

Application Form

CATEGORIES IN WHICH YOU WANT TO APPLY THE EXPERIENCE

1: TYPE OF EXPERIENCE: *choose the most important element (choose only one element which you consider the most outstanding of your practice).*

A) Deliberation Citizen assembly / deliberation workshop / lottery / legislative theater / participatory planning	X
B) Decision Participatory budget / referendum / consultation / participatory process with vote	
C) Citizenship Citizenship / community action / permanent council / civic education / associationism / other initiatives to reinforce local democracy	

2: TYPE OF GOVERNMENT: *choose one only.*

A) Up to 50,000 inhabitants (towns, small cities, rural areas).	
B) Cities between 50,000 and 250,000 inhabitants.	
C) Cities between 250,000 and 1,000,000 inhabitants.	
D) Large cities or urban areas of more than 1,500,000 inhabitants.	X
E) Supralocal, regional, provincial governments	

Experience data: *complete the information below in a clear and concise manner.*

Title of the experience: Beyoglu Participatory Spatial Strategical Plan, "Beyoglu is Yours"
Name of the city or region: Istanbul, Beyoglu
Inhabitants of the city or territory: 233.223
Country: Turkiye
Institution presenting the candidacy: Participatory Planning Unit that is related to Istanbul Metropolitan Municipality Urban Planning Department Directorate

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Website of the experience or institution: beyoglusenin.ist, sehirplanlama.ibb.Istanbul/beyoglu-senin/		
Profiles in social networks of the experience or the institution: twitter.com/BeyogluSenin , instagram.com/beyoglusenin/		
Start date of the experience: September 30th, 2020		
End date of the experience: Ongoing		
Budget of the experience: 3.1 million Turkish Liras (approximately 143 thousand Euros)		
Type of candidacy <i>(mark with an X in the right column)</i>	New experience	X
	Innovation on an existing experience	
	Continuity of an experience	
Type of experience <i>(mark with an X in the right column, you may choose more than one)</i>	Participatory budgeting	
	Participatory planning	X
	Standing council	
	Workshop / meeting for diagnosis, monitoring, etc.	X
	Public hearing / forum	X
	Poll / referendum	X
	Assemblies / Citizen juries / Deliberation spaces	
	E-government / Open government / Digital platforms	X
	Citizen initiative	
	Other (specify): city walks, festivals, participation desks, panels, interviews, exhibitions	X
	To achieve higher levels of equality in terms of participation	X

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Objective of the experience <i>(mark with an X in the right column, you may choose more than one)</i>	Including diversity as a criterion for inclusion		X
	Community empowerment		X
	To empower non-organised citizens		X
	To increase citizen's rights in terms of political participation		X
	To connect different tools of participation within a participatory democracy "ecosystem"		X
	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
	To improve any public policy through the active participation of the public		X
Territorial area <i>(mark with an X in the right column, you may choose more than one)</i>	All the territory	Local	X
		Regional	
	District		X
	Neighbourhood		X
Thematic area <i>(mark with an X in the right column, you may choose more than one)</i>	Governance		
	Education		
	Transport		
	Urban management		
	Health		



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	Security	
	Environment / Climate change and/or urban agriculture	
	Civic associations, grassroots and new social movements	
	Culture	
	Housing	
	Job creation	
	Decentralization	
	Local development	
	Training / learning	
	Economy and/or finances	
	Legal regulations	
	Social inclusion	
	All	X
Other (write the topic)		
Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) associated with the practice <i>(mark with an X in the right column, more than one option can be chosen, you can also add the specific target)</i>	SDG 1 - No poverty	X
	SDG 2 - Zero hunger	X
	SDG 3 - Good health and well-being	X
	SDG 4 - Quality education	X
	SDG 5 - Gender equality	X
	SDG 6 - Clean water and sanitation	X



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	SDG 7 - Affordable and clean energy	X
	SDG 8 - Decent work and economic growth	X
	SDG 9 - Industry, innovation and infrastructure	X
	SDG 10 - Reduced inequality	X
	SDG 11 - Sustainable cities and communities	X
	SDG 12 - Responsible consumption and production	X
	SDG 13 - Climate action	X
	SDG 14 - Life below water	
	SDG 15 - Life on land	
	SDG 16 - Peace, justice and strong institutions	X
	SDG 17 - Partnership for the goals	X

PART 2: DESCRIPTION OF THE EXPERIENCE

Fill in the following fields clearly and concisely. You can add links, images or graphics if you consider it appropriate.



