Republic of Turkey
National Report on the Implementation of
the New Urban Agenda

March 2021
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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Since the adoption of 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda, Turkey has emphasized at every opportunity that it is ready to contribute to a sustainable world. As a matter of fact, Turkey was among 22 countries that submitted the Voluntary National Review (VNR) Report at the UN High Level Political Forum (HPLF) in 2016, demonstrating that it adopts the agenda.

In this context, preparation of the National Report on the Implementation of the New Urban Agenda, which is a tool for the implementation of SDGs at local level, has carried out under the coordination of the Ministry of Environment and Urbanization, Directorate General for Spatial Planning with a participatory approach; in line with the data received from the pre-requested focal points of the relevant institutions and organizations, municipal best practices and the contributions of the Union of Municipalities of Turkey in an integrated manner with the development plans, “Sustainable Development Goals Turkey 2nd National Review Report” and other policy documents.

Stakeholder Engagement and Commitments

After the adoption of the New Urban Agenda in 2016 Turkey has started to work within the culture of consensus and consultation inherited from its past. As of 2017, the 2nd National Urbanization Council was organized and the New Urban Agenda has been scrutinized within the framework of the national urban agenda. In this respect, our new urban planning vision has been built on the principles that are human-cantered, disaster-resilient, innovative and authentic, participatory, transparent and solution-oriented, conserving natural resources, historical and cultural assets.

To fulfil these commitments, the legal framework, ownership and financing have been adopted as three important pillars. In the context of the legal framework, our legislation is comprehensive and sufficient to ensure sustainable urban development, and if necessary legislation is reviewed and updated. In practice, ownership and financing have been established by integrating with national and sectoral policy documents. Accordingly, the process of preparing a National Spatial Strategy Plan is continuing by reconsidering the existing National Urbanization Strategy Document.

In addition to the implementation of the New Urban Agenda, in the reporting of national progress, a working group was established under the coordination of the Ministry of Environment and Urbanization, and direct participation and contribution of public institutions, NGOs, private sector and local administrations to the process was ensured.

The list of contributing institutions is given in the attachment.

All the documents and announcements translated into Turkish are published on the website: https://habitat.csb.gov.tr/.
Covid-19 Reaction / Response

Measures to support all groups in the society, including particularly vulnerable groups in Turkey, have been taken, throughout the COVID-19 pandemic process, which has affected almost the whole society. The necessities such as the change in social life during the pandemic, telecommuting and distance education practices have once again revealed the importance of the informatics infrastructure and communication infrastructure and services.

Pandemic process continues to be managed successfully through the dedicated efforts of a strong healthcare infrastructure and healthcare professionals in Turkey. Activities are being carried out to share Turkey’s qualified healthcare infrastructure and experience of the professionals with other countries. Turkey is maintaining active participation in the efforts by international organizations, especially the World Health Organization, regarding the pandemic and in the meetings for information exchange. In addition to the guidance and direction of the central government and international organizations, local administrations provide services such as healthcare, logistics, economic and social support for the pandemic and its consequences, examples of which are given in the relevant sections.
1. PART: Transformative Commitments for Sustainable Urban Development

1.1. Sustainable Urban Development for Social Inclusion and Ending Poverty

1.1.1. Social inclusion and ending poverty

1.1.1.1. Eradicate poverty in all its forms

In the New Urban Agenda, it is recognized that eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, is the greatest global challenge and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development, and ending poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including the eradication of extreme poverty, has been adopted as one of the basic principles.

It is directly related to all the targets of “end poverty in all its forms everywhere”, the first of the Sustainable Development Goals for 2030.

With regard to the eradication of all forms of poverty in Turkey, fiscal policies, such as ensuring macroeconomic stability and tax regulations, have become prominent in 7th and 8th Development Plan period. During the 9th and 10th Development Plan periods, policies towards the disadvantaged groups and rural poverty were also included. In the 10th Development Plan, increasing the effectiveness of the social protection system was emphasized.

In the 11th Development Plan covering the years 2019-2023, one of the main objectives is to increase the participation of people who have risk of poverty and social exclusion, in economic and social life by facilitating their access to opportunities, and thus increasing their quality of life, improving income distribution and reducing poverty.

For this purpose, related policies are:

- Increasing the employability of the poor community by strengthening the link between social assistance and employment, making the programs operational for encouraging them to be productive, and continuing to give aid, under certain conditions, to those who have ability to work,

- Strengthening the link between social assistance and social services,

- Increasing the effectiveness of social assistance programs,

- Diversification and dissemination of social service models within the framework of human-oriented social policies.

As well as the development plans, policies regarding eradication of poverty in all its forms have been handled in different dimensions in the Annual Programs, and have been detailed in different policy documents, especially the strategy documents prepared under the responsibility of the Ministry of Family, Labour and Social Services and the Ministry of Health.
In the last 20 years, a series of legal and institutional arrangements have been carried through in Turkey, which can contribute to eradication of poverty. Restructuring the social protection system, accordingly activating the Social Assistance and Solidarity Incentive Fund, gathering the social supports and aids provided by different institutions and organizations under the Ministry of Family, Labour and Social Services have been prominent developments.

With the Regulation on Social Service Centres and the Regulation on Social and Economic Support Services, significant developments have been obtained in the legislative infrastructure regarding the dissemination of social assistance and services for the poor and disadvantaged community. These regulations are aimed at reducing or even ending poverty, under favour of the services and assistance to be provided to the citizens in need. On the other hand, international agreements, to which Turkey is a party, and social security agreements also lend support to the efforts to eradicate poverty everywhere and for everyone.

Turkey has accomplished significant progress towards the target of reducing poverty boosted by the steps taken in relation with the social protection system and economic growth, and has succeeded to become one of the countries that demonstrate the best progress in international comparisons in this field. As a result of the policies implemented, absolute poverty was eradicated and relative poverty was decreased.

According to TURKSTAT data, the ratio of individuals whose daily income is below 2.15 USD to the population is at a negligible level with 0.06%, as of 2015. Therefore, the target which was defined as ending poverty in all its forms everywhere has been exceeded by Turkey. The working population at risk of poverty, on the other hand, decreased from 17.9% in 2010 to 13.2% in 2019.

The relative poverty rate, which is calculated by taking the ratio of the population living with an income below 60% of the median value of the equivalent household disposable individual income to the total population, decreased from 24.3% in 2009 to 21.3% in 2019 with the effect of the policies implemented for poverty alleviation.

In the Human Development Index published by the United Nations Development Programme, Turkey has demonstrated a significant development in recent years. Turkey was included in the Medium Human Development category in 2005, and in 2018, ranked 59th among 189 countries with an index value of 0.806, reaching to the Highest Human Development category for the first time. In 2019, Turkey's index value increased to 0.820 and rank to 54.

The change in family structure due to reasons such as urbanization, change in production structure, internal and external migration has increased the importance of the need for social assistance and services. The General Directorate of Social Assistance, affiliated to the Ministry of Family, Labour and Social Services, has come to the fore as the most important institution that produces projects in this regard. The main purpose of these projects, which have applications such as food aids, fuel aids, education aids, and birth aids, has been to raise the welfare of the poor community and reduce poverty.

In recent years, Turkey expanded its social aid network significantly, outreaching to all groups that are in need of social assistance in the field of education and health. Accordingly, new comprehensive, thematic and regular central social assistance has been implemented by the Ministry of Family, Labour and Social Services. In 2020, the ratio of the resources
allocated to these regular aids to all aids was 83%. Accordingly, aid expenditures within the scope of social assistance programs carried out by public institutions and organizations increased and the ratio of these expenditures to GDP increased from 1.02 in 2008 to 1.42 in 2020.

Family Social Support Programme (ASDEP) is carried out in order to identify the needs of families and individuals for social assistance and social services and to respond to their needs effectively. Within the scope of the program, as of September 2020, 5.2 million citizens in 2.6 million households were interviewed by total 2,615 staff members.

In order to provide more effective service within the context of ASDEP, efforts to improve the legal, technical and informatics infrastructure of ASDEP and to develop human resources are continuing. Within the scope of these studies, it is aimed to provide data flow between the Integrated Social Assistance Information System (BSYBS), which aims to distribute more equitable resources, and ASDEP information systems, by eliminating the institutional disorganization in the field of social assistance, collecting the social assistance information provided by the state and non-governmental organizations in a single centre, and providing all steps in the social assistance process electronically.

In order to strengthen the link between social assistance and employment and to encourage access of citizens benefiting from social aids to the labour market, 370,702 people, who are able to work, were registered in Turkish Employment Agency (ISKUR) system over the Integrated Social Assistance Information System by Social Assistance and Solidarity Foundations between 2018 and 2020. Of these people, 13,207 social assistance beneficiaries were directed to Community Benefit Programs; 17,810 people were placed in jobs; 10,074 people were directed to vocational training or other active labour force programs. In addition, face-to-face consultancy services were provided to 173,214 people.

In January 2019, the BSYBS and the e-Municipality system of the Ministry of the Interior were integrated. Thus, it was ensured that social assistance data is mutually shared between 26 public institutions, Turkish Red Crescent and 107 local administrations that used e-Municipality system throughout Turkey.

Like many municipalities in Turkey, Izmir Metropolitan Municipality also constitutes an example for social assistance practices of local administrations with financial aids and food, fuel and natural disaster aids offered to citizens in need.

In addition, 370,702 people were registered in the ISKUR system in 2018 to 2020 within the scope of the efforts to ensure that social assistance beneficiaries, who are able to work, can get out of poverty permanently by establishing connections with the labour market. In this period, the number of people, who received institutional services, was 214,305.

In the upcoming period, it is aimed to implement policies, such as analyzing social assistance and making the social assistance system more effective, increasing the breakdown of data on the poor community and designing policy tools to reach these people based on these data, creating an effective system to monitor social assistance policies and practices of local governments and to harmonize them with central government practices etc. In addition, it is considered important to develop medium-long term structural measures other than fiscal policies and social transfers aimed at reducing relative poverty and especially increasing the access opportunities of disadvantaged groups to the labour market.
1.1.1.2. Address inequality in urban areas by promoting equally shared opportunities and benefits

In the New Urban Agenda, it is recognized that sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, with full and productive employment and decent work for all, is a key element of sustainable urban and regional development and that cities and human settlements should be places of equal opportunities, allowing people to live healthy, productive, prosperous and fulfilling lives. Among the Sustainable Development Goals for 2030, this is related to Target 1.4 “By 2030, ensure that all men and women, in particular the poor and the vulnerable, have equal rights to economic resources, as well as access to basic services, ownership and control over land and other forms of property, inheritance, natural resources, appropriate new technology and financial services, including microfinance”, Target 10.3 “Ensure equal opportunity and reduce inequalities of outcome, including by eliminating discriminatory laws, policies and practices and promoting appropriate legislation, policies and action in this regard”, and Target 11.A “Support positive economic, social and environmental links between urban, peri-urban and rural areas by strengthening national and regional development planning”.

In the 11th Development Plan covering years 2019 to 2023, one of the basic objectives has been defined as; transforming the regions based on the governance in relation to their means and capacities through innovation and cooperation, and thus ensuring the maximum contribution to balanced development of Turkey and reducing interregional and intraregional differences in development.

For this purpose, related policies are:

- Activating the institutional structure and governance of regional development at central and regional level,
- Developing urban and industrial infrastructures in relatively underdeveloped regions, increasing employment and improving the quality of life in sectors with development potential,
- Restructuring the Social Support Programme and expanding its implementation,
- Increasing the use of international resources by the Development Agencies.

In Turkey, there are legal regulations and implementation tools towards ensuring equality of opportunities in many areas including employment, education, health, social security, social aids and overcoming regional differences.

In addition to the Development Plan and the strategic plans of the relevant public institutions, the Regional Development National Strategy (2014-2023), the Rural Development Strategy, the National Employment Strategy (2014-2023), and the Regional Plans are the prominent policy documents on this subject.

With the Regional Development National Strategy covering the years 2014-2023, strategies for development have been determined on national and regional levels, and regional plans have been prepared and implemented in a participatory process under the coordination of development agencies for all NUTS-2 regions within the framework of strategy priorities.
The regional development policy is implemented through diversification depending on the characteristics of the regions and cities, for the purposes of reducing regional development disparities, increasing the competitiveness of the regions and strengthening economic and social integration. Since regional development is related to all sectors, it is important to ensure cooperation between stakeholders on a central and local level and to strengthen coordination mechanisms. Development agencies established in 26 NUTS-2 regions carry out studies on regional, provincial and district levels and aim to spread welfare across the country in a balanced way.

In this context, the prominent sectors of their regions are supported with the support tools offered by the agencies to tap into the potentials of the regions. Research and analysis, information, consultancy and promotion activities are carried out through the investment support offices within the agency that carries out investment support and promotion activities in the provinces.

During the 10th Development Plan (2014-2018) period, regional development plans were put into practice, the attraction centres program was implemented, and comprehensive financial and technical supports were provided by development agencies that also contribute to the competitiveness of the regions. In addition, the implementation of rural development policies continued in line with the determined strategies and action plans. In this context, the Supporting Village Infrastructure Project (KOYDES) and the Water and Sewerage Infrastructure Programme (SUKAP) for village infrastructure and the Social Support Programme (SODES) for provinces with priority in terms of social development, were implemented.

The Social Support Programme (SODES), which was initiated by the Ministry of Interior in 2008, is a social development program that aims to respond in a short time to the problems such as migration, poverty and unemployment in these regions and the needs of the changing social structure in order to strengthen the human capital of the disadvantaged regions and support the social integration process. SODES was put into practice in 9 GAP (South-eastern Anatolia Project) provinces in 2008 under the “Ensuring Social Development” component of the GAP Action Plan, and the number of provinces in scope reached 34 as of 2017. With the program, 8,773 projects with a budget of 1.8 billion TL (217 million USD according to the exchange rate in March 2021), in the fields of social inclusion, employment, culture, arts and sports were supported in the 2008-2017 period. The program was transferred to the Ministry of Industry and Technology in 2018.

Within the scope of the Social Development Support Programme (SOGEP) launched in 2019, primarily in provinces and districts with low socio-economic development levels, it is aimed to solve the existing social problems in cooperation with the public and private sectors with the projects to be supported under the components of social responsibility, increasing employability, supporting social entrepreneurship and innovation, increasing social inclusion and social responsibility. With the program, while solutions are brought to the social problems of the youth, women and persons with disabilities, projects that increase talent development and employment opportunities are also supported. Within the scope of the Programme, for which 166 million TL (20 million USD according to the exchange rate in March 2021) was allocated in 2020, it is aimed to spend the resources amounting to 219.6 million TL (26.45 million USD according to the exchange rate in March 2021) on 124 projects.
Besides development agencies, with programs such as GAP (South-eastern Anatolia Project), DAP (Eastern Anatolia Project), DOKAP (Eastern Black Sea Project) and KOP (Konya Plain Project) action plans, and programs such as Support Programme for Attraction Centres, Village Infrastructure Support and supports for rural development, financial support is provided to local dynamics, contributing to the acceleration of regional development through the local actors. In the 2014-2018 period, a total of 103.1 billion TL (12.4 billion USD according to the exchange rate in March 2021) was spent within the scope of the GAP, DAP, DOKAP, KOP action plans.

Significant progress has been achieved in the last 30 years in Turkey towards the improvement of income distribution in order to strengthen economic and social equality. In this context, the Gini coefficient, indicating the inequality in income distribution, decreased from 0.415 in 2009 to 0.395 in 2019. In addition, the ratio of the share of the richest 20% group from the annual disposable income to the share of the poorest 20% (P80/P20) decreased from 8.5 in 2009 to 7.4 in 2019.

Economic and social policies have been developed towards targets, such as fixing the income distribution, and decreasing discrimination and a series of regulatory arrangements and corporate regulations have taken place, including by the Ministry of Family, Labour and Social Services and Turkish Human Rights and Equality Institution, and these developments have had an important contribution in the progress in question. However, the need to reduce inequalities on the basis of regional, sectoral and vulnerable groups continues to be an important topic.

In policies aimed at reducing the inequalities in the development level of Turkey, it is necessary to target the issue of medium and long term structural measures in addition to financial policies and social transfers for increasing the share received by labour force from income, and in particular to consider economic policies together with technologic development. On the other hand, it is important to make detailed impact analyzes based on data and field studies on the effectiveness of social expenditures and to undertake due strategic planning for the next 10-15 years based on these evaluations.

1.1.1.3. Enhance social inclusion of vulnerable groups (women, youth, older persons and persons with disabilities and migrants)

In the New Urban Agenda, it has been accepted as one of the basic principles to ensure everyone's safe and equal access to community life and not to leave anyone behind, and also urban and rural development that is people-centred, protects the planet, and is age- and gender-responsive and to the realization of all human rights and fundamental freedoms, facilitating living together, ending all forms of discrimination and violence, and empowering all individuals and communities while enabling their full and meaningful participation is promised.

Of the Sustainable Development Goals for 2030, this is related to Target 1.3 “Implement nationally appropriate social protection systems and measures for all, including floors, and by 2030 achieve substantial coverage of the poor and the vulnerable”, Target 1.4 “By 2030, ensure that all men and women, in particular the poor and the vulnerable, have equal rights to
economic resources, as well as access to basic services, ownership and control over land and other forms of property, inheritance, natural resources, appropriate new technology and financial services, including microfinance”, and Target 8.5 “By 2030, achieve full and productive employment and decent work for all women and men, including for young people and persons with disabilities, and equal pay for work of equal value”.

In the 11th Development Plan covering the years 2019-2023, one of the main objectives is to increase the access of people at risk of poverty and social exclusion to opportunities in economic and social life and to increase the quality of life, to improve income distribution and to reduce poverty.

In this context, effective policies have been developed to strengthen the vulnerable groups; with the comprehensive social security system, a more effective and widespread social assistance and service system has been established.

The National Employment Strategy Document, which was effectuated in 2014, includes four main objectives, namely strengthening the education-employment relationship within the scope of ensuring full and productive employment and developing decent jobs; ensuring flexibility of the labour market; increasing the employment of women, youth and disadvantaged groups and strengthening the relationship between employment and social protection.

Under the heading of "Increasing the Employment of Groups Requiring Special Policies", which is one of the focus points of the main policy in the National Employment Strategy Document, it is aimed to increase women's labour force participation rate to 41% by 2023, decrease the informal employment rate of women to 30%, bring the youth unemployment rate closer to the general unemployment rate and fill the vacant quotas for workers with disabilities in the public and private sectors, and policies have been determined accordingly.

The Women's Employment Action Plan (2016-2018) focuses on increasing women's access to the labour market by providing vocational skills and guiding them to work to increase women's employment.

The Strategy Document and Action Plan on Women's Empowerment, which was prepared to cover the years 2018-2023 under the coordination of the General Directorate on the Status of Women affiliated to the Ministry of Family, Labour and Social Services, which stands out with its efforts to increase the effectiveness of women in the labour market and reduce the difficulties they face in social life, has been prepared as a document that includes the efforts of universities, non-governmental organizations, professional organizations, private sector and other related organizations to strengthen women.

Significant progress has been made in recent years in terms of participation of women in the labour force. The female labour force participation rate, which was 26% in 2009, increased to 30.3% in 2019, but this rate is still far behind the male labour force participation rate. Efforts to increase women's participation in the labour force, to have them work in decent and qualified jobs, to enable them to have their own voice in the labour market, and to reduce their care obligations are continued. Looking at the status of women at work, the ratio of women among total employers, which was 6.4% in 2009, increased to 10.3% by the end of 2019. For
the same period, the proportion of self-employed women remained approximately the same, increasing from 16.9% to 17%.

In 2013, with the cooperation launched by the General Directorate on the Status of Women affiliated to the Ministry of Family, Labour and Social Services, the Occupational and Vocational Counsellors working in Turkish Employment Agency (ISKUR) provided the women staying in women shelters and Violence Prevention and Monitoring Centres with job and vocational counselling services in order to allow them to improve their skills to search for a job, to find a job, to solve occupational adaptation problems, to improve their professional skills, to change their professions/jobs, and to look for and participate in vocational training programs.

In accordance with the Municipal Law, guesthouses for women and children are opened by municipalities. Currently, in Turkey, a total of 146 women's guesthouses, 111 affiliated to the Ministry of Family, Labour and Social Services, 32 affiliated to local administrations, 1 affiliated to non-governmental organizations and 2 affiliated to the public, serve with a capacity of 3.508.

The older people and the persons with disabilities are among the groups that are especially focused on in policies for the vulnerable groups. Various policies are implemented to bring persons with disabilities to the workforce, to remove the older people from poverty through social security and assistance services, or to reduce the burden on their households. Regarding empowerment of citizens with disabilities and older citizens and increasing their participation in economic and social life, among the citizens that are in poverty, within the scope of the Law on Payment of a Monthly Salary to the Older Turkish Citizens in Need that are Incapacitated and Alone; pensions are paid to older people over 65, persons with disabilities with a disability rate of at least 40%, and those who have relatives with at least a mild level of special needs or with a disability rate of 40% or more. In this context, in 2020, 6,423.07 million TL (773.86 million USD according to the exchange rate in March 2021) of pension was paid for 825,573 older citizens, 4,621.21 million TL (556.77 million USD according to the exchange rate in March 2021) benefit for persons with disabilities was paid for 617,031 citizens, and 548.56 million TL (66.09 million USD according to the exchange rate in March 2021) was paid as pension for relatives of persons with disabilities for 95,540 citizens.

Within the scope of the Public Disability Quota Programme, which aims to increase the employment of citizens with disabilities, a significant increase has been achieved in the number of civil servants with disabilities and 95% of the allocated quota is used. As of June 2020, 57,408 citizens with disabilities were employed in the public sector. Also in 2018, Job Coaching for Persons with Disabilities, which is a supported employment model for the employment of persons with disabilities, was initiated. A total of 109 “Business Coaches for Persons with Disabilities” received training under the supported employment model.

In addition, the grant support provided by ISKUR for citizens with disabilities to start their own businesses, which is 50 thousand TL (6 thousand USD according to the exchange rate in March 2021), has been increased to 65 thousand TL (7.8 thousand USD according to the exchange rate in March 2021).

The 2030 Disability-Free Vision Document was prepared and put into effect in September 2020, aimed at empowering citizens with disabilities and increasing their participation in
economic and social life. On the other hand, the number of Disability-free Life Care and Rehabilitation Centres providing boarding services affiliated to the Ministry of Family, Labour and Social Services for citizens with disabilities is 104 as of September 2020, the number of centres providing day care services is 124 and the number of Hope Houses is 153. As of September 2020, a total of 382 care and rehabilitation centres, 104 of which belong to the public sector and 278 to the private sector, provide residential care services to approximately 29 thousand citizens with disabilities. In the same period, the number of persons with disabilities benefiting from home care assistance reached 536 thousand.

Efforts are continuing to expand the area and increase the quality of services for the older population, whose ratio in the total population is increasing. In this context, the number and capacity of nursing homes under the Ministry of Family, Labour and Social Services increased approximately 2.4 times as compared to 2002, and the number of nursing homes increased to 156 by September 2020. Within the scope of the Support Programme for Older Persons, which was created to increase the role and services of local governments in services for older people, 2,952,000 TL (355,662.65 USD according to the exchange rate in March 2021) was allocated for 2020.

In order to increase participation of young people in social life and contribute to their development of life skills, 292 youth centres, where activities such as culture, sports and arts are carried out, provide services throughout the country. In these centres, children and young people from different socio-economic levels and cultures are brought together. On the other hand, camps are organized with different themes at certain times of the year for all children and young people, including sports, cultural and social activities. In addition, separate camps are organized for disadvantaged or talented young people and young people under international and temporary protection in Turkey.

The Young Volunteers Platform was established to increase the participation of young people in volunteer activities, to spread the culture and awareness of volunteering, and to create a bridge between volunteers and organizations seeking volunteers. The www.gencgonulluler.gov.tr website that operates on the principle of membership brings together the institutions that seek volunteers and the young people who want to volunteer.

According to October 2020 data, the number of foreigners in Turkey is around 5 million and the number of Syrians under temporary protection is 3.63 million, the number of foreigners in the country with residence permit is 902 thousand, while the number of people with an application for international protection is about 330 thousand.

As a result of the agreement between the EU and Turkey for the purpose of providing financial support for the migration flow and sharing the responsibilities, Programme of Assisting Refugees in Turkey was created.

Families in temporary or international protection can benefit from Social Cohesion Assistance (SUY), which was launched in 2016 to meet the basic needs of refugees under temporary protection and international protection in Turkey. As of the beginning of 2019, within the scope of the SUY Programme, a total of 3.2 billion TL (583 million USD according to the exchange rate in 2019) was paid in cash as assistance to approximately 1.5 million people in need.
Turkish Employment Agency (ISKUR) and the General Directorate of International Labour Force affiliated to the Ministry of Family, Labour and Social Services, in collaboration with the World Bank, launched the Project on Employment Support for Syrian Refugees under Temporary Protection and for Turkish Citizens in 2019. Within the scope of the project, under the framework of active labour market programs offered by ISKUR, Job and Vocational Counselling Services, Turkish Language Courses, Skill Training Courses and Applied Training Programs are offered to the beneficiaries in Gaziantep, Şanlıurfa, Adana and Istanbul. In addition, within the scope of the Project for Reducing the Effects of the Syrian Crisis in the South-eastern Anatolia Region, carried out by the United Nations Development Programme and the South-eastern Anatolia Project Regional Development Administration, in cooperation with the Disaster and Emergency Management Presidency, Gaziantep Municipality, Gaziantep Chamber of Industry and Şanlıurfa Municipality, between 2015-2017, vocational trainings oriented towards the industry and service sector were provided, and efforts were made to improve the basic life and vocational skills of the Syrian population, to improve their Turkish language skills, to increase their job opportunities and to support their livelihoods in the short and long term.

Under the Project of Supporting Social Service Centres within the scope of Protective and Preventive Services, which will be expanded in the coming years, psycho-social support is provided to ensure that the Syrian population support themselves.

In the upcoming period, the need to expand the scope of care services for children in need of protection and to develop comprehensive and functional social protection programs and practices for women remains important. On the other hand, it is important to improve the planning, management and monitoring processes of funds in order to increase the impact of international assistance in the field of migration.

In addition to this, intensified counselling services are provided by Turkish Employment Agency (ISKUR) within the scope of Job Clubs established under Vocational and Professional Counselling services for providing method and motivation support to groups that need special policies such as former convicts, women, youth, persons with disabilities, long term unemployed people, former drug addicts who are treated. Accordingly, by using methods such as group meetings, individual work and peer counselling, the self-confidence of the participants and their belief in finding a job are enhanced and job search processes are supported. Currently, Job Clubs operate in 68 provinces and 76 units. By the end of 2021, the Job Clubs are aimed to be spread throughout Turkey.

1.1.1.4. Ensure equal access to public spaces including streets, sidewalks and cycle lanes

The New Urban Agenda is committed to promote safe, inclusive, accessible, green and quality public spaces, including streets, sidewalks and cycle lanes, squares, waterfront areas, gardens and parks, that are multifunctional areas for social interaction and inclusion, human health and well-being, economic exchange and cultural expression and dialogue among a wide diversity of people and cultures, and that are designed and managed to ensure human development and build peaceful, inclusive and participatory societies, as well as to promote living together, connectivity and social inclusion.
Among the Sustainable Development Goals for 2030, this relates to Target 11.2 “By 2030, provide access to safe, affordable, accessible and sustainable transport systems for all, improving road safety, notably by expanding public transport, with special attention to the needs of those in vulnerable situations, women, children, persons with disabilities and older persons”, and 11.7 “By 2030, provide universal access to safe, inclusive and accessible, green and public spaces, in particular for women and children, older persons and persons with disabilities”.

In the 10th Development Plan (2014-2018); it is aimed to implement spatial planning and urban design practices that targets enhancing liveability for different groups in the society, especially for the older persons, persons with disabilities and children, and paying regard to equality of opportunities and equity.

In the 11th Development Plan covering the years 2019-2023, it was emphasized that public spaces in cities, especially open and green spaces, will be protected, their access and security will be increased, and public spaces will be reconstructed within the framework of human-nature relationship, with sensitivity to women, children, older persons and persons with disabilities; and it was stated that, in order to increase the access and security of public spaces, local administrations would be supported to analyze the needs and to increase the service quality for vulnerable groups on a neighbourhood basis.

The plan also states that environmentally friendly modes of transportation will be developed and non-motorized transportation modes will be encouraged in urban transportation, and the policies related to this issue are:

- Establishing standards for pedestrian roads and sidewalks to ensure uninterrupted pedestrian traffic,
- Establishing auto-free pedestrian zones in historical and cultural attraction points and shopping areas in city centres,
- Implementing legal and financial support mechanisms to encourage use of bicycles,
- Preparation of cycle lane master plan and implementation plan and construction of new cycle lanes within this scope,
- The establishment of bicycle sharing systems.

The average share of areas that are completely built and available for public use in Turkey in cities was calculated as 13.56% as of 2019.

With the Law Regarding Persons with Disabilities, it is compulsory to make public transportation services, which are under the responsibility of municipalities, as well as all public spaces such as roads, sidewalks, and pedestrian crossings accessible to persons with disabilities. Secondary legislation and guidelines have been published to guide the municipalities in practice. “Accessibility Monitoring and Supervision Commissions”, which include representatives of non-governmental organizations to be formed by the individuals with disabilities, have been established in the provinces for the purpose of monitoring and auditing the implementation.
“Project for Accessibility of Passenger Transportation Services in Turkey” continued between 2017-2019 in order to facilitate moving for persons with reduced mobility, benefiting from passenger transportation services, including the older persons, persons with disabilities and passengers. Within the scope of the project, a continuous platform including non-governmental organizations as well as central and local governments was established, capacity building, training and awareness activities were organized in various provinces.

Various projects are carried out and developed by public institutions, especially for the access of children and citizens with disabilities. The practices of Esenler Municipality can be provided as an example. Istanbul Esenler District Municipality has developed practices, such as a sensible walking area and an audible warning system in elevators, to make sure that citizens with disabilities can make use of all the means available in public buildings that provide social and cultural services, especially in the Municipal building. In addition, Children's Street and Children's District, and Children's University projects were implemented for children; Women's Life Centre, Mother Child Campus, Mother University Certification Programme and Rehabilitation Centres were implemented for women; Second Spring Coffeehouse, Grandfather and Grandson Life Centre were implemented for older people; and Life Button, Uplifting Team, Home Care and Home Service, Home Health Service, Cemil Meriç Volunteers Reading Books for Persons with Disabilities projects were implemented for disadvantaged groups. A total of 136,769 m² pavement area on 130 streets and streets was renovated by Esenler Municipality in order for disadvantaged groups to access urban services without any problems; until 2023, it is aimed to implement this application, which includes treadmills for people with visual impairments and wheeled vehicle ramps for people with orthopaedic impairments, throughout the district.

Street Rehabilitation Project in Seferpaşa-Dugmeci-Kozluca Neighbourhoods has been completed by Gaziantep Metropolitan Municipality. The primary goal of the project has been to serve the people, to improve the living conditions, and to meet the needs of the times on a historical background. The main objectives of the project have also included accelerating the regional development by making the region more attractive, providing healthier living conditions for the people of the region, and strengthening the tourism infrastructure by combining the urban protected area with the modern city.

In this context, the roofs, facades facing the street, garden walls, bay windows, doors and joineries of 720 buildings in the streets with a facade of 9,212 meters in the neighbourhoods, and wooden showcases and eaves of 2 shops were restored. In addition, existing asphalt was removed and electricity, telephone, internet, natural gas lines were renewed and taken underground in line with today's developing technology. A healthier neighbourhood infrastructure has been created by paving the road with nature-friendly basalt stones in accordance with the original. Lighting elements were renewed and it was aimed to be a more bright and living neighbourhood. It is aimed to increase the awareness of neighbourhood with urban design units in accordance with the culture, customs and traditions by giving a square to the Kozluca Neighbourhood.

In addition to this, working to promote the use of cycle lanes in Turkey is continuing. Bicycle rental systems have been implemented in cities such as Istanbul, Izmir, Kocaeli, Kayseri and Konya. As of the 2019, total cycle lane length in Turkey has reached to 1,148 kilometres.
Reaching the targets set under the contents of the Presidential Action Plans, namely "construction of 3,000 km cycling route, 3,000 km green walk, 60 km environmentally-friendly streets and 60,000 m² noise barrier" and in order to increase the cycle lanes in Turkey, Ministry of Environment and Urban Planning, Environmental Management General Directorate carried out "Intercity Transportation and Tourism Purposes Cycle Lane Master Plan Preparation Project". The Bicycle Transport Master Plan has been completed for a total of 3,165 km of routes, including priority routes, Anatolian and coastal corridors. Under the project, it was aimed at creating bicycle paths integrated to EuroVelo between settlements connected with bicycle paths within the cities and ensuring bicycle access to historical, touristic, travelling, cultural and natural areas overall Turkey.

In addition to this, the Global Cities of the Future Prosperity Fund Programme, Turkey's capital, Ankara, with a population of over 5.6 million, is supporting two projects. The projects complement each other to improve accessibility by promoting sustainable transport and urban design for local welfare and quality of life increase.

The first project is the Bicycle Strategy and Master Plan, which was prepared by ARUP Company, the contractor partner of the Programme in Turkey, and Ankara Metropolitan Municipality, to promote bicycle as a sustainable, affordable and healthy way of transportation. With the project, it is aimed to contribute to the improvement of mobility and accessibility, and to guide the reduction of traffic congestion and exhaust emissions by reducing vehicle dependency, which dominates the urban fabric and is seen as an important problem in Ankara. With the inclusive approach adopted, it is envisaged that cycling will also help women and other disadvantaged groups access work, education, healthcare and recreation areas.

The master plan proposes a cycling network that connects residential areas with major industrial zones, schools, universities and other public spaces, integrated with public transport to provide a low-cost, safe, secure and healthy transport option. It also provides principles and actions to make bicycles available to everyone and to develop awareness raising skills to enable people to cycle regardless of their age, gender or social status.

The second project, Healthy Streets, focuses on Çankaya which is the central district of Ankara with a population of approximately 1 million. With this project, again in cooperation with ARUP Company and Çankaya Municipality, studies are carried out to design clean, safe and healthy public spaces for everyone by using a participatory approach that encourages walking and cycling in order to facilitate access to public transportation vehicles and reduce air pollution and noise. A developed sense of community and increased pedestrian mobility are intended to help small businesses thrive. A Strategic Plan has been developed that sets the vision and principles to guide the long-term rehabilitation of streets and public spaces.
1.1.2. Access to adequate housing

1.1.2.1 Ensure access to adequate and affordable housing

Turkey has adopted housing policies as a priori policy area with all social and economic dimensions toward low-income households that prevent slums and informal settlements and, contribute household income and living standards within last two decades.

The provision of housing policy is regulated within a constitutional framework. Public sector plays regulatory, directing, supervising and supporting roles in housing market by establishing the legal, institutional and administrative settings. The welfare state definition in Article 2 of the Constitution of Republic of Turkey and the duties set out by the article 57 bestow the state with the tasks to take measures to meet the need for housing within the framework of spatial plans taking account the characteristics of cities and environmental conditions, and also support mass housing initiatives particularly for the low income groups. Institutional Strategy Plans of the responsible authorities shaped by the development plans, annual programs, multi-year investment programs, medium-term plans, sectoral strategy and action plans play a role in developing housing policies and determining their implementation frameworks.

Turkey has social housing policy based on the acquisition of housing with affordable prices for the low-income groups. Social rental housing system, as known in the international literature, was tried for implementation in Turkey during the 70s; however, this approach changed with the Mass Housing Law entering into force in 1984. Housing provision in Turkey is based on the promoting the acquisition of property, and there is no rental housing stock in public ownership literally other than those allocated free of charge to the public officials called Lojman, lodging for civil servants. In Turkey, housing policies promote home-ownership, being the owner of the residing house or dwelling unit. The rationale behind this policy approach lies in the expectations and demands of households acting with social-cultural codes, which define house, or dwelling unit as an investment tool and life assurance. Within certain periods of time, it is seen that various provision models have been implemented in order to balance housing demand and supply through promoting the housing production for public employees, including social rental house production, providing subsidies and land support for those who built their house and for the cooperatives, establishing the social security housing funds, Housing Finance Bank and Urban Land Office. The most important regulation that enables the production of the houses within the market mechanisms is the land development rights obtained legally through land development plans. Within the market mechanism, 93.2% of the houses are produced through housing provision system given in detail in the sub-heading 2 of Housing Chapter by small scale housing investors called build-sell constructor who produce houses based on land contract and revenue sharing. 5.5% of the houses are produced by the public and 1.3% by housing cooperatives.

The responsible institutions in charge of housing and land policies in Turkey are the Ministry of Environment and Urbanization-MoEU and the Mass Housing Administration -TOKI. The Ministry is the sole competent authority in the land registry and cadastre, spatial planning, development and control of the built up environment besides the setting the quality standards and the inspection of the housing construction processes, regulating the building constructors, cooperatives and the building code and its secondary regulations.

TOKI, with a model specific to Turkey, as an implementing agency is responsible for the housing production and provision. The municipalities have limited functions in design and implementation of housing policies apart from planning, provision of social and technical
infrastructure, regulation and supervision of housing and construction permits; and they work with TOKI and the Ministry in combating slums and informal settlements.

The other relevant legislative and institutional authorities which act in housing sector are the General Directorate of Land Registry and Cadastre, which plays the most important role in registration and acquisition of the property by establishing the security of tenure given in under sub-heading 3 of Housing Chapter; Turkey’s Statistic Institution-TURKSTAT, providing housing, construction and household statistics and surveys; National Development Plans, ensuring the policy coordination and effective implementations; and the Ministry of Family, Labour and Social Services, providing subsidized housing support; and ILBANK, ensuring the basic infrastructure services.

In Turkey the achievement of accessible housing provision successfully within market mechanisms, it has been effective that the establishment of legal and institutional structures to set the regulatory and supervisory rules in development of policies and strategies to regulate and control of the rapid urbanization processes and the integration of the spatial policies into economy besides having institutionalized implementation tools to support both households and entrepreneurs by balancing demand and supply.

Urbanization Councils and the National Development Plans in Turkey are institutionalized national consultation mechanisms carried out with all stakeholders in the development of housing, land, building control and urban transformation policies and strategies. The Earthquake Council-2003 and the Urbanization Councils held in 2009 and 2017 were normative in terms of prescribing the priorities for housing policies. Within the scope of adequate and accessible housing, resiliency has gained priority throughout 10th Development Plan (2014-2018) and 11th Development Plan (2019-2023) periods. The provincial-based Urban Transformation Strategy has been prepared in order to increase the resilience of informal settlement and slum areas, the majority of which are at risk of disaster. As part of sustainable urbanization policies to address relative development disparities between regions by improving the quality of urban services, ensuring that everyone, especially low-income and disadvantaged groups has access to adequate, liveable, durable, safe, inclusive and economically affordable housing with basic infrastructure services TOKI programs as explained under sub-heading 4 of Housing Chapter Urban Transformation Action Plan and Provincial Urban Transformation Strategies, "Priority Transformation Programs" of the 10th Development Plan, particularly the Competitiveness and Social Cohesion Enhancing Urban Regeneration Programme, were developed.

Mass Housing Administration-TOKI established in 1984, has its housing provision and financing model within the framework of the Mass Housing Law No. 2985 aimed at making houses accessible for low and middle-income families in need. between 2000-2004, gradually with various legal regulations, the land and housing policy implementation tools and capacities under different institutions, particularly the National Land Office, were transferred to TOKI enabled the Administration create its own resources.

The aim of TOKI is to produce between 5-10% of the housing needs. TOKI’s role in production of social housing is explained in sub-heading 2 of Housing Chapter within scope of Sustainable Housing Finance and in Slum Upgrading Programs sub-heading 4 of Housing Chapter. With TOKI model, it has been possible to allocate quotas for disabled people, families of martyrs and veterans, and retirees by using public subsidies

86% of TOKI housing provision is social housing. Of the houses produced so far, 46.13% are produced for the middle-low income group, 15.72% for the lower income group, 17.08% is slum transformation projects and 6.33% is disaster dwellings. In general, 14.04% of the
houses produced by TOKI are to finance social housing projects within the Resource Development Programme of the Administration.

Within the affordable housing provision for lower-income groups, 369,547 houses were produced between 2003 and 2009 in 81 provinces and 603 districts. 726,921 of the 998,459 houses, which were started to be constructed in 2003, were completed with their social and technical equipment as of January 2021 and delivered to their beneficiaries.

New housing target was set as 400 thousand for 2020-2023 period. Within the scope of the Social Housing Programme carried out by TOKI, 93,298 houses were tendered in 2020. In addition, the President launched a campaign of 100 thousand houses in 81 provinces simultaneously for the first time under the coordination of the Ministry of Environment and Urbanization. 1 million 200 thousand applications have been made for these houses and TOKI has sold a total of 131 thousand houses in 2020, 31 thousand of which are actual sales, and 100 thousands of them by a draw of lots. The number of houses tendered by TOKI between 2016 and 2020 is 244,879, constituting 7% of the total number of houses having occupancy permits throughout the country. The number of houses sold by TOKI between 2016 and 2020 is 178,985, which constitutes 6.4% of the number of houses sold first hand in the country.

Within the scope of Adequate and Affordable Housing Indicators though there is no study carried out in line with the New Urban Agenda Monitoring Framework and Relevant Indicators, the statistics, news bulletins, and household survey of the Turkey’s Statistical Institute-TURKSTAT, Banks Association of Turkey, DG Land Registry and Cadastre and Central Bank price index were used. According to TURKSTAT Address Based Population Registration System, ADNKS, the population of Turkey was 83,614,362 in 2020. Demographic data shows that the population has increased by 1 million 193 thousand 357 people in the last year, while the population's change profile has a declining upward trend. The most important change in Turkish demographics in determining housing needs and demand is the urbanization rate. Rate of urban population increased from 65% in 2000 to 73% as of 2015. In Turkey, household size tends to decrease while the urbanization rate rises.

TURKSTAT 2019 Family Survey showed that the total number of dwellings registered in ADNKS increased from 38.4 million as of the end of September (including housing, summer / seasonal housing and houses under construction) to 39.1 million in 2020. According to TURKSTAT Household Expenditure Survey data, the number of households increased from 23,032,955 in 2017 to 24,221,512 in 2019. The household size, which was 5.68 in 1960, decreased to 3.35 in 2019. The household size in big cities of Turkey was 3.06 in Ankara, 3.33 in Istanbul, and 2.95 in Izmir. The annual population growth rate was 14.7 per thousand in 2018, compared to 13.9 per thousand in 2019. Istanbul where 18.66% of Turkey's population resides, is followed by Ankara with 5 million 639 thousand 76 people, Izmir with 4 million 367 thousand 251 people, Bursa with 3 million 56 thousand 120 and Antalya with 2 million 511 thousand 700 people. The total housing needs were estimated for the 10th Development Plan (2014-2018) period at 4,077,575 and the average annual housing need was estimated at 815,515. Considering the construction permits, in which housing loan interests and general macroeconomic balances play a significant role, it is seen that in the first three years (2014-2017) housing production close to the targets was realized; 3,072,362 building permits and 4,233,214 construction permits were issued in total. It is stated in the 2020 Presidential Programme that construction permits issued by municipalities were 652,931 for dwellings in 2018 and 122,752 in 2019, whereas building permits were issued for 212,231 dwellings in the first 6 months of 2020. It is also stated in the program that 66.3% of decrease experienced in the first six months of 2019 compared to the same period of the previous year,
has changed in 2020 at 72.9% compared to the same period of the previous year, due to the reduction in mortgage interest rates.

According to the 2019 TURKSTAT Household Income and Living Conditions Survey, the rate of those who reside in their own houses were calculated as 58.8% in 2019, while the rate of those living in rented housing was 25.6%, the rate of those living in lodging was 1.3%, and the rate of those who did not live in their own housing but paid rent was 14.3%.

According to TURKSTAT’s 2019 Household Budget Survey, housing expenditures were 24.1%. Average of the 18-year period (2002-2019), it is seen that the housing and rent expenditures were 26.3% while transportation expenditures were 14.8%. According to TURKSTAT 2019 Household Budget Survey the households in the first 20% income group, which is the lowest income group, allocates 31.2% share of their monthly income to housing and rent expenditures and 9.0% to transportation expenditures.

Presidential Annual Programme in 2020 stated that the total housing deficit has been decreasing rapidly with the effect of the increase in housing supply in recent years, but there are still 2.5 million poor households, so that the priority of low-income and disadvantaged groups to access housing remains. The evaluations made in the 2020 Programme, it is stated that in order to make accurate and long-term analyzes in the housing market and to establish the balance of supply and demand as of settlements and to determine the nature of the housing stock together with new and second hand housing data, there is a need to develop a new system that can perform comparative analysis by integrating the continuous online supply of Spatial Address Registration System (MAKS) and Central Registry System (MERSIS) data together with Land Registry and Cadastral Information System (TAKBIS). The program is envisaged to produce 102,000 new dwellings in 2020 and 100,000 in 2021 and production of 1.5 million new houses is scheduled within 5 years through urban regeneration projects.

1.1.2.2. Ensure access to sustainable housing finance options

Turkey's success in housing provision based on homeownership stems from a system established to encourage and support both private sector and households together with various regulatory tools instead of direct involvement in production. The main source of housing finance is personal savings and housing loans. Saving rate of households in Turkey is between about 16-20%. Mass Housing Administration-TOKİ and banks provide mortgage credits with 60-120 months of instalments, depending on the savings of households.

In the sector, private investors and entrepreneurs produce houses. Besides the medium and large-scale housing construction companies and real estate investment partnerships, there are also small-scale house builders that produce houses based on land contracts and revenue sharing partnerships at local scales within their own city. Building cooperatives also play a role in housing provision by bringing together the savings of people to acquire land to build mass houses.

Real Estate Investment Partnerships, which are regulated and supervised by the Capital Markets Board produce branded houses, commercial offices and shopping malls for the upper income group, have been operating since 1995. The inspection and certification of housing producers is carried out by the Ministry of Environment and Urbanization.

Starting from the 9th Development Plan (2007-2013) period, the development of financing models, the dissemination of compulsory disaster insurance throughout the country and the
production of land with infrastructure have accelerated in order to meet housing needs and solve the housing problem of low-income groups.

Similarly, with the 11th National Development Plan (2019-2023), it is aimed to maintain special incentives and design new ones in order to attract individual savings into the financial system, revise the regulations on taxation, support the credit use in first and subsequent house purchases. It is also targeted to establish a real estate information centre integrated into the Land Registry and Cadastre Information System ensuring the traceability of the valuations through keeping the value changes of the immovable together with ownership information and strengthening the legislation and practices regarding the taxation of the value increases arising from land development rights in order to create a new resource by leveraging the valuations in properties to improve service quality and coverage.

Among the measures planned in the 2020 Presidential Annual Programme, Housing Research Project has launched by the Ministry of Environment and Urbanization aiming to analyze different segments of society in order to increase their accessibility to houses designed for addressing the needs of older persons, children and persons with disabilities. There is also another research project planned to develop affordable housing finance and production methodology through public-private participation.

The vast majority of dwelling units in Turkey are produced by Build-Sell production model based on the construction contracts in return for land between house builders with various scales and landowners within the market mechanism. Migration influx from towns to big cities, started in the late ‘50s, continued until the end of the ’90s, led to emergence of unique housing delivery, and financing models in Turkey, besides rapid urbanization resulted in urban sprawl and slums problems. Increasing demand on urban land led to the valuation of the empty fields within the peripheries of the cities and started to expanding cities by fringing, spreading, or radically expanding of the built-up areas mostly along the transportation axes that transformed rural lands into urban plots. The enactment of the Property Flat Ownership Law (The Condominium Law) in 1965, made it possible to build multi-apartments houses built on a single plot due to the increasing development rights.

The supply share of the private sector, which produces houses with this model within the market is approximately 95%. Within this model the land owners who cannot construct with their own means, transferred their rights for a certain amount of independent section without paying for construction to contractors, house builders, who have capital accumulation and institutional capacity at various scales and can build houses with various types and sizes. The model known as yap-sat, build-sell, is based on a legally valid contract. Well-established land registry law and tax system play a major role in securing the mutual rights and interests in this regard. In this system, signed contracts are prepared with legal quality within the scope of the articles of the Turkish Civil Law regulating the conditions for the transfer of the immovable ownership rights and are treated within the scope of the Law of Obligations - Goods Exchange Agreements. Registration of the contract in the land registry in accordance with Article 26 of the Land Registry Law No. 2644 ensures full protection of the rights. Land transfer, housing production and delivery processes are also subject to regulation in terms of tax law. Accordingly, the contractor pays VAT at the determined rates during the land transfer and the delivery of the houses.

The same principles are followed in revenue sharing with sole difference from sharing development right is of the income of the dwellings to be built on the land without transferring the land.
Mortgage-based housing loans started in the 2000s. In 2007, the first comprehensive regulation was made with the Law No. 5582. Additional measures were also taken to facilitate housing acquisition by establishing the Mortgage Finance Law in 2014 and the Interest-Free Finance Coordination Board, which enables participation banking in 2015. In order to encourage housing acquisition, State provides housing allowance at the rate of 20% of their savings made in 3 years which will not exceed 15,000 TL (1,807.22 USD according to the exchange rate in March 2021) in total to support first home-buyers who open a housing account in banks to buy first and only house in the country. In addition, in order to increase housing ownership and banks' housing portfolio and liquidity ratios, the loan/value ratio of housing loans was increased from 75% to 80% and various tax rates were reduced on the delivery of some homes in 2017 until the end of the year. According to 2020 housing price indices-KFE and unit price indicators of the Central Bank of the Republic of Turkey, the average housing TL/m² price is 3,619.8 TL (436.12 USD according to the exchange rate in March 2021). According to basic indicators of the Banking Regulation and Supervision Agency-BDDK, the share of mortgage loans in total consumer loans is 40% on average. Housing loans insolvency rate is 7% in total loans. The GDP ratio of all loan debts of households, including housing loans, was 14.3% in 2019 and increased to 15.1% in 2020. According to Banks Associations of Turkey data, Housing Loans/GDP rates are 4.93%; 4.97%; 5.03%; 5.56%; 5.6%; 5.75%; 5.95%; 5.82%; 4.97% respectively between the years 2010-2019. In order to prevent excessive borrowing of households, maturity limitation and macro prudential measures have been implemented since 2014. The measures were partially relaxed in 2016 and the use of loans with variable interest, foreign currency-indexed loans was prevented to avoid exposure to foreign currency and interest risks.

The share of mortgage sales in total house sales was 21.4% in 2020. According to TURKSTAT Housing Sales Statistics, 1,280,852 house sales took place in January-October period 2020, with an increase 27.0% compared to the same period of the previous year. In the same period, mortgaged house sales increased by 124.2%, while other sales types decreased by 3.0%. During this period, first-hand house sales increased by 2.3% while second-hand increased by 42.5%.

According to the Presidential Annual Programme 2021, which includes the 11th Development Plan (2019-2023) measures, the total rate of housing investments in fixed capital investments was realized as 25.8% in 2020, and is foreseen as 25.2% for 2021. The private sector share in capital investments was realized as 29.5% in 2020, and is predicted as 29.1% for 2021. The rates for public investments were 1% in 2020 and are predicted as 1.4% for 2021.

In Turkey, real estate rental incomes are also securitized with SUQUQ certificates used alternatively to the house loans under the scope of interest-free banking. According to Presidential Annual Programme, six participation banks are operating in Turkey, three with public capital and three with private capital. It is expected that their shares within the banking sector increased from 5.7 % to 6.8%. The Association of Participation Banks aims to increase this rate to 15% by 2025.

Türkiye Emlak Katılım Bankası A.Ş. as one of the Real Estate Participation Banks was established in 2018 to provide support the for the housing market particularly for the building materials manufacturers and the construction sector suppliers. The Bank was initially founded in 1926 as a commercial bank for housing investments and closed in 2001 by transferring its housing provision capacities to TOKI while banking activities to the state banks. The Bank aims at being a business partner in the financial market in production and logistics, which are driving forces of growth and development.
Mass Housing Administration-TOKI has its own housing provision model comprising Finance as well. Within the model, TOKI plays brokerage role by organizing the constructor companies through using its own land stock instead of involving directly in construction of the houses while collecting individuals housing demands by collecting pre-demands through governorships or municipalities to make revenue sharing or construction for dwellings. Project implementation is started when sufficient demand occurs. Within this housing provision model, land stock of the administration or land provided by the municipalities is leveraged in housing production realized by private sector. 86% of the houses produced by TOKI are offered with mortgage loans with long term and monthly instalments suitable for the re-payment capacity and saving patterns of the low and middle-income groups who cannot afford houses within market conditions. Due to the free of charge acquired vacant treasury land suitable for the house building, the price of houses does not comprise the cost of land that is the major role in the success of the model in affordable and accessible housing provision. The repayment terms of TOKI are determined as 8 - 20 years monthly instalments, depending on the financial means of the target groups. The prices and re-payment conditions are designed appropriately to the income and saving patterns of the target groups. The beneficiaries of the social housing projects built on TOKI's own lands make their down payments at the beginning of the construction period and continue the monthly payments according to the single indexed and long-term repayment plans formed by the Administration in accordance with the public sector wage index. (The six-month index is determined by the Administration in accordance with the information obtained from the Ministry of Treasury and Finance.)

Obtaining vacant treasury lands suitable for housing production is an important factor in success affordable housing provision model of TOKI in which land cost are not included in the sales prices within social housing program particularly for the poor citizens.

Turkey's strategic approach in this model is to produce low cost land for housing by bring the vacant public lands into economy through developing TOKI as a single authority. In this regard, the implementation tools, national land stock, institutional capacities and competencies developed in time for housing provision were transferred into TOKI capacity in 2004.

TOKI has the option to choose alternative funding mechanisms, including debt provision through special purpose financing instruments. Housing programs based on TOKI housing provision model are shaped in accordance to the needs of various target groups: It has Socially Qualified Property Housing Programme; Satellite Cities Programme; Fundraising and Income Sharing Projects, Disaster Housing Programme; Immigrant Housing Programme; Agricultural Villages Programme; Public Applications Programme, Restoration Loans and Land Production Programs. Construction period of TOKI houses is 2 years on average, a quota is allocated by 10% of the number of houses for the families of martyrs, widows and orphans veterans of war; 5% for the citizens with disabilities with a disability rate of 40% minimum, and 25 % for the retired people. TOKI has also Interest-Free Housing Loan for the families of martyrs and terror victims. Within the scope of the Social Assistance and Solidarity Promotion Law No. 3294, TOKI “Social Housing Project”, including the construction of social housing for poor people without any social security, is implementing in cooperation with the Ministry of Family, Labour and Social Services.. Within the scope of the project, dwellings are offering with 270 months of instalment. In line with the project, 33,337 houses were allocated to poor who do not have healthy housing conditions.

With Fundraising and Income Sharing Projects, houses are produced with the cooperation with the private sector made on the land owned by TOKI’s portfolio for the upper middle-
income group. The returns of the projects are used in the financing of housing projects for the poor people those with low or no income or the disadvantaged. The ratio of income sharing houses is approximately 15% within the total number of houses produced by TOKI.

The beneficiaries of the social housing projects built on TOKI's own lands make their down payments at the beginning of the construction period and continue the monthly payments determined in accordance with the lowest civil servant wage index determined by the Administration in line with the information obtained from the Ministry of Treasury and Finance. Repayment terms can be extended up to 8-15-20 years.

1.1.2.3. Establish security of tenure

Turkey is among the countries, which signed the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and Additional Protocol I. The Constitution of the Republic of Turkey secures the right to housing and shelter together with the property rights. Regardless of the type of use, the right to use property has been guaranteed by the Constitution of Turkey, and fully regulated with its legal, administrative and institutional dimensions. Within the constitutional framework and the rules, institutional and administrative jurisdictions, competencies, tasks and duties are all defined by a comprehensive national legislative framework and well-established public administration system of Turkey from the local to central levels. All businesses and transactions subject to property and housing rights are realized within well-defined and deep-rooted legal and institutional structures of Turkey.

Article two of Turkish Constitution states that the Republic of Turkey is a welfare state. Under the title of Housing Rights in article 57, it is emphasized that the State is responsible for planning framework taking into account the characteristics of cities and environmental conditions, and is responsible for meeting the housing needs of the citizens, and supports the mass housing initiatives. Besides, Article 35 guarantees the right of ownership and rules that "everyone" has property and inheritance rights. Article 35 gives persons the right to use and save their products as they wish, transfer it to someone else, change its format, spend and consume it, provided that it does not harm someone else's right and complies with the limitations set by law. Article 35 of the Constitution reinforces the constitutionally guaranteed right of shelter and property rights as a fundamental right, through stating the term “everyone” as the subject of this right.

The most important tool to secure property rights in use is the land registry system. Turkey has well established Land Registry and Cadastre system and structures composed of well-defined legislative and institutional frames, which monitor the land cadastre and changes, carries out the renewal and updating the deed plans, control and inspection services related to them. General Directorate of Land Registry and Cadastre manages the institutional infrastructure and processes pertaining to title deed and land registry records, which are essential tools in ensuring the security of tenure; and also ensures that the land registry, which is subject to the responsibility of the state, is maintained regularly; any land registry procedures, involving contracts or not, relating to real estates and other registry procedures are performed; and the changes in the registry are monitored and supervised; and registry and documents are archived and well-preserved.

The first deed Organization established in Turkey was under the name of Defterhane-i Amire Kalemi in 1847 and maintained its historic mission to the Republic under a variety of names. Afterwards of the establishment of the Republic, the Organization of the General Directorate of Land Registry was established in 1924. The General Directorate of Land Registry and
Cadastre was affiliated to the Ministry of Environment and Urbanization in 2011. Besides the land registry, cadastre operations, supervision, inspection and setting the basic principles, for deeds DG is also responsible for establishing the land information system providing geodetic infrastructure, aerial photography, photogrammetric and terrestrial map production services with a scale of 1/5000, producing large-scale cadastral and topographic maps, supervision, inspection and map production monitoring centre, and for ensuring that real and legal persons and public institutions and organizations benefit from the data as well.

In Turkey, the property rights can only be limited or restricted for the purpose of the public benefit that is defined in Turkish constitution. Proportionality rule set by the constitution is ensured by the well-defined land development legislative framework. Turkish land development legislation, Land Development Law numbered 3194 sets the rules of spatial planning related with the rearrangement of the immovable. Throughout the planning processes, the allocation of a part of immovable for the public benefit was realized by subdivision planning process. Spatial planning and expropriation procedures, which allow the use of private properties for the purpose of creating public spaces (green area, religious facility area, health facility, primary education facility area, etc.) are carried out within the framework of a comprehensive land development law and its secondary legislation. Subdivision plans and spatial planning procedures are the tools defined by the Land Development Law No. 3194 and the Regulation on Spatial Planning. Article 18 of the Land Development Law draws the legal and technical framework of dividing land into allots through subdivision plans.

Expropriation Law is directly related to the public interest That regulates the procedures throughout the expropriation of immovable, the calculation of the expropriation value, the registration of the immovable and the right of the easement on behalf of the administration, the removal of the expropriation from immovable, the transfer of immovable between administrations, as well as mutual rights and obligations and the procedures and methods for the resolution of disputes based on them.

It is the fundamental rule posed by the Land Development Law that the expropriation of immovable allocated to public services within the subdivision plans is required to be realized within a period of five years. Thus, the administration authorized to implement the plan is obliged to expropriate the immovable allocated to public services within five years after the development plans are made. Provisions of this Law shall apply in all expropriations. In case of the expropriated property is not used for expropriation purposes, for example, if the immovable property left to the public for road construction is used for other purposes or, is not used for public benefit, it is possible to return the expropriated property to the property owner or to compensate the difference between the expropriation price and the usage fee other than the public benefit.

It is mandatory that the expropriated immovable or properties in order to allocate to public services should be realized in a period of five years. Municipalities are obliged to prepare 5-year zoning programs to implement the plan within 3 months at the latest after the zoning plans come into effect. Depending on whether the immovable are in a 5-year zoning program, if the relevant zoning plan provisions are not implemented expropriation decision is removed from immovable by the relevant administrations upon the written application of the owner. Constitutionally guaranteed property rights and right to shelter in Turkey let the citizens apply administrative courts in case of any disputes arising within this framework.

