

ISTANBUL ON THE PATH TO EU TOWN TWINNING FORM

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

THE DISTRICT OF BEYOĞLU	
Number of Inhabitants: 248.084	
Name of Representative (District Governor and/or mayor): District Governor Osman Ekşi Mayor Ahmet Misbah Demircan	
Websites of district governorate and/or municipality: www.beyoglu.gov.tr / http://www.beyoglu.bel.tr	
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Please insert a map of your town



Beyoglu District



İstiklal Street

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

Beyoğlu is one of the most important cultural, artistic, touristic and historical center of Istanbul with its' historical monuments, cultural centers, art galleries, cafes and restaurants. Each day there are more than 1 million people passing by the street of Istiklal.

Beyoğlu is a district located on the European side of Istanbul, separated from the old city by the Golden Horn. The district encompasses other neighborhoods located north of the Golden Horn, including Galata, Tophane, Cihangir, Şişhane, Tepebaşı, Tarlabası, Dolapdere and Kasımpaşa, and is connected to the old city center across the Golden Horn through the Galata Bridge and Unkapanı Bridge. Beyoğlu is the most active art, entertainment and night life centre of Istanbul.

During the 19th century, it was home for many European traders, and housed many embassies, especially along the Grande Rue de Péra (today Istiklal Avenue). Beyoğlu has always been a very international area as in the history as well, the area was the first place to host all the international guests coming to the cities. The Péra Hotel which takes place in our district has at that time as well the reputation to host very known guests from different countries. Beyoğlu was in the old times as well the center of the culture and entertainment center. The premières of many operas and balets were taking place within this part of Istanbul. At that period, Beyoğlu was not only the center of cultural attraction of Europe but as well an important trade center. Very known persons such as Liszt, the father of Jean Jacques Rousseau, Garibaldi lived in this area.

Beyoğlu was one of the first parts of Istanbul to have telephone lines, electricity, trams, municipal government and even an underground railway, the Tünel, inaugurated in 1875 as the world's second subway line (after London's Underground) to carry the people of Pera up and down from the port of Galata and the nearby business and banking district of Karaköy, where the Bankalar Caddesi-Banks Street, the financial center of the Ottoman Empire is located. The theatre, cinema, patisserie and café culture that still remains strong in Beyoğlu dates from this late Ottoman period. Shops like "İnci", famous for its chocolate mousse and profiteroles, predate the founding of the Republic and still survive today.

The main street of Beyoğlu, Istiklal Caddesi, from Taksim Square, is a pedestrian street where many General Consulates take place and shops, cafes, patisseries, restaurants, pubs, wine houses and clubs, as well as bookshops, theatres, cinemas, art galleries and cultural centers are located. Beyoğlu and Istiklal Street has a 19th century metropolitan character and the avenue is lined with Neoclassical and Art Nouveau buildings with very unique buildings. The first Art Nouveau style building which took its place within the architecture literature is on Istiklal Street. The nostalgic tram which runs on Istiklal Avenue, between Taksim Square and Tünel was re-installed in the early 1990s with the aim of reviving the historic atmosphere of the district.

Beyoğlu is a very vibrant cultural center, where the majority of cultural creative industries are located such as; Istanbul Modern Museum, Pera Museum, Koç Museum, Doğançay Museum, TURVAK Cinema Museum, SALT Art Gallery, Arter Gallery and many other culture and artistic entities and research centers.

ECONOMIC SITUATION

The district of Beyoğlu is the one of the most attractive cultural, historical and touristic districts in Istanbul. There are more than 1 million people passing by the street of Istanbul such a circulation, citizens coming from different areas of Istanbul and this area is always in the trendiest place for the Istanbulites. It is one of the culture, entertainment and business center of Istanbul where all the cultural industries are located. The tourism and hotel management, merchandising, food and beverage sector are very developed in Beyoğlu. Beyoğlu is getting more and more popular every day.

