

ISTANBUL ON THE PATH TO EU TOWN TWINNING FORM

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

THE TOWN OF MALTEPE	
Number of Inhabitants: 452099	
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Please insert a map of your town



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

Maltepe is a big and well-known seaside district located between Kadikoy and Kartal districts in the southeast of Istanbul. It has a significant locational advantage for connecting Istanbul-Ankara highway and coast roads through its domestic route. District has the longest seaside in Istanbul, nearly 8 km long. Having a fascinating view of Princes' Islands and a ferry port serving these islands strengthen the district's leverage as well. Additionally, Istanbul main railway line pass over the downtown and Istanbul Sabiha Gokcen Airport (SAW) is situated in a close proximity to downtown (27 km). From geographical point of view, Maltepe's intersectional position provides an opportunity to inhabitants and visitors for quick road, railway, sea and airline transportation.

Maltepe's history dates back to Byzantine times. It is told that Maltepe town was called "Bryas" in 9th century. In the history of Ottoman Empire, the district rendered service to Ottoman military as bivouac area. There are still several mosques (Feyzullah Mosque, Başibüyük Mosque) and fountains (Beşçeşmeler, Feyzullah), those reflect classical Ottoman architecture. After the foundation of Turkish Republic, Maltepe municipality was established in 1928. The district of Maltepe town gained more and more importance in due course of time and this growth peaked in 1960 owing to construction of main railway passing through the town. Thus, the settlement development of Maltepe town proceeded to a new stage and population reached almost 450 thousand in 2011.

ECONOMIC SITUATION

The town of Maltepe consists of 802 industrial concerns, 67 cooperatives, 78 branches of several banks and 99 agricultural enterprises (including meat and dairy products). Construction sector associated with the settlement development gave acceleration to economic growth by means of commercial enterprises, small-scale industry and cooperatives over the past years. Being between the two highways bring some opportunities for the financial structure so that the town of Maltepe has a significant advantage for commercial transportation.

Owing to ongoing social projects of Maltepe Municipality (e.g. Art Street and Beşçeşmeler Square), the town of Maltepe begins to be attraction center also for touristic activities. Besides, Küçükyalı archaeological site attracts attention of scientists for the archeological excavations; hence, these studies support touristic features of the town.

PROVIDED SERVICES

Maltepe District Governorate offers several services to inhabitants by 11 departments, such as Editorial Office, District Police Directorate, Social Services and Solidarity Office, Civil Registry Department, Provincial Directorate of National Education, District Health Directorate, Real Estate Registration Department, Religious Affairs Office, Youth and Sports Affairs Office and Social Activities Department.

Maltepe District Governorate achieved a great success in 4 educational projects which focus on social equality, technology use, teacher career development and decrease of grade repetition. Social Services and Solidarity Office provides welfare to those who need social or financial support. In this sense, Maltepe Governorate gave financial aid for 77 earthquake victims; social and judiciary support for 112 women who experiencing domestic violence; scholarship for 910 primary and secondary school students in 2012 (i.e. the total amount of financial support is 1,148,050 Euro).

Maltepe Old Age Asylum offers nursing service to 256 persons who needs care. Maltepe Youth Center provides opportunity to inhabitants for cultural activities such as learning foreign language, playing chess and musical instruments etc. As for cultural services; Maltepe Municipality organizes concerts, symposiums, cultural meetings, festivals, theatre festivals in Türkan Saylan Cultural Centre.

ONGOING PROJECTS

There are two ongoing projects funded by non-EU programmes. The first of these, “New Generation Teacher Leadership Project” is an education project whose main goals are to improve teachers’ instructional and leadership proficiency and offer them a strong in-service training service. The project’s instructional content was developed by Cambridge University, called “Teacher Leadership Programme”. This project is still funded by Turkish Education Foundation (TEV) and JP Morgan.

Another project is called “Three-Step Social Welfare Project”. The project purpose is to facilitate welfare applications without having to come Maltepe Governorate building so that citizens can apply for those by visiting local neighbourhood unit and filling out internet application form in three steps. After neighbourhood unit confirms the form, next procedures are carried out online due to project website.

TOWN TWINNING EXPERIENCES

Maltepe municipality holds mostly social and cultural activities for its current twin cities (Bosna Hersek-Bugayno Municipality). In order to integrate different types of cultures, the town of Maltepe builds workshops and other facilities like:

- Cultural Museums: toy museum, city museum.
- Social Meetings: dance courses, theatre organisations, food and drink workshop organisations, festival organisations, concerts, symposiums, bicycle tour organisations.

SITUATION ANALYSIS

PROBLEM AREAS

In the north part of the district, there are over 20 different types of cultural associations. In fact, these associations reflect the current multicultural social pattern in the town of Maltepe. On the other hand, they have little experience about international projects and so far none of them participated in international projects before. The inexperience of cultural associations in question is one of the most important problem areas in the district. The current situation unfortunately reinforces the closed society features on the subject of cultural activities.

AREAS OF STRENGTH

Maltepe governorate is the main decision maker in the town of Maltepe and it is willing to improve strong relationship with EU cities in order to strengthen nongovernmental organizations based on international project cooperations. Maltepe area includes large number of young people (app. 100,000) so this young population is one of strengths. Thus, the district of Maltepe puts a special stress on social, education and sport projects in its official budget. Furthermore, Maltepe Municipality has two big and favourite cultural centers in Istanbul (i.e. Türkan Saylan and Küçükyalı Cultural Centers).

POTENTIAL AREAS OF COOPERATION

Maltepe 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. (Also specify other areas of specific interest.)

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

Remarks (Information on Areas of Cooperation)

Thanks to twin cities cooperation, Maltepe Governorate and Municipality aim to investigate best practices in the partner city concerned, in return, we intend to present our current management and organizational practices. In this cooperation, the town of Maltepe purposes to take examples of social and cultural activities from its twin city and vice versa. In this way, twin cities will improve the quality of local services; moreover, it is expected that the project results would strengthen partnership of these cities for the next projects. Not only between local management units, but also between nongovernmental social organizations, a new and strong relationships will be promoted in this process.

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