Unauthorized construction and building activities in violation with land development law are subject to Penal Law. Turkish Penal Law comprises the term as pollution against urban
environment and penal provisions have been imposed on those who build and construct buildings within the boundaries of the municipality in violation with Land Development Law No. 3194 and legislations.

In 2018, taking into account the right to shelter and establishing the security of tenure, enactment of “the Conciliation” in Land Development Law was applied through temporary article 16 of the Land Development Law and its construction specifications. The Conciliation covered all the buildings built before 31/12/2017 and finalized by the end of the December 2018. Within the scope of the Conciliation, Building Registration Certificates were issued for the structures and buildings, which established security of tenure until the end of the life cycle of the structures.

Another legislative frame related to secure tenure is the Law on Transformation of Urban Areas under the Natural Disaster Risk. The Law introduced rental subsidies for the right owners in relation to the buildings identified to be under natural disaster risk and an evacuation decision is made to improve or retrofit or regenerate the structures identified as risky within the scope of the Law. Both the owners and the tenants, who are residing in the building under risk, have the possibility to apply for the rental subsidies. Holders of limited real rights may also apply. Applications are made to the provincial directorates of the Ministry of Environment and Urbanization Upon the approval of the Ministry the beneficiaries receive a certain amount of allowance. If the beneficiary residing in the building under risk is the owner, he or she is granted allowances for eighteen months and the amount of the allowance is fixed by the Ministry. Tenant beneficiaries residing in the buildings under risk may receive the allowances for only two months, paid in a single sum that is calculated on the basis of the monthly rental allowance in the province where the building is located.

Besides the rental subsidy applications, the Law on Transformation of Urban Areas under the Natural Disaster Risk sets the rules, principles and procedures for planning and renewal and construction processes including determination of the reserve building areas. Within the scope of the law, all sort of transactions subject to the immovable and properties are stopped for two years and temporary housing or workplace allocation or rent assistance are provided to the residents, owners, tenants of the areas and buildings until the completion of urban transformation, renewal, improvement and strengthening projects. It is stated in the Presidency Annual Programme 2021 that 268 risk-prone areas as defined by the law were detected in 59 provinces. 158 Urban Transformation Project were realized in 33 provinces and 19.9 billion TL (2.39 billion USD according to the exchange rate in March 2021) allowance was paid to more than 5 million citizens since 2012.

Security of tenure both for the tenants, property owners and landlords is also assured by Turkish Civil Law and Law of Obligations (BK) numbered 6098. Private rental housing is the sole rental scheme that applies to residential dwellings. All dwellings are subject to tenancy contracts regulated mainly by the Law of Obligations. The principle of freedom of contract is the core principle of the Turkish tenancy regulation and is guaranteed under Chapter III of the Constitution as a form of social and economic right. The BK sets out general provisions for all types of lease, which apply for both movable and immovable property. According to the general definition, a lease contract is a contract whereby the lessor undertakes to grant the lessee the use of a thing or the use relevant usufruct right of a thing and in exchange the lessee undertakes the payment of a certain rent. Under the current system, effective since 2012, tenancy provisions are formed within fourth section of the BK, lease contracts, (Articles 299–378) composed of three subsections. The first subsection lays down the general provisions that apply to movable and immovable, ordinary lease and usufructuary lease (Articles. 299–338). The second subsection specifies the tenancy for residential premises. Article 351 of the
Law of Obligations sets out the rules for the tenant to terminate the contract in case the rental property changes hands. In this context, if the person who acquires the leased property later is obliged to use it for himself, for his wife, descendant, ancestor or other dependents as required by law due to the need for a residence or workplace, the lease contract could be terminated with a case to be opened six months after by declaring to the tenant in writing within one month from the date of acquisition.

The property owner also has the right to terminate the lease due to the necessity. However, according to article 355 of the Law of Obligations, when the lessor ensures that the leased property is evicted for the purpose of necessity, cannot lease to anyone other than the former tenant, unless three years have passed without justified reason. Immovable that have been evicted for the purpose of reconstruction cannot be leased to someone else unless three years have passed without justified reason. The former tenant has priority in renting the reconstructed and regenerated properties with their new condition and new rental value. This right must be exercised within one month following the written notification of the lessor; unless this priority right is terminated, the immovable property cannot be leased to anyone else before three years have passed. If the lessor violates these provisions, he is obliged to pay compensation to his former tenant not less than the one-year rental fee paid in the last rental year.

1.1.2.4. Establish slum upgrading programmes

Housing areas defined as slums under the scope of the New Urban Agenda, identical with the slum neighbourhoods characterized with the pre-2000 period in Turkey. However, today, slum settlements defined within this scope have been terminated through extensive urban transformation practices that have been implemented for 20 years. In the Report, Urban Transformation Strategies integrated with economic and spatial policies will be explained within the scope of the policies developed between 2003-2010 for the solution of the pre-2000 slum problem and Sustainable Urban Development Strategies (2010-2023) National Action Plans and Programs within the periods of the 9th Development Plan (2007-2013), 10th Development Plan (2014-2018) and 11th Development Plan (2019-2023) periods.

Efforts for the improvement of slum areas are handled within the scope of Urban Transformation Strategy and Action Plans, disaster and risk-oriented urban transformation projects within the scope of the Law on Transformation of Areas Under Disaster Risk, TOKI urban transformation projects, Urbanization Councils realized under the coordination of the Ministry of Environment and Urbanization, 10th Development Plan within the scope of Priority Transformation Programs.

According to the Zoning Law and regulations and the legislation and general provisions regulating the zoning and construction works in the Slum House Law, slum house in Turkish zoning legislation is defined as unauthorized buildings on land or plots that do not belong to them without the consent of the owner.

Turkey has an important accumulation of knowledge obtained with different approaches in the development and implementation of programs to combat with slum housing. The rapid migration influx, which started in the big cities in the 50s and continued until the end of the 90s, led to the problem of slums and led to the emergence of unique housing delivery and financing models. As a result of the rapid urbanization and the inability to meet the housing need of the increasing population at the same speed, the slums and the neighbourhoods formed by these informal settlements emerged, which were produced by people who migrated
to the city and could not find affordable housing in the zoned areas within the city, on the public-owned lands surrounding the industrial areas and the sprawling cities. In this period, which is defined as the slums development process, zoning was regulated through zoning amnesties and many slums gained development rights and with the housing presentation model called construction and revenue sharing in detail in sub-heading 2 of Housing Chapter, they started to change their qualities over time in the market mechanisms and turned to multi-store regular housing areas. However, large-scale urban transformation programs have been implemented since the 80s for the transformation of slums in valleys and slopes that cannot be settled in risky areas and near industrial areas.

After 2000, urban transformation programs started to be used as an implementation tool in the fight against slums in the struggle against slums due to the Marmara and Düzce earthquakes that caused great losses in 1999, to strengthen and renew the building stock, and to rebuild it in a disaster-resistant manner.

With the Metropolitan Municipal Law No. 5216 enacted in 2004, policy measures and authorities for the relocation and strengthening of buildings constructed in violation of the legislation, slum areas and areas with disaster risk and construction of new settlement places, as well as for production of houses and lands, have been transferred to Mass Housing Administration (TOKI). In this way, a fast response business model has been developed in the fight against slums and informal settlements. In addition to providing adequate housing, TOKI is authorized for transformation of urban areas such as slums and excessively dense illegal building areas, earthquake, flood, landslide etc. areas with high natural disaster risk, historical urban areas and urban areas that have completed their economic life, and it has undertaken to transform a slum area spread over 3 million 600 thousand square meters around the airport road, which is the protocol road of the capital Ankara, after the enactment of the Northern Ankara Entrance Urban Transformation Project Law No. 5104 in 2004. In the area which was transformed in 2 stages, 18 thousand residences, 470 thousand square meters of recreation area, 180 thousand square meters of pond area, 2 five-star hotels, congress centre, primary and secondary schools, women's clubs, youth centres and shopping centres, and a 3-kilometre road, tunnel, 1 viaduct and 10 underpasses and afforestation works were carried out.

As a result of the housing mobilization policy covering all provinces in 2007, 500 thousand new houses were built at the end of 2011. Upon this success, with the second housing mobilization policy announced in 2012, it is aimed to build 700 thousand more houses by 2023.

Between 2002 and 2020, 164 thousand houses were tendered in Turkey in cooperation with local governments, ensuring reconciliation with the rights holders in 61 provinces and 146 districts. Most of these residences have been completed and delivered to their rightful owners. Plans and projects of 88 thousand residences continue.

Numerous urban transformation projects have been developed in Istanbul and Ankara, where urban transformation is experienced the most. Work has been initiated on 85 thousand urban transformation houses in 22 districts of Istanbul and 44 thousand houses in 28 different urban renewal projects in Ankara. 35 thousand of these residences have been completed and delivered to their rightful owners.

Taking disaster risks into consideration, urban transformation projects are carried out in other provinces together with local governments. With the project of regeneration of historical city centres, the transformation of 10 historical city centres is completed. Within the scope of this project, Projects are ongoing in city squares such as Ankara Hergelen Square; Konya Sükran Mahallesi; Around Afyon Misri and Imaret Mosque; Erzurum Haciçuma; Kayseri Surici;
Nevşehir Cevizlibağ, Üçgüzeller, Esentepe; Yozgat Çapanoğlu Mosque. In addition, it is ensured that the old industrial areas remaining in city centres and lost their functions are relocated by building new industrial facilities.

TOKI was rewarded as "Good Practice" in the HABITAT Best Practices Award Organization for its Erzincan-Çarşı Neighbourhood Urban Renewal-Slum Transformation Project in 2008. At the Habitat III conference, the Ankara North Entrance Urban Renewal Development Project, which was presented by it, was selected as one of the "Best Practices" of 2009 by the UN-Habitat Business Awards International Selection Committee in China.

Apart from the newly developed green areas that TOKI has built together with the housing areas, it also carries out the transformation of old industrial areas, stadiums and old large-scale areas into urban parks, namely “Millet Gardens”, upon requests from local governments.

Law on the Transformation of Areas Under Disaster Risk, came into force in Turkey in 2012, determines the rules and principles for the improvement, evacuation of the risky buildings and renewals in order to establish healthy and safe living environments in accordance with technical and professional norms and standards on lands and areas under disaster risk and where risky structures are located outside these areas. 1.292 institutions/organizations including CSB, public institutions, non-governmental organizations, legal entities, building inspection organizations and construction laboratories were licensed by the Ministry in accordance with this law used in urban transformation applications, in order to transform the areas under disaster risk and risk and the lands and areas where there are risky structures outside these areas, in accordance with the technical and professional norms and standards and with the aim of determining the risky buildings. A total of 685 thousand independent units have been identified as risky structures by these institutions and organizations.

Turkey adopted Sendai Risk Reduction Framework that gives direction to disaster risk reduction policies. Since 71% of its population and 66% of its land area are in the 1st and 2nd earthquake zone, the Ministry carries out urban transformation practices in an integrated framework with disaster management. Urban Transformation Action Plans were prepared in the 2012-2023 period within the scope of the Institutional Strategic Plan, and projects for the renewal of slums and rift areas were implemented with TOKI.

In the 2nd VNR report dated 2019, Turkey's renewal of slum areas and disaster-risk areas, conversion of industrial areas, the revitalization of historic areas in the production of qualified housing projects and urban renewal programs and projects are given as examples of successful implementation. The transformation of unhealthy and risky buildings, slums and rift areas through urban transformation has been identified as a priority policy area in the 9th, 10th and 11th Development Plans covering the period 2010-2023. The relevant and affiliated institutions of the MoEU are the main actors in the implementation of this policy.

Within the scope of the Law on Transformation of Areas Under Disaster Risk, 268 Risky Areas are determined in 59 cities, 158 Urban Transformation and Development Project Areas in 33 provinces, 16 renewal areas in 11 provinces and 48 thousand hectares of Reserve Building Areas in 66 provinces have been determined as reserve areas to be used as new residential areas. In addition to approximately 586 thousand independent units located in risky areas, approximately 628 thousand residences and workplaces in 81 cities are being renovated as risky buildings. Since 2012, when the Transformation Projects Special Account was established, approximately 19.9 billion TL (2.39 billion USD according to the exchange rate in March 2021) has been provided at current prices, mainly on corporate and individual rental assistance, interest support, expropriation and transformation applications.
While the number and size of areas in need of urban transformation have increased, the use of financial, administrative and technical resources by prioritizing them has come to the fore in the simultaneous implementation of transformation practices. In this context, the Urban Transformation Programme and Action Plan, which are one of the Priority Transformation Programs of the 10th Development Plan (2014-2019), have been prepared to Improve Competitiveness and Social Cohesion. In the program, direct duties have been assigned to the MoEU, TOKI, municipalities, governorships and the Ministries of Family, Labour and Social Services under the title of Slum Improvement Programs, aimed at solving the problem of slums and informal settlements, developing implementation capacities and ensuring policy coordination in order to reduce the economic, social and physical disadvantages of cities and increase the quality of life by producing housing and urban environments within the scope of the policy of healthy, durable and liveable cities.

In 2018, the Urban Transformation Action Plan and Provincial Urban Transformation Strategies were prepared by the Ministry of Environment and Urbanization as the most important component of the Urban Transformation Programme that Improves Competitiveness and Social Cohesion. It is aimed at preparing an Urban Transformation Strategy Document for each city with an 8-item Urban Transformation Action Plan; ensuring the transformation of 1.5 million houses out of 6.7 million houses, which are determined as urgent and priority, within 5 years, and within this framework, the transformation of 300 thousand houses every year, 100 thousand of them being in Istanbul. With the Action Plan, an Urban Transformation Strategy Document Preparation Guideline was prepared in order to improve the transformation process and ensure the integrated management of urban transformation at the settlement scale, and the Principles and Procedures for the Preparation of Urban Transformation Strategy Document were regulated by a regulation. In the Urban Transformation Action Plan, the basic principle of "on-site, voluntary and rapid transformation" has been adopted and the Transformation Strategy Documents, prepared on the basis of the city, are roadmaps towards urban transformation prepared on the basis of province / district including the main decisions regarding urban transformation applications to be carried out in the whole of the settlement, related to upper-scale plans, prioritizing area-based transformation, bringing a holistic approach in terms of transformation applications to the relevant settlement, presenting conceptual studies that reflect transformation strategies within a certain program. In this direction, Urban Transformation Strategy Document was prepared in 20 provinces by the mayors and started to be submitted to the Ministry. As of 2020, strategy preparation studies are continuing in 25 provinces.

The Ministry also carries out the "Strengthening the Social Dimension in the Preparation and Implementation of Urban Transformation Projects" in order to analyze the current situation regarding urban transformation applications, identify problems, develop solution-precautionary approaches and ensure the sustainability of transformation programs and ensure active participation of citizens in transformation processes. In the second phase of the project, it is carried out jointly with Hacettepe University Local Governments Application and Research Centre in order to create a “Sustainable Urban Transformation Model” and to determine a road map for the urban transformation studies to be carried out. “Sustainable Urban Transformation Model” and “Urban Transformation Practices Social Participation (Governance) Guideline” will be prepared with the project.
1.1.3. Access to basic services

1.1.3.1. Provide access to safe drinking water, sanitation and solid waste disposal

In the New Urban Agenda, it has been committed to ensure equal access for everyone to safe drinking water, wastewater and solid waste disposal, which are among the most important components of the right to adequate housing, and to establish the necessary infrastructures for this.

It relates to the Sustainable Development Goal 6, that is “Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all”, and Target 11.6 “By 2030, reduce the adverse per capita environmental impact of cities, including by paying special attention to air quality and municipal and other waste management”

In order to ensure access to clean water is an indispensable element in terms of human and environmental health, and disposal of waste water and solid waste, Turkey has begun to take the necessary measures and to invest long years ago. As a result of all these, the share of the population using safely managed drinking water services increased from 98.3% in 2016 to 98.6% as of 2018, the share of the population having indoor toilet was 94.8% in 2016, and 96.2% as of 2019, and the proportion of the population with a piped water system was 99.0% in 2016 and increased to 99.4% as of 2019, proportion of solid waste regularly collected and with adequate final discharge out of total solid waste generated has reached 78.6% as of 2018, while it was 70.1% in 2016.

In line with the 11th Development Plan (2019-2023), there are policies and measures for reduction, disposal and recycling to ensure the access of the population to healthy and safe drinking and utility water and to minimize the effects of waste water and wastes on human and environmental health by realizing effective management thereof. These are:

- Increasing the efficiency of drinking water and wastewater services and the operational performance of institutions,
- Developing solid waste management technically and financially as a whole,
- Supporting the solid waste recycling and disposal projects of local governments.

Issues related to access to safe drinking water, sanitation and solid waste disposal are regulated in detail in our legislation, especially the Environment Law, in accordance with EU standards.

In addition to the Development Plans and Annual Programs, policies relating to the subject have been determined in various policy documents, especially the strategy documents prepared by the Ministry of Environment and Urbanization, the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Internal Affairs, the General Directorate of State Hydraulic Works and ILBANK.
In our country, delivering healthy and safe drinking water to the society and realizing water-sewage infrastructure services are the responsibility of local administrations and their associated water and sewerage administrations.

Positive progress has been made as a result of the works carried out by central and local governments in terms of access to drinking water and sanitation services. Apart from the newly opened areas for settlement and maintenance works of the existing systems, the need for treatment of drinking water has increased with the effect of urbanization. The number of drinking water treatment plants increased from 519 in 2016 to 629 in 2019. 93% of the water distributed through the water supply system is treated.

Accumulated water bill debts of residential subscribers and any water outage for this reason have been postponed by many municipalities to ensure uninterrupted supply of water, which is vital in combating the Covid-19 pandemic.

In recent years, works have been carried out to take measures to reduce the leakage rate and increase water efficiency in the drinking water sector. For this purpose, the "Regulation on Control of Water Losses in Drinking Water Supply and Distribution Systems" was published in 2014, and it is aimed that the municipalities gradually reduce their water leakage rates up to 25% until 2023.

Rate of population served by sewerage system in total municipal population increased from 89.7% in 2016 to 90.7% in 2018.

Contributions are made by the central government to the local authorities for the realization of water supply and sewerage infrastructure projects.

Financing and technical support, survey, feasibility, project and construction works on water supply network and treatment, sewerage system and wastewater treatment, solid waste, urban mobility and energy efficiency works are carried out by ILBANK, whose duties are providing consultancy services to local governments, carrying out the survey, project and construction works of technical municipal projects and infrastructure and superstructure works, and carrying out all kinds of development and investment banking works.

To provide more effective and efficient infrastructure services by local authorities, focused and comprehensive programming, covered by the central government budget, was launched in 2011 within the Water and Sewer Infrastructure Project (SUKAP). The number of projects carried out within this scope reached 1,408 as of December 2020, and approximately 4.7 billion TL (566.26 million USD according to the exchange rate in March 2021) grant and 6.9 billion TL (831.32 million USD according to the exchange rate in March 2021) loan with favourable conditions were allocated to municipalities in return for projects in the 2011-2020 period by ILBANK.

With the support of the European Union and the World Bank, the “Sustainable Cities Project, Sustainable City Planning and Management Systems Component” covering the years 2019-2022, has been initiated in order to help prepare the necessary ground for sustainable infrastructure by creating comprehensive and integrated plans in cities and linking them with a solid capital investment plan. The Project forms part of the Sustainable Cities Programme.
that will finance a number of projects, especially in infrastructure investments, over a period of several years, and in 10 Metropolitan Municipalities which are the final beneficiaries, actions were launched on “capital investment plans”, “integrated urban water management plans”, “sustainable energy and climate action plans”, “sustainable urban mobility plan”, “financial feasibility for 100 projects” and “environmental and social document” preparations as well as training / capacity building actions.

In addition to grant and loan financing, innovative financing tools are also put into use through ILBANK to support basic infrastructure investments. In this context, the "blended finance" model has been introduced as a new funding model recently. This model is the strategic use of other development finance tools to mobilize additional financing for sustainable development. Environmental, social and financial dimensions of sustainable development have been included in project selection and evaluation in recent years in the support to be given to local governments’ infrastructure investments, and the first examples have been initiated to develop a monitoring mechanism to measure the contribution of all projects, especially those realized with international financing, to sustainable development goals.

Within the scope of the Supporting Village Infrastructure Project (KOYDES), which was initiated in 2005 to support the infrastructure needs of rural areas besides cities, the number of units in which drinking water facilities were built and renewed in the villages reached to 67,666 as of the end of August 2020. In addition, 72 thousand hectares of agricultural land has been irrigated with small irrigation investments, 80 thousand farmer families have benefited from these irrigation investments, and 896 units of wastewater investment was made.

In the provinces affected by the Syrian population living under temporary protection, which started in 2011, the insufficiency of the municipal infrastructures, especially the supply of drinking water, required additional investments. In order to meet the increasing demand for drinking water in provinces with a high concentration of Syrians, additional dam construction works were accelerated and completed. Approximately 885 million Euros of external loans were provided to the municipalities within this scope for drinking water and sewerage infrastructure through ILBANK.

Within the framework of “Turkey Resilience Project in response to Syria Crisis” funded by the European Union under the scope of Facility for Refugees in Turkey (FRIT), UNDP, ILBANK and Gaziantep Metropolitan Municipality cooperated to output an example practice in waste management. The main purpose of the “Municipal Service Delivery Component (Component 2)” of the project is to improve infrastructure, rehabilitation and build technical capacity in target municipalities. Within the scope of this component, 7 projects with a total budget of 21.12 million Euros are carried out in 4 provinces (Gaziantep, Hatay, Kilis and Şanlıurfa). One of these projects is the “Gaziantep Mechanical Biological Separation and Biogas Facility (MBT)” with an investment of 8.23 million Euros. The facility is expected to produce 17,000 t/y recyclables, approximately 23,000 t/y refused derived fuel (RDF) and generate 4,100 MWh/y energy out of biodegradable portion of the waste, processing 100,000 t/y mixed municipal waste annually. As a result, 9,300 tons of greenhouse gas emissions will be prevented. The MBT facility, designed and built with the most up-to-date green,
sustainable technology and equipment, will set an example for similar projects to be realized in our country in the next period.

Within the framework of international cooperation to increase access to clean drinking water and sanitation, projects have been undertaken in recent years in Mauritania, Djibouti, Niger, Ethiopia, Sudan, Mali, Somalia, Burkina Faso and Syria. Turkey provides approximately 5 million USD development aids on the average annually.

Practices within the scope of solid waste management are carried out in accordance with the Environmental Law and the Municipal Law, as well as detailed regulations on different waste types. National Water Management Law is being prepared for sustainable use of water resources based on a holistic basin management, conservation, improvement, development, and collection and monitoring of water-related information in a single system, planning on basin basis, prioritization according to water use purposes, effective involvement of all parties in water management in order to improve efficiency and participation.

With the amendment made in the Metropolitan Law, the service areas of metropolitan municipalities have expanded since 2014 and 93% of the population has become living within the municipal boundaries. In this context, local implementation and legislative arrangements were needed. In the Waste Management Regulation, which entered into force in 2015, the duties and responsibilities of municipalities in waste management are listed. The responsibility for the disposal of domestic solid waste is in the metropolitan municipalities in metropolitan cities, and in other places, the provincial/district municipalities, local administration unions and special administrations according to their areas of responsibility. Likewise, the collection and transportation of wastes according to their areas of responsibility is under the responsibility of the provincial/district municipalities, local administration unions and the special administrations.

In Turkey, the rate of population served by municipal waste services in total municipal population was 98.6% in 2016 and has been 98.8% in 2018. Proportion of solid waste regularly collected and with adequate final discharge out of total solid waste generated increased from 70.1% in 2016 to 78.6% as of 2018.

The National Waste Management Action Plan (2016-2023) determines the activities to increase the efficiency in the management of solid waste and hazardous wastes, taking into account the current situation, institutional structure and responsibilities and legal requirements in waste management.

Within the scope of the Solid Waste Programme (KAP) launched to support solid waste management projects that municipalities have difficulty financing, financial support is provided for consultancy and construction works of integrated waste management facility, sanitary landfill facility, pre-treatment facility and transfer station.

Zero Waste Project was initiated by the Ministry of Environment and Urbanization in 2017 in order to collect wastes separately at the source, prevent and reduce waste generation, increase reuse and recycling and reduce the amount of waste going to the landfill, and the Zero Waste
Regulation was published in 2019. One of the guidelines prepared is the implementation guideline of the local administrations zero waste management system.

Life quality is improved with urban infrastructure investments particularly drinking water, wastewater and solid waste services and Turkey has taken a milestone in this direction. However;

- continuous development of healthy and safe drinking water infrastructure to cover the entire urban and rural population, improving the operational performance of institutions, continuing the fight against water losses,
- developing affordable and sustainable financing models, including public-private partnerships, in drinking water and sewage investments and operations,
- disseminating the recycling practices in terms of economic and environmental benefits, are still important.

1.1.3.2. Ensure access to a safe and efficient public transport system

In the New Urban Agenda, equal and safe access for all to physical and social infrastructure and basic services has been accepted as a principle, and within this scope, it has been committed to take measures that facilitate the access of all segments of the society, especially persons with disabilities to public transport systems.

Among the Sustainable Development Goals, it relates to Target 11.2 “By 2030, provide access to safe, affordable, accessible and sustainable transport systems for all, improving road safety, notably by expanding public transport, with special attention to the needs of those in vulnerable situations, women, children, persons with disabilities and older persons”.

Significant investments have been made to expand public transportation in our country in order to minimize the problems of time loss, fuel consumption and environmental and noise pollution caused by traffic congestion in providing safe, efficient and accessible urban transportation. Among these, actions such as the widespread use of smart transportation systems, construction of bicycle paths, rail transportation investments, preparation of urban transportation master plans can be listed.

Proportion of population that has convenient access to public transport was 82.6% in 2016, and rose to 83.6% in 2019. Whereas in the life satisfaction survey conducted by Turkish Statistics Institution the satisfaction rates are at similar levels both among men and women and across different age groups, this situation demonstrates that different groups in the society do not have any problems in accessing the public transportation.

In addition, the need for establishing a quality and comfortable public transportation infrastructure at the desired level in our cities continues. For this purpose, in the 11th Development Plan (2019-2023), there are policies and measures under the aim of creating accessible, safe, time and cost effective and sustainable urban transportation systems. These are:

- Coordinated preparation of policies, decisions and investments regarding zoning and transportation in cities,
• Encouraging the use of public transportation systems instead of private vehicles by implementing demand-side policies in urban transportation in order to reduce traffic congestion, accidents and air pollution in cities,

• Implementation of smart transportation strategies in order to use the existing infrastructure more efficiently, to increase traffic safety, to manage transportation demand correctly and to make more effective planning.

In addition to the Development Plan and the strategic plans of the relevant public institutions, the National Intelligent Transportation Systems Strategy Document, the Integrated Urban Development Strategy and Action Plan, the Information Society Strategy and Action Plan are the relevant policy documents.

In our country, the Ministry of Transport and Infrastructure, the Ministry of Environment and Urbanization, the General Directorate of Security and the General Directorate of Highways are the prominent institutions in terms of policy, strategy and legislative authority and responsibilities on the part of the central administration in urban transportation.

The provision of transport services in Turkey is provided by Ministry of Transport and Infrastructure, General Directorate of Highways and by municipalities at the local level. The design, financing and management of projects for transportation planning, management and provision of public transportation in cities are the responsibility of the municipalities.

In our country, transportation and public transportation issues are not dealt with independently in the legislation, but are considered as part of the land development plans. In land development plans, it is essential to reduce traffic, establish a system with public transport priority, and adjust transportation systems to shorten travel distances. In this context, the concept of the transportation master plan is included in the legislation. The transportation master plan aims to organize the transportation system according to the spatial, social and economic characteristics of the city in line with the needs and demands. In addition, the legislation includes taking measures to facilitate the access of persons with disabilities to services.

It would not be wrong to say that smart systems are at the heart of accessible and safe public transportation.

The “National Intelligent Transportation Strategy Document”, which was first published in 2014, was updated in 2020 and a comprehensive road map for implementation was presented.

In many metropolitan municipalities in our country, fare cards, passenger information systems, electronic fare collection systems, accident and emergency management systems, traffic incident management systems, freight and fleet management systems and similar smart transportation systems solutions are widely used.

Transport coordination centres have been established in many metropolitan municipalities for the management and operation of traffic. In addition to this, in Turkey, metropolitan municipalities and municipalities with a population above 100,000 have the obligation to prepare transportation master plan. "Transportation Planning Studies and Transportation Master Plan Preparation Guideline” prepared by the Union of Municipalities of Turkey,
provides guidance to local authorities on the subject. Integration of transportation master plans and land development plans, which cannot be considered separately from each other, is regulated in legislation and necessary policy measures were taken at the national level. On the other hand, important studies are carried out in our country in terms of preparations for sustainable urban mobility plans, which have recently highlighted pedestrian and sustainable transportation modes as an alternative to traditional transportation plans. Preparatory work on sustainable urban mobility plans in two provinces is underway by ILBANK. On the other hand, under the coordination of the Ministry of Transport and Infrastructure, sustainable urban mobility studies continue in 5 different cities by using EU IPA funds. ILBANK continues its preparations to carry out similar planning studies in 10 additional metropolitan cities with the EU grants that it anticipates to benefit in the IPA III period.

With the legislation on increasing the energy efficiency in transportation, which supports sustainable urban transportation and public transportation policies, it is encouraged to reduce the use of private vehicles, develop park-and-ride practices, and expand public transportation.

One of the prominent alternatives in urban public transportation is the urban rail transportation systems, which are environmentally friendly, comfortable and safe in solving emerging urban issues.

Length of the rail lines in Turkey completed in 2013-2018 period is 160 km and the total rail length reached to almost 700 km. A total of 970 million passengers per year are transported by rail systems. Rail public transportation systems (subway, light rail system, and tram) are operational in 12 metropolitan cities in Turkey as of the end of 2018. Financial support is also provided by the central government to the rail system projects of local authorities.

In cities where the sea route can be used in urban transportation, various vehicle and infrastructure investments have been made.

In addition to these, with the Disability Law, it is compulsory to make public transportation services, which are under the responsibility of municipalities, as well as all public spaces such as road, sidewalk, pedestrian crossing, accessible to persons with disabilities. Secondary legislation and guidelines have been published to guide municipalities in practice. “Accessibility Monitoring and Supervision Commissions”, which include representatives of non-governmental organizations to be formed from individuals with disabilities, have been established in the provinces for the purpose of monitoring and auditing the implementation.

“Project for Accessibility of Passenger Transportation Services in Turkey” has been conducted between 2017-2019 in order to increase the mobility of pedestrians, including persons with reduced mobility like older people and persons with disabilities. Within the scope of the project, a continuous platform including non-governmental organizations as well as central and local governments was established, capacity building, training and awareness activities were organized in various provinces.

Out of 174,896 traffic accidents with fatal injuries occurred in our country in 2019, 75.9% occurred in the residential areas and traffic safety is another issue that maintains its
importance. Legal arrangements have been made in this regard, emphasizing pedestrian priority and increasing traffic safety.

“Have Good Lessons Uncle Driver Project” was carried out within the scope of the “Traffic Responsibility Movement Project” launched in 2010 in order to raise awareness on traffic safety, to take measures to reduce the loss of life and property caused by traffic accidents and to increase awareness of responsibility in traffic. The aim of the project is to increase the knowledge and skills of the drivers engaged in student transportation on traffic safety, first aid, communication skills and the relevant legislation, and to improve the capacity of these drivers. Within the scope of the project carried out in 30 provinces so far, training was provided to 28,000 bus drivers and approximately 17,000 students.

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the demand for the use of transportation vehicles such as bicycles and electric scooters has increased, both as a precaution against the risk of close contact in public transport and in order to move more. Turkey has given a legal status to electrical scooters in order to convert this situation in urban transportation into opportunity in environmental terms. With the regulation, special provincial administrations and municipalities are encouraged to build pedestrian roads, bicycle and electric scooter roads, lanes, parks and charging stations, and their safe use is extended in line with the determined criteria. A regulation has been made across the country to reduce passenger capacities in public transport. In addition, measures are taken by the municipalities to reduce the pandemic, such as routine free disinfection of public transportation, shuttle and taxis, and placing non-contact pedestrian buttons at traffic lights at pedestrian crossings.

On April 17, 2020, the Law on Reducing the Effects of the New Coronavirus (Covid-19) Pandemic on Economic and Social Life and the Law on Amendment of Certain Laws has been published, bringing convenience to municipalities and citizens who have responsibilities towards the municipality in combating the pandemic. In this context, municipalities have paved the way for income support payments to public transport operators, and it has been implemented especially in metropolitan municipalities. In this way, it has been ensured that public transport operators are not victims of the regulation made for reducing the passenger capacity in public transport in order to reduce the risk of contamination throughout the country.

In the coming period, it will be beneficial to maintain the investments and projects for increasing access to safe and accessible public transportation services in Turkey. In this context, the need for infrastructure is expected to arise, especially for the popularization of smart transportation strategies.

It is important to evaluate the policies, decisions and investments related to the urban development and transportation in the cities in a coordinated manner, especially to prepare and update the land development plans and transportation master plans in harmony with each other.

Although progress has been made in the field of urban rail systems, the need for development continues, especially in large cities.
It is deemed beneficial to generalize practices to increase the accessibility of traffic safety and public transport services, especially for persons with disabilities.

1.1.3.3. Provide access to modern renewable energy

In the New Urban Agenda, the promotion of energy efficiency and sustainable renewable energy and universal access to affordable, reliable and modern energy services are within commitments. In addition, the document includes the necessity of making legislative arrangements for the use of renewable energy in public buildings and advancing its use in residential buildings.

It is related with Sustainable Development Goal 7 “ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all”.

As a result of the measures taken to increase energy efficiency and increase the use of renewable energy resources, Turkey has acquired significant development on uninterrupted access to energy and overcome the regional differences. The targets and steps towards increasing the share of renewable energy in energy consumed in transportation, industry and residences will ensure progress on the subject in the coming period.

In the 11th Development Plan (2019-2023), one of the main objectives is to ensure continuous, high quality, sustainable, safe and affordable energy supply. The following policies are included under this:

- Electricity generation from renewable energy sources will be increased, and necessary planning and investments will be made in order to ensure the safe integration of renewable energy production into the grid.
- Number of buildings that are more efficient and produce their own energy will be increased.

In addition to Development Plan, annual programs, main policies on this issue are determined in detail in the strategic plans and policy documents prepared under the responsibility of the Ministry of Energy and Natural Resources, the Ministry of Industry and Technology, the Ministry of Environment and Urbanization and other relevant institutions.


Legislative arrangements have been made on affordable, reliable and modern energy in Turkey and the entire population had access to electricity by the year 2010. The Energy Efficiency Law, the Law on the Use of Renewable Energy Resources for the Purpose of Generating Electrical Energy, and the Law on Geothermal Resources and Natural Mineral Waters are the basic legislation regarding the support and development of renewable energy resources. The legislation provides an encouraging framework for electricity production from renewable energy sources.
Within the context of providing access to energy for all, there are legislative arrangements to provide the electricity in a sufficient, high-quality, continuous, low-cost and environmentally friendly way to consumers, to create a financially strong, stable and transparent electricity market and to promote increase in energy efficiency.

Since 2000s, electricity production investments have been increased with the liberalization of energy sector for ensuring access to modern energy, and also, natural gas investments were made and the distribution was transferred to the private sector. Line and transformer investments are continuing for the expansion, renewal and modernization of the electricity transmission and distribution network in order to meet the increasing electricity need and to expand / improve the electricity transmission service. In addition, an electricity consumption support program has been initiated as of February 2019, aimed at meeting the minimum electricity consumption needs of low-income citizens.

Turkey attaches great emphasis on generating energy from renewable energy sources in order to diversify energy sources, reduce dependence on imports, to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and improve the local manufacturing industry.

In this context, various studies have been carried out to support R&D capacity, encourage the use of domestic equipment and create additional employment. With the amendment made in the legislation in 2011, the Renewable Energy Support Mechanism (YEKDEM), which determines the purchase guaranteed tariff prices according to the facility type in generation based on renewable energy resources, was established. Generation license holders subject to YEKDEM, who have started or will enter into operation by the end of 2025, will benefit from the support mechanism for 10 years.

In 2016, the Renewable Energy Resource Area (YEKA) investment model was put into practice to increase the use of renewable energy resources. Public and treasury properties with high potential in terms of at least one renewable energy source and properties subject to private ownership have started to be determined as large scale YEKA. YEKAs will contribute to the realization of effective and efficient renewable energy generation with the effect of economies of scale.

With the support mechanism arranged on the basis of resources, an additional incentive mechanism has been established for domestic machinery and equipment to be used in renewable energy-based electricity generation facilities.

With the effect of these arrangements, the share of renewable energy in electricity generation has improved significantly. Turkey's renewable energy installed capacity was 34.57 GW by the end of 2019, it increased to 44.77 GW level as of the end of 2019. While the share of renewable sourced installed capacity in Turkey's total installed capacity was 44.05% in 2016, it reached to 49.05% in 2019.

Electricity generation ratio from renewable energy and wastes in Turkey in 2016 was 33.2%, it reached 43.9% as of 2019. While the renewable energy share in total final energy consumption was 6.6% in 2016, it reached 7.6% in 2019.
In Turkey, where renewable energy technologies are mainly imported, establishment of R&D facilities to develop these technologies and planning technology transfers are positive developments. Increasing the use of clean energy resources in areas such as heating and transportation other than electricity generation, and reducing the rate of increase in energy consumption by improving energy efficiency will contribute significantly to achievement of the goals in this matter.

Municipalities in Turkey spend high amount of energy for providing such services as public transportation, lighting, construction of parks roads and public spaces, cleaning and solid waste collection services, drinking water and waste water infrastructure works. In our country, whose energy demand increases exponentially every year; the use of clean and renewable energy such as solar, wind, biogas and geothermal is encouraged, and in some local authorities electricity needs are met from renewable energy facilities established, which contributes to the budget of the municipality as well.

As an up-to-date application example in this regard, the 835 kilowatt solar power plant (GES) installed on the roofs of the Izmir Metropolitan Municipality bus operation (ESHOT) facilities was commissioned in 2017. The power plant, which was established on an area of 10,000 m² and consists of 3,692 panels, produced approximately 4.5 million kwh of electricity. ESHOT meets all the charging of 20 existing electric buses as well as 18% of its corporate electricity needs from GES. At the end of 3.5 years of operation of the Electric Bus and GES project and the Public Transport Service project, 6,500 tons of CO2 emission was prevented. The installation of 2 more power plants (1.0 MW + 1.7 MW) is at the tender stage in order to meet all corporate electricity needs from solar panels. (https://www.eshot.gov.tr/tr/CevreselSonuclar)

Renewable energy projects of municipalities are increasing day by day, especially within the scope of adaptation to climate change, and this is considered important in terms of reducing foreign dependency in energy. By publishing renewable energy potential atlases at national level, potentials are determined by region; in renewable energy and energy efficiency investments, financing and technical support are provided to local governments in survey, feasibility, project design and construction activities.

The most widely used alternative energy resources in our country in local governments are geothermal and biomass energy, respectively. While geothermal energy is primarily used for residential heating and electricity generation, biomass energy is used as fuel in city buses.

In our country, geothermal resources are used in housing, greenhouse, thermal facility heating, electricity generation, thermal tourism, industrial applications, heat pump and agricultural drying. Turkey is among the top 5 countries in the world in electricity production from geothermal energy.

Utilization of solar energy in urban lighting via photovoltaic applications and solar powered bus stops are also widely used in municipalities.
Municipalities from Turkey have become members of the Covenant of Mayors that supports sustainable energy policies and entered into force in 2014 by the European Commission and they prepared “Sustainable Energy Action Plans” in this respect.

Survey, feasibility, project design and construction works are carried out and financial and technical support is provided for renewable energy and energy efficiency investments of local governments from national resources by ILBANK. On the other hand, pilot studies on renewable energy, energy efficiency and reduction of the loss-leakage ratio have started within the scope of international loans. In this framework, financing agreements were signed to provide financing of 15 million Euros to local governments with 12 projects in the field of geothermal energy, LED lighting and energy efficiency. In the light of the experiences gained from the pilot implementations, international financing efforts are continuing to meet the needs of local governments in the field of renewable energy and energy efficiency.

Renewable Energy Cooperatives (YEK), which were established by the local residents to benefit from the local renewable energy resources and to realize sustainable energy production, have been promoted by legislative arrangements and policies since 2012.

Technical support is provided to R&D projects of municipalities and universities within the scope of the Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Technical Assistance Project (YEVDES) under the EU Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance (IPA). (https://yevdes.org/home/)

Within the scope of Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Procurement Project for Municipalities, Electricity production facilities based on solar energy have been put into operation in Denizli, Şanlıurfa, Kahramanmaraş, Hatay, Malatya. Installation works are ongoing for solar energy in Adıyaman, Isparta and Sivas provinces and electricity generation facilities based on hydraulic energy in Trabzon. Within the scope of the Climate Change Action Plan (2011-2023), various targets have been defined to increase energy efficiency and the share of renewable energy in electricity generation.

Within the context of increasing energy efficiency, 15 percent reduction in Turkey's primary energy consumption was aimed in 2017-2023 period with the National Energy Efficiency Action Plan. In addition to the investments for energy efficiency in industry, transportation, public buildings and residences, performance measurement, renovation, awareness raising and capacity building activities are carried out.

In our country, buildings rank second after industry in energy consumption. It also has the most potential in reducing energy consumption.

According to the energy efficiency target of 15% until 2023 for public buildings in the Action Plan, “Saving Target and Implementation Guideline in Public Buildings” was published. Among the energy efficiency measures in the Guideline, saving, preventing or minimizing unnecessary energy use, energy loss and leakage, recovery of waste energy and the use of renewable energy sources are listed.

“Energy Efficiency in Turkish Public Buildings Project” (KABEV) covering the years in 2019-2025 is aimed at reduction of energy consumption by making improvements for energy
efficiency in public buildings, raising public awareness in energy efficiency, reducing the current deficit at national level and ensuring economic and social benefits. Within the scope of the project, it is planned to renew 300-500 buildings depending on the building size and the measures taken. Improvement measures envisaged in the project include building exterior improvement, replacement of heating/cooling systems, improving the energy efficiency of pumps/fans and lighting elements, and the use of renewable energy applications such as photovoltaic panels, solar water heating, geothermal heat pumps.

There are 38.4 million houses in Turkey as of 2019 and the share of net electricity consumption is 21.8%. In this respect, ensuring energy efficiency in buildings is of great importance for the supply of sustainable energy. According to the Regulation on Energy Performance in Buildings, new buildings must have at least Class C Energy Identity Certificate. Energy identity certificates are mandatory in all buildings, and various incentives have been introduced for those holding A and B class certificates. As of 2019, the number of buildings for which Energy Identity Certificate was issued was 988,661, and the number of energy identity certificate experts was 7,049. The number of buildings using renewable energy in buildings that have Energy Identity Certificate is 30,275.

In order to achieve the defined targets, energy efficiency studies are carried out in buildings both by public and private enterprises throughout the country. Efforts are underway to improve the efficiency classes of new and existing buildings, improve the performance of public buildings through Energy Performance Contracts, and expand on-site production and use of renewable energy in buildings. The average primary energy intensity index on an annual basis in the period covering the years 2000-2017 in Turkey decreased by 1.3%, while final energy intensity index decreased by 1.4%.

The main needs are featured within the scope of the provision of access to modern renewable energy in Turkey are as follows:

- Facilitating the grid connection processes of renewable energy plants, encouraging the use of clean energy resources in areas such as heating and transportation,
- Conducting programs to optimize energy consumption in industrial facilities and buildings,
- Buildings that are more efficient and produce their own energy will be expanded.
- Extending energy efficiency practices in public buildings through the Energy Performance Contracts model,
- Disseminating self-consumption practices. In addition to large-scale production investments, developing renewable energy cooperatives.
1.2. Sustainable and Inclusive Urban Prosperity and Opportunities for All

1.2.1. Inclusive urban economy

1.2.1.1 Achieve productive employment for all, including youth employment

The New Urban Agenda is committed to ensure sustainable and inclusive urban economies by leveraging the agglomeration benefits of well-planned urbanization, including high productivity, competitiveness and innovation, by promoting full and productive employment and decent work for all, by ensuring the creation of decent jobs and equal access for all to economic and productive resources and opportunities and by preventing land speculation, promoting secure land tenure and managing urban shrinking, where appropriate.

Among the Sustainable Development Goals for 2030, Goal 10 seeks to “Reduce inequality within and among countries”. Therefore, addressing this matter in the context of Turkey is taken to be in relation with the objective to ensure youth employment and a productive environment of employment and especially reducing income inequality. It is very important to increase employment, especially among the youth, for a more equitable distribution of income. Within this context, although income inequality is defined as a global problem necessitating global solutions, the solution to be created against it involves improving the regulation and supervision of financial markets and institutions, and channelling development assistance and foreign direct investments to the regions, where they are most needed.

The main objectives of the 11th Development Plan (2019-2023) stand out as increasing the share of the working age population in the distribution of income along with the relevant securities within the framework of the transformations experienced on a global scale and employing additional labour force by increasing their productivity and thus being able to obtain rapid economic development. On the other hand, youth unemployment remains a pervasive global problem, with the youth accounting for a significant percentage of the unemployed worldwide. 3 basic policy targets have been set in relation with this matter, which is of importance to Turkey.

- The groups of the working age population that are excluded from participation will be provided for the opportunity for inclusion. With expanded vocational training opportunities and higher quality education, the competencies of the labour force and its compliance with the business life will be enhanced.
- Some of the essential priorities include channelling the labour force to more productive sectors and fields, observing the relationship between education and employment, enhancing the qualifications of the labour force, encouraging women to participate in the labour force, and including the youth into employment, by equipping them with the vocational skills needed in the labour market.
- The working conditions will be further developed in a manner to encourage participation in the labour markets, increase in productivity, participation in formal economy, improving qualifications and vocational education. Increased employment and qualified job opportunities will be the substantive tools to combat poverty and to improve the distribution of income.
The Ministry of Family, Labour and Social Services is the primary actor to implement the policies and measures devised with an approach based on the principles of coordination and cooperation of the policies for ensuring employment for all, including the youth.

The Labour Law in Turkey states that the minimum age for employment is 15 by stipulating that “Employment of children who have not completed the age of fifteen is prohibited”. And Convention No 138 of the International Labour Organization similarly accepts the employees between the ages 15 to 24 as “young persons”. On an international level, people defined as the youth by the United Nations and International Labour Organization are the people between the ages of 15 and 24 years. A young unemployed person, on the other hand, is a person between the ages of 15 and 24, who has the will and capability to work, who is seeking, but has not yet found, a job paying current remuneration, whose inability to find a job is beyond his power.

Youth employment in our country is monitored by means of an indicator, which also includes breakdowns by gender and age as well. On the other hand, this heading is also interrelated with other indicators under 8 of the Sustainable Development Goals, “Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all”, and it is published in the TURKSTAT News Bulletin.

Taking a closer look at the “actual figures and targets for growth and development” in the 11th Development Plan (2019-2023), it is seen that important targets are set for employment and labour force participation. While labour force participation rate was 53.2% in 2018, the target set for 2023 is 56.4%; while the employment rate was 47.4% in 2018, the target set for 2023 is 50.8%; and while the unemployment rate was 11% in 2018, the target set for 2023 is 9.9%.

According to TURKSTAT data, while 43.5% of the people between the ages 15 and 24 participate in the labour force, the rate of employment among the young persons participating in the labour force is 32.5%. Assessing the youth employment rate on the basis of gender, the employment rate is found to be 41.6% for males and 23.2% for females. Moreover, 53.3 of the young people employed are employed in the service sector. Such rate is 49.9% for young males and 60.4% for young females. When the unemployment rate is assessed based on gender, on the other hand, it is possible to say that the unemployment rate is higher in young females as compared to the young males.

According to the indicator assigned for measurements under this heading, 26% of the young population in Turkey is not in education, employment or training as of 2021. Such rate is 34% for females and 18.3% for males.

In Turkey, youth unemployment remains as approximately double the adult unemployment. Indicators for youth unemployment reveal that education alone is not adequate to solve the problem of unemployment for youth in Turkey. The employment opportunities are quite limited for a high number of young persons participating in the labour force, who have just graduated, with an educational background of high school and beyond. The fact that the young persons, who have just graduated, have problems in finding jobs in Turkey, shows that it is first necessary to match the qualifications gained through the formal educational system with the needs of the labour market.
The low youth employment rates in the labour market in Turkey are accompanied by high youth unemployment rates. As of 2018, youth unemployment rate was 20.3%, which is nearly double the total unemployment rate, i.e. 11%. Young females have a higher unemployment rate as compared to the young males. However, the main difference is attributable to the non-agricultural unemployment rates. Although the difference between the general unemployment and non-agricultural unemployment rates is 2-3% for young males; such rate varies 5% to 8% for young females.

In 2020, Turkish Employment Agency (ISKUR) implemented a € 17 Million Grant Programme for the youth within the scope of Labour Force Support Programme (NEET PRO) for the Youth Not in Education, Employment or Training. Through the Grant Projects, it is intended to enhance employability and labour force participation rate for the youth NEET between the ages 15 and 29 by means of comprehensive, holistic and innovative labour market supports such as job and occupational counselling, individual action plan, active labour market programs, jobseeker’s allowance and relocation allowance. The projects within the scope of Grant Programme are available for the Nongovernmental Organizations working in the field(s) of social policies and/or the youth, cooperatives, development agencies, technology development zones, local governments, professional chambers that qualify as public institutions and labour unions and confederations of the workers and the employers to apply, and are scheduled for implementation in 2022.

Moreover, ISKUR started the process of calculating the potentially NEET young persons through the people registered with ISKUR, in order to enhance the efficiency of job and occupational counselling services for the young individuals. Inquiries are made using the YOK (The Council of Higher Education), MEB (Ministry of National Education), SGK (Social Security Institution) and ISKUR systems for the people registered with ISKUR aged between 15 and 24 and it is assessed whether people are potentially NEET or not. People, who are assessed to be potentially NEET, are guided to active labour market programs and the available jobs in line with their needs. Moreover, Occupational Orientation Test Battery can be applied to reveal the vocational characteristics/aptitudes of the people and to determine which fields/occupations would be proper to guide the person to.

Job and vocational counselling services are offered individually to the students or in groups through the “ISKUR Campus” (Contact Points at Universities) made available the universities with cooperation of ISKUR and universities in order to allow the university students to be included in the labour market more efficiently and to make the rights plans for their careers. Within this scope, the students are informed on matters such as the labour market, activities of ISKUR, job seeking skills, job interview techniques and preparing a résumé.

To summarize, unemployment is currently one the basic problems both worldwide and in Turkey. Youth unemployment must be considered as a problem, dealing with which needs to be prioritized, especially in countries like Turkey, who have a significant advantage in terms of the potential of their youth populations. Turkey has a different case, which is the case with very few countries in the world, in terms of the youth population. Turkey is passing through the demographical window of opportunity, meaning that Turkey has a significant potential in terms of the youth population. It is stated that the window of opportunity will be closed in 2040, and that, if the youth is educated well and guided to produce, Turkey will be able to attain remarkable economic growth and to solve the youth unemployment problem. And one
of the key elements in solving the young unemployment problem is to make sure that the youth is provided with the education to meet the requirements of the present day labour market.

1.2.1.2 Strengthen informal economy

The New Urban Agenda is committed to addressing the challenges faced by local business communities by supporting micro-, small and medium-sized enterprises and cooperatives throughout the value chain, in particular businesses and enterprises in the social and solidarity economy, operating in both the formal and informal economies.

Among the Sustainable Development Goals for 2030, Goal 10 seeks to “Reduce inequality within and among countries”. The commitment is to recognize the contribution of the working poor in the informal economy, particularly women, including unpaid, domestic and migrant workers, to the urban economies, taking into account national circumstances. Their livelihoods, working conditions and income security, legal and social protection, access to skills, assets and other support services, and voice and representation should be enhanced. A progressive transition of workers and economic units to the formal economy will be developed by adopting a balanced approach, combining incentives and compliance measures, while promoting preservation and improvement of existing livelihoods. It is set as an objective to take into account specific national circumstances, legislation, policies, practices and priorities for the transition to the formal economy.

Strengthening informal economy, as addressed in the 2030 Agenda and the New Urban Agenda, is an approach that is adopted as a strategy against unprotected jobs and absolute poverty in the underdeveloped countries. However, as Turkey is an emerging country with an upper middle income level, it is addressed within the context of the integrated policy areas of taxation, employment, social policies and making available public services. Local governments have their general shares in the general budget allocated on the basis of population and they also have their budget items imposed on other economic activities (property, garbage collection, other taxes and fees etc.). When viewed from this perspective, to Turkey, this heading is considered to be about strengthening the formal economy or diminishing the informal economy; and within this framework, better availability of services and social policies are implemented. In essence, this fight against the informal economy serves the urban economies and also serves to promote decent works within the scope of Goal 8, “Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all” among the Sustainable Development Goals.

Addressing Turkey’s strategy to fight informal economy within the context of the Sustainable Development Goal 1, “End poverty in all its forms everywhere”, Goal 8 “Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all”, and Goal 10, “Reduce inequality within and among countries”, the essential requirements to fight informal employment as well as to fight against the informal economy efficiently are set forth in the Programme for Diminishing the Size of Informal Economy in the 10th Development Plan (2014-2018).
10th Development Plan covering the years 2014 to 2018 emphasizes inspection, coordination, IT infrastructure and awareness raising activities within the scope of effective fight against informal economy that results in loss of rights and security premiums through informal employment. The informal employment rate, which was 47% in 2006, declined to 39% by 2012. This development was under laid by the measures to fight informal employment and the fact that the informal employment fell from 31% to 22% for employees working on salary and other remuneration as a result of employment incentives. On the other hand, there was also an improvement in the informal employment of the self-employed and the employers, which fell from 57% to 55%.

One of the basic objectives of the 11th Development Plan (2019-2023) is to make available the opportunities for decent jobs to all the groups in the society and to increase the employment rates for the groups that require special policies, especially including women and the youth.

The policies that are related to this purpose are:

- To fight the informal employment and informal remuneration more effectively. Informal employment will be fought with efficiently by expanding the awareness raising activities and inspections.
- The sectors, where it is particularly difficult to increase formal employment, will be determined, and practices for formalization will be developed to accommodate the specific characteristics of each sector.
- Programs will be implemented to raise awareness on the fight against informal employment.
- Inspection activities to guide and offer consultation will be intensified, prioritizing the sectors with widespread informality.

When the actual figures, targets and estimated figures are examined in the 11th Development Plan, it is seen that labour force participation rate was 53.2% in 2018, the target set for 2023 is 56.4%; the employment rate was 47.4% in 2018, the target set for 2023 is 50.8%; and the unemployment rate was 11% in 2018, the target set for 2023 is 9.9%; and the informal employment rate was 33.4% in 2018, the target set for 2023 is 28.5%.

Informal employment became an issue in Turkey after 1980 and it reached to a level of around 50% starting from 1990s; and such level of around 50% continued until early 2000s. With the measures taken, the informal employment rate was reduced to approximately 33% in 2008 and to approximately 28% in 2018. In our country, the efforts in relation with informal economy are monitored through indicators that are defined in a manner to include breakdowns by gender and age on a national level.

In Turkey, the agriculture sector is the sector with the highest informal employment rate. The agricultural sector offers job opportunities to a considerable portion of the country’s population, and by nature, it differs from the service and industrial sectors. The jobs in the agriculture sector are seasonal jobs, which are not lasting by nature, and they are performed within certain timeframes in a year. And the majority of the employees in the agricultural sector, on the other hand, are unpaid family workers, who are employed informally. According to TURKSTAT data, people employed informally in a non-agricultural sector in Turkey accounted for 29.1% in 2010, and such rate declined to 23% in 2019.
One of the important steps taken in Turkey to fight the informality was Fight against Informal Employment Project (KADIM). And the second step was creation of the Action Plan for the Strategy for the Fight against the Informal Economy in 2008, which is updated every three years. Within this context, successful steps have been taken in Turkey in the fight against informal economy, and the relevant targets and objectives have been one of the matters of priority in the government programs, national development plans, medium-term plans, annual programs and financial plans. Action plans were prepared for the strategy for the fight and positive outcomes have been attained. Under coordination of the Revenue Administration and with due accountability and cooperation of the public institutions and organizations, Action Plan for the Strategy for the Fight Against the Informal Economy was successfully implemented for the terms between 2008 and 2010, and between 2011 and 2013. In line with the targets set in the 10th Development Plan (2014-2018), it was further oriented towards certain specific goals in order to attain the objective of sound and sustainable development, and “Action Plan for the Programme for Diminishing the Size of Informal Economy (2015-2017)” was prepared as one of the “Prioritized Transformation Programs” for diminishing the size of informal economy. Measure 239, which is given in the 2019 Presidential Annual Programme under the heading “The Programme to Diminish the Size of Informal Economy”, stipulates preparation and implementation of an Action Plan for the Fight Against Informal Economy (2019-2021) with wide participation under the responsibility of the Revenue Administration and by taking into account the contributions and suggestions of the respective public institutions/organizations and non-governmental organizations. Within this scope, as a result of correspondences, meetings and contacts with public institutions/organizations and nongovernmental organizations on various dates, the Action Plan for the Strategy for the Fight against Informal Economy (2019-2021) was prepared.

Within this framework, it is necessary to raise the level of compliance voluntarily in order to manage the informal economy, to strengthen the supervision capacity, to revise the legislation and to issue the necessary regulations, to improve data sharing between institutions and to raise awareness for all the groups in the society; and the relevant Ministry engages in the necessary efforts under the action plan. Within this scope, both KADEM and the Presidential Annual Programme stipulate the employers to be informed in order to prevent understatement of remuneration, which is a form of informal employment. Within this scope, the earnings relied upon when calculating the premiums were analyzed for the qualified jobs; and an activity was undertaken to inform the workplaces, which were identified as posing the risk of understatement, and the Social Security Institution sent informing letters to approximately 5,000 employers, especially to the employers that employed people with security from qualified professional groups. Moreover, the Social Security Institution also created the 2019 Information and Guidance Programme in order to make sure that various groups in Turkey were informed about their rights and responsibilities regarding social security; and within this scope, activities were undertaken to enhance the awareness of the vocational organizations, nongovernmental organizations and the citizens on social security.

Moreover, enhancing the efficiency of data sharing between the institutions for the purpose of prevention of informal employment and also enhancing the efficiency of the inspections to take place throughout the country within the scope of the fight against informal employment are also among the areas of improvement for the coming term. However, the Project to Support Formal Employment (KIDEP) was created to offer efficient counselling activities, to
raise awareness of diverse groups of the society through innovative methods and to spread the fight against informal employment on at the grassroots level; and it was implemented starting from May 2017, ended in November 2018. Within the scope of such Project, it was ensured that the target groups, i.e. different groups in the society, such as the primary school students, employers, tradesmen and religious officials, gained awareness, by employing innovative methods. Also, the Transition to Formality Programme (KIGEP), funded and implemented by the International Labour Organization (ILO) in order to assist the employers of the Syrian workers employed informally to complete due procedures for transition to formality, to pay their tax and premium debts and to fulfil their liabilities, was completed in June 2020. Within the scope of the Project, total 462 employers were paid for work permit application and other support, i.e. work permit application support for 1,681 Syrian workers (625,668.20 TL/75,381 USD according to the exchange rate in March 2021) and support for 3,501 Syrian and Turkish workers (12,628,350 TL/1,521,488 USD according to the exchange rate in March 2021).

1.2.1.3. Support small- and medium-sized enterprises

The New Urban Agenda is committed to promoting an enabling, fair and responsible business environment based on the principles of environmental sustainability and inclusive prosperity, promoting investments, innovations and entrepreneurship, and especially addressing the challenges faced by local business communities by supporting micro-, small and medium-sized enterprises and cooperatives throughout the value chain, in particular businesses and enterprises in the social and solidarity economy, operating in both the formal and informal economies. Measures intended for small and medium scale enterprises relate especially to the Sustainable Development Goal 8, which is “Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all”, and Goal 9, which is “Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation”. Within this context, the objectives of supporting sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent jobs for all are integrated into the economic policies along with the need for technological transformation and are actually implemented.


