



# MAR UF FORUM

MAR  
URBAN  
FORUM



1-2-3 October 2021

CITIES DEVELOPING SOLUTIONS



Re-Think, Co-Act



**CITIES DEVELOPING SOLUTIONS**

**Re-Think, Co-Act**

**1-2-3 October 2021**

**Sustainable, resilient, creative, inclusive, innovative and healthy cities**

**ONLINE**

**[www.marmaraurbanforum.org](http://www.marmaraurbanforum.org)**



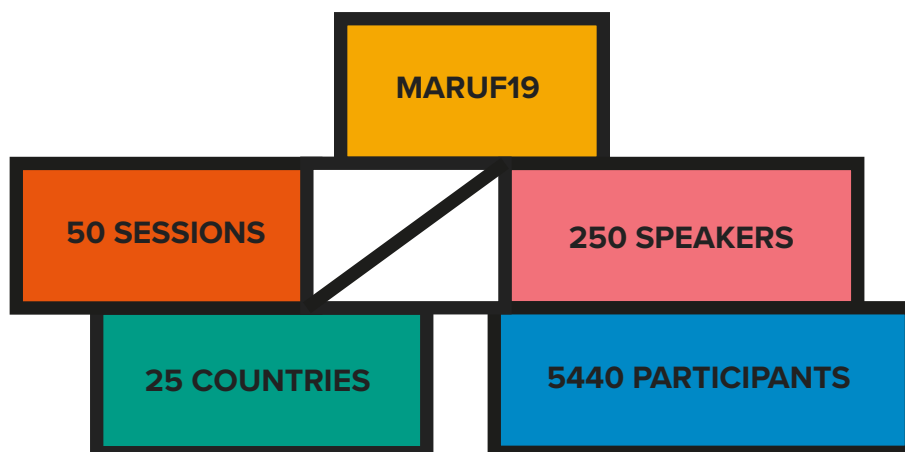
## ABOUT



**#MARUF19**

Marmara Urban Forum (MARUF) is a biennial international urban forum organized with the motto of “Cities Developing Solutions” by Marmara Municipalities Union (MMU), which is a local government association in the Marmara Region of Turkey with over 190 members. MARUF strives for not only discussing the challenges that cities face but also seeking solutions to them and multiplying good practices at the global scale.

MARUF19, which was organized for the first time on 1-3 October 2019 in Istanbul, attracted over 5440 participants. With the contributions of 66 partners, 50 sessions were held, and different approaches on urban services and urban management were discussed by 250 speakers from 25 countries. MARUF19 hosted plenary sessions, parallel sessions, roundtable meetings, workshops, networking events, exhibitions, field trips, cultural events, booths, film screenings for 3 days.





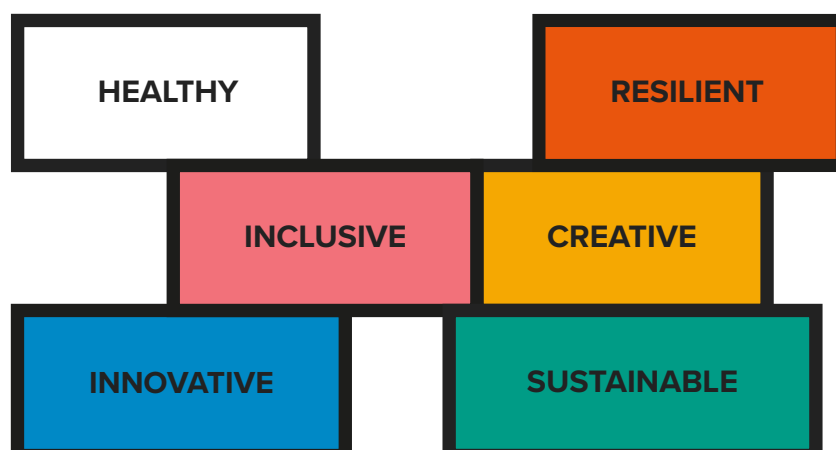
## ABOUT



## #MARUF21

This year, MARUF21 will be organized as a “virtual event” on the theme of “Re-Think, Co-Act” and will bring together urban thinkers around passionate debates on how to make cities more livable, sustainable, resilient, creative, inclusive, innovative and healthy. It will gather all stakeholders including professionals from cities, national, regional and local governments, private sector, NGOs, universities and other stakeholders that play a crucial role in the design, transformation and governance of cities.

MARUF21 puts forward an endeavor to re-think global problems of cities after the COVID-19 pandemic and to create an exchange and dialogue platform among all stakeholders in an effort to co-act by taking into account local needs and priorities in line with the global agenda. Aligning with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), some of the prominent topics to be discussed at MARUF21, among others, are: #climate change, #migration, #youth, #culture, #infrastructure, #inequalities, #mobility, #public health, #digitalization, #circular economy, #public space, #housing, #local development, #urban leadership. The localization of SDGs and urban solutions to global challenges will be addressed within the forum. UN-Habitat is among the main partners of MARUF21.





**AIMS**



**#MARUF21**


MARUF aims to find alternative ways for discussing urban issues to contribute to the implementation of the New Urban Agenda. In collaboration with all stakeholders at local, regional, national and international levels, MARUF aims at:

- Analyzing economic, political, social and ecological impacts of urbanization on humans' lives and cities
  - Raising awareness on safe, inclusive, resilient and sustainable urbanization approaches
  - Contributing to the transformation of cities to make them more liveable and equitable
  - Seeking solutions to the challenges that cities face and multiplying good practices at the global scale
  - Discussing how to strengthen the role of cities and local governments in case of emergency situations and global challenges
  - Developing information flow and networks among cities and city-regions
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## WHO PARTICIPATES?

#MARUF21



Marmara Urban Forum is a gathering place for everyone who thinks about the city and produces for the city. MARUF21 will bring together urban thinkers around passionate debates on how to make cities more livable, sustainable, resilient, creative, inclusive, innovative and healthy. It will gather all stakeholders including professionals from cities, national, regional and local governments, private sector, NGOs, universities and other stakeholders that play a crucial role in the design, transformation and governance of cities.

- Local governments
- Public sector
- Private sector
- NGOs
- Universities
- International organizations
- Media



## TOPICS



## #MARUF21

MARUF21 will put its focus on the need to re-think urban challenges that have been escalating after the pandemic and act together with all urban stakeholders. Therefore, MARUF21 aims to touch upon all issues about the city that needs re-thinking and co-acting. The sessions will be tagged with relevant keywords and associated with each other. Some of the prominent topics to be discussed at MARUF21 are, but not limited to:

**#risk management**

**#infrastructure**

**#biodiversity**

**#city networks**

**#inequalities**

**#security**

**#housing**

**#agriculture**

**#climate change**

**#art**

**#circular economy**

**#public space**

**#migration**

**#youth**

**#culture**

**#water**

**#governance**

**#innovation**

**#food**

**#public health**

**#digitalization**

**#urban technologies**

**#mobility**

**#logistics**

**#local development**

**#transportation**

**#urban leadership**

**#urban design**

**#cultural heritage**

**#participation**

