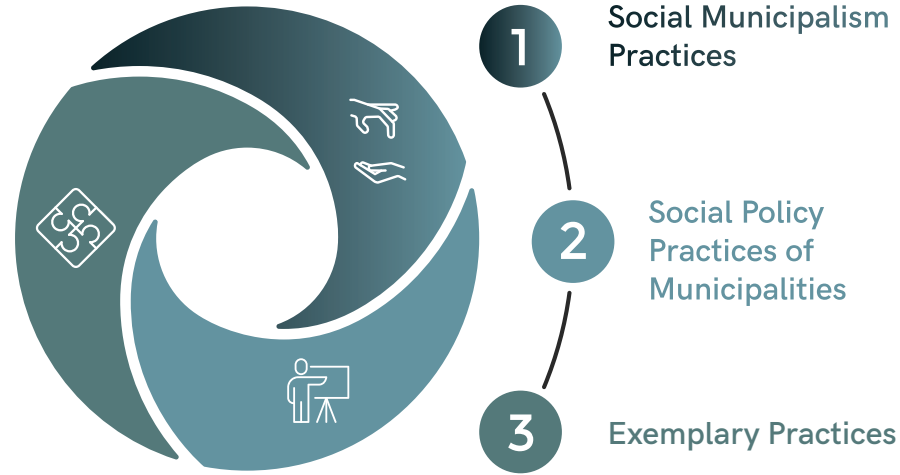




SECTION 6

SOCIAL MUNICIPALISM / SERVICE-ORIENTED MUNICIPALISM AND EXEMPLARY PRACTICES

While municipal practices in Türkiye offer a wide range of diversity from social services to infrastructure and urban transformation projects, they also aim to improve the quality of citizens' lives through practices in different categories. In this section, important practices of municipalities in fields such as the provision of social services, infrastructure development and urban transformation projects will be analyzed.



6.1. Social Municipalism Practices

Social municipalism refers to the provision of services by municipalities for disadvantaged groups in line with the principles of social justice and equality. These practices aim to support vulnerable segments of society such as the elderly ones, people with disabilities, low-income families and children.



Social Assistance and Support Services

Municipalities carry out social assistance programs to meet basic needs such as food, clothing, education and health assistance for families in need.



Services for Disabled and Elderly People

In order for disabled citizens and the elderly people to live an active life in society, accessibility projects, home care services and social activities are being organized.



Infrastructure and Urban Transformation

Infrastructure and urban transformation projects are activities aimed at improving the physical structures of cities and increasing their livability. These projects are carried out with an understanding of sustainable urban planning and environmentally sensitive infrastructure development.



Transportation and Infrastructure Investments

Modern transportation networks, water and waste management systems, development of green spaces and recreational areas are among the factors that directly affect the livability of cities.



Urban Transformation Projects

Retrofit of risky buildings and construction of earthquake-resistant residences constitute the basis of urban transformation projects. These projects both improve the aesthetic appearance of cities and ensure that citizens live in a safe environment.



6.2. Social Policy Practices of Municipalities

Municipalities try to increase the social welfare of the society and improve their access to social services through social policy practices. In this respect, projects are developed in a wide range of fields from education to health, from women and youth services to cultural activities.



Education and Student Support Projects

Municipalities provide educational aids and scholarship programs for students, as well as support the education of young people by opening education centers.



Health Services

Health screenings, mobile health services and health trainings are among the services provided by municipalities in order to protect the health of citizens.



Home Care Service,
Eyupsultan / Istanbul

Municipalism practices in Türkiye aim to respond to different needs of the society in a wide range of fields, from social municipalism to service municipalism. These efforts of municipalities improve the physical and social structure of cities, enhance the quality of citizens' lives and promote social welfare.

6.2.1. Exemplary Practices

Bursa Metropolitan Municipality

"Transportation and Infrastructure Investments"

To improve urban transportation, Bursa Metropolitan Municipality makes significant investments in transportation infrastructure such as the expansion of metro and tram lines, modern bus stops and smart intersection systems. These investments ease the flow of traffic and make the daily lives of citizens easier.