Increasing productivity in economy is among the policies included into the national development plans, Industrial Strategy Document of Turkey (2015-2018) and Productivity Strategy and Action Plan (2015-2018). The national development plans stipulate
transformation of the manufacture industries into a structure that, in addition to being outward-oriented, employs highly qualified labour force, emphasizes R&D, manufactures technology and creates designs and trademarks by prioritizing R&D and technological development when subsidizing investments in industry; implementing technology transfer through investments involving foreign capital; enhancing the cooperation between the universities and the industry; supporting establishment of technology development centres and techno parks; and increasing the R&D subsidies and developing the defence and aviation, machinery manufacture, chemistry and electronic industries and the software sectors, which, by nature, are knowledge- and technology-intensive.

The National Development Plan sets it as an objective to enhance the productivity of SMEs (Small and Medium Sized Enterprises), their share in the value added and international competitiveness and technological capabilities, to offer guidance and counselling service, to ensure integration between the primary and secondary industries, and to guide them to R&D efforts, with increased joint efforts with the techno parks of the universities. Another objective set is to make available affordable loans in cooperation with the banks in order to eliminate the problems in access to financing, to increase the securities for the Loan Guarantee Fund, to provide the Small and Medium Scaled Industry Development and Support Directorate (KOSGEB) supports and to enhance access to capital and financial markets. Moreover, SME Strategy Document (2015-2018) is another primary document to this end. SMEs and entrepreneurship have been addressed jointly starting from the 10th Development Plan (2014-2018) and it has been stated as important to enhance the entrepreneurship capabilities and the number of entrepreneurs and it has been intended to support the enterprises with fast growth or a potential for growth as well as the innovative SMEs. It has been intended to further develop the practices of OSB (Organized Industrial Zone), TGB (Technology Development Zones), KSS (Small Industrial Zones) and Industrial Zones, to ensure their institutionalization so that they can offer more qualified services and can be managed more efficiently.

SMEs continue to play a major role in the economy in Turkey. Within this scope, as of 2017, our country has approximately 3.09 million SMEs, and SMEs account for 99.8% of the all the enterprises in terms of employees, 74.2% in terms of employment, 54.1% in terms of value added tax, 56.2% in terms of export and 19.6% in terms of R&D expenses. As of December 2018, SMEs used 26% of the bank loans made available. On the other hand, the need of the SMEs for increased productivity, growth and institutionalization continue with a view to enhancing competitive power in economy, further advancing innovation and entrepreneurship and creating employment.

On the other hand, the target of gradually increasing the share allocated from the supports of KOSGEB to the manufacture industries to 75% and to the prioritized sectors of the manufacture industries to 50% and the objective of simplifying the supports and gradual transition to interest-free, long-term and repayment support models show how seriously this matter is taken.

Moreover, within the scope of rural development supports, it is set as an important target to encourage the family businesses and small and medium sized producers to become organized in order to reinforce their production and financial structures and to enable them to benefit from the scale economies and to improve their production and logistic infrastructures as well as branding and marketing activities.
Within this framework:

It is important to develop policies that encourage productive activities, creation of decent jobs, entrepreneurship, creativity and innovation, and to include the micro-, small and medium-sized enterprises into formal economy, including the ways of access to financial services, and to encourage them to grow. From a perspective of formalization, there is legislation in place defining, qualifying and classifying the small and medium-sized enterprises. In addition, there are certain regulations for encouraging SME growth, such as Regulation on Loan Interest Support and Regulation on Use of Loans for Industrial Zone Construction Cooperatives included in the Investment Programme of the Ministry of Science, Industry and Technology. The most important step taken in 2017 with respect to access of small and medium sized enterprises to financing was extension of the scope of the guarantee of the Loan Guarantee Fund and the creation of the supports made available for export and employment. Legislative arrangements made for the purpose of supporting innovation and creativity, on the other hand, remain limited to the R&D investments in the field of technology. Within this scope, there is a need for legislative developments with regards to encourage and support entrepreneurship, creativity and innovation and creation of decent jobs.

There are regional indicators in this respect.

Sustainable Development Goal 9, “Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation”, has 2 indicators: Indicator 9.3.1 is "Proportion of small-scale industries in total industry value added", which is published on the micro-sized enterprises level; and Indicator 9.3.2 is "Proportion of small-scale industries with a loan or line of credit", which, again, is published on the micro-sized enterprises level.

Majority of the projects implemented comprise capacity-building programs to facilitate access of the small and medium sized enterprises to financing and include various support programs aimed at competitive power, and most of these programs and projects are implemented through KOSGEB or with cooperation of KOSGEB, as is the case with the example of Support Projects. Support Projects are intended to offer supports and services for the SMEs and enterprises in order to enhance their competitive power and to increase their shares in the economic and social development.

According to the financial targets and actual figures relating to the manufacture industries as contained in the 11th Development Plan (2019-2023), the share of the medium and high-tech sectors in the total credits made available to support small and medium sized enterprises was 4.8% in 2018 and the target set for 2023 is 13%; the proportion of the development and investment banking loan volume to total loan volume was 8.1% in 2018, and the target set for 2023 is 12%; the proportion of Türk Eximbank supports to export was 26% in 2018, and the target set for 2023 is 29%; and the share of the manufacture industries among KOSGEB supports was 48% in 2018 and the target set for 2023 is 29%.

Within the scope of Covid-19 Pandemic, Short-Time Working Allowance, Cash Support, Support to Resume Work, Relief Loan and Basic Need Supports were made available as well as postponing the payment of instalments, interests and capital to public banks. It was ensured that the firms, whose cash flow was disturbed as they were affected by the measures taken against the Covid-19 pandemic, were able to postpone their loan, interest and capital repayments to banks by minimum 3 months, and were able to receive additional financing
supports if needed. Moreover, the ceiling was raised tenfold for the loans made available to small and medium enterprises by KOSGEB to 3 million TL (361.45 thousand USD according to the exchange rate in March 2021).

The most important step taken in 2017 to ensure access of the small and medium sized enterprises to financing was extension of the scope of the Loan Guarantee Fund and the additional supports made available for export and employment. Legislative arrangements made for the purpose of supporting innovation and creativity, on the other hand, remain limited to the R&D investments in the field of technology. Within this scope, there is a need for legislative developments with regards to encourage and support entrepreneurship, creativity and innovation and creation of decent jobs.

1.2.1.4. Promote an enabling, fair and responsible environment enabling for business and innovation

The New Urban Agenda includes the acknowledgment that, under the present circumstances, it is now more necessary than ever to obtain an improved and fair outcome for all in order to meet the expectations of justice for business and innovation cultures, to achieve full employment, to ensure sustainability of open societies and global economy, to attain social harmony, and to combat poverty and the growing inequalities. Within this scope, a commitment is made to promote investments, innovations and entrepreneurship based on the principles of environmental sustainability and inclusive prosperity; to develop a fair and responsible business environment; and to address the challenges faced by local business communities by supporting micro-, small and medium-sized enterprises and cooperatives throughout the value chain, in particular businesses and enterprises in the social and solidarity economy, operating in both the formal and informal economies.

Policies centring around qualified people and strong society, covering all sections of the society, including children, youth, women, individuals with disabilities and older persons, with a view to empowering the human capital for the purpose of clear-cut implementation of an inclusive approach to growth and spreading prosperity among all the sections of the society are addressed within the scope of the Sustainable Development Goal 8, “Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all”. Improvement of the income distribution, taking care of the disadvantaged groups, and extending social assistance and social services stand out as the main policy priorities in this field.

This is addressed ultimately from a long-term perspective in the 11th Development Plan (2019-2023), setting forth the vision of a stronger and more prosperous Turkey that produces more value and shares more fairly. However, the main policy documents aim to increase productivity in all the fields, which, coupled with technological development, will result in economic and social development processes that produce more value in order to gain competitive power on an international level. Within this framework, such documents adopt the rule of law and the fundamental rights and freedoms protected and furthered by a strong democracy as the pillars of the effort for development; and set forth an orientation for continuous development with sustained and sustainable economy and increased prosperity shared fairly in the social and spatial areas of development as the prioritized objective.
Within this framework, this topic is addressed as broken down into two headings, i.e. access of the firms in Turkey to market and an environment of fair competition; and investment facilitation for foreign investors. Accordingly, the measures devised for the firms in Turkey are listed as, enhancing the competitiveness and productivity in economy through strengthening the dialogue with foreign countries on bilateral, regional, multiple and multilateral platforms in order to improve the means of access to the market for the firms and to make sure that they work in an environment of fair competition, and maintaining efforts to extend the scope of the free trade agreements in force with a view to negotiating for new free trade agreements that support macroeconomic targets and objectives aimed at developing the opportunities for access to the preferential market.

Business reforms have regulatory meanings in essence, although they cover a wide range of topics, such as access to financing, labour productivity, taxation, corruption and infrastructural services. Because, as public policies and regulations become of higher quality, it will be likelier to eliminate the negative impacts of both the legislation and administrative actions and the factors mentioned hereinabove on business costs and risks. In economies, where rule of law is established, all the actors in the public and private sectors are treated equally within the context of public policies and. Businesspeople would like to invest more in the countries, where they can foresee and rely upon the public policies. Therefore, the business reforms need to reduce the risks and costs attributable to the public regulations and to further develop competitiveness in the markets.

On the other hand, the objective is set as developing the legal infrastructure for foreign direct investment and creating and implementing the administrative procedures, duly taking into consideration the principles of compliance with the law, reliance on the law, equal treatment, certainty, respect for the acquired rights, transparency, no retrospective operation for judgments to disadvantage and provision of the final judgment within a reasonable time. Moreover, the practice of implementing the policies regarding the rights of foreign investors, such as the investment freedom and to freely transfer the amounts arising out of their activities and operations in Turkey, such as net profit, dividend, sales, settlement and indemnification, and amounts to be paid in consideration of agreements such as licensing, management and similar agreements and the amounts payable for capitals and interests of foreign loans, to abroad through banks or private financing organizations, continues within the rules of free market rules.

Try It & Do It Technology Workshop project, an important step to further advance in science, technology and digital transformation for sustainable development, helps young people, especially the young people with socio-economic disadvantages, to build up their IT and innovation knowledge and skills and to reinforce their employability in the labour market. Established in Youth Centres in 12 cities at the first stage, with the efforts for establishment in progress in 18 cities, Try It & Do It Technology Workshops provide training on design and manufacture, robotic coding, electronic programming and internet of things, software technologies and mobile applications, cyber security, energy technologies, aviation and space technologies, artificial intelligence, nanotechnology and materials science and advanced robotics. Within this framework, efforts have been initiated to build 100 Try It & Do It Technology Workshops covering all the 81 cities.

The indicators generated for the conditions to be able to register new businesses in the country are presented under World Bank data. Accordingly, the period to register new businesses,
which was 40 days in 2004, was reduced to 10 days by 2016 and to 7 days by 2019. This success has taken Turkey up in the ranking.

On the other hand, with a view to equitability and fairness, the local governments have organized workshops to reduce inequalities, and the problems voiced by the actors, who attended such workshops, were duly taken into consideration in the governance policies.

The countries seeking to increase investments and employment, to fight poverty and to attain a fairer distribution of income improve their business and investment environments in an effort to move up the ranking in respective indexes, as these indexes offer fast and easy information on countries with international success. Such international standards also have an effect on the efforts for a business environment reform in Turkey and can help Turkey move up the ranking in the index.

To the extent that it is possible to protect the property rights in a manner to allow the entrepreneurs to enter into agreements by their free wills and to retain the returns from their own investments, the investors will accumulate more physical capital and will innovate more. Within this context, it is very important for Turkey to continue the reforms in investment and employment that Turkey has been continuing and enhancing over the recent years, especially in a manner to include approaches prioritizing the aspects of equitability and fairness.
1.2.2. Sustainable prosperity for all

1.2.2.1. Diversify of the urban economy and promote cultural and creative industries

The New Urban Agenda emphasizes that productive, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, with full employment for all, is a key element of sustainable urban and territorial development. Accordingly, it is committed to:

- Developing vibrant, sustainable and inclusive urban economies, building on endogenous potential, competitive advantages, cultural heritage and local resources;
- Promoting sustainable and inclusive industrial development and sustainable consumption and production patterns;
- Fostering an enabling environment for businesses and innovation, as well as livelihoods.

Among the Sustainable Development Goals for 2030, Goal 8 seeks to “Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all”, Target 11.4 seeks to “Strengthen efforts to protect and safeguard the world’s cultural and natural heritage”, and Target 12.b seeks to “Develop and implement tools to monitor sustainable development impacts for sustainable tourism that creates jobs and promotes local culture and products by 2030”.

One of the main goals of the 11th Development Plan (2019-2023) is to preserve and further cultural wealth and diversity and to pass it onto the future generations, to spread activities of culture and art, to strengthen the sense of social unity and solidarity as centred around the national culture and common values and to enhance the multidimensional effect of the culture on development. In line with such goal, policies have been set, such as conducting the impact assessment of the current supports for cultural industries and cultural businesses; developing inclusive, objective and easily accessible support mechanisms; and increasing training, certification and R&D activities.

The Plan stipulates to increase local production, accelerate industrialization and focus on the manufacture sector. There are policies such as enhancing the number and qualifications of the labour force engaging in research in the private sector, developing support mechanisms for increased cooperation, knowledge and technology transfer between the universities, research infrastructures and private sector.

In addition, another main goal of the Plan is to strengthen the legal infrastructure and practices in the intellectual property system underlying the cultural and creative industries; to create an ecosystem that supports creation of intellectual property rights; and to create commercialization of such rights.

The outstanding policy documents in this respect are the 11th Development Plan (2019-2023), the first and foremost; the strategic plans of the respective institutions such as the Ministry of Industry and Technology, Ministry of Culture and Tourism, Turkish Patent and Trademark Office as well as Industry and Technology Strategy (2019-2023), 2023 Turkey Export
Strategy and Action Plan, Design Strategy and Action Plan, National Intellectual Property Rights Strategy Document and Action Plan. In addition, sectoral strategies have also started to come forward with the aspiration to enable the cultural industries attain the desired levels of progress, such as Turkey Software Sector Strategy and Action Plan (2017-2019).

In a time, when the impact of globalization is even more intensified, our country has been able to enhance its share in the worldwide manufacture industries; and moved up to rank 16 on a worldwide scale and rank 6 on the European scale in 2017, as compared to rank 20 on a worldwide scale and rank 10 on a European scale in 2002 in terms of value added of the manufacture industries. The share of employment by the manufacture industries in Turkey to total employment was 18.1% in 2016 and 18.4% in 2019.

According to the calculations made within the context of "ESSNET-CULTURE Final Report 2012", the share of the cultural employment to total employment was 2.5% in 2019 in Turkey. Given the country’s culture and heritage, Turkey is considered to have a significant potential for cultural and creative industries.

There is a well-established bond between the cultural heritage (museums, exhibitions, visits to heritage sites) and cultural tourism, therefore it is inevitable to consider heritage within the cultural industry. As of 2019, the number of cultural assets in Turkey listed in the World Heritage List reached 18; and as of 2020, the number of assets listed in the Tentative Lists reached 83. We have 18 elements listed in the UNESCO Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity. Efforts continue to preserve our tangible and intangible cultural heritage, and 35,048,417 people visited our museums and archaeological sites in 2019. Turkey is in 5 Cultural Routes out of the 38 Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe. Number of visitors to the website, Türkiye Kültür Portalı (Culture Portal of Turkey) rose by 50% in 2019 to approximately 7 million.

As of October 2020, 116 cultural centres, 1,207 public, children’s and literature museum libraries, 199 museums affiliated to the Ministry of Culture and Tourism, 142 archaeological sites, 287 private museums, 22 manuscript libraries, 766 theatres, 11 opera houses and ballet theatres, and 2,850 movie theatres were in operation throughout Turkey.

Local governments establish museums of a wide range, such as museums on urban history, urban memory, industry, migration, art and literature. Kocaeli Metropolitan Municipality has transformed SEKA Paper Mill, an industrial heritage, into a museum in order to be able to explain the paper in all its aspects, with its history and production processes.

In addition to contributing to social inclusion, cultural and social development, cultural economy also contributes to economic growth, employment and commerce with the high potential it offers for the value added. As compared to 2018, cultural expenditures rose 4.7% to 56,957,673,000 TL (6,862,370,241 USD according to the exchange rate in March 2021) in 2019. Turnover of the businesses operating in the cultural sectors increased by 11.4% in 2019 as compared to 2018. Export of the cultural goods rose by 26.5% in 2019 as compared to 2018.
“Supports and Incentives Guideline for Cultural Industries” was prepared in 2020 in order to enhance visibility of the supports, incentives, sponsorships and grants for cultural industries by the society and to ensure access to the latest information compiled for all the beneficiaries, especially including the local governments.

Projects relating to events and activities organized by the local governments, such as festivals, memorial days, commemoratory days, concerts, exhibitions, shows, congresses, symposiums, seminars, panels, fine art exhibitions, fairs etc., which have a direct effect on local economic development, are supported. In 2019, 248 municipalities, 253 associations, 15 foundations and 15 other organizations received total subsidy of 8,696,422 TL (1,080,653 USD according to the exchange rate in March 2021) for such events.

Every year, Education and Fun Festival for Children organized by Kocaeli Metropolitan Municipality hosts approximately 1,000 children from 41 different countries.

Various supports are also offered in relation with theatre, cinema and visual arts, and cinema stands out among the cultural industries in Turkey, as is the case worldwide. In 2019, the new Cinema Law was passed and the supports offered to the cinema sector were diversified. Our country’s cinema continues to rank top in Europe like the past years, with 63% attendance for local movies. 261 private theatres received a total support of 5.2 million TL (626.5 thousand USD according to the exchange rate in March 2021) in the season 2018-2019 within the scope of the supports for the stage arts. What stands out here is that the supports were not limited to Istanbul and other metropolitan cities, and started to expand to the smaller cities. As of the season 2017-2018, the number of theatres reached 783, the number of works staged reached 9,376 and the audience reached 7.8 million people.

In the realm of literature and publishing, the number of works supported within the scope of the Translation Support Programme (TEDA) project reached 2918 in 2019.

Considering that the cultural economy develops based on the cultural memory/heritage, it will be possible to create, process, present, experience and keep alive such memory through the regulations in education first. Total 2,140 trainees attended the 117 courses on “Turkish Decorative Arts and Traditional Handicrafts” organized in 34 cities in 2019. The One Master, Thousand Masters Project aimed at reviving the vanishing traditional crafts, through which masters from different trades share their knowledge and experience with total 100 participants in 5 cities every year, also continues.

It is especially important for the cultural economy to create city brands centring around cultural memory and image.

Some Turkish cities have been included in UNESCO Creative Cities Network with 116 members. These are Gaziantep and Hatay in the creative field of “Gastronomy”, Istanbul in the creative field of “Design” and Kütahya in the creative field of “Crafts and Folk Arts”, and finally Afyonkarahisar in the creative field of “Gastronomy” and Kırşehir in the creative field of “Music”.

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“GastroAntep International Gaziantep Gastronomy Festival”, which was organized for the first time in 2018 and for the second time in 2019, was organized for the third time in 2020, but in digital environment this time, as “GastroAntep Days of Harvest”, due to Covid-19 pandemic.

Intellectual property, copyrights, trademarks and registration have become important issues with the development of cultural industries.

Although the total number of patent applications declined by 6% between January and December 2020 in our country as compared to the same period of the prior year, the number of utility applications increased by 22%, the number of trademark applications increased by 27% and the number of design applications increased by 2.4%. At present, there are 642 registered geographical indications, and 690 applications for geographical indications are at the examination stage.

According to the 2019 data of the World Intellectual Property Organization, Turkey ranks 14th for local patent applications, 8th in trademark applications, 6th in design applications and 10th in general ranking according to total local industrial property data.

Projects and capacity-building activities have been maintained to enhance knowledge and background on intellectual property awareness and innovation culture, especially among the small-sized enterprises. For this purpose, training has been organized for stakeholder organizations by establishing an Intellectual Property Academy.

Report for Measuring the Contribution of Cultural Industries to the Economy in Turkey covering the years 2015 to 2018 was published in 2020 for measuring the contribution of the copyrights-based creative cultural industries to the Country’s economy.

The legislation offers many tax exemptions for intellectual creativity, cultural activities, R&D activities and activities in the technology development zones for the purpose of encouraging production and entrepreneurship based on cultural industries.

There are many incentive and support mechanisms for enhancing the activities by firms conducting R&D and innovation projects and increasing the value added and competitiveness of the manufacture industries and creative industries by strengthening the bond between such sectors.

The Ministry of Industry and Technology offers project support for the prioritized creative industries under the Competitive Sectors Programme within the scope of Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance (IPA). It is planned to support 5 project proposals with a total budget € 19.2 million in the realm of “Creative Industries”; and to support 6 project proposals with a total budget of € 43.4 million under the title “Research and Development”, which is expected to contribute immensely to our country’s competitive power.

Within this scope, the “Improving Digitalization and Creativity Ecosystem Project” of Kocaeli Metropolitan Municipality, a member of the UNESCO Creative Cities Network in the Creative Field of Crafts and Folk Art, is among the supported projects as of 2019 with a budget of € 3,707,443.52. The project is expected to play a critical role in transforming the
city’s image, as also registered with UNESCO, into value added for the city as well as the respective sector.

Despite having a negative impact on many sectors, the impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic were particularly harsh for the cultural and creative industries.

During this period, Active Library at Your Home, E-book, The Speaking Library, My Pocket Library and Pocket Art applications were initiated in digital environment in Turkey.

For museums, on the other hand, www.sanalmuze.gov.tr was activated and an effort is being made to increase the number of virtual museums.

The measures and supports, which started to be implemented for cultural and creative industries in 2020 in line with the “Culture in Crisis: Policy guideline for a resilient creative sector” published by UNESCO in response to Covid-19 Pandemic, has been gradually increasing.

In Turkey, the creative industries have more important role to play in urban economies in the multicultural metropolises, where developments such as an agglomeration of R&D activities are observed, such as Istanbul and Ankara. However, it is clear that the creative industries will become even more important in the years to come due to recent efforts by the local governments aimed at urban branding. Therefore, many incentive and support mechanisms are established in our country, supporting cultural and creative industries based on intellectual property. For this purpose, the following remain important:

- Developing measures that will be implemented jointly by the public and private stakeholders for the export-oriented growth and industrialization of the cultural industries
- Generating comprehensive data in order to improve the existing data, records and national statistics on intellectual rights in our country and, within this context, to measure the performance of IPR-intensive industries,
- Increasing the efficiency of support system implemented in relation with intellectual rights,
- As there are important subsidy and support programs for cultural industries and the guidelines prepared in relation therewith are made available to the beneficiaries, measuring and monitoring their efficiency,
- An increase in the cultural activities with a local nature on the part of the municipalities in order to spread the cultural activities throughout the country, and
- Taking measures to encourage an increase in the demand for products and services of the cultural industries.

1.2.2.2 Develop technical and entrepreneurial skills to thrive in a modern urban economy

The New Urban Agenda is committed to increasing economic productivity, as appropriate, by providing the labour force with access to income-earning opportunities, knowledge, skills and educational facilities that contribute to an innovative and competitive urban economy. For this
purpose, it highlights educating, improving the skills and access to employment of the youth as well as promoting entrepreneurship.

Among the Sustainable Development Goals for 2030, Goal 4 seeks to “Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all”, and Goal 8 seeks to “Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all”.

In the 11th Development Plan (2019-2023), one of the basic objectives is to raise happy and productive individuals who have advanced thinking, perception and problem solving skills, self-confidence, sense of responsibility, entrepreneurial and innovative traits, who have internalized democratic values and national culture, who are open to sharing and communication, who have strong sense of arts and aesthetics and who are skilled at using technology, through enabling access to inclusive and high quality education and lifelong learning opportunities for all individuals.

Moreover, the Plan sets forth policies to support active participation of the young people in the labour market by activating internship, entrepreneurship and on-the-job training programs; to implement the active labour force programs focusing on the target group, sector and region; to create programs that support participation of the youth under international or temporary protection to education, labour and employment; and to develop services, such as vocational education and counselling, for labour force participation and employment of persons with disabilities.


The rights of the young people and the adults, who have technical and vocational skills for employment and entrepreneurship, to access education through non-formal education along with or other than the education offered by the preschool, primary, secondary and tertiary educational institutions are guaranteed under the regulations on vocational, technical and lifelong learning in addition to the Main Law on National Education. Within this scope, our legislation includes arrangements aimed at creating opportunities for continuing education for the young persons or the adults, who have never been in formal education, and to equip people employed of various professions with the knowledge and skills that they need to get better at their jobs through on-the-job training.

Vocational and technical secondary education comprises vocational and technical Anatolian high schools, multi-program Anatolian high schools, vocational training centres and vocational open education high schools.

In Turkey, 1,560,825 students study in total 3,569 official vocational and technical secondary education institutions, with 47 fields and 105 branches in Anatolian vocational and Anatolian technical programs and 33 fields and 181 branches in vocational training centre programs as
of the Academic Year 2020-2021. 38% of these students are female and 62% of them are male. Students attending vocational and technical education institutions account for 32% of all the students in secondary education (except for open education). Graduates of vocational and technical secondary education institutions receive additional points if they prefer a program of the same field when enrolling to vocational academies.

It is also among the priorities of the 2023 Vision for Education Document to enhance the quality of vocational education in order to raise the qualified labour force in vocations and fields as needed by the businesses in Turkey.

The Ministry of National Education has entered into 188 protocols with 211 institutions and organizations in order to reinforce the cooperation with the respective sectors in vocational and technical education, to increase quality, to improve the educational infrastructure, to increase the opportunities for skill training and other training for the students as offered by the enterprises, to facilitate employment of the graduates, to enhance the professional knowledge and skills of the trainers and the people employed in the sector and to make available scholarships for the students.

With important regulations introduced for vocational training centres, there has been a significant demand in these programs. First of all, vocational training centres have enabled their students to receive a diploma from the centre, where they are trained. Moreover, through a legal arrangement that was introduced to allow the private sector to train the labour force with the qualifications they seek, it was made possible to open private vocational training centres. With the changes introduced, enrolment in year 9 raised approximately by 45% in 2020 for vocational training centres, where the employment rate is approximately 90%.

In 2017, a cooperation protocol was signed by and between the Ministry of National Education and the Ministry of Industry and Technology in order to promote establishment of Anatolian High Schools offering vocational and technical education on a secondary education level with a view to raising the labour force needed by the industry.

The Portal “My Job My Life” (https://meslegimhayatim.meb.gov.tr/) was created in order to contribute to raising the qualified labour force in the fields as needed by the businesses, to enhance the quality of vocational training and to ensure that the education-employment-production connection progresses smoothly, and it was made possible for all the stakeholders, such as students, teachers and employers, to have a common gathering place.

In 8 cities, where the Syrians under Temporary Protection live (Adana, Bursa, Gaziantep, Hatay, Istanbul, Kilis, Mersin and Şanlıurfa), “Social and Economic Cohesion Through Vocational and Technical Education Project” (SECVTEP) is being implemented in order to encourage inclusive and high quality vocational and technical education to be offered to the Syrian and Turkish children and to ensure their social and economic cohesion with the society that they live in.

In line with the objectives of the 11th Development Plan and 2023 Vision for Education of the Ministry of National Education, for a Turkey that produces advanced technology and value added in vocational and technical education institutions, the initiatives of the institutions that
are involved in the “patent, utility, trademark and design” processes are encouraged with the participation of the school-industry-university-sector and other external stakeholders in vocational and technical education in order to strengthen the vocational education-production-employment relationship.

Efforts are in progress to monitor and assess the employment status and transition to tertiary education of the graduates of vocational and technical secondary education institutions in order to develop a policy that is based on data for vocational and technical education. Labour force participation rate for the vocational or technical high school graduates is 62.4% as of October 2020.

In addition, lifelong learning programs and campaigns are implemented in order to allow the individuals make up for their shortcomings in education, to keep pace with scientific, technological, social and cultural developments, and to gain the skills and knowledge that they need for on-the-job and vocational development.

In order to enhance social awareness, “Masters Meet the Trainees Events” started since 2019 in lifelong learning institutions. 691 events were organized with the participation of public institutions and organizations as well, in order to allow the people, who stand out with their professional knowledge and experience, such as craftsmen, executives, businesspeople, artists and scientists etc., share their knowledge and experiences with the trainees and the local community at the public education centres and maturation institutes (technical school for girls) with a view to raising awareness on lifelong learning processes; and 30,707 trainees attended these events.

Turkish Employment Agency (ISKUR) organizes vocational training courses and on-the-job-training programs and implements various programs in order to assist maintaining and increasing the employment rate, improving the vocational qualifications of the unemployed, reducing the unemployment rate and ensuring inclusion of the groups that require special policies, such as persons with disabilities and the former convicts, into the labour market.

Majority of the municipalities offer informal vocational learning activities through free vocational courses, while the universities also do the same through continuing education centres. Professional organizations and nongovernmental organizations also offer informal education services through vocational learning activities.

In addition to the comprehensive vocational courses organized by the metropolitan municipalities, other municipalities also organize vocational courses relying on local economy. The soap production workshop created under the Ürgüp Women and Youth Development Centre Project by Ürgüp Municipality enables the women aged 18 to 50 to receive vocational education.

Urban College of Izmir Metropolitan Municipality was established for theoretical and practical vocational education in line with the local labour market needs in order to close the qualified labour force gap in the key sectors, which might have a direct impact on the competitiveness and level of economic development of the city, and started services in a restored factory building aged 108.
Year 2019 was declared the Year of Volunteerism and the Volunteerism Strategy Document was adopted in order to contribute to the personal, vocational and social development of the young people and to support them in becoming highly confident and active citizens, participating in all aspects of social life.

Entrepreneurship training is offered on diverse levels and relevant supports are offered in order to spread the entrepreneurship culture in Turkey. Within this framework, many supports and vocational training programs have been implemented, especially for women.

On the other hand, it is important to develop the entrepreneurship skills and employment rate of the young persons, especially with a view to raising the qualified labour force as needed for value added production and innovation and matching education and training with the needs of the labour market.

6,778 Training Courses on Entrepreneurship Including Practice organized in 2018 in order to help the young people to express their entrepreneur side may provide an example of the activities performed. 90,176 young people benefited from the training courses as free of charge. 4,520 young people that attended the training started their own businesses. 82 entrepreneurship courses were opened in lifelong learning institutions in 2020, and 1680 trainees attended these courses.

National Youth Employment Action Plan issued in 2011 was an important step in creating special policies aimed at reducing the youth unemployment rates. Programme for Development of Essential and Vocational Skills also contributed to progress in developing policies.

Within the context of international cooperation, over 4 thousand students were offered training on vocational knowledge and new technologies with 272 trainers from 20 professional disciplines in 25 countries.

Although the education is in a significant crisis at the moment on a global scale, vocational and technical education and training has a great potential to contribute to the fight against Covid-19 Pandemic. R&D activities have been accelerated in order to support the role of the schools offering vocational and technical education, which have become one of the main actors in social benefit-oriented production, in sustainable socioeconomic development during the pandemic times.

Within this context, vocational and technical education schools and institutions have produced and delivered to the relevant institutions 8.5 million litres of surface cleaners, 2 million litres of hand disinfectants, 100 thousand litres of eau de cologne, 130 million items of surgical masks, 50 thousand items of N95 masks, 1.3 million items of face shields and 1.2 million items of overalls/aprons since the start of the pandemic. Again, in this process, the hotels of practice run by our schools were made available for free for healthcare professionals and police officers.

R&D centres have been established under Anatolian vocational and technical high schools in cities with developed infrastructure in this respect. The infrastructure of these centres has been improved for designing and producing devices such as respirators and mask dispensers.
Many products such as medical mask dispensers, respiratory devices, mask dispensers meeting N95 standard, video laryngoscope devices, ozone air purifiers, intensive care beds, air purifiers, no contact infrared thermometers, video laryngoscope devices, sampling units, UV-C disinfection devices and Portable Mechanical Respiratory Devices (Ventilators) have been designed and produced within this context.

Vocational and technical education and training are important in terms of raising labour force in line with the economic and social needs of Turkey, especially including the need for technological transformation in industrial and service sectors. Within this context, it remains important to advance with respect to the following in the coming period in order to help the young population manifest their technical and entrepreneurship skills:

- Reinforcing the interaction between the vocational and technical education and training and the labour market, and developing cooperation between schools and businesses,
- Increasing the opportunities for counselling and access in vocational and technical education and training,
- Prioritizing the fields of science, technology, engineering and math at a time, when the need for a digital transformation in industry will gradually become more and more important, and
- Increasing the services for vocational counselling, entrepreneurship and vocational courses for the young people, and especially youth not in employment, education or training

1.2.2.3 Develop urban-rural linkages to maximize productivity

The New Urban Agenda is committed to promoting sustainable management and use of natural resources and land supporting territorial systems that integrate urban and rural functions into the spatial frameworks at all levels and the systems of cities and human settlements, thus promoting sustainable management and use of natural resources and land. In this context, emphasis is placed on ensuring reliable supply and value chains that connect urban and rural supply and demand to foster equitable regional development across the urban-rural continuum and fill social, economic and territorial gaps.

Among the Sustainable Development Goals for 2030, Goal 2 seeks to “End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture”, and Target 11.a seeks to “Support positive economic, social and environmental links between urban, peri-urban and rural areas by strengthening national and regional development planning”.

In the 11th Development Plan (2019-2023), one of the main goals is to transform our regions by developing their opportunities and capabilities based on innovation and cooperation on the basis of governance and thus to ensure maximum contribution to the balanced development of our country and to reduce the differences in regional and interregional development. For this purpose, the Plan sets forth the policies of activating the institutional structure and governance
for regional development; developing urban and industrial infrastructures in relatively underdeveloped regions; and increasing employment rate and improving the quality of life.

Another main objective of the Plan is to increase the production capacity of producers’ associations and family enterprises and increase the employability of rural labour force, improve the quality of life, and increase the level of welfare of the rural community and keep the population in rural areas with the understanding of sustainable rural development.

Moreover, there is the main objective of creating a highly efficient and organized agricultural sector that is environmentally, socially and economically sustainable, which has increased its international competitiveness with its production structure that considers supply and demand balances as well as adequate and balanced nutrition of the people of the country, which is based on advanced technology and which has solved its infrastructural problems. To attain such objective, policies such as establishing agricultural information systems, enhancing the efficiency of agricultural subsidies, and protecting the agricultural land have been set forth.


In line with the National Strategy for Regional Development (2014-2023), which sets forth the vision of “A more balanced total development”, the regional development policy is implemented through diversification based on the qualifications of the regions or the cities in order to reduce regional development disparities, boost the competitiveness of the regions and reinforce economic and social cohesion.

Development agencies established in all 26 NUTS-2 regions through arrangements introduced into the legislation in 2006 strive to accelerate regional development and to reduce the intraregional development disparities through regional plans that they issue according to National Strategy for Regional Development. The regional potentials are activated through the tools for support made available by the development agencies. The investment support offices established in the cities under the agencies undertake activities such as research and promotion at the city level.

The development agencies offer financial and technical support to the public institutions, local governments, universities, nongovernmental organizations and the private sector in line with the strategies set forth in the regional plans in order to contribute to the socioeconomic development of their respective region. In the period between 2016 and 2020, 7,818 projects were provided with a support of total 2.93 billion TL (353.01 million USD according to the exchange rate in March 2021). Total budget for the projects amounted to 4.4 billion TL (530.120 million USD according to the exchange rate in March 2021) with co-financing by the beneficiaries.

On the other hand, regional development programs such as Eastern Anatolia Project, Eastern Black Sea Project and Konya Plain Project were implemented in addition to the South-eastern
Anatolia Project that started back in 1989, and development administrations were established in order to reduce the development disparities in these regions.

Attraction Centres Support Programme has been implemented since 2010 in order to enhance the value added production, export, employment, attraction, technology and innovation capabilities of the cities, which by nature are centres of attraction in comparatively less developed regions with high outmigration rates, in order to enable a more balanced distribution of population throughout the country and to manage migration. The funds allocated for the program is 129 million TL (15.54 million USD according to the exchange rate in March 2021) for year 2020, and the purpose is to support 29 projects with such funds. Under the program, 92 projects have been supported with funds amounting to 1 billion 282 million TL (33.98 million USD according to the exchange rate in March 2021) until now. Approximately 3,500 people gained access to employment with 52 projects of the completed.

The efforts to update the socioeconomic ranking studies on regional, city and district levels were completed in 2019 in order to provide input for regional development policies, to facilitate the decision-making processes and to increase the efficiency of implementation. The Research on Urban and Rural Settlement Systems in Turkey (YER-SIS), which was undertaken to analyze the horizontal and hierarchical socioeconomic relations between the urban and rural settlements and to reveal the nature of the settlement systems, was completed in 2020; and it expected to constitute an important source for preparing national and regional development policies.

In addition to studies on balanced regional development, it is important to create and implement rural development policies in order to improve the rural-urban linkage and to maximize productivity. National Rural Development Strategy (2014-2020) constitutes the foundation for the general targets and principles of the urban development policy in Turkey. Such document serves as a reference document for IPARD I and IPARD II programs that govern the use of the EU pre-accession assistance for rural development.

Rural development support programs, infrastructure and settlement projects covering diverse sectors in addition to agriculture, such as rural tourism, handicrafts and IT, are implemented in line with the national policies and strategies in order to help the family businesses attain a competitive and efficient structure of production. Both the legislation and the policies offer support in order to ensure rural development, secure food production and maintain ecological balance and increase agricultural productivity.

In addition, approaches are adopted to improve the rural-urban linkage, addressing the rural development as a whole with urban development based on a sound and balanced rural-urban interaction. And, for this purpose, it is supported to enhance economic activities and employment and to improve the quality of life and space in rural areas besides urban areas within the scope of Integrated Urban Development Strategy and Action Plan (2010–2023) at national level.

By an arrangement introduced into the legislation in 2012, the number of metropolitan municipalities was increased to 30 and their boundaries were matched the provincial administrative boundaries of the respective cities, making sure that both the urban and the
rural areas are planned and managed by the metropolitan municipality as a whole. Accordingly, the metropolitan municipalities have established rural services departments and offer agricultural subsidies and training, encouraging cooperatives and village markets.

As an example, within the scope of “Producer’s Market Development Project: Eskişehir Model” by Eskişehir Metropolitan Municipality, a facility was established in order to enhance the value added of the agricultural products produced, and Producer’s Markets were opened, where the local produce can be displayed and sold at the city centre, and thus a female-oriented rural development model was developed in the region by creating an alternative marketing network.

The perception for local agriculture and food products is getting enhanced and studies conducted in this respect are diversifying day by day in Turkey. Concrete developments in this respect are existence of the legal grounds for geographical indication and traditional products system, buoyancy in the regions with respect to local products, increase in the number of local product festivals, especially with a view to taking such products under protection and increase in the diversity of the products offered through e-commerce, such as local produce and organic products.

The Reviving and Supporting the Buffalo Raising Project implemented by Izmir Metropolitan Municipality intends to revive the tradition of raising buffalos in Izmir, which is about to become extinct, and to create new opportunities for income-generating employment in the rural areas. The Project now produces Izmir mozzarella, a high added value product, using buffalo’s milk.

The Project on Encouragement for the Production of Medicinal and Aromatic Plants of Kocaeli Metropolitan Municipality, aims at planting medicinal and aromatic plants with high economic value in rural areas in Kocaeli and thus increasing the income of the farmers and supplying raw materials to the drug and cosmetics industries in the city.

In Turkey, spatial planning on a regional basis is considered as an important tool against the environmental problems that may arise with an enhanced rural-urban linkage and risks such as unsustainable use of land and resources. Accordingly, the territorial plans, which determine the decisions regarding land use in general through a holistic point of view and maintain the links between the urban/rural settlements and sectors and the preservation-utilization balance are completed for 99% of our country based on region, basin and city levels.

Today, at a time of enhanced rural-urban interaction and increased accessibility owing to advanced transport and information technologies, there are also efforts in place to protect the cultural heritage, landscape and vernacular/local architecture in the countryside.

In Turkey, both balanced regional development policies and rural development strategies and mechanisms have been established and progress has been made with a view to improving the rural-urban linkage in order to maximize productivity. Moreover, especially after the breakout of the Covid-19 Pandemic, the importance of the domestic agricultural production and thus the countryside has been revealed once again. In this context, the following matters will remain important during the coming period:
• Widening the scope and increasing the effectiveness of the mechanisms supporting local development in order to reduce the interregional development disparities,
• Increasing the efficiency of the institutional structure of regional development and regional governance,
• Improving the urban and industrial infrastructures in relatively underdeveloped regions, increasing employment rate in sectors with a potential for development and improving and supporting the quality of life,
• Determining, monitoring and meeting the investment and service needs of the rural settlements for their social and physical infrastructures and settlement and resettlement works,
• Enhancing the institutional and local capabilities for rural development in order to raise the standards of living in the rural areas,
• Continuing the efforts to combat poverty in villages with a focus on production and employment for the purpose of improving the human capital of rural society and reducing poverty,
• Increasing production and productivity in order to increase the self-sufficiency rate, growing the enterprise scales and especially organizing small-scale agricultural businesses,
• Supporting local employment for the people living in the countryside for continued agricultural production, and
• Improving the agricultural statistical infrastructure.
1.3. Environmentally Sustainable and Resilient Urban Development

1.3.1. Resilience, Mitigation and Adaptation of Cities and Human Settlements

1.3.1.1. Minimize urban sprawl and loss of biodiversity resulting from it

The New Urban Agenda is committed to ensuring environmental sustainability by promoting clean energy and sustainable use of land and resources in urban development, by protecting ecosystems and biodiversity, including adopting healthy lifestyles in harmony with nature, by promoting sustainable consumption and production patterns. Within this context, which is very relevant to Target 13.3 among the Sustainable Development Goals for 2030, which seeks to “Improve education, awareness-raising and human and institutional capacity on climate change mitigation, adaptation, impact reduction and early warning”, the goal is to improve the resilience of cities to disasters and climate change, including floods, drought risks and heat waves, to improve ambient air quality, to reduce noise, to promote attractive and liveable cities and human settlements, to improve food security and nutrition, to prioritize the conservation of the urban landscape and endemic species, and to promote the creation and maintenance of well-connected and well-distributed networks of open, multipurpose, safe, inclusive, accessible, green and quality public spaces.

There is also the commitment to preserving and promoting the ecological and social function of land, including coastal areas that support cities and human settlements, and fostering ecosystem-based solutions to ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns, so that the ecosystem’s regenerative capacity is not exceeded. There is also the intention of promoting sustainable land use, combining urban extensions with adequate densities and compactness to prevent and contain urban sprawl, as well as preventing unnecessary land-use change and the loss of productive land and fragile and important ecosystems.

One of the targets set in the 11th Development Plan (2019-2023) is to ensure identification, registration, protection, sustainable use, development, monitoring, and prevention of illegal trafficking of biological diversity and genetic resources and to bring the benefits obtained from genetic resources and related traditional information to our country. The national biodiversity inventory will be updated regularly through research and monitoring, traditional knowledge based on biodiversity will be recorded and made available for R&D purposes. An action plan for updating the biodiversity inventory is being prepared, and the traditional knowledge based on biodiversity continues to be recorded.

The preparations for a legal infrastructure protection, sustainable use, development, and prevention of illegal trafficking of biological diversity and genetic resources are currently in progress, and the relevant legislation is being developed. A mechanism will be established for access to genetic resources and the equal and fair sharing of the benefits derived from these sources and traditional information.
Another goal, on the other hand, is to increase the amount of terrestrial and marine protected areas and to achieve effective management of nature conservation areas in order to ensure the conservation, restoration, and sustainable use of ecosystems and ecosystem services. Within this scope, practices such as forming green corridor, planning, and infrastructure works are being carried out. Technical work is underway to identify the potential conservation areas and green corridors.

Risk management practices to prevent major industrial accidents are improved, and effective management of chemicals is being ensured to minimize impacts on human health and the environment. Within the scope of international obligations, legislation studies are being carried out for the effective management of chemicals.

The Third Environmental Performance Review for our country prepared by OECD was published in 2019. The number of areas protected and conserved under different statuses in our country was increased to 4,065 in 2018 to preserve rich biodiversity and genetic resources, reaching 8.92% of the overall surface area of the country. In Turkey, biodiversity is being identified on a city basis, and the national biodiversity inventory is being developed. Moreover, legislation and planning studies are conducted to constitute the grounds for ensuring sustainability in the conservation and use of biodiversity and our genetic resources. The lab infrastructure to monitor the environmental quality is being improved, and monitoring systems are being developed.

Turkey is a biodiversity hotspot and has made progress from an environmental protection perspective by extending the protected areas. According to national data, the amount of terrestrial and marine protected areas accounted for only 9% of the country’s sovereign territory as of 2017. This rate is considerably below the Aichi target, 17% for land and inland water, and 10% for coastal and marine areas. National-scale projects were implemented between the years 2013 and 2019 for the creation of biocorridors alongside the main routes, monitoring biodiversity, and creating a biodiversity inventory. Research is being conducted to identify specific areas, conserve biodiversity and return the endangered species back to their natural habitats. Agro-biodiversity research and genetic identification studies are currently in progress. However, the search still continues for the solutions to problems such as loss and division of natural habitats due to urban expansion, transportation networks, and the industry.

In Turkey, efforts are made to identify specific areas, conserve biodiversity, and improve the habitats of the endangered species in addition to agro-biodiversity research and genetic identification efforts. Regular monitoring work is performed in 50 cities. Having diverse climate zones, Turkey’s biodiversity and ecosystem services are susceptible to climate change. Increased water temperature impacts ecological processes and the geographical distribution of the aquatic species, which may result in the extinction of species. The disappearance of water masses in terms of area and volume may cause disturbance of biodiversity and natural life.

Many protection activities are undertaken on site (national parks, protected areas, natural habitats) and outside the natural habitat (gene banks, vineyards, and gardens, a planned national botanic garden). There are plans in place to create biocorridors alongside the main routes. Biodiversity monitoring and inventory studies were conducted with a budget of 4.5 million USD as of 2017, emphasizing indicator species, endemic species that are growing
extinct, natural habitat, and nesting sites of major species. Inventory data were gathered in relation to the plants. Moreover, Ecological Corridors have been identified in Central Black Sea and Central Anatolia Regions (in Cities Samsun, Sinop, Kastamonu, Karabük, Çorum, Kırıkkale, Çankırı, Ankara, Eskişehir, Kütahya, Afyonkarahisar, Bilecik, Isparta, Bolu, Konya, Aksaray, Niğde, Kırşehir, Nevşehir, Kayseri, Yozgat and Sivas) in order to connect the protected areas and surroundings. These studies will connect the areas to be protected such as forests, wetlands, farming areas, valleys, stream beds, and large plains with the areas inside the city that support natural life and that can be used for shelter and food purposes by beings, such as botanic gardens, urban forests, groves and afforestation sites that have evolved into a natural site in time, park sites, Millet Gardens, stream basins, and dam ponds. In cities Adana, Ankara, Antalya, Balıkesir, Bursa, Çanakkale, Denizli, Eskişehir, İstanbul, İzmir, Kayseri, Konya, Muğla, Nevşehir and Trabzon, “Ecosystem-Based Scientific Research Projects for Potential Protected Natural Areas” have been completed in order to identify the bioecological, ecological, geological, hydro geological, geomorphologic and natural landscape values of the existing and Potential Protected Natural Areas and to increase the number of the protected areas. Moreover, the “Ecosystem-Based Scientific Research Project for Existing and Potential Protected Natural Areas in Cities Falling within the Jurisdiction of Şanlıurfa Regional Commission for Protection of Natural Assets”, which covers the cities Şanlıurfa, Adıyaman, Diyarbakır, Batman, Elazığ, Mardin and Gaziantep.

It is intended to spread the Millet Gardens throughout 81 cities in order to create healthy living spaces in our cities, to enhance the standards of urban green spaces and the quality of living, and by 2023, Millet Gardens efforts will be completed in a manner to cover an area of 81 million sqm with financing by the Ministry of Environment and Urbanization, TOKI, İLBANK, and municipalities. Millet Gardens will be built in 38 cities, with due consideration of the population density and the size of each respective city. The Ministry of Environment and Urbanization started efforts on Millet Gardens in 2018 and worked on 32 Millet Gardens in 18 cities. Within the scope of the goal to “spread Millet Gardens in 81 cities” as included in the Strategic Plan (2019-2023), 64 Millet Gardens projects were implemented in 34 cities in 2019; and as of September 2020, total of 269 Millet Gardens covering a surface area of 49,435,645.44 square meters were being implemented in 77 cities. As of late 2020, on the other hand, total of 285 Millet Gardens projects were being implemented on a surface area of 50,846,728.46 square meters in 78 cities.

Eskişehir Metropolitan Municipality started efforts to rehabilitate, restore and reclaim the forest, agricultural and pasture areas disturbed and degraded as a result of mining activities and after filling the forest area of 70.021 square meters with total of 697,566 tons of excavated soil, these areas were ready for rehabilitation, and they were reclaimed by planting total 11,000 tree seedlings. Gaziantep Metropolitan Municipality’s eco-city project improved economic, social, and ecological conditions in the region, reinforcing the regional sustainable structure.

It is intended to clarify the ministries tasks and responsibilities with a view to conserving biodiversity, regularly perform the biodiversity monitoring and inventory activities, and continue creating the biocorridors to interlink the protected areas. Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan are being prepared for the period between 2018 and 2028. The framework law for conserving biodiversity has not yet been passed, and it is important for our Country to declare
national priorities within the scope of Convention on Biological Diversity. The biodiversity monitoring and inventory project were completed by 2019.

1.3.1.2. Implement climate change mitigation and adaptation actions

The New Urban Agenda is committed to promoting international, national and local climate action, including climate change adaptation, and mitigation, and to support the efforts of cities and human settlements, their inhabitants and all local stakeholders as important implementers; and to supporting building resilience and reducing emissions of greenhouse gases from all relevant sectors. The goal is to support the medium- to long-term adaptation planning process, as well as city-level assessments of climate vulnerability and impact, to inform adaptation plans, policies, programmes and actions that build the resilience of urban inhabitants, including through the use of ecosystem-based adaptation.

Among the Sustainable Development Goals for 2030, Goal 13 “Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts”; Goal 11 seeks to “Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable”; Target 3.9 seeks to “By 2030, substantially reduce the number of deaths and illnesses from hazardous chemicals and air, water and soil pollution and contamination”.

During the recent years, a marked increase has been observed in the number of natural disasters due to climate change, such as tornado, flood, lightning strike, heat waves and hail. The economic losses caused by floods due to climate change ranks in second place, following those caused by seismic disasters. It is estimated that the prominent effects of the climate change in Turkey will be drought, desertification, decrease in agricultural productivity, loss in biological diversity and ecosystem services, and increased forest fires and epidemics and pests. Therefore, it is intended to increase the number of practices involving wise use of water and prevention of water pollution in agriculture, conservation of agricultural lands, improvement of meadows/pastures, fighting erosion, conserving agricultural genetic diversity, early detection of risks, and selection and development of species/breeds that are resistant to drought in plant and animal breeding.

Within the context of Sustainable Development Goal 13, “Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts”, our priority actions are:

- Contributing to the fight against global climate change within the context of emission reduction and compliance in accordance with the principles of common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities,
- Taking the necessary measures, especially including saving water in the basins, fighting drought and preventing pollution, by taking into account the effects of climate change and all the activities in the water basins on the water quantity and quality,
- Actively fighting against desertification and erosion, monitoring the environmental and social impacts of agricultural activities on soil resources and taking preventive measures, and
- Reinforcing the mechanisms of implementation and administrative capacity.
As an emerging country, Turkey sets strategies addressing climate change in the relevant areas, especially in relation to the sectors of energy, industry, and transport, and pursues a policy seeking to ensure green growth and limiting the inclining trend in emissions. International climate change negotiations are conducted within the framework of Intended Nationally Determined Contributions based on the principles of common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities, and climate change is combated in sectors causing greenhouse gas emission to the extent that allowed by the national means, building capacity for climate change adaptation and increasing resilience of the economy and the society to the climate risks. Efforts to control emissions in buildings causing greenhouse gas emission and sectors of energy, industry, transport, waste, agriculture, and forestry are in progress within the Framework of Intended National Contribution.

Planning, implementation and capacity building efforts are also in progress, including national and regional adaptation strategies to build capacity to adapt to the negative effects of the climate change. Efforts continue developing the national and regional strategy to identify the negative effects of the climate change in the protected areas and to build capacity for climate change adaptation. Regional needs are identified by the scale of the region and the city in order to allow climate change adaptation and to take the required measures, and the suggestions for solution are determined and Climate Change Action Plans are prepared for our 7 Regions, especially including the Black Sea Region.

Air quality management practices are being enabled to prevent air pollution from production, heating and traffic, and air quality improved by controlling emissions. Air quality action plans are being prepared at local level and legislation on pollution and emission control is being updated. Work is in progress to update the Clean Air Action Plans in 31 cities. Research is being conducted and infrastructure is being developed to model and monitor the air quality.

Drought experienced during the recent years, floods and extraordinary weather events constitute the most important indicator in this respect; and have started to exert considerable pressure on forest, water and land resources and affect the economic and social life. The efforts continue to update Turkey’s National Climate Change Adaptation Strategy and Action Plan within this context. Work is underway to identify the regional and city-scale needs and determine the solution proposals adapt to climate change and take the necessary measures. Therefore, the number of practices involving wise use of water and prevention of water pollution in agriculture, conservation of agricultural lands, improvement of meadows/pastures, fighting erosion, conserving agricultural genetic diversity, early detection of risks, and selection and development of species/breeds that are resistant to drought in plant and animal breeding so that agriculture will not be affected negatively by the climate change.

With respect to flood and drought management, a transition from understanding crisis management to the understanding of risk management is currently being worked on. Having signed the Paris Convention on 22 April 2016, Turkey has committed to reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 21% with reference to Business As Usual (BAU) by 2030 in the Intended Nationally Determined Contributions (INDC). The number of stations in the National Air Quality Monitoring Network reached from 36 in 2005 to 350 in late 2019. Moreover, 710 chimneys of 303 highly pollutant industrial plants are being constantly monitored online. Annual mean levels of fine particulate matter (PM10) in 81 cities changed as follows: 32-143 µg/m³ in 2010, 21-116 µg/m³ in 2011, 12-109 µg/m³ in 2012, 21-105 µg/m³ in 2013, 21-113
µg/m³ in 2014, 19-132 µg/m³ in 2015, 19-127 µg/m³ in 2016, 24-131 µg/m³ in 2017, 18-94 µg/m³ in 2018, and 13-135 µg/m³ in 2019; and the annual mean levels of fine particulate matter (PM2.5) in 81 cities was measured as 13-54 µg/m³ in 2019.

The climate of our country is quite vulnerable to desertification and land degradation due to the country’s topography and soil characteristics. Erosion and degradation occur by varying degrees in 59% of the agricultural land, which accounts for the majority of land use, and 64% of the pastures and 54% of the forest land. Within the scope of combating desertification and remedying land degradation, accelerated efforts are in progress for Desertification Monitoring System, Soil Organic Carbon Stock (TOK) Monitoring and TOK map, Soil Information System, Water-Based Dynamic Erosion Model and Monitoring System (DEMIS), Wind-Based National Dynamic Erosion Model and Monitoring System (UDREMIS) and Water Erosion Map and National Land Cover Classification and Monitoring System (UASIS).

Flooding Management Plans were completed for 5 basins within the scope of climate change, and the efforts continue for 18 basins. The target is to have these plans prepared for all the basins by the end of 2021. Drought Management Plans are complete for 9 basins, and efforts are in progress for 6 basins, planned for completion in 2023.

While the CO₂ equivalent emission per capita was 3.8 tons/person in 1990 in Turkey, this value was calculated as 6.6 tons/person in 2017. The greenhouse emission per capita in Turkey remains below the EU, OECD, G-20 and world averages. Climate change policies are associated with other sectors, and policies are set to implement the practices aimed at reduction of waste and emission, energy, water and resource efficiency and recovery.

Total 253 air quality monitoring stations were established throughout the country as of 2017; 219 by the Ministry of Environment, 28 by municipalities and 6 by industrial organizations. A national system was established to prepare the emission inventory within the scope of the Project for Development of National Air Pollution Emission Management System, emission factors specific to our country were developed, solid fuel sales were recorded electronically on a city basis, and detailed and sector-specific emission inventory was created for Marmara Region, and air quality assessments were made using models.

Under the Project to Support Common Work in the Field of Climate Change, 539 climate change awareness raising events took place through 37 grant projects implemented in 27 cities, and it was possible to reach out to total of 688,000 people. Within the scope of the Project Take Urgent Action to Combat Climate Change and Its Impacts, climate change action plans aiming to create cities resilient to climate change were prepared jointly with local administrations.

With the Project to Enhance Climate Change Adaptation Actions in Turkey, it is intended to increase social resilience, especially through enhancing climate change adaptation on a sector and urban scale; and by 2023:

- Better decision-making tools for better national climate change adaptation policies, and
- Urban adaptation planning solutions will be presented (urban adaptation strategies and action plans), and
• within the framework of joint capacity and network building activities with EU and the international community for climate change adaptation, and
• an adaptation grant program for the implementation of the climate change adaptation action plans, the proper setting will be created in Turkey for climate change adaptation.

1.3.1.3. Develop systems to reduce the impact of natural and human-made disasters

The New Urban Agenda is committed to supporting the move to a more proactive risk-based, all-hazards and all-of-society approaches, such as raising public awareness of risks to prevent risks and build resilience, while also ensuring timely and effective local responses to address the immediate needs of inhabitants affected by natural and human-made disasters and conflict. It is encouraged to reduce disaster risk and vulnerability, build resilience and responsiveness to natural and human-made hazards and foster mitigation of and adaptation to climate change.

Another commitment is to strengthen the resilience of cities and human settlements, including through the development of quality infrastructure and spatial planning, by adopting and implementing integrated, age- and gender-responsive policies and plans and ecosystem-based approaches in line with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 and by mainstreaming holistic and data-informed disaster risk reduction and management at all levels. It is also committed to reducing vulnerabilities and risk, especially in risk-prone areas of formal and informal settlements, including slums, and to enable households, communities, institutions and services to prepare for, respond to, adapt to and rapidly recover from the effects of hazards, including shocks or latent stresses.

Within the scope of the Sustainable Development Goal 11, which seeks to “Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable”, the main objective is to increase social awareness against disasters, build disaster resilient and safe settlements and minimize loss of life and property caused by disasters through risk mitigation practices. Disaster risk and damage reduction studies are being carried out by taking socio-economic and physical characteristics of the regions into consideration by prioritizing the different types of disasters and increasing cooperation activities throughout the country. Turkey Disaster Risk Reduction Plan (TARAP) was completed in 2018, and with its implementation, repeated investments in disaster risk reduction will be avoided, a contribution will be made to a more disaster resilient society, preventing loss of lives and property in case of a possible disaster and emergency.

Risk reduction and retrofitting work continue in order to minimize the loss of lives and property damage following a possible earthquake in Istanbul. Moreover, social facilities are being completed and their capacities are being increased, considering the capacity of temporary shelter areas planned for use during disaster and emergency situations in Istanbul.

Priority is given to the retrofitting of public places such as hospitals, schools, dormitories and critical infrastructures such as energy, transportation, water and communication, special importance in disaster preparedness and post-disaster response. Taking inventory of public service buildings and efforts to strengthen against disasters continue.
In order to increase the efficiency of disaster management, uninterrupted communication infrastructure and disaster management information and decision support systems are being developed to improve information exchange among institutions to provide decision support through sustainable communication infrastructure. Disaster Management and Decision-Making Support System (AYDES) has been developed for the effective management of disasters, which is established on a geographical information system and can manage all resources effectively in case of a disaster, and currently, the necessary information is being entered into the system.

