

THE SEVEN KEYS In IZMIR



INTRODUCTION: THE SEVEN KEYS WORKSHOP IN IZMIR

Located on the west coast of Turkey by the Aegean Sea, Izmir belongs to the broader region of Southeast Europe, and is one of the major port cities in the Mediterranean. Izmir province stretches over an area of 12.000 km² and comprises 30 districts, 11 of which are situated in the metropolitan area.

Historically, the port has been at the core of Izmir's identity and the city has long been a hub of dense networks of maritime connections. The port has long facilitated cultural exchanges and served as a nexus where people from different parts of the Mediterranean and Asia met, mixed and inspired each other. Thanks to its favourable geographical location, climate, water resources and fertile lands, the 8500-year-old city has been the home of many civilizations and cultures. Commercial relations developed thanks to the port and this further led to deeper cultural ties. In the course of the eighteenth century, Izmir became the leading Mediterranean port. The town's cultural, religious and linguistic diversity, its openness, and its growing international trade constituted an open society.

Alongside its cultural diversity, the city has impressively high biodiversity. Rural Izmir shelters unique anthropogenic landscapes that reflect a singular harmony between culture and nature. Traditional practices, techniques and ways of living in harmony with nature are vital at a time when biodiversity and cultural diversity are globally threatened.

There are many ancient settlements within the boundaries of present-day Izmir such as Smyrna, Klazomenai, Ephesus and Pergamon. In fact, Pergamon and its multi-layered cultural landscape (2014) and Ephesus (2015) are catalogued in the UNESCO World Heritage List.

Izmir's cultural vision is to evolve into a city of arts, design and innovation, ensuring biodiversity, and eco-friendly production and distribution models. Another aspect of this vision involves developing trans-border relations and making Izmir a node in major city networks by promoting interactions and diversity. Democratic, inclusive, just and sustainable cultural policies are further underlined in the **Declaration of Izmir**, the main output of the UCLG 2021 Culture Summit, under the concept of "Circular Culture".

The Izmir Metropolitan Municipality implemented the "Pilot City" programme of the Committee on Culture of UCLG between 2016-2019. Education, economy and cultural creativity and social inclusion (in line with Culture 21 Actions) were identified as improvable aspects of the local cultural policies by the attendees of first self-assessment practice in 2016.

Upon UCLG's invitation, Izmir started the "**Leading City**" programme in 2020. The programme, which has started with preparatory activities to draw a cultural map of Izmir, continued with collective learning programmes and long-term working groups.



DEVELOPMENT OF THE SESSION

Leading City Izmir commenced its activities with a two-sessions workshop held at the end of 2020. These preparatory meetings were organised for the purposes of introducing the Leading City Izmir concept; identifying the possible stakeholders of Seven Keys Workshop; reflecting collectively on the outcomes of the 4th UCLG Culture Summit in Izmir; addressing the Sustainable Development Goals with their cultural dimensions and assessing the cultural strategies and practices in the city in a participatory manner. The initial outcome of this workshops presented a "cultural mapping" of the city in which the participants evaluated according to their goals, impacts, stakeholders, target groups and relation with the SDGs, by means of group discussions. This practice also proved to be helpful tool to specify the strengths and the challenges of the local cultural scene, enabling us to shape the Leading City Izmir programme according to the local context.

Leading City Izmir programme continued with its first webinar and a consequent workshop following the preparatory group study. The subject webinar, titled "Sustainable Development and Culture: Where Are We with Regards to the 2030 Goals?" was organised with the participation of a total of 77 attendees, in an online session hosted by the Izmir Mediterranean Academy on 19 March 2021.

Participants of the webinar and workshop consisted of representatives from the local government, civil society and universities. Various civic organisations including TARKEM (Historical Kemeralti Construction Investment Trade Inc.), Izmir Development Agency, Cultural Department of Izmir Metropolitan Municipality, Izmir History and Design Atelier and Izmir Culture Platform besides collectives, civil organisations and associations working in the field of culture and arts, women's cooperatives, ecology, history, society and health services took part in this study of collective discussion and deliberation.

