

MARMARA MUNICIPALITIES UNION



ABOUT MARMARA MUNICIPALITIES UNION

Marmara Municipalities Union (MMU) is the first and the largest regional Local Government Association in Turkey with more than 190 members from the Marmara Region. MMU operates in 13 cities, 6 of which are metropolises. These are as follows: Balıkesir, Bilecik, Bolu, Bursa, Çanakkale, Düzce, Edirne, Istanbul, Kırklareli, Kocaeli, Sakarya, Tekirdağ, and Yalova. Its center is located in Istanbul.

The Marmara Region is the center of scientific, cultural and high-value-added activities as well as of commerce, finance and industry. The region is inhabited by around 25 million residents, making up one third of the population of Turkey. At the center of the region is the Sea of Marmara, which is an inland sea connecting Turkey's Asian and European parts.



MIGRATION

POLICY

CENTER

Migration Policy Center (MPC) was founded in 2015 within the scope of MMU with the purpose of providing an interworking platform for the relevant stakeholders on the topics such as migration, asylum, social cohesion, and urban belonging. For this aim, MPC;

- Carries out scientific studies and research,
- Engages in activities where local governments can benefit from good practices and experiences at the global level,
- Improves coordination between local governments, national institutions, international organizations, NGOs and universities,
- Represents local governments at the international arena,
- Carries out activities which aim to determine common policies at the local level and encourages its members to run their activities and services in accordance with these policies,
- Conducts work to ensure that local activities on refugees and migrants are in harmony with national policies, and that national norms are shaped according to the demands and needs of local governments.

MPC's activities are shaped by long-term policy recommendations and guidance of the **MMU Migration Committee**. Having been the first migration committee established at the local level in Turkey, Migration Committee consists of mayors from different cities and political parties which are represented in MMU General Assembly.

MMU has also established **Migration Platform** in order to facilitate and institutionalize communication among its members. Migration Platform consists solely of representatives of the departments of MMU's member municipalities working for refugees and migrants. Migration Platform;

- Facilitates coordination among its members and lays the groundwork for sharing information and experience,
- Identifies demands and needs of its members and develops solution recommendations,
- Carries out activities aiming to support capacity development of its members.

PROJECTS

LADDER PROJECT



MMU took part as one of the co-applicants in the project “LADDER – Local Authorities

as Drivers for Development Education and Raising Awareness” conducted by the European Association for Local Democracy (ALDA). The EU-funded LADDER Project gathered 27 partners & 19 associates coming from 18 EU and 17 non EU-countries and was realized between 2015-2017 during 36-month. MMU played an active role in the Migration Working Group, one of the 8 thematic working groups in the project. Within the framework of the LADDER Project, MMU carried out several activities on migration, asylum, migration management, social cohesion and development with the purposes of sharing best practices and experiences, raising awareness, and supporting cooperation between local actors at the global level.

For more information:
www.ladder-project.eu

RESLOG TURKEY PROJECT



MMU co-coordinates Turkish part of the project “RESLOG- Resilience for Local Governance” in cooperation with the Union of Municipalities of Turkey, Çukurova Municipalities

Union and Swedish Association of Local Authorities and Regions. Financed by the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA) and launched in 2018, the project will last until 2020.

The RESLOG Project aims at supporting Turkey and Lebanon, countries which are affected by Syrian refugee crisis substantially, when their local governments deliver basic services for both local communities and refugees within the framework of resilience, pacifism, and inclusiveness. Accordingly, the RESLOG Turkey Project targets strengthening communication and increasing cooperation between local governments and the central government in Turkey. It contributes to the process of improving capacities of pilot municipalities

from Marmara and Çukurova regions, when they prepare and implement their own Migration Master Plans.

During the RESLOG Turkey Project, MPC organizes bimonthly meetings titled “Local Governance and Migration Gatherings”. These meetings address the relevant basic concepts, extant or novel approaches and local governments’ experiences on migration.

For more information:
www.reslogproject.org

REPORTS

WORKSHOP REPORT ON THE ROLE OF MUNICIPALITIES FOR REFUGEES IN URBAN SETTINGS

MMU, in partnership with United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, organized a two-day workshop on “The Role of Municipalities for Refugees in Urban Settings” in 2015. Within the workshop which brought together member municipalities of MMU, participants evaluated the current situation regarding the refugee influx, and shared information and experience based on primary and urgent needs of refugees.

The workshop revealed the challenges that municipalities face in the process management with regard to refugees. Accordingly, solution-oriented policy suggestions have been reported and communicated to the relevant authorities.