New Courthouse, Intersection with Bridge, Bursa

Konya Metropolitan Municipality

"Education Support Projects"

Konya Metropolitan Municipality offers educational support projects for young people and students. These projects include scholarship programs, educational aids and social activities for students. The municipality aims to support students at all levels of education.



Şivlilik Gifts on Students' Report Card Day, Konya



Sakarya Metropolitan Municipality Medical Center, Sakarya

Sakarya Metropolitan Municipality

"Health Services"

Sakarya Metropolitan Municipality conducts various health projects such as mobile health screening services to make it easier for citizens to access health services and health education seminars. These services are especially important for citizens living in rural areas.

These and similar practices show that municipalities have taken important steps to improve the life quality of citizens in areas such as social services, infrastructure and urban transforma-

tion projects. These practices are of great importance in terms of increasing social welfare and making cities more livable.

“In conclusion, municipal practices in Türkiye aim to respond to the needs of citizens, from social municipalism to service municipalism, from urban transformation projects to infrastructure works. The projects carried out by municipalities were examined in a wide spectrum, ranging from social support programs for disadvantaged groups of society to the improvement of the physical infrastructure of cities. These practices show that the municipalities attach importance not only to physical infrastructure projects but also to the principle of social justice and equality.”

Projects such as social services, education and health support, urban transformation and transportation infrastructure demonstrate that local governments have adopted a comprehensive approach.

The practices implemented by municipalities are aimed at important objectives such as increasing social welfare, improving the livability of cities and encouraging citizens' participation in social and cultural life.

It is expected in the future that municipalities will continue to invest more in social and infrastructure projects and integrate more technological innovations. In this way, the capacity of municipalities to improve the quality of services provided to citizens and contribute to the sustainable development of cities will be further strengthened.



EXPECTATIONS OF CITIZENS FROM MUNICIPALITIES





SECTION 7

EXPECTATIONS OF CITIZENS FROM MUNICIPALITIES

The main purpose of municipalities is to provide services that meet the needs and expectations of citizens. Therefore, it is vital for local governments to understand what citizens expect from municipalities, to assess how these expectations are met, and to find ways to improve service quality. In this section, expectations of citizens from local governments will be analyzed in the light of public opinion survey and poll results, and the level of fulfillment of expectations and ways of improvement will be discussed.

7.1. Public Opinion Surveys and Polls

Results of public opinion surveys and polls are critical for municipalities to understand citizens' expectations, satisfaction levels and their opinions regarding services. These surveys enable municipalities to hear the voice of citizens while they shape their policies and services, so that more effective and citizen-oriented decisions can be made. Public opinion surveys and polls provide valuable data on how municipalities can improve their services.

Public opinion surveys and polls are important tools to understand what citizens expect from municipalities. This surveys typically cover topics such as;



Infrastructure and transportation services



Cleaning and environmental management



Social services and social benefits



Cultural and artistic events



Access to health and education services.

The survey results show that citizens attach the highest importance to infrastructure problems, improvement of urban transportation and environmental cleaning. In addition, there is a great demand for social services such as social aids and easy access to education and health services.

7.2. The Importance of Public Opinion Surveys



Determination of Expectations

It identifies what kind of services that the citizens expect from the municipalities. This is especially important in terms of planning new projects or improving existing services.



Measurement of Satisfaction Levels

It measures how the services provided are perceived by citizens and their level of satisfaction. This provides direct feedback on the effectiveness of services.



Identification of Areas of Need

It identifies the specific needs and priorities of different segments of society as well as the general public. This helps to provide services in a more inclusive and equitable way.



Following Trends

It monitors changes in citizens' expectations and preferences. This enables municipalities to adapt to dynamic social trends.

