

MARMARA MUNICIPALITIES UNION



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Marmara Municipalities Union (MMU) is the first and the largest regional Local Government Association in Turkey with 194 members from the Marmara Region which is the center of scientific, cultural and high-value-added activities as well as of commerce, finance and industry. MMU's center is located in Istanbul.

The Marmara Region inhabits 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.

Since its foundation in 1975, MMU has played an important role in the formation of a culture of agreement and collaboration among mayors and council members elected from different political parties, the development of coordination and cooperation between municipalities, increasing the authority and resources of municipalities, and representing municipalities at the international arena.

It carries on activities in areas such as environment, urbanization, migration and social cohesion, local diplomacy, local economic development, resilience, urban technology and innovation. On these areas, MMU's activities include training, consulting, capacity building, raising awareness, supporting scientific researches, advocating local democracy, and organizing events and meetings which gather relevant stakeholders.

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MISSION

- **To make research** on recent developments and best practices in the field of local governments and urbanization at the global level
- **To raise awareness** about democratic and sustainable development of cities, historical and natural heritage preservation, and environment
- **To share** information, experiences and resources
- **To support** capacity development of local governments

VISION

To be a pioneering institution which produces benefits on a global scale in order to make local governments competent and to build sustainable cities with high quality of life.

PRINCIPLES

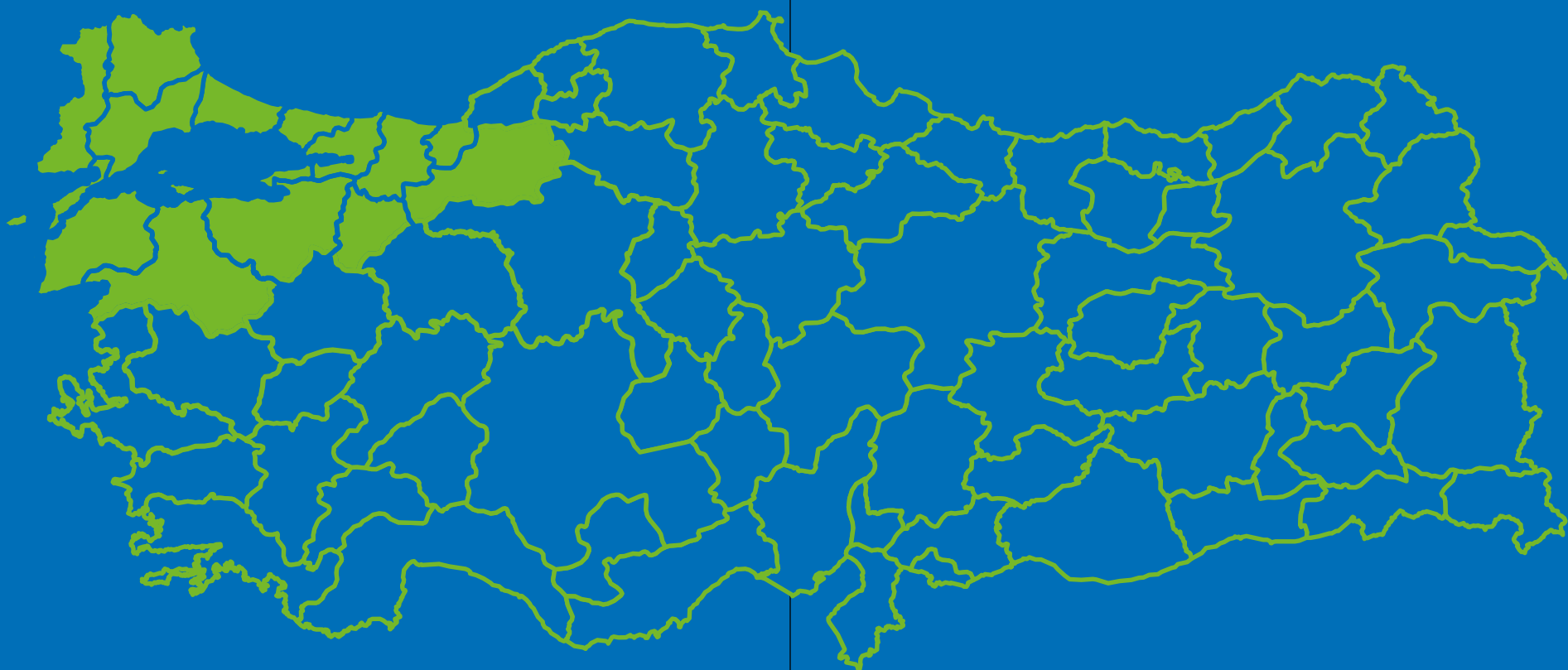
- Sustainability
- Prestige
- Fairness
- Participation
- Inclusiveness
- Transparency