**MARMARA MUNICIPALITIES UNION
AND UNITED NATIONS HIGH
COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES**

**WORKSHOP ON THE
ROLE OF
MUNICIPALITIES
FOR REFUGEES IN
URBAN SETTINGS**

URBAN REFUGEES FROM 'DETACHMENT' TO 'HARMONIZATION' - SYRIAN REFUGEES AND PROCESS MANAGEMENT OF MUNICIPALITIES: THE CASE OF ISTANBUL

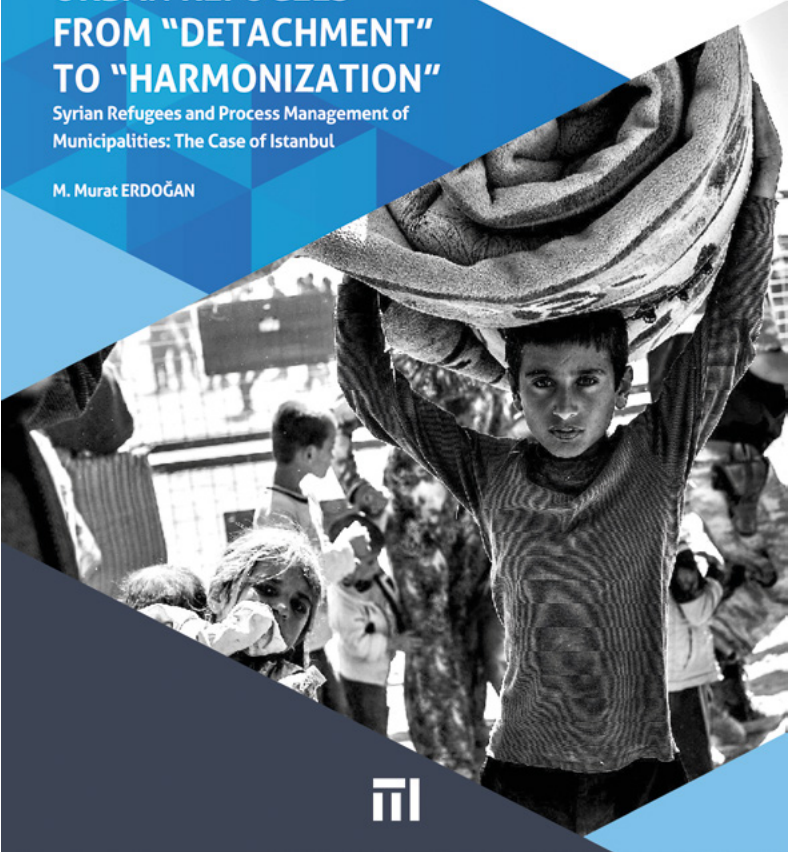
MMU conducted a field research led by Prof. M. Murat Erdoğan and accordingly published the first and most comprehensive report on urban refugees in Turkey. Within the scope of research, face-to-face interviews and surveys were conducted in municipalities in Istanbul, which hosts the largest number of refugees in Turkey with more than 540.000 refugees. Based upon the data collected and the respective evaluations, the report titled "Urban Refugees from 'Detachment' to 'Harmonization' - Syrian Refugees and Process Management of Municipalities: The Case of Istanbul" was

published both in English and Turkish in 2017. The report puts forward the services, process management, problems, legal restrictions and policy proposals of municipalities on refugee-related issues.

URBAN REFUGEES FROM "DETACHMENT" TO "HARMONIZATION"

Syrian Refugees and Process Management of
Municipalities: The Case of Istanbul

M. Murat ERDOĞAN



EVENTS

SYMPOSIUM ON THE MIGRATION HISTORY OF TURKEY

MMU, in cooperation with Hacettepe University Migration and Politics Research Center and Istanbul Bilgi University Press, organized the “Symposium on the Migration History of Turkey” on “Migration to Turkey from the 14th to the 21st Centuries” in 2016.

In the symposium, where the opening speech was made by Prof. Kemal H. Karpat, distinguished academics and experts in the field, analyzed Turkey’s migration history with the historical and sociological perspectives and evaluated mass migration influxes that have shaped Turkey’s experiences of migration in chronological and thematic debates.



Keynote
Speech:

Prof. Kemal H. Karpat

Symposium on the Migration History of Turkey:

*Migration to Turkey from the 14th
to the 21st Centuries*

The Marmara Taksim Otel, Istanbul

Wednesday 20 April 2016

09:30 - 19:30

MULTILATERAL PERSPECTIVES ON THE REFUGEE ISSUE: DYNAMICS IN AND AROUND TURKEY

MMU hosted one of the 132 official side events together with the Columbia Global Centers Istanbul and Helsinki Citizens Assembly at the first ever World Humanitarian Summit in 2016 carried out by United Nations. In the panel, the impact of migration on and its challenges to both refugees themselves and host communities, and the response and actions of stakeholders in face of refugee influx at the local, national and international levels were addressed.



