

PART 1: BASIC DATA

Title of the experience: Bagcilar Citizen Governance Council Project		
Name of the city/region: İstanbul City / Bagcilar District		
Country: Turkey		
Institution presenting the candidacy: Bagcilar Municipality		
Start date of the experience: 1992		
End date of the experience: Experience is going on.		
Type of candidacy	New experience	
	Innovation on an existing experience	X
Type of experience (you may choose more than one)	Participatory budgeting	X
	Urban planning	X
	Council	X
	Workshop/meeting for diagnosis, monitoring, etc.	X
	Audience/forum	
	Poll/referendum	
	Citizen jury	X
	E-government/open government	
	Citizen initiative	X
	Other (specify):	
	Objective of the experience (you may choose more than one)	To achieve higher levels of equality in terms of participation and to incorporate diversity as a criterion for inclusion
Community empowerment		X
To empower non-organised citizens		X
To increase citizen's rights in terms of political participation		
To connect different tools of participation within a participatory democracy “ecosystem”		
To improve the effectiveness and efficiency of the mechanisms of participatory democracy		X
To improve the quality of public decision-making through the mechanisms of participatory democracy		X
To improve the evaluation and accountability of the mechanisms of participatory democracy		X
Territorial area	All the territory	
	District	X
	Neighbourhood	
Thematic area	Governance	
	Education	

	Transport	
	Urban management	X
	Health	
	Security	
	Environment and/or urban agriculture	
	New social movements and associationism	
	Culture	
	Housing	
	Job creation	
	Decentralization	
	Local development	
	Training/learning	
	Economy and/or finances	
	Legal regulations	
	Social inclusion	
	All	
	Other	

PART 2: DESCRIPTION OF THE EXPERIENCE

Objectives

Main objective of the innovative experience:

In order to jointly decide on the works done in the city of residence, bringing the citizens and the people who govern them together to ensure that the society has a say in the decisions taken.

How have you achieved this objective?

From the implementation of the project until today, many projects have been shaped according to the demands and desires of the people living in Bağcılar. In this way, effective governance has been implemented in Bağcılar District.

To what extent has this objective been achieved?

The Municipality of Bağcılar allows the public to come together directly with the administrators of the city with this study. In this way, the citizen can intervene instantly in the decisions taken about the city. This is proof that the project has achieved its original goal.

Dimensions of the experience

Which is the most innovative aspect of the experience?

Most of the work carried out in cities is carried out without taking into account the demands and problems of the people living in that city. This situation causes problems within the society in many aspects. The work carried out may cause problems such as not being able to fully respond to needs, not being able to solve problems or wasting resources. The project was created based on the

requirement that the city be managed together with the people in order to avoid these situations. For this purpose, it is planned to hold meetings in a different part of the city every week and to have managers on one side and residents of that city on the other. In this environment, it is possible to talk freely about every issue of the city and to make decisions together. In the project, the people also do not go to the administrators. Managers come to where the people live. With this innovative method, every problem and need of the city can be evaluated on the spot.

To what extent is the procedure transferable?

Bağcılar Citizen Governance Council Project is a project that can be implemented by all municipalities in terms of technique and content. Technically, there is no need for any proficiency. In addition, there is no need for financing expenditure for the project. Only the public and administrators of the project can come together. No experience is required for the project to be realized in terms of content. The issues discussed in the assemblies are the issues that touch the life of the state. This article writes by their own municipality and region. For these reasons, it can be repeated and become widespread. When the content and methodology of the project is to be taken as an example, the websites of Bağcılar Municipality can be used.

Why do you consider that the experience is feasible?

Unlike many projects, the People's Assemblies Project is a capacity independent project. It is sufficient for decision makers and local people to come together for the implementation of the project. The next parts of the project vary according to the dispatch of the municipality and the people. In the project, the public is side by side with the decision makers. Therefore, many decisions can be taken quickly by eliminating official correspondence and procedures. For these reasons, the project can be easily implemented everywhere.

How has the experience been coordinated with other actors and processes?

The project brings together the mayor, district governor, police chief, health director, financial directors and other managers working in Bağcılar. In summary, senior executives working for that city come together on the days when the project is implemented. This situation significantly strengthens the dialogue between managers. Since many official procedures have disappeared, the decisions taken can be implemented quickly. The most beautiful aspect of the project is that the public can directly tell these managers about their troubles. At the same time, they can directly say their demands in this study.

The method in implementing the project is also simple. The location of the meetings held every week and what time it will start is announced to the public. Then work begins on the program day and time. Everything that is spoken is recorded in image and sound. The experience gained in this way is also recorded.

What has been the level of co-responsibility?

There are two groups of actors in the project. These are decision makers and beneficiaries. This simple aspect of the project also makes implementation significantly easier. The project is also far from political actors. Because everything that is spoken and realized is aimed at the problems and needs of the society in that city.

Which evaluation and accountability mechanisms were used?

The project is not done to achieve a goal with limits. The aim of the project is to increase the speed and quality of services provided to the community in general. At the same time, it is for the people to have the right to have a say in the works done for them. For this reason, there is no criterion that determines the success of the project. However, the decisions taken after mutual opinions in the project



are carried out quickly. This situation causes the local people to support the administrators more. The increase in the rate of support is also seen in the satisfaction surveys conducted at certain time intervals.

Summary of the experience

Bagcilar Citizen Governance Council Project is a governance model implemented by Bağırcılar Municipality for the first time in Turkey. The practice is carried out in the form of meeting decision-makers and practitioners and district residents at regular intervals in the district administration and sharing the problems experienced throughout the district with first-hand authorized or relevant decision-makers. In the sharing environment established in the public councils, the local people stand on one side, and the District Mayor, Deputy Mayors and unit directors, District Governor, District Police Director, District National Education Director and Party Representatives are on the other hand.

By eliminating official procedures, petitions, applications, e-mails, messages and similar intermediary instruments, the People's Assemblies are an important opportunity for the residents of the district in order to produce solutions and especially to "make immediate decisions".

The People's Assemblies, which are literally a "governance model", have been implemented in Bağırcılar District for many years as a model that demonstrates the fact that the district is managed together with the people and the decisions taken and / or the services to be provided meet in line with mutual consultation and common mind.

Municipalities are obliged to respond faster and more effectively to the problems and demands of the local people compared to the central government. However, the phenomenon of bureaucracy, which is also present in local governments, can turn into a situation that makes the solutions more difficult because of the problems that need to be solved instantaneously or the requests regarding the district that need to be realized, reaching decision makers late. Based on this, the People's Assemblies, in a sense, eliminated methods such as petitions and applications and provided decision-makers with the opportunity to directly intervene in problems.

The following order is applied as the method of implementation in the People's Assemblies.

- Decision makers greet the participants
- Explaining the planned and / or ongoing services related to the place where the Assembly convenes and the main purpose of these services.
- Local people taking the floor and expressing their wishes, complaints and demands.
- Immediate response of the received requests by the relevant institution or unit representative and / or the initiation of the necessary work for a solution
- End of working with wishes.