7.3. Utilization of Survey Results



Improvement of Services

The results of surveys show the issues that citizens are dissatisfied with and the problems experienced in services. This information can be used for direct improvement of services.



Policy Development

Opinions and expectations of citizens guide the development of municipal policies. It is ensured that the policies better serve the needs of citizens.



Determination of Priorities

It provides guidance on which areas should be prioritized in order to make the most effective use of resources.



Increasing Citizen Participation

Surveys increase citizen participation in operational processes of municipalities and ensure that the voices of various segments of society are heard.

Public opinion surveys and poll results are a valuable resource for municipalities and an important tool for meeting citizens' expectations, improving service quality and strengthening local democracy. Thanks to these tools, municipalities can provide services that are more responsive to the needs and priorities of society and increase citizen satisfaction.



7.4. Levels of Expectation Satisfaction

The level of fulfillment of citizens' expectations by municipalities is an important indicator of service quality, accessibility and citizen satisfaction. These levels are used to assess how successful municipalities are in delivering services and how responsive they are to the needs of citizens. Factors affecting the level of satisfaction of expectations include municipal resources, management skills, the effectiveness of policies and programs, and the reasonableness of citizens' expectations.

Evaluation of the Level of Satisfaction of Expectations



High Satisfaction

These are the situations where citizens' expectations are largely met, and they are satisfied with the services provided. This shows that municipalities are correctly identifying the needs of citizens and providing effective solutions.



Moderate Satisfaction

These are the situations where expectations are partially met, but there is still room for improvement. This shows that municipalities are successful in some services but need to improve in other areas.



Low Satisfaction

These are the situations in which citizens' expectations are mostly not met and they are generally dissatisfied with the services. This situation shows that services need to be improved and more responsive approaches to the needs of citizens should be developed.

Factors Affecting the Satisfaction Level of Expectations



Lack of Resources

The limited financial, human and technological resources of municipalities may negatively affect service provision and therefore the level of satisfaction of expectations.



Management and Planning

Effective management and good planning are critical for providing services in line with citizens' expectations. Failures in management can make it difficult to meet expectations.



Expectation Levels of Citizens

The level of reasonableness of citizens' expectations also affects satisfaction. Excessively elevated or unrealistic expectations can reduce the level of fulfillment.



Communication and Participation

The effectiveness of citizens' participation in the processes of municipal service delivery and communication with municipalities enables expectations to be accurately understood and met.

7.5. Ways for Improvement

Some of the improvement ways that municipalities should focus on in order to better meet citizens' expectations are as follows:

7.5.1. Participatory Municipality Practices

It would be useful to develop mechanisms to ensure the active participation of citizens in decision-making processes.

Expanding Participatory Municipalism Practices



Digital Participation Platforms

It is important to establish systems that will enable citizens to participate in municipal decisions through online platforms. For example, organizing online surveys and forums and seeking citizens' opinions on important projects and decisions will reinforce participatory democracy.



Neighborhood and City Councils

It is important to engage citizens more directly in local government processes through bodies such as neighborhood and city councils. It would be useful to directly listen to the demands and suggestions of citizens by holding regular meetings in these councils.



Technology and Innovation

Improving service quality in service delivery through the effective use of technology and innovation will strengthen the relationship between the municipality and citizens.

7.5.2. Effective Use of Technology and Innovation



Smart City Applications

Using smart city technologies in areas such as traffic management, waste management and energy saving is important. Energy saving with smart lighting systems or providing transportation services to citizens through mobile applications are among the example applications.



E-Services

Transfer of municipal services to the electronic environment accelerates the services provided. Developing the necessary infrastructure for citizens to make transactions such as paperwork, payments and appointments online is important.

7.5.3. Sustainable Development Oriented Projects Environmentally Friendly Transportation Solutions

The development and promotion of environmentally friendly transportation alternatives such as bicycle paths, pedestrian paths and public transportation are among the services of municipalities.



Increasing Green Spaces

Increasing the number of green areas and parks in the city, improving existing green areas and making it easier for citizens to benefit from these areas are important.