Within the framework of the webinar, speakers from UCLG, Boğaziçi University and International Labour Organization were invited. Over the course of the webinar, UCLG Culture Committee Coordinator Jordi Pascual gave information about UCLG and Leading Cities programme whilst Prof. Dr. Fikret Adaman and Simel Eşim shared their views on different economic models and solidarity structures by evaluating the existing growth model within the framework of environmental effects and social justice.

A second webinar on the notion of "natureculture" and cultural participation of children was held on November 2021. Experts Burcu Meltem Arık Akyüz from Education Observatory and Gözde Durmuş from Istanbul Bilgi University Child Studies Unit gave lectures, encouraging and inspiring Leading City Izmir stakeholders to regard education as an essential dimension in cultural planning.

The methodology of Seven Keys workshop is formulated accordingly with the local context; thus, the process covered a year-long project development. The initial five work groups identified shortcomings and possible strategies to contribute to the issues such



as acknowledgement of cultural diversity and cultural rights, enhancing the cultural participation of neglected communities, boosting mutual understanding, establishing cultural links to the urban periphery, supporting to the cultural solidarity in micro localities and stimulating fair economical models for resilient communities.

This extended practice allowed the stakeholders to further develop their strategical ideas into concrete steps and implementation methods, of which have been showcased and discussed with UCLG experts and local audience with a presentation session in May 2022.

kültürLab, an outcome of the Pilot City Izmir process, was revived during this process to address the much-needed culture and education aspect and devise an implementable pilot programme. Similarly, Balconnection, a project started during the Covid-19 pandemic, was invited to the work groups as an inspiring model of resilience.

Most of the ideas, generated in the process of Leading City Izmir, were further developed into applicable projects by including fieldwork and detailed analysis of their target groups. Moreover, some of the projects like kültürLab, Izmir Nature and Culture Festivities and Neighbourhood Initiative has started their pilot phase activities.



THE SEVEN KEYS IN **IZMIR**

The workshop participants proposed a series of key cultural actions to localise the SDGs, which were agreed and gathered in seven key actions:



CULTURAL PIONEERS OF IZMIR.

ENHANCING THE CULTURAL PARTICIPATION OF DIVERSE GROUPS IN THE CITY'S CULTURAL PRODUCTION. [SDGS 8.3, 8.9, 11.4, 12.A, 16.A, 17.G AND 17.H]



LEADING VILLAGE.

A MECHANISM TO OVERCOME THE INEQUALITY OF CULTURAL AND ECO-NOMIC OPPORTUNITIES BETWEEN THE CENTRE AND PERIPHERY OF THE IZMIR. [SDGS 1, 3, 4, 5, 8, 10, 12, 14, 14, 15, 16 AND 17]



NEIGHBOURHOOD INITIATIVE.

REVITALIZING NEIGHBOURHOODS AND STRENGTHENING SOLIDARITY THROUGH INCLUSIVE AND UNIFYING CULTURAL ELEMENTS. [SDG 10, 11, 12 AND 17]



STATIONS FOR CULTURE.

UNVEILING THE CULTURAL ACCUMULATION IN THE PERIPHERY OF THE CITY. [SDGS 1, 4, 5, 8, 10, 11, 12, 16 AND 17]



NATURECULTURE CELEBRATIONS.

STRENGTHENING MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING AND SOLIDARITY AMONG DIVERSE CULTURAL COMMUNITIES BY EMPHASIZING THE IMPORTANCE OF COEXISTENCE AND HARMONY, BY COLLABORATIVE CELEBRATIONS. [SDGS 4, 5, 10, 11, 16 AND 17]



OUR CLASS: IZMIR.

UTILIZING THE NATURAL AND CULTURAL HERITAGE OF THE CITY AS A LEARNING ENVIRONMENT FOR CHILDREN, DESIGNING MECHANISMS FOR CLASSROOM TEACHERS TO MOVE THE LEARNING PROCESS OUT OF THE CLASSROOM WITH AN APPROACH THAT COMBINES DIFFERENT ASPECTS OF CULTURE & NATURE, BUILDING PARTNERSHIPS FOR COMMON GOALS. [SDGS 4, 11 AND 17]



BALCONNECTION.