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Context:

Beyoglu, the heart of Istanbul, the center of culture and arts, and a cosmopolitan and vibrant commercial life, is one of the most important districts that add richness and value to the city with its production, living and cultural heritage areas. The resident population of Beyoglu district is approximately 230 thousand people, and it is visited by millions of people throughout the year as an important historical and cultural center of Istanbul.

Beyoglu is one of the important centers of traditional trade with its unique trade and production culture, where economic activities are concentrated in Istanbul. In addition, it has been one of the main residential areas that has kept Istanbul's cultural diversity alive for centuries and gave it its world city identity, and has embodied Istanbul's multi-layered social, economic, cultural and spatial heritage. Beyoglu, which has been a place of shelter, meeting, expression, discovery, freedom and conflict for many different social groups with a historical accumulation that has continued for centuries, still maintains these features.

Beyoglu is a district that has an important place in all periods as an international connection point as well as being the center of Turkiye's culture and art life and production. With its museums, cultural centers, cinemas, theaters and exhibition halls, especially located on and around İstiklal Street, it has been a frequent destination for Istanbulites, local and foreign art lovers and visitors for years.

Beyoglu is under intensive pressure due to the social and spatial transformations experienced in different periods of Istanbul. A significant part of the neighborhoods with high population density in Beyoglu developed unplanned and the infrastructure needs of these regions, unqualified housing areas, inadequacy of urban services, inadequacy of public spaces and transportation problems emerged.

With the Beyoglu Spatial Strategical Plan, a planning process that supports local democratic participation was aimed with Beyoglu's owners in order to redefining the role of Beyoglu and make the city more healthier and livable.

Precedents:

Beyoglu, which is one of the most important centers of Istanbul and has social, economic, cultural, governmental, political and spatial diversity throughout the historical process, created a common life culture for the residents of the district and enabled Istanbulites to exist in this diversity and in an atmosphere of freedom. In addition to cultural and artistic institutions, traditional production and trade functions, this district, where Greek, Armenian and Jewish heritage values are concentrated, also has an intense organization of civil society initiatives.

In addition to cultural heritage values, institutions and civil structures belonging to cultural and economic activities, non-governmental organizations working on rights-based actions are intensively active in Beyoglu, which is also the center of the struggle for rights in the political sense and also, in the neighborhoods that are the micro-scale units of the district, there are local solidarity groups, working especially for the needs of the neighborhoods



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where poverty and disadvantaged groups live at a high rate. However, the mukhtars, who are the micro-administrative units of the neighborhoods, have also come forward as important stakeholders in terms of getting information about the local people. Additionally, due to the large number of academic studies carried out in Beyoglu, cooperation was made with the researchers while providing access to the disadvantaged groups living in the district. Specifically, civil society components, local administrative structures and researchers came to the fore as the primary resources in the preparation and implementation of this whole participation process.

Basically, the activeness of solidarity and organization in the district formed the basis for the creation of the participatory planning process. Meanwhile, the necessity of the planning process to be participatory, prepared in this area, where civil society initiatives and the memory of the urban struggle are intense, has emerged. It is aimed to complete the spatial strategy plan by expanding the participation as much as possible in this district, which covers many different segments of the society and stands out as the primary center in Istanbul. While the framework of the participatory process and the Beyoglu Spatial Strategical Plan, which was prepared afterwards, various world examples were also examined. In this context, the Berlin Strategy Plan was discussed and also the website "<https://wemakethe.city/nl/>", which shares the Dutch-based participatory processes on the digital platform, were also inspiring in terms of the set up of the Beyoglu plan and the participatory process. In addition, during the creation of the "<https://sehirplanlama.ibb.Istanbul/beyoglu-senin/>" website, interactive digital platform examples were searched and the examples of "Berlin, London, Torino, Barcelona, Paris and Lyon Municipalities" were evaluated.