Natural disasters become more frequent and severer worldwide and in our country. Economic and social costs are increasing due to increased negative impacts of the disasters resulting from mistaken decisions on land use and irregular construction. Geological-Geotechnical/Microzonation Studies to be the Basis for Land Development Plan undertaken to determine the natural disaster hazards and risks when deciding on the areas of cities and urban extensions are being rapidly completed throughout the country. With Geological Studies and Information System (YERBIS) made available for use in 2018, the Geological-Geotechnical/Microzonation Study Reports to be the Basis for Land Development Plans prepared to mitigate the natural disaster hazards and risks are centralized; and digitalized data becomes easily accessible at all times.

Logistic storehouses are planned in 25 cities in order to reinforce the logistic and technical infrastructure to ensure a swift and efficient supply of tents, blankets and other emergency supplies that may be needed after the occurrence of a disaster are completed. Moreover, logistic support storehouses with a capacity of 10 to 20 containers are established in 60 cities to store the supplies that may be needed urgently following the occurrence of a disaster.

According to DASK (Natural Disaster Insurance Institution) data, the percent of the population covered by insurance is 53.1%, and the highest percentage is in Marmara Region with 65%, while the lowest percentage is in Eastern and Southeastern Anatolia, with 39%.

Within the context of disasters, work is in progress to determine the respective responsibilities of the institutions and organizations with a view to a holistic performance in terms of risk reduction, preparation, response and post-disaster recovery efforts throughout the country. Turkey Disaster Management Strategy Document and Action Plan (TAYSB), covers all the disaster risks, existing and new, as well as any processes of disasters and emergencies and disaster management. With TAYSB, a model is offered based on systematic integrity, efficient use of resources, and responsibility for efficient disaster management. The majority of the actions intended to reduce the disaster exposure and vulnerabilities have been completed under UDSEP-2023, aiming to minimize the earthquake risks and create an earthquake-resilient society in our country. On the other hand, drills and training are in place to spread the implementation of the Turkey’s National Disaster Response Plan (TAMP) countrywide. Work is in progress to complete the integrated disaster hazard and risk maps, which address all the disaster hazards that may impact on the settlements in our country together. There is also the work to spread the efforts striving to raise more social awareness against disasters countrywide.

To ensure sustainable development of the cities, which accommodate a very large portion of the country's population, the urban and development processes are addressed in an integrated
manner; and policies are developed to create highly liveable spaces. Within this context, creation of long-term integrated and holistic urban planning and design, ensuring access to safe and affordable housing, establishing highly connected urban transportation systems, creating disaster-resilient infrastructures, developing sustainable mechanisms of production and consumptions and improvement of urban services are emphatically underlined. Established in order to produce social housing and to meet the need for housing financing in Turkey, the Presidency of Mass Housing Administration (TOKI), constructs high quality new housing and new settlements, along with the accompanying roads, infrastructures, trade centres, parks, social facilities and landscaping arrangements, in order to further strengthen the cities, local administrations and communities. Accordingly, the institution constantly produces new projects and contributes to sustainable urban development. Out of the 853,123 houses, which TOKI started to construct starting from 2003, 743,196 were completed by late September 2019 including the social and technical facilities, and 86% of the houses produced qualified as social housing.

Transformation efforts continue throughout the country, aiming to remove unsafe and unhealthy buildings from areas with a risk of causing loss of lives and property due to the nature of the land or the conditions of the buildings thereon and to create liveable, healthy and safe urban spaces, with their social facilities and green spaces and transportation systems, within the framework of a disaster-responsive and integrated planning approach countrywide. The urbanism vision of the new period seeks to adopt a concept of horizontal architecture and neighbourhood, creating cities with strong infrastructure, and earthquake-resilient, sound and safe houses and liveable spaces.

The Ministry of Environment and Urbanization undertakes important projects within the context of determining disaster hazards and risks, such as “Development of Avoidance Measures and Risk Reduction Criteria to be Relied Upon for Spatial Plans” and “Mapping the Active Fault Lines with a Scale of 1/1,000 and Determining the Criteria for Creating Fault Avoidance Zones”. Kocaeli Metropolitan Municipality continues the efforts for Urban Action Plan, and negotiations have been completed with 167 right-holders, and it is intended to make them the owners of earthquake-resilient houses. Moreover, Gaziantep Metropolitan Municipality is conducting the Seismic Hazard Assessment Project and is currently working on selection of the earthquake-resilient, safe spots.

1.3.1.4. Build urban resilience through quality infrastructure and spatial planning

The New Urban Agenda is committed to give particular consideration to urban deltas, coastal areas and other environmentally sensitive areas, highlighting their importance as ecosystems’ providers of significant resources for transport, food security, economic prosperity, ecosystem services and resilience. It is also committed to strengthening the resilience of cities and human settlements, including through the development of quality infrastructure and spatial planning, by adopting and implementing integrated, age- and gender-responsive policies and plans and ecosystem-based approaches in line with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 and by mainstreaming holistic and data-informed disaster risk reduction and management at all levels. It is also committed to reducing vulnerabilities and risk, especially
in risk-prone areas of formal and informal settlements, including slums, and to enable households, communities, institutions and services to prepare for, respond to, adapt to and rapidly recover from the effects of hazards, including shocks or latent stresses, and to enhance the resilience of the cities and human settlements. Moreover, measures are promoted for strengthening and retrofitting all risky housing stock, including in slums and informal settlements, to make it resilient to disasters, in coordination with local authorities and stakeholders.

Studies for measurement and assessment are being developed in order to serve as the ground for monitoring levels of quality of living in cities. Institutional, technical and legal infrastructure will be strengthened to establish and share urban data infrastructure at provincial, district and neighbourhood scale. Local administrations are encouraged to prepare smart city strategies and road maps, and it is ensured that smart city projects are selected and implemented by taking into account the prioritized areas and capabilities at national level and development of domestic production for smart city applications are supported.

Under the Sustainable Development Goal 11, which seeks to “Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable”, it is targeted, by 2030, to ensure access for all to adequate, safe and affordable housing and essential services and upgrade slums, enhance inclusive and sustainable urbanization and capacity for participatory, integrated and sustainable human settlement planning and management, support positive economic, social and environmental links between urban, peri-urban and rural areas by strengthening national and regional development planning; and by 2020, to substantially increase the number of cities and human settlements adopting and implementing integrated policies and plans towards inclusion, resource efficiency, mitigation and adaptation to climate change and resilience to disasters.

Areas that are under disaster risk and hazard and land and plots where risky buildings located are being transformed to ensure healthy and safe living in accordance with technical and professional norms and standards. Urban transformation is being carried out with a horizontal architectural approach, aiming to improve quality of life and urban awareness, and the renewal of historical centres. Land development planning criteria are being developed for the disaster risks to be taken into account at the planning stage, and work is in progress at the land development planning matching the disaster hazards and risks. Within the scope of the Project for Developing Avoidance (Risk Reduction) Measures and Criteria to be Applied in Spatial Plans, risk reduction criteria are determined and the reports and draft legislation are being prepared for this purpose.

Urban transformation projects are carried out harmoniously with urban fabric and area based considering participation principles, adopting the principle of on-site transformation in urban transformation areas, taking into account solutions for the spatial needs of the existing social structure. Social impact assessment is conducted before urban transformation implementations. Participation principles are defined for urban transformation projects, making sure that the process continues in cooperation. Existing criteria for identifying and declaring disaster risk areas are developed and clarified, and high priority areas are transformed immediately by prioritization with a multi-criteria evaluation system. In urban transformation implementations, multi-criteria evaluation model for the prioritization based on settlement area will be developed within the scope of criteria and scoring system based on
parameters such as disaster risks and hazard in terms of causing loss of life and property, the size of the population being affected, financial and fiscal necessity, availability of reserve area, and settlement areas will be prioritized in this context.

Risks are prioritized for the buildings in hazardous and risk-prone areas, and urban transformation services are performed for houses and the industrial zones, which now fall within the city centre, depending on the demands and needs received from the cities countrywide. The need for housing arising out of urbanization, increased population, renewal and disasters are met with due consideration of a balance in supply and demand. The housing stock is made available in order to be able to identify the need for housing per settlement. The creation of the system, which allows uninterrupted online availability of Spatial Address Registration System (MAKS) and Central Registration System (MERNIS) data and comparison thereof with the Land Registry and Cadastre Information System (TAKBIS) data, is underway in order to be able to accurately identify the second-hand and brand new housing stock.

250 thousand social houses will be produced for low income and disadvantaged groups. 50 thousand houses will be built, along with their social and technical facilities, within the Social Housing Programme scope. The regulatory, supervisory, steering and supporting role of the public sector in the housing market will be strengthened. A coordination mechanism will be established to ensure regular cooperation among the units responsible for housing in public administration.

KENTGES stipulates reinforcing the spatial planning system and building capacity for local governments in this respect, ensuring participation in the spatial planning process, creating environment-responsive cities, and arranging the distribution of social facilities and services in line with the local traits and needs. There is a need to develop a property valuation system based on objective criteria to enhance the efficiency of urban transformation and the practices of nationalization, land consolidation and land development practices within the context of sustainable urbanization and development and ensure that the market operates more smoothly. The National Earthquake Strategy Plan published in 2013 aims to prevent or mitigate the effects of the physical, economic, social and environmental damages and losses caused by the earthquakes and create new habitats that are earthquake-resilient, safe, prepared and sustainable. Turkey National Disaster Response Plan defines the respective roles and responsibilities for the service groups and coordinating units involved in the efforts to respond to disasters and emergencies, and lays down the underlying principles for planning response before, during and after the disaster.

The projects that stand out within the context of increasing urban resilience are urban design guidelines, development of urban spatial standards, landscaping plans, integrated coastal area planning, determination of the building conditions in villages in line with the local traits and needs, avoidance measures and risk reduction criteria to be relied upon for spatial plans, mapping the active fault lines with a scale of 1/1000 in the spatial planning process and determining the criteria for creating the fault avoidance zones, development of the planning principles and criteria for urban transformation practices, reinforcing the social aspect in urban transformation projects, smart cities strategy and cloud-based urban information system, and Geosciences Studies Information System (YERBIS).
In our country, 268 Risky Areas were identified in 59 cities, 158 Urban Transformation and Development Project Sites were identified in 33 cities and 16 renewal sites were identified in 11 cities within the scope of the need for urban transformation. Moreover, an area that is 48,000 hectares in size was designated as Areas Reserved for Future Construction in order to be used for new settlements. The respective institutions and organizations found total of 685,000 independent units to be risky buildings. Since 2012, when the Transformation Projects Special Account was created, an allocation of approximately 19.9 billion TL (2.39 billion USD according to the exchange rate in March 2021) was provided, especially corporate and individual rent support, interest support, nationalization and transformation practices.

1.3.2. Sustainable management and use of natural resources

1.3.2.1. Strengthen the sustainable management of natural resources in urban areas

The New Urban Agenda adopts the basic principles of ensuring sustainable development for cities and human settlements, promoting sustainable consumption and production patterns in order to protect, conserve, restore and promote ecosystems, water, natural habitats and biodiversity, and encourage sustainable management and use of natural resources and land.

Sustainable management of natural resources in urban areas is directly relevant to Goal 12, “Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns”, and Goal 8, “Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all”, among the Sustainable Development Goals for 2030.

By an assessment of the policies and strategies in Turkey, it can be observed to contain targets regarding transition to hi-tech production and eco-efficiency, efficient waste management, sustainable cities and sustainable tourism within the context of sustainable use of resources. During the recent years, the related policies especially underline the aspects of integration of environmentally-friendly practices into decision- and policy-making processes, raising awareness on resource efficiency, planning, measurements and industrial productivity.

In the period between 2000 and 2016, the policies and actions relating to conscious manufacturing and consumption are included by varying degrees in the national development plans, strategy documents and action plans. The national development plans determine policies to ensure sustainable management and efficient use of natural resources, prevent waste of resources and enhance environmental-responsiveness and awareness.

It is seen that, in the 10th Development Plan period that covers the years between 2014 and 2018, clean production, eco-efficiency and sustainable use of resources are prioritized in the Turkey Industrial Strategy Document, Programme for Increasing Production Efficiency and Productivity Strategy and Action Plan, Strategic Plan of the Ministry of Science, Industry and Technology (2013-2017) and Strategic Plan of the Ministry of Environment and Urbanization (2013-2017). During this period, regulations were made to encourage economy in savings in material consumption as well as resource efficiency in production.

Moreover, under the 11th Development Plan covering the years between 2019 and 2023, the report by the “Working Group for the Sustainable Management of Environment and Natural Resources” emphasizes that studies need to be developed for resource efficiency in sectors using natural resources, such as forestry, agriculture and mining, as well as for the chemical sector, within the context of material footprint.

In order to create healthy living spaces, to increase urban green space standards and quality of life in cities, Millet Gardens will be expanded to 81 provinces, and formation of Millet Gardens in 81 million square meters will be carried out until 2023. Millet Gardens will be built in 38 cities, with due consideration of the population density and the size of each respective city. Efforts on Millet Gardens started in 2018 and works on 32 Millet Gardens in 18 cities have been carried. Within the scope of “spreading Millet Gardens in 81 cities” goal, as included in the Strategic Plan (2019-2023), 64 Millet Gardens projects were implemented.
in 34 cities in 2019; and as of late 2020, totally 285 Millet Gardens projects were being implemented on a surface area of 50,846,728.46 square meters in 78 cities.

Productivity Strategy and Action Plan (2015-2018) stipulates implementation of approaches involving transformation into an industrial structure with high value added based on high-tech production; ensuring sustainable production, especially efficiency of resources (raw materials) throughout the production processes and enabling clean production (eco-efficiency).

Also, certain main regulations, such as the Regulation on Controlling Soil Pollution and Point Source Contaminated Sites, Fisheries Regulation, Aquaculture Regulation, Regulation on Water Pollution Control, and Regulation on Industrial Air Pollution Control set forth arrangements to achieve this target by ensuring conservation and preventing from pollution of natural resources, and thus their sustainable management and efficient use. International conventions in the field of environment such as UN Convention on Biological Diversity, the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety and UN Convention to Combating Desertification, also contribute to realization of this goal.

It is seen that material footprint per GDP increased from 9.7 to 12.74 in the period between 2000 and 2010. The swift increase in production and consumption due to swift development of domestic consumption and export experienced during the same period has an effect on the increase in material footprint. Considering the domestic material consumption, it is seen that the material consumption per capita declined between 2000-2010 due to the decrease in production and purchasing power with the influence of the crisis in 2001 and 2002, but increased regularly in the following years.

While material consumption per capita was 12.9 tons in 2010, 13.4 tons in 2011, 11.9 tons in 2012, 11.9 tons in 2013, 12.1 tons in 2014, 12.8 tons in 2015, 12.9 tons in 2016, 13.5 tons in 2017 and 13.2 tons in 2018 while the target for 2023 was determined as 11.8 tons in the 11th Development Plan (2019-2023).

With regulations encouraging savings in material consumption, domestic material consumption per GDP, which was 0.62 € per kg in 2004, decreased to 0.49 € in 2010 and while it was 1.2 kg/USD in 2010, 1.2 kg/USD in 2011, 1.0 kg/USD in 2012, 0.9 kg/USD in 2013, 1.0 kg/USD in 2014, 1.2 kg/USD in 2015 ve 1.2 kg/USD in 2016, 1.3 in 2017, 1.3 kg/USD in 2018.

The decline in the material consumption per GDP, on the other hand, arises out of the shift from the low-technology sectors to medium-technology sectors in the composition of industrial production. In the coming period, the goal is to promote production and use of alternative products that are less environmentally hazardous, such as bioplastics; to encourage products with mitigated environmental impacts throughout their lifecycles along with environmental labelling; to extend the system in order to offer the consumers with scientific-based accurate information; and to enhance the activities for raising more awareness among the consumers as well as the producers, especially including the SMEs, with regards to the issues of sustainable consumption and production.

Per capita green space is also directly associated with sustainable management of natural resources in urban areas. With the legal arrangements of year 2017, standard per capita green space in spatial plans is raised from 10 m² to 15 m². When making such arrangement, a
distinction was made in green spaces locally and on urban level; and an approach was adapted to make the green spaces more accessible for the urban population. In order to meet such standard, "Millet Gardens" are created in our country in urban areas. With the Millet Gardens to be opened by the Ministry of Environment and Urbanization by 2023, per capita green space will reach 15 m$^2$ in Turkey.

Within this context, the Ministry of Industry and Technology implemented the project on "Determination of Industrial Resource Efficiency Potential". On the other hand, use of renewable sources of energy also matters. In order to encourage the production of cleaner electrical energy, the enterprises that have been given Renewable Energy Resource Certificate are among the important regulations made in terms of legislation, especially in terms of the categories for electrical energy generation. For this purpose, the Ministry of Energy and Natural Resources implemented the project for "Increasing energy efficiency in industry".

As revealed by an overview of the current status, although there are a set of exemplary policies, legislative and institutional arrangements and practices in place regarding sustainable management of natural resources, the need to address this matter in a more integrated manner stands out.

It is important to prepare the National Sustainable Production and Consumption Plan with contribution from the public sector as well as the private sector stakeholders, especially industry. Moreover, in order to realize the targets successfully there is a need on planning, practice, monitoring and auditing for spreading sustainable production and consumption; better assessment of the local potential for natural resources; supporting R&D and technology activities aimed at developing green products with high added value with clean technologies that will ensure efficient use of natural resources and prevent environmental degradation in all sectors, especially in the energy and manufacturing industry; taking into account intergenerational equity and sustainability, in the usage of natural resources, supporting localization, developing appropriate mechanisms for this purpose and determining the economic values of natural resources.

### 1.3.2.2. Drive resource conservation and waste reduction, reuse, and recycling

In the New Urban Agenda, the member countries commit themselves to minimizing all waste and hazardous chemicals, including greenhouse gases etc.; encouraging reuse of waste water by reducing and treating; to promoting environmentally sound waste management and to substantially reducing waste generation by reducing, reusing and recycling waste, and minimizing landfills and converting waste to energy when waste cannot be recycled establishing safe material recovery and recycling facilities; supporting decentralized decision-making on waste disposal to promote universal access to sustainable waste management systems and supporting the promotion of extended producer-responsibility schemes that include waste generators and producers in the financing of urban waste management systems reduce the hazards and socioeconomic impacts of waste streams and increase recycling rates through better product design.
UN Sustainable Development Goals intend, by 2030, to substantially reduce waste generation through prevention, reduction, recycling and reuse; reduce pollution around the world; avoid irregular waste dumping; minimize release of hazardous chemicals and materials; reduce the rate of untreated wastewater by half, increase recycling and safe reuse globally, and reduce the negative environmental impacts per capita in cities, by paying special attention to the management of municipal wastes and other wastes and air quality.

In our country, the national development plans have targeted reducing urban wastes and emissions and preventing environmental pollution, and setting up an efficient waste management system on national level; separating waste primarily at its source, ensuring that those with economic value are collected without mixing with other wastes to be recycled, establishing regular storage facilities for non-recyclable wastes and closing old dumpsites for rehabilitation; ensuring efficiency in solid waste management, spreading waste treatment plants and raising their standards; moreover institutional structure, legislation and standards related to waste management have been developed and enriched, and adequate regulation has been made in National Recycling Strategy Document and Action Plan (2014-2017) was published, aiming for efficient use of resources and for making recycling as a part of the economy. EU Integrated Environmental Approximation Strategy (UCES) (2007-2023), National Environmental Strategy and Action Plan, Turkey Climate Change Strategy Document (2010-2023), Solid Waste Main Plan and National Waste Management and Action Plan (2016-2023) and Waste Water Treatment Action Plan covering the 2008 to 2013 and 2015 to 2023 periods and National Cleaner Production/Eco-Efficiency Programme (2014-2017) have also been published. Turkey is also a party to international conventions regarding hazardous wastes and other chemicals.

On the other hand, there are also laws and regulations that have been put into force regarding the use of enterprises, which have been issued "Renewable Energy Resource Certificate", for electrical energy production from renewable resources.

Within the framework of National Cleaner Production/Eco-Efficiency Programme, efforts have been made to increase the resource efficiency, reduce the environmental impacts of the products throughout their lifecycles, reuse/recycle/recover wastes and to develop and disseminate cleaner production technologies.

Material footprint per GDP increased from 9.7 to 12.74 between 2000 and 2010. The swift increase in production and consumption due to rapid development in domestic consumption and exports during the same period has an effect on the increase in the material footprint.

Domestic total material consumption was 943.7 million tons in 2010, 998.1 million tons in 2011, 891.7 million tons in 2012, 907.2 million tons in 2013, 932.0 million tons in 2014, 1005 million tons in 2015 and 1022.6 million tons in 2016, 1081.3 million tons in 2017 and 1074.4 million tons in 2018, with a generally rising trend over the years until 2017, while it decreased in 2018.

Material consumption per capita was measured as, 12.9 tons in 2010, 13.4 tons in 2011, 11.9 tons in 2012, 11.9 tons in 2013, 12.1 tons in 2014, 12.8 tons in 2015 and 12.9 tons in 2016, 13.5 tons in 2017 and 13.2 tons in 2018. Material consumption per GDP was 1.2 kg/USD in
2010, 1.2 kg/USD in 2011, 1.0 kg/USD in 2012, 0.9 kg/USD in 2013, 1.0 kg/USD in 2014, 1.2 kg/USD in 2015, 1.2 kg/USD in 2016, 1.3 kg/USD in 2017 and 1.3 kg/USD in 2018. The decline in the material consumption per GDP, on the other hand, arises out of the shift from the low-technology sectors to medium-technology sectors in the composition of industrial production.

It is intended to reduce the domestic material consumption in our country, which was 12.8 tons in 2015, to 11.8 tons by 2023; and the hazardous wastes generated per capita, excluding mineral wastes, which was 15 tons in 2016, to 11 tons by 2023.

The ratio of solid wastes to total solid wastes, which are regularly collected and applied appropriate final treatment has been on a rising trend over the years in our country, as 54.7% in 2010, 59.9% in 2012, 61.8% in 2014, 70.1% in 2016 and 78.6% in 2018, and an improvement has been observed in this respect. 12.3% of the domestic solid waste collected in 2018 was sent to recycling facilities.

Moreover, the Regulation Regarding the Control of Packaging Wastes was revised in 2017. Packaging Waste Management Plans were prepared by 478 municipalities in 2018; and the packaging wastes in the market were recovered by 61% in the same year.

Hazardous wastes generated per capita (excluding mineral wastes) was measured as 12 kg in 2010, 11 kg in 2012, 12 kg in 2014, 15 kg in 2016 and 36 kg in 2018. When 83.18% of the hazardous waste, declared in 2015, sending to waste processing plants for recycling, 12.32% was sent to sterilization, landfill and incineration plants for disposal.

The Ministry of Environment and Urbanization started the Zero Waste Project in 2017 in order to collect the waste separately at source, to prevent and reduce waste generation, to reduce amount of waste going to the landfill by increasing reuse and recycling and the Zero Waste Regulation was published in 2019, and articles regarding recycling contribution fee, mandatory deposit – refund system and plastic bag pricing have been added to the legislation; and with the arrangements made under the Regulation, use of plastic bags was reduced by 75% starting from 1 January 2019. In the arrangement made in 2019 it is aimed to arrange the municipal in a way that at least 60% of the waste collected in 2035 will be able to be recycled. Our country’s National Waste Management and Action Plan covering the years 2016 to 2023 puts forth the periodical waste management models planned for implementation until year 2023, and it was targeted to increase the recovery rate, which was at approximately 13% in 2016, to 35% by 2023. Moreover, work has started to prepare the National Waste Management and Action Plan (2023-2035) which will be prepared taking into consideration the elaboration of the need for investment for waste management, including the preliminary processes, recovery and disposal plants for management of hazardous wastes, and the sources of financing. The Regulation on Recycling Contribution for packaging and certain products and the General Communiqué on Recycling Contribution entered into force in 2020. Within the scope of the Zero Waste Project, the Regulation Regarding the Control of Packaging Wastes was published in 2017.

Moreover, the Environmental Agency of Turkey was established in December 2020 in order to implement the waste approach in line with circular economy and resource efficiency with zero waste approach and for the establishment of a national scale deposit refund system. Within this scope, the mandatory deposit – refund system de will also start on 01/01/2022.
The proportion of the safely treated waste water has increased over years, from 72.8% in 2010, to 76% in 2012, 76.9% in 2014, 80.6% in 2016, and 80.9% in 2018. The percentage of the municipal population served by waste water treatment plants to total municipal population, on the other hand, rose to 78.7% in 2018 as compared to 74.8% in 2016. And the ratio of the municipal population served by waste water treatment plants to total population, on the other hand, was found to be 58% in 2012, 64% in 2014, 70.2% in 2016, and 74.5% in 2018.

General Directorate of State Hydraulic Works (DSI) completed 4 drinking water treatment plants in 2019. The target is to operate total 8 drinking water plants by the end of 2023.

Being one of the main components of the integrated water management in Turkey, quantity management is underlined in efforts. For this purpose, the National Water Plan (2019-2023) was published in 2018 in order to determine, improve and develop the current and future policies of Turkey on water with a holistic approach. General Directorate of DSI started to work on preparing the "Basin Master Plan Report" for the 25 water basins in our country in 2010, and the studies for master plan have been completed in all the basins. Within the scope of these studies, it was strived to determine the uses of water resources, land assets of the basins, the potential and the need for irrigation, the needs for drinking water, tap water and industrial water, the water rights and the means for generating power and to assess the plants to prevent damages from flood etc.

On the other hand, examining the relevant energy statistics, it is found that 52%, in other words the half, of the energy was generated from fossil energy sources in 2016. And examining the energy generated from renewable sources, on the other hand, it is seen that wind, hydraulic, geothermal and other sources of heat stand out.

Our country has various projects for managing domestic solid waste, medical waste and other special waste. Various projects are implemented in order to create responsible patterns of production and consumption, such as the Project for Disposal of Permanent Organic Pollutant Stocks (POP) and Reduction of POP Emissions (2013-2019) and Project for Disposal of the Ozone Depleting Substances. ILBANK offers surveys, feasibility, project design and construction studies for the local administrations for their investments in renewable energy and energy efficiency, and provides financing and technical support. Other projects implemented by the central government also include the Project for Developing the Green Organized Industrial Zone (OIZ) Framework for Turkey and Project to Enhance the Energy Efficiency Potential in Industry implemented by the Ministry of Industry and Technology and the Zero Waste Project implemented by the Ministry of Environment and Urbanization.

Moreover, there are also projects implemented by various municipalities in our country. For example, Izmir Metropolitan Municipality has prepared the Izmir Integrated Waste Management Plan, setting forth the waste projection for Izmir city until 2050. Again, Izmir Metropolitan Municipality has also implemented the Project for 'Sorting Agricultural Pesticide Packaging at Source'.

In order to be able to fight Covid-19 effectively, the matters that need to be paid special attention to for the proper management of wastes from disposable masks, gloves and other items of personal hygiene used in daily life are laid down in the "Circular Regarding the
Measures Taken in Response to Covid-19 for the Management of the Waste from Items of Personal Hygiene, such as Disposable Masks and Gloves”.

Turkish Water Institute coordinates the work to monitor the Coronavirus existence in waste water in order to prevent water pollution and ensure sanitation. The initial findings from the test performed in waste water treatment plants in Istanbul, where Covid-19 pandemic has reached its peak, have been published. With these efforts, Turkey has become one of the countries analyzing waste water for SARS-CoV-2 along with, USA, Australia, France, Holland, Spain and Italy. SARS-CoV-2 analysis in waste water also continues in our other cities and the aim is to monitor the distribution of the pandemic according to the analysis results.

As a result, projects are needed to continue the respective regulations and to make improvements in Turkey. Within this context, areas for development and the recommendations are set forth herein below:

- Prevention and reduction of waste at source initially in line with the general principles of waste management and then, its management through recovery, energy recovery and finally disposal, and raising awareness in this respect,
- Enhancing resource efficiency and capacity building in our country in order to implement innovative practices for reducing waste,
- Continuing infrastructure works on hazardous waste management issues,
- Enhancing efficiency of waste management plans on local and regional levels,
- Creating control mechanisms and developing methods for encouragement and penalizing,
- Development of the National Waste Management and Action Plan prepared by the Ministry of Environment and Urbanization,
- Recovering the waste for economy with zero waste principle within the framework of circular economy principles in line with the new approaches in EU, and taking further steps in certain fields, such as recovery and recycling,
- Developing policies to spread ecological agriculture,
- Increasing the properly collected wastes generated in the production process in industry and their inclusion into the recycling system and raising awareness in this respect, and making sure that the industrialists perceive this field as a tool for competition,
- Encouraging development of technologies to support green growth and cleaner production techniques in our country and undertaking R&D studies for this purpose,
- Developing resource efficiency studies within the context of material footprint for sectors using natural resources, such as forestry, agriculture and mining, as well as for the chemical sector,
- Developing different incentive mechanisms to increase the generation of energy from renewable sources, and making the usage of best available technologies in the establishment of fossil fuel power plants as a precondition for incentive mechanism

1.3.2.3. Implement environmentally sound management of water resources and urban coastal areas
The New Urban Agenda is committed to giving particular consideration to urban deltas, coastal areas and other environmentally sensitive areas, highlighting their importance as ecosystems’ providers of significant resources for transport, food security, economic prosperity, ecosystem services and resilience; reducing marine pollution through improved waste and wastewater management in coastal areas; and promoting the conservation and sustainable use of water by rehabilitating water resources within the urban, peri-urban and rural areas, reducing and treating wastewater, minimizing water losses, promoting water reuse and increasing water storage, retention and recharge, taking into consideration the water cycle.

Within the scope of Sustainable Development Goal 6, “Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all”, it is targeted, by 2030, to implement integrated water resources management at all levels, including through trans-boundary cooperation as appropriate; developing the national basin classification system in a manner to enable conservation and sustainable use of water resources; determining and monitoring groundwater and surface water quality and quantity and creating information systems; and assessing the impacts of climate change and all the activities in water basins on the quantity and quality of water, ensuring that water is saved at the basins.

In the 11th Development Plan (2019-2023) there are such targets contains that watershed planning, strategies and action plans will be implemented in an integrated way to address the protection, development and sustainable use of water resources; river basin management plans, sectoral water allocation plans, basin master plans, drought management action plans, flood management action plans and drinking water basins protection action plans will be completed in the 25 basins of the country for the protection and effective use of water resources; national water information system will expand and become more sustainable and integrated coastal zone management and planning will be realized in accordance with the demands of tourism sector and regarding conservation and utilization equilibrium.

The measures for access to reliable drinking water and waste water services and for sustainable management of water resources with a view to protecting, developing and preventing the pollution of groundwater and surface water potential are addressed in details in our legislation. In general, the standards in the legislation for water pollution and quality are compliant with the EU standards.

has been set up in order to develop strategies and plans and to take measures with a view to ensuring coordination between the sectors, adopting an integrated basin management approach, and attaining the national goals and fulfilling international commitments.

Management of water resources and coastal areas have improved over the years in our country. For example, the level of implementation of integrated water resources management was measures as 70% in years 2017 and 2018. Until today, master plans have been completed for 25 basins; and the river basin management plans continue. Such action plans are transformed into River Basin Management Plans in order to fully ensure the basin management in line with the EU Water Framework Directive. Studies have been completed in 6 basins; and continue in 5 basins. It is planned to manage the water resources in an integrated manner within the framework of the usage and protection balance with the River Basin Management Plans that will be completed and implemented by 2023.

With sectoral water allocation plans, the need for water for each sector is analyzed and allocation is planned from an economic, social and environmental perspective, on the basis of basins and sectoral sub-basins, also taking into the cases of drought. Until today, allocation plans have been completed for 3 basins, and continue for 2 basins; and the plan is to complete them for all the basins by 2023.

Climate Change Impact on Water Resources and Adaptation Project generates projections for temperature, rainfall, water potential, water deficit/excess for each basin until year 2100 and offers suggestions for adaptation activities. Changes in groundwater potential and ground water levels have been determined; and with water budget modelling, studies have been undertaken to analyze the water impact for the main sectors of agriculture, drinking water, industry and ecosystem.

Basin Monitoring Programs have been created for each basin in line with the efforts to create National Monitoring Network. By such programs, general chemical and physiochemical parameters, prioritized substances, certain pollutants, elements of biological quality and hydro morphological quality constituents are monitored at total 2877 tracking spots in river, lake, passage and coastal waters. Waste Water Treatment Action Plan, which covers the investment and renewal needs of waste water treatment plants and sewerage systems and reveals the related costs, is now updated to cover the years 2017 to 2023.

Pollution prevention action plans have been prepared for 8 basins and sewage sludge management plans have been created for Ergene and Gediz Basins in order to protect the water resources by basin. Efforts have started to spread the same studies throughout Turkey. Moreover, it is among our priorities to recover the sewage sludge from the waste water treatment plants for circular economy as soil improver, secondary fuel or alternative raw material. Within this context, it is intended to implement efficient and sustainable sewage sludge management countrywide.

Our country is in the category of countries with water restrictions with water availability per capita of 1.400 m³. Considering the pressure that will be exerted on water resources by the increasing demand for water, drought, urbanization, industrialization and climate change, it is estimated that our country may be under water stress in the future.
An inventory has been issued for all the hazardous chemicals in the sources supplying water for all the sectors and monitoring was ensured. Studies for this purpose were completed in 2014, and Environmental Quality Standard was set for the 250 substances found. For all our water basins, vulnerable water areas and nitrate vulnerable zones were identified in terms of urban water pollution on surface waters; and targets for water quality and measures to be taken for water quality improvement were determined. Controlling construction in water basins, treating the urban and industrial waste water and controlling the use of agricultural pesticides and fertilizers remain important in terms of sustainability of water resources.

On the other hand, efforts have been in progress for an Integrated Coastal Zone Plans of our country since 2010; and by 2020, 80% of our coasts were planned. And it is intended to complete the integrated coastal areas plans for our entire coastal area by 2023.

Turkey joined the practice of Blue Flag awarded to the beaches, marinas and yachts meeting the necessary standards in terms of cleanliness, maintenance, accessibility, equipment and safety in order to ensure coastal sustainability in 1993. While there were 258 beaches, 13 marinas and 4 yachts with blue flag in 2008; this number increased gradually during the last 10 years and by 2018, there were 459 beaches, 22 marinas and 10 yachts with blue flag. Moreover, our country ranked in third place among the countries included into the Blue Flag practice with 463 awarded beaches in 2019.

Many projects are implemented in our country in this respect. For example, “Integrated Pollution Monitoring Programme in Seas” (DEN-IZ) is implemented with an integrated and ecosystem focused approach. National sea monitoring program is implemented according to the requirements of the Barcelona Convention and Bucharest Convention, to which our country is a party, as well as our national legislation. The pollution is monitored in all our seas on a regular basis to serve as the grounds when determining national sea and coastal management policies and strategies. Under the program, chemical and ecological conditions of our seas are monitored at total 364 stations, including all our seas and coasts, and the efficiency of the measures are assessed in terms of compliance with national and international legislation. By organizing “Symposium for Monitoring and Assessing National Seas” every three years, a national platform is created in order to be able to share and spread the results from sea monitoring activities with a broader mass through scientific activity and to assess them with other scientific findings and suggestions that can support these studies. The first symposium took place in 2016 and the second one took place in 2019; and representatives from local administrations, NGOs and public institutions and academicians from universities of the coastal cities attended the symposium. The “Third National Sea Monitoring and Assessment Symposium” is planned to take place in 2022.

There are also other projects, such as the “Technical Capacity Development Project for State Hydraulic Works” issued between our country and United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), “Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) of Development and Protection of Water Resources” projects prepared between the Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN and Turkey, transformation of basin conservation plans into river basin management plans and Water Footprint Report of Turkey. In the current state, River Basin Management Plans for Susurluk, Büyük Menderes, Konya and Meriç-Ergene Basins, Project for Transformation of Basin Conservation Plans into Basin Management Plans, and Gediz, Kıcık Menderes, Akarçay, Western Mediterranean, Yeşilirmak, North Aegean, Burdur River Basin
Management Plans may be provided as examples within this context. Moreover, the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry implemented the Climate Change Impact on Water Resources and Adaptation Project, under which all the basins were taken into account and suggestions were developed for adaptation in order to eliminate any negative impacts of the climate change on water resources, and “Climate Water Database” was created, containing all the data generated. Moreover, in 2021, the quality and quantity of the groundwater masses will be determined, resulting in an inventory of groundwater masses in terms of quality and quantity.

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic experienced worldwide recently, the Turkish Water Institute coordinates the work to monitor the existence of Covid-19 virus in waste water by analyzing the water from waste water treatment plants. The initial findings from the tests performed in waste water treatment plants in Istanbul, where the Covid-19 pandemic has reached its peak, have been published. With these efforts, Turkey has become one of the countries analyzing waste water for SARS-CoV-2 along with Turkey, USA, Australia, France, Holland, Spain and Italy. SARS-CoV-2 analysis in waste water also continues in our other cities and the aim is to monitor the distribution of the pandemic according to the analysis results.

As a result, along with many progresses, there are also certain areas of development. It is important to monitor and assess the effects and outcomes of the basin investments and practices, to address the regional development projects in a manner to contain the goals relating to water resources as well, to take into consideration the impacts of climate change for management of water resources, and to continue integrated water resources management, conserve water resources, develop alternative water resources, continue water efficiency and sustainable water policies and increase the awareness of the local administrations in these respects.

Within this context, the intention is to implement the following policies in the national policies and documents in the coming period:

- Preparing the National Water Plan for sustainable management in terms of quantity and quality, with considering the balance between the use and conservation of water resources,
- Constantly improving infrastructure for healthy and reliable drinking water in a manner to cover all the urban and rural population,
- Fighting more effectively against water losses with the penalizing and encouraging system,
- Developing affordable and sustainable financing models for investing in and running drinking water and sewerage systems, including public-private partnership,
- Continuing the support irrigation methods that save water in agriculture,
- Modernizing the infrastructure in order to reduce losses in irrigation and strengthening cooperation in water management between the public institutions,
- Developing the system for monitoring and supervising the sea pollution and increasing sanctions, and
- Raising awareness among the agricultural producers for efficient use of water.
1.3.2.4. Adopt a smart-city approach that leverages digitization, clean energy and technologies

Efficient use of information and communication technologies is important in terms of solving the problems faced in the cities, improving public services and raising the quality of living of the citizens. Therefore, in the New Urban Agenda, a commitment is made to adopt a smart-city approach that makes use of opportunities from digitalization, clean energy and technologies, as well as innovative transport technologies, thus providing options for inhabitants to make more environmentally friendly choices and boost sustainable economic growth and enabling cities to improve their service delivery.

The first top level integrated policy on smart cities was set forth in the 10th Development Plan (2014-2018) in our country. Within the context of smart cities, the Plan states that use of smart practices will be mainstreamed, especially including in fields such as healthcare, transportation, buildings, energy and disaster and water management, and transformation of the cities into smart cities will be promoted, by boosting their infrastructure, capacity and skills relating to information and communication technologies.


The 11th Development Plan (2109-2023) states that the local authorities are given direction towards the target of becoming a smart city by the National Smart Cities Strategy and Action Plan prepared in Turkey. Moreover, among the National Goals, it stipulates offering guidance to local administrations in preparing their smart city strategies and the roadmaps that they will follow based on the National Smart City Strategy and Action Plan, helping them to gain a strategic view regarding smart cities; prioritizing smart city projects by considering smart city maturity assessment and resource allocation constraints, giving priority to metropolitan municipalities and 51 provincial municipalities (at present, local administrations have completed their maturity assessments and are working on verification and reporting); analyzing the smart city ecosystem and bringing together all stakeholders of the sector such as entrepreneurs, system developers, and technology providers on a digital platform; and within this scope, developing the Smart Cities Information Sharing Portal, covering the entire smart city ecosystem.

Within this context, National Smart Cities Strategy (2020-2023) entered into force in 2019 in our country. National Smart Cities Strategy and Action Plan is Turkey's first and the world's fourth Smart City strategy and action plan prepared at national level, shaped by common mind and scientific perspective with the involvement of central government institutions and organizations, local administrations, private sector, non-governmental organizations and universities. This Plan aims to ensure environmental and natural sustainability through waste, air, water, land and combating climate change management, conserving the natural assets of
the cities and ensuring the sustainability of environment and nature, making environmental management by taking into account the green urban planning as well.

National Intelligent Transportation Strategy Document (2014-2023) strives to ensure accessibility of a safe, environmentally-friendly, sustainable and intelligent transportation network for all modes of transport and to facilitate the movement of the passengers and cargo.

On the other hand, the smart cities are also addressed within the context of 2015-2018 Information Society Strategy and Action Plan. Smart urban practices offer a great potential to solve the urban problems. The Strategy adopts an approach supporting smart/intelligent practices at local level and stipulating the development of smart cities program at national level, in order to support transformation into smart cities. Within the scope of the relevant Strategy, the 2015-2018 Smart Cities Programme was developed. It is planned to take the necessary measures for transformation into smart cities and to support development of smart practices within the scope of this program.

Digital Transformation Roadmap of Turkey, which lays down how planning will be made in Turkey within the Digitalization and Industry 4.0 process, which steps will be taken, and which areas will be prioritized, was published in 2018. The roadmap determines the actions to be taken with respect to components, such as improving educational infrastructure and building capacity for technology and innovation, raising qualified labour force, reinforcing data communication infrastructure and institutional governance, supporting national technology suppliers and encouraging digital transformation for the users. The Roadmap also stipulates establishment of digital transformation centres.

Among the projects implemented in our country in this respect, smart cities strategy and projects on cloud-based urban information systems especially stand out. Many local administrations develop various smart city projects focusing on people, economy, life, environment, mobility and governance, with a smart dimension and an integrated perspective.

Moreover, there are efforts to raise awareness of the local administrations on smart city applications and to provide private financing for local administrations. There is also work in progress for developing technology, furthering the cooperation between the university and other stakeholders and local administrations, integrating the systems being implemented, creating a smart cities index, and harmonizing the national policies and local policies.

As a result, it is expected that a need for infrastructure will arise in the coming period with respect to the development of smart cities in our country, and it is necessary to improve the infrastructure and pick and implement the smart city projects at national levels, with due consideration of prioritized fields, capabilities and feasibility. Although progress has been made with respect to local rail systems, there is still a considerable need and space for further development, especially in big cities. Within the context of smart cities, additional policies are needed in relation with intelligent transportation systems.
2. PART: Effective Implement

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

2.1.1. Decentralize to enable local governments undertake their assigned responsibilities

In the New Urban Agenda, it is committed to create the national policies and legislation to provide the local administrations with the necessary authority and financial resources in order to ensure effective implementation of the national urban policies in line with the principle of subsidiarity.

Among the Sustainable Development Goals for 2030, Target 11.3 seeks to “enhance inclusive and sustainable urbanization and capacity for participatory, integrated and sustainable human settlement planning and management”; Target 16.6 seeks to “Develop effective, accountable and transparent institutions at all levels”; and Target 16.7 seeks to “Ensure responsive, inclusive, participatory and representative decision-making at all levels”.

In Turkey, local administrations are constitutional institutions. The Constitution stipulates that the only supervisory power over the elected bodies of the local administrations can be exercised through the judicial system. The Constitution also stipulates regulation of the establishment and duties of the local administrations by a specific law in accordance with the principle of local administration and establishment of metropolitan municipalities; and also sets forth matters such as providing the local administrations with sources of income proportionately with their duties. The local administrative units are the special provincial administrations, municipalities and villages, whose duties and authorities are regulated through various laws.

One of the main objectives of the 11th Development Plan (2019-2023) is to equip local administrations with an inclusive, financially viable, transparent and accountable structure whereby they can offer efficient, fast and high-quality services, observe the needs of disadvantaged groups and thus maximize the level of citizen satisfaction. Also, the Plan underlines revising the Law on Municipal Revenues in order to increase their own revenues with a view to strengthening their financial structures.

Local administrations have been further empowered in Turkey, especially by the legislative arrangements introduced between the years 2004 and 2012; and the number of metropolitan municipalities has been increased, the jurisdiction of them has been expanded, and new measures have been taken to increase the shares of all the municipalities and special provincial administrations in the central budget as well as their own revenues.

Municipal Law numbered 5393, which was revised as a whole in 2005, provides for the organization, bodies, management, duties, powers and responsibilities of the municipalities in Turkey as well as the principles and procedures for their operation. Among the novelties
introduced by the Law numbered 5393 are the institutional strategic plans prepared by the municipalities with a population over 50,000, setting forth a general framework rather than listing the duties of the municipalities one by one, monthly meeting of municipality municipal councils, establishment of specialized commissions, recognition of hometown-fellowship, arrangements made to the favour of the elected in the organization of the council and establishment of the city councils.

According to the Law, the duties and responsibilities of the municipalities include offering or commissioning the services of urban infrastructure, which are common for the locality by nature, such as land development, water and sewerage and transport; geographical and urban information systems; environmental and waste management, municipal police, fire brigade, ambulance; urban traffic; burial and graveyards; afforestation, parks and green areas; housing; culture and arts, tourism and promotion, youth and sports; social services and aids, weddings, vocational and skill courses; and development of economy and trade. Metropolitan municipalities and municipalities with a population over 100,000 can open guesthouses for women and children. Moreover, municipalities may establish and operate any facilities relating to education and healthcare; they can construct, repair and maintain sanctuaries; preserve, maintain and repair cultural and natural assets and the areas that are important for the historical fabric and the urban history as well as their functions and may reconstruct the ones, which cannot be protected, in accordance with the original. When necessary, the municipalities may support sports and athletes, and may organize any amateur sports competitions. They can establish food banks.

With the Law on Metropolitan Municipalities numbered 5216 that came into force in 2004 and the Law numbered 6360 following the amendment introduced in 2012, the number of the metropolitan municipalities was increased to 30; their areas of authority and responsibilities were expanded and their territory was determined as the city as a whole. Hence a new structure was established, with the metropolitan government system covering 51% of the country's surface area and 77% of the population.

The duties and responsibilities of the metropolitan municipalities can be summarized as follows: preparing the institutional strategic plans, annual target and investment programs, seeking input from the district municipalities and preparing the budget accordingly; issuing and licensing the territorial plans and land development plans for the entire city; exercising the powers granted under the Slum House Law; licensing workplaces; producing land and housing and implementing urban transformation projects; preparing the transportation plans and organizing traffic and transport; establishing geographical and urban information systems; ensuring environmental management; licensing and supervising non-sanitary enterprises; offering municipal inspection/police services; constructing, commissioning the construction of, operating or commissioning the operation of social facilities, regional parks, zoos, animal shelters, libraries, museums, sports and recreation areas; supporting the sports and the athletes, including cash aid to the sports clubs; constructing buildings and facilities for sanctuaries and healthcare, educational and cultural services whenever required, conserving cultural and natural assets and historical fabric, offering public transportation services, water and sewerage services and burial and graveyard services; establishing wholesale markets; making plans and other preparations in relation with natural disasters; running healthcare centres, hospitals and mobile healthcare units and offering and developing any social and
cultural services for the adult, the older persons, persons with disabilities, women, youth and children and establishing social facilities for these purposes, opening, managing or commissioning the management of vocational courses and skill courses; establishing, commissioning the establishment of, managing or commissioning the management of the establishment of central heating systems; and supporting agriculture and husbandry are some of these duties.

The Law numbered 5216 also sets forth the duties and responsibilities of the district municipalities within the metropolitan territory. Accordingly, the district municipalities perform duties assigned to the municipalities, excluding those that are specifically assigned to the metropolitan municipalities.

The duties and powers of the special provincial administrations, which exist in cities that are not metropolises, are determined by the Special Provincial Administration Law; and the duties and powers of the villages, on the other hand, are determined by the Village Law.

The principal legislation that regulates the income of the municipalities in Turkey is the Law on Municipal Revenues numbered 2464. The municipalities meet their need for financing from three sources, their own revenues, transfers from the central budget and loans. Own revenues are the sources of income that the local administrations are empowered to control under the applicable laws. Own revenues consist of local taxes, fees, participation shares and subscription charges. Other than these, own revenues also include property revenues, operational and activity income and donations and penalties.

While the share of the own revenues of the local administrations in the total income was 45.11% in 2018; it became 43.32% in 2019. This share was 37.35% for the municipalities, 81.76% for the administrations affiliated to the municipalities, 33.25% for local administration associations and 9.67% for special provincial administrations as of 2019.

Own revenues are not the primary source for municipalities in our country. The transfers, which can be defined as the transfer of sources from the central government to the local administrations, make up the most important source of financing for the municipalities.

While the rate of the share received by the local administrations from the general budget tax income to total income was 45.11% in 2018; it became 50.34% in 2019. This rate is 60.56% for municipalities, 30.94% for special provincial administrations and 11.17% for the administrations affiliated to the municipalities.

Local administration audit in Turkey basically includes the conformity of their acts and deeds with the law and financial and performance audits. Both the Public Financial Management and Control Law numbered 5018 and the laws relating to local administrations determine how the local administrations will be audited. Such regulations introduce an internal audit system for local administrations. Accordingly, it is now possible to audit the municipalities through the internal audit agency set up by the municipalities within.

Under the law, external audit takes place with the Council of State examining the financial activities, decisions and acts and deeds of the local administration in terms of conformity with the laws and institutional purposes, goals and plans; and reporting the results to the Turkish
Grand National Assembly. The Council of State included total 85 local administrations into the audit program for audit period 2018, i.e. 25 special provincial administrations, 30 metropolitan municipalities, 10 organizations under metropolitan municipalities, and 20 city municipalities.

On the other hand, in addition to financial audit, the Civil Inspection Board affiliated with the Ministry of the Interior and the Local Administration Controllers also conduct audits under the Special Provincial Administration Law numbered 5302 and the Municipal Law numbered 5393. Such audit, on the other hand, takes place in terms of conformity with the law throughout the administration.

The activities of the audit commissions established under special provincial administrations and municipal councils make audit by council possible through approval of the activity reports that are issued in accordance with institutional strategic planning and performance programs as well as through the means available to the members of the respective council, namely, inquiries, interpellations and calls for general meetings.

Metropolitan municipality model is developing and spreading in Turkey in terms of service efficiency. This model needs to be further developed in a manner to increase public participation and strengthened coordination with the central government in terms of regional and local development, urban planning and service delivery. Moreover, mechanisms need to be developed in order to enhance the coordination between the civil society and private sector and public administrations at local level.

The need for the determination of the required standards and audits regarding the ensuring compliance with them by the central government continues for the local administrations to reach a certain service provision level within the framework of legislation regarding the principles of duty, authority, resource sharing and service provision relations between the central government and local administrations.

There is a continuing need to improve administrative, financial and technical capabilities of the local administrations, taking into account their expanded fields of service and increased duties and responsibilities resulting from the recent legal arrangements.

2.1.2. Link urban policies to finance mechanisms and budgets

In the New Urban Agenda, it is committed promote inclusive, implementable and participatory urban policies that are linked to transparent and accountable finance mechanisms.

Among the Sustainable Development Goals for 2030, Target 11.3 seeks to “by 2030, enhance inclusive and sustainable urbanization and capacity for participatory, integrated and sustainable human settlement planning and management in all countries”, Target 16.6 seeks to “develop effective, accountable and transparent institutions at all levels”, and Target 16.7 seeks to “ensure responsive, inclusive, participatory and representative decision-making at all levels”.

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Institutional strategic plans are the most important tools to create the prospective missions and visions of the institutions and to determine strategic purposes and measurable goals in order to link the urban policies and strategies with the budgets.

According to the Public Financial Management and Control Law numbered 5018, like all the public administrations, metropolitan municipalities, all the municipalities with a population over 50,000 and special provincial administrations are liable to prepare their strategic plans, which will be relied upon for preparing the budget.

Strategic management process, which is currently being implemented at the municipalities within the framework of public administration and public financial administration reforms, constitutes the ground for determining the priorities that the municipalities would like to focus on in the medium and long terms, ensuring financial discipline in the process of preparing and implementing the budget, distributing resources according to strategic priorities and monitoring whether they are used efficiently or not and developing accountability based thereon.

11th Development Plan (2019-2023) sets it as an objective to increase the efficiency of implementation of strategic management in public sector and to improve the capacity of strategy development units in public administrations. Accordingly, it is targeted to increase the alignment between the priorities of the local administrations' strategic plans and resource allocations. It is planned to conduct a benchmark study on the relationship of service prioritization-strategic plan-resource allocation in the municipalities.

“Regulation Regarding the Principles and Procedures for Strategic Planning by Public Administrations” was published in 2018 in order to determine the principles and procedures for institutional strategic plans. “Institutional Strategic Planning Guidelines for Municipalities” is published to assist the municipalities throughout the stages of preparing and implementing as well as monitoring and assessing these plans.

Following the General Local Elections that took place in 2019, strategic plans covering the period between 2020 and 2024 have been enforced and publicly announced by municipalities with a population over 50 thousand and special provincial administrations, after approval by their respective councils.

The municipalities base their budgets and allocation of resources for projects on their institutional strategic plans so that the municipal services can be offered by the desired level and quality. Therefore, the municipality budget is associated with the goals and objectives in the plan. The municipalities determine the cost of the goals for the plan period in their strategic plans.

The principal legislation that regulates the income of the municipalities in Turkey is the Law on Municipal Revenues numbered 2464. The municipalities meet their need for financing from three sources, their own revenues, transfers from the central budget and loans. Own revenues are the sources of income that the local administrations are empowered to control under the applicable laws. Own revenues consist of local taxes, fees, participation shares and
subscription charges. Other than these, own revenues also include property revenues, operational and activity income and donations and penalties.

While the share of the own revenues of the local administrations in the total income was 45.11% in 2018; it became 43.32% in 2019. This share was 37.35% for the municipalities, 81.76% for the administrations affiliated to the municipalities, 33.25% for local administration associations and 9.67% for special provincial administrations as of 2019.

With institutionalization of the strategic management in public administrations, planning and budgeting became more closely linked and accountability and financial transparency were enhanced. In order to further reinforce accountability, Ombudsman Institution was established in 2013, and the audit jurisdiction of the Council of State was expanded in a manner to cover all the public resources.

Covid-19 pandemic has had a negative impact on social life and economic balances worldwide. Such negative impact has directly affected the municipal revenues. Again, the pandemic increased the number of people and households in need of social aid. As a result, items of expenses arose, which the municipalities could not foresee when preparing their budgets. Therefore, some municipalities have revised their strategic plans after the breakout of Covid-19 Pandemic.

The municipalities use institutional strategic planning as well as land development planning as tools allowing them to shape the future of the city. These two planning processes, which do not have a hierarchical relationship between them, interact and constitute a roadmap to the desired future of the city, which has spatial, institutional and social aspects.

The municipalities have started to work on spatial strategic planning in order to further the integration between these two tools.

The need continues to offer guidance to municipalities with a view to prioritizing services from the perspective of associating urban policies with budget and financing mechanisms and to enhance the efficiency of the link between institutional strategic plans and the allocation of resources.

2.1.3. Develop legal and policy frameworks to enhance the ability of governments to implement urban policies

In the New Urban Agenda, it is committed to create an inclusive, implementable and participatory urban legislative framework that are linked to transparent and accountable finance mechanisms. Through legal and policy frameworks created in this manner, it will be possible to effectively implement the New Urban Agenda, and thus to produce just, safe, healthy, accessible, affordable, resilient and sustainable cities.

Among the Sustainable Development Goals for 2030, Target 11.3 seeks to “by 2030, enhance inclusive and sustainable urbanization and capacity for participatory, integrated and sustainable human settlement planning and management in all countries”.
There is a comprehensive legislation in Turkey, including the Municipal Law that defines the duties and powers of the local administrations and the Law on Metropolitan Municipalities. Local administrations have become further empowered and their capabilities for urban policy practices have been enhanced especially with the legislative arrangements that took place between the years 2004 and 2012.

There is a comprehensive legislation in force setting forth the duties and responsibilities of the local administrations, central agencies and other related parties with respect to implementation of the urban policies devised/to be devised by the administration when fulfilling such duties, especially including the Land Development Law, addressing issues such as spatial planning, land development, land arrangement, zoning, construction and cadastral system as well as the responsibilities of the professionals to work in these areas.

There is also legislation, especially including Environmental Law, about matters such as waste management, soil pollution control, air pollution control and conservation of air pollution aiming to reduce the negative impacts of the urbanization and economic activities, conservation of the environment and prevention of environmental pollution.

There is comprehensive legislation defining the matters relating to cultural and natural assets as necessary, regulating the acts and activities to be undertaken, and determining the principles and implementation decisions necessary in these respects to protect cultural and natural heritage. Cultural and natural heritage is protected through preparation and supervision of land development plans, as well as planning, research, control and supervision studies conducted in the special environmental protection areas, where special natural and cultural assets are located.

Moreover, access to housing, financing for housing, prevention of formation of slums, urban transportation, reduction of natural disaster risks, protection of natural and cultural heritage, improving the access to urban services by the disadvantaged groups and closing the gap between regions and strengthening the local administrations, being the main party responsible for the urban services, along with their duties and powers are also addressed comprehensively in our legislation.

11th Development Plan (2019-2023) sets it as an objective to develop spatial planning system within the framework of principles and rules determined in cooperation with central institutions to include effective participation mechanisms at neighbourhood level and monitoring and auditing processes; where land development planning and implementation carried out by local administrations will be taken as a basis.

Moreover, the 11th Development Plan also sets it as an objective to develop local administrations that practically implement the urban policies; to determine the administrative, financial and technical minimum standards of the services of local administrations; and to make legislative arrangements on the implementation of these standards.

With respect to spatial planning and urbanization areas, Turkey has made progress in terms of policies and legislation. The Land Development Law regulates the matters pertaining to the planning and construction inside and outside the municipal territory in order to ensure that the
settlements and the buildings therein conform to certain conditions as given in the plans in terms of infrastructure, sanitation and environment. This Law, which has been reinforced through certain amendments on urban legislation until now, is implemented through regulations.

At national level, the primary authorized institution is the Ministry of Environment and Urbanization. The mission of the Ministry is to conduct work and actions regarding planning, construction, transformation and environmental management with a regulating, supervising, inclusive and solution-oriented approach in order to create sustainable cities and settlements with a high quality of living that are harmonious with the nature.

Presidential Decree No 1, Law on Metropolitan Municipalities numbered 5216, Municipal Law numbered 5393, Special Provincial Administration Law numbered 5302 and especially the Land Development Law numbered 3194 set forth the duties and powers of administrations of all tiers with respect to implementation of the urban policies and services.

With establishment of the General Directorate of Local Administrations affiliated to the Ministry of Environment and Urbanization in 2018, the Ministry has become more influential in offering central government support for the municipalities in their practices falling within the realms of environment and urbanization. In addition, with the establishment of the Local Governance Policy Council, the political agendas of the local administrations have also become more important at the central level.

With respect to spatial planning and urbanization, a series of institutional and legal arrangements have been made within the scope of the Integrated Urban Development Strategy and Action Plan (2010-2023), which was published following the 1st National Urbanization Council that was organized in 2009. Accordingly, the Law Regarding the Transformation of Areas under Disaster Risk was published in 2012. The same year, number of metropolitan municipalities was increased to 30 and the territory of the metropolitan municipalities was integrated into the administrative territory of the city. With an amendment introduced in 2013 to the Land Development Law numbered 3194, the “special strategy plan” was included into the special planning hierarchy. In 2014, revised “Spatial Planning Regulation” was published, covering and uniting all the regulations regarding spatial planning of any type and scale and any revisions, additions and changes in such plans. The Regulation sets forth the principles for grouping the spatial plans consisting of landscaping plans, land development plans and especially the spatial strategy plans that have been recently included into the legislation on planning, and the principles to be observed in the process of preparing the plans.

In the 2nd National Urbanization Council that was organized in 2017 after the Habitat III Conference in order to implement the New Urban Agenda, innovative, inclusive, transparent and solution-oriented principles have been identified under the emerging urbanization issues of cities with identity, the new urban transformation approach, migration and social cohesion in urbanization, strong local administrations and urbanization practices. Since then the studies to develop legislation and policy have continued in line with the outcomes of the Council.