7.5.4. Strengthening Transparency and Accountability



Open Data Applications

Municipal activities also require sharing detailed information about budget utilization and projects with citizens. It is important to provide easy access to this information on municipal websites and other digital platforms.



Feedback Mechanisms

Effective mechanisms have been established for citizens to provide feedback to municipalities. Examples of such mechanisms include complaint and suggestion boxes, online feedback forms and customer service hotlines.

These improvement methods will help to better understand and meet citizens' expectations, improve the quality of municipal services, and contribute to making cities more livable. Steps to be taken by municipalities in this direction will increase citizen satisfaction, while at the same time enabling cities to develop in a sustainable and inclusive manner.



“In conclusion, municipalities provide services that directly affect the quality of citizens' lives. Therefore, it is of great importance for municipalities to understand citizens' expectations and develop services in line with these expectations. Public opinion surveys and polls show that citizens expect more services from municipalities in areas such as infrastructure, transportation, environmental management, social services and cultural activities.”

A detailed examination of improvement ways shows that municipalities can take concrete steps to increase citizen satisfaction and improve service quality. Expanding participatory municipal practices, effective use of technology and innovation, implementing sustainable development projects, and increasing transparency and accountability are critical for municipalities to better respond to the expectations of citizens.

Maintaining service delivery and policy development processes with a citizen-oriented perspective will contribute to the sustainable and inclusive development of cities and increase social welfare. The steps to be taken by municipalities in this direction will play an important role in meeting the expectations of citizens and will contribute to the strengthening of local democracy.



TÜRKİYE CENTURY



MUNICIPALITIES
WITH THE CENTURY
OF TÜRKİYE VISION



SECTION 8

MUNICIPALITIES WITH THE CENTURY OF TÜRKİYE VISION

The vision of the “Century of Türkiye” announced by our President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan symbolizes the effort to overcome the challenges faced by the country and to set great goals for the future starting from 2023, the 100th anniversary of the founding of the Republic of Türkiye. This vision targets Türkiye’s development in a wide range of fields, from economic growth to social justice and equality, from education to healthcare, from technological progress to environmental sustainability. Municipalities are considered as one of the cornerstones of this broad vision and undertake important roles in this new era.

The vision of “Century of Türkiye” includes key objectives such as shaping the future of municipalities, making cities more livable and sustainable, using technology and innovation effectively in the delivery of local services, and improving the life quality of citizens. In this section, the reflections of the vision of the “Century of Türkiye” on municipalities, the role that municipalities will play in realizing this vision, and the importance of technology and innovation in this process will be examined in detail. Here, the core principles of the vision of the “Century of Türkiye” and how municipalities are positioned within this vision are presented. In this context, future projections of municipalities, strategies for the use of technology and innovation, and the implications and opportunities of this new era for Türkiye will be discussed.



Turkish Republic President and AK Party Chairman Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, AK Party “Century of Turkey” Presentation Meeting, Ankara 2022

8.1. Reflection of the “Century of Türkiye” Vision on Municipalities

The “Century of Türkiye” vision positions municipalities as the locomotives of national development and raises expectations from these authorities to a new level. The reflection of this vision on municipalities can be summarized as increasing the global competitiveness of cities, adopting sustainable development principles and improving the quality of citizens’ lives.

8.1.1. Global Competitiveness

Global competitiveness is a concept that is becoming increasingly important for municipalities. In this context, making cities more competitive in the international arena requires various strategic approaches and innovative projects. Global competitiveness includes not only economic growth, but also sustainable development, high quality of life and environmental durability.



Economic Development

Municipalities aim to create investment attractive environments to accelerate the economic development of cities. This is possible through the development of high-tech industries and innovative start-up ecosystems, supporting research and development R&D activities. Moreover, municipalities can implement policies such as tax incentives, investment-friendly regulations and international collaborations to attract foreign investors.