Objectives of the experience:

Since Beyoglu includes different social, cultural and economic groups, one of the most important goals in terms of the participatory plan process is "Including diversity as a criterion for inclusion". Accordingly, it is aimed that democratic participation should be as inclusive as possible for all stakeholders. One of the main objectives of the study was to increase stakeholder diversity and inclusiveness by ensuring the participation of different subjects of Beyoglu, as well as to ensure spatial justice. In this context, it was mainly aimed to develop solutions in line with the problems, needs and potentials of the district during the preparation process of the plan.

Among the reasons why the planning process is carried out in a participatory way in Beyoglu is the need for a holistic perspective for the solution of economic, social, cultural, spatial and administrative problems. In addition, the fragmentation of authority arising from the management of different plans and projects by different institutions also stands out as an important issue. In addition, the impact of large projects in the district on the space and socio-economic texture, the necessity of improving access to basic needs and services, and the failure of the zoning plans to provide an integrated and inclusive solution to Beyoglu's social, economic and spatial problems are among the prominent problems. In this context, it is aimed to redefine Beyoglu's role in Istanbul through the spatial strategy plan, to make the district a more livable and healthy city, to develop effective solutions for different needs and demands, to increase publicity, to coordinate projects and spatial interventions.



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Methodology:

The participatory process of Beyoglu Spatial Strategical Plan was designed in 4 stages. These are analysis-preparation, local participatory events, synthesis and co-working, plan and consensus.

The first phase, the "[analysis - preparation phase](#)", started on 30 September 2020 with a public meeting. The meeting, in which presentations about the main goal and process were made, was a forum open to everyone. A website has been created, and included a written and visual archive section of books, articles, theses, maps, photographs, films and series, civil society studies, current research, online events, interviews and speeches about Beyoglu. In this archive section of website, old and current projects of public institutions regarding Beyoglu have also been compiled. All the works done from the beginning to the end of the process have been shared with their reports on the website. In this stage, which the main discussion topics in Beyoglu were examined, the study team started to collect data and develop the participation tools. As part of the preparation phase, participation methods were applied such as information meeting, use of online platforms for information sharing, interviews with mukhtars, focus group meetings and key stakeholder interviews. The six main themes of Beyoglu that need to be strengthened have been revealed in the light of the data obtained as a result of participatory processes and analysis. The themes are "livable, productive, creative, resistant, reminiscent and equitable" Beyoglu.



In order to extend the participatory process and develop bottom-up information flow and collaborations within the scope of the [second stage](#), which is "local participatory events phase", online platforms were established, neighborhood festivals, participation desks, panels, interviews, walks, tours, exhibitions, forums, workshops were held, and reports which are on various topics were prepared with civil society and volunteers.



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In the third stage, the results of the second stage were evaluated, the outputs related to the themes were revealed, strategic indicators, principles and plan approach were determined. In order to form strategic decisions and actions, meetings were held with internal stakeholders and expert opinions were obtained. At the end of this stage, the first draft of the strategical plan was shared with the public in November 2022.



In the fourth stage, the draft strategical plan was announced and shared with the public, and strategy and action proposals of plan were opened for discussion. The plan will take its final form with the feedback from all institutions, NGOs, experts, researchers and the public.

Innovation:

Innovative tools used to expand participation in the Beyoglu Participatory Spatial Strategic Plan process; The website of the City Planning Directorate (<https://sehirplanlama.ibb.istanbul/>), which was established under the directorate, the website of "Beyoglu is Yours" (<https://www.beyoglusenin.ist/>) and Beyoglu is Yours Instagram (<https://www.instagram.com/beyoglusenin/>), YouTube (<https://www.youtube.com/@IBBSehirPlanlamaMudurlugu>) and Twitter (<https://twitter.com/BeyogluSenin>) accounts.

