

ISTANBUL ON THE PATH TO EU TOWN TWINNING FORM

Important Note: This form is jointly prepared by district governorate and municipality.

THE TOWN OF BAĞCILAR	
Number of Inhabitants: 749.000	
Name of Representative (District Governor and/or mayor): District Governor Erdal ÇAKIR, Mayor Lokman ÇAĞIRICI	
Websites of district governorate and/or municipality: http://www.bagcilar.gov.tr - http://www.bagcilar.bel.tr	
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Please insert a map of your town



MAIN CHARACTERISTICS (GEOGRAPHICAL LOCATION, HISTORY....)

Bağcılar is on Europe-Asia side which is on Europe side in metropolitan municipality borders. Bağcılar township is like a corridor in most important motorway E-80 (TEM) with 0-2 route and D-100 motorway of this route between southwest and north-east express crossband between way of Edirne-Ankara. Bağcılar has 22 km² zone.

Bağcılar is one of the villages of Sub-district of Mahmutbey, where Greek lived under the rule of Ottoman Empire. The Sub-district of Mahmutbey is one of the oldest settlements of İstanbul. According to Statistical Directorship of Municipality of İstanbul's, the names of six of these villages are as follows: Kirazlı, Esenler; Güngören, Kayabaşı and Kocasınan. The Sub-district of Mahmutbey had a village mansion including gendarme station, health centre, pharmacy, post office, electrical union, cinema, guesthouse, village chief and flats for school directorship in 1950s. Bağcılar was a dependent settlement until 1992. By the unification of Kirazlı, Güneşli and Mahmutbey, and by the law numbered 3806, Bağcılar became a permanent municipality and district. Although Bağcılar is a very weak district as having historical traces, it is possible to find some certain traces.

- Fountain of Kaşıkçı
- Fountain of Çifte Gelinler
- Tavukçu Bridge
- Aqueducts
- Historical Silk Way

ECONOMIC SITUATION

Bağcılar has an important role in the economy of the country with its main business areas such as İSTOÇ, MASSİT and OTO CENTER . A substantial part of the press and media sector as well as textile and shoemaking sectors are active in our district. However, the textile sectors are needed to be improved.

PROVIDED SERVICES

There exists education campaign, youth activities, cultural works, social approaches, environmental awareness, European Union projects, national and international programs. The most of the projects are performed with NGOs.

ONGOING PROJECTS

Bağcılar district was established 20 years ago. Since that year Bağcılar Municipality organized many educational projects and events. Municipality still undertakes many Projects for especially people with disability, women, children and unemployed youngs.

There are short information about projects and works written below;

- Every Home A Kindergarten" To Raise Awareness And Provide Information On Pre-School Education
- Pipe Welding Vocational Course
- Vocational Course For Cooling And Air-Conditioning Maintenance Staff
- Dialogue Between Municipalities For The Urban Adjustment Of Immigrant Families
- I Choose My Occupation Project - www.meslegimiseciyorum.info
- Academy Of People With Disability Project. - www.bagcilarengellilerakademisi.com
- Unobstructed Education Project - www.bagcilarengelsizegitimprojesi.com
- Orphan Children Project - www.bagcilar.gov.tr
- 7 Colour Meets With 8th Colour Project
- It Is Never Too Late To Learn EU Project .- www.aslagedegil.info
- My Talent Is My Future Project - www.yetenegimelecegim.info

TOWN TWINNING EXPERIENCES

Bağcılar district has signed 13 international sister city protocols since 1992. These cities are;

Germany Hamm Metropolitan Municipality, the Municipality of Buzi Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bosnia and Herzegovina Djelic Municipality, Palestine, Deir Al-Balah Municipality, the Municipality buy in Kazakhstan, Kazakhstan, Shymkent Municipality, the Municipality of Northern Cyprus soldier, Alayköy Nicosia Municipality, the Municipality of Poland Lublin, Poland Kasian Municipality, the Municipality of Berat in Albania, Pakistan Muzaffargarh Municipality, the Municipality of Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan. Some of project have been made with these cities. These are;

- 7 Colour meets with 8th colour.
- Ramadan Meetings
- International Hoca Ahmet Yasawi Symposium.
- International Alija Izetbegovic Symposium
- International Balkan Wars Symposium

SITUATION ANALYSIS

PROBLEM AREAS

Bağcılar district was established by incoming immigrations from Anatolia and Balkans. Immigration phenomenon brings along problems of adaptation to the city life. Many studies are conducted at Town level by Municipality and District Governorate using national and international sources in order to eliminate adaptation problems. However, in spite of participation of society, such studies can be insufficient due to non-stopping immigration. We can set example of continuously incoming requests for reading-writing educations although such courses are provided for immigrants every year at town level.

Another problem is unplanned urbanization due to immigration and associated problems. Although there are intense studies for city planning, there is continues need for planned urbanization.

AREAS OF STRENGTH

The dominant Anatolian culture in Bağcılar district allows efficient cultural and social studies. Hosting international symposiums and workshops, Bağcılar has a valuable knowledge and experience in that field.

Low socio-economical status in town leads to increase in occupational education studies. Many people are reached by occupational educations provided especially for women and young unemployed people. They are employed after completing their occupational educations.

Many nationally and internationally resourced projects were implemented for occupational rehabilitation of 13.000 handicapped people living in the town, so that many handicapped people and their families could be reached.

Bağcılar district has developed many activities for children, therefore it has the title of “Children Friendly City”. Children are improved and developed by continuing social and cultural studies implemented for pre-school and during school period.

Nostalgic gardens built within the town carry an important study status in terms of creating environmental awareness.

POTENTIAL AREAS OF COOPERATION

Bağcılar District of governorate and local municipality seeks for potential partners in the following areas to work on joint projects to exchange technical expertise and knowledge.

Areas of Cooperation		Areas of Cooperation	
Environment-Environment Protection		Tourism	
Urban Transportation		Citizen Participation	
Social Services	X	Local Social and Economic Development	
City Branding		Urban Planning	X
Energy Efficiency		Implementation of EU Projects	
Culture	X	Other	X

Remarks (Information on Areas of Cooperation)



Having 1% of Turkey's overall population with its 749.000 people, Bağcılar district has a mixed culture by intense immigration from Anatolia and Balkans. The district continuously improves both economically and socially since it was established in 1992. Hence the people of Bağcılar embraces of all kinds of social and cultural activities due to socio-cultural structure of the population, the number and quality of the services has been increasing.

Many fellowship protocols were signed with many other towns both in and out of country at this point. Such fellowship protocols signed with fellow towns in and out of country are not only on a paper, but also intense and effective studies are implemented after these protocols. Joint programs such as education, culture art, science, mutual experience sharing and many other fields are implemented continuously with participation of fellow towns. Great attention is paid for implementation of programs with active participation and providing positive contribution for both cities.

Model studies for other institutions and organizations shall be developed within the scope of Bağcılar District Governorate and Bağcılar Municipality City Twinning Program using their equipped human resources, strong financial structure, project development, application and dissemination capacities. Bağcılar town coming into prominence especially by its art, music, culture and sports studies for disadvantaged people (handicapped, children, Old, Addictive, Young, Women) among other towns. These activities carry Bağcılar Town to a complete different level in order to share its knowledge and experience in the identified fields with its existing and future fellow cities as a part of City Twinning Project.

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