Sustainable Projects

Global competitiveness is not just related to economy, but also to environmental sustainability. Municipalities aim to reduce the environmental footprint of cities and promote green development by encouraging environmentally friendly initiatives such as green energy projects, zero waste practices and sustainable transportation solutions. Such projects increase the competitiveness of cities at the international level and create more livable and healthy urban areas.



Quality of Life and Social Development

The global competitiveness of cities also depends on the quality of life of their citizens. Municipalities aim to improve social welfare by increasing the accessibility to education and health services, investing in cultural and artistic activities and expanding social services. This makes cities attractive not only from an economic point of view, but also socially and culturally.



Technology and Innovation

Municipalities strengthen the technological infrastructure of cities through smart city technologies, digital transformation projects and innovative service models. These approaches improve service delivery, make city management more efficient and make citizens' daily lives easier.

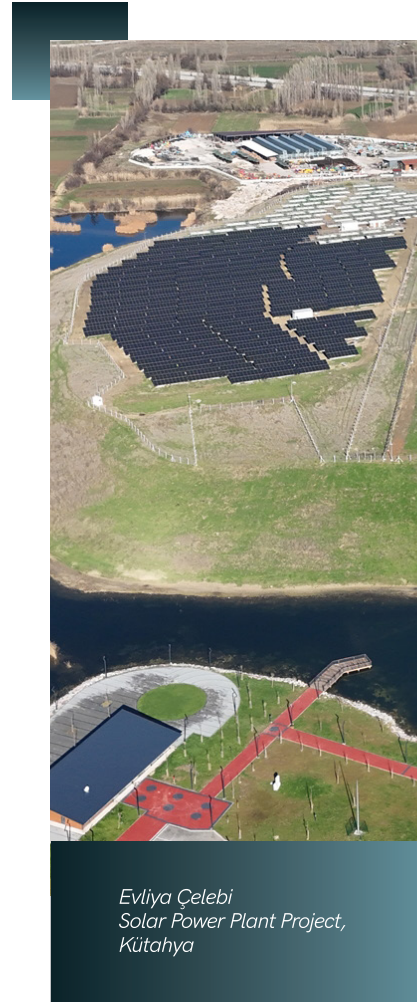
In addition, high-tech industries and R&D activities contribute significantly to the economic development and international competitiveness of cities.

Global competitiveness requires a multidimensional approach by municipalities. Economic development, environmental sustainability, social development and technological advancement must be addressed together to increase the

competitiveness of cities at the international level. This requires municipalities to develop strategic visions that will carry their cities to the future and to aim to create internationally competitive, innovative and livable cities.

8.1.2. Sustainable Development

Sustainable development in the context of the "Century of Türkiye" vision aims to advance environmental protection and social development in a balanced manner alongside the economic growth. Municipalities, in line with this vision, develop and implement various strategies to achieve sustainable development goals. In this section, proactive steps by municipalities in focal areas such as energy efficiency, waste management, water conservation and green space protection are discussed.



*Evliya Çelebi
Solar Power Plant Project,
Kütahya*



Energy Efficiency

Municipalities bring energy efficiency to the forefront through steps such as increasing energy efficiency in buildings, using less energy-consuming technologies such as LED bulbs in public lighting, and investing in renewable energy sources.



Waste Management

Waste management strategies are based on promoting recycling, composting organic waste and safe disposal of hazardous waste. Municipalities aim to reduce the amount of waste and make waste management processes more environmentally friendly by developing zero waste policies.