All stages of the participatory planning process, including analysis/preparation, participation process design, events in neighborhoods and plan processes, have been shared on the website of the City Planning Directorate in order to ensure that the process is open from the beginning to the end, within the scope of the principle of transparency. Moreover, the website "beyoglusenin.ist" was used to introduce the strategical plan and themes, to announce the events and to share the results. Within the scope of this website, "spatial marking" application was developed and people who live in Beyoglu or who use Beyoglu were expected to mark their problems and suggestions regarding the region spatially on the map. With this application, the opinions and suggestions of all users about Beyoglu were taken online and evaluated in the plan studies.



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In addition to these, the announcements of the events were put on “Beyoglu is Yours” Instagram and Twitter social media accounts, and the events were broadcast online and recorded on the IMM City Planning Directorate YouTube channel.

Inclusion:

Beyoglu not only maintains the existence of different identities, classes, cultures, religions, orientations and social groups but also is a living space where these different social groups struggle to exist and survive. Besides, this social diversity represents and makes Beyoglu unique. Inclusion was assessed by two methods. Firstly, the existence of different cultures in Beyoglu were made visible. In this context; cultural heritage and memory walks were held to explore the different cultures that lived in Beyoglu. These are 19th century theater tour, St. Pierre Han cultural heritage tour, Beyoglu memory walk, Galata cultural heritage walk, gender and memory walk, Galata Jewish heritage walk, cultural heritage walk from Piyalepaşa to Kasımpaşa.

Secondly, various interviews, forums and focus group meetings were held to reveal the needs, problems and suggestions of disadvantaged groups and minorities about Beyoglu. These activities were organised together with relevant civil society components or academicians. Meetings were held with rights-based organisations about rights of women, LGBTIQ+, children, immigrants and homeless, animals, disabled and elderly people. In Tarlabası, where immigrants and the low income people live, meetings were held with a local NGO and a report was prepared about local women’s needs. Beyoglu is a settlement where immigrants live extremely in Istanbul. A report on the needs and suggestions of different immigrant groups was prepared together with academicians. Festivals were held in areas of Beyoglu that could not be reached in terms of participatory planning. In addition forums with women, and city workshops with children were held in neighborhood festivals.

Communication:

Neighborhood festivals were held in parks in the districts of Örnektepe, Hasköy, Kasımpaşa and Cihangir in order to reach the residential-dense neighborhoods with different social structures in Beyoglu. Within the scope of neighborhood festivals, a series of children's activities (such as concerts, workshops, theater performances) and a forum for women were held.

With these activities held in the area, it was aimed to reach hard-to-reach groups such as children, youths, elderly people and women, and it was aimed to identify the problems on site and together with the local people, to raise awareness, to collect suggestions and opinions.

In addition, participation desks were set up in 11 neighborhoods of Beyoglu that host different social groups, and problems and suggestions were collected on the basis of neighborhoods by explaining the participatory planning process of Beyoglu at these desks.

In addition, walking and tours were carried out in cooperation with various NGOs based on cultural heritage of Beyoglu. These tours are St. Pierre Han cultural heritage tour, Galata cultural heritage walk, Beyoglu memory walk, Galata Jewish heritage walk, and these tours aim to discover different cultures that have lived in Beyoglu.



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Articulation with other actors:

At the beginning of the participatory planning process, interviews were held with 45 mukhtars, they are the actors who receive the problems, needs and demands of the neighborhood directly from the residents. The activities were announced to the neighborhood through the mukhtars.

The lower income people and immigrants live in Tarlabasi-Dolapdere region of Beyoglu. Since there is a problem of trust in public institutions in this region, it is difficult to operate a participatory process, especially for women. Interviews were held with the Tarlabasi Community Center (TCC), which put forward a rights-based community center model that has been carrying out social and psychological support activities with vulnerable children, youth and women living in Tarlabasi since 2006. TCC held focus group meetings with women within the scope of the strategical plan in this region and prepared a report to guide the plan.

Beyoglu Citizens' Assembly is a civil organisation that advocates for Beyoglu. Since the beginning of the process, meetings have been held with them and they have participated in the activities. They prepared a report evaluating the draft strategical plan.