As a very significant portion of Turkey faces the risk of natural disasters, especially including earthquake, making the building stock and thus the cities resilient is considered as a priority.
For this purpose, amendments have been made to the Law Regarding the Transformation of Areas under Disaster Risk and relevant Regulations in 2018 and 2019 with measures and regulations aimed at conducting the work and transactions relating to urban transformation activities more efficiently and solving the problems faced in practices.

Strategic Environmental Assessment Regulation aiming to minimize the negative environmental impacts of the plans and programs, including spatial plans, entered into force in 2017, and the Project to Support the Implementation of the Regulation continues. The regulation that constitutes the ground for land development practices was revised in 2017 and revised “Land Development Regulation for Planned Areas” was published. The definitions section is very detailed in this Regulation, which sets forth the conditions of use by function. Moreover, with an amendment to the annex to the “Regulation for Creation of Spatial Plans”, the standard for green area per capita was raised from 10 m\(^2\) to 15 m\(^2\).

The issues with the Land Development Law numbered 3194 were determined with an integrated approach in 2019 and 2020 and amendments have been made with respect to such matters.

In addition to the legal and policy frameworks, supply of accurate and current data is also one of the most important elements for making sound decisions in spatial planning and urbanization policies. Accordingly, the Presidential Decree on Geographical Information Systems was published and entered into force in 2019 in order to ensure coordination between the public institutions and organizations with respect to Geographical Information System of Turkey and its infrastructure, to set the goals and strategies, to generate geographical data and information under geographical data sets, to ensure that they are updated, and also to ensure access thereto and safety thereof. 2020-2023 National Smart Cities Strategy and Action Plan also entered into force. The local administrations are empowered to make their own spatial plans according to the Land Development Law. In 2019, a Circular was published, aiming to make sure that the approved spatial plans and amendments will be sent by the respective administrations to the Ministry of Environment and Urbanization in order to increase the accessibility of plan data, and to perform controlled and accurate monitoring and archiving transactions.

In 2020, Regulation Regarding Value Increment Share Resulting from Amendments in the Land Development Plan was published in order to further elaborate the principles and procedures in order to ensure that the public benefits from the increased value of an immovable property arising out of an amendment to the land development plan.

There is a well-established and comprehensive legislative and policy framework with respect to the implementation of urban policies; however, the need continues to further improve the service standards and implementation capabilities of the local administrations and to develop legislation for improving the processes of participation and monitoring in spatial planning in the coming period.
2.1.4. Build the capacity of local governments to implement local and metropolitan multilevel governance

The New Urban Agenda supports promoting local and metropolitan multilevel governance, across administrative borders, and based on functional territories in order to solve metropolitan and regional problems, and to enhance their authorization, financing and implementation capacities for this purpose.

Among the Sustainable Development Goals for 2030, Target 11.3 seeks to “by 2030, enhance inclusive and sustainable urbanization and capacity for participatory, integrated and sustainable human settlement planning and management in all countries”.

One of the fundamental objectives in the 11th Development Plan (2019-2023) is to equip local administrations with an inclusive, financially viable, transparent and accountable structure whereby they can offer efficient, fast and high-quality services, observe the needs of disadvantaged groups and thus maximize the level of citizen satisfaction. For this purpose, it is set as an objective to carry out modelling and legislation studies in order to restructure the local administrations with a view to making them more effective in their service provision.

Concurrently with the regulations introduced in Turkey on public administration during the last 20 years, the concepts of strategic planning, budget and performance management, management information systems, accrual-based accounting and internal audit have come to be recognized by the local administrations. All laws relating to local administrations have been revised starting from 2004, including the Municipal Law, Law on Metropolitan Municipalities, Special Provincial Administrations Law and Law on the Unions of Local Administrations.

According to the Public Financial Management and Control Law numbered 5018, like all the public administrations, metropolitan municipalities, all the municipalities with a population over 50,000 and special provincial administrations are liable to prepare their institutional strategic plans, which will be relied upon for preparing the budget. “Institutional Strategic Planning Guidelines for Municipalities” was published in 2019. There are 346 municipalities implementing the strategic administration framework. Annual activity reports are prepared as to whether the goals and indicators are set in accordance with the institutional strategic plan or not and whether the outcomes of implementation are in conformity with the strategic plan and performance program or not.

The Ministry of Environment and Urbanization prepares and publicly discloses the General Activity Report for Local administrations, which is based on the administrative activity reports prepared by the local administrations and which also includes the assessments of the Ministry. The Activity Report includes the changes planned by the relevant local administration for future years from an integrated perspective, with due consideration of the outcomes of the activity year and general economic conditions, budgetary means and expectations. It is a requirement of transparency and accountability that the local administrations work in accordance with the plans that they prepare for the services that they will offer and share such work with the public through the reports that they will issue annually. The activity report makes a significant contribution to ensuring efficiency in
allocation and use of public resources as well as to transparency and accountability. In addition to being a complementary part of the institutional strategic plans and performance programs, activity reports also enable the society transparently access accurate and reliable information on the work and transactions of the administrations.

Another important regulation qualifying as a reform for the local administrations has been made in the Law on Metropolitan Municipalities. The model in the Law was developed in years 2004 and 2008 and with the final regulation that entered into force in 2014, a new metropolitan municipality model with enhanced powers, duties and responsibilities was created throughout the territory of the city in 30 cities, where the population exceeds 750 thousand. This model marks the transition to a metropolitan local administration structure, which also covers the rural areas, in metropolises.

One of the main goals of the reforms introduced in the field of local administrations since 2014 has been to increase participation. Within this framework, certain practices have been initiated, such as the city council, women and youth assemblies, mechanisms for participation in the processes in municipal council, making the relations with civil society flexible and smooth, developing the role of the mukhtars’ offices, recognition of hometown-fellowship, inclusive strategic planning approach and voluntary participation in services.

Local Administration Reform Project Stage 3 (LAR 3), an example of capacity building for this model, is the third local administration support project financed by EU through IPA funds. The first stage of this Project, LAR 1, was implemented in years 2005 and 2007; and the second stage, LAR 2, was implemented between the years 2009 and 2011. The Local Administration Reform Project Stage 3, is their extension and its implementation started in 2018 in order to enhance the service capabilities of the local administrations and to build capacity for the implementation of the new metropolitan municipality model that entered into force in 2014 and the Project will be completed in 2021. (https://www.lar.org.tr/en/main-page/)

Growing in size and becoming more powerful, the present-day local administrations have become the most important units supporting development by a local scale. However, as their fields of service have become more diversified in the same process and have come to include also the types of service necessitating large-scale investments, they have preferred to operate by creating unions. The unions, which may be very functional when it comes to efficiently offer services such as waste disposal plants, energy and infrastructure investments, which can prove to be more efficient when undertaken by a regional scale rather than a local scale, are also important for cooperation for performance and for developing a culture of solidarity among local administrations.

In Turkey, local administrations set up unions among them and perform some of the duties attributed to them under the laws through such unions. The structure of the local administration unions is governed by the Law on the Unions of Local Administrations. Accordingly, Union of the Governorships, representing the special provincial administrations and Investment Monitoring and Coordination Directories (YIKOB), and the Union of the Municipalities of Turkey, representing the municipalities, serve at national level in order to protect the interests of the local administrations and help further the same, to train the staff
and to express opinions during the preparations relating to laws that are about local administrations. Moreover, there are 704 unions established for diverse purposes, such as environmental infrastructure services, tourism infrastructure services, potable water, performing services for the villages, and development etc.

In Turkey, development agencies functioning in NUTS-2 regions are considered to be important for implementing multilevel communication on a local scale.

Development agencies ensure involvement of all the relevant regional stakeholders in the programming, implementation, monitoring and assessment processes of issues related with development through board of directors and development board.

The board of directors is the decision-making body of the agency and it consists of three representatives, who will be elected by the governors, metropolitan mayors, chairperson of the general provincial council, chairperson of the chamber of industry, chairperson of the chamber of commerce and the development board among the private sector and/or nongovernmental organizations in regions consisting of one city; and the governors of the cities, metropolitan mayors or the city mayors, chairpersons of the general provincial councils and the chairpersons of the chambers of commerce and industry from each city.

The development board is set up for the purpose enhancing cooperation between the public institutions and organizations in the region, private sector, nongovernmental organizations, universities and local administrations and to guide the agency as oriented towards the target of development.

The purpose of this multi-tier governance model for regional development is to ensure involvement of relevant parties in the processes of making and implementing the decisions by different levels of participation.

Comparable studies are carried out at national scale in order to monitor the services of the local administrations according to data-based indicators. One of these studies is the Municipalities Surveys, which are issued and published online for the purpose of monitoring the progress in the actions expected from the municipalities that are included into the scope of KENTGES - Integrated Urban Development Strategy and Action Plan (2010–2023) (https://kentges.csb.gov.tr/), and to reveal their existing institutional capacities and problem areas.

Environmental indicators sorted by cities, such as potable water, waste, waste water, solid waste, air quality and environmental spending, are assessed through graphs, tables and comments and are published on the “environmental indicators” portal (https://cevreselgostergeler.csb.gov.tr/) annually in order to ensure that the environmental data are developed and also to ensure public access to information.

As also mentioned in the 11th Development Plan (2019-2023), metropolitan model is developing and spreading in Turkey in terms of service efficiency. It is important that this model is further developed in a manner to increase citizen participation and strengthened coordination with the central government in terms of regional and local development, urban planning and service provision. Moreover, mechanisms need to be developed in order to
enhance the coordination between the civil society and private sector and public administrations at local level.

In Turkey, the need continues for improvement efforts focusing on capacity building in addition to umbrella models and reforms that pertain to local administration. Building institutional capacity for the local administrations is a key element to implement the reforms. Within this framework, activities are carried on to build capacity for local administrations in fields such as human resources, organizational structure, business processes, data processing infrastructure, public relations, use of digital channels, understanding of management, technical capacity, physical spaces, relations with stakeholders, planning, financial management etc.

Although significant progress was made in relation with the strategic management framework in local administrations during last period, there is still a need to monitor and assess the practices more efficiently.

Developing administrative, financial and technical minimum standards for the services of the local administrations and strengthening coordination between municipalities of different tiers are also matters that remain important.

2.1.5. Implement participatory, age- and gender-responsive approaches to urban policy and planning

In the New Urban Agenda, a commitment is made to promote participatory age- and gender-responsive approaches at all stages of the urban and territorial policy and planning processes including administrations at all levels and the stakeholder groups such as civil society, women and the youth by creating platforms for cooperation and consultation open to all.

Among the Sustainable Development Goals for 2030, Target 11.3 seeks to “by 2030, enhance inclusive and sustainable urbanization and capacity for participatory, integrated and sustainable human settlement planning and management in all countries” and Target 16.7 seeks to “Ensure responsive, inclusive, participatory and representative decision-making at all levels”.

Turkey has set up miscellaneous mechanisms to encourage inclusion of the citizens into the local decision-making process, such as city councils introduced by Local Agenda 21 to begin with, but also voluntary participation in municipality services, institutional strategic plan, live broadcast of council meetings, specialized commissions, e-municipality applications, referendum, quarters and mukhtar’s offices, an awareness of fellow-townsmenship, the right to information and petition mechanism and open door applications. All these and similar practices ensure inclusion into urban policy and planning.

Within the context of good governance, 11th Development Plan (2019-2023) stipulates arrangements to be made in order to make city councils more active in order to ensure active participation of the citizens and all the related parties in the policy-making processes.
Moreover, within the context of enhancing the participatory and overseeing role the citizens in the decision-making processes, the Plan also includes measures to take into account the needs of the relevant groups with more emphasis through means such as enhancing the mechanisms of the disadvantaged in the processes of representation and decision-making, ensuring a certain level of participation in city councils, and seeking referendum with respect to any important decisions to be made.

There has been a transition to a strategic administrative structure in municipalities since 2005, and accordingly, the municipalities utilize two basic tools in urban policy-making and planning. The first is institutional strategic planning that determines the priorities for use of resources within the framework of their authority, duties and responsibilities. The institutional strategic plans prepared with active involvement of all the stakeholders are the first and foremost of the practices enhancing citizen involvement. With the inclusive processes defined in the “Institutional Strategic Planning Guidelines for Municipalities”, published in 2019, the institutional strategic plans are prepared and policies and measures are determined for the future of the city.

Another tool, on the other hand, is the land development planning, which ensures various functions, such as housing, industry, tourism, transport, green spaces and recreation to be distributed and placed throughout the city. These two planning processes, which are not in a hierarchical relationship, interact and constitute a roadmap to the desired future of the city, with spatial, institutional and social aspects. The processes for preparing spatial plans include inclusive mechanisms such as seeking the opinions of the respective institutions and publicly announcing the plans.

Recently, practical steps have been taken in spatial planning for transition to a strategic approach, with inclusion being one of the basic principles of such approach. In 2011, the concept of spatial strategy plan was included into the legislation for the first time and in 2018, Land Development Law stipulated that the spatial strategy plans to guide the sub-scaled spatial plans will be prepared jointly with all the stakeholders in accordance with the socioeconomic development policies. Preparation of National Spatial Strategy Plan started accordingly in 2018. This new approach to planning, which is defined on the levels of the country and the regions, was also responded to on a local basis, and the municipalities also started to work on determining their own spatial development strategies, which would act as a bridge between the goals in their institutional strategic plans and the land development plans, through inclusive processes.

In our country, the municipal council meetings are held publicly as a rule, which is very important for direct participation of the citizens into the decision-making processes for their cities. Similarly, the relevant stakeholders can attend the specialized commissions established at the municipalities and they can express their opinions. The practice of referendum has been frequently used especially by the local administrations recently. The municipalities organize referendums in order to ensure active participation of the citizens into investments and decisions within their jurisdictions, such as land development, urban design and infrastructural and superstructural investments.
The e-government and e-municipality applications that have spread fast worldwide facilitate the daily lives of the citizens, while also offering an opportunity to increase local inclusion. With an arrangement made in the Municipal Law in 2018, it was made a principle that the municipalities would use the e-municipality information system, where any administrative work and transaction would be realized, for the purpose of performing the duties and services as assigned to the municipalities under the applicable legislation and the applications by the citizens would be processed and consummated. e-Municipality Information System was established on a national level and was made available for use in 2018. Currently there are 750 municipalities using the e-Municipality information system.

"Municipal Governance Scorecard" project, which was implemented in years 2017 and 2018 for the purpose of implementing an approach to urban policy and planning that included democratic representation and inclusion of the citizens, that stipulated activities to be performed in an administratively and financially transparent manners and that can cover the needs and demands of different sections, attaining sustainable development and goals for high quality of life and also for the purpose of good governance, research was conducted on good governance in 37 district municipalities in Istanbul based on 7 principles and 227 indicators; and capacity enhancement activities were performed.

The indicator determined to keep track of the targets under the New Urban Agenda for this purpose is “Proportion of cities with a direct participation structure of civil society in urban planning and management that operate regularly and democratically”. In Turkey, the structures ensuring inclusion of the civil society into urban planning and urban management are the city councils.

City councils are the governance mechanisms, where the central government, local administration, professional organizations and civil society meet with an understanding of partnership and recognition of hometown-fellowship, and where the development priorities, problems and visions of the city are identified and discussed on the basis of sustainable development principles and the solutions are developed, where the shared wisdom and reconciliation are essential. The opinions reached at the city council are included into the agenda of the first municipal council to follow and assessed.

The projects developed at the city councils are implemented by the municipalities. For example, with the Inclusive Budgeting Efforts Project implemented jointly by Eskişehir Metropolitan Municipality and Eskişehir City Council, a survey was taken by 5,000 people, meetings were organized in 10 quarters that were determined as pilot quarters, and mukhtars were interviewed, and the Democratic Citizenship Workshop was organized, all with a view to preparing the budget in line with the priorities and opinions of the people living in Eskişehir.

The Local Agenda 21 Project initiated in Turkey in 1997 with the support of UNDP played the most effective role in making the city councils on the Country's agenda. City councils have been included into the national legislation after 2005, and these organizations that are widespread by a larger scale in our country are established and operate under the ‘City Councils Regulation’’. City councils can be established by metropolitan, city and district municipalities in Turkey. In addition, there are two unofficial umbrella unions that are
intended for constant communication and sharing of information between the city councils based on the principles of equal partnership and solidarity, i.e. Union of the City Councils in Turkey and City Councils Platform of Turkey. Union of the City Councils in Turkey has 116 member city councils.

There are common structures, such as assemblies of the women, youth, the pensioners, persons with disabilities and foreigners, functioning under the jurisdiction of the city councils and created on a voluntary basis, intended to assist various groups in the society in contributing to the urban management and playing an active role in the management of a high quality and liveable city in line with the principle of governance and sustainable development.

There are approximately 40 women's assemblies inside the city councils in Turkey intended to enhance the efficiency of the women in social life and to enable them to have an active role in the local decision-making mechanisms.

Recently, the participatory mechanisms to ensure that the people participate in administration and play a more active role in decision-making processes have become more important at the local administration level. Practices such as city councils, specialized committees, public announcement of the agenda of the municipal councils and the summarized decisions and strategic planning approaches that are in existence in the local administration system in Turkey are mechanisms developed to further spread participation at the local level.

Supporting the establishment of city councils for a more inclusive local administration, developing mechanisms for inclusion of the citizens into representation and decision-making mechanisms, especially including the disadvantaged groups, encouraging research activities of the NGOs and development agencies on local administrations, ensuring that e-information mechanisms are developed and enhancing the use of technological means in the inclusion process are matters that remain important. It is especially necessary to develop the processes of participation and effective preparation, practice, monitoring, assessment and supervision in an integrated manner in spatial planning at the local level.

2.1.6. Achieve women’s full participation in all fields and all levels of decision-making

In the New Urban Agenda, a commitment is made to take the measures to ensure equal, full and efficient participation in all fields and in leadership at all levels of decision-making, including local administrations.

Among the Sustainable Development Goals for 2030, Goal 5 seeks to “Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls”.

Equal opportunities for women and men have been secured in Turkey in all the laws, especially including the Constitution. The measures for empowering women are included in the policy documents, such as development plans, government programs and strategic plans.

11th Development Plan covering the years 2019 to 2023 emphasizes that the only way for the country to take its place among the countries that achieve sustainable development is paved
by the economic and social empowerment of women.

One of the fundamental objectives of the plan is to prevent all kinds of discrimination against women, to ensure that women benefit from equally the rights, opportunities and facilities in all areas of the social life and to empower them.

Within the context of this objective, related policies are listed as follows:

- Encouraging active participation of women in economic, social, cultural life and decision-making mechanisms at all levels, in the way of strengthening the equality of opportunity for men and women on the rights, especially beginning from the local level,
- Carrying out researches and projects and providing training to empower women in economic and social life,
- Carrying out activities to encourage an increase in the active participation of women in politics,
- Carrying out awareness raising and encouraging activities to ensure further involvement of women in the management and decision-making bodies in the private sector, and
- Developing awareness raising, guiding and encouraging methods to ensure further involvement of women in the management and decision-making bodies in the public sector.

“Empowering Women Strategy Document and Action Plan (2018-2023)” coordinated by the Ministry of Family, Labour and Social Services was prepared in 2018 and has been implemented since. Such document defines the five basic policy axes as “education, economy, healthcare, inclusion in decision-making mechanisms and the media”. Within this context, an important roadmap was put forth, analyzing the current status in terms of inclusion of women in decision-making mechanisms and relying on up-to-date data.

In Turkey, women gained the right to elect and to be elected equally with men before many other countries in the world, in the local election of 1930 and the parliamentary election of 1934. In articles 67, 68 and 70 of the Constitution, the rights to “elect and be elected” in local and parliamentary elections, “establish a political party”, “joining political parties and leaving political parties in accordance with due procedure”, “participate in referendums” and “admission to public service” are recognized for all the Turkish citizens. Moreover, it is stated in the Political Parties Law that “political parties may not pursue any purpose that is in contradiction with the principle that all is equal before the law, without any discrimination based on language, race, colour, gender, political philosophy, philosophical belief, religion, sect and similar reasons”, hence preventing any effort to set up a party based on discrimination, including discrimination based on gender.

When the Constitution and Political Parties Law are taken together, it can be seen that the women and men have equal political rights in Turkey. In addition, the amendments made to article 10 of the Constitution in years 2004 and 2010 have paved the way for positive discrimination practices, including ensuring equal inclusion of women and men in decision-making mechanisms.

In politics, the increase in the female representatives and the change in the number of candidates in politics are also important indicators. A remarkable increase is observed in the number of women that become candidates for nomination and that are nominated by the party
both in parliamentary elections and in local elections. It is considered that this increase is attributable to both the positive changes in the social expectations from inclusion of the women in politics as well as in the women’s own attitudes and approaches to politics, and the special measures implemented by the political parties in Turkey (quota practices, not charging women for candidacy, placing women in upper ranks in the lists etc.).

Considering representation in legislation and execution nationwide, the rate of women ministers to total ministers was 3.7% in 2016, and 12.5% in 2019. The proportion of the women deputies in the Turkish Grand National Assembly (TBMM) was 14.7% in 2015 and 17.3% in 2018. The proportion of the young deputies (deputies aged 45 and below) in the assembly, on the other hand, was 29.8% in 2018. By a general assessment, the recent increase in especially the number of women deputies is very remarkable and promising.

Representation of women in local administrations, which are considered to constitute the first step in participating in political life and which play a key role in the development of democracy, is very important so that the decisions made on the local level are more responsive to gender equality.

According to the results of the local elections of 2014, the proportion of the women mayors was 2.9%, while the women members in municipal councils accounted for 10.7%, women members of general provincial councils accounted for 4.8% and in total, they accounted for 9.9%. According to the results of the local elections of 2019, on the other hand, the proportion of the women mayors was 3%, while the women members in municipal councils accounted for 11%, women members of general provincial councils was 3.8% and in total, they accounted for 10.1%.

Comparing the Local Elections of 2014 and Local Elections of 2019, the increase in women representation is very remarkable. It is very important for the women leaders to present their perspectives in order to initiate gender equality initiatives in the cities. A policy document was published by the Social Gender Equality Committee under the UCLG-MEWA headquartered in Istanbul and an initiative was started to set up a MEWA Women Mayors Network among the 47 women mayors in the MEWA Region.

Another important aspect regarding representation of women in decision-making mechanisms is ensuring balanced representation in public administration.

Considering the proportion of women in top decision-making positions inside the bureaucracy, it is seen that the proportion of the women ambassadors rose from 17.6% in 2016 to 25.09% in 2020. And the proportion of the women public prosecutors rose from 4.2% in 2006 to 14.4% in 2019. And the proportion of the women judges rose from 28.2% in 2006 to 45.2% in 2019.

Another aspect, where women representation in decision-making mechanisms can be assessed, is the academic management staff. The proportion of the women presidents rose from 8.5% in academic term 2015-2016 to 8.54% in the academic term 2019-2020. As of 2020, the proportion of women governors was 2.47% and the women district governors was 4.72%.

Although the proportion of the women at managerial positions in the central public administration organization seems comparatively better, it can be observed that the number of women working at managerial positions is quite low, especially in the provincial
organizations.

The level of inclusion of women in the decision-making mechanisms both in the public and in the private sector is important in terms of empowering the women with respect to their social and economic statuses. The proportion of the women in managerial positions in Turkey was 16.7% in 2016 and 17.5% in 2019.

The road to inclusion of women in decision-making mechanisms is paved by women's labour force participation. Labour force participation rate for women aged over 15 was 32.5% in 2016 and reached 34.4% in 2019.

Active labour force programs have been spread since early 2000s in order to increase the labour force participation rate for women and the services for vocational guidance, and counselling services have been extended.

One of the most important obstacles in the inclusion of women in labour force market is the inadequacy of the services offered by corporate childcare services. A regulation introduced in 2018 within this context enables income tax exemption in cases, where nursery and daycare services are offered in workplaces employing women, or, in cases where such services are not offered, a direct payment is made by the employers to the parties offering such services. With the amendment made in the Labour Law in 2016, the women are granted the right to work part time for a certain period of time following delivery.

The Project for Supporting Formal Employment of Women through Institutional Child Care Services provided 14,564 beneficiary mothers with a support amounting to € 8,833,800 by January 2021. And under the Project for Supporting Formal Employment of Women through Encouraging Well-Trained Babysitters, € 1,957,650 was paid to 1,898 mothers and total € 601,300 was paid to 4,862 well-trained babysitters, alongside the training provided to babysitters, by January 2021. Enrolments and payments still continue.

Within the scope of the supports offered to new entrepreneurs, the women entrepreneurs, whose applications have been received between the years 2010 and 2018, were provided with 20% extra loan/grant. Moreover, support up to 370,000 TL (44,578 USD according to the exchange rate in March 2021) has been provided to women entrepreneurs, who operate in fields that will contribute to increased competitiveness of our country, increase export and employment rate and yield trademarks, such as manufacture and software, depending on the technology level of the enterprise. Projects aimed at women's cooperatives are being implemented in order to support the women in participating in the production with a solidarity culture and in empowering themselves, earning their own income. Within this context, Cooperative Management Development and Adaptation Programme is being implemented at Public Education Centres countrywide. 2,782 women completed their training successfully and were entitled to receive their certificates within the scope of the program between 2014 and 2017.

Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry and the Ministry of Trade and the Ministry of Family, Labour and Social Services has cooperated to reach out to 27,111 people since 2018 through 642 workshops, training and informing meetings in order to empower the women's cooperatives and 223 women's cooperatives were visited; and 125 new women’s cooperatives have been established. Moreover, 497,680 people have been reached with 147 events organized within the scope of “Financial Literacy and Women’s Empowerment Seminaries”
since 2017.

Social Gender Responsive Budgeting Sub-Commission established in the TBMM as affiliated to the Commission for Equal Opportunities for Women and Men has started a project based on gender-responsive budgeting approach to set an example for other administration and has organized a series of events and work intended to raise awareness.

The “Project for Implementation of Gender-Responsive Planning and Budgeting in Turkey” implemented jointly with UN Women aims to raise political and bureaucratic awareness and adopt gender-responsive planning; to enhance institutional capacity on gender-responsive public policies, plans, programs and budget processes of central government and local administrations and to ensure sustainability.

The vision for empowered women is also carried onto international platforms. Turkey acted as the leader for establishment of the Women20 (W20) platform in 2015, when Turkey chaired G20, acting on the opinion that economic growth is a target that can only be attained by raising the status of women.

The “Women Consultative Council”, where the matters about women in the countries that are the members of Islamic Cooperation Organization (ICO) can be discussed, was also established when Turkey acted as the chair for ICO.

Remarkable progress has been made in this respect, owing to awareness raised especially during the recent years and national and international initiatives and work undertaken in this field, aiming to ensure equality of women and men in decision-making mechanisms of all tiers and in all fields.

However, for equal inclusion of women and men in the decision-making mechanisms as desired in the New Urban Agenda and 2030 Sustainable Development Goals, it is necessary to encourage inclusion of women in decision-making mechanisms of all tiers, and especially to enhance the efficiency and extensiveness of the efforts undertaken with a view to increasing the women's inclusion in the preceding period, starting from the local level.
2.2. Planning and Managing Urban Spatial Development

2.2.1 Implement integrated, and balanced territorial development polices

In the New Urban Agenda, a commitment is made to support the implementation of integrated, polycentric and balanced regional development policies and plans. And, in this respect, a goal is set to monitor the same through indicators such as: the country’s urban policies or regional development plans that (a) respond to population dynamics; (b) ensure balanced territorial development; and (c) increase local fiscal space.

11th Development Plan (2019-2023) sets it as a main objective to transform the regions by developing their opportunities and capabilities based on innovation and cooperation on the basis of innovation and thus to ensure maximum contribution to the balanced development of our country and to reduce the differences in regional and interregional development. The goals set forth in line with this goal are as follows:

- Activating the institutional structure and governance of regional development at central and regional levels,
- Reviewing the structures, duties and powers of the regional development administrations and development agencies and making arrangements to make their activities more efficient and productive,
- Reviewing laws, decrees and secondary legislation on regional development and activating implementation tools,
- To prevent duplications by ensuring the coordination of supports in the field of regional development provided by the institutions and organizations such as relevant ministries and KOSGEB,
- Developing an official statistical infrastructure to measure regional development disparities, in particular production, income and employment data on regional, provincial and district levels,
- Carrying out research, analysis and reporting, including the updating of the Socio-Economic Development Ranking Survey at provincial and district level, which will strengthen decision support processes at the design and implementation stages of regional development policies,
- Developing urban and industrial infrastructures in relatively underdeveloped regions, increasing employment in sectors with development potential and improving the quality of life,
- Development agency supports focusing on management consultancy with the aim of improving the capacity of institutions at local level, institutionalization, sustainability and efficiency of the private sector,
- Continuing implementation of the Attraction Centres Support Programme in the provinces which serve as a centre in terms of providing service to the surrounding regions in relatively underdeveloped regions,
- Development agencies providing more focused and effective supports with result-oriented programs and innovative support mechanisms specific to the region,
- Increasing international resource utilization by Development Agencies at local level, and
- Supporting the effective use of funds for economic and social cohesion and other international resources by development agencies in line with the needs and priorities of the regions by training, consultancy and promotion activities.

On the other hand, the most specific document in Turkey with regards to the implementation of integrated and balanced regional development policies is the Regional Development National Strategy (BGUS), whose vision is “A Turkey that is developed with more balance and as a whole, integrated socio-economically and spatially, with highly competitive and prosperous regions”. The Document targeting 2023 has developed inclusive processes within the framework of the principles of conformity to and complementing the national priorities, equal opportunities, sustainability, productivity, inclusion, cooperation and partnership, multi-level governance, locality and subsidiarity. Within this context, it offers the following perspective:

- More balanced distribution of prosperity countrywide, with reduction of regional development disparities;
- Maximum contribution to national development by assessing the potentials of all the regions and increasing their competitive powers;
- Reinforcing economic and social integration; and
- Creating a more balanced settlement pattern throughout the country.

The development agencies established in 26 NUTS-2 regions intend to work at the levels of region, city and district, ensuring balanced distribution of prosperity countrywide. Within this context, the agencies support the outstanding sectors in their regions with the tools of support they offer, and thus they tap into the potentials of the regions. Investment Support Offices (YDO) under the agencies undertake activities of investment support and promotion in cities as well as research and analysis, information, consulting and promotion. The work on legislation regarding development agencies continued in 2020 as well.

There is work in progress aiming to amend the Law Regarding the Services of the Development Agencies and the part of the Presidential Decree No 4 about the development agencies; and there is also work on secondary legislation. Work on assessment of institutional performances of the agencies, on the other hand, has been concluded. On the other hand, work on transition to a Result-Oriented Programme (SOP) management approach in development agencies in order to reinforce the link between the regional plans and implementation and to make better-focused use of the resources has been completed; and the agencies prepared their 2020 task programs as result-oriented programs. Result-oriented programs will continue to be implemented in the coming period as well.

Between the years 2008 and 2020, the development agencies have been transferred funds amounting to 8.1 billion TL (976 million USD according to the exchange rate in March 2021) from the central budget, and 4.8 billion TL (578 million USD according to the exchange rate in March 2021) from the local shares by the prices of 2021. For 2021, a share of 331 million TL (40 million USD according to the exchange rate in March 2021) is allocated from the central budget.

Development agencies offer financial and technical support for the public institutions, local administration, universities, non-governmental organizations and private sector in order to
contribute to the socioeconomic development of their regions in line with the strategies set forth in the regional plans. In the period between 2016 and 2020, 7,818 projects were supported with total 2.93 billion TL (353 million USD according to the exchange rate in March 2021). With co-financing by the beneficiaries, total budget for the projects amounted to 4.4 billion TL (530 million USD according to the exchange rate in March 2021).

On the other hand, indicators such as: the country’s national urban policies or regional development plans that (a) respond to population dynamics; (b) ensure balanced territorial development; and (c) increase local fiscal space, are also monitored.

In the new period, the work on Planning and Managing Urban Spatial Development is being performed by the Ministry of Environment and Urbanization under the project to prepare the National Spatial Strategy Plan. The Plan, complete with the stages of “Preliminary Research, Synthesis of Current Status and Spatial Assessments” and “Vision, Priorities and Determining the Spatial Development Scenario”, addresses the current status with respect to liveable settlements, accessibility and mobility, population dynamics and social development, natural structure, natural disasters and sustainability in ecosystem services and climate change, competitiveness and attraction and innovation and technology, and then sets forth the vision and strategic goals.

There has been a need to update the project “Staging Human Settlement Centres in Turkey – The Nation’s Human Settlement Centres System (YER-MEK)”, which examines the gradual nature of system of human settlements in our country and which was published in 1982. Accordingly, the Ministry of Industry and Technology conducted the “Research on Urban and Rural Settlement Systems in Turkey – YER-SIS” in order to reveal the impacts of the current developments on the human settlements in Turkey, to analyze the direction and intensity of the relations between urban and rural settlements and to reveal the size of the area served by the settlements and their areas of influence. Such research will contribute to the national, regional and rural development policies and strategies and the investment decision-making processes of the public and private sectors. In addition to the reports generated within the scope of the research, a Decision-Making Support System (KDS) has also been established, where the data used and the results obtained from YER-SIS are displayed and publicly disclosed using the geographical information systems infrastructure.

The development disparities between the regions can be found through measurements by indicators, using the proportion of the per capita income in the highest income region to the per capita income in the lowest income region. In Turkey, this proportion was 4.28% in 2018; and the target set for 2023 is 3.85%.

2.2.2 Integrate housing into urban development plans

In the New Urban Agenda, a commitment is made to foster the progressive realization of the right to adequate housing as a component of the right to an adequate standard of living; and to develop and implement housing policies at all levels, incorporating participatory planning and applying the principle of subsidiarity, as appropriate, in order to ensure coherence among national and local development strategies, land policies and housing supply. Moreover, a commitment is also made to consider increased allocations of financial and human resources, as appropriate, for the upgrading and, to the extent possible, prevention of slums and informal
settlements, with strategies that go beyond physical and environmental improvements to ensure that slums and informal settlements are integrated into the social, economic, cultural and political dimensions of cities.

With respect to housing addressed within such general framework, it is emphasized that, implementation of sustainable urban development programmes with housing and people’s needs at the centre of the strategy will be promoted, prioritizing well-located and well-distributed housing schemes in order to avoid peripheral and isolated mass housing developments detached from urban systems, regardless of the social and economic segment for which they are developed, and providing solutions for the housing needs of low-income groups.

Transformation of unhealthy and risky buildings, slums and rift areas has been determined as the prioritized policy area in the 10th Development Plan (2014-2018) and 11th Development Plan (2019-2023). 11th Development Plan sets the fundamental objective of ensuring access to adequate, liveable, resilient, safe, inclusive, affordable, sustainable, climate change-resilient housing with basic infrastructural services for all, especially including the low income groups.

The policies and measures created within this framework, include meeting the need for housing, especially due to urbanization, increase in population, renewal of housing stock and disasters, by taking into account a balance of supply and demand; taking an accurate inventory of the housing stock in order to be able to determine the need for housing by human settlements; and produce 250000 social houses for the low income and disadvantaged groups within the plan period.

Moreover, it is intended to strengthen regulatory, supervisory, guiding and supporting role played by the public sector in the housing market and to set up the coordination mechanism to allow for regular cooperation among the units in charge of housing in the public administration; and to set the standards for quality, stability, accessibility, energy efficiency and disaster resilience in production of housing.

Within this framework, efforts for creation of the system, which allows uninterrupted online availability of Spatial Address Registration System (MAKS) data and Central Registration System (MERNIS) data and comparison thereof with the Land Registry and Cadastre Information System (TAKBIS) data; and the measures to produce 50,000 units of housing, along with the accompanying social and technical facilities, within the scope of Social Housing Programme are set forth in the Presidential Programme for 2020.

With respect to the solution of the problem of formation of slums and informal settlements, the Ministry of Environment and Urbanization, TOKI and local governments are the main actors implementing the policies and measures created by an approach that is based on coordination of policies and cooperation. 1st National Urbanization Council (2009) and 2nd National Urbanisation Council (2017) were organized under coordination by the Ministry of Environment and Urbanization. The decisions made especially during the 2nd Urbanisation Council with respect to housing, are the transformation of the illegally built buildings and settlements into a state that is in conformity with the applicable laws; realization of comprehensive and integrated sustainable urban transformation and terminating any
encouraging aspect of illegal uses, such as slums, and including all the parties involved in urban transformation into capacity enhancement programs.

Urban transformation practices based on integration of housing into land development plans in Turkey are built on renewal of slums and rift areas. In the Second Voluntary National Review Report of Turkey, renewal of slum areas and disaster-risk areas, transformation of industrial areas, and production of qualified housing projects are emphasized.

Within this context, the Ministry of Environment and Urbanization provided funds approximately 19.9 billion TL (2.4 billion USD according to the exchange rate in March 2021) for urban transformation practices, especially including corporate and individual rent assistance, interest support, nationalization and transformation practices since 2012. In the process of urban transformation, Urban Transformation Action Plans, which are roadmaps towards urban transformation prepared on the basis of province/district, including the main decisions regarding urban transformation applications to be carried out in the whole of the settlement in order to ensure harmony with the entire city, depending on the characteristics of the area and its function within the city for the purpose of implementing a transformation scenario and developing the transformation areas under a strategy without neglecting coordination between the plans of different tiers in the transformation areas with the aim of planning the city and close surroundings within the framework of a holistic understanding; and which are related to upper-scale plans, and which prioritize area-based transformation and bring a holistic approach in terms of transformation practices to the relevant settlement, and present conceptual studies that reflect transformation strategies within a certain program, have been prepared.

Working with Ministry of Environment and Urbanization, TOKI is the institution that is authorized to make land development plans in the slum areas and to ensure that the slum areas are renewed or improved under the applicable legislation. In addition to transformation the slum areas through urban transformation, TOKI practices also include Millet Gardens, recreational areas, city parks, city squares and trade centres. 500,000 new houses were produced in 2007 to 2011. In the period between 2012 and 2018, 193,365 houses were planned in 60 cities and 143 districts within the scope of 228 projects covering an area of 56,267,445 m² under the slum improvement and urban transformation projects implemented by TOKI. 76,334 houses were completed in 40 projects within this scope in 2019. As of June 2019, 158 projects were in progress in cooperation with municipalities within the scope of large-scale urban renewal program initiated jointly with local governments, and construction started for 146,804 houses under the urban transformation project. Production of 83,171 houses was completed. Within this framework, construction of 700,000 more houses is intended until 2023.

The proportion of the people living in illegal and inadequate housing and slum areas is determined as an indicator. However, it is not possible to gather by such level in Turkey. The social housing produced on an annual basis under the above-mentioned policies and the estimation for 2023 can be taken as important indicators. 20,802 social houses were produced in 2018 within this framework. The target figure for 2023 is 270,802, with the implementation of the policies. TOKI’s target of 500,000 houses was achieved as of 2011; and a new target is set for another 700,000 houses by 2023, the goal being to reach total 1,200,000 houses.
2.2.3. Include culture as a priority component of urban planning

Inclusion of culture into urban planning as a prioritized component stands out in the new urban agenda by encouraging urban extension and reuse of urban land to the extent possible, protecting cultural heritage and preventing irregular urbanization and unplanned urban sprawl, and prioritizing transformation, regeneration and renewal of urban areas. Within this context, this matter is addressed within the scope of Goal 11, “Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable”, from the perspective of creation of disaster-resilient and safe human settlements, which are addressed also from a historical and cultural perspective, enabling all the groups, prioritizing the older persons, persons with disabilities, women and children, to be safely included into the urban life that is managed efficiently by minimizing the environmental effects of wastes and that has safe, reliable and integrated transportation networks; and the general public expenditures on cultural and natural heritage are followed through four indicators. There are also concrete measures in the policy documents devised to integrate culture into land development planning as the prioritized component.

In the policy documents addressed, the culture, as the umbrella concept, intersects with all the sectors and measures horizontally, and it is addressed in association with art. The 11th Development Plan aims to implement the policies and to make the necessary arrangements in all processes in the fields of education, culture, art and sports in order to raise productive and happy individuals. Within this scope, the basic objective is set forth as transferring the cultural richness and diversity to future generations by preserving and developing them, disseminating the cultural and artistic activities, strengthening solidarity and social integrity around national culture and common values, and increasing the multi-dimensional impact of the culture on development.

Among these, the most important ones are the policies and measures regarding the historical urban sites. In addition to the practice of land development implemented for the purpose of protecting these areas, there is also work going on specifically for these areas at the urban design level, ensuring that the historical urban sites are improved with a holistic understanding, preserving their original nature. The activities to be undertaken in the coming period for this purpose include:

- Preparation of an urban design project to be determined as the pilot,
- Preparation of land development plan for the purpose of protecting five cities,
- Starting the land development plan efforts for protection purposes within the territory of Cappadocia Area Presidency.

On the other hand, another important matter is to protect our cultural heritage located inside and outside the country in a manner to contribute to social culture and historical and cultural tourism and to take into account the risk of natural disasters and to functionalize the immovable cultural assets of the foundations in line with the conditions of deed of foundation. Within this framework, it will be ensured that the restoration and repair activities undertaken to protect our cultural assets of the foundations located inside and outside the country will be improved quantitatively and qualitatively subject to the applicable legislation. However, it will be ensured that, among the immovable cultural property, assets of the foundations, the cultural ones remaining within the city, such as drinking fountains, imaret
and aşevi (two types of public soup kitchens), are functionalized in line with the deed of foundation.

Again, within the context of practice of land development planning, in order to be able to use the cultural infrastructural elements more efficiently, it will be ensured that the architecture as well as the model of operation and management are made more functional; and that flexible spatial designs are developed, allowing diverse activities. Thus, cultural structures will be able to stand out as the third space in the urban life, i.e. spaces that are more accessible, common and attractive. Within this context, the branding practices of the local governments and the related public institutions in relation with important spaces contributing to the urban identity will be promoted and further spread, and private museums will be encouraged as cultural elements and will be integrated into the urban life.

Natural environmental wealth and historical and cultural values are the elements of identity of the cities. The purpose of urbanization with identity is to keep the historical and cultural wealth available for service with a human-oriented approach and to conserve the natural resources. Traditional architectural culture and architectural style has a special place among the elements of identity. It is encouraged to benefit from local architectural elements with historical and cultural value and to use local materials in the projects for official and civilian buildings. There are efforts to develop the urban culture and culture of belonging to the city in order to prevent the cultural deterioration arising out of social change.

As a result of the efforts to promote our culture at international level, the number of assets belonging to our country increased in the world cultural heritage lists. While we had 18 cultural assets in the World Heritage List and 78 cultural assets in the tentative list as of October 2019, the number of our cultural assets in the temporary list became 83 with the addition of Beypazarı, the Historical Port City of Izmir, Karatepe Aslantaş (Osmaniye), Koramaz Valley (Kayseri) and Zerzevan Castle (Diyarbakır) in 2020. Cultural infrastructure elements, such as cultural centres, museums, libraries and theatres increased in quantity. As of October 2020, 116 cultural centres, 1,207 public, children’s and literature museum libraries, 199 museums affiliated to the Ministry of Culture and Tourism, 142 archaeological sites, 287 private museums, 22 manuscript libraries, 766 theatres, 11 opera houses and ballet theatres, and 2,850 movie theatres were in operation throughout Turkey.

Total expenditure on cultural and natural heritage is followed using the indicator per capita cultural and natural heritage (public) spending (in purchasing power parity). Within this framework, total public expenditure on culture increased from 2,849,000,000 TL (343,253,012 USD according to the exchange rate in March 2021) in 2014 to 4,732,000,000 TL (570,120,482 USD according to the exchange rate in March 2021) in 2019. This indicator has been monitored since 2014 as broken down into two sub-categories, being central and local levels. Accordingly, the central public expenditure on culture increased from 1,595,000,000 TL (192,168,675 USD according to the exchange rate in March 2021) in 2014 to 2,978,000,000 TL (358,795,180 USD according to the exchange rate in March 2021) in 2019; and the expenditures on culture by the local administrations increased from 1,254,000,000 TL (151,084,337 USD according to the exchange rate in March 2021) to 1,754,000,000 TL (211,325,301 USD according to the exchange rate in March 2021) during the same years.
The main stakeholder in this respect is the Ministry of Culture and Tourism. Various activities and projects are implemented in relation with this topic. Within the scope of the project implemented by the Ministry of Culture and Tourism, three sustainable tourism ideas are offered implementation supports, such as training, planning, technical support, communication and consulting every year; making sure that the projects are feasible and sustainable, and within this scope, 18 projects were supported in 2020, with the intention of contributing to the goal of making culture a prioritized component of land development planning.

The problems caused by Covid-19 Pandemic in all the sectors have been deeply felt in the cultural sector as well, as it is one of the sectors with the most intense human-human interaction; and have resulted in many cultural activities, events and projects to be suspended. Within this context, all the museums and ruins under the Ministry of Culture and Tourism as well as the commercial spaces serving therein were closed down and were inaccessible for visits for a period of 74 days starting from 19 March 2020. While the number of visitors of the museums and ruins under the Ministry had reached 35,048,417 in 2019, it declined to 7,751,354 people between the dates 1 January to 15 October 2020 with the impact of these measures as well as the general decline in tourism mobility. However, 17 museums and ruins have been made available for virtual visits online at sanalmuze.gov.tr starting from 23 March 2020.

As known, culture is an umbrella concept that intersects with all the other sectors. Therefore, it can be addressed through effective implementation projects both at central and local levels. This is why taking measures to raise awareness at the local level and to associate it with other sectors, making it a part of daily life, is suggested as an approach to attain the relevant goals in addition to the efforts undertaken at the central level.

2.2.4. Implement planned urban extensions and infill, urban renewal and regeneration of urban areas

In line with the New Urban Agenda, implementation is promoted for planned urban development, renewal and transformation of urban areas through strategies that go beyond physical and environmental rehabilitation, ensuring integration of the dwellers of the housing, slums, disaster housing and urban transformation housing into social, economic and cultural and political aspects of the city, and it is taken as pursuing a sustainable approach to development.

In Turkey, the efforts aimed at planned urban development, renewal and transformation have gained pace especially starting with the implementation of the decisions made during the Urbanization Council that took place in 2009, and important steps have been taken in the sense of institutional capacity. Moreover, the Transformation Programme prioritized in the 10th Development Plan, Urban Transformation Strategies and Actions Plans prepared for each city, urban transformation projects focusing on natural disasters and risks under the applicable law and the urban transformation projects of TOKI are considered important as they show how multidimensional this matter has been addressed.

Within this context, the 11th Development Plan (2019-2023) sets urban transformation, i.e. transformation of areas that are under disaster risk and hazard and as well as land and plots where risky buildings are located in a way to ensure healthy and safe living in accordance
with technical and professional norms and standards, as the main objective and puts forth the following policies:

- Carrying out urban transformation will be carried out with horizontal architectural approach, aiming the improvement of quality of life and urban awareness, and the renewal of historical centres,
- Disseminating of the renewal of historical urban centres and creating a shared financing model with local administrations in urban transformation implementations and transforming historical city centres in 81 provinces in a way to emphasize the identity of the city and designing them with horizontal architecture and human-oriented approach,
- Relying on urban transformation strategies prepared on the city basis for urban transformation practices and preparing urban transformation strategies including data on risky and reserve areas, social structure analysis, economic integration, condition of the infrastructure, financing models at the district level and transformation targets at the provincial level,
- Carrying out urban transformation projects harmoniously with urban fabric and area based considering participation principles, adopting the principle of on-site transformation in urban transformation areas, taking into account solutions for the spatial needs of the existing social structure,
- Conducting social impact assessment before urban transformation implementations,
- Defining participation principles in urban transformation projects and ensuring that the process progresses in cooperation,
- Developing and clarifying existing criteria for the identification and declaration of disaster risk areas, and transforming high priority areas immediately by prioritization with multi-criteria evaluation system,
- Developing a financing model for urban transformation projects to provide infrastructure for transformation areas and to meet the financial needs of beneficiaries by administrative and environmental regulations and rental assistance,
- Using the Disaster Risk Mitigation System prepared by Disaster and Emergency Management Authority (AFAD) in spatial planning activities; developing land development planning criteria considering disaster risks during the planning stage and ensuring that land development planning is made in accordance with disaster risks.

Implementation of planned urban development, renewal and transformation have been determined as the prioritized policy area in the 10th and 11th Development Plans covering the period between 2013 and 2023. The Ministry of Environment and Urbanization is the main actor in the implementation of this policy. Regarding urban transformation, 11th Development Plan stipulates the number of the cities included into the historical city centres project, which was 9 as of 2018, in a manner to cover all the cities in Turkey (81 cities) by 2023. Moreover, the number of cities, with respect to which Urban Transformation Strategy Document is prepared, was also determined as 81 cities in 2018.

Coordinated by the Ministry of Environment and Urbanization, the Second National Urbanisation Council was organized in 2017 with the theme "The New Vision in Urbanism" in accordance with the principles of the New Urban Agenda. Urban transformation,
highlighted as one of the important topics of the Council, was addressed comprehensively as follows:

- Urban transformation policies and practices becoming a part of the wider-scale urban policies and practices,
- With regards to urban transformation projects, building modern new environments and preparing the economic dimension of the transformation in a manner to support competitiveness of the city, especially through the sectors ensuring economic growth,
- Urban transformation projects comprising a social development aspect,
- Preparing urban transformation projects with an environmental protection approach,
- Making institutional arrangements relating to the management of urban transformation, and
- developing models making it possible to benefit from national and international funds for the financing resources as needed for urban transformation practices; and the practices determined based on the foregoing are conducted by the respective institutions.

In the process of urban transformation, Urban Transformation Action Plans have been prepared depending on the characteristics of the area and its function within the city for the purpose of implementing a transformation scenario and developing the transformation areas under a strategy without neglecting coordination between plans of different tiers in the transformation areas with the aim of planning the city and close surroundings within the framework of a holistic understanding. Urban Transformation Strategy Documents have been prepared in 20 cities, and the efforts to prepare the Urban Transformation Strategy Document are in progress in 25 Cities.

In urban transformation areas, the intention is to create cities with sound infrastructure, and earthquake-resilient, healthy and safe houses and liveable spaces sticking to the horizontal architecture and the neighbourhood scale in order to enhance the urban quality. Within this scope, production of designs with fewer storeys, taking into consideration the culture of neighbourhood as well as of being neighbours, is encouraged in urban transformation in order to preserve and develop urban identity and the original spatial texture.

Urban Transformation Action Plan targets to move and transform the buildings and areas with natural disaster risks, buildings and historical city centres and industrial zones built near river beds facing the risk of flooding and landslide. Moreover, it is intended to prepare the Urban Transformation Strategy Document for each city; to ensure transformation of the 1.5 million houses marked as urgent and prioritized out of the total 6.7 million houses and, within this context, ensuring transformation of total 300,000 houses, 100,000 being in Istanbul.

Urban Transformation Strategy Documents to be prepared for each city are defined as roadmaps towards urban transformation prepared on the basis of province/district that include the main decisions regarding urban transformation practices to be carried out in the whole settlement, that are related to upper-scale plans, and that prioritize area-based transformation, introducing a holistic approach in terms of transformation practices to the relevant settlement, and that present conceptual studies that reflect transformation strategies under a certain program. It is especially aimed to take the industrial sites remaining within city centres outside the city centres, to provide financing support for urban transformation, to solve the
ownership problems in areas to be transformed through land development plans and to engage in legislation studies so that the citizens benefiting from land development amnesty can retrofit their buildings.

Data regarding the 3 indicators defined (Population density, mix land use and number and proportion of the new population accommodated in planned areas) cannot be generated at national level. 17% of the houses produced by TOKI under a plan have been produced within the scope of slum transformation projects and 19% have been produced for the lower-income groups. Moreover, it is foreseen that 102,000 items of planned new houses will be produced in 2020 and 100,000 planned new houses will be built in 2021. Within this framework, 798,819 houses out of total 969,925 houses were completed from 2003 to September 2020.

In our country, 268 Risky Areas were identified in 59 cities, 158 urban transformation and development project sites were identified in 33 cities and 16 renewal sites were identified in 11 cities within the scope of the need for urban transformation under the Law Regarding Transformation of Areas Under Disaster Risk numbered 6306. Moreover, an area of 48,000 hectares extending over 66 cities was designated as Areas Reserved for Future Construction in order to be used for new settlements. In addition to total 586,000 independent units located in risky areas, approximately 628,000 houses and workplaces are being renewed as they have risky building status. In total, 685,000 independent units were identified as risky buildings. Since 2012, funds amounting to approximately 19.9 billion TL (2.39 billion USD according to the exchange rate in March 2021) were provided, especially including as corporate and individual rent aid, interest support and nationalization and transformation practices.

It is important that the areas of aging building stock and the low-quality building stock are evaluated within the context of urban transformation practices before they become rift areas. Within this context, it is recommended that the urban transformation roadmaps prepared by the Ministry of Environment and Urbanization in cooperation with relevant units and local governments, which include the main decisions regarding urban transformation practices in the relevant settlement, which are related to upper-scale plans, and which prioritize area-based transformation, introducing a holistic approach in terms of transformation practices to the relevant settlement, and which present conceptual studies to reflect transformation strategies within a certain program, are increased in number and are actively implemented.

2.2.5 Improve capacity for urban planning and design, and training for urban planners at all levels of government

The New Urban Agenda contains a commitment to “achieve inclusive and quality education for all, and to strive to improve capacity for urban planning and design and the provision of training for urban planners at national and local levels with the perspective that education is one of the strongest and most proven tools for sustainable development” in order to improve education for urban planner at all levels of urban planning and designing capacity and government.

This matter is addressed under two main categories in Turkey. The first is improving urban planning and design capacity through the urban design guidelines created by the Ministry of Environment and Urbanization jointly with the local administrations; and the second is ensuring access to high quality technical training.
Within the context of quality characteristics of urbanization, the practice of report for professional services is stipulated especially in the Land Development Law, but also in the results of the 1st Urbanization Council that took place in 2009 and the 2nd Urbanization Council that took place in 2017. At present, spatial planning and designing through inclusive processes and attaining the urban quality through means such as urban design strategies and design guidelines developed for this purpose are becoming prioritized. This is addressed under the following themes during the Councils:

- Increasing the efficiency of the urban design work within the existing planning system at the city level,
- Coming up with new approaches to tools of implementation, actors and institutionalization within the scope of planning at the city level,
- Addressing sustainable urban planning and urban design along with their social, cultural, economic and ecological aspects, and
- Increasing the efficiency of architectural and historical characteristics and urban morphology through urban design in urban and rural human settlements.

Urban planners, architects, urban designers and landscape architects, who have a direct influence on urban planning and design and who work to create a high quality urban environment, stand out as the main professions for the work performed to create urban design guidelines.

Developing principles and strategies on quality of living, disaster-responsive human settlements and urbanization, protection of natural and cultural assets, informal settlements, urban renewal/ transformation, technical and social infrastructure, local development, urbanity consciousness, governance and local administrations and sustainable development and, within this context, integrating the policies, strategies, options for actions and other recommendations developed through Council Commissions and General Assembly work into the Strategy Document and Action Plan; KENTGES Document was published in 2009, especially with reference human settlements-urbanization in Turkey. Work performed by the urban planners in Turkey, the leading profession in urban planning and design, were presented by the survey included into the KENTGES Annual Activity (2011-2014) Report; and recommendations were made to increase the employment rate.

On the other hand, it is among Turkey's goals to enable equal access to affordable and high quality higher education, including vocational and technical training and university education, for all the women and men by 2030.

With quality characteristics of urbanization having become an item on the 2017 2nd National Urbanisation Council’s agenda, the Ministry of Environment and Urbanization is now in the process of preparing urban design guidelines in order to identify the urban identity of the cities in Turkey, with all the architectural textures and spatial characteristics, employing environmentally-responsive, human-oriented and modern architectural techniques and an understanding comprising the urbanism vision of the future and to develop urban identities that both conform to the worldwide standards and preserve the original architectural and spatial wealth. Within this framework, documents have been issued, guiding the local administrations. The last of the these works is the Manual for Preparation of Urban Design
Guidelines, which summarizes the steps for preparing and implementing the Urban Design Guidelines for the local administrations.

Moreover, the local administrations have undertaken spatial planning and urban design practices for different sections of the society, prioritizing the older persons, persons with disabilities and children.

(Integrated Urban Development Strategy and Action Plan Document) KENTGES 2011 Activity Report, which was approved by the High Planning Council, finds that urban planners account for 7% of all the technical staff in municipalities throughout Turkey. However, the total number of urban planners employed at central and local levels is not being tracked.

“Project to Prepare Urban Design Guidelines”, devised to teach the relevant administrations "the method to prepare urban design guidelines", taking into consideration the worldwide examples and offering the infrastructure necessary for development of suggestions for preparation and implementation of urban design guidelines in our country, has been implemented by the Ministry of Environment and Urbanization and Mimar Sinan Fine Arts University. Within the scope of the project, country models were examined, and the model for Turkey was identified and the Urban Design Guidelines content fitting such model identified was arranged with inclusion of the all the actors involved (central institutions, local administrations, investors, designers, stakeholders, non-governmental organizations and academics).

An aspect that needs improved is to ensure that the urban design guidelines prepared to guide the municipalities in their urban design practices and become common throughout the local administrations level.

With the national policies pursued, the number of universities, which was 54 in 2004, rose to 95 in 2009, 105 in 2014 and 130 in 2019. With the increase in the number of universities, the number of university students, which was 1,935,873 in 2004, became 2,874,736 in 2009, 5,606,703 in 2014, and 7,740,502 in 2019 (Higher Education Information System). While 15 universities had quota for 1,120 urban planners in their city and regional planning departments until 2009, this figure rose to total 2,085 per year in 16 universities, with total 965 quotas. In addition, central and local administrations organize on-the-job training.

Along with the investments made in city and regional planning departments during the recent years, there are the aspects that need improvement for the coming period, such as further developing the number and qualifications of the academic staff in these departments, fixing spatial inadequacies and further improving and developing the quality of education.

2.2.6. Strengthen the role of small and intermediate cities and towns

The New Urban Agenda contains a commitment to support the implementation of integrated, polycentric and balanced territorial development policies and plans, encouraging cooperation and mutual support among different scales of cities and human settlements, strengthening the role of small and intermediate cities and towns in enhancing food security and nutrition systems, providing access to sustainable, affordable, adequate, resilient and safe housing, infrastructure and services, facilitating effective trade links across the urban-rural continuum and ensuring that small-scale farmers and fishers are linked to local, national, regional and global value chains and markets.
While the specific circumstances of cities of all sizes, towns and villages vary, it is affirmed that the New Urban Agenda is universal in scope, participatory and human-centred, protects the planet and has a long-term vision, setting out priorities and actions at the global, regional, national, and local levels that Governments and other relevant stakeholders in every country can adopt based on their needs.

Turkey has a hierarchy of policy documents at national levels, responding to the population dynamics, ensuring balanced regional development and targeting financial growth at the local level. Under the National Development Plan, while Regional Development National Strategy (BGUS) outlines the policies at the regional level, KENTGES sets forth the strategies and actions at the urban level. Moreover, National Spatial Strategy Plan that is currently being worked on will have concrete strategies and actions with respect to the reflections of all these policies on the space.

The vision of Turkey with respect to regional development is set forth as “A Turkey that is developed with more balance and as a whole, integrated socio-economically and spatially, with highly competitive and prosperous regions” in the Regional Development National Strategy (BGUS), a framework document that sets forth the main strategies for regional development. BGUS is a guiding document that reinforces the harmony between the National Development Plan, national sectoral strategies, activities pertaining to EU harmonization process and other fields of international cooperation as reflected on the regional development plans and programs of regional and local levels, helping more rational allocation of resources for regional development. The Document targeting 2023 has developed inclusive processes within the framework of the principles of conformity to and complementing the national priorities, equal opportunities, sustainability, productivity, inclusion, cooperation and partnership, multi-layer governance, locality and subsidiarity. Within this context, it offers the following perspective:

- More balanced distribution of prosperity countrywide, with reduction of regional development disparities;
- Maximum contribution to national development by assessing the potentials of all the regions and increasing their competitive powers;
- Reinforcing economic and social integration; and
- Creating a more balanced layout of human settlements countrywide.