ACTIVITY AREAS

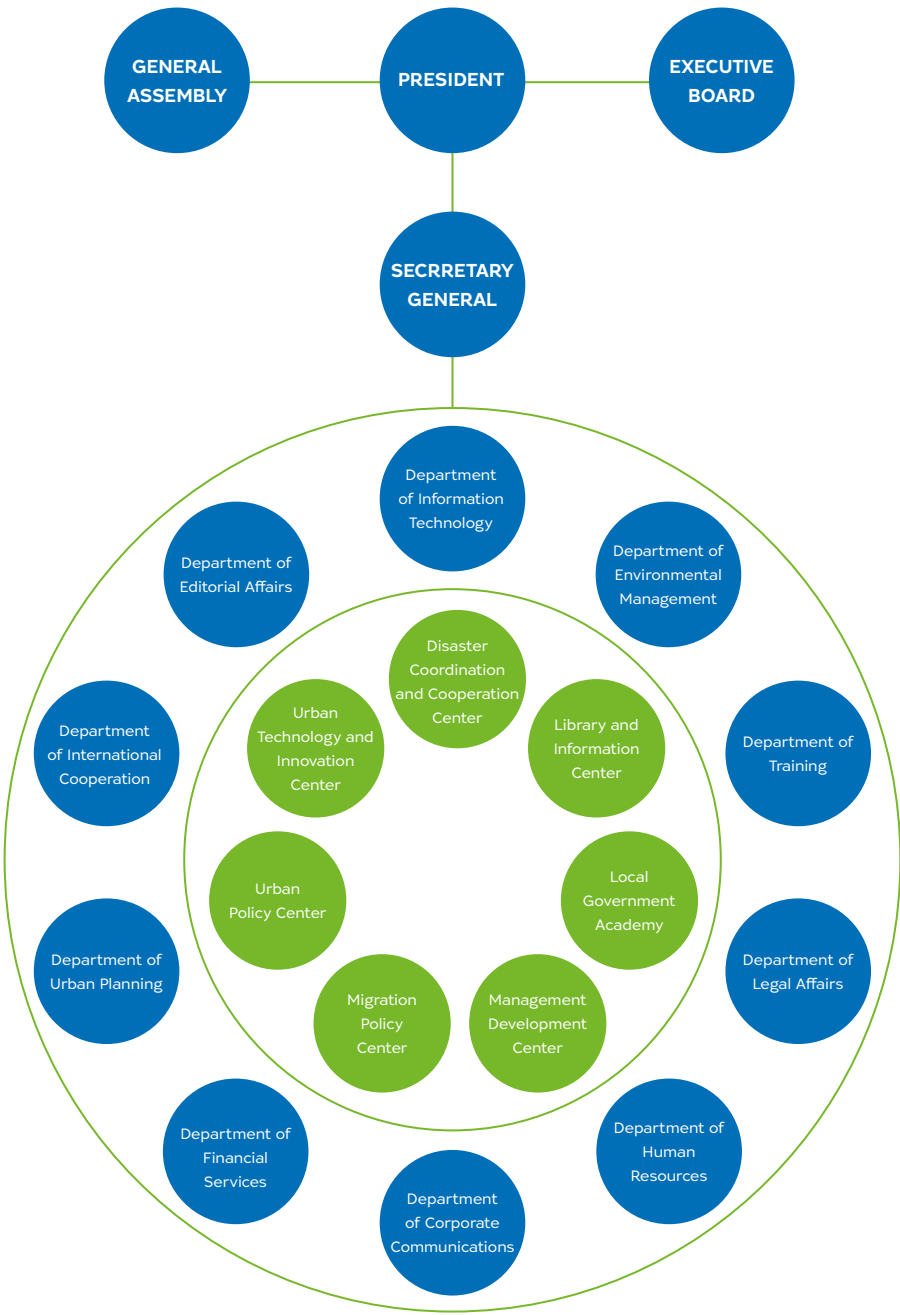
- Environmental management
- Marmara Sea
- Urbanization
- Culture
- Migration and social cohesion
- Local diplomacy
- Local development
- Urban technologies and innovation
- Disaster management