Mobile Waste Collection Center, Çorum



Water Saving

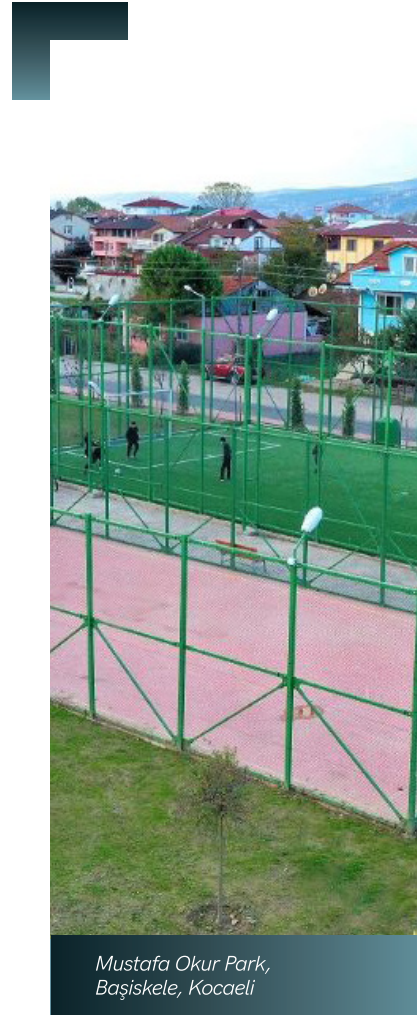
Water conservation measures are essential for the protection and efficient use of water resources. Municipalities promote the adoption of water-saving agricultural techniques such as drip irrigation, organize campaigns to encourage savings in household and industrial water use and improves infrastructure to reduce water losses and leakages.



Protection of Green Areas

Protecting and increasing green spaces supports the livability and environmental sustainability of cities. Municipalities develop projects to protect and expand parks, gardens and natural areas. They also work to increase the amount of green space in cities through innovative solutions such as urban green corridors and rooftop gardens.

These efforts aim to advance economic growth in balance with environmental protection and social development as key components of the vision of the "Century of Türkiye". Sustainable development-oriented projects reflect the commitment of municipalities to leave healthy, livable and resilient cities for future generations.



Mustafa Okur Park,
Başiskele, Kocaeli



Public's Garden, Bayrampaşa / İstanbul

This approach plays a critical role in achieving sustainability goals at local and national level.



8.1.3. Improving the Life Quality of Citizens

Improving the life quality of citizens is one of the main tasks of municipalities and this task requires a comprehensive approach. Municipalities aim to improve the life quality of citizens through various services that directly affect their daily lives. This process covers a wide range of areas, from infrastructure and transportation services to education and health services, and support for cultural and social activities.

Improvement of Infrastructure and Transportation Services



Infrastructure

Sound and reliable infrastructure forms the basis of life quality. Municipalities carry out works to improve basic infrastructure services, such as the improvement of clean water and sewerage systems, street lighting and maintenance of public spaces.



Transportation

Effective transportation systems are critical for citizens to reach their workplaces, attend social events, and overall urban mobility. Municipalities develop projects to improve public transport services, increase pedestrian and bicycle routes and optimize traffic flow.



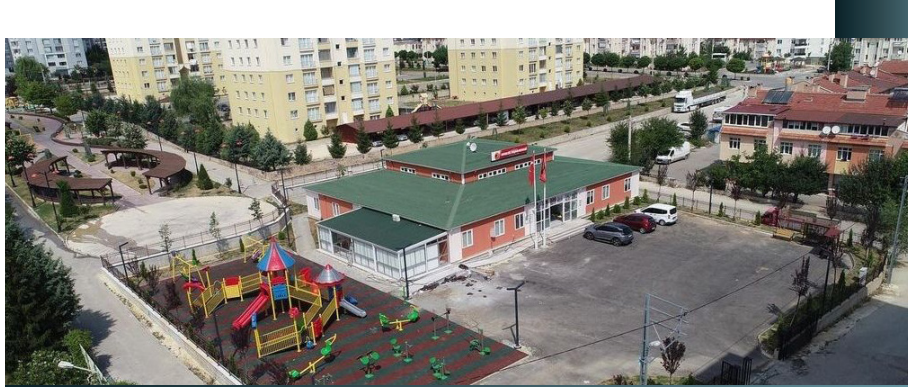
Tram Line, Kocaeli

Facilitating Access to Education and Health Services



Education

Providing high quality educational services contributes to the personal and professional development of all segments of society. Municipalities can offer education programs for a wide range of groups, from pre-school to adult education, and improve the quality of education facilities.