WORLD HUMANITARIAN SUMMIT

ISTANBUL • 23-24 May 2016

SIDE EVENT: LEAVE NO ONE BEHIND

MULTILATERAL PERSPECTIVES ON THE REFUGEE ISSUE: DYNAMICS IN AND AROUND TURKEY

DATE AND TIME: May 23, 13:00 – 14:30

VENUE: Lutfi Kirdar Convention & Exhibition Centre (LKCC), Galata Hall

SPEAKERS:

PROFESSOR ALEX ALEINIKOFF, (Chair) Fellow at the Columbia Global Policy Initiative and Visiting Professor at Columbia Law School, former UN Deputy High Commissioner for Refugees

ELİF SELEN AY, Head of Istanbul Field Office,
UN High Commissioner for Refugees

BURCUHAN ŞENER, International Cooperation Expert,
Marmara Municipalities Union

EMEL KURMA, Co-Director, Helsinki Citizens' Assembly

SİNAN GÖKÇEN, (Moderator), Co-Director, Helsinki Citizens' Assembly

HOSTED BY:

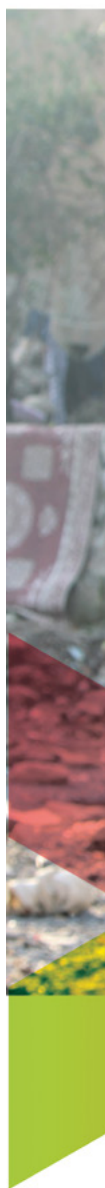


#ShareHumanity

FROM LOCAL TO GLOBAL: MIGRATION'S CHALLENGE WITH CIVILIZATION CONFERENCE AND PHOTOGRAPHY EXHIBITION

“From Local to Global: Migration’s Challenge with Civilization” Conference was organized by MMU in cooperation with SOS Malta in 2017 in Istanbul in the frame of LADDER Project, with the participation of international experts from 16 countries and a wide spectrum of representatives from Turkey. In the conference, policies and practices with regard to refugees and migrants at local, national and international levels were discussed in three sessions.

Participants were welcomed by a photograph exhibition composed of migrant and refugee photographs as part of the conference.





Istanbul, Turkey 📍

16 November 2017 📅

09.00 – 17.00 🕒

FROM LOCAL TO GLOBAL:

MIGRATION'S CHALLENGE WITH CIVILIZATION

INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION AND INTEGRATION SYMPOSIUM

MMU organized “International Migration and Integration Symposium” in cooperation with Bağcılar Municipality and Turkish-German University Migration and Integration Research Center in 2018. In the symposium which gathered representatives from local governments, civil society organizations, experts and academics from Turkey and abroad, participants evaluated the conditions of migrants who have settled in Turkey and European countries, and shared information and experience on the topics of migration and integration.

ULUSLARARASI


GÖÇ & UYUM SEMPOZYUMU

INTERNATIONAL

MIGRATION & INTEGRATION SYMPOSIUM



 18 Nisan 2018, Çarşamba

 09:00 - 17:00

 Retaj Royale Istanbul
15 Temmuz Mahallesi Cami Yolu Cad.
No:1/A, Bağcılar-İstanbul Turkey

SHARED RESPONSIBILITY, SHARED HUMANITY

MMU represented local governments both in Turkey and other host countries with the highest number of refugees at the side event titled “Shared Responsibility, Shared Humanity” held at the United Nations Office in Geneva, Switzerland in 2018.



MPC, which had taken part in the preparatory process of Global Compact on Refugees to promote the role of local governments in migration management, called states for incorporating local governments, which shoulder great responsibility over migration, into the process of policy-making.

MPC also played an active role in the preparation of pledges and contributions presented on behalf of Turkish local governments in the first-ever Global Refugee Forum held in 17-18 December 2019 in Geneva.

REFUGEE AND HOST COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION IN THE GLOBAL COMPACT ON REFUGEES: THE CASE OF TURKEY



MMU organized a session on “Refugee and Host Community Participation in the Global Compact on Refugees: The Case of Turkey” in cooperation with Turkish-German University Migration and Integration Research Center within the International Metropolis Conference in Sydney, Australia in 2018.

In the conference which hosted representatives from more than 70 countries and all continents, participants were informed on the current situation with regard to refugees and migrants in Turkey, and the activities on refugees and migrants carried out by local governments. The role of local governments in migration management and policy making processes were addressed with attendees' active participation.

MARMARA

URBAN

FORUM

(MARUF)



Marmara Urban Forum (MARUF), organized with the motto of “Cities Developing Solutions” by MMU on 1-3 October

2019 in Istanbul, gathered 250 speakers from 25 countries and more than 5000 participants. Guided by the Sustainable Development Goals, different approaches on urban services and urban management were discussed in the forum.

Having been one of the 12 themes of MARUF 2019, the theme of “migration” was addressed by mayors, academics, experts and practitioners at local and international scales with the aim of contributing to the global agenda.

EVENTS HELD UNDER “MIGRATION” THEME

Sessions:

- International human mobility and social cohesion
- Sharing responsibility: Addressing the Global Compacts
- Sharing experiences from cities: Roles and challenges on migration management
- Syrians under temporary protection: The case of Turkey

Film Screening and Interview:

“Guest” | Director: Andaç Haznedaroğlu

Photograph Exhibition:

Photographs of International Photography Competition on the theme of “Migration” | Gölcük Municipality - Gölcük Photography and Cinema Art Association - International Federation of Photographic Art

For more information:

www.marmaraurbanforum.org



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