THIS IS AN ONGOING ARTISTIC PROJECT, BY A GROUP OF ARTISTS, TO ENABLE ART TO BE EXPERIENCED DIRECTLY BY THE PUBLIC AND AIMS TO ESTABLISH A DIRECT DIALOGUE BETWEEN ARTIST AND THE COMMUNITY. BALCONNECTION IS INVITED TO THE 7 KEYS OF IZMIR DUE ITS PROJECT GOALS DIRECTY ADDRESSING SOME OF THE CRUCIAL ISSUES DISCUSSED. [SDGS 4, 11 AND 16]







KEY 1: CULTURAL PIONEERS OF IZMIR.

Enhancing the cultural participation of diverse groups in the city's cultural production.

OBJECTIVES

- Encouraging the wealthy families of Izmir to contribute to the contemporary art scene.
- Ensuring that communities with limited access to art and culture, including the young inhabitants of the city, are included in the production and presentation processes.
- Supporting pioneer families from various different ethnic backgrounds to have the opportunity to talk about their legacy and contributions to the city.
- Making the multicultural structure of the city more visible.
- Increasing the cultural participation of people from different parts of the city.
- Developing mechanisms to increase the resources of cultural financing.

TARGET GROUPS

Young or elderly members of diverse families that have significance on the history of Izmir.

Researchers, theorists and writers working on the history of Izmir.

PROJECT SUMMARY

It is a research and study project designed to increase the visibility of families who have undertaken important roles in the urban and economic development of Izmir whilst encouraging them to be supporters in the field of contemporary art.

RELATED SDGS

8.3, 8.9, 11.4, 12.A, 16.A, 17.G and 17.H.



KEY 2: NEIGHBOURHOOD INITIATIVE.

Revitalizing neighbourhoods and strengthening solidarity through inclusive and unifying cultural elements.

OBJECTIVES

- Strengthening the sense of belonging and communication on a local level.
- Remembering solidarity.
- Identifying the existing vitality in neighbourhoods and developing new behaviours for communing.
- Contributing to the formation of neighbourhoods that are socially resilient and vital to urban culture.

PROJECT SUMMARY

Focusing on notions such as play, solidarity, barter, culture & art, the initiative team creates maps, in which it identifies the important practices, locations, actions and actors of the neighbourhood. Various activities will be carried out in public, inspired by the necessities, spaces with spatial potential, and celebrations of the neighbourhood.

RELATED SDGS

10, 11, 12 and 17.



KEY 3: STATIONS FOR CULTURE.

Unveiling the cultural accumulation in the periphery of the city.

OBJECTIVES

- Emphasizing the decentralization of culture.
- Exploring the cultural dynamics on the periphery.
- Supporting the cultural production and activities in the neglected parts of the city.
- Enabling local, site-specific cultural productions and activities visible.
- Paving a way of creating a community-based participation.

PROJECT SUMMARY

The group set out with the aims to strengthen the cultural dynamics in the periphery. Preliminary stages such as exploring the local values of the identified regions and ensuring their cultural accessibility were proposed as a method. The suggested activities included holding periodical meetings with the residents of the neighbourhood for cultural planning, establishing networks between various neighbourhoods and creating an inventory of cultural productions.

RELATED SDGS

1, 4, 5, 8, 10, 11, 12, 16 and 17.



KEY 4: NATURECULTURE CELEBRATIONS.

Strengthening mutual understanding and solidarity among diverse cultural communities by emphasizing the importance of coexistence and harmony, by collaborative celebrations.

