

İZMİR METROPOLITAN MUNICIPALITY  
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION and CONTROL DEPARTMENT  
HEALTHY CITIES PROJECT COORDINATOR  
**İZMİR CITY HEALTH PROFILE**

**PREPARED BY**

**Project Implementation Commission**

**Coordinators**

**Project Office**

**Work Groups;**

*Environmental Health & Urban Environment*

*Natural Environment*

*Education*

*Energy Utilization*

*Urban Security*

*Public Health*

*Urban Infrastructure*

*Culture & Arts & Sports & Tourism*

*Housing*

*Population & Migration*

*Planning & Settlement*

*Industry & Employment*

*Agriculture*

*Trade*

*Public Transport, Pedestrians & Bicycle*

İZMİR, 2008

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**Editor's Note:**

İzmir City Health Profile is a study introducing a general view of our city, prepared in a long time with intense efforts of 15 work groups formed with participations of various disciplines and institutions. In the integration stage, the formal differences were tried to be removed as much as possible and a language unity was tried to be provided. Particularly attention was paid to use Turkish language well and close to its very own essence. A detailed reading-correction process consisting returns to relevant persons and institutions, re-reviews of data and calculations, table arrangements, modifications on general contents and arrangements has taken its final state with intense efforts of us and valuable officers. Undoubtedly, even in this state there are deficiencies, errors or intertwinements, convergences arising due to some limitations experienced within the process. This process has been a great experience for all of us and presented the keys that shall assist the Profile, which will be improved upon updates two years later, go a step further. In the forthcoming period, preparations for the new report, which shall be equipped with more up-to-date data and have minimized errors, shall be initiated using this key. We thank all team members contributing in this study.

# **İZMİR CITY HEALTH PROFILE**



"I have learned that I had been granted the title of İzmir Fellow Townsman by İzmir Municipality and City Council."

"... Being respected as a fellow townsman of our İzmir has been an absolute joy and honor for me."

September 22<sup>nd</sup>, 1922

From the letter he sent to people of İzmir



As already known, in this century we live, we experience changes in all fields of life, particularly in social, economical and political platforms, with an unprecedented speed.

Rapid urbanization experienced brings searches towards enabling urban people maintain a more modern, healthy & qualified life and concepts such as city health, healthy cities and urban rights to forefront.

Generally, cities are known as environments embodying historical, social, cultural, political and technological elements which have been born from common lives of people & shaped with their lifestyles and center of civilization, development, prosperity, aesthetics and culture.

This definition enables us understand how a good city should be.

Under the light of these general assessments, when we look at the city we live in, İzmir, “the city established under the most beautiful open sky and the best climate of the world” as famous historian Herodotus mentioned, it is seen that the city has been a significant settlement & an active trade, culture and arts. Today it is called the

star and pearl of Aegean and even Mediterranean.

However, it is known that the socio-economical development and development potential of the city causes intense migration receipt; that this intense Immigration receipt fact both increases the requirement of investments in education, health, social services and urban infrastructure fields and on the other hand negatively effects the environmental development of the city.

Providing a healthier life standard with a high prosperity level for our citizens is the most important task of administration and also the necessity of being a social state. However, it is understood that this shall not be sufficient.

Keeping this beautiful & historical city habitable and enabling the citizens live a humanly life in more modern, healthy, dependable and peaceful environments necessitate habitants of İzmir, non-governmental organizations, private sector, everyone having a personal and social role, namely all relevant actors besides central and local administration to act with the consciousness of their duties and responsibilities.

Heading out with such an approach, I believe that İzmir shall become a competitive city with other world cities in the medium term as a city of high life quality.

On the other hand, the facts that development of ability to handle with the present problems shall not be sufficient alone and that the city must have a vision & a goal should not be ignored.

Because the cities with high life quality having a competition power come into prominence within the globalizing process of today in which rapid transformations are experienced; and the cities which cannot keep up with these developments lose their significance and be condemned to poverty.

In this respect, the goal of İzmir should be becoming a world city with high life quality having an international recognition and competition power in all fields. Projects such as “Healthy Cities Project” draw İzmir closer to this goal.

Works related to putting the project into practice constitute a good example for the harmony, coordination, support and cooperation amongst the institutions. It is appraised that such integrated approaches shall facilitate development of activities related to city health and be a significant milestone in development and improvement of İzmir.

I completely believe that İzmir, the city which has been the pioneer of change and firsts throughout the history, shall succeed in becoming a world city with high life quality with the opportunities and abilities.

I hereby thank all public institutions and organizations, universities, trade associations and non-governmental organizations contributed in preparation of City Health Profile in which all data related to issues that may affect health of the city are compiled and evaluated.

With my compliments...

M. Cahit KIRAC  
Governor of İzmir



İzmir is a city which has hosted the most long-standing cultures of the world for nearly 8,500 years. It is the place where Homer – ‘the father of history’ was born, where Hippocrates – ‘father of medicine’ and Galen ‘father of pharmacy’ reached out to the world, where surgical equipment, syringes and thermal therapy with healing powers were used for the Today, İzmir is one of the leading cities of Turkey, which is amongst the fastest growing economies in the world with its secular and democratic structure, colourful cultural mosaic, young population, entrepreneurial strength and westward stance.

Urban life and health of people living in the cities have become a priority in the world’s agenda, due to increasing urbanisation and intensive migration. Inadequacies, brought along with population density in cities, increase the importance of taking necessary precautions to enable people to lead their lives in healthy conditions.

Adversities, such as poverty, violence, pollution and poor settlement planning are rising threats for our city, as they are for our world. In order to surmount all these difficulties, World Health Organisation has been making solid efforts, in line with sustainable development principles, ‘to ensure a high standard of life for every individual living in cities and to create healthy cities in every domain’. The Organisation targets the strategy of ‘equal opportunities for all in benefiting from the city’s resources’ with the launch of its Healthy Cities project.

Local authorities, in particular have to undertake fundamental work on this issue. In addition to providing services to address the basic needs of citizens such as public transportation, housing, food, education and healthcare; there is also the need to fulfil their social requirements, by way of developing cultural, arts and sports facilities. We should always target to raise the bar of our services to ensure the continual satisfaction of those needs and to improve the life quality of our citizens.

İzmir Healthy Cities Project includes first-time implementations in certain areas, amongst similar projects that are being carried out in Turkey. For example establishing a written partnership on the project between universities and the Governor’s Office to ensure the sustainability of the project was undertaken for the first time in İzmir.

İzmir also stands out in engaging civic support while determining public policies. An army of nearly 150 volunteers, comprising of academicians from universities, experts, members of nongovernmental organisations and representatives of chambers of trade have come together, and by trying to reach the common opinion, demonstrated their commitment to the city they live in.

This study will serve as a source for implementers and researchers as well as those who would like to find out information about the city and who would like to shape policies and strategies.

Although we were not the first across the finish line in our candidacy to host EXPO 2015 with the ‘Health for all’ theme, we have certainly achieved major steps in our target to make İzmir “one of the most important health centres in the region”. Thanks to this theme that perfectly matches with the mission of our city, Healthy Cities Project, global health concerns, particularly faced by many underdeveloped countries in the world, have been brought to the public agenda. This is a success that should not be underestimated.

I would like to extend my sincere gratitude to the representatives of chambers of trade, universities and all public organisations and institutions in our city, who have contributed to forming the İzmir City Health Profile with dedication, knowledge and experience in their areas of expertise and shared our municipality’s sentiments, ideas and enthusiasm.

With my most affectionate regards,

Aziz KOCAOĞLU  
Mayor, İzmir Metropolitan Municipality