Specific policies and strategies have been determined countrywide in order to lead the development of the settlements with different qualities and functions. The goal is their individual development as well as creation of a more effective and balanced system of human settlements.

It is considered important to keep the settlement system effective and reinforce the linkages between the settlements in order to strengthen the roles of small and medium-scale cities rather than having a domination of metropolitan cities. In Turkey, human settlements range from Istanbul, whose population exceeds 15 million, to rural settlements. BGUS classifies the classes of human settlements as follows: Focuses of Growth, Regional Centres of Attraction, Structural Transformation Cities and Cities Prioritized for Development.

Within this framework, dynamic and competitive cities and urban zones, which attract investment and labour force, will be created in the cities that are identified as the focuses of
growth; and the target will be to integrate them into global value chains and to move them up higher in such chains.

Regional Attraction Centres will be set up in comparatively lower-income areas to play the role of driving the development; and centres to enable a more balanced development throughout the country will be supported. It will be ensured that these cities, which are positioned as the centres of attraction in their respective regions with their current status in terms of economic and social development and means of infrastructure, gain a sustainable and competitive structure in the long-term and gradually become more diversified in terms of economic and social opportunities, with the progress made in these cities spreading over to the neighbouring areas in time.

In the cities that are classified as Structural Transformation Cities of Medium Level of Development, it will be ensured that the environment is created for local economic growth and development and capacity is enhanced to make available services, deficiencies in social and technical infrastructure are fixed and urban living standards are raised. The linkages of these cities with the focuses of growth and regional centres of attraction will be improved. Within this scope, the emphasis will be on supporting entrepreneurship in accordance with the economic and nature characteristics of the cities, developing the urban environmental standards, improving urban superstructure facilities and strengthening the city image, developing the social capital in the cities to support the transformation process and enhancing agricultural productivity.

In cities that are classified as Prioritized Development Cities with Smaller Scale, policies will be implemented to improve the minimum standards of living, reinforce integration with the economic and social structure of the country, enhancing quality and accessibility of the basic infrastructure and services, and to ensure the capital accumulation that will serve as the basis for economic development. Within this context, the purpose is to strengthen the foundations of the transformation in economy and in rural areas by developing agriculture and husbandry, diversity the economy and develop the micro enterprises, strengthen the social capital, improve quality of living in urban and rural areas, enhance relations the close regional centres nearby, make natural resources available for the industry, enable economic buoyancy and develop the image through large-scale national and international events to be organized in fields such as arts and sports, reinforce the social capital and implement good governance practices.

Regional Development Plans have been completed by the development agencies established in 26 NUTS-2 regions. The Development Agencies also offer financial and technical support for the public institutions, local administrations, universities, non-governmental organizations and private sector in order to contribute to the socioeconomic development of their regions in line with the strategies set forth in the regional plans. In the period between 2016 and 2020, 7,818 projects were supported with total 2.93 billion TL (353 million USD according to the exchange rate in March 2021). With co-financing by the beneficiaries, total budget for the projects amounted to 4.4 billion TL (530 million USD according to the exchange rate in March 2021).
And, in this respect, a goal is set to monitor the same through indicators such as: the country’s urban policies or regional development plans that (a) respond to population dynamics; (b) ensure balanced territorial development; and (c) increase local fiscal space.

The purpose of the Attraction Centres Support Programme, on the other hand, is to enhance the value added production, export, employment, productivity, technology and innovation capacities of the cities, which by nature are centres of attraction in comparatively less developed regions with high outmigration rates, in order to enable a more balanced distribution of population throughout the country and to manage migration. It has been in implementation on an annual basis since 2010.

There is a need to make the economic activities more sensitive to the regional conditions and the conditions of settlements in order for more balanced and effective distribution and organization of the economic activity throughout the space. Within this scope, while the metropolises are helped to offer products and services with a global quality, it is necessary to help the production and export focuses in Anatolia in enhancing their competitive powers; and to help the low and medium income regions for their strong integration with the national market, and in strengthening and diversifying their economic structures.

2.2.7. Implement sustainable multimodal public transport systems including non-motorized options

In the New Urban Agenda, a commitment is made to promote access for all to safe, age- and gender-responsive, affordable, accessible and sustainable urban mobility and land and sea transport systems, enabling meaningful participation in social and economic activities in cities and human settlements, by integrating transport and mobility plans into overall urban and territorial plans and promoting a wide range of transport and mobility options, in particular by supporting:

- A significant increase in accessible, safe, efficient, affordable and sustainable infrastructure for public transport, as well as non-motorized options such as walking and cycling, prioritizing them over private motorized transportation;
- Equitable “transit-oriented development” that minimizes the displacement, in particular, of the poor, and features affordable, mixed-income housing and a mix of jobs and services;
- Better and coordinated transport and land-use planning, which would lead to a reduction of travel and transport needs, enhancing connectivity between urban, peri-urban and rural areas, including waterways, and transport and mobility planning, particularly for small island developing States and coastal cities;
- Urban freight planning and logistics concepts that enable efficient access to products and services, minimizing their impact on the environment and on the liveability of the city and maximizing their contribution to sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth; and to take measures to develop mechanisms and common frameworks at the national and local levels to evaluate the wider benefits of urban and metropolitan transport schemes, including impacts on the environment, the economy, social cohesion, quality of life, accessibility, road safety, public health and action on climate change, among other things.
The policies determined under the National Development Plan target assessing the policies, decisions and investments in cities with respect to land development and transport in a coordinated manner, and especially preparing and updating the land development plans and transport master plans in conformity with each other, establishing a coordination mechanism to ensure conformity of the land development plans and transport master plans, preparing the regulations setting forth the principles and procedures for the Ministry of Transport and Infrastructure to examine and approve the projects for urban rail transport systems and to take over the rail transport system projects from the municipalities, and updating the rail system design guides and creating the infrastructure for statistical data. On the other hand, considering the intensity of the traffic in urban mass transportation and the developments in the passenger demand, it is aimed to make the use of public transport systems more common, provided that buses, Metrobus and similar systems will be given priority and the rail system alternatives will be taken into account in routes, where they are not adequate, and the rail systems will be planned for the routes with the minimum peak hour-one-way passenger demand of 7,000 passengers per hour for tram systems, 10,000 passengers per hour for light rail systems and 15,000 passengers per hour for subway systems for the year, when they are expected to be commissioned.

Moreover, another goal is to develop environmentally-friendly modes of transport and encourage non-motorized modes of transport inside the city and create standards related to the pedestrian roads and sidewalks in order to allow for uninterrupted pedestrian traffic. Strategies developed for non-motorized vehicles includes creation of historical and cultural centres of attraction at city centres as well as shopping areas and implementation of legal and financial support mechanisms to support the use of bicycles. Within this framework, cycle lane master plan and implementation plan will be prepared and building new bicycle roads is also intended in this context.

Intelligence Transportation Systems (AUS) Strategy Document will be prepared, AUS architecture will be developed and AUS practices will be spread in order to make more efficient use of the existing infrastructure, enhance traffic security, manage the demand for transportation accurately and plan more efficiently. Under the policies defined in the National Development Plan within this scope, the Ministry of Transport completed and started the implementation of National AUS Strategy Document and 2019-2022 Action Plan.

One of the leading reasons for a crowded traffic in the city is the parking space problem. The metropolises will develop a practice to set an example for development of intelligent multi-storey car park projects in this respect, in order to solve the parking space problems and allow time and fuel to be saved. Within the scope of this work, the infrastructure to allow online monitoring of the vacant and occupied parking spaces in multi-storey car parks will be established. This will be realized by the metropolitan municipalities in cooperation with the Ministry of Environment and Urbanization. By the end of 2022, 75% of this action will be completed, with at least one intelligent multi-storey car park practice in each metropolitan municipality. The second step of practice is the completion of the remaining 25%, with installation of at least one electric vehicle charging station in the intelligent multi-storey car park.
In many countries worldwide, bicycle is used as an alternative mode of transportation. With the bicycle sharing practices developed, the rate of using bicycles is increasing every day. This action is intended to spread the use of bicycles in Turkey. The action will be taken by the metropolitan municipalities in cooperation with the Ministry of Environment and Urbanization, Ministry of Health and Ministry of Youth and Sports. The action will be completed when there is at least one pilot project in the determined cities.

Moreover, efforts have been made to develop the logistics and transportation infrastructure, linking the centres of production and consumption on national and international scales, and to implement the multimodal transport systems throughout the country. Throughout the country, 3,591 km dual carriageway, including motorway, 325 km high speed rail, three new airports, including Istanbul Airport, and 249 km rail system for public transport in cities have been completed. Highway has remained the dominant mode of transport for carrying cargo and passengers; and the need continues to focus on cargo transportation and railways when investing on transportation. As of October 2019, 12 local administrations operate rail public transport systems along with other modes. In Istanbul, the city with the widest rail system network in our country, 9 lines with a total length of 153 km have rail systems.

Public transport systems in cities are made available using the municipalities’ funds under the Law on Metropolitan Municipalities numbered 5216, Municipal Law numbered 5393 and the Law numbered 6360. The relevant legislation does not address transport and mass transportation independently; and takes them as a part of land development plans. The land development plans seek to reduce the vehicle traffic and establish a system that prioritizes public transport. Moreover, it is also taken as the principle to arrange the transportation systems in a manner to shorten the travel distances. Within this context, a transportation master plan has been defined in the legislation. The purpose of the transportation master plan is to arrange the transportation system in line and spatial, social and economic characteristics of the city, in a manner to accommodate the needs and demands.

Within the scope of Goal 11, “Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable”, one of the indicators measures proportion of population that has convenient access to public transport, by sex, age and persons with disabilities. 55% of the society reports to be satisfied with the public transport services offered by the municipality. Under Goal - 11, important progress has been made in the development of urban transportation systems since early 2000s within the context of safe and accessible transportation. Intelligent Transportation Systems have become common in many cities, especially including the metropolises. Moreover, rail system projects and bicycle paths have been created in many cities and bicycle rental systems have been implemented in cities such as Istanbul, Izmir, Kocaeli, Kayseri and Konya. In cities, where it is possible to make use of the sea for urban transportation, investments have been made in crafts and infrastructure for this purpose. Proportion of population that has convenient access to public transport in Turkey was 83.6% in 2019.

The proportion of the bicycle paths to all the roads and the proportion of the pavements to the roads are not gathered as data in Turkey. Besides, the Cycle Lanes Regulation was introduced in December 2019; and creation of bicycle paths has started in metropolises. Moreover, micro-mobility vehicles allowing mobility and freedom of movement for short distances have become commonly used in cities since the outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic.
It is expected that, in order to attain the goals mentioned above, needs will arise in the coming period to diversify the projects to implement the respective policies and especially, to build the infrastructure for development of smart cities. Although progress has been made in the field of urban rail systems, there is still a remarkable need for development, especially in metropolises. Therefore, it is considered important to prepare urban transportation and urban mobility plans as integrated into land development plans, prioritizing the pedestrians and public transport, to extend the scope of smart city projects and areas prioritized and intelligent transportation services on a national scale, to enhance the transportation diversity ensuring integration between modes of transport from the perspective of safe and accessible transport, to enhance the quality standards of and to effectively supervise the private service providers in urban transport, updating the traffic signs for persons with hearing, visual and mental impairments so that transportation will be accessible for especially the vulnerable groups and adopting the international standards in traffic signs.
2.3. Means of Implementation

2.3.1. Mobilization of Financial Resources

2.3.1.1 Develop Financing Frameworks for Implementing the NUA at All Levels of Government

The countries are to develop the tools and mechanisms as necessary to enhance their financial management capacities at each administrative level and to develop the tools and mechanisms as needed to achieve sustainable urban development, as they are primarily responsible for their own economic and social developments. Accordingly, the New Urban Agenda promotes supporting effective, innovative and sustainable financing frameworks and instruments enabling strengthened municipal finance and local fiscal systems in order to create, sustain and share the value generated by sustainable urban development in an inclusive manner.

The legislation in our country comprehensively provides for strengthening the local administrations, as the main party responsible for the urban services that are included into the scope of Goal 11, “Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable.” There is comprehensive legislation, especially including the Land Development Law, establishing the duties and responsibilities of the local administrations, central institutions and other related parties with respect to matters such as spatial planning, development, layouts and cadastral system as well as the responsibilities of the professionals working in these fields.

In the 10th Development Plan (2014-2018), the main goal was to make sure that local administrations gained an inclusive, transparent, environmentally-sensitive structure with secured financial sustainability, capable of offering more efficient and rapid services with higher quality, and taking into account the needs of the disadvantaged groups. The 65th Government Programme stipulates fast implementation of the regulations to enable the local administrations use the public resources for the benefit of the country and the nation, increase the own revenues of the public administrations, determine the priority levels of the services offered by the local administrations and ensure allocation of adequate resources for investments in infrastructure.

Our 11th Development Plan have decided the sources of financing to be made available for different administration levels in order to realize the local development, which is highly emphasized in the New Urban Agenda:

- Reviewing the structures, duties and powers of the regional development administrations and development agencies and making arrangements to make them more efficient and productive,
- Reviewing laws, decrees and secondary legislation on regional development and activating implementation tools.
- Increasing international resource utilization of Development Agencies,
- Developing innovative approaches taking into account rural and urban settlements in the field of participation and financing in zoning implementations,
With the efficient management of real estate value increases, creating resources to increase the quality of urban space and services, as well as disseminating and developing urban services,

Developing a financing model for urban transformation projects to provide infrastructure for transformation areas and to meet the financial needs of beneficiaries by administrative and environmental regulations and rental assistance,

Reviewing the general principles and procedures for the implementation of the complementarity between the Rural Development Support Programme (KKYDP), the Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance Rural Development Support Programme (IPARD), rural support of Development Agencies and other related support programs aimed at ensuring the unity of the target in rural development support programs, and

Within the scope of rural development support, encouraging family enterprises and small and medium-sized producers to organize in order to strengthen the production and financial structure and to benefit from economies of scale;

With respect to the goal, “In zoning implementations, the integrity of lower scale zoning plans will be preserved, plans will be enriched by implementation tools and zoning implementations made in plan integrity will be disseminated” as contained in the 11th Development Plan (2019-2023), it is mentioned that innovative approaches will be developed, taking into account rural and urban settlements in the field of participation and financing in zoning implementations.

Moreover, 11th Development Plan contains the following targets for 2023:

- making sure that the local administrations make use of their financial resources effectively and efficiently,
- providing the local administrations with revenues that are proportional to their duties and enhancing their financial capacity,
- setting the “local public service standards” in order to harmonize local public service provision financially and technically countrywide,
- determining the objective development indices (regional and periodical permanent and temporary population, need for infrastructure, cultural activities, industrialization, agriculture and husbandry, size of rural area, share of the city in the gross national product etc.) aimed at meeting the need to differentiation between the municipalities, and accordingly, determining the local administration scale, and creating different duties, powers and responsibilities and different financial structures for the small, medium and large-scale municipalities,

As for institutional strategic goals, Strategic Plan of the Ministry of the Interior for the Period between 2015 and 2019 stipulates enhancing the financial capacity of the local administrations; while the Strategic Plan of the Ministry of Environment and Urbanization for the period between 2018 and 2022 stipulates making sure that the Ministry and the relevant units act as the solution partners in order to offer guidance to the local administrations to
overcome any bottlenecks that may be experienced in urban transformation projects and for creation of a new urban transformation financing model.

Strengthening and reshaping the financial structure of the local administrations is one of the points addressed in the National Spatial Strategy Plan (TMSP) of the national scale, which preparatory work is complete. It highlights that it is important to thoroughly internalize the financial administration perspective in order to strengthen the financial structures of the local administrations and to ensure transformation into a transparent structure and also that the TMSP must contain the diversification of financial resources in details in terms of institutionalization of the local administrations and sustainability of their financial structures. Therefore, TMSP is planned to contain methods for diversifying and developing financial resources of the local administration.

As a result, the legal arrangements that have been implemented during recent years, and the arrangements set forth and the targets set in the policy documents at the country level aiming to create the financing frameworks for the local administrations as supported by strong and diversified resources at every level of government, have resulted in an increase in the powers and financial resources of the local administrations in our country and also have been aimed for their increase in future as well. On the other hand, it is also necessary to address and amend the Law on Municipal Revenues and the Law Regarding Allocation of a Share to Special Provincial Administrations and Municipalities from the Tax Revenue of the General Budget so that the New Urban Agenda can be implemented effectively on the local level.

**2.3.1.2. Mobilize endogenous (internal) sources of finance and expand the revenue base of local governments**

For the sustainable urban and regional development for all, it is necessary to ensure sustainable development and prosperity, and for this purpose, it becomes important to readdress the way cities and human settlements are planned, designed, financed, developed, governed and managed; promote metropolitan governance that is inclusive and encompasses legal frameworks and reliable financing mechanisms, including sustainable debt management, as applicable; and support the development of vertical and horizontal models of distribution of financial resources to decrease inequalities across regions, within urban centres and between urban and rural areas, as well as to promote integrated and balanced regional development. These are committed in the New Urban Agenda.

Also in the New Urban Agenda; at the centre of the joint efforts for sustainable urban development is the need to mobilize and effectively use local policies and resources, supported by the principle of national ownership, and it is stated that revenues and local sources will be mobilized.

Although the resources of the municipalities have increased remarkably in our country during the last 20 years due to elements such as the necessity to implement large-scale investment projects due to rapid urbanization and spatial growth and the increase in the common needs, the local needs have also increased, owing to the rapid urbanization process.

In the 10th Development Plan (2014-2018), one of the main purposes was to make that the local administrations gain a structure with secured financial sustainability. It was aimed to increase the capacities of the local administrations, especially including the recently-
established metropolitan municipalities, with respect to financing and financial administration. The 65th Government Programme, on the other hand, stipulates increasing the own revenues of the local administrations, increasing the administrative and financial capacities of the local administrations and making sure that they operate fast and efficiently, as the service units that is closest to the citizens and most responsive to the local demands.

11th Development Plan (2019-2023) states that own revenues of the local administrations will be increased in order to strengthen their financial structures. The Report of the Special Expertise Commission on Local Administrations under the Plan, on the other hand, sets the target of issuing a private revenue law for special provincial administrations, and thus financially strengthening the special provincial administrations.

11th Development Plan (2019-2023) also adds allocating a share for the municipalities from the local taxes, revising the Law on Municipal Revenues, and within this scope, realizing revenue-generating activities in activities towards municipalities and in own activities of the municipalities, allowing the municipalities benefit from the communication tax charged from the cell phones, updating taxes and fees, determining the property tax rates based on actual worth, and charging fees from the risk-prone areas within the scope of urban transformation into the areas for action.

Moreover, amending Law on Municipal Revenues and other relevant laws and creating new resources for own revenues especially for metropolitan municipalities is also included into the areas of action in the 11th Development Plan (2019-2023), and it is stated that the existing issues and tariffs relating to taxes and fees will be reviewed and adapted to the present-day conditions, and some new resources for income can be added.

The targets (for 2023) of the 11th Development Plan covering the years 2019 to 2023 include enhancing the financial capacity of the local administrations, ensuring revenues that are proportionate to their duties; determining the objective development indices (regional and periodical permanent and temporary population, need for infrastructure, cultural activities, industrialization, agriculture and husbandry, size of rural area, share of the city in the gross national product etc.) aimed at meeting the need to differentiate between the municipalities, and accordingly, determining the local administration scale, and creating different duties, powers and responsibilities and different financial structures for the small, medium and large-scale municipalities.

Strategic Plan of the Ministry of the Interior for the Period 2015 to 2019, on the other hand, expresses one of the fundamental goals as enhancing the pace and quality of the services offered by civilian and local administrations; and within the framework of such goal, one of the sub-headings of the strategic plan relating to the local administrations was to enhance the financial capacity of the local administrations.

Provisions on the revenues and expenses of the local administrations are set forth in the main laws on local administrations as well as the Law Regarding Allocation of a Share to Special Provincial Administrations and Municipalities from the Tax Revenue of the General Budget and Law on Municipal Revenues. Generally, the municipalities are transferred a share out of the tax revenues of the general budget under the provision of the Constitution that stipulates providing the local administrations sources of income proportionately with their duties, and the local administrations are authorized to collect certain taxes, levies and fees; and also to
collect contribution shares for certain services. The municipalities can also generate income from their own activities.

According to the Municipal Law, the revenues of the municipalities are the municipal taxes, levies and fees as set forth in the applicable laws; the share allocated from the tax income of the general budget; payments from administrations with public and private budgets; revenues from leasing, selling and otherwise disposing of securities and real estate assets for valuable consideration; services charges to be collected according to the tariffs to be set forth by the municipal council; revenues from interest and penalty; donations; any revenues from any enterprises, subsidiaries and activities and other revenues.

As seen, the income sources of the local administrations in our country consist of own revenues, transfers from the central administration and loans. Being one of the sources of income, own revenues, are the sources of income that the local governments are empowered to control within the framework of the laws.

Own revenues of the local administration are assessed as the shares received by the local administrations out of the general budget and all the other revenues except for assistance and grants received from the local and foreign institutions, organizations and persons.

Own revenues consist of local taxes, fees, contribution shares and subscription charges. Other than these, own revenues also include income from securities and real estate assets, operational and activity income and grants and penalties.

While the revenues of the local administrations amounted to 115.685 million TL (13.937 million USD according to the exchange rate in March 2021) in 2018, and 120.779 million TL (14.551 million USD according to the exchange rate in March 2021) in 2019; the estimation for 2020 is 139.940 million TL (16.86 million USD according to the exchange rate in March 2021), and the target for 2023 is 163.553 million TL (19.705 million USD according to the exchange rate in March 2021). The share of total own revenues in total revenues is 45.96% for 2016, 47.15% in 2017, 45.11% in 2018, and 43.32% in 2019. As can be seen, a regular decrease is observed in the share of the total own revenues of the local administrations within the total revenues.

It is known that the shares transferred to the local administrations from the tax revenues of the general budget account for a large portion of their total revenues in our country. For example, metropolitan municipalities were transferred 28,382,500 TL (3,419,578 USD according to the exchange rate in March 2021) from the revenues of the general budget in 2016. When this amount is proportioned to the total revenues of the municipalities, the result turns out to be approximately 75%. The shares transferred to the metropolitan municipalities gradually increase over the years.

The low proportion of the own revenues of the local administrations is attributable to the low collection/accrual rates for the own revenues. For example, considering the taxes levied on property, which is one of the most important sources of income for the metropolitan municipalities, this rate is found to be below 40%. This rate is 38% for 2016, for example. Metropolitan municipalities have property tax receivables, which have accrued but not yet collected, in an amount of approximately 9 billion TL (1.08 billion USD according to the exchange rate in March 2021). Another example is the environmental cleaning tax collection
rate, which is 25% despite accrual with a discount, which shows that means of collection need to be realized. In order to increase the income of the local administrations, efforts should be made to effectively collect the income items they own, rather than introducing new taxes.

Various projects are implemented in our country in this respect. For example, Eskişehir Metropolitan Mayorality implemented the Local Financial Capacity Enhancement Technical Assistance Project. The purpose of the said was to support the Municipality in developing own revenues and supporting revenue management, improving the liability and cash flow management, enhancing capacity for planning investments responsive to the climate and researching alternative sources of financing for the infrastructure projects of the municipality. Work was performed to enhance capacity on financial analysis/preliminary assessment, increasing revenues from equity, improving the liability and cash flow management, planning capital investments responsive to the climate and project design and researching proper sources of financing for the projects with due consideration of diverse financial tools. Due to Covid-19 Pandemic, the meetings and training planned to take place between March and June 2019 were completed online and at the end of the programme, the World Bank sent Assessment Reports.

As a result, under the provision of article 127 of our Constitution, which stipulates that “the local administrations are provided with sources of income proportionately with their duties”, efforts to provide the municipalities with balanced and fair distribution of income matching their duties and responsibilities, which are getting both diversified and intensified, need to be emphasized. Thus, it is important to enhance the institutional capacities of the municipalities with respect to diversifying sources, ensuring financial discipline, effective, economical and efficient use of resources as well as their accountable management.

2.3.1.3. Formulate sound systems of financial transfers from national to local governments based on needs, priorities and functions

In the New Urban Agenda, it is important that the central governments transfer resources to local administrations, in addition to diversifying the sources of income of the local administrations. Within this scope, the commitments in the New Urban Agenda include supporting effective, innovative and sustainable financing frameworks and instruments enabling strengthened municipal finance and local fiscal systems in order to create, sustain and share the value generated by sustainable urban development in an inclusive manner; and supporting the development of vertical and horizontal models of distribution of financial resources to decrease inequalities across regions, within urban centres and between urban and rural areas, as well as to promote integrated and balanced regional development.

Provisions on the revenues and expenses of the local administrations are set forth in the main laws on local administrations as well as the Law Regarding Allocation of a Share to Special Provincial Administrations and Municipalities from the Tax Revenue of the General Budget and Law on Municipal Revenues. Generally, the municipalities are transferred a share out of the tax revenues of the general budget under the provision of the Constitution that stipulates providing the local administrations sources of income proportionately with their duties.
The Law Regarding Allocation of a Share to Special Provincial Administrations and Municipalities from the Tax Revenue of the General Budget stipulates that the special provincial administrations and the municipalities are to be allocated a share out of the total tax collection of the general budget. Following the amendment introduced by the Law Establishing Metropolitan Municipalities and Twenty City Districts in Fourteen Cities and Amending Certain Laws and Legislative Decrees, 1.50% of the total taxes collected under the general budget is allocated to the municipalities other than the metropolitan municipalities, 4.50% is allocated to the district municipalities within metropolises and 0.5% is allocated to the special provincial administrations. Moreover, 6% of the total taxes collected under the general budget and 30% of the shares allocated to the district municipalities within the metropolises out of the total taxes collected under the general budget are reserved as the share for metropolitan municipalities.

In our country, the revenues of the local administrations mostly consist of the transferred shares. The proportion of the share out of the tax revenues under the general budget to the total revenues was 57.51% in 2016; 56.73% in 2017; 59.2% in 2018; 60.56 in 2019 for the municipalities; 28.58% in 2016, 30.86% in 2017, 30.1% in 2018, 30.94% in 2019 for special provincial administrations; and 10.28% in 2016, 10.72% in 2017 and 11.08% in 2019 and 11.17% in 2019 for administrations affiliated with municipalities. Thus, it is seen that the financial assistance transferred from the central budget to the local administrations has increased over the years.

In addition to the transfer of share from the general budget, many local projects are also implemented at the local level with state support in an effort to encourage local development. Within the scope of the Municipal Services Project initiated in 2005, the municipalities were provided with sources of financing, and improvements were made in their water and sewerage systems and waste management systems. Solid waste storage facilities with a total capacity of 54,000 tons were established in Gelibolu and Bergama.

Within the scope of the Water and Sewerage Infrastructure Project (SUKAP) initiated in 2011, the investments of the local administrations are supported using the sources transferred from the central budget. Within the scope of the Solid Waste Management Programme (KAP) initiated in order to support the solid waste management projects that the municipalities find difficult to finance, the state offers support for consulting and construction works for integrated waste management plants, regular storage plants, preliminary treatment plants and transfer stations. Moreover, the local government also offers financial support for the rail system projects of the local administrations.

11th Development Plan (2019-2023) emphatically underlines that the central government needs to support the local administrations financially. The plan also states that it will be ensured that the projects for domestic solid waste recovery and disposal plants and transfer station projects, which the local administration, with insufficient financial power, have difficulties in financing, will be supported under a certain program. The Programme for Year 2021, which was prepared in accordance with the policies set forth in the 11th Development Plan, includes the measure that “Implementation of the Solid Waste Management Programme will be mainstreamed”, and, within this context, states that it is planned to complete the construction of three integrated waste management plants, seven new lots, one preliminary treatment plant and three transfer stations; and the studies for tender will commence for
preparation of construction designs for four transfer stations, one new lot and two preliminary treatment plants, and construction drawings will also be prepared for the solid waste plants planned for construction.

However, as the small-scale municipalities without adequate financial power and with no capacity for lending have difficulty in financing their social facility projects for commercial, social or cultural activity, the Ministry of Environment and Urbanization has started efforts to determine the needs for social facilities at municipalities with a population below 10 thousand. Moreover, the Ministry of Environment and Urbanization also supports our municipalities, especially in constructing environmental infrastructure through the Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance (IPA) funds.

Within the scope of Second Term of IPA (2014-2020), a project pool amounting to € 890 million was created for total 74 projects, 34 being infrastructure projects and 40 being capacity enhancement projects. Among these projects, applications were filed before the Delegation of the European Union to Turkey for total 48 projects, 26 infrastructure projects with an amount of € 650 million, and 22 capacity enhancement projects. Financing has been approved by the Delegation of the European Union to Turkey for 18 infrastructure projects amounting to € 460 million; and 15 capacity enhancement projects. As of June 2020, contracts were signed for 11 infrastructure projects and 8 capacity enhancement projects; and the implementation processes have started.

On the other hand, the duties of ILBANK A.S., one of the most important means in ensuring financing support for the local administrations from the central government in our country, have been specified as meeting the needs of the special provincial administrations, municipalities and affiliated organizations and their respective local administration unions for financing, developing projects for local common services for the people living within the territory of these administrations, offering consulting and supervision services, acting as the intermediary for national and international funds and grants to be made available to the local administrations, including those from the general budget, and performing any function as a development and investment bank.

In our country, one thousandth of the total collected tax revenues under the last finalized general budget is included into the budget of the Ministry of Finance as the municipal set-off allowance. The Ministry of Finance transfers this allowance to the account of the Iller Bankasi account in order to be distributed in equal two instalments in March and July. 60% of such allowance is distributed equally among the municipalities with a population over 5,000; and 40% among the municipalities with a population between 5,001 and 9,999.

On the other hand, the 11th Development Plan (2019-2023) includes the goal that ILBANK A.S. will develop a support program for the local administrations to preserve and revitalize natural, historical and cultural values in order to further develop the original identities of the cities; and implementation of the Support Programme for Centres of Attraction will also continue for the cities functioning as the centre serving their surroundings in comparatively underdeveloped regions. In this context, the Presidential Programme for Year 2021 contains the goals that the Principles and Procedures for Support Programme will be prepared in 2021; the projects nominated for support under the Support Programme will be examined; and the
processes for approval and funding transfer will be completely defined for the projects approved for support.

Moreover, the Presidential Programme for Year 2021 also includes the goal that “Under KOYDES, financial support will be provided for the construction work pertaining to high quality and accessible water network, potable water, waste water plant and small irrigation plants for villages and beldes in cities, other than metropolises, in order to meet the needs of the villages for infrastructure and superstructure qualifying as common for the locality”. It is also added that the security road of 1.160 km will be completed in order to ensure repair of the roads that deteriorated due to climate and topographic conditions and construction of new roads for the purpose of maintaining security, peace and public order for our citizens living in the rural areas; and the structures endangering the safety of lives and property of the people will be replaced by proper structures next to the village or at places to be determined. It is also stated that the local administration projects for the prosperity and security of the city will be supported by the state.

11th Development Plan (2019-2023) sets it as an objective and a policy to ensure financing from the central government for the investments with a high cost, and thus to implement the projects.

As may be seen, although serious progress has been made in our country in this respect, there are still certain areas of improvement. Under the provision of article 127 of our Constitution, which stipulates that “the local administrations are provided with sources of income proportionately with their duties”, efforts to provide the municipalities with balanced and fair distribution of income matching their duties and responsibilities, which are getting both diversified and intensified, need to be increased and maintained. Some of the problems pertaining to the financial structure of the local administrations are attributable to inadequate consideration of the municipal scale when allocating shares; and objective criteria other than the population and surface area (population density, periodical increases in population, number of construction licenses, number of university students etc.) must also be taken into account when allocating shares; and the shares allocated for the municipalities out of the tax revenues of the general budget must match the duties of each respective municipality.

Moreover, enhancing the financial capacity of the local administrations by providing them with revenues proportionately with their duties, and, in this context, updating the Law on Municipal Revenues, duly taking into account the present needs have also been included into the objectives of the 11th Development Plan (2019-2023) for 2023; therefore, these matters are also considered among the areas of improvement.

**2.3.1.4. Mobilize and establish financial intermediaries (multilateral institutions, regional development banks, local development funds; pooled financing mechanisms etc.) for urban financing**

Financial organizations (multilateral institutions, regional development banks, local development funds etc.) are important in addition to securing local and international sources for financing as a tool for effective implementation of the New Urban Agenda and for sustainable local development. Within this scope, it is stated in the Urban Agenda that, the establishment of appropriate financial intermediaries for urban financing, such as regional,
national, and local development funds or development banks, including pooled financing mechanisms, which can catalyse public and private, national and international financing, will be considered. Moreover, the New Urban Agenda also invites international multilateral financial institutions, regional development banks, development finance institutions and cooperation agencies to provide financial support, including through innovative financial mechanisms, to programmes and projects for implementing the New Urban Agenda, particularly in developing countries.

In addition to the South-eastern Anatolia Project (GAP) initiated in 1989, regional development projects such as Eastern Anatolia Project (DAP), Eastern Black Sea Project (DOKAP) and Konya Plain Project (KOP) have also been put into practice in our country; and development administrations have been set up in order to reduce the regional disparities in development and to provide with a significant regulatory infrastructure with a view to regulating the intercity relations and the level of development in these regions. Moreover, 26 Development Agencies have also been established in order to coordinate the regional development levels at the local level.

11th Development Plan (2019-2023) sets it as an objective that ILBANK A.S. will develop support programs for local administrations with a view to preserving and revitalizing natural, historical and cultural values in order to further develop of the original identity of the cities; and the development agencies will make efficient use of the economic and social harmonization funds and other international sources in line with the needs and priorities of the regions, which will be supported by training, advisory and promotion activities.

Development agencies are autonomous public institutions established for the purpose of reducing regional inequalities in development and to ensure regional development under coordination by the Ministry of Development. The main function of the Development Agencies is to support cooperation between public and private sectors and the non-governmental organizations to allow the local potential to manifest itself. There are 26 development agencies in Turkey and all are established in NUTS-2 regions. In addition to offering technical support for planning works by the local administrations, the development agencies also contribute to enhancing the rural and local capacity for development in the region and provide support for the projects for this purpose in accordance with the regional plans and programs.

Striving to eliminate imbalance between the cities and the regions, the development agencies offer financial support in line with the priorities in the regional plans; while the regional development administrations offer the same under the projects contained in their action plans. Regional development administrations also ensure implementation of the public investment projects aimed at developing economic and social infrastructures and social resources, which also support investments by the private sector. Within this scope, regional development administrations offered support amounting to total 3.04 billion TL (550 million USD according to the exchange rate in 2019) for 3,308 projects by the prices of 2019 during the Action Plans period (2014-2018).

During the 10th Development Plan (2014-2018), the development agencies implemented financial and technical support programs in line with the priorities in the regional plans. In the period between 2016 and 2020, 7,818 projects were provided with a total support of 2.93
billion TL (353 million USD according to the exchange rate in March 2021) in order to support regional development under the programs. With co-financing by the beneficiaries, total budget for the projects amounted to 4.4 billion TL (530 million USD according to the exchange rate in March 2021).

Union of Municipalities of Turkey, the only umbrella organization of the municipalities in Turkey, can also be listed as another means for financing. The functions of the said Union include supporting the municipalities in benefiting from national and international loan organizations and funds and in developing projects. The types of union stipulated in the Law on Unions of Local Administrations numbered 5355 are: service unions for tourism infrastructure, unions for serving villages, irrigation unions, unions established at a national level and other unions.

On the other hand, ILBANK A.S. was established in 1993 in order to meet the needs of the special provincial administrations and municipalities for financing, to develop projects for services common to the locality, offering advisory and supervision services, making available loans, acting as the intermediary for making use of the loans made available for implementation of the projects, acting as the intermediary for transfer of any sources from the central government to the local administrations and fulfilling any functions as a development and investment bank. Moreover, the Bank also acts as the intermediary for making available the funds and grants provided at national and international levels for use in any projects of the municipalities as set forth in the applicable Law. Also, the Water and Sewerage Infrastructure Project (SUKAP) initiated by ILBANK A.S. in 2011 supports investments by the local administrations with sources transferred from the central budget.

Moreover, the solid waste projects, which the local administrations find difficult to finance, are supported by the Solid Waste Management Programme (KAP) implemented by the Ministry of Environment and ILBANK A.S. Within this scope, metropolitan municipalities and municipalities/unions continue working on construction of integrated waste management plants, new regular storage plants, construction of additional lots for an existing regular storage plants, preliminary treatment plants (mechanical sorting or bio drying or waste-to-fuel plants) and transfer stations and preparation of construction drawings for the same.

The Local Administration Resilience Project implemented by the Union of Municipalities of Turkey includes work such as taking into account the role and needs of the local administrations in national immigration policies, strengthening learning and support structures among the municipalities and offering the municipalities with grant support. In addition, projects are also implemented jointly with international development agencies.
2.3.2. Capacity Development

2.3.2.1. Expand opportunities for city-to-city cooperation and fostering exchanges of urban solutions and mutual learning

In Turkey, city-to-city cooperation and sister city practices are considered as important tools for enhancing capacities for the effective implementation of the New Urban Agenda and the localization of the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda and its Goals and supported by comprehensive legislative framework. Cases for city-to-city cooperation conveyed in reporting are delivered at national level through Local Administration Unions and at international level through town twinning, memberships to international organizations, sister city initiatives, cross-border cooperation projects.

In Turkey, 77.43% of the total population lives in metropolises, 16.33% lives in other municipalities and 6.24% lives in villages. Turkey has 81 Governorships and 1,389 municipalities, including the 30 metropolitan municipalities governed by a special law, 51 special provincial administrations and 18,292 villages. Local administrations are composed of the municipalities, special provincial administrations and villages.

The Local Administration Reforms started in 2005 are supported by Local Capacity Enhancement Programme and Action Plans and by regulations promoting and expanding cooperation, such as Law on Unions of Municipalities and City Councils Regulation. In this respect, European Union (EU) Communication Strategy Document was prepared within the Accession Negotiations of Turkey to European Union (EU), by the Directorate for European Union Affairs in which town twinning program and sister city projects were taken as a tool to reinforce the cooperation at local level and to enable the active involvement of local administrations in the process.

Within the scope of city-to-city cooperation at national level, the unions of local administrations are the outstanding institutional mechanisms encouraging exchange of urban solutions, solidarity and mutual learning; and establishing the institutionalized mechanisms for the partnerships and cooperation through legal, institutional and administrative arrangements. The Law on the Unions of Local Administrations came into force in 2005. The Law was issued to develop the capacity of and to support the local administrations in the institutional and administrative sense, including training, and to protect their interests in legal arrangements. Union of Municipalities of Turkey (TBB) is authorized to represent the municipalities at the national and international platforms while the Union of Provinces to represent the Special Provincial Administrations and Investment Monitoring and Coordinating Directorates.

Duties of the unions founded in a theme-based manner are to protect the interests of their members, assist their capacity development efforts and encourage technical, administrative experience and exchange of information; disseminate the cases of good practices; and encourage the solidarity and development of common solutions to the common problems of the members of the theme-based unions. The duties of the unions founded at national level, on the other hand, are guiding the local administrations, contributing to the enhancement of their
organizational capacities, by training their staff, supporting mutual assistance and cooperation between local administrations, and forming and expressing an opinion with respect to any relevant legislative arrangements. It is not possible to establish a union with a general purpose that covers all the duties of local administrations or with a purpose that is not clearly defined.

In Turkey, there are total 704 Unions of Local Administrations. In addition to national level unions, i.e. Union of Municipalities of Turkey and the Union of the Provinces; there are 8 network-type organized at regional level, i.e. (Marmara Municipalities Union in Marmara Region, Aegean Municipalities Union in Aegean Region, Çukurova Municipalities Union in Çukurova Region, South-Eastern Anatolia Municipalities Union in South-Eastern Anatolia Region, Eastern Black Sea Municipalities Union in Eastern Black Sea, Mediterranean Municipalities Union in Mediterranean Region, Central Anatolia Region Municipalities Union in Central Anatolia Region and Trakya Municipalities Union in Trakya Region). On the other hand, of the theme-based service unions, 40 are service-based, 10 are unions of special administrations and municipalities, 5 are development unions, 71 are environmental infrastructure unions, 41 are tourism infrastructure unions, 75 are drinking water unions, 451 are unions to serve the villages and 9 have other various themes, such as “Union of Municipalities with Geothermal Springs”, “Union of Slow Cities”, “Union of Healthy Cities”, and “Union of Historical Cities”.

Union of Municipalities of Turkey (TBB) was established in 1945 operating in the field of municipal works as a public benefit association, and gained union status by the Law on Municipal Unions in 2005. The Law on establishment of unions is rely upon the Municipal Law. TBB is authorized to represent the municipalities at home and abroad; its Charter contains the duty to “Encourage mutual assistance and cooperation among municipalities at national and international levels and encourage solidarity with and support for municipalities that are affected by natural or social occurrences and setting up a centre for disasters and emergencies to ensure coordination for this purpose, whenever necessary”. TBB offers financial support for capacity building efforts as such training, seminars, congresses or business visits organized by the regional or theme-based unions with a view to further developing democracy at the local level and encouraging establishment of cooperation models between municipalities. TBB develops projects and programs to support the work of municipalities by cooperating with local administration unions and local administrations in other countries. TBB represents the municipalities as a member of the United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG) and UCLG Middle East and West Asia Section (UCLG-MEWA) and Council of European Municipalities and Regions (CEMR), the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe, the European Committee of the Regions, and the Euro-Mediterranean Regional and Local Assembly (ARLEM).

Marmara Municipalities Union (MBB) is a union with over 190 members comprising 13 cities with diverse populations in the Marmara Region, which accommodates over one fourth of the population in Turkey and produces over half of the value added with the sectors of industry, agriculture, tourism and service. MBB offers administrative, financial and legal counselling and training services on topics such as environmental management, urbanization, immigration and social cohesion, local diplomacy, local development, urban technologies and innovation in order to help the local administrations develop their institutional capacity, and supports scientific work and organizes meetings and events bringing the relevant stakeholders together.
MBB also supports international cooperation and capacity enhancement of other member municipalities through its memberships to the international local government networks, such as NALAS, ALDA and UCLG-MEWA.

Unions of Provinces established in 1985 as a Union of Services represents the special provincial administrations and Investment Monitoring and Coordination Directorates. With the Local Administration Reforms started in 2005, the special provincial administrations established in 81 cities were removed from metropolises and their number was reduced to 51. Investment Monitoring and Coordination Directorates were established as affiliated body to the governorships within 30 metropolises in order to ensure coordination and cooperation between central and local administrations. It is the member of and also acting as the secretary for Council of European Municipalities and Regions (CEMR) jointly with TBB and Union of Provinces.

At international level fostering city to city cooperation consist of memberships to international organizations, Sister Cities practice, Town-Twinning programme, cross-border cooperation programmes and cooperate forums and conferences.

Sister Cities is an international cooperation practice, which takes its legal framework from the Law on Municipalities and Special Provincial Administration and is regulated by the relevant circulars of the Ministry of Internal Affairs regulating relations with international organizations. Sister City cooperation is established after the approval letter of the Ministry responding the permission for the Partnership Protocol.

Activity Report of TBB contains an analysis, which reveals that 392 municipalities accounting for 28% of all engage in 1,533 cooperation relations with municipalities from 127 countries. 30 metropolitan municipalities and their district municipalities account for 1,220 of these cooperation relationships. Istanbul has 281, Izmir has 281, Ankara has 127, Bursa has 113 and Antalya has 81 cooperation relationships. It is seen EU member countries account for 27% of all the sister city relationships established; Balkan countries account for 26%, and other European cities account for 4%; and the countries in the Asia continent, including relationships with Central Asian Turkish States account for approximately 25%; while the relationships with the cities in the Middle East and North Africa account for 8%.

In terms of memberships to the international networks, it is seen that close relationships are established with Eurocities, Cittaslow, Organization of World Heritage Cities (OWHC), The World Alliance of Cities Against Poverty (WACAP), Council of European Municipalities and Regions (CEMR) and UCLG and UCLG-MEWA.

UCLG-MEWA is an important platform for cooperation based in Istanbul. It develops tools and manuals for the implementation of City Diplomacy, Sister Cities Guide and Local Governance Networks / Participation Mechanisms and for the units created to monitor gender equality, Equality Unit, Women and Family Directorates, Presidency of Women’s Studies and Social Gender Equality Commission within the Municipal Council.

Among the cross-border cooperation programmes between Turkey and the EU, EU Interreg programme that Turkey was joined in the process of accession since 2007. The purpose of the
Black Sea Basin Cross Border Cooperation Programme is to support local cooperation for economic and social development in countries bordering the Black Sea basin. The National Authority for these programmes is the Directorate for EU Affairs affiliated to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Between 2007 and 2020, 138 cross-border cooperation events were organized and 39 projects were implemented with partners as funded by ENPI funds. [https://cbc.ab.gov.tr/siteimages/documents/karadenizbrosur.pdf](https://cbc.ab.gov.tr/siteimages/documents/karadenizbrosur.pdf)

European Union Town Twinning Project (TWIN) is financed by EU and Turkey under Instrument of Pre-Accession Assistance (IPA II), 2014 programme. The purpose of the project is to establish permanent mechanisms enabling exchange of information and experiences between the local administrations in Turkey and EU member countries by enhancing local administrative capacities in the process of Turkey’s accession. The project has implemented between April 2018 and December 2020 with two components, i.e. “technical support” and “grants”. Under the grants component of the project, 23 projects developed by local administrations in Turkey jointly with their counterparts in EU countries received grant support. Within the scope of this grant scheme 31 cooperation projects were signed between the local administrations in Turkey and EU member states. The technical support component of the project resulted in organization of 4 study visits, 2 workshops and 4 trainings attended by the representatives of the local administrations in order to enhance the capacities of the local administrations. Moreover, 2 International Town Twinning Summits were organized in 2017 and on 12th and 13th November 2020 (online) with participation of specialists from the European Council and Turkey. The summit also included the panel on New Urban Agenda moderated by the Deputy Head of the EU Delegation to Turkey, comprehensive information about the contribution of the New Urban Agenda on the localization of the sustainable development goals and its means for the local administrations as effective implementation and capacity development tool was delivered by the representative of the Ministry of Environment and Urbanization who is representing the Ministry in UN Habitat Executive Board as well. [http://www.twinningconference.com/gundem/](http://www.twinningconference.com/gundem/)

Within the scope of the project, a “Roadmap for Effective Town Twinning Methodology in Turkey” was also prepared as a contribution to further development of sister city relations ([https://www.yereldeab.org.tr/Portals/8/yayinlar/roadmap.pdf](https://www.yereldeab.org.tr/Portals/8/yayinlar/roadmap.pdf)). In addition, an online “Town Twinning Tool” was developed to facilitate communication between Turkey and EU member states. [https://www.yereldeab.org.tr/twin/index.html](https://www.yereldeab.org.tr/twin/index.html).

It is planned that Town Twinning Phase II will be kicked-off at last quarter of the 2021 with respect to which the Union Twinning for a Green Future strategy between Municipalities of Turkey and the union’s to support the creation of long-term effective cooperation for protection of the environment and combating climate change between the local administrations. The Project with a total budget of € 4 million will support 25 municipalities in Turkey.

The web portal created within the scope of Local Administrations Reform, “[http://www.yereldeab.org.tr/](http://www.yereldeab.org.tr/)”, and the platform “[http://www.yerldiplomasi.gov.tr/](http://www.yerldiplomasi.gov.tr/)” stands out as effective tools for implementation. Town twinning is possible for all fields of local issues within the jurisdiction of the local administrations. Within the context of Turkey’s
accession goals the themes for cooperation are decentralization, cultural exchange, efficiency and effectiveness of public services, financial administration, leadership, good governance including human resources etc., participation, transparency, accountability, policy development, planning, analysis, monitoring and assessment, local economic development, agriculture, tourism, trade, transport, infrastructure and other social development, protection of environment (energy, climate, natural resources etc.), crisis management (natural disasters, emergencies, immigrants etc.), innovation in exchange of information, management technologies, and research and development.

2.3.2.2. Implement capacity development as an effective, multifaceted approach to formulate, implement, manage, monitor and evaluate urban development policies

In Turkey, like the other policies, urban and regional policies are developed, monitored and implemented within the public administration system. Policies and sector-based strategies and action plans for all sectors, including urbanization, are formulated in line with the National Development Plans they are implemented through institutional strategic plans by establishing the budget linkages to the Presidential annual programs, multiyear investment programs and medium term plans.

In terms of the policy-development, programming and monitoring processes, Turkey has inclusive and participatory implementation capacities within a multi-actor and multi-level public administration system in preparing and implementing the national policies, including formulation of urban and regional development policies.

Institutional structures, programs, projects financial and administrative means of implementations addressed with various dimensions within the other 7 headings of the capacity development context are explained with the multi-actor and multi-level administrative and legislative capacities established to develop, monitor and assess the policies with result-oriented programs, strategies and action plans.

In creating local capacities for urban development and environment, The Ministry of the Interior and the Ministry of Environment and Urbanization are the responsible institutions for the relationships between the central and local administrations. In this respect, a new unit in charge of coordination with local administrations has been established within the institutional organization of the Ministry of Environment and Urbanization; the number of metropolitan municipalities was increased up to 30, and transition to the “entire city” model took place with the metropolitan administrations covering the entire both rural and urban territory of the city. Investment Monitoring and Coordination Directorates were established in cities having no metropolitan municipality administrations to assure the public services reach out to the smallest human settlement units and are duly coordinated.

Following the amendments in Turkish Constitution and transition to the Presidential Government System, the Local Governments Policies Council was established in 2018 as highest policy formulation body shaping the country's vision and political preferences in the new structure realized by formation of the Presidential Cabinet.
Within this context, Presidential Annual Programs prioritize national and sectoral goals set by the development plans, determine the respective organizations in charge and transform them into implementation plans.

Institutional Strategy Plans given in detail in sub-heading 7 of Capacity Development Chapter, play a role in the establishment of the Result-Based Planning and Monitoring System. As a prerequisites of the multi-actor and multi-level governance, Institutional Strategic Planning mechanism was established within the framework of the Public Financial Management and Control Law, multi-year performance-based budgeting, legal for internal control and audit functions and are obligatory for all public institutions and other organizations, which use public resources, including local governments and development agencies. To put into practice effectively, Strategy Development Departments and Internal Audit Units were established within all public institutions and organizations as administrative and institutional capacities authorized for the preparation, monitoring and evaluation of Institutional Strategy Plans in coordination and supported by continuous training and capacity building programs. National Development Plans-NDPs are considered as a multiple capacity building and development tool, which constitute institutionalized mechanism to enable the common understanding and shared targets between public institutions and reinforce the linkages between plans & programs & budget. Within the context of urban and regional development, it ensures hierarchical relationship, coordination and harmonization of the existing institutional and legal capacities with other sectoral policies. Development plans are the highest level of planning instruments, which are relied upon in the preparation processes of the prioritized transformation programs, regional strategies and action plans, urban development and urban transformation strategies and the Institutional Strategy Plans of the Ministry of Environment and Urbanization.

The Prioritized Transformation Programs (ODP) and Action Plans (EP) of the 10th Development Plan (2014-2019) were designed as 25 integrated programs and action plans within cross-sectoral multi-actor and multi-level governance system in order to develop and enhance effective local implementation capacities with a view implementing result-oriented programs and projects through assigning duties to the institutions to address policy issues having direct impact on the standard of living, such as basic infrastructure, environment, housing, transportation, urban development, social politics, competition and innovation realms.

Institutional Capacity Improvement Programme at Local Level which is one of them sets the legal and administrative measures for the effective implementation of public policies on urban and regional development through enabling the institutionalization of the multi-stakeholder decision-making processes both at local and central levels by provision of the guidance, manuals and trainings is the most comprehensive one in enhancing institutional as well as in building functional and organizational capacities in Turkey.

The Programme has played a key role in the formulation of the Support Project for the Local Administration Reform III (2018-2021), scaling up the efficiency in local service provision, establishing the institutionalized mechanisms. Accordingly, facilitating and encouraging legal, institutional and administrative arrangements for the cooperation between City Councils, civil society and public sector, which is elaborated in sub-heading 4 of Capacity Development
Chapter, have been implemented. The implementation of the Programme continues within the 11th Development Plan (2019-2023).

Leveraging the International Cooperation for capacity building and enhancement is an integrated programming approach implemented by Turkey particularly for the 9th Development Plan (2007-2013) period. Turkey has institutionalized national development planning and programming system to mainstream and localize the sustainable development goals, by mobilizing international cooperation and partnerships in line with national priorities and development policies. Starting from the 8th Development Plan Period (2001-2005), the Millennium Development Goals and Sustainable Development Goals have been mainstreamed through National Development Plans and have thus integrated into all the sectoral policies by this way. Similarly, the preparations for the 11th Development Plan (2019-2023) were carried out in this manner. With the renewal of the sector-specific legislative frameworks, in response to the need to strengthen the existing administrative, legal and institutional capacities as well as build the new ones, 9th Development Plan (2007-2013) was planned by this approach, which integrates the UN and the EU funding and technical assistance with its own resources. The plan period was set as 2007-2013 in accordance with the economic calendar of EU. 9th Development Plan was prepared by integrating the EU Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance (IPA) and UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) with its strategies and action programs containing the national development priorities with a view to establishing effective implementation capacities in all sectors, particularly including urban and regional development at central and local levels.

Turkey’s National Plans for EU Accession (2008-2016-2019) are the one of the most important tools in developing and building institutional, legal and administrative capacities designed in line with the national development plans within the EU Accession process. With EU Harmonization Programs, Local Administration Reforms (LAR) were supported and Development Agencies were established; Public Financial Management and Control Law and Institutional Strategic Planning, performance-based budget practices, activity reports, internal audit and budget audit, and result-based management and monitoring mechanisms have been implemented through comprehensive capacity enhancement projects. Within the context of EU Financial Cooperation, operational programs have been prepared for implementation of the financial and technical assistance under IPA. Implementing Units for the Operational Programs were established within the Ministries as competent authorities in charge.

A portal has been created for the projects in implementation, encouraging mutual learning and cooperation. [https://www.yereldeab.org.tr/sehireslestirme/KilitPaydaslar.aspx](https://www.yereldeab.org.tr/sehireslestirme/KilitPaydaslar.aspx)

Local Administration Reform Projects (LAR III-II-I) intended to support the local reform projects in building and enhancing capacities for municipalities at the local level are the capacity development projects implemented by UNDP and co-financed by Turkey and EU under the EU IPA Funds for the years 2005 and 2021, with co-beneficiaries being the Ministry of the Interior and the Ministry of Environment and Urbanization, Phase III, which includes building capacity to improve and monitor the financial management and budget performances and management systems of the municipalities and municipality companies for the purpose of making available efficient and high quality services, creating a model to ensure
inclusion and updating the Local Administration Information System (YERELBILGI), is in progress.

Environmental Operational Programme elaborated in detail in sub-heading 6 of Capacity Development Chapter under the EU Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance (IPA) is an important tool for capacity enhancement by providing financial and institutional capacity support in building and developing the capacities to implement the legislation on environment harmonized in line with European acquis including climate change strategies and environmental infrastructures within the Institutional Strategy Plan of the Ministry of Environment and Urbanization.

The Ministry of Environment and Urbanization has a wide range of competency areas and functions. Its organizational structure is composed of main directorates responsible with urbanization, spatial planning, environmental management, development, professional services, urban transformation and conservation of natural resources, and affiliated bodies that are the most established institutions of Turkey, i.e. ILBANK in charge of financing the local administrations, General Directorate of Land Registry and Cadastre in charge of registering ownership and mapping with a view to land management, Emlak Katılım Bankası, and TOKI in charge of providing housing, and General Directorate of National Property in charge of the immovable properties of the treasury. As the authority implementing the EU Environmental Operational Programme, it has decentralized management structures. Deputy Minister of the Ministry is also the Chief of the Climate Change Coordination Council and the Chief Negotiator of Turkey.

Strategic Plan of the Ministry of Environment and Urbanization (2019-2023) is an institutional strategy plan that is issued, managed and monitored with result-orientation. Integrated Urban Development Strategy and Action Plan (KENTGES) (2010-2023) constitute an example of best practice that mobilizes the international cooperation to integrate the global sustainable development and urban agendas and, into national urban policies and thus localising them. In 2007, the EU Urban Agenda Leipzig Charter was integrated into the Turkey’s National EU Programme (2008-2013) to achieve “Integrated Sustainable Urban Development Strategy and Action Plan for Turkey” By leveraging the strategic approach of the 9th Development Plan (2007-2013) it was added as urbanisation sub-sector to the “Project for Integrating Sustainable Development into Sectoral Policies” implemented by UNDP with co-financing by Turkey and EU; and thus, 10 urbanization policy axes were produced as project outputs fully harmonized with the goals of the UN World Summit on Sustainable Development Johannesburg Implementation Plan 2002 and the Sixth Environmental Action Plan of EU. After the completion of the project, in order to transform policy axes into comprehensive national urbanization strategy, policy axes were taken to an inclusive, multi-stakeholder policy platform to discuss with nationwide stakeholders by organizing 1st Urbanization Council in 2009 having 10 Council Commissions Taking into consideration the outcomes of the Urbanization Council, KENTGES was transformed into a strategy and action plan with a broad supervising team in 2010. Within the context of urban and regional development, National Strategy for Regional Development (BGUS) (2014-2023) is a strategy document ensuring spatial integration of the multi-sector policies set by the national development plans. They are implemented by development agencies through multi-actor and multi-level governance structures and result-based programs. They play a role in
decreasing the regional development disparities and aim to distributing prosperity throughout the country.

Development Agencies have been established in 2006 in NUTS-2 Regions in a manner to cover all the geographical regions of Turkey within the context of EU Accession Process. They also have multi-actor local and regional implementation capacities in preparing Regional Plans, in implementing social assistance and economic incentive programs and transforming them into medium-term operational programs. They have many functions in eliminating the regional development disparities through operating in wide range of social, economic and environmental policy realms by producing contextual data and knowledge to develop evidence-based policies.

2.3.2.3. Build capacity at all levels of government to use data for evidence-based policy formulation including collecting and using data for minority groups

Turkey has a well-established Institutionalized Statistical System integrated into the world system.

Turkish Statistical Institute (TURKSTAT) is the authority empowered to generate official research and statistics disaggregated as cities and regions as well as use and standardized statistics generated by other institutions with a view to monitoring the Sustainable Development Goals and implementing the Official Statistics Programme (RIP). In accordance with standards of organizations such as Eurostat, United Nations, OECD and ILO, it is the authority in charge of implementing the activities to generate internationally comparable statistics for the purpose particularly for the monitoring indicators of the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals.