Beyoğlu holds the 50% touristic capacity of Istanbul, with 5 star hotels, residences, fashion design ateliers, offices, and restaurants. There is an active commercial life. As Beyoğlu welcomes a very important number of tourists an area in Beyoğlu has been organised as “hotels islands area”. During the last 10 years the number of bed capacity has been increased from 3.000 to 20.000 beds. The investments in all these areas are very active, new cultural entities are opened, old buildings and areas a being renovated and restored within the scope of urban restoration projects. It is not a financial center in itself, but still an active business center with 116 bank branches, 13 unions and 14 878 registered offices. Companies are mostly located around Taksim, Gümüşsuyu and Banks Street in Karaköy.

Haliç naval shipbuilding yard is located in Beyoğlu as well. Haliç naval shipbuilding was the second shipbuilding yard of the world in the 16th Century. In the 19th Century with the industrial revolution, the cost of Haliç was determined as an industrial area where these old historical industrial monuments are restored and transformed in other spaces, such as cultural spaces. The ateliers or small factories in Kasımpaşa or Hasköy which were located in this area are not active anymore.

The urban transformation is an important subject in Beyoğlu. Some of the quarters are totally renovated and restored.

Beyoğlu District is an important model for the other districts of Istanbul in the fields of culture, entertainment and business. Beyoğlu Municipality is very active and implement different projects in order to increase the economic growth of the area and to solve the problems of the district such as the population growth, unemployment, insufficiency of infrastructure, environment problems.

Beyoğlu is the center of the cultural creative industry, tourism, art, culture and the Municipality has the aim to revive this identity and transform it to a plus value for the citizens of this district.

PROVIDED SERVICES

Beyoğlu Municipality is the first municipality in Turkey which has many unique and exemplary projects. Beyoğlu Municipality fulfils the main responsibilities of a local government and undertakes meticulously activities such as; social services and aid, health, youth, urban planning, culture, among other things environment, adult education, social integration and employment. Beyoğlu is one of the pioneer districts with many “best practice” projects.

Beyoğlu Municipality has established;

Municipal Youth Center was established in 2006 in order to enhance the cultural, social and personal development of young people between the ages of 15 to 30 who live within the borders of Beyoğlu. There are many activities in many fields (art, culture, conferences) provided for free for the youngsters within the center.

Many Youth Projects; international exchange projects, Beyoğlu Kefken Summer Camp for youngsters.

Employment Career Center which has been recently established in order to bring together the employers and the employees within the districts.

Beyoğlu Turabibaba Library; Beyoğlu Municipality has established a municipal children library which has received in 2011 the best children library award in Turkey and which has become twin library with Dortmund Children Library in Dortmund, Germany.

International Cooperations; International Cooperation are very important for Beyoğlu which has approximately 12 twin cities from different countries.

Municipal District Mansions; There are 14 district mansions (equivalent of social complexes in Europe but with many extra services) in total in the area in order to provide services to women, to their children and needy people of the area. There are many different services provided under the district mansions; vocational training classes for adults and housewives, classes for children (ages between 7-13), health services, post office services, kindergardens, workshops and social markets. Beyoğlu Municipality conducts various studies oriented to the education needs of the local community with a lifelong learning approach.

Beyoğlu Social Market; This system of social aid has been established within the context foodbanking system, where the needy citizens have the opportunity to shop (clothes or food) with the intermediary of an electronic shopping card provided to needy families according specific criterias by the Municipality.

ONGOING PROJECTS

IDA Integration and Youth Exchange Project 2009-2013

Funded by: EU(Youth in Action) and Official Bodies of Germany

Partners: Dortmund/Germany, Beyoğlu /Turkey & Heerlen/The Netherlands

The project aims at giving the opportunity to problematic and unwilling young people between the age of 16-25 to take part in a vocational education and training, in order to obtain a diploma, and prepare them to life in a long term. There are many projects which provide the chances to go abroad and be part of a vocational training education, but not for the ones who did not had the opportunity to have any diploma. Within the scope of this project, youngs had the chance to learn a profession, communicate with young people of their age from different country, to participate together in trainings and visit different countries. As a result of the project 6 camp period realized in Kefken, 6 camp period realized in Heerlen and 3 transnational camp period realized in Germany and totally 15 camp periods realized during 3 years. 5 Camp periods will be realized in 2013.