Barrier-Free Living Center, Kastamonu



Health

Easy access to basic health services is vital for life quality.

Municipalities work to increase the number and accessibility of health centers, organize public health campaigns and improve emergency health services.

Supporting Cultural and Social Activities



Cultural Activities

Culture and arts nourish the soul of society and contribute greatly to the life quality of citizens. Municipalities can enrich the cultural life of the city by supporting cultural activities such as museums, theaters, concerts, and festivals.



Social Activities

To strengthen the social structure of society and encourage citizens to interact with each other, municipalities can create spaces for social activities such as sports facilities, parks, recreation areas and community centers.

Improvements to be realized by municipalities in these areas directly affect the life quality of citizens and contribute to the creation of a happier, healthier and more social society. This process requires an inclusive and citizen-oriented approach so that municipalities can provide services in line with the needs and expectations of society.



If There is Woman, There is Life Exhibition, Esenler / İstanbul

8.2. The Role of Technology and Innovation in Local Governments

In the context of the “Century of Türkiye” vision, the role of technology and innovation in municipalities has a central importance in achieving Türkiye’s development goals. This vision urges municipalities to use technology and innovation in a strategic way to increase the social, economic, and environmental sustainability of cities. This approach allows municipalities to improve service delivery, improve citizens’ life quality and strengthen their international competitiveness.

8.2.1. Smart City Applications

Municipalities implement smart city technologies to make citizens’ daily lives easier and increase the efficiency of city services. These practices range in a wide range of areas, from traffic management to waste management, from energy savings to public safety. Smart city applications make city management more dynamic and interactive through real-time data analysis and the use of IoT (Internet of Things) devices.



8.2.2. The Digital Transformation

“Century of Türkiye” vision aims to accelerate the digital transformation processes of municipalities. This means extending municipal services to online platforms, developing e-municipality applications and facilitating citizens’ interactions with the municipality in digital environments. Digital transformation expands the access to services, increases transparency and improves citizen satisfaction.

8.2.3. Innovative Projects

By using technology and innovation, municipalities can develop innovative service models in areas such as health, education, transportation, and social services. These models can better respond to citizens’ needs by making service delivery more flexible, accessible and effective.



Mesopotamia Living Lab Technology and Innovation Center, Şanlıurfa

8.3. Future Projection and Strategies

The “Century of Türkiye” vision envisages that municipalities will play an important role in achieving Türkiye’s national and international goals of sustainable development, competitiveness, and social welfare through the strategic use of technology and innovation. This process requires increasing the capacity of municipalities for continuous learning, adaptation, and innovation.

The adoption of technology and innovation by municipalities in the context of the “Century of Türkiye” vision brings a number of expected future projections with it.



Inclusive Development

It is the development of inclusive and equitable development strategies that aim to improve the life quality of all citizens. Municipalities aim to reduce environmental impact in areas such as green energy production, water management and waste management by using technology in environmental sustainability projects.



Solar Power Plant Project, Sakarya



Environmental Sustainability

It includes prioritizing environmental sustainability projects such as green energy, zero waste and water management.



Recycle Collection Vehicle, Kocasinan / Kayseri



Global Competitiveness

Technology and innovation play a critical role in improving the competitiveness of local economies in the global market. By creating innovative ecosystems, municipalities support high-tech industries and start-ups.



Bilim Üsküdar, National Technologies in the Sky and Beyond Exhibition, Üsküdar / İstanbul



Social Welfare

It involves the development of social services in areas such as education, health, culture and sports, and ensuring social welfare and equality.



Barrier-Free Living Center, Üsküdar / İstanbul



El Battani Space Center Project, Kağıthane / İstanbul



Social Participation and Transparency

Technology makes it easier for citizens to participate in municipal processes and increases transparency in governance. Municipalities are developing online platforms and applications to receive citizen feedback and engage them in policy-making processes.