OBJECTIVES

- Giving visibility to the cultural and artistic values specific to the various communities.
- Strengthening the culture of living together in public spaces through public activities.
- Promoting the cultural participation of all citizens.
- Creating mechanisms that will allow creative cultural expression and exploration of cultural origins.
- Creating new civic cultural spaces in the region by encouraging participatory creativity.
- Carrying the principles of "Discover Create Share Enjoy
 Protect", as suggested by the UCLG's **Rome Charter**.
- Prioritizing the establishment of creative collaborations, multi-stakeholders, sustainability, which is aimed to develop a model based on the diversity of sources.

PROJECT SUMMARY

The Izmir Nature and Culture Festivities aims to makes the cultural diversity of the city visible with an ecological perspective, particularly in Kemeralti and its surroundings. It strengthens the culture of coexistence through rituals and intangible cultural heritage. An annual celebration programme, bringing together customs of various cultures, will be designed with the contribution from local initiatives, collectives, associations and cooperatives that have experience in the Kemeralti region.

RELATED SDGS

4, 5, 10, 11, 16 and 17.



KEY 5: LEADING VILLAGE.

A mechanism to overcome the inequality of cultural and economic opportunities between the centre and periphery of the Izmir.

OBJECTIVES

- Cultural development in rural areas.
- Cultural participation of citizens living in Karaburun and Kiraz districts and strengthening solidarity between communities.
- Studying the relationship between the cultural activities and the welfare and health levels of the citizens.
- Organizing training programs for participants from all ages within the cultural centres and common areas in the region.
- Improving the local life quality on social and economic terms by providing cultural interaction between the village and the city.

PROJECT SUMMARY

The Leading Village project is a training program in two pilot villages and it includes the participation of university students as well as the country dwellers on a common space for learning and sharing intangible cultural heritage, nature and solidarity.

RELATED SDGS

1, 3, 4, 5, 8, 10, 12, 14, 15, 16 and 17.



KEY 6: OUR CLASS: IZMIR.

Utilizing the natural and cultural heritage of the city as a learning environment for children, designing mechanisms for classroom teachers to move the learning process out of the classroom with an approach that combines different aspects of culture & nature, building partnerships for common goals.

OBJECTIVES

- Using the natural and cultural heritage of the city as a learning environment.
- Developing teacher skills so that the learning-teaching process can be carried out of the classroom.
- Increasing the cooperation between the project participants;
 Ministry of National Education, university and civil society.
- Increasing efforts to protect and preserve the cities' cultural and natural heritage.

PROJECT SUMMARY

Our Classroom Izmir is a training programme for classroom teachers to develop their skills in cultural education from a "natureculture" perspective. The programme consists of three phases covering creative drama education, workshops in museums, natural parks and forests, planning strategies in teaching as well as monitoring and evaluating the programme attendees.

RELATED SDGS

4, 11 and 17.



KEY 7: BALCONNECTION.

This is an ongoing artistic project, by a group of artists, to enable art to be experienced directly by the public and aims to establish a direct dialogue between artist and the community. Balconnection is invited to the 7 Keys of Izmir due its project goals directy addressing some of the crucial issues discussed.

OBJECTIVES

- Making the world a bit more livable place with artists, art lovers and the society we live in.
- Producing a flexible and sustainable model, based on collective mind, that will allow art to meet the public directly.
- Creating spaces for artists from different cities and countries, from different disciplines; to facilitate the participation of artists who join our network to communicate and produce with each other.
- Build communication bridges to help different cultures understand each other better.
- Creating curiosity and interest in contemporary art in the society, thus creating a ground for individuals of all ages and from all sectors of society to think about, discuss, and participate in art.
- Encouraging locally active artists to meet international artists and improve their horizons; enhancing local capacity and elevating the local to universal.
- Creating opportunities for the artist to exhibit their work without compromise.

PROJECT SUMMARY

Balconnection, which defines itself as "a local and international network," or a "hub", brings together the works of artists from different art circles, and helps them to reach the public. Documentation of the works and performances exhibited on the balconies are archived after they are shared on social media, and anyone interested in the subject can easily access this online archive. The archive, which includes artist talks, performances and visual documents of works, gains visibility to the public thanks to Balconnection's partners, supporters and followers.

Balconnection prioritizes the artist's voice and message. The works and visual documentation of these works are displayed alternately on balconies in different cities.