LOGO! EUROPE LOCALS GO EUROPE 2012-2013

Funded by: EU Leonardo Da Vinci Mobility Project

Koordinatör: Bezirksamt Tempelhof-Schöneberg von Berlin

Partners: 1 Districts of Berlin, Beyoğlu, Bozen/Bolzano-Italy, Brüksel, Frankreich/Paris, Stettin/Poland, Liverpool/UK, Amstelveen/The Netherlands

The experts who are working for the 12 local governments of Berlin visit Beyoğlu Municipality, learn about the different departments and make visit to the directorate for culture and education, urban development social aid during a month. A program is scheduled for the team joining the Municipality during one month.

EU CRAFT 2011-2013

Coordinator: Beyoğlu Municipality

Partners: Bilgi University, National Education Directorate of Beyoğlu

Within the scope of this project, Beyoğlu Municipal Youth Center organises briefing seminars and trainings on the European Integration process for the 10th class high school students of Beyoğlu district with the cooperation of Istanbul Bilgi University.

YOUNGSTERS OF BEYOĞLU ARE TRAVELLING ALL AROUND THE WORLD

Beyoğlu Municipality has been organising exchange programs for youngsters of Beyoğlu to foreign countries since 2004 every summer. 1350 youngsters have travelled to different countries during 9 years within the scope of these exchanges.

THE VISITED COUNTRIES: Germany-Dortmund, Berlin, Dusseldorf; Morocco, Tunisia, Bulgaria, Macedonia, Greece, Romania, Ukraine, Austria, Hungary, Georgia, France, Belgium, Spain, Italy, Turkey - Antalya, Rize

INTERCULTURAL ART DIALOGUES FESTIVAL

Coordinator: Beyoğlu Municipality, Culture City Foundation

Sponsorship by: Turkcell in 2012 / Istanbul 2010 European Capital of Culture in 2010

Beyoğlu Municipality has been organising Intercultural Art Dialogues Festival for three years. Every year many participants from different continents such as Europe, Asia, Africa, North and South America participate to the festival with their projects on both plastic and performing arts.

BEYOĞLU ANTIQUARIAN BOOK FESTIVAL

Coordinator: Beyoğlu Municipality, Culture City Foundation



Beyoğlu Antiquarian Book Festival which is organised every year by Beyoğlu Municipality in collaboration with the Ministry of Culture and Tourism since 2006, in order to support and keep alive the antiquarian books tradition. Every year 65 second-hand book sellers participates to the festival which takes place in Tepebaşı.

GOLDEN HANDS TRADITIONAL HANDICRAFTS DAYS

Coordinator: Beyoğlu Belediyesi, Kültür Kenti Vakfı

Partner: The Ministry of Culture and Tourism

“International Golden Hands Festival” is one of the festivals that Beyoglu Municipality organises every year in cooperation with the Ministry of Culture and Tourism. The handicrafts festival is held with approximatively 80 artisans’ participation from different provinces and countries. During this festival, the handicrafts are showed for a period of 10 days and the masters of art and apprentices had the opportunity to demonstrate their skills and products. This festival revitalizes the Traditional Turkish Handicraft that remains in history, all colors, shapes and patterns of artistic demonstrated in an enchanting way. During the festival, besides the show of the handcratfs, live performances take place.

TOWN TWINNING EXPERIENCES

Beyoğlu Municipality which gives much importance to international relations, collaborates with many cities from different countries and establishes oartnerships in order to share good practices, collaborate and learn from each other best practices. Beyoğlu, one of the most important cultural, historical, international and multicultural districts of Istanbul has been implementing many different projects with its current twin cities and is looking for enthusiastically to establish and strengthen new relations and cooperations in order to contribute to its district and citizens development.

Beyoğlu has very strong international relations and intercultural cooperation policies with many different cities from different countries. Especially during the last three years, Beyoğlu has increased it’s international relations and signed twin town agreements with different cities.