ACTIVITIES

- Training
- Consultancy
- Cooperation and coordination
- Rewarding good practices
- Supporting scientific studies
- Publishing
- Organizing events (forums, symposiums, summits, congresses etc.)
- Knowledge and experience sharing



ORGANIZATION CHART



CENTERS



PLATFORMS

MMU Platforms consist of the representatives of the relevant departments of MMU's member municipalities.

Platforms;

- pave the way for the exchange of experience and knowledge,
- disseminate good practices,
- ensure coordination among municipalities,
- conduct investigations and researches,
- develop medium and long-term strategies.

- **Audit Platform**
- **Corporate Communications Platform**
- **Culture and Art Platform**
- **Environment Platform**
- **Financial Services Platform**
- **Human Resources and Training Platform**
- **Information Technology Platform**
- **Legal Affairs Platform**
- **Libraries and Information Centers Platform**
- **Local Diplomacy Platform**
- **Migration Platform**

EVENTS

MARMARA URBAN FORUM (MARUF)

The Marmara Urban Forum (MARUF) is a biennial international urban forum, the first of which was held in 2019. MARUF aims to seek solutions to the economic, political, social, ecological problems caused by the urbanization process in the lives of individuals and societies and to examine these problems in solidarity and cooperation at local, regional, national and international levels.

www.marmaraurbanforum.org

MAYORS SUMMIT

The Mayors Summit is organized to bring together the member mayors with a specific agenda and provides ground for sharing experience and knowledge.

GOLDEN ANT AWARDS

The Golden Ant Awards aim to promote and disseminate best practices by rewarding successful projects of the municipalities and accordingly, to contribute to sustainable and high-quality urban life.

www.altinkarinca.com.tr

SMART CITIES SUMMIT

The Smart Cities Summit is a platform in which new ideas and implementations bringing together infrastructure and technology and integrating digital technologies into urban services for improving quality of life and building sustainable cities. The Summit gathers municipalities, public and private sector, universities, and other relevant stakeholders to discuss smart cities that are being shaped by the innovative power of Information and Communications Technology (ICT).

www.abz.com.tr/en

MARMARA SEA SYMPOSIUM

The Marmara Sea Symposium periodically gathers academics, experts, and central and local government representatives since 2012.

www.marmaradenizisempozyumu.com

URBAN TALKS

Urban Talks is a series which provides a platform for sharing information and experiences, and enhances dialogue and debate on urban issues such as transportation, environment, culture and arts, development, governance, social inclusion, population dynamics which affect local residents and the society.

KEBİKEÇ SEMINARS

Kebikec Seminars focuses on specific problems experienced by library management professionals. In the seminars topics such as planning and maintaining library facilities, managing books and other information, collecting, preserving, and organizing books and other materials in libraries are discussed and best practices are shared with the participants.

CITY NETWORKS MEETING

City Networks Meeting brings together academicians working in the international dimension in the field of globalization from economy to technology, from spatial development to social dynamics, from real estate market to architecture.

www.kentaglari.com/en

INTERNATIONAL CHILDREN'S CITY CONGRESS

The International Children's City Congress provides a basis for the children to discuss their needs and problems with a participatory approach. The congress, supported by workshops, aims to raise awareness about children, to discover the obstacles children face in urban life, and to propose solutions, projects and international examples to overcome these obstacles.

www.cocukvesehir.org

LOCAL GOVERNMENTS FINANCE SUMMIT

The Local Governments Finance Summit aims to help municipalities use financial resources more efficiently and to find different resources using alternative

methods. Exemplary public-private partnership projects, urban renewal and its financing, and alternative financing instruments in local governments are addressed at the summit by the local and international experts.