RELATED SDGS

4, 11 and 16.





THE ORGANISERS

United Cities and Local Governments - UCLG: <u>United Cities and Local Governments</u> – <u>UCLG</u> is the global network that represents and defends the interests of local governments on the world stage. Based in Barcelona, the mission of UCLG is "to be the united voice and global advocate of local democratic self-government, promoting its values, objectives and interests, through cooperation among local governments and within the wider international community". Since its creation in May 2004, as the inheritor of the century-old international municipalist movement, more than 240,000 cities, regions and metropolises, and more than 175 local and regional government associations have joined this global network.

UCLG Committee on Culture: The <u>UCLG Committee on Culture</u> is a unique global platform that brings together more than 830 cities, organisations and networks to cooperate and promote the role of "culture in sustainable cities". The mission of the UCLG Committee on Culture is "to promote culture as the fourth pillar of sustainable development through the international dissemination and local implementation of Agenda 21 for Culture".

The Metropolitan Municipality of Izmir: Izmir is one of the major port cities in the Mediterranean, which has long facilitated cultural exchanges and served as a nexus where people from different parts of the Mediterranean and Asia met and inspired each other. Alongside its cultural diversity, the city has impressively high biodiversity. Traditional practices, techniques and ways of living in harmony with nature are vital at a time when biodiversity and cultural diversity are globally threatened. There are many ancient settlements within the boundaries of presentday Izmir such as Smyrna, Klazomenai, Ephesus and Pergamon, the two last ones being catalogued in the UNESCO World Heritage List. Izmir's cultural vision is to evolve into a city of arts, design and innovation, ensuring biodiversity, and ecofriendly production and distribution models. Another aspect of this vision involves developing trans-border relations and making Izmir a node in major city networks by promoting interactions and diversity.

The facilitators: Serhan Ada is a Professor at the faculty of Arts and Cultural Management Department, Director of Cultural Policy and Management Research Center, and the Head of UNESCO Chair in Cultural Policy and Cultural Diplomacy at Istanbul Bilgi University.



ANNEX 1: Local challenges

Workshop participants have identified the following factors as playing a key role in cultural development.

- Establishing means to capacitate the cultural participation of economically or socially disadvantaged groups living in Izmir, Basmane region in particular, and communities who came with forced migration.
- Developing awareness and solidarity among communities in the face of social or natural disasters such as war and migration.
- Providing an environment for active urban participation, to make people feel self-sufficient, valuable, to create and organize platforms of solidarity, to support cultural diversity and to provide a coexistence ground.
- Raising children who are connected with nature, respectful to ecological balance, solidarity, self-confident, creative and flexible thinking.
- Implementation of gender equality and women's participation in culture.
- Raising resources for the eradication of poverty and supporting the sustainability and promotion of cultural heritage for economic development, the protection of tangible and intangible heritage.
- Increasing competitiveness and employment by diversifying qualified human resources for economic development of Izmir.
- Measures to overcome the negative effects of urban transformation and gentrification on city dwellers.
- Preparation of a cultural inventory that would include informal formations, projects and studies in the centre and periphery. Mapping, integrating and digitalisation into up-to-date maps.
- Creating mechanisms to compensate for the difficulties experienced by the culture and art sector in the post-Covid19 period.
- Accepting that the inclusion of children and the periphery is a prerequisite in all projects carried out in the city.
- Independent support mechanisms for culture.
- Cooperation of local government, civil and private entities and universities.
- The inclusion of each individual, regardless of nationality, ethnicity, religion, gender, sexual orientation, ability or age.