Evaluation:

At the end of the Beyoglu Participatory Spatial Strategic Plan process, a series of events were organised to promote and evaluate the strategic plan. First of all, a launch was held in which the stakeholders included in the plan process were invited, and various units of IMM, academics, artists, non-governmental organisations, political party representatives, consulates, mukhtars, students, residents of Beyoglu and Beyoglu users attended the meeting. After the launch meeting, it was reported that various activities will be held to announce the plan and open the strategy and action proposals for discussion, and that the plan will take its final form after the feedback received from institutions, NGOs, experts and researchers. For this reason, feedback was provided to the plan through the "feedback" option on the "beyoglusenin.ist" website, and the way was opened for citizens to evaluate the strategies and actions determined within the framework of the plan and to convey their contributions and opinions through this tool.

As the next stage of promotion and evaluation, conferences, radio programs, university seminars for academic circles, podcasts were held, and feedback on the plan was received by explaining the Beyoglu plan process.

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With the "[Beyoglu Symphony](#)" documentary film screening and forum, which was open to the public, a documentary series consists of 6 films about Beyoglu was screened, and after the screening, a forum was held where the participants evaluated the content of the plan. The aim of the forum was to discuss and develop the policies and actions proposed for Beyoglu.

It has been reported that the solution proposals, problems and opinions discussed in the forum will be collected and the plan will be revised and republished on the website within the framework of the feedbacks and suggestions.

Impacts and results:

In the process of [Beyoglu Spatial Strategical Plan](#), the themes of "Liveable, Equitable, Productive, Creative, Resistant, Reminiscent Beyoglu" were created and policies were produced for each theme. Within the scope of these policies, strategies and actions were produced; Within the framework of the strategies and actions developed, some triggered projects have been created to ensure socio-spatial justice. 9 political approaches, 46 strategical decisions, 220 actions and 16 triggered projects based on 6 themes were determined. 84 target indicators related to each strategy were determined, and these target indicators were projected for the years 2025, 2030 and 2050.

During the participation process, a total of 194 participation events were organised, opinions/suggestions were received from 1000 people, 106 coordination meetings were held and approximately 15,000 people were contacted throughout the process. The public institutions and non-governmental organisations that have authority over the venue, and the women, children, disabled people, LGBTIQ+, immigrant groups, homeless, elderly and poor people living in Beyoglu have been the groups contacted throughout the process.

[Beyoglu Spatial Strategical Plan](#), with its participatory methods and tools used throughout the study, the number of events organised and the number of people reached, and all the outputs obtained throughout the process, claims to be the most participatory plan study carried out in Turkiye. In this context, duties were assigned to the relevant institutions for each action determined within the framework of the policies, and then opinions were asked from these institutions to evaluate the content of the action. In this way, a relevant stakeholder was determined for each action and it was ensured that the stakeholders were included in the process during the implementation phase. In terms of citizens, a system has been developed in which the participation process has been moved beyond the methods of objection to the plan, where the citizens have a word to say about the place they live and can be involved in the plan decisions throughout the process.

PART 3: EXPERIENCE SUMMARY

Beyoglu, which has all the diversity in terms of social, economic, political, cultural and spatial aspects in a cumulative process from the past to the present, has always preserved its feature of being the center and cosmopolitan district of Istanbul. Today, the need to direct the future of the district, which is under the pressure of large urban projects with interventions made in the space in line with high-scale tourism policies, has emerged with policies that take care of social benefit. In this context, the need to prepare a strategy plan

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that redefines Beyoglu's role in Istanbul, increases the publicity of the district, ensures the holistic coordination of plans and projects, meets the needs of the multicultural social structure, makes the problems and demands of disadvantaged groups visible, and includes all stakeholders in the process has emerged. In addition, there is an urban memory that emerges from Beyoglu's diverse social and cultural structure. This urban memory contains political, social, cultural, economic and spatial elements. These elements consist of a wide scale, from the struggle for rights and freedom of expression to tangible and intangible cultural heritage values, from cinemas, theatres, second-hand booksellers and entertainment venues to traditional production and trade enterprises.