TURKSTAT generates statistics and research to provide basic statistics and data for the inclusive housing and urban Policies through using its demographic, social, environment and economic databases on a region or city scales. It conducts economic and social research and publishes the statistics compiled by the institutions in accordance with statistical standards in the Official Statistics Programme (RIP). RIP is a program enabling current, reliable, updated, timely transparent and objective data generated in areas of need at national and international levels, setting the fundamental principles and standards to allow data to be generated by the institutions other than TURKSTAT as well, in accordance with the standards of the official statistics clusters. “Manual for High Quality Research” for example was published in order to guide the institutions providing data to RIP program. The Institute also generates data in various different fields, particularly in the Sustainable Development Indicators, population, housing, and construction statistics used in preparing and monitoring the urban and regional policies; household consumption expenditure statistics; statistics on distribution of income and living conditions; general population and building censuses; Research on Family Structure; Research on Life Satisfaction; statistics on female-children-young-older population and population with disabilities; statistics on migration and immigration and the Address-Based Population Registration System: https://www.tuik.gov.tr/
Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) Indicators account for 40% of the New Urban Agenda Indicators. In Turkey even though data generated by TURKSTAT have been used to monitor SDGs. Study on the drafted NUA monitoring indicators framework has not been started yet. http://www.resmiistatistik.gov.tr/detail/subject/surdurulebilir-kalkinma-gostergeleri/

Statistical Infrastructure Development Prioritized Transformation Programme was designed to Improve the Statistical Information Infrastructure under the 10th Development Plan. It was developed in order to generate accurate, reliable and timed statistics used by public administrations and by reform efforts for the period between 2014 and 2019 in order to be able to prepare and monitor evidence-based public policies and programs, Institutional Capacity Improvement at Local Level Prioritized Transformation Programme was designed to enhance local institutional capacities under the 10th Development Plan, aiming to support institutional capacity at the local level in order to produce evidence-based policies based on research and verifiable data and indicators provided by TURKSTAT. Due to the expansion in responsibilities and duties of the Municipalities with local administrations reforms, particularly the increase in the number of metropolitan municipalities and extension in service areas that resulted in the need to improve local institutional and organizational capacities, to develop contextual data and indicators in setting standards for local services and ensuring adherence to them, development of alternative planning, organization and service delivery models, will enable effective performing of increasing duties particularly in the newly established metropolitan municipalities. Formulation of data-based policies in the 11th Development Plan (2019-2023) sets it as an objective for urban policy to develop the tools for monitoring and measurement, the most important tools in forming urban policies besides all policy areas. It is expressed that the principles of collaboration will be implemented between the institutions producing and using spatial information with geographical quality throughout the country based on spatial and sectoral impact analysis, majority of which were initiated in the 10th Development Plan (2014-2018) period. In the Plan, it will be ensured that the information to serve as the electronic base for spatial plans and practices will be generated and shared by the stipulated standards. In providing context-based data, Development Agencies have important roles. In addition to conducting and commissioning researches based on scientific methods in order to support the socio-economic researches conducted by institutions and organizations, aiming at accelerating economic and social development and increasing competitive power; they also produce context-specific spatial data on healthy housing, climate impacts, disasters, natural resources, population and age as needed in their respective region jointly with universities, techno cities, industrial organizations and municipalities. In 2019, they conducted studies, analysis, examination on regional strategy and planning on approximately 300 topics; and prepared reports on industrial zones, sector analyses, need assessment of the regions and employment structure, tourism strategy and action plans, value chain analyses and on reinforcing cooperatives as collective initiatives. They generate information and data to measure socio-economic development level by developing indicators on a disaggregated city basis under the Study of Socio-economic Development Ranking of the Cities and Regions (ILSEGE), which is the most important input for the decision-making support mechanisms elaborated in sub-heading 2 of Capacity Development Chapter ILSEGE Studies, which are used as the reference for various policy implementations by many institutions and which reveal the development levels and trends of the districts, cities and regions for studies to monitor and assess the regional development.
policies, offer the basic input and data for spatial analysis for designing policies and preparing the regional plans in order to accelerate the regional development and to ensure its sustainability, as well as constituting the infrastructure for investment incentives.

Development Agencies Management System Project conducted by the Ministry of Industry and Technology and TUBITAK Software Technologies Research Institute (YTE) continue its efforts developing organizational capacities of the development agencies through Management System (KAYS). KAYS Project develops a modular, integrated and central information system for reinforcing the institutional operation of the development agencies and enhancing efficiency and effectiveness of the main service processes.

Strategic Planning Database has also a key role in developing evidence-based policies. It has the function of coordinating, harmonizing, assessing and monitoring policies in terms of transformation of the policy priorities as set by the national development plans into sectoral policies, plans and strategies coordinated under annual programs, establishing their budget link with result-oriented management and monitoring mechanisms, and reporting and supervising them under the Law numbered 5018. http://www.sp.gov.tr/tr/temel-belge/t/stsb/p/sektorel-tematik-strateji-belgeleri

E-Municipality Information System Project intends to develop the institutional capacities of the Municipalities. With the building of this System, municipalities will be able to work with a single database, based on a common system infrastructure, using standard software. Within the scope of System Project, 45 modules qualifying as management information systems will be prepared by the Ministry of the Interior, and 22 modules qualifying as geographical information systems will be prepared by the Ministry of Environment and Urbanization; and 45 modules have been implemented so far.

Another system project called YERELBILGI is implemented as a comprehensive capacity enhancement project as the Third Component of the Local Administration Reform Support Project Phase III (2018-2021). The purpose is to gather data relating to local administrations in electronic environment, to compile them, and to make analytical inquiries in them in a manner to assist formulation of policies and decision-making process. It also aims to further strengthen the “YERELBILGI” database within the context of establishing and updating the administrative information system in the local administration system. This component qualifying as a supporting component is intended for developing the software needed for the other capacity components of the project (such as Performance Management System, System for Tracking Reforms and the Legislation and Strengthening the Participatory Mechanisms).

The source for data that is important as monitoring indicators relating to local administrations is the Institutional Activity Reports of the municipalities. According to the Law 5018 on Budget and Fiscal Control, Institutional Strategy plans are monitored by the indicators and progress are reported annually through Activity reports for all public bodies, institutions, ministries, universities and affiliated branches using public sources. The Ministry of Environment and Urbanization and the Ministry of the Interior in charge to consolidate in a single report, publish and disseminate as the Activity Reports of the Local Administration. They consist of relevant budget and final account information of the local administrations and other financial data obtained from “say2000i automation” system of the Ministry of Treasury
and Finance General Directorate of Public Accounts. Moreover, data and statistical information of other public institutions and organizations, TURKSTAT, YSK and ACSHB on local administrations are also used.

A series of capacity enhancement programs to formulated evidence-based, inclusive and participatory policies have been implemented in Turkey, starting with the national development plans, intended to reinforce the cooperation between the public sector and NGOs for preparation and implementation of sectoral strategic and action plans of the public institutions. Prioritised Transformation Programme for Local Capacity Enhancement under the 10th Development Plan is for gathering systematic and comprehensive data gathering on non-governmental organizations, creating an NGO database in harmony with International Classification of Non-Profit Organizations (ICNPO) of the UN, so that the Ministry of the Interior can gather data in this respect and share with the public. 11th Development Plan (2019-2023) states that creating an NGO database meeting the international standards is to strengthen civil society. The Information System for Associations (DERBIS) established by the General Directorate for Relations with Civil Society of the Ministry of the Interior in 2018. The classification work, which involves assigning the ICNPO and NACE codes for the associations for the purpose of safe and regular data collection and publication in the realm of civil society, is still in progress and expecting completion date in 2021. [https://www.siviltoplum.gov.tr/dernekler-bilgi-sistemi-derbis](https://www.siviltoplum.gov.tr/dernekler-bilgi-sistemi-derbis)

The “GocNet” system of the General Directorate of Migration Management includes 26 modules, including the “e-Residence Module” allowing the foreigners in Turkey to apply online for their residence permits for initial, transit and extension stages, as well as other transactions carried out by the General Directorate for foreigners, such as visa and international protection requests, and denial of entry. The modules are constantly updated and upgraded. The portal ([https://www.goc.gov.tr/](https://www.goc.gov.tr/)) as a Decision Support Mechanism, National Spatial Data Infrastructures an objective of the National Development Plans for decades to ensure full integration of the basic spatial data sets with administrative borders and address data at national levels in order to display the demographic, social and economic data generated by institutions such as TURKSTAT on spatial bases. In Turkey, TURKSTAT is legally responsible for the data; and the Ministry of Environment and Urbanization is responsible for coordinating the spatial data. It is planned for the effective use of spatial data to work in coordination, to be shared online in the determined formats, through setting the standards for data within this scope; the MoEU developed the National Smart Cities Strategy and Action Plan Project (2020-2023), Infrastructure for Smart Cities and Urban Information Systems Project, Cloud Municipality and e-Municipality Project software modules.

With respect to the efforts to determine the standards for National Geographical Information System of Turkey (TUCBS), undertaken to meet the Infrastructure for Spatial Information in Europe (INSPIRE) Directive [EC-INSPIRE-Directive](https://ec.europa.eu/environment/terrestrial/inspire_en) for 34 themes the Integration Project conducted with 32 central administration units and 37 metropolitan municipalities aiming to be shared with relevant users through the TUCBS Data Portal.

Spatial Address Registration System (MAKS) is implemented by the General Directorate of Population and Citizenship Affairs of the Ministry of the Interior. It is estimated that many
institutions will perform their services more efficiently and effectively after the implementation of the MAKS Project.

Another essential dataset, coupled with ownership information into Land Registry and Cadastre Information System (TAKBIS). General Directorate of Land Registry and Cadastre affiliated to the Ministry of Environment and Urbanization manages the property information and keeps cadastre data and plans.

2.3.2.4. Build the capacity of all levels of government to work with vulnerable groups to participate effectively in decision-making about urban and territorial development.

Sub-heading 2 of Capacity Development Chapter describes the developing, monitoring and assessing the urban policies within the context of multi-actor and multi-level governance structures. This chapter describes the participatory mechanisms and tools at local with respect to the roles of national development plans, institutional and sectoral strategies and action plans and spatial planning processes within the context of legislative framework for preparing regional and spatial planning. All spatial plans, policies, strategies and action plans shaping the spatial and regional development are made in accordance with the institutionalized, multi-level and multi-stakeholder, inclusive and participatory processes defined with laws and by-laws in Turkish Public Administration System. Turkey ranked in Human Development Index 54th among 189 countries and territories, with the highest progress rate of 40.7% during the last 29 years as stated in Human Development Report 2020.

As it is stated in the 11th Development Plan (2019-2023) active participation of the citizens in the policy development processes is targeted and encouraged in order to create new mechanisms with a view to raising the standards of the democracy and further strengthening the relationship between the state and the citizen as well as ensure equal and fair treatment when providing public services and to increase transparency. In this regard, between 2005 and 2020, many legal arrangements have been introduced to regulate the inclusion of urban councils, local initiatives, forums, participatory budgeting, people’s veto, neighbourhood assemblies, the right to report violation and information, the right to submit petition, community surveys, social media and e-Government applications in public administration and decision-making processes. Under the legal arrangements on the right to request disclosure of information and documents, natural and legal persons are now entitled to request the decision-making bodies of the municipalities and special provincial administrations to disclose the parts of their decisions and meeting minutes, which are of interest to them.

Preparation of the National Development Plan (NDP) is based on the institutionalized participatory processes defined by the Turkish Constitution. The process of development plan preparation is conducted by the implementation Regulation. During the preparation of the Plan, Special Expertise Commissions (OIK) are established, with the participation of all the internal and external public stakeholders, NGOs, private sector, professional organizations and academicians for the purpose of consultation and ensuring an exchange of ideas on determining the priorities for national development. Drafting opinions of the stakeholders and discussed issues at OIKs are reported by OIK reports. Within the scope of the preparations for the 11th Development Plan (2019-2023), 43 OIK and 32 task groups have been set up; and
approximately 5,000 experts attended the OIKs established for each sector and policy issues. Sustainable Development Goals and the 2030 Agenda and New Urban Agenda were also discussed through extensive stakeholder participation to OIK and task groups.

Urbanization Councils is also an institutionalized decision-making and consultation mechanism in public administration rooted by Turkish State Tradition. It is used for preparing Institutional and sectoral strategies, policies and action plans in a similar ways of NDPs. KENTGES elaborated in sub-heading 2 of Capacity Development Chapter was obtained through 2009 1st Urbanization Council. Regulation on Spatial Planning defines the participatory processes and the processes to contribute and submit opinions for the plans, which comprise the most important tool for decision-making under the Land Development Law numbered 3194.

Strategic Environmental Assessment Regulation sets up also a mechanism that systematizes participatory plan processes right from the start from the perspective of the spatial and environmental impacts of spatial plans, excluding plans of defence and financing, under the Environmental Law harmonised in line EU environmental acquis During the period of the 10th Development Plan (2014-2019). Prioritized Transformation Programme (ODP) and Action Plans (EP) were used to build and develop capacities at local and central levels of governments. ODPs and EPs have capacity development components consisting measures to support financially and institutionally the smaller municipalities. 3 main capacity enhancement programs, which were also integrated into urban land development plans and programs and based on city and neighbourhood analyses, were implemented for the purpose of improving the inclusion of the disadvantaged and the vulnerable groups into economic and social life, of reducing the vulnerabilities and empowering women, children, older persons, the young, the disadvantaged, persons with disabilities and the structure of family. Within this context:

Prioritized Transformation Programme (ODP) and Action Plans (EP) for Protecting the Family and the Dynamic Population Structures constitute a social cohesion program, which, beyond being a comprehensively designed capacity development program for social policies, is designed through integration of social policy measures with urban policies and their actors, designating important roles to local administrations and Unions of Municipalities of Turkey (TBB) that should be underlined particularly in terms of determining and meeting the needs of vulnerable groups, women, older persons and children and persons with disabilities. Assigned responsibilities of TBB and local administrations laid down in the Programme and Action Plan aims to support families that arrived in big cities as a result of migration from their hometown. Assigned tasks to the municipalities and TBB by such Programme and Action Plan cover the duties as set forth in the Municipal Law and the Law on Metropolitan Municipalities.

Inclusive service provision of the Municipalities is one of the major tasks as a social contract shaped by the participatory and inclusive principles defined in of the Municipal Law, which is based on the definition of the social state given in the Turkish Constitution. All municipal services in Turkey prioritize the provision of services focusing on social assistance, social services and social cohesion under the articles seeking to reduce the low income, poor and dependent population and also reduce vulnerabilities of women, children, older persons, the
youth and persons with disabilities, and strengthen solidarity, protection and empowered social cohesion and integration.

Prioritized Transformation Programme (ODP) and Action Plans (EP) for Institutional Capacity Improvement at Local Level constitute the most important capacity development programs was designed for this purpose. Composed of 2 components aiming to develop inclusive capacities, participatory governance at the local level by reinforcing the institutional capacities of the local administrations. Accordingly, it aims to strengthen the capacities of the municipalities that have recently become metropolitan municipalities for inclusive and participatory service provision and building the new capacities as needed, as well as implementation of capacity enhancement projects through increasing cooperation between the NGOs and the public sector by activating the City Councils to ensure more active participation of the citizens into decision-making processes of urban management.

General Directorate for Relations with Civil Society (STIGM) was established in 2018 as affiliated to the Ministry of the Interior. Regulation on Associations was renewed in July 2020 for developing transparency and accountability, including legal statuses, institutional organizations, activities of the NGOs and diversification of models of cooperation between public and NGOs; and the Directive for Duties and Work of the Auditors of Associations was given effect in 2020, in order to facilitate the efforts of NGOs and supporting them in more effective performance of their activities. Associations Information System (DERBIS) was established, bureaucratic transactions were reduced in electronic environment and it was ensured that it was possible to inquire into and get reported the statistical information rapidly (http://siviltoplumsektoru.org/). In Turkey, there are total 311,608 associations as of 2020.

City Councils; established after Habitat II conference, were re-arranged with an enhancement scope by a Regulation issued in 2005 under the Municipal Law. The Regulation defines the procedures for the establishment of City Councils and their involvement in consultation and decision-making processes of Municipalities. In addition to the General Assembly and executive board, they can also establish structures ensuring participation at grassroots level, such as task committees and “youth assemblies”, “women’s assemblies”, “children’s assemblies” or “assemblies of persons with disabilities”, “neighbourhood assemblies” etc. The supreme body for the City Councils is the Union of City Councils. There are 81 active councils in Turkey particularly operating in cities having metropolitan municipality administration. https://www.kentkonseyleribirligi.org.tr/

Support for Local Administration Reform Project Phase III (2018-2021) composed of project component aiming to develop a new model of administration to increase participation at the local level, strengthen and develop the mechanisms enabling an administrative structure based on neighbourhoods and participation in the metropolitan municipalities; and includes policies for strengthening the urban councils, programs for the disadvantaged groups (women, children, persons with disabilities) and components that involve capacity enhancement programs to raise urban awareness of the staff employed at the women’s centres, child development centres and other social service units at the local level. Project continues.

Competitiveness and Social Cohesion Enhancing Urban Regeneration Prioritized Transformation Programme (ODP) and Action Plans (EP) aims at enhancing the quality and
resiliency of the physical structures, places and spaces along with solving their economic and social problems caused by rapid urbanization and unplanned urban development. Accordingly, it intends to produce adequate and affordable housing, particularly for the disadvantaged groups, and to eliminate the comparative regional development disparities by enhancement of social cohesion and competitiveness within cities and regions. The most important constituent of the ODP-EP in question explained in detail in sub-heading 4 of Housing Chapter within the context of urban transformation and slum upgrading programs.

Development Agencies conduct Social Development Support Programme (SOGEP) aiming to ensure more active participation of women, the youth and the disadvantaged in economic and social life, enhance their employability, and support social inclusion, social entrepreneurship and innovation in order to strengthen the social capital in the disadvantaged regions and support social cohesion process within the context of eliminating regional disparities in development. It is targeted to support 126 projects with subsidy amounting to 166 million TL (20 million USD according to the exchange rate in March 2021) in 2021.

With regards to comprehensive social policies and migration, particularly Union of Municipalities of Turkey (TBB) and Marmara Municipalities Union (MBB) conduct common projects jointly with respect to inclusiveness policies, especially for the engagement of women, refugees, children and persons with disabilities into decision-making processes of the municipalities. At the local level, MBB established the MBB Immigration Policy Centre (GPM) in 2015 in order to create a platform of collaboration with the relevant stakeholders on matters such as migration, asylum seeker, enabling social cohesion and sense of belonging to the city and also established the MBB Migration Platform consisting of representatives of the units of member municipalities conducting work in relation with the migrants and refugees. Migration Platform provides a platform for coordination and exchange of information and experiences among the members of MBB. Marmara Municipalities Union also organized the Symposium on Social Services at Local Administrations addressing the programs implemented by the municipalities for the disadvantaged groups, processes to develop inclusive policies, social municipality activities and the problems faced and suggestions for solution in 2017. [http://www.sosyalhizmetpolitikalari.com/](http://www.sosyalhizmetpolitikalari.com/)

ROMACTED Programme: Implemented with cooperation between TBB and the European Council at pilot municipalities between the years 2018 and 2020 in order to empower the Roma citizens at the local level and widespread the good governance practices, co-financed by EU.

QUDRA II aims to empower the refugees, displaced persons, people who would like to return to their countries of origin and the hosting communities in response to the ongoing crises in Syria and Iraq; coordinated by TBB and implemented with cooperation of the municipalities in Turkey with an in-migration influx as well as Spain, Belgium, France, Germany and Hungary. Co-financed by EU Regional Trust Fund in Response to Syrian Crisis, the EU MADAD Fund, and the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), and Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation (AECID). Its budget amounts to € 65,000,000.
RESLOG

Resilience in Local Administration Project (2018-2021) relating to the migration crises affecting the service quality in cities and in cooperation by TBB and Swedish Association of Local Authorities and Unions (SKL) and (SIDA) conducted by TBB, MBB and Union of Çukurova Municipalities and 12 pilot partner municipalities.

Child Friendly Cities aims to enhance the capacities of the municipalities to develop programs on children's rights, including topics such as child labour, child marriages, children's participation and child responsive budgeting it is a UNICEF-led initiative with cooperation conducted by TBB covering 150 municipalities in its third phase now, featuring the Child Friendly Cities (CFC). Human Rights Cities Project coordinated jointly by the Swedish International Development Coordination Agency (SIDA) and TBB and conducted with pilot municipalities. It has a budget of € 100 thousand seeks to put into practice the rights of the older persons, persons with disabilities, women, children and ‘refugee/immigrant’ groups in urban life in the municipalities in Turkey, and ensure that daily life and municipal services are adapted thereto.

2.3.2.5 Engage local government associations as promoters and providers of capacity development

Unions of local governments have training academies constantly providing training programs towards enacted laws and regulations particularly the implementation modalities for the municipal services.

Union of Municipalities of Turkey - TBB Municipal is the sole Union of local administrations empowered to represent 1389 municipalities at national and international levels, in which all the municipalities are natural members. It offers training courses through Municipal Academy and produces publications and materials, including guidelines and manuals, which are designed on the basis of the need assessment. Accordingly, trainings are organized on an annual or other long-term basis in coordination with the relevant units, supporting the implementation capacities with respect to institutional administration and budget implementation for the mayors, council members and municipality staff. In addition to regular publications within the context of enhancing the collaborative capacities, it also offers urban management manuals including training, publications and direct advisory services besides on the topics such as municipal services, budget and strategic planning, land development programming. Having permanent training centres, the Unions have already started “Distance Learning Training Modules” before the Covid-19 pandemic started through Podcasts and Webinar platforms. TBB conducts training need assessment surveys by analyzing the enhancement needs in their own field of work within the organizational capacities of the Municipalities. Offering suggestions for the solution in the areas of needs through producing guidelines as supplementary to the training programs. [https://www.tbb.gov.tr/belediye-akademisi/egitimler/gecmis-egitimler](https://www.tbb.gov.tr/belediye-akademisi/egitimler/gecmis-egitimler)

The Academy has 218 training topics and 3 main training modules. It offers 218 diverse courses content through 3 training modules (main field of service training, financial services and participatory municipal work). It was organized 676, 707 and 390 training courses in years 2017, 2018 and 2019, respectively; and in total 183,715 thousand of people were trained by the Academy.
TBB is also following up the global agendas, such as Sustainable Development Goals, New Urban Agenda, UN Climate Change Conference, Paris Convention, and Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, together with the responsible Ministries and offers capacity enhancement support for the municipalities for the localization of the global goals. Within the current pandemic circumstance, TBB has started for the preparations of new policy document “the Vision for Sustainable Cities” considering the changing urban behaviour with Covid-19 pandemic by underlying the impacts of “new normal” and municipal services. 
https://www.tbb.gov.tr

From the very early stages of the COVID-19 outbreak, TTB Governing Council met urgently, and took decision on the urgent needs and demands of the municipalities in order to transmit them and communicate with central government and responsible authorities to respond TBB involvement in Legislation and Policy Commissions at central government level, commissions and councils set up for the purposes besides the urbanization and local government topics. It provides capacity enhancement supports to the elected and appointed staff of the municipalities in this respect. Some of the commissions participated are; European Union Communication Strategy, Advisory, Guidance and Coordination Board; European Union Programmes Board; Disaster and Emergency Advisory Board; Tourism Promotion and Development Agency of Turkey; Energy Efficiency Coordination Board; Consumer Council; Technical Committee for the Rail Systems Industry; Road Traffic Security Board; National Geographical Information System Coordination Board; and Urban Development Programme Monitoring Committee.

TBB involvement in Municipal Service Commissions as well such as Zero Waste, Land Development, Development, Water and Sewerage, E-Municipality, and Social Municipality Commissions.

Competitions are also organized by TBB such as Zero Waste Project Idea and Implementation Competition, Smart Cities Project Idea and Implementation Competition, Cycling as the Mode of Transport for Municipalities Project Idea and Implementation Competition and Green Cities Competition with monetary prizes.

European Mobility Week, which is the EU initiative coordinated at the national level by TBB since 2018, includes programs regarding environmentally friendly transportation and cycle lanes.

Safe Cities Project was coordinated by TBB and conducted jointly with the Ministry of Justice and the Interior as well as the pilot municipalities and pilot governorships between the years 2013 and 2015. Izmir, Konya and Ankara Metropolitan Municipalities and Governorships of Erzurum, Bolu and Trabzon participated in the project.


Migration and Inclusive Policies are also conducted by TBB with various projects, in Response to the Syrian crisis. https://www.tbb.gov.tr/proje-ve-finansman/projeler/tbb-yurutuluen-projeler/qudra-ii/
Together with the Municipalities, TBB is involved in Human Rights Project conducted by Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA) working with pilot municipalities in order to ensure inclusion of especially the women, children and refugees, being the most vulnerable groups, into local governance and to ensure their access to all the municipal services.  

Preserve Your Food Protect Your Meal Table Action Plan is a public awareness campaign of the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry started on 20 May 2020 to combat food losses and wastes in our country in cooperation with the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the UN. TBB participated to the campaign with 6 direct and 27 indirect themes as one of the main stakeholders.

Within the training initiatives, Local Administration Academy of the Marmara Municipalities Union is the most active ones besides TBB Municipal Academy in offering capacity development support. As a regional network with over 190 municipality members in 13 cities, 6 of which are metropolises, has platforms and policy centres established on current and developing urbanization and local governance, the Academy serves to enhance institutional capacities of the member municipalities, to spread good practices and ensure coordination between the member municipalities through seminars, conferences and other meetings, periodical and non-periodical publications and training offered under the Local Administration Academy.  
https://yerelyonetimakademisi.com/hakkimizda

MBB-vocational Training Programs scheduled in line with the demands of the municipalities that constitutes extensive part of the training programs. Training courses were organized on 109 different topics with the involvement of 58 different trainers in 2019; and 33 municipalities were offered on-the-job training of 2,168 hours long, with total 12,440 people trained.

MBB-Training Programs Available for Participation in General consist the latest amendments in the legislation or trainings organized regularly on topics, with respect to which training is found to be necessary. In 2019, 11,648 people attended training lasting 1,479 hours at 6 metropolitan and 5 city centres.

MBB-Certified Training Programs consist of training packs and attendants receive certificates following a few weeks' attendance. They include training on Real Estate Management in Municipalities, General Training for Local Administrations, Public Procurement Legislation, Disaster Management and Development Programme for Private Secretaries. Certified training has mostly taken place in Istanbul, and 707 people attended training lasting total 466 hours.

MBB-Executive Development Programs are orientation programs for practice intended to enhance knowledge, skills and proficiencies with an, and to solve problems in practice on the main topics of legislation, personal development, leadership, management and system development in order to contribute to the personal development of the people with leadership positions or for candidates for leadership positions in municipalities. In total, training was organized for 4,113; and 24,494 people attended such training.

MBB-Strategic Plan Preparation and Consulting Services are offered to the municipalities with training and advisory services on strategic plans preparations. Within this context, Sancaktepe, Sultangazi, Çekmeköy, and Lüleburgaz Municipalities took training and advisory
services in their the Strategic Plan preparations for 2020 to 2024. This training and advisory services designed in 10 modules offers in line with the legal obligation and Strategic Plan Development Guideline.

MBB Training for Project design -PCM: MBB offers practical training on project design in response to national and international calls for projects, especially including Horizon 2020 European Green Deal Call and Climate Change Adaptation Grant Programmes (CCAGP), and contributes to the member municipalities in order to train them in preparation of template and action documents for powerful applications.

MBB’s COVID-19- Efforts during the 2020 consists organization of Environmental Webinars in relation with Covid-19, online seminars on “The Impact of Climate Change on Food Safety in the World of COVID-19”, “Covid-19 and Air Quality” and “Waste Management in All Aspects: Covid-19” in relation with environmental management and air quality that have been directly affected by the pandemic process. MBB has a “Covid-19” tab on its official website, sharing the good practices in member municipalities and listing the international platforms containing good practices abroad, and thus supporting mutual learning and enabling good practices to be shared among local administrations. https://marmara.gov.tr/covid-19/

MBB Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) Oriented Seminaries have been offered on the process of localization of the SDGs. These seminaries organized on “Air Quality in the Context of SDGs”, “Waste Management in the Context of SDGs” and “Water Management in the Context of SDGs”.

MBB Cities 2030 – Sustainable Development Goals at the Local Level (SDG) Training, MBB has opened post Sustainable Development Goals Envoy and SDG Task Group within the organization to focus more systematically towards attaining the SDGs. “Cities 2030 – Sustainable Development Goals at the Local Level” in cooperation with Lifelong Learning Centre of Bogazici University - BUYEM and Sustainable Development Solutions Network of the United Nations (UN-SDSN) started a series of articles on “Localizing the SDGs” in the quarterly named Kent and introduces one SDG and the good practices on such SDG in every issue.

MBB Platforms are theme-based task groups consisting of the directors and employees of the relevant units in MBB’s member municipalities to provide the ground for sharing experiences and disseminate the good practices and knowledge on matters within MBB jurisdiction. By ensuring coordination, conducting examination and research, and developing medium and long-term strategies. Within its important function in detecting problems and communication the suggestions for solutions to the central government and the relevant parties, the platforms also contribute to the culture of specialization and co-production. 12 theme-based platforms are regularly published studies, reports, legislative suggestions and guides on MBB’s official website: http://www.marmara.gov.tr/

Marmara Urban Forum (MARUF), is the most important and sole international urban forum in Turkey, organized biannually in line with UN Habitat NUA. The first forum held in Marmara Region on 1st to 3rd October 2019 with the motto “Cities Producing Solutions”. 50 sessions on 12 themes, , organized throughout the forum, were in conformity with Sustainable
Development Goals; along with 6 exhibitions and 5 technical visits. The forum hosted 250 speakers and 5,440 participants from 25 countries.

MBB-Marmara Sea Symposium I-II-III: 3 symposiums were co-organized by NALAS to protect the environment and natural structure of Marmara Sea, its water quality and environmental wealth. The third of the Marmara Sea Symposia took place in cooperation with International Commission for Protection of the Danube River (ICPDR) jointly with the countries alongside the Danube River Basin and in cooperation with the Ministry of Environment and Urbanization and Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry. http://marmaradenizisempozyumu.com/

MBB Smart Municipality Summits (I-II-II) were organized in 2015, 2016 and 2018 as a platform combining infrastructure and technology, where practices and new ideas are shared. The Ministry of Environment and Urbanization, Municipalities, Turkish Informatics Association and WRI are among the sponsors of this event. http://www.abz.com.tr

MBB organizes a series of talks named "Urban Talks" on many topics that are of interest from an urban perspective ranging from literature to culture, architecture to cinema, urban health to liveable cities. More than 1,500 people participated interactively in the 20 Urban Talks organized since 2016.

Union of Provinces as another influential local government association has a lifelong Education Centre (VIBEM) established in 2008. VIBEM has organized total 108 training seminars since its establishment with participation of over 6,200 special provincial staff and general city council members. Capacity development projects having training components were also conducted by VIBEM such as: “Special Provincial Administrations Preparing for the EU” organized in 2012 with cooperation between the Ministry of the Interior and Directorate for EU Affairs, Town Twinning Action Between Turkey and the EU - 2020, Project for Strengthening the Public Sector for Cooperation with Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) - 2017, and Financial Management and Control at Local Administrations Project – 2017. Some of the topics of the seminars organized on the land development and public works, workplace licenses, audit, financial services, plans and budgets, environment, energy, healthcare, agriculture, human resources, European Union programs, public tender legislation and governance; and MOOC open education portal is accessible online, with materials for 70 training programs. https://www.vilayetler.gov.tr/VibemDokumanlar

2.3.2.6. Implement capacity development programmes on the use of legal land-based revenue, financing, and other tools

Turkey has institutions that can mobilize additional financing for sustainable development, ensuring strategic use of development financing tools. Turkey conducts capacity development programs for the use of resources for sustainable financing, including land-based revenue to secure the financing sources for the infrastructure investments and municipal services.

Bank of Provinces (ILBANK) was established in 1945 to meet financing needs of the local administrations by providing supports to the projects from various urban sectors in order to
enhance sustainable urbanization and urban quality of life. In 2011, the status of the bank was amended as corporate legal person and it was renamed as ILBANK; and it started to operate as development and investment bank. ILBANK meets the financing needs of special provincial administrations, municipalities and their affiliated organizations and their local administration unions; offers consulting services; and assists the implementation of urban infrastructure and superstructure works with technical qualities.

The bank provides wide range of investment services to the municipalities through offering loans and grants to meet the existing and emerging financing needs of the local administrations in the medium and long-term. Currently, it has a portfolio amounting approximately € 3.1 billion leveraging the sources of World Bank (WB), European Investment Bank (EIB), French Development Agency (AFD), Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) and Islamic Development Bank (IDB). A portion of this portfolio is made available to meet the needs of the municipalities with intense populations of the protected Syrians under coordination by the Presidency of Turkey. EU joined the long-term cooperation between ILBANK and the World Bank for providing urban infrastructure finance. Planning tools supported by EU grants assure the sustainability approach, which is integrated into the existing financing processes for the municipalities. In addition to grants and loan financing, ILBANK also makes use of innovative financing tools and implements the “blended finance” model as the new model of funding. In this model, grants and loan combined in the same project or program to develop a sustainable financing structure. Thus, it becomes possible to develop diversified financing means for investments complementing each other or projects, which were not implemented due to financing needs.

It conducts the processes related with the tenders on land based revenue sharing projects and realized the tenders through preparing the procedures for sale of land, the contracts and specifications for tenders or lease of real estates owned by and implements the contract.

Legislative regulations towards land appraisal for using land-based revenue and financing started in 2016 in line with the efforts building institutional capacities supervised by the World Bank with the 4th Component of the Modernization Project of the General Directorate of Land Registry and Cadastre.

Leveraging the value increases in the real estates, including through taxation, in using the investment needs of the local administrations and cities started with the 10th Development Plan (2014-2018) period within the context of reinforcing the financial structures of the local administrations. It is also included in the Annual Presidential Programme for 2021 that the actual purchase and sale price of real estates will be found and a new system of value declaration will be introduced for reinforced and more efficient justice in taxation. Accordingly, it is planned to transfer the resource obtained by the value increases resulting from public investments and land developments to urban investments and service provision. Introducing a new system requires establishment of a real estate valuation system and completion of the real estate inventory, and rearrangement of the real estate valuation system in a manner to ensure that the land registry fees and property taxes are collected. Capacity building work is going on to monitor the increased value of real estates. To ensure the traceability of the increased values, the measures for this purpose are also included into the Strategic Plan of the Ministry of Environment and Urbanization and also planned in the Medium Term Programme (2019-2021) and 11th Development Plan (2019-2023) as well. So that the detection of value increases in real estates will be tracked by establishing the real
estate value information centre integrated into the Land Registry and Cadastre System for effective implementation, registering land price information jointly with ownership information as valid at the time of a transaction, which involves issuing/amending a title deed.

With respect to other financing resources for building and enhancing institutional capacities within the EU Accession Process and the scope of regional cooperation, the 11th Development Plan (2019-2023) and the Annual Presidential Programme state that all the relevant institutions will take administrative and financial measures to make sure that the financial assistance made available is used efficiently and effectively, by taking into account our national priorities. The program also includes the measures for developing new models within the context of alternative sources of financing. It is expressed that the pilot risk management framework will be set and risk management practices will be expanded within the context of developing new planning, organization and service provision models that will enable the metropolitan municipalities to effectively perform their increased functions; and a guide will be prepared, making use of the outputs from the Risk Management Pilot Study conducted by the Ministry of Finance; and such guides will be shared for use in risk management studies of the other municipalities. It is also expressed in the programs that a new financing model will be developed for social facility projects of the small-scale municipalities; and the use of the public sector & private sector partnership models will be used more commonly by the local administrations for proper services and investments. Within the EU Accession process, Turkey has been using Instruments for Pre-Accession Assistance (IPA Funds), by implementing Integrated programming and planning approach developed during the 9th Development Plan Period (2007-2013) for their effective use of IPA sources in providing support for building implementation capacities of local administrations, development agencies and local actors through technical support, grants and project financing means in all the sectors. There is an approach that combines the IPA and the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) with national budget resources to be used extensively in building effective implementation capacities through Operational Programs for the harmonized sectoral legislation, such as Environment Operational Programme Agricultural and Rural Development Support Programme, Regional Competitiveness Programme, and Transportation Operational Programme; as well as the Human Resources Development Operational Programme, Lifelong Learning Programme, Support for the Transition Period and Institutional Structuring Programme.

Environment Operational Programme is an important capacity-building tool to support the Strategy Plan of the Ministry of Environment and Urbanization by financial and technical assistance for the institutional capacities of the ministries and municipalities, especially for building environmental infrastructures. Focusing on developing and improving the necessary environmental infrastructure, particularly for water, waste water and solid waste management, the Environment Operational Programme resulted in implementation of total 35 projects during the IPA I Period (2007-2013), 30 of them is infrastructure projects and 5 is capacity enhancement projects accounted for € 595 million. “Capacity Building in the Field of Climate Change in Turkey Grant Scheme” is used effectively to develop local and national technical capacities. “Project to Support Common Efforts in Climate Change (2017 –2020)” conducted by UNDP is a comprehensive capacity enhancement project, having grant and training components are supported by the efforts for effective communication with the stakeholders, and awareness raising.
The priorities of the IPA II Period (2014-2020) were based on the outputs and the results of the IPA I Period in thus the Environment and Climate Action Operational Programme (CISOP) was prepared in furtherance of the previous one. There were 3 action plans prioritized in Turkey, also including into CISOP in IPA II Period. These were related to Water, Waste and Environmental Management for Sustainable Development. Among the projects included into the scope of the Environment and Climate Action Sector-Based Operational Programme, 34 infrastructure projects, 40 capacity-building projects were realized and a project pool was created with an amount of € 890 million for total 74 projects.

Among these projects, applications were filed before the Delegation of the European Union to Turkey for total 48 projects, 26 infrastructure projects with an amount of € 650 million, and 22 capacity enhancement projects. Financing has been approved by the Delegation of the European Union to Turkey for 18 infrastructure projects amounting to € 460 million; and 15 capacity enhancement projects; and as of June 2020, contracts were signed for 11 infrastructure projects and 8 capacity enhancement projects; and the implementation processes have started.

Investments projects programmed under the Operational Programmes in medium term led to opportunity for cooperation with international organizations; and accordingly co-financing support was also provided for capacity building programmes, including local infrastructure programs for urban and regional development. The World Bank prepared Partnership Strategy for Turkey to contribute to the sustainable financing programme for sustainable cities and the preparation of result-oriented programming and management guidelines introduced by the Public Financial Management and Control Law numbered 5018. Sustainable financing for sustainable cities program was transformed into a result-oriented programme used by the Bank of Provinces-ILBANK in programming of infrastructure investment made by the municipalities, and structures were set up for the purpose of establishing monitoring and assessment framework.

World Bank’s Country Partnership Strategy for the Republic of Turkey - Sustainable Cities Programme aims to ensure that the urban services are planned and provided sustainably by the local administrations, enhancing the level of sustainability of the cities in Turkey. Within the scope of Sustainable Cities Project, Component A, “Sustainable Cities Planning and Management Systems”, ILBANK drafted a sustainability framework to analyze the current status in metropolitan municipalities with respect to sustainable urban development level and to determine the planning studies necessary in line with strategic priorities. The purpose of this framework is to create a roadmap that will be used by the municipalities when preparing their strategic plans for the new period by defining strategic goals for determination of the priorities within the framework of the international and national strategy and policy documents in line with their analyses of the current status as well as the demands of the citizens. Municipalities will be guided with listed indicators of the roadmap. When doing this, they will also contribute to harmonization of their municipal strategic plan with the sustainable development goals. At the end of this process, it is intended that, strategies for the cities will be defined by strategic plans that can be easily monitored. The project implementation period covers the years 2019 and 2022. Within the scope of the Sustainable Cities Project started in 2016, the loans with low interest rates amounting to approximately € 695 million made available for the Municipalities. Integrating Sustainability approach into the project selection processes besides the financial resources the national and international SDGs
will be taken into account in the project design and selection procedures that are updated accordingly. Within the Additional Finance for Sustainable Cities II program, Project with a total budget of approximately € 500 million were selected with a focus on sustainability; and environmental, social and financial aspects of sustainable development were included into project selection and assessment. Assessments on current status and sustainable city analyses were completed for 4 metropolitan municipalities further steps were planned for 6 new metropolises by the end of 2021.

With the Sustainable Cities Project aimed at financing municipalities, Municipal Finance Self-Assessment Tool was developed by the World Bank as an online platform made available for the use at 10 metropolitan municipalities to create a roadmap and build capacity for sustainable and comprehensive management particularly for water sources. This tool enabled the municipalities to be able to monitor and manage their financing processes better. This tool is used by all infrastructure plans financed by the project, all the stages of the water cycle, urban water management plans, and all actors of the sector from municipalities, affiliated water and sewerage administrations to the sectoral water users. Integrated urban water management plan will be made for 10 metropolitan municipalities within the scope of the project.

Public-private partnerships-PPP are also encouraged as means for public financing in the 11th Development Plan (2019-2023) and Presidential Annual Programme. Within this scope, the Plan and program maintaining the standardization and building institutional capacity in preparing, implementing, monitoring and assessing investment projects realized by PPPs processes and procedures were set as a target for all institutions including local administrations.

It is programmed to reinforce the public investment management process, to provide the necessary responses in due time and, in order to obtain more effective results, to organize training programs on project preparation, implementation, monitoring and assessment; to prepare standard guides for project preparation, implementation, monitoring and assessment as well as tenders and contracts for projects of cooperation between public and private sectors; and to finalize the Guide for Preparing Feasibility Studies for use in the preparatory stage of these projects and to also prepare guides for creation of the Return on Expenditure Analysis Model.

2.3.2.7. Implement capacity development programmes of local governments in financial planning and management

Turkey has institutionalized capacity building and support tools for financial planning and strategic management. Public Financial Management and Control Law numbered 5018 and its basic constituents shape the scope of financial planning and management system in Turkey. It defines financial and institutional management tools such as institutional strategic planning, performance-based budget and internal control at local level that affect the urban management and service provision besides the urbanization policies.

Within the context of enhancement of financial planning capacities municipal strategic plans are considered as vital tool in buildings the linkages with the budget and planned activities; in
providing the governance guidelines on methodology made available to be able to conduct context-based and sector-based analysis and in trainings facilities for the budget planning preparation. Strategic planning and management is one of the obligations for all the public administrations making use of public resources, including local administrations.

Preparation of Institutional Strategy Plans under the Public Financial Management and Control Law numbered 5018 that came into effect in 2003 is mandatory for municipalities. All the public administrations, including municipalities, have to base their requests for resource allocation and budgets and programs on their strategic plans explicitly reflecting their annual goals, targets, and performance indicators to ensure the public services provision quality level as desired. In this respect, public institutions including municipalities are supported in preparation of strategic planning and performance-based budgeting through trainings by capacity development programs and projects.

In line with the result-based management culture, budget planning and administrative decisions are shaped and relied upon the strategies and goals of strategic plans for medium and long-term perspective so in thus the monitoring of results are made by the performance indicators as described in the law besides the reporting by the activity reports and internal audit. Existing administrative and social capacities are enhanced at central and local public administrations so that the transformation necessitated by strategic management is to be maintained.

As the strategic management culture necessitates creation of behavioural and cultural exchange and interaction and mutual learning among the stakeholders and actors rather than formal and technical processes, the guidelines and other instructive manuals for lifelong training materials and the capacity development projects to build and develop the system as well as all institutional strategy plans and sectoral strategy plans prepared under the law numbered 5018 are published on a web-based portal (http://www.sp.gov.tr/tr/temel-belge/t/stsb/p/sektorel-tematik-strateji-belgeleri) in order to maintain the strategic planning and result based management system in public administrations. The Portal allows access to the main policy documents needed for strategic plan preparations (development plans, medium term programs, medium term financial plans, annual programs, sector- and theme-based strategic documents) and guidelines (Strategic Planning Guide for Public Administrations, Strategic Planning Guide for Enterprises with Public Capital, Strategic Planning Guide for Municipalities, Guide on Analyses and Methodology for Strategic Planning, Guide for Preparing Performance Programme, Guide for Assessing Activity Reports, Guide for Supervising Performance, Principles of Participation: Guides on Good Practices for Those Designing, Implementing and Managing Participatory Work, Preparing Stakeholder Surveys in Strategic Management Processes, Guide for Implementation and Analysis).

The projects implemented in the public sector in this direction, mainstreaming strategic management principles through capacity trainings are supported by guides in order to strengthen the link with different aspects of the law. Guides are renewed over the years and skills and knowledge of the human resources are updated through continuing training programs. Large amount of training materials and guides have been prepared for this purpose, i.e. Strategic Management – Advanced Training, Risk, Process, Human Resources and Performance Management, Monitoring and Assessment, Human Resources Management and

Strategic Planning Guide for Municipalities was prepared separately from other public administrations in 2019 by taking into account their differentiations in organizational functions and needs. Guidelines prepared within this scope aims to assist the municipalities on matters such as preparing and implementing strategic plans in consistency with the spatial plans, preparing, monitoring and assessing urban indicators taking into account as performance indicators for the municipal service provision. The guidelines serve as integrated tool in determining the priorities and the vision of the cities under municipal jurisdiction that would like to focus on in the medium and long terms as well as ground for the strategic management process, in ensuring financial discipline in the process of preparing and implementing the budget, distributing resources according to strategic priorities and monitoring whether they are used efficiently or not, and developing accountability at local level based thereon.

The Guidelines also integrate the spatial plans and institutional strategic plans, having no hierarchical relationship with each other.

The guidelines also encourage the creation of an “urban vision” in the Strategic Plans of the Municipalities for spatial decisions and implementations in order to reach the desired future of the city, and offer a roadmap integrating the activities, investments, service quality and priorities in use of resources within the framework of powers, duties and responsibilities.

Local Administration Reform Project Phase III (LAR III), which is elaborated in sub-heading 2 of Capacity Development Chapter 2, has components aiming to develop models and standards on matters such as developing effective management models for the purpose of efficient and high quality service provision, strengthening the loan system for the municipalities, following up the receivables of the municipalities, increasing municipal revenues, revenue sharing systems, prioritizing the investments in rural areas, status of municipality companies, and water and sewerage administrations, improving and monitoring performance management system.

The Project for Analyzing the Governance Capacity Needs as Necessitated by Strategic Management in the Public Sector and for Creating the Capacity Enhancement Programmes was conducted jointly by the Ministry of Treasury and Finance, Presidency of Strategy and Budget (SBB). The purpose was to make the outcomes of the project available to directors working at different levels in all the public organizations and to develop administrative capacities.

Project to Enhance Capacity in Strategic Management was the one of the extensive capacity development projects implemented since 2011. As a result of the project, 1,118 specialists, 184 directors and 50 trainers were trained Strategic Planning Guide for Public Administrations was updated and strategic planning guidelines were prepared for universities and municipalities and public enterprises in a manner to include the models specified to the management type, taking into account their functions. Moreover, a guide was also prepared on analyses and methods to be used for strategic planning in order to fix any problems faced
in implementation. In addition, seminars and workshops were organized; and 1,300 men-
day training was provided to the public administrations; support and advisory activities were
conducted for strategic planning processes.

Project for Financial Management and Control System in Local Administrations was realized
by jointly with stakeholders Ministry of Finance, Ministry of the Interior, Union of Provinces
Union of Municipalities of Turkey and Court of Accounts. The purpose of the project was to
prepare an analysis of the needs and action documents in order to reinforce the public
financial management and control systems of the local administrations in accordance with
international standards. The budget of the project, which started in May 2017, is € 290,000.

Within the scope of the Public Financial Management and Control Law numbered 5018, an
internal control mechanism was set up for better institutional governance and budget
planning. Within this context, a technical assistance project as to obtain project preparation
tool in strengthen the financial management and control systems of the local administrations
was conducted. Technical Support Project for Need Assessment and an Action Document for
Strengthening the Financial Management and Internal Control System at Local Administrations prepared in accordance with EU regulations and International Standards was supported by the EU Public Internal Control Regulation, Public Internal Control Standards, Public Internal Control Guide, Institutional Risk Management have entered in to effect as better institutional and financial management tools.

Institutional Capacity Improvement at Local Level Prioritized Transformation Programme of
the 10th Development Plan enhanced the financial management capacities of the local
administrations as well particularly for metropolitan municipalities. Programme includes
capacity enhancement measures, such as organizing training in order to make internal control
more efficient at the municipalities;

Local Administrations Financial Management and Internal Control Trainings are organized
within the implementation of the Regulation on Local Administrations Budgeting and
Accounting. In Turkey rules and procedures relating to financial planning, budgeting and
financing are regulated with this by-law which set forth the principles, procedures and
standards regarding preparation of budgets of income and expenses for special provincial
administrations, municipalities, affiliated administrations and unions; preparing the final
accounts; ensuring transparency and accountability in order of accounts and records;
preventing any unregistered transactions; including activities into accounts accurately and
reliably in a manner to reflect their true nature; and ensuring effective operation of the
decision-making, control and accounting processes for preparation of financial schedules to
be generated in an accurate and timely manner, within the framework of the basic concepts of
the accounting and the generally-accepted principles of budgeting and accounting, in
accordance with the international standards, in a manner to meet the needs of the management
and other persons involved for information, which will be relied upon when preparing the
final account.

In accordance with the Implementation Guide for Entry of Estimated Budgets by Local
Administrations and Local Administration Units, Local administrations are required to enter
information on the economic classification table of their estimated budgets and financing into
the Public Expenditure and Accounting Information System (KBS). Within the
implementation of financial reporting of the Regulation it is laid down that the financial
schedules prepared in accordance with the principles and standards set forth in the General
Management Accounting Regulation by the staff equipped with adequate professional training based on financial reporting in accounting records.

In this respect, certificated trainings are organized and provided by the Ministry of Treasury and Finance General Directorate of Public Accounts, General Directorate of Budget and Fiscal Control and Internal Audit Coordination Board. These training programs are planned annually and certificates are issued for the participants from public institutions. Within the scope of vocational training assistance for the state budget specialists provided by the Directorate of Budget and Fiscal Control in building capacity development for performance-based budgeting under the Public Financial Management and Control Law numbered 5018, training module is composed of e-budgeting “Basic Training”, “Legislative Training” and training on “Methods for Preparing Research Reports in relation with the field of data processing and performing activities. Local Financial Capacity Enhancement Technical Assistance Project was organized by the Union of Municipalities of Turkey, besides the projects for developing local financial capacity, to further develop the financial tools for municipalities. TBB works on themes such as issuing bonds, green bonds, issuing suquq, leasing, real estate investment partnerships and valuation of municipal property together with Marmara Municipalities Union, which also has comprehensive training programs on real estate valuation and financial tools.

With the “Local Financial Capacity Enhancement Technical Assistance Project” started in 2019, it was aimed to support the selected municipalities in developing equity and managing revenues, enhance their capacities in environmentally-responsive capital investment planning and to research alternative sources of financing for infrastructure projects of the municipalities. Municipality Financing and Financial Capacity Enhancement Academy is a series of trainings organized by TBB for over 20 metropolitan municipalities in 2016. Within same context by such academy, “Municipal Creditworthiness Academy”, was also successfully implemented in many countries, was organized as a 5-day training program jointly with the World Bank and French Development Agency.

MBB Financial Summit for Local Administrations: The Summit was organized by Marmara Municipalities Union in 2016 jointly with local administrations, including the small and medium scale municipalities, banks and international financing organizations. The topics addressed during the Summit were about the necessary steps to increase municipal revenues, financing models offered public-private partnerships, financing the urban transformation and alternative sources of financing. The Ministry of Environment and Urbanization and metropolitan municipalities of the Marmara Region were among the sponsors of the Summit.

2.3.2.8. Increase cooperation and knowledge exchange on science, technology and innovation to benefit sustainable urban development

Turkey has comprehensive implementation and capacity development programs and tools supporting the cooperation and partnerships in the fields of technology, science and innovation relating to sustainable urban development.
Within the scope of Support Mechanisms for Urban Technologies and Innovation, smart city technologies are supported by the National Smart Cities Strategy and Action Plan of the Ministry of Environment and Urbanization (MoEU) in order to raise the level of sustainable development and quality of living at local administrations and to make more energy and resource-efficient service provision possible; and the smart cities portal spread the word on good practices, and they are integrated into the institutional capacity work, development plans and annual programs.

Turkey has institutionalized support mechanisms made available by regional Development Agencies with respect to the city-based technologies, R&D and innovative ecosystems, local partnerships and cooperation, National Strategy for Regional Development -BGUS, Strategy for Public Sector-University-Industry Cooperation (KUSI), Centres of Attraction Programme, technology zones - techno cities/technoparks.

The National Science and Technology Strategy prepared within the 9th Development Plan (2007-2013) Period. During the 10th Development Plan (2014-2018) and 11th Development Plan (2019-2023) periods. It was intended to establish local institutional capacity in innovation, cooperation with local actors, networks, university-industry cooperation and centres of R&D, information and technology.) On the other hand, the Centres of Attraction Programme aims to support technology development zones and technoparks and let the municipalities to establish partnerships in these fields. The goal of establishing science and technology ecosystem to develop the smart and resource-efficient urban technologies in metropolises set forth in 2014 with BGUS. KUSI Science Action Plan, on the other hand, used National Development Plans for cooperation and partnerships that enhance the synergy between high-tech stakeholders for the purpose of protecting the ecosystem at these centres and spread the innovation ecosystem at the local level in the 26 development regions, and started to work on identifying the R&D and innovation capacities of the cities.

Attraction Centres Programme was put into practice during the 10th Development Plan period. It is still prioritized area programmed in the Presidential Programme for 2021 aiming to support onsite transformation of the brownfield lands old industrial districts fall within the borders of the city centre with innovative functions and the innovative entrepreneurship in prioritized sectors as set forth in the regional plan within the context of technology and innovation; to develop innovation transfer centres, incubation centres, design centres, business development centres and centres for the young entrepreneurs; to develop and implement smart practices enhancing efficiency in urban service provision and encouraging local production for this purpose.

Technology Development Zones (Technocities/Technoparks) based on Law enacted in 2001. In the same year, first centre, TUBITAK Marmara Research Centre Technopark under TUBITAK Marmara Research Centre, and ODTU Technocity Technology Development Zone were established as the first technoparks in Turkey. With the 9th Development Plan (2007-2013), capacity enhancement and structuring process started for developing innovative systems. As of December 2020, Istanbul, Ankara and Kocaeli were the top 3 cities in terms of number of technoparks, being 10, 10 and 5, respectively. As of December 2020, Turkey had 72 active technoparks. Technoparks were first established in Kocaeli, Ankara and Istanbul and spread to other cities in time.
By an amendment to the Technology Development Zones Law, municipalities were allowed to become “founders or partners in managing companies in Technology Development Zones (Technocities /Technoparks) that are in charge of managing and operating the technology development zones, aiming to make it possible for the techno cities to benefit from the cooperation between the public and private sectors and the means of the universities and the industrial sector.

R&D and Design Centres: Under the “Law on Supporting Research and Development Activities” numbered 5746 that took effect in 2008, R&D and design infrastructures were created; and 1.241 R&D Centres across 44 different sectors started operating in 51 cities and 365 Design Centres across 33 different sectors started operating in 29 cities.

Among the legal and institutional capacities established during the last 10 years as an Innovation and Technology Centre of a Municipality, Başakşehir Living Lab is established in 2013, Living Lab is the first Living Lab in Turkey and is listed among over 300 Living Labs accredited by ENoLL (European Network of Living Labs). It was established in order to spread the informatics technologies and design-based innovation and entrepreneurship and to pave the way for creation of new jobs. It operates under Istanbul Bağcılar Municipality.

Similarly Tech-Ankara was established in 2014 by the Metropolitan Municipality, with Financial Support Programs under Ankara Development Agency serves as the umbrella trademark for technology zones and Chamber of Commerce

Environment and Clean Production Institute is affiliated research institutes of TUBITAK Marmara Research Centre; conducts its research and development activities considering technologies reducing greenhouse gas, circular manufacturing, integrated basin management, practices and development of classical and advanced treatment technologies, natural treatment methods and sustainable wastewater management, onsite treatment practices, recovery and reuse of water are being worked on.

Development Agencies are the most important actors tapping into resources for science and technology ecosystems, establishing partnerships and cooperation at the local level in a multi-actor and multi-level structure of governance. They have many duties in implementing the Attraction Centres Programs in addition to implementing BGUS. Agencies contribute to development of technocities through technical and direct innovation supports, project creation and feasibility supports and financial contribution. With respect to capacity development supports, they bring about cooperation between the public sector-universities and the industry, and work as Living Labs for producing experimental information in regional projects. They engage in activities in all realms of urban development jointly with municipalities at the local level and they support projects involving intelligent transportation modes, materials, innovative business models and integration of advanced technology in infrastructure such as;

Offshore Wind Measurement Project implemented by İzmir Development Agency supported by the Municipality and Ministry of Energy and Natural Resources for the investment opportunities project also aims to accelerate the development of the sector manufacturing wind energy equipment, a high added value sector that is mostly located in İzmir.
Amasya Yeşilirmak Rubber Embankment, Creating Recreational Areas and Renewable Energy Based Development Project in which Amasya Municipality is beneficiary and supported by the Central Black Sea Development Agency aims to help the raise the river's water level. Thus, 200 kW/hour power was produced on the river using the hydrodynamic screw. Moreover, new recreation areas were created at the city centre to support tourism activities.

European Union's Horizon 2020 Programme is also providing major amount of support to local development coordinated nationally by TUBITAK. It is a multi-disciplinary, multi-partner program conducted to enhance the research and technology development capacity of the Union, encouraging cooperation between the universities-the industry and the public sector, and to further cooperation on different fields addressed by the EU policies between EU member states, candidate states and countries that EU cooperates with. The budget for 2014-2020 EU Programme is € 74 Billion. Turkey’s National contribution to the Programme is € 265.5 million. Within the EU Horizon Programs, cooperation between the universities, the industries the public sector, technocities and Development Agencies is important condition to become a project partner. Besides the participation of the final users in the projects and production of knowledge within the context of co-creation process intended to increase the effectiveness of the results of R&D and innovative projects supported, accelerate their implementation and mainstream them in the society. The municipalities (metropolitan municipalities, district municipalities) are among the most important stakeholders with the potential to participate in projects under the EU Framework Programmes due to their ability to implement the products, processes, management policies or methods resulting from the R&D and innovation projects for public benefit;

Horizon Europe, the new research and innovation project of EU for years 2021 to 2027, is expected to offer the municipalities with opportunities for support in the context of diverse sub-components, such as the “healthcare”, “culture”, “creative and inclusive societies”, “civilian safety”, “climate, energy and mobility” and “food” sets.

Union of Municipalities of Turkey (TBB) represents the municipalities in the “Information Multipliers Network” within the scope of Horizon 2020 established in Turkey as Stage II Project. The municipalities take part in the European-wide project markets events aiming to provide information on Horizon 2020 project calls, establish new partnerships and extend the cooperation network. TUBITAK experts regularly provide training to municipalities on the financial resources that they can benefit from under the Horizon 2020 Programme, including for projects on smart and resource-efficient cities.

MBB Urban Technologies and Innovation Centre-STM is a research and development centre established under MMB that creates scientific research and projects to develop products and methods, generates information and provides advisory services. Smart City Solutions Cooperation Agreement was signed between TBB and ASELSAN is to implement the transportation systems and cooperation on various matters relating to smart cities under the protocol signed. STM also organizes events addressing good practices of technology and innovation, problems faced at the local level and the solutions, such as Smart Municipality Summit, and reports are issued.
Projects that the Municipalities Participated in under the Horizon 2020 Programme are particularly on energy (Smart Cities Calls), environment (Circular Economy Calls), transportation (Urban Transportation Calls), social sciences and food. Under the Horizon 2020 Programme, the municipalities have participated in 24 projects approved for support with total budget is € 12,272,255.81 and the amount of grants received from the EU is € 12,078,615.45.

Sino-European innovative, green and smart cities is the Project, coordinated by Norway having 18 participants, including Hatay Metropolitan Municipality, has a budget of € 8.3 million and it is planned to last 48 months. With the Project resource efficiency, resilient cities against disasters and food Safety targeted with actions on zero waste and sustainable economy model.

CREATE Project coordinated by England having 17 partners, including Adana Metropolitan Municipality with budget of € 3.9 million and is expected to last 36 months. It aims to come up with practical solutions to prevent traffic congestion in the cities and to extend the traffic network.

Renaissance of Places with Innovative Citizenship and Technology is coordinated by Spain and conducted by 24 institutions/organizations, including İzmir Metropolitan Municipality, has a budget of € 14.7 million and is expected to last 60 months. The purpose of the project is to reshape the urban in conformity with their natural settings, implementing nature-based solutions.

Regeneration Model for Accelerating the Smart Urban Transformation coordinated by Spain and conducted by 21 institutions/organizations. Tepebaşı Municipality is a project partner. The project budget is € 23.7 million and project term is planned as 50 months. The purposes of the project are to create a smart city-monitoring portal, build cycle lanes and establish a solar power plant at the municipality building.

Project for New Approaches for the Valorisation of Urban Bulky Waste into High Added Value Recycled Products coordinated by Spain and conducted by 20 institutions/organizations including Bornova Municipality as the partner, has a budget of € 9.9 million; and it is expected to last 40 months. The project aims to establish a waste recovery centre to be used for recycling.