www.yfz.com.tr/en

LOCAL GOVERNMENTS SOCIAL SERVICES SYMPOSIUM

The Local Governments Social Services Symposium aims to evaluate the projects of municipalities on the area of social services, to share good practices and experiences, to provide cooperation between academia and local governments, to lay the foundations of different projects to be implemented in the future especially with regard to disadvantaged people.

www.sosyalhizmetpolitikari.com

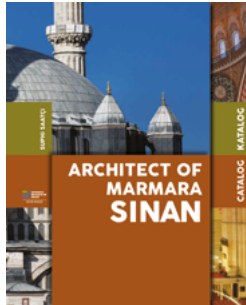
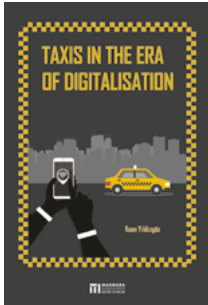
LOCAL GOVERNMENTS BOOK AND CULTURE FAIR

The Local Governments Book and Culture Fair brings together publications of local governments with readers, authors and those interested. The fair is held to protect, to know, and to be able to interpret the tangible and intangible cultural heritage of Turkey's great diversity, and to strengthen access to these resources.

www.yykitapfuari.com

- BOOKS
- CITY & SOCIETY JOURNAL
- REPORTS

BOOKS



CITY & SOCIETY

INTERNATIONAL URBAN FORUMS AND CONFERENCES

Special Edition: Translated 14th Issue of Şehir & Toplum Journal ISBN: 978-605-80307-0-1

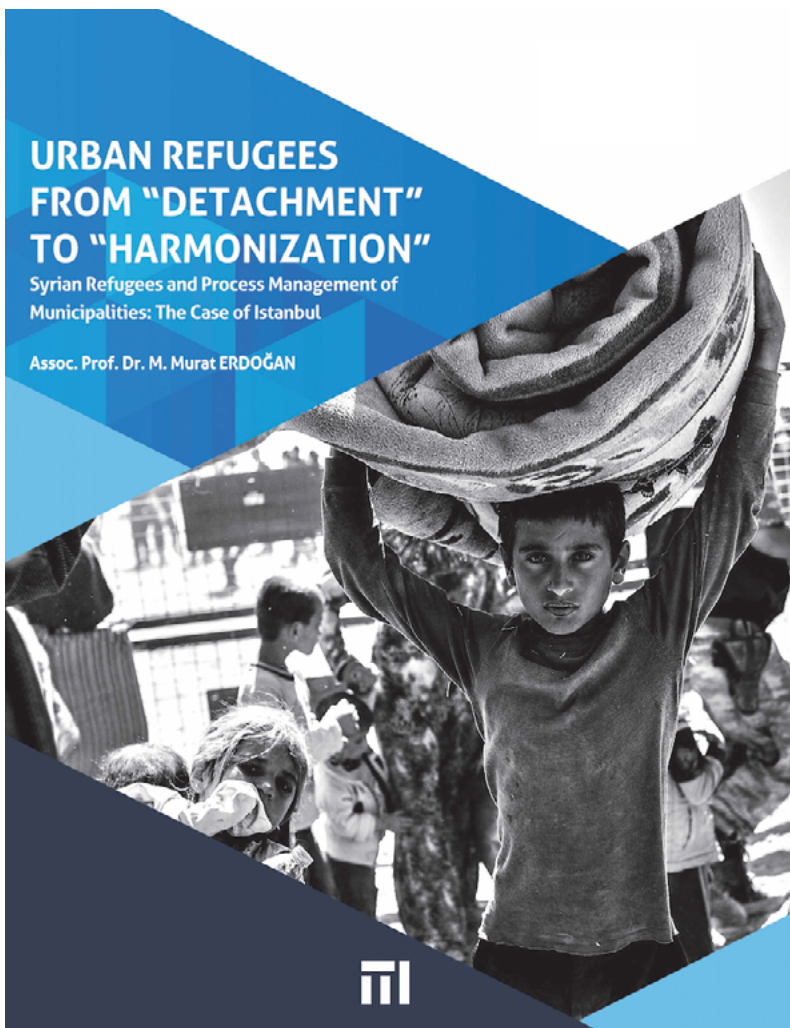


REPORTS

URBAN REFUGEES FROM "DETACHMENT" TO "HARMONIZATION"

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

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