In addition to these memory values, very different segments of society live in Beyoglu. The residents of this district, which form the socio-cultural fabric, are largely composed of vulnerable groups. In this direction, it has been observed that civil society initiatives are active in the district, which is both the center of Istanbul and the home of vulnerable groups. These initiatives take place in a wide range from rights-based organisations to cultural heritage groups, from Greek, Armenian and Jewish communities to culture and arts organisations, from neighborhood associations to local solidarity networks. In addition, there are researchers and institutions working on Beyoglu. However, as local administrative units, the muhtars are of great importance for the district. In addition to the benefits of Beyoglu's historical background, the strong local organisation necessitated the preparation of a participatory and inclusive planning process. formed the basis of the process. While the planning process and tools were being set up, the Berlin Strategy Plan was used on the "<https://wemakethe.city/nl/>" website and the "<https://sehirplanlama.ibb.Istanbul/beyoglu-senin/>" website where the participatory processes in the Netherlands are shared. While the page was being set up, the examples of "Berlin, London, Turin, Barcelona, Paris and Lyon Municipalities" were evaluated.

Among the purposes of the preparation of this plan, there is primarily "Including diversity as a criterion for inclusion" and studies have been carried out to increase stakeholder diversity and participation in this direction. In addition, it is to increase publicity, meet the needs of different segments of society, build a healthier and livable city, thus ensuring spatial justice. In line with these purposes, the participation process was planned in 4 stages. These stages are; analysis, field activity, synthesis-collaboration and plan-consensus. In September 2020, the spatial strategical plan was announced with a public introductory meeting, followed by focus group meetings and headman meetings. Later, on the basis of participatory neighborhood activities, participation desks were set up and district festivals were held and also forums, seminars and workshops were organized, and memory walks were held in the city. In the synthesis-collaboration phase, the plan setup was worked on, and a setup consisting of themes, policies, strategies and actions was created. The draft plan, which was put forward as the final product, was shared with the public and public institutions and feedback was received.

In this process, interactive digital platforms were created by considering innovative methods. A participatory environment has been created through the Beyoglu Senin website and social media accounts. In addition, revealing the visibility of diversity and memory in Beyoglu and providing spatial justice by producing solutions to the problems and needs of vulnerable groups constituted the scope of this study. At this point, district festivals, women's forums and children's activities were organised in order to communicate directly with Beyoglu subjects. Various memory tours were held, panels and interviews

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were held, and seminars were organised for the visibility of differences and memory. However, through local solidarity networks actively operating in the field, communication was made with disadvantaged groups who did not trust public institutions enough and were difficult to reach, and data on their problems and demands were obtained and also mukhtars, who are local administrators, have come to the fore as important actors who can provide information about the people of the neighborhood.

After all these processes, it was aimed to receive feedback on the draft of the Beyoglu Spatial Strategical Plan. In this context, a launch was organised for the announcement of the draft plan. In addition, the plan was shared on “beyoglusenin.ist” and made interactively open to feedback in the digital environment. The draft plan was also shared with IMM units and other public institutions, and their ideas and projects on the subject were asked and also the opinions of the public were received through a face-to-face event where the plan announcement and the “Beyoglu Symphony” documentary series were screened. After documentary screening, a forum was held in. In addition, the plan was announced and disseminated through invited podcasts and seminars.

Policies were produced, strategies and action areas and triggering projects were developed in line with the 6 main themes of the Beyoglu Spatial Strategy Plan, which was prepared as a result of participatory planning, classified as "Liveable, Equitable, Productive, Resistant, Creative and Reminiscent Beyoglu". In this direction, public spaces and social services and support mechanisms should be accessible to everyone, protection of cultural heritage and free culture and art environment, creation of a balanced and respectful tourism approach to cultural heritage, increasing employment opportunities, solving the housing problem, making the city resilient to disasters and making the city more resistant to disasters. It is aimed to strengthen local stakeholders.

We invite you to share annexes that allow you to better illustrate your experience: videos, photographs, documents... These can be sent through a file transfer service, such as WeTransfer, Dropbox or Google Drive.

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1wrkw8udk2sh6bmq7dpjMCIbh4LIEG3x3?usp=sharing>

Thank you for participating!