The vision of the **"Century of Türkiye"** presents both an opportunity and a challenge for local governments. In line with this vision, the fact that the municipalities moving towards sustainable and inclusive development by embracing technology and innovation are important steps that will shape Türkiye's next century.

"In conclusion, municipalities are vital actors in realizing the vision of the "Century of Türkiye". In line with this vision, important steps are expected to be taken in various areas such as improving infrastructure and transportation systems, facilitating access to education and health services, and supporting cultural and social activities. These efforts will contribute to build more livable, just and sustainable cities, by directly affecting the life quality of citizens."



Space and Technology Center, Çekmeköy / İstanbul

Technology and innovation play a key role in helping municipalities to achieve these goals. Smart city applications, digital transformation projects and innovative service models offer tools that will make service delivery more effective, efficient and citizen-oriented. In addition, global competitiveness and environmental sustainability are cornerstones of the **"Century of Türkiye"** vision and are of strategic importance to enhance the competitiveness of municipalities at national and international level and to achieve sustainable development goals.

The roles that municipalities undertake within the framework of the **"Century of Türkiye"** vision will directly affect Türkiye's capacity to overcome national and international challenges and achieve major goals in the next century. Therefore, it is critical for municipalities to adopt an innovative, inclusive, and sustainable approach in order to successfully realize the vision.



CONCLUSION





CONCLUSION

Municipalities have an important role in responding to the challenges that Türkiye faces in the 21st century and in achieving national development goals. In this study prepared within this framework, the “Century of Türkiye” vision and the role of municipalities and the impact of this vision on the life quality of citizens, global competitiveness of cities, environmental sustainability and the importance of technology and innovation in municipal services are analyzed through exemplary practices.

The main themes of the study, which was covered in a wide range from social municipalism to smart municipalism, are as follows:

The contribution of municipalities to the democratization process was emphasized in terms of greater citizen involvement in decision-making and strengthening local democracy. The evolution of municipalism and the democratization process in Türkiye were examined in a historical perspective from the Ottoman period to the establishment of the Republic and up to the present day.

The issues of managing municipal services more effectively and increasing the participation of citizens in the management processes were emphasized. The impact of municipalities on the development process, the role of regional development agencies and how local economies can be strengthened by supporting local projects were discussed.



Municipality models in Türkiye and successful practices of these models were detailed with examples. The use of technology and innovation in municipal services, the effects of smart city projects and digital transformation on the life quality of citizens were examined.

The contributions of municipalities to the democratization process, their efforts to improve the life quality of citizens, and suggestions for addressing the challenges faced were highlighted in the study. Furthermore, it was emphasized that the roles undertaken by municipalities in line with the vision of the "Century of Türkiye" are of critical importance in achieving Türkiye's development goals.

Competitiveness in the international arena, sustainable development and improving the life quality of citizens are gaining importance for municipalities, and this situation requires various strategic approaches and innovative projects.

The reflection of the "Century of Türkiye" vision on municipalities is summarized as economic, sustainable projects, life quality and social development, technology, and innovation in terms of global competitiveness; as energy efficiency, waste management, water saving, protection of green areas in terms of sustainable development; and as infrastructure, transportation, education, health, cultural and social activities in terms of improving the life quality of citizens.

When we consider the reflection of technology and innovation in municipalities, it is emphasized that it has a central importance in achieving Türkiye's development goals. These can be seen in smart city applications, in digital transformations such as the migration of municipal services to online platforms, and in innovative projects that are more flexible, accessible and effective.

Moreover, within the scope of the "Century of Türkiye" vision, municipalities are expected to embrace technology and innovation, which brings with it a series of future projections that include inclusive development, environmental sustainability, global competitiveness, social welfare, participation, and transparency.





**MUNICIPAL GOVERNANCE
UNDER THE CENTURY OF TÜRKİYE VISION**