The twin towns of Beyoğlu are; Skopje Centar Municipality from Macedonia, City of Mannheim from Germany, Seoul-Seongbukgu Municipality from South Korea, Morocco - Sidi Bernossi Municipality from Morocco, City of Ilichevsk from Ukraine, City of Benal Madena from Spain, City of Pécs from Hungary, City of Dortmund from Germany, Berlin-Mitte Municipality from Germany, Brussels-Schaerbeek Municipality from Belgium. Besides in 2 months time City of Bucharest from Romania, City of Tozeur from Tunisia and City of Genoa from Italy will also be the twin town of Beyoğlu.

SITUATION ANALYSIS

PROBLEM AREAS

Despite being the cultural and artistic center of İstanbul, Beyoğlu has as well areas issued from immigration. Problems as unemployment, housing, urban planning are being resolved with different social projects implemented by the Municipality.

Urban regenerations are carried within the district in order to have better places to live, more green areas and better housings for citizens. Several works are realised for the infrastructural problems.

A “Career Center” has been established to resolve the unemployment problems.

The vision of Beyoğlu Municipality is to conserve the district’s cultural heritage, to build a liveable and unique district; the center of the global world, modern art, entertainment and business.

AREAS OF STRENGTH

Beyoğlu is the “center of attraction of İstanbul” with its multicultural heritage and cultural aspects. It is one of the most touristic districts of the city with the art galleries, museums, cafes and bars located in its borders. It is a very modern and cosmopolitan district, with history which makes the district attractive and mysterious. Beyoğlu has a young and dynamic population which will enable the realization of many youth projects. Culture and tourism will be a very strong point.

POTENTIAL AREAS OF COOPERATION

Beyoğlu district governorate and 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	X
Urban Transportation		Citizen Participation	
Social Services	X	Local Social and Economic Development	X
City Branding	X	Urban Planning	X
Energy Efficiency		Implementation of EU Projects	X
Culture	X	Other	

Remarks (Information on Areas of Cooperation)

Beyoğlu is one of the pioneer districts on art, culture and tourism of İstanbul. The biggest part of the art industry is operated in Beyoğlu district. Beyoğlu Municipality is planning its services according to the needs of the district and the residents and realizing various projects on the topics that are indicated above.

Within the scope of *Istanbul on the Path to EU Town Twinning Program* District Governorate of Beyoğlu and Beyoğlu Municipality would like to cooperate with the partners on the topics crossed.



Beyoğlu Municipality has many best practices on the themes below and is capable to develop projects in collaboration.

City Branding

On this theme many common projects can be realized and developed in Beyoğlu. Beyoğlu Municipality is conducting Brand Cities Academy Masters Program in collaboration with Culture City Foundation and Istanbul Aydın University. Within the framework of this program, some academic lectures can be developed on City Branding. There can be cooperations with the cities who are successful and experienced on this topic.

Culture

There can be cooperations and partnerships within the scope of the international festivals of Beyoğlu Municipality. Multicultural events, art and culture projects can be developed in collaboration with Beyoğlu Municipal Art Galleries and Beyoğlu Municipal Youth Center. Creative art and industry centers and institutions can be gathered in some of the projects.

Tourism

A tourism bridge can be built between the tourism center Beyoğlu and with different partner cities. Various cooperations can be coordinated and developed between the tourism agencies and institutions. City Promotion Days can be organised with the partners.

Implementation of EU Projects

Youth Exchange projects can be developed and added to the ongoing EU youth projects of Beyoğlu. Various youth projects can be developed by including Beyoğlu Municipality Kefken Summer Camp and Beyoğlu Municipal Youth Center.

Social Services (women, disadvantaged, children and youngsters)

Local Social and Economic Development

Beyoğlu Municipality has 13 district mansions in different neighbourhoods. In these District Mansions there are many services for the children and women. Projects on strengthening the services of the mansions or new projects in collaboration with the partners can be developed. Projects can be developed on Social Market services of the municipality as well.

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