ANNEX 2: Cultural Mapping

The workshop participants identified the following elements and aspects considered as "cultural" (in a broad sense) in the territory of Izmir:

SEFERIHISAR CHILDREN MUNICIPALITY (WWW.SEFERIHISAROCUKBELEDIYESI. EPAGETR.COM))

URLA DESIGN LIBRARY (WWW.URLADESIGNLIBRARY.ORG/TR/)

BORNOVA ECOLOGIC AGRICULTURE CENTRE

KARABURUN OLIVE SCHOOL (WWW.ZEYTINOKULU.NET/)

KÖSTEM OLIVE OIL MUSEUM (WWW.KZMURLA.COM/)

FOÇA SCIENCE VILLAGE (<u>WWW.BILIMLER.ORG/</u>)

BUCA MUNICIPALITY VINEYARD AND VITICULTURE MUSEUM

KAPILAR İNITIATIVE

TABLES AGAINST BOMBS PROJECT

ASSOCIATION OF BRIDGING PEOPLES
(WWW.HALKLARINKOPRUSU.ORG/)

EDUCATIONAL FACILITIES OF ASSOCIATION OF PHILOSOPHERS

(WWW.FELSEFECILERDERNEGI.ORG.TR/)

IMAGINATION ORCHESTRA SUPPORTED BY THE MUNICIPALITY OF BERGAMA

ORANGE THE WORLD ASSOCIATION AGAINST THE GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

ACTIVE PHILOSOPHY ASSOCIATION (WWW.AKTIFFELSEFE.ORG/)

PECHA KUCHA NETWORK (WWW.PECHAKUCHA.COM/)

PEOPLE'S GROCERY STORE PROJECT (WWW.HALKINBAKKALI.COM)

ANOTHER SCHOOL IS POSSIBLE COOPERATIVE

(WWW.BASKABIROKULMUMKUN.ORG)

ÖDEMIŞ TRADITIONAL SILK PRODUCTION

IZMIR METROPOLITAN MUNICIPALITY SISTER AND BROTHER PROJECT (WWW.IZMIR.BEL.TR/TR/PROJELER/ABLA-AGABEY-KARDES/1390/4)

IZMIR METROPOLITAN MUNICIPALITY IZMIR HISTORY PROJECT (WWW.IZMIRTARIH.COM.TR/)

IZMIR METROPOLITAN MUNICIPALITY LOCAL PRESERVATION AWARDS (WWW.TARIHESAYGI.COM/)

BERGAMA TRADITIONAL PARCHMENT PRODUCTION

SÜMERBANK CALICO PATTERN DESIGNS

IZMIR INTERNATIONAL PUPPET DAYS
(WWW.IZMIRKUKLAGUNLERI.COM/)

360 DEGREES HISTORICAL RESEARCH ASSOCIATION (WWW.360DERECE.INFO/)

IZMIR METROPOLITAN MUNICIPALITY VOCATION FACTORY (<u>WWW.</u> IBBMESLEKFABRIKASI.COM/TR/ANASAYFA)

SEFERI KEÇI ASSOCIATION

ACCESSIBLE CITY SELÇUK

KÜÇÜK MENDERES RECLAMATION PROJECT (<u>WWW.KUCUKMENDERESPROJE.TR.GG/</u>)

IZMIR CREATIVE ECONOMY RESEARCH 2020

SEFERAD CULTURAL FESTIVAL (<u>WWW.</u> KONAK.BEL.TR/ETKINLIKLER/ETKINLIK/ IZMIR-SEFARAD-KULTUR-FESTIVALI-2019)

DARAĞAÇ ARTIST COLLECTIVE (<u>WWW.DARAGAC.COM</u>)

4D DESIGN CONFERENCE

KARABURUN VILLAGE FESTIVAL (WWW.KOYDEFESTIVAL.COM/KARABURUN/)

TARKEM (<u>WWW.TARKEM.COM/</u>)

YAHŞIBEY DESIGN WORKSHOPS (WWW.YAHSIWORKSHOPS.COM/)



ANNEX 3: LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

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UCLG Committee



IZMIR BÜYÜKŞEHİR BELEDİYESI WORKSH



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Supported by



The European Union

This publication was produced with the financial support of the European Union. Its contents are the sole responsibility of United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG) and does not necessarily reflect the views of the European Union.



This document has been financed by the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency, Sida. Sida does not necessarily share the views expressed in this material. Responsibility for its content rests entirely with the author.