Project for New Approaches For Community-Driven Sustainable Mobility Innovations at Neighbourhood and Urban District Level coordinated by Denmark and conducted by 12 institutions/organizations including Üsküdar Municipality among its partners, has a budget of € 3.9 million and it is intended to last 36 months. The purpose of the project is to develop new methods for smart, green and integrated transportation.

MAtchUP project consisting 28 partners from 8 countries with the purpose to improve quality of living and revive the economy by integrating renewable sources of energy and smart city solutions into cities as the first implementation of the vision for Ecological Smart Cities. Antalya Metropolitan Municipality is the partner of the MAtchUP project started in 2017 and last in 2022. Under the project, supports provided for increased smart facilities in city of Antalya with smart energy, smart transportation, and smart infrastructure and information
communication technologies. Within this context, it is planned to realize the largest Smart Urban Transformation project of Turkey in Antalya.

As a capacity development tool, a Portal containing the examples of smart city practices and allowing the sharing information to expand smart cities implementations under the National Smart Cities Strategy and Action Plan with a scope of 2020 – 2023 was created by the Ministry of Environment and Urbanization. It is intended to foster cooperation between the stakeholders, creation more liveable and sustainable cities using new technologies and innovative approaches, and producing solutions adding value to life by responding the future problems and needs. https://www.akillisehirler.gov.tr/basarili-ornekler/

2.3.3. Information Technology and Innovation

2.3.3.1 Develop user-friendly, participatory data and digital platforms through e-governance and citizen-centric digital governance tools

The New Urban Agenda emphasizes that development of national information and communications technology policies and e-government strategies, as well as citizen-centric digital governance tools, tapping into technological innovations, including capacity-development programmes will be promoted, in order to make information and communications technologies accessible to the public, including women and girls, children and youth, persons with disabilities, older persons and persons in vulnerable situations, to enable them to develop and exercise civic responsibility, broadening participation and fostering responsible governance, as well as increasing efficiency.

Among the Sustainable Development Goals for 2030, Target 16.6 seeks to “Develop effective, accountable and transparent institutions at all levels”, Target 16.7 “Ensure responsive, inclusive, participatory and representative decision-making at all levels” and Target 16.8 seeks to “Broaden and strengthen the participation of developing countries in the institutions of global governance”.

In the 11th Development Plan covering the years 2019 to 2023, one of the fundamental objectives of the Plan is set forth as transferring public services to the electronic environment through modernization and process improvements that will ensure effectiveness and interoperability with a user-oriented perspective; and increasing service delivery and usage through e-Government Gateway.

The related policies for this purpose are:

- Carrying out e-Government efforts with a view of user-oriented service delivery and effective public administration; improving service delivery channels and increasing channel diversity; and prioritizing the needs of disadvantaged groups;
- Using new technologies and trends in provision of e-government services in order to increase efficiency, effectiveness, transparency and accountability of the public sector;
- Strengthening governance and coordination structure of e-government activities;
• Improving the capacity of public institutions in managing digital transformation process by following international technological trends and developments, and strengthening human resources in departments of information technologies;

• Continuing development of basic information systems, common infrastructure, services and standards needed for e-Government service delivery and making institutional information systems sustainable;

• Disseminating open source software in public institutions and improving institutional capacity in this field;

• Strengthening the mechanisms to protect public institutions against cybersecurity threats and to ensure personal information privacy in delivery of public services;

• Making available public data as open data under privacy principles in order to increase transparency, accountability and participation and to enable production of new value-added services; and

• Aiming to increase cost effectiveness, innovation and national added value in public procurement of information and communication technology products and services.

Within the context of effective governance, citizen-oriented approach has been made effective and operational; and important steps have been taken in the realm of public relations. Policies and programs have been developed for access to information, and important steps have been taken especially during the recent years.

Turkey's official e-Government Portal, the website at “turkiye.gov.tr”, which aims at integrated one-stop-shop provision of public services through diverse channels, became operational in 2008. All the transactions and works for the provision of e-Government services are performed by Digital Transformation Office of the Presidency.

“2016-2019 National e-Government Strategy and Action Plan” took effect on 19 July 2016. The vision of the 2016-2019 National e-Government Strategy and Action Plan is defined as “Enhancing the quality of life of the society through ETKIN (abbreviation for the words, Integrated, Technological, Participatory, Innovative and Qualified, which also means "efficient" in Turkish) e-Government”. The strategic goals defined to attain this vision are, ensuring efficiency and sustainability of e-Government ecosystem, implementing common systems for infrastructure and administrative services, ensuring e-transformation in public services and increasing usage, participation and transparency.

The efforts for mainstreaming the e-Government practices aimed at providing public services in many fields such as healthcare, social security, security and public financing in electronic environment, and increasing their use have continued. While it was possible to provide 600 services through e-Government Portal in 2012; it was possible to access 5,185 services from 679 institutions and organizations through e-Government Portal as of October 2020. The number of services provided through the mobile applications of e-Government Portal reached 2,772. The registered users of the e-Government Portal, which was approximately 44 million as of October 2019, reached 50 million as of October 2020.
According to TurkStat Survey on Information Technology Usage in Households, the proportion of the users of e-government services rose approximately by five points to 51.2% in 2019; while this rate became 51.5% in 2020. According to the results of the Life Satisfaction Survey, the rate of satisfaction from the public services provided in electronic environment was 98.78% in 2018, and 98.2% in 2019.

According to the e-Government Benchmark published by the European Commission in 2020, Turkey has performed above the EU (27+) averages, which were 86.5% and 61.4%, with 90% and 73% with respect to user-centricity and key enablers, respectively; and has performed close to the EU average of 65.6% for AB (27+) by 62% with respect to transparency.

Within the scope of e-Government Development Index published by the United Nations in order to determine the level of the member countries approximately every two years since 2001, Turkey maintained the same ranking, being 53rd place among 193 countries, in 2020; and in the sub-indexes of the e-Government Development Index, Turkey rose from 27th place to 22nd place in the Online Service Index; from 89th place to 79th place in the Telecommunication Infrastructure Index and fell from 45th place to 52nd place in the Human Capital Index.

With the development of e-procurement applications following the arrangements made in the public procurement legislation on enhancing efficiency and transparency of public expenditures in Turkey, e-procurement amounting to 2.83 billion TL (341 million USD according to the exchange rate in March 2021) resulted in contracts as of October 2019; and e-procurement method was applied for 8% of the total tenders under the Public Procurement Law.

Moreover, all the channels of communication between the citizens and the state were made available to allow the applications by the citizens regarding their demands, complaints, information, comments and suggestions as well as applications regarding the right to information to be monitored and addressed swiftly and efficiently. Approximately 3.4 million applications were filed with Communication Centre of the Presidency, used as an efficient tool for this purpose; and approximately 4.2 million responses were issued to these applications. Moreover, “I Have an Idea for My Country in 2019” Platform was made operable by the Directorate of Communications in 2019, in order to enable the citizens submit their suggestions and ideas on feasible practices, policies or improvements for existing operations.

In the upcoming period, e-Government projects should include pilot applications, which also contribute to further participation, transparency, accountability and supervision, with a view of making use of the democratic potential of the e-Government, in addition to service provision. It will beneficial for all the stakeholder expectations from the e-Government to be determined through e-participation platform. When designing and establishing these platforms, it is important to take action in order to receive feedback as sorted by needs and from the groups with no access to the web as well; and thus to diversify the channels of access. The steps to be taken in these fields will also move Turkey up in the international indexes on participation.

In addition, within the framework of the policies for disadvantaged groups, measures must be taken to provide e-Government services, especially to older persons and persons with
disabilities as well as people living in rural areas, the refugees and people living of foreign origin in Turkey, who are not refugees, (like the citizens of the foreign countries, who live in tourism zones during half of the year or permanently), and to add these groups into the administrative system.

Creation of the e-Government institutional architecture and development of institutional maturity and human resources competence models are also among the needs that stand out; and studies have already started in these fields.

2.3.3.2 Expand deployment of frontier technologies and innovations to enhance shared prosperity of cities and regions

In the New Urban Agenda, a commitment is made for adopting a smart-city approach that makes use of opportunities from digitalization, clean energy and technologies, as well as innovative transport technologies, thus providing options for inhabitants to make more environmentally friendly choices and boost sustainable economic growth and enabling cities to improve their service delivery. In addition, it is emphasized that integrated planning that aims to balance short-term needs with the long-term desired outcomes of a competitive economy, high quality of life and sustainable environment will be implemented; and that integrated planning aiming for a high quality of living and sustainable environment will be implemented and systematically evaluated, while making efforts to leverage innovations in technology and to produce a better living environment.

Among the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals for 2030, Target 11.2 seeks to “By 2030, provide access to safe, affordable, accessible and sustainable transport systems for all, improving road safety, notably by expanding public transport, with special attention to the needs of those in vulnerable situations, women, children, persons with disabilities and older persons”; and Target 11.3 seeks to “By 2030, enhance inclusive and sustainable urbanization and capacity for participatory, integrated and sustainable human settlement planning and management in all countries”, while the Sustainable Development Goal 9 seeks to “Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation”.

The first policy on smart cities in Turkey was related to intelligent transportation, a component of the smart cities, and it is contained in the National Science and Technology Policies 2003-2023 Strategy Document. The Document sets forth the actions of “Ability to develop smart vehicles and smart road systems for land transport” and "Ability to develop fire and security systems for transport and tourism superstructures” within the scope of the policy to “Gain the Ability to Develop Modern and Safe Transport Systems” in line with the target of “Raising the Quality of Living”.

The first high level integrated policy on smart cities was set forth in the 10th Development Plan (2014-2018). Within the context of smart cities, the Plan states that use of smart practices will be mainstreamed, especially including in fields such as healthcare, transportation, buildings, energy and disaster and water management, and transformation of the cities into smart cities will be promoted, by boosting their infrastructure, capacity and skills relating to information and communication technologies.

11th Development Plan covering the years 2019 to 2023 emphasizes that local administrations will be encouraged to prepare smart city strategies and road maps, smart city projects will be selected and implemented by taking into account the prioritized areas and capabilities at national level and development of domestic production for smart city applications will be supported. The Plan also states that, in order to use existing infrastructure more efficiently, to enhance traffic safety, to manage transport demand correctly and to make more effective planning, a national Intelligent Transport Systems Strategy Document will be prepared, intelligent transport system architecture will be developed and intelligent transport system applications will be expanded.

The fundamental objectives of the Plan also include creating an ecosystem of research and innovation operating smoothly by boosting productivity and competitiveness in priority sectors by accelerating digital transformation and by enhancing the capacity for producing technology and adaptation in the critical technological sectors that are expected to create high value added in the coming period in order to ensure digital transformation in prioritized sectors and areas; and also enhancing the capacity to generate and use information.

With the establishment of Presidency of Smart Cities and Geographical Technologies Department under the General Directorate of Geographical Information Systems affiliated to the Ministry of Environment and Urbanization, smart cities have gained institutional structure and policies in Turkey.

With the 2020-2023 National Smart Cities Strategy and Action Plan that took effect in 2019, Turkey's Vision for Smart Cities, core values, strategic goals and targets were set forth; and in the period between 2020 and 2023 in Turkey, prioritized actions were determined in order to attain the smart city strategies and targets and the local administrations were guided in their targets to become smart cities.

With the smart cities addressed by top policies and theme-based strategies, the local administrations started their strategies in order to start working on this issue. The cities working on smart city components within the scope of their Strategic Plans include Istanbul Metropolitan Municipality, Karaman Municipality, Osmaniye Municipality, Karadeniz Ereğli Municipality, Antalya Metropolitan Municipality, Bayrampaşa Municipality, and Beykoz Municipality. The local administrations carry out various projects within the scope of management of disaster risks. For example, a project carried out by AFAD in cooperation with Kocaeli Metropolitan Municipality plans development of an early warning system for all the industrial organizations in the city, using smart city applications.

The Smart Cities Capacity Enhancement and Guidance Project that started in 2020 aims at realizing the actions set forth in the 2020-2023 National Smart Cities Strategy and Action Plan.
Plan, offering guidance for creation of smart cities strategy and roadmap with smart city solutions and enhancing capacity on smart cities in our country.

The Maturity Assessment Model that will be created within the scope of the Smart Cities Maturity Assessment Project that started in 2020 intends to contribute to structural, standard, consistent, effective and efficient transformation into smart cities at the institutions.

National Intelligent Transportation Strategy Document (2014-2023) strives to ensure accessibility of a safe, efficient, environmentally-friendly, sustainable and intelligent transportation network for all modes of transport, using information and communication technologies, and to facilitate the mobility for the passengers and freight. Progress has been made in many cities, especially including the metropolises, on matters such as decongesting the traffic and enhancing traffic safety.

On the other hand, Digital Transformation in Industry Platform was established as coordinated by the Ministry of Industry and Technology in order to guide the digital transformation process in a participatory manner. The Platform started their activities in December 2016. The efforts undertaken aimed to strengthen the production capacity of the manufacture industry for digital transformation, and to enhance professional competencies for production and efficient use of technology.

Digital Transformation Roadmap, which presents how planning will be made in Turkey within the Digitalization and Industry 4.0 process, which steps will be taken, and which areas will be prioritized, was published in 2018. The roadmap determines the actions to be taken with respect to components, such as improving educational infrastructure and building capacity for technology and innovation, training qualified labour force, reinforcing data communication infrastructure and institutional governance, supporting national technology suppliers and encouraging digital transformation for the users. The Roadmap also stipulates establishment of digital transformation centres.

It is expected that a need for infrastructure will arise in the coming period especially with respect to the development of smart cities in Turkey. The intention is to implement policies, such as deciding and implementing smart city projects by taking into account the areas prioritized at national level, capabilities and feasibility, and extending the scope of the intelligent transportation services etc. It is important that a visionary general framework for digitalization and technological transformation in the global economy; and to consider developments such as Industry 4.0, circular economy, smart cities and transportation systems as horizontal fields.

2.3.3.3 Implement digital tools, including geospatial information systems to improve urban and territorial planning, land administration and access to urban services

The New Urban Agenda emphasizes that the use of digital platforms and tools, including geospatial information systems, will be encouraged to improve long-term integrated urban and territorial planning and design, land administration and management, and access to urban and metropolitan services.
It would not be wrong to state that, among the Sustainable Development Goals for 2030, it is related to all targets of Goal 11, “Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable”.

The 11th Development Plan covering the years 2019 to 2023 emphasizes that development of basic information systems, and common infrastructure, services and standards as needed for e-Government service delivery will continue; and institutional information systems will gain a sustainable structure, and underlines that National Geographic Information System Project will be completed.

11th Development Plan (2019-2023) also states that uninterrupted communication infrastructure, which will improve data sharing between the institutions to support decision-making through a sustainable communication infrastructure, and the disaster management information and decision-making support systems will be developed in order increase the disaster management efficiency; and a decision-making support system, which is installed on the geographical information system and is capable of efficiently managing all the resources during a disaster, will be developed for more efficient disaster management.

Principles and procedures that describe the qualities of the spatial plans in Turkey and the processes for their preparation, implementation, monitoring, assessment, supervision and governance include developing the infrastructure of the geographical information systems and efficiently using the information technologies. The fact that geographical information is now extensively used by the public institutions, local administrations, private sector, universities, non-governmental organizations and citizens has resulted in a need to develop new policies and strategies on a national scale on quality of the data generated, methodologies for generation, costs, methods for their storage and efficient use.

The Presidential Decree on Geographic Information Systems took effect on 7 November 2019, defining the principles, procedures and standards for ensuring coordination between public institutions and organizations, setting the goals and strategies, and for generating and keeping updated, managing, using, accessing to and ensuring the security of, sharing and distributing the geographical data and information included into the geographical information data themes, with regards to the geographical information systems and National Geographic Information System and infrastructure.

The Geographic Information Systems Board established under such decree meets regularly as chaired by the Vice President. Two board meetings took place in 2020 in June and September; and the National Geographic Information Strategy and Action Plan was published on 30 June 2020 based on the decisions made during the first board meeting. Data Definition Documents and Geographic Data Responsibility Matrix prepared for the purpose of standardization of the geographical data and determination of institutional responsibilities were published in the Official Gazette. During the second board meeting, on the other hand, decisions were made to prepare the National Geographic Data Sharing Matrix defining the confidentiality levels for geographic data and with whom and how they will be shared; entering all the public geographic information that can be shared in the National Geographic Information Platform and providing the geographic information infrastructure for individual access in order to make the citizens’ daily lives easier.
With respect to furthering inclusive and sustainable urbanization, the urbanization projects of the Ministry of Environment and Urbanization stand out. And, in this context, especially remarkable are the projects on determining the principles and procedures to be taken into consideration for creating and implementing plans, ancient cities project, urban design guidelines, development of urban spatial standards, territorial plans, integrated coastal zone planning, determination of the development conditions in villages in line with the local traits and needs, avoidance measures and risk reduction criteria to be relied upon for spatial plans, development of the planning principles and criteria for urban transformation practices, reinforcing the social aspect in urban transformation projects, smart cities strategy and cloud-based urban information system.

It is the duty of the General Directorate of Geographic Information Systems affiliated to the Ministry of Environment and Urbanization to develop the national spatial data infrastructure in Turkey under the applicable legislation. The General Directorate of Geographic Information Systems performs such task through Turkey’s National Geographic Information System (TUCBS) Project that is in conformity with the Infrastructure for Spatial Information in the European Community -INSPIRE- Directive. Within the scope of Turkey’s National Geographic Information System (TUCBS), 32 geographic data sets were determined and data definition documents were prepared.

The work to define the standards on geographical data themes for sharing and using the geographical data among and by all the public institutions and organizations, local administrations and universities in accordance with the principles of interoperability was completed in 2019 under TUCBS Standardization Project.

TUCBS Integration Project aiming to integrate the data services and metadata pertaining to the geographic data of the public institutions and organizations and local administrations generating geographic data into TUCBS was completed in 2019, with participation of 32 public institutions and organizations and 30 metropolitan municipalities.

Thus, the basic data sets in geometric form are prepared by the public institutions generating data in accordance with the applicable standards and along with metadata; and are shared with the relevant users through the National Geographic Data Portal of Turkey, developed also within the scope of TUCBS Project.

ILBANK is one of the leading institutions in Turkey in geographic data generation with the main maps, land development plans, geological geotechnical studies, and maps of superstructure, infrastructure and urban maps, such as those pertaining to potable water, waste water and sewerage lines, municipal buildings, parks, gardens, sports facilities and cultural centres. Geographic Archive and Information System of Bank of Provinces (ILCAS) was established to enable ILBANK to establish its own institutional data infrastructure and to get integrated into TUCBS.

The Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry has been working on the CORINE Project, which essentially aims to manage identical type of basic data and generate a standard database in line with the criteria and classification system defined by the European Environment Agency (EEA) in order to keep track of the environmental changes on land in all the member countries of EEA, manage the natural sources rationally and develop policies on environment,
since 2008. The data generated for CORINE 2018 project became available for sharing as of May 2019.

General Directorate of Mapping affiliated to the Ministry of Defence, the national mapping agency, is an important institution that generates the basic data sets. General Directorate of Mapping has a Geographic Data Centre affiliated to it, where a Topographic Database (TopoVT) covering the entire country is being developed.

General Directorate of Land Registry and Cadastre affiliated to the Ministry of Environment and Urbanization, on the other hand, manages information on all the properties throughout the country, keeping cadastre data, another essential dataset, coupled with ownership information in the Land Registry and Cadastre Information System (TAKBIS).

The system enabling all the stages of the integrated disaster management to be monitored and managed in the electronic environment is installed under the Disaster Management and Decision-Making Support System Project (AYDES) conducted by AFAD, and the disaster management process is optimized.

In addition to the foregoing projects, there are many projects based on spatial data planned by the public institutions and organizations, which are currently being developed and are available for use in practice. Water Resources Information System (SUBIS), Forest Information System (ORBIS), Agricultural Monitoring and Information System (TARBIL), Pasture Information System (MERBIS), Social Assistance Information System (SOYBIS), National Land Cover/Use Classification and Monitoring System (UASIS), Cloud Urban Information System, Soil Database and Soil Portal are just a few.

For the upcoming period, it is important to implement and monitor the Geographic Information Strategy and Action Plan, ensure integration of geographic data and metadata and enhance the respective capabilities of the public institutions to work on geographic information systems.

2.3.3.4 Build capacities at all levels of government to effectively monitor the implementation of urban development policies

The New Urban Agenda states that data and statistical capacities will be strengthened at national and local levels to effectively monitor progress achieved in the implementation of sustainable urban development policies and strategies and to inform decision-making and appropriate review processes; and emphasizes that data collection procedures for the implementation of, follow-up to and review of the New Urban Agenda should primarily be based on official national and local data sources, and other sources as appropriate, and be open, transparent and consistent with the purpose of respecting privacy rights and all human rights obligations and commitments.

Among the Sustainable Development Goals for 2030, Target 17.19 seeks to “By 2030, build on existing initiatives to develop measurements of progress on sustainable development that complement gross domestic product, and support statistical capacity-building in developing countries”.

11th Development Plan covering the years 2019 to 2023 emphasizes that measurement and evaluation tools will be developed to provide a basis for monitoring the level of quality of life
in cities, and that, within this scope, institutional, technical and legal infrastructure will be strengthened to establish and share urban data infrastructure at provincial, district and neighbourhood scales. In addition, it is defined as one of the main objectives to reflect the Sustainable Development Goals on the policies in line with our priorities and to establish an effective follow-up and review mechanism.

The related policies for this purpose are:

- Reflecting SDGs will be reflected in sectoral and thematic policy documents in line with national priorities and conditions,
- Considering alignment with the SDGs in the preparation of institutional strategic plans and sectoral and thematic policy documents,
- Establishing a well-functioning and participatory institutional coordination mechanism for the follow-up and review of SDGs,
- In order to ensure the follow-up and review and the coordination of SDG implementation at national level, establishing the National Sustainable Development Coordination Board under the Presidency of Strategy and Budget in a flexible structure for the participation of representatives of local administrations, academia, private sector and NGOs in addition to related public institutions,
- In line with the developments of global SDG indicator set, expanding the scope of the national indicator set in line with the priorities,
- Establishing a national system to monitor and evaluate the sustainable development goals.

Turkish Statistical Institute (TurkStat) is one of the most important stakeholder institutions, with a role in achieving SDGs. The international process to determine the indicators for SDGs is monitored by TurkStat, which constitutes an important advantage in creating the framework for monitoring. TurkStat also conducts the process of generating the indicators, which are important for monitoring progress in terms of SDGs. Within this scope, TurkStat plays a coordinating role in terms of supply and consolidation of data on SDG indicators.

As also mentioned in the first Voluntary National Review Report of Turkey, Turkey's sustainable development indicators set has been prepared starting from 2000 and this set currently includes 54 indicators. Starting from the release of the first global indicator framework in March 2016, after adoption of the SDGs, TurkStat has worked on an inventory to determine the current status at the national level in terms of the sustainable development indicators, seeking the views and suggestions of the potential data generators, and making the first assessment on availability of respective data. Such study undertaken marks the first step taken to raise awareness in the institutions and organizations generating official data on sustainable development indicators.

TurkStat coordinates the Turkish Statistical System by a system that is based on the Statistics Law of Turkey, Official Statistics Programme and Statistics Council. Official Statistics Programme (RIP) is issued for five-year periods in order to set forth the basic principles and procedures for generation and dissemination of statistics, and make sure that current, reliable,
timely, transparent and objective statistics are generated in any national or international field as needed.

Within the scope of RIP, data, institution in charge, method, publication period and time are clarified. Every year, “Official Statistics Programme Annual Monitoring Report” is prepared in order to assess practices under the program. Statistics Council is set up in order to make recommendations on development and functions of the official statistics, determine and assess the needs for official statistics, and produce studies with forward-looking opinions and suggestions. Monitoring reports are discussed and assessed at the Statistics Council.

After the first inventory work performed in 2016, sustainable development indicators were reassessed in the working groups of the Official Statistics Programme (RIP), and the organizations in charge and involved were determined for 218 indicators and were published in the annex to the RIP 2017-2021. However, in addition to the changes in the global indicator framework, the changes in the functions and powers of the Ministries that occurred after transition to the Presidential Government System caused the responsibilities for sustainable development indicators given in the Annex to RIP to be redistributed, and the number of indicators became 215.

Determining institutional responsibilities for sustainable development goals through RIP is important in terms of raising institutional awareness on and helping adoption of the indicators and integrating the SDGs into national policies. Prepared based on the 2030 Agenda and global indicator framework within the context of establishing a system to monitor and assess the national sustainable development goals, “Sustainable Development Indicators, 2010-2018 New Bulletin” was published in February 2020. The supplement to the new bulletin contained 100 global indicators, including the indicators that are already available in Turkey and the indicators replaced by the ones considered to be appropriate for measuring the relevant target, and their definitions. Work is in progress for creation of the institutional mechanism to effectively and inclusively extend the scope of such indicator set and generate the indicators that are not yet available, and work towards inclusion of the SDGs into sectoral and thematic policy documents, contribute to enhanced awareness on SDGs countrywide and monitor and assess implementation at the national scale.

Given that it will not be possible to observe the progress without watching, TurkStat’s technical work integrated into the international process, with due consideration of the breakdowns as well, has been an important gain for VNR preparations and implementation. New measures can be taken in the sustainable development monitoring system in the upcoming period.

In order to be able to take the sustainable development steps in conformity with the SDGs, strong institutional capacity and efficient coordination are needed. A general examination of the SDGs reveals that the focus of each SDG falls within the jurisdiction and field of activity of one or more institutions. Considering that these institutions are held responsible to perform certain functions under the applicable legislation and existing policy documents, it can be said that the institutional structuring in Turkey is adequate for the development framework of the SDGs. However, increased and permanent coordination among the institution appears to be an area of further development. Moreover, it is considered important that the private sector, civil society, educational institutions, local administrations and research organizations undertake to
play a bigger role and assume more responsibility in order to raise social awareness and include all the stakeholders.

Another matter that needs to be considered, along with the institutional structure, is monitoring and assessing Turkey's progress with respect to SDGs. An effective monitoring system that is harmonized with the monitoring and review system of the UN must be established in order to be able to assess Turkey's progress in the context of SDGs. The most important condition for establishing this system is strengthening data access and generation of proper indicators. In Turkey, TurkStat is responsible for developing the monitoring system; and for generating data using TurkStat's data sets, it is important that all the institutions become involved in this function in cooperation.

Keeping a close watch on improvements and the needs for development in various sectors and fields through national development plans and other policy documents for years, Turkey's knowledge is adequate and institutions are ready to implement the SDGs for 2030. From now on, Turkey will further emphasize the aspects of implementing and monitoring the SDGs in line with the national conditions and priorities, starting from the 11th Development Plan (2019-2023).

With the integration of the SDGs into the 11th Development Plan, it has been possible to monitor the developments through annual programs. The Presidency of Strategy and Budget will conduct national and international reporting the monitoring system under the Plan.

2.3.3.5 Strengthen all levels of government and the civil society in the collection, disaggregation, and analysis of data

The New Urban Agenda emphasizes that science, research and innovation, including a focus on social, technological, digital and nature-based innovation, robust science-policy interfaces in urban and territorial planning and policy formulation and institutionalized mechanisms for sharing and exchanging information, knowledge and expertise, including the collection, analysis, standardization and dissemination of geographically based, community-collected, high-quality, timely and reliable data disaggregated by income, sex, age, race, ethnicity, migratory status, disability, geographic location and other characteristics relevant in national and local contexts will be supported.

Among the Sustainable Development Goals for 2030, Target 17.18 seeks to “By 2020, enhance capacity-building support to developing countries, including for least developed countries and small island developing States, to increase significantly the availability of high-quality, timely and reliable data disaggregated by income, gender, age, race, ethnicity, migratory status, disability, geographic location and other characteristics relevant in national contexts”.

Within this context, 11th Development Plan covering the years 2019 to 2023 includes policies such as:

- Ensuring data standardization in public information systems,
- Issuing regulations to eliminate obstacles to data sharing among institutions,
• Preparing national data inventory and public data dictionary,
• Completing Public Integrated Data Centre Project,
• Completing E-Municipality Information System Project,
• Making available public data as open data under privacy principles in order to increase transparency, accountability and participation and to enable production of new value-added services; and
• Issuing regulations for sharing public data,
• Launching National Open Data Portal, where public data will be shared, and
• Strengthening the mechanisms to protect public institutions against cybersecurity threats and to ensure personal information privacy in delivery of public services.

TurkStat coordinates the Turkish Statistical System by a system that is based on the Statistics Law of Turkey, Official Statistics Programme and Statistics Council. Official Statistics Programme (RIP) is issued for five-year periods in order to set forth the basic principles and procedures for generation and dissemination of statistics, and make sure that current, reliable, timely, transparent and objective statistics are generated in any national or international field as needed.

The Programme contains information as to the definition, method, scope and classification to be employed when gathering data, the institution to gather the data, and the frequency for gathering and publishing the data. Official statistics are generated and published by the institutions and organizations determined by TurkStat and mentioned in the Programme. The Programme contains the duties for the institutions and organizations for compiling, assessing and publishing data on official statistics within their jurisdiction. Being in charge of coordinating the production and publication of the official statistics, TurkStat can publish and distribute the official statistics compiled by the institutions and organizations commissioned under the Programme. If requested, these institutions and organizations are liable to deliver TurkStat the compiled statistics in due time and with the requested content. Referring to the provisions on confidentiality in other regulations, such provisions on confidentiality also apply for protecting and keeping the data and information delivered to TurkStat. Every year, “Official Statistics Programme Annual Monitoring Report” is prepared in order to assess the practices under the Programme.

There is a study on preparation and publication of the national statistics and data sets according to the standards set under the Official Statistics Programme. The portal named “resmistatistik.gov.tr” is generated under this study. Open access to all the statistics provided officially is possible on this portal.

Moreover, in 2019 Digital Transformation Office of the Presidency started to work on National Data Dictionary, which will include the standards and definitions on data used by the public institutions and organizations in all their applications, platforms and infrastructure tiers, in order to further enhance cooperation between the institutions and generating efficient and data-based decision-making processes in the public sector. The project is intended to solve certain problems with the information systems of the public institutions and
organizations, such as difficulties in integration, duplicated and conflicting data, lack of a common language for the informatics systems and unclear data ownership.

Within the scope of National Data Dictionary, it is intended to prepare the national data inventory, identify data proprietor, configure the management and monitoring processes through national data integration architecture, provide a common terminology and organize the institutional memory, determine national data models, and generate process improvements and central service design platform for new software.

Regional Information Bank Project was completed in 2019 for the purpose of collecting regional, city and district data under a single platform, and regularly updating and reporting them and making them available to serve the relevant groups. Within the scope of the project, data of TurkStat, Ministry of Health and Ministry of Education were uploaded to the database, and the database generated allowed integration of business intelligence software.

In addition, the Ministry of the Interior started working on E-Municipality Information System Project in 2014. The project is intended to allow the municipalities to have uninterrupted correspondence among themselves, with other municipalities and all the other public institutions and organizations in electronic environment, access the needed data at a single spot through integrations; and also allow availability of services as independent from time and space by moving them to the e-Government Portal, allowing management and service availability. The number of municipalities included into the electronic document management system module in the E-Municipality Information System Project was 842 as of January 2021, and the number of modules used in the system reached 45. The software production stage of the E-Municipality Information System is complete and some modules are being submitted at the e-Government Portal.

YERELBILGI Project is intended to provide information to the local administrations, special provincial administrations, their companies, municipalities and the companies of municipalities, district governorships, villages and unions through a single database. Under the Local Administration Reform Project Stage III funded by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) with financial support from the European Union, with respect to which the Ministry of the Interior and the Ministry of Environment and Urbanization are co-beneficiaries, it is aimed to develop and update YERELBILGI System for its implementation so that the system will operate effectively and will be able to respond to any difficulties faced in the process of its implementation. The system, which is to be updated and developed using business intelligence software system, will essentially be used to gather data from local administrations, to upload data from other data sources (especially from the central government databases through online services), analyze the data gathered, generate performance indicator tables, graphs, tables etc., report within the scope of the Ministry, share the reports and findings with local administrations and relevant stakeholders, publish them on web interface for access by citizens and check the validity and reliability of data.

The new YERELBILGI System is intended to be designed as a data management system that is flexible and upgradable for data collection, reporting and analysis, supporting diverse technologies such as big data and GIS, and that is user-friendly and sustainable for data providers and analysts.
Considering that there is no National Open Data Portal similar to the international examples in Turkey yet, it is important to work on preparing the framework legislation on open data in the upcoming period and to set forth the criteria for transforming public data into open data, and to implement the National Open Data Portal, as also emphasized in the 11th Development Plan (2019-2023). Moreover, it is targeted to integrate all the 1,398 municipalities to at least one of the modules in the E-Municipality Information System Project and to increase the number of services provided through the e-Government Portal under the e-Municipality Information System Project.
3. PART: Follow-up and Review

Follow-up and review practices under NUA were relied upon for the National Development Planning system and methodology, which were also used for preparing Voluntary National Review Report of Turkey 2019-VNR.

The process was conducted by an Expert Working Group consisting of directors and specialists of the General Directorate of Spatial Planning of the Ministry of Environment and Urbanization, which is the focal point for UN Habitat Programme on behalf of Turkey and in charge of monitoring SDG11 as well. Due to constrains of the COVID-19 Pandemic, cases about good practices were received in written format by the line Ministries, all institutional stakeholders, including NGOs, local administrations and Unions of Local Administrations of Turkey.

The Report was prepared using the multi-stakeholder and multi-level public administration mechanisms through reviewing the Annual Government Programs, Institutional Strategic Plan and Activity Reports, which integrate all the post-2015 the Sustainable Development Agendas into sectoral policies, especially including urban and regional development policies within the framework of national priorities, and ensuring the 10th and 11th Development Plans, National Actions and Sectoral Strategies in a result-oriented programming system that is elaborated in Capacity Development chapter in detail.
ANNEXES

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- MINISTRY OF ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES OF THE REPUBLIC OF TURKEY
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- MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY OF THE REPUBLIC OF TURKEY
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- MINISTRY OF HEALTH OF THE REPUBLIC OF TURKEY
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- MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT AND INFRASTRUCTURE OF THE REPUBLIC OF TURKEY - STATE RAILWAYS (TCDD)
- MINISTRY OF YOUTH OF THE REPUBLIC OF TURKEY
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- PRESIDENCY OF THE TURKISH WATER INSTITUTE
- PRESIDENCY OF MASS HOUSING ADMINISTRATION
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- MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND URBANIZATION OF THE REPUBLIC OF TURKEY - GENERAL DIRECTORATE OF PROFESSIONAL SERVICES
- MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND URBANIZATION OF THE REPUBLIC OF TURKEY - GENERAL DIRECTORATE OF INFRASTRUCTURE AND URBAN TRANSFORMATION
- MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND URBANIZATION OF THE REPUBLIC OF TURKEY - GENERAL DIRECTORATE FOR PROTECTION OF NATURAL ASSETS
- MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND URBANIZATION OF THE REPUBLIC OF TURKEY - GENERAL DIRECTORATE OF LOCAL ADMINISTRATIONS
- MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND URBANIZATION OF THE REPUBLIC OF TURKEY - PRESIDENCY OF URBAN DESIGN DEPARTMENT
- MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND URBANIZATION OF THE REPUBLIC OF TURKEY - PRESIDENCY OF LEGISLATION DEPARTMENT
- MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND URBANIZATION OF THE REPUBLIC OF TURKEY - PRESIDENCY OF GEOScientific STUDIES DEPARTMENT
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- ESKİŞEHİR METROPOLITAN MUNICIPALITY
- GAZİANTEP METROPOLITAN MUNICIPALITY
- İZMİR METROPOLITAN MUNICIPALITY
- KOCÂELİ METROPOLITAN MUNICIPALITY
- MARMARA METROPOLITAN MUNICIPALITY
- CHAIR OF UNION OF MUNICIPALITIES OF TURKEY
- CHAIR OF THE UNION OF PROVINCES
- THE UN RESIDENT COORDINATOR OFFICE
- UCLG-MEWA
### Annex 3: Indicators

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<td>NUA Monitoring Framework and Related Indicators</td>
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#### 1.1 Sosyal İçerme ve Yokulluğun Sona Erdirilmesi için Sürdürülebilir Kentsel Gelişme (1.1 Sustainable Urban Development for Social Inclusion and Ending Poverty)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1.1.1 Sosyal İçerme ve Yokulluğun Sona Erdirilmesi (1.1 Social Inclusion and Ending Poverty)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.1.1.1 Yokulluğun tüm biçimleriyle ortadan kaldırılması (1.1.1 Eradicate poverty in all its forms)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cinsiyet ve yaş grubuna göre uluslararası yoksulluk sınırının altında yaşayan nüfusun oranı (Kaynak: TÜİK Sürdürülebilir Kalkınma Göstergeleri, 1.1.1)</td>
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<td>Percentage of the population living below the international poverty line by sex and age group</td>
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<td>(Source: TURKSTAT Sustainable Development Indicators, 1.1.1)</td>
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<tr>
<td>a) Günde 1,90 $'dan az gelirle yaşayan nüfusun yüzdesi (2011 SGP)</td>
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<td>Poverty headcount ratio at 1.90 $ a day (2011 PPP) (% of population)</td>
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<td>b) Yoksulluk riski olan çalışan nüfus oranı(p)</td>
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<td>In-work at-risk-of-poverty rate(p)</td>
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#### 1.2 Eşdeğer hanehalkı kullanılabilecek fert medyan gelirinin %50’si (Kaynak: TÜİK Sürdürülebilir Kalkınma Göstergeleri, 1.2.1)

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<th>Eşdeğer hanehalkı kullanılabilecek fert medyan gelirinin %50’si (50% of median equivalised household disposable income)</th>
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<td><strong>Yaş grubu - Age group</strong></td>
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</table>
1.1.1.2 Eşit olarak paylaşılan fırsatları ve faydaları teşvik ederek kentsel alanlardaki eşitsizliğin azaltılması
1.1.1.2 Reduce inequality in urban areas by promoting equally shared opportunities and benefits

Cinsiyet ve yaş grubuna göre işsizlik oranı
(Kaynak: TÜİK Sürdürülebilir Kalkınma Göstergeleri, 8.5.2)
(Source: TURKSTAT Sustainable Development Indicators, 8.5.2)

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<th>Kadın - Female</th>
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<td>0.405</td>
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1.1.1.3 Hassas grupların (kadınlar, gençler, yaşlılar ve engelliler ve göçmenler) sosyal katılımının sağlanması
1.1.1.3 Achieve social inclusion of vulnerable groups (women, youth, older persons and persons with disabilities and migrants)

1.1.1.3 Hassas grupların (kadınlar, gençler, yaşlılar ve engelliler ve göçmenler) sosyal katılımının sağlanması
1.1.1.3 Achieve social inclusion of vulnerable groups (women, youth, older persons and persons with disabilities and migrants)

Kamu kullanımına tamamen açık, yapılaşmış alanların şehirlerdeki ortalama payı
(Average share of the built-up area of cities that is open space for public use for all)
(Source: TURKSTAT Sustainable Development Indicators, 11.7.1)

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>İller itibariyle - by cities</th>
<th>Adana</th>
<th>Adıyaman</th>
<th>Alyon</th>
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<td>13.56</td>
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Güvenilir şekilde yönetilen içme suyu hizmetlerini kullanan nüfusun oranı (%)

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1.1.3 Temel Hizmetlere Erişim
1.1.3 Access to Basic Services

1.1.3.1 Güvenilir içme suyu, arıtma ve katı atık bertarafına erişimin sağlanması
1.1.3.1 Access to safe drinking water, sanitation and solid waste disposal

(Kaynak: TÜİK Sürdürülebilir Kalkınma Göstergeleri, 6.1.1)
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Yaşadığı konutta ev içinde tuvalet ve borulu su sistemi bulunan nüfus oranı
(Kaynak:TÜİK Sürdürülebilir Kalkınma Göstergerleri, 6.2.1)
Share of population that have piped water system and indoor toilet in their dwellings
(Source: TURKSTAT Sustainable Development Indicators, 6.2.1)

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Borulu su sistemine sahip nüfus oranı
Share of population having piped water system

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Ev içinde tuvalete sahip nüfus oranı
Share of population having indoor toilet

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Düzenli olarak toplanan ve uygun nihai işlem uygulanan katı atıkların toplam katı atıklarına oranı
(Kaynak:TÜİK Sürdürülebilir Kalkınma Göstergerleri, 11.6.1)
Proportion of solid waste regularly collected and with adequate final discharge out of total solid waste generated
(Source: TURKSTAT Sustainable Development Indicators, 11.6.1)

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İller itibariyle - by cities

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| Afyonkarahisar | -    | -    | -    | -    | 82.6 | -    | 73.2 |
| Ağrı   | -    | -    | -    | -    | 0.0  | -    | 5.0  |
| Aksaray | -    | -    | -    | -    | 73.6 | -    | 90.7 |
| Amasya | -    | -    | -    | -    | 74.0 | -    | 97.7 |
| Ankara | -    | -    | -    | -    | 87.7 | -    | 89.9 |
| Antalya | -    | -    | -    | -    | 81.6 | -    | 88.6 |
| Ardahan | -    | -    | -    | -    | 0.0  | -    | 0.0  |
| Artvin | -    | -    | -    | -    | 0.0  | -    | 2.3  |
| Aydın  | -    | -    | -    | -    | 60.7 | -    | 54.4 |
| Balıkesir | -    | -    | -    | -    | 20.2 | -    | 31.4 |
| Bartın | -    | -    | -    | -    | 0.0  | -    | 3.9  |
| Batman | -    | -    | -    | -    | 0.0  | -    | 1.3  |
| Bayburt | -    | -    | -    | -    | 74.5 | -    | 82.5 |
| Bilecik | -    | -    | -    | -    | 0.0  | -    | 3.9  |
| Bingöl | -    | -    | -    | -    | 74.3 | -    | 89.2 |
| Bitlis | -    | -    | -    | -    | 51.4 | -    | 58.6 |
| Bolu   | -    | -    | -    | -    | 55.2 | -    | 62.5 |
| Burdur | -    | -    | -    | -    | 0.0  | -    | 10.4 |
| Bursa  | -    | -    | -    | -    | 95.3 | -    | 98.3 |
| Çanakkale | -    | -    | -    | -    | 37.5 | -    | 43.7 |
| Çankırı | -    | -    | -    | -    | 54.6 | -    | 0.0  |
| Çorum  | -    | -    | -    | -    | 0.0  | -    | 4.9  |
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| Diyarbakır | -    | -    | -    | -    | 0.0  | -    | 2.3  |
| Düzce  | -    | -    | -    | -    | 0.0  | -    | 0.0  |
| Edirne | -    | -    | -    | -    | 0.0  | -    | 21.2 |
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1.1.3.2 Güvenli ve verimli toplu taşıma sistemine erişim sağlanması
1.1.3.2 Access to safe and efficient transport system

a) Toplu taşıma araçlarına kolay erişimi olan nüfus oranı
(Kaynak: TÜİK Sürdürülebilir Kalkınma Göstergeleri, 11.2.1)

a) Proportion of population that has convenient access to public transport
(Source: TÜİK Sustainable Development Indicators, 11.2.1)

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b) İlere göre toplu taşıma araçlarına kolay erişimi olan nüfus oranları
(Kaynak: TÜİK Sürdürülebilir Kalkınma Göstergeleri, 11.2.1)

b) Population that has convenient access to public transport by cities
(Source: TÜİK Sustainable Development Indicators, 11.2.1)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ankara</th>
<th>İstanbul</th>
<th>İzmir</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>87.9</td>
<td>98.1</td>
<td>84.0</td>
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1.1.3.3 Modern yenilenebilir enerjiye erişimin sağlanması
1.1.3.3 Access to modern renewable energy

a) Toplam nihai enerji tüketimindeki yenilenebilir enerji payı
(Kaynak: TÜİK Sürdürülebilir Kalkınma Göstergeleri, 7.2.1)

a) Renewable energy share in the total final energy consumption
(Source: TÜİK Sustainable Development Indicators, 7.2.1)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>(%)</th>
<th>9.9</th>
<th>8.2</th>
<th>8.0</th>
<th>7.9</th>
<th>6.7</th>
<th>7.1</th>
<th>6.6</th>
<th>6.9</th>
<th>7.5</th>
<th>7.6</th>
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</table>

b) Yenilenebilir enerji ve atıklardan elektrik enerjisi üretim oranları
(Kaynak: TÜİK Sürdürülebilir Kalkınma Göstergeleri, 7.2.1)

b) Electricity generation ratio from renewable energy and wastes
(Source: TÜİK Sustainable Development Indicators, 7.2.1)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>(%)</th>
<th>26.4</th>
<th>25.4</th>
<th>27.3</th>
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<th>21.0</th>
<th>32.2</th>
<th>33.2</th>
<th>29.6</th>
<th>32.4</th>
<th>43.9</th>
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1. Çevre ve İlgili Göstergeler

1.1 Sürdürülebilir ve Kapsayıcı Kentsel Refah ve Herkes için Fırsatlar

1.1.1 Kapsayıcı Kent Ekonomisi

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<td>NUA Monitoring Framework and Related Indicators</td>
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<td>1.2 Sustainable and Inclusive Urban Prosperity and Opportunities for All</td>
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<tr>
<td>Proportion of youth (aged 15-24 years) not in employment, education or training</td>
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<td>(%)</td>
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<td>4.5(%)</td>
<td>1.9(%)</td>
<td>5.6(%)</td>
<td>-0.4(%)</td>
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<td>1.1(%)</td>
<td>3.7(%)</td>
<td>1.0(%)</td>
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<td>(Kaynak: TÜİK Sürdürülebilir Kalkınma Göstergeleri, 8.2.1)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Annual growth rate of real gross domestic product (GDP) per employed person</td>
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<td>(%)</td>
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<td>15-19</td>
<td>23.7 22.8 23.3 22.3 24.3 22.0 21.0 19.7 20.5 21.2</td>
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<td>20-24</td>
<td>22.9 23.2 22.7 22.5 22.0 21.1 21.2 19.9 21.2 21.6</td>
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1.2.2 Herkes için Sürdürülebilir Refah
1.2.2 Sustainable Prosperity for All

1.2.2.1 KentSEL ekonominin çeşitlendirilmesi ile kültürel ve yaratıcı endüstrilerin teşvik edilmesi
1.2.2.1 Diversify the urban economy and promote cultural and creative industries

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<thead>
<tr>
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<th>18.7</th>
<th>18.1</th>
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İmalat istihdamının toplam istihdam içindeki oranını (%)
Manufacturing employment as a proportion of total employment (%)
<table>
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<tr>
<th>Şehirlerdeki ince partikül maddelerin (PM10) yıllık ortalama seviyeleri (Kaynak: TÜİK Sürdürülebilir Kalkınma Göstergeleri, 11.6.2)</th>
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<td>Afyon</td>
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<td>Ağrı</td>
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<td>Aksaray</td>
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</table>

*Şehirlerdeki ince partikül maddelerin (PM2.5) yıllık ortalama seviyeleri*
*Annual mean levels of fine particulate matter (PM2.5) in provinces*
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<th>Value</th>
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<td>Bartın</td>
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<th>Yurt içi madde tüketimi (Milyon ton)</th>
<th>Kişi başına yurt içi madde tüketimi (Ton/Kişi)</th>
<th>GSYH başına yurt içi madde tüketimi (Kg/ABD $)</th>
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1.3.2.2 Kaynakların korunması ve atıkların azaltılması, yeniden kullanımı ve geri dönüşümün teşviki

1.3.2.2.1 Strengthen the sustainable management of natural resources in urban areas

Yurt içi madde tüketimi, kişi başına yurt içi madde tüketimi ve gayrisafi yurt içi hasıla (GSYH) başına yurt içi madde tüketimi

(Kaynak: TÜİK Sürdürülebilir Kalkınma Göstergeleri, 8.4.2)
b) Arıtılmış endüstriyel atıksu oranı
b) Proportion of industrial wastewater safely treated

Yurt içi madde tüketimi, kişi başına yurt içi madde tüketimi ve gayrisafi yurt içi (GSYH) başına yurt içi madde tüketimi
(Kaynak: TÜİK Sürdürülebilir Kalkınma Göstergeleri, 8.4.2)
Domestic material consumption, domestic material consumption per capita and domestic material consumption per gross domestic product (GDP)
(Source: TURKSTAT Sustainable Development Indicators, 8.4.2)

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<td>(Ton/Kişi)</td>
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Düzenli olarak toplanan ve uygun nihai işlem uygulanan katı atıkların toplam katı atıklara oranı
(Kaynak: TÜİK Sürdürülebilir Kalkınma Göstergeleri, 11.6.1)
Proportion of solid waste regularly collected and with adequate final discharge out of total solid waste generated
(Source: TURKSTAT Sustainable Development Indicators, 11.6.1)

İller ilçebiri - by cities

Adana | - | - | - | - | 87.3 | - | 99.5 | - | 99.6 |
Adıyaman | - | - | - | - | 0.0 | - | 0 | - | 1.1 |
Afyonkarahisar | - | - | - | - | 82.6 | - | 73.2 | - | 75.8 |
Ağrı | - | - | - | - | 0.0 | - | 0 | - | 5 |
Aksaray | - | - | - | - | 73.6 | - | 90.7 | - | 91.6 |
Amasya | - | - | - | - | 74.0 | - | 97.7 | - | 98 |
Ankara | - | - | - | - | 87.7 | - | 89.9 | - | 96 |
Antalya | - | - | - | - | 81.6 | - | 88.6 | - | 89.4 |
Arıdah | - | - | - | - | 0.0 | - | 0 | - | 0 |
Artvin | - | - | - | - | 0.0 | - | 2.3 | - | 2.5 |
Aydın | - | - | - | - | 60.7 | - | 54.4 | - | 69.7 |
Balikesir | - | - | - | - | 20.2 | - | 31.4 | - | 68.6 |
Bartın | - | - | - | - | 0.0 | - | 3.9 | - | 7.5 |
Batman | - | - | - | - | 0.0 | - | 1.3 | - | 0 |
Bayburt | - | - | - | - | 74.5 | - | 82.5 | - | 91 |
Bilecik | - | - | - | - | 0.0 | - | 3.9 | - | 14.6 |
Bingöl | - | - | - | - | 74.3 | - | 89.2 | - | 88 |
Bittlis | - | - | - | - | 51.4 | - | 58.6 | - | 60.3 |
Bolu | - | - | - | - | 55.2 | - | 62.5 | - | 64.3 |
Burdur | - | - | - | - | 0.0 | - | 10.4 | - | 9.4 |
Bursa | - | - | - | - | 95.3 | - | 98.3 | - | 98.7 |

Düzenli olarak toplanan ve uygun nihai işlem uygulanan katı atıkların toplam katı atıklara oranı
(Kaynak: TÜİK Sürdürülebilir Kalkınma Göstergeleri, 11.6.1)
Proportion of solid waste regularly collected and with adequate final discharge out of total solid waste generated
(Source: TURKSTAT Sustainable Development Indicators, 11.6.1)
Çanakkale  & - & - & - & 37.5 & - & 43.7 & - & 47.9 & -  
Çanır  & - & - & - & 54.6 & - & 0 & - & 53.7 & -  
Çorum  & - & - & - & 0.0 & - & 4.9 & - & 77.3 & -  
Denizli  & - & - & - & 56.6 & - & 62.2 & - & 63.8 & -  
Diyarbakır  & - & - & - & 0.0 & - & 2.3 & - & 2.3 & -  
Düzce  & - & - & - & 0.0 & - & 0 & - & 0 & -  
Edirne  & - & - & - & 0.0 & - & 21.2 & - & 77.9 & -  
Elazığ  & - & - & - & 84.9 & - & 85.7 & - & 73.8 & -  
Erzincan  & - & - & - & 82.4 & - & 82.7 & - & 82.9 & -  
Erzurum  & - & - & - & 45.7 & - & 58.8 & - & 57.7 & -  
Eskişehir  & - & - & - & 81.2 & - & 87.8 & - & 85.7 & -  
Gaziantep  & - & - & - & 85.8 & - & 86.6 & - & 99.7 & -  
Giresun  & - & - & - & 0.0 & - & 0 & - & 80.1 & -  
Gümüşhane  & - & - & - & 12.0 & - & 42.3 & - & 65 & -  
Hakkari  & - & - & - & 0.0 & - & 0 & - & 0 & -  
Hatay  & - & - & - & 58.7 & - & 98.6 & - & 99.7 & -  
Iğdır  & - & - & - & 59.6 & - & 78.2 & - & 75 & -  
Isparta  & - & - & - & 74.7 & - & 76.4 & - & 75.2 & -  
İstanbul  & - & - & - & 99.9 & - & 100 & - & 100 & -  
İzmir  & - & - & - & 78.3 & - & 93.9 & - & 93.4 & -  
Kahramanmaraş  & - & - & - & 47.5 & - & 73 & - & 73.3 & -  
Karabük  & - & - & - & 0.0 & - & 0.6 & - & 8.1 & -  
Karaman  & - & - & - & 80.0 & - & 80.3 & - & 80 & -  
Kars  & - & - & - & 0.0 & - & 0 & - & 0 & -  
Kastamonu  & - & - & - & 0.0 & - & 81.9 & - & 96.3 & -  
Kayseri  & - & - & - & 0.0 & - & 73.2 & - & 77.5 & -  
Kırıkkale  & - & - & - & 85.0 & - & 88.6 & - & 89.6 & -  
Kırklareli  & - & - & - & 23.7 & - & 28.3 & - & 38.3 & -  
Kırşehir  & - & - & - & 54.1 & - & 62.1 & - & 65.6 & -  
Kilis  & - & - & - & 95.4 & - & 98.9 & - & 98.1 & -  
Kocaeli  & - & - & - & 100.0 & - & 100 & - & 100 & -  
Konya  & - & - & - & 5.1 & - & 11.1 & - & 17.2 & -  
Kütahya  & - & - & - & 69.8 & - & 91.1 & - & 94 & -  
Malatya  & - & - & - & 0.0 & - & 3.1 & - & 78.9 & -  
Manisa  & - & - & - & 0.0 & - & 4.4 & - & 52.8 & -  
Mardin  & - & - & - & 57.2 & - & 45.6 & - & 55 & -  
Mersin  & - & - & - & 63.2 & - & 65.7 & - & 86.7 & -  
Muğla  & - & - & - & 32.1 & - & 38.1 & - & 48.7 & -  
Muş  & - & - & - & 1.8 & - & 0 & - & 21 & -  
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Niğde  & - & - & - & 54.9 & - & 67.3 & - & 76.2 & -  
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Kişi başına üretilen tehlikeli atık miktarı (mineral atıklar hariç) (Kaynak: TÜİK Sürdürülebilir Kalkınma Göstergeleri, 12.4.2) (Source: TURKSTAT Sustainable Development Indicators, 12.4.2) (Kg/Kişi) (Kg/Per capita) 12,5(1) - 10,6(1) - 12,5(1) - 15,2(1) - 36,7(1) -

Atıksu arıtma tesisleri ile hizmet verilen belediye nüfusunun toplam nüfusa oranı (Kaynak: TÜİK Belediye Atıksu İstatistikleri) (Source: TURKSTAT Municipal Wastewater Indicators) (%) - 58.0 - 64.0 - 70.2 - 74.5 -
2.1 Kentsel Yönetişim Yapısının Oluşturulması: Destekleyici Bir Çerçeve Oluşturulması
2.1 Building the Urban Governance Structure: Establishing a Supportive Framework

2.1.6 Kadınların her alanda ve her düzeyde karar alma mekanizmalarına tam katılımının sağlanması
2.1.6 Achieve women’s full participation in all fields and all levels of decision-making

a) Seçilme yetenekli olup gençlerin Türkiye Büyük Millet Meclisi’nde (TBMM) temsiliyet durumu(13)
(Kaynak: TÜİK Sürdürülebilir Kalkınma Göstergeleri, 16.7.1) (Sayı: (Number) %)
- 28.4 - - - - 29.8 -
(Source: TÜRKSTAT Sustainable Development Indicators, 16.7.1)

b) Seçilme yetenekli olup kadınların Türkiye Büyük Millet Meclisi’nde (TBMM) temsiliyet durumu(13)
(Kaynak: TÜİK Sürdürülebilir Kalkınma Göstergeleri, 16.7.1) (Sayı: (Number) %)
- 0.28 - - - - 0.34 -
(Source: TÜRKSTAT Sustainable Development Indicators, 16.7.1)

Türkiye Büyük Millet Meclisi ve yerel yönetimlerdeki kadınların sandalye oranı
(Kaynak: Sürdürülebilir Kalkınma Göstergeleri, 5.5.1) (Proportion of seats held by women in The Grand National Assembly of Turkey and local governments (Source: TURKSTAT Sustainable Development Indicators, 5.5.1))

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Yöneticilik pozisyonlarından kadınların oranı(800) (Kaynak: Sürdürülebilir Kalkınma Göstergeleri, 5.5.2) (Proportion of women in managerial positions (Source: TURKSTAT Sustainable Development Indicators, 5.5.2))

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Kültürün imar planlamının öncelikli bir bileşeni olarak dâhil

Kişi başı kültürel ve doğal miras (kamu) harcaması (in terms of PPP)

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**2.2 Kentsel Mekânsal Gelişimin Planlanması ve Yönetilmesi**

2.2 Planning and Managing Urban Spatial Development

2.2.3 Kültürün imar planlamının öncelikli bir bileşeni olarak dâhil

Kişi başı kültürel ve doğal miras (kamu) harcaması (satın alma gücü paritesi cinsinden)

( kaynak: Sürdürülebilir Kalkınma Göstergeler, 11.4.1)

Total per capita public expenditure for cultural and natural heritage (in terms of PPP)

( Source: TURKSTAT Sustainable Development Indicators, 11.4.1)

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**2.2.7 Motorsuz seçenekler dâhil olmak üzere sürdürülebilir çok modlu toplu taşıma sistemlerinin uygulanması**

2.2.7 Implement sustainable multimodal public transport systems including non-motorized options

a) Toplu taşıma araçlarına kolay erişimi olan nüfusun oranı

Proportion of population that has convenient access to public transport

( kaynak: TÜİK Sürdürülebilir Kalkınma Göstergeleri, 11.2.1)

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b) İliere göre toplu taşıma araçlarına kolay erişimi olan nüfusun oranı

Population that has convenient access to public transport by cities

( kaynak: TÜİK Sürdürülebilir Kalkınma Göstergeleri, 11.2.1)

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İlgili veri revize edilmiştir.

- Bilgi yoktur.
- Denotes magnitude null.

Küresel gösterge mevcut olmadığından yerine ikame kullanılmıştır.

- Since the global indicator is not available, proxy is used instead.

2015 yılı değeri 1 Kasım 2015 seçim sonuçlarına göre verilmiştir.

- The year 2015 is given according to the election results of 1 November 2015.

Yerel yönetimlerdeki kadınların sandalye oranı, İl Genel Meclis Üyeliği, Büyükşehir Belediye Başkanlığı, Belediye Başkanlığı ve Belediye Meclis Üyeliği seçimlerinin toplamından oran olarak hesaplanmıştır.

- The ratio of the seats of the women in the local administrations was calculated as a proportion from the sum of "Provincial General Assembly Members, Metropolitan Municipality, Municipality and Municipal Assembly Members".

2014 yılından itibaren yapılan yeni düzenlemeler nedeniyle seriler önceki yıllara karşılaştırılabilir değildir.

- Series are not comparable with the previous years due to the new arrangements made since 2014.

Yönetici pozisyonundaki kadınların orannının genel değeri tüm sektörleri içermektedir.

- The general value of proportion of women in managerial positions includes all sectors.

Milletvekili seçilme yaşı 2016 ylına kadar 25 yaş ve 2017 yılından itibaren 18 yaş olduğundan, seçilme yetenekleri bu yaşlar dikkate alınarak hesaplanmıştır.

- Since the age to be elected as a deputy is 25 years old until 2016 and 18 years old since 2017, the eligibility to be elected is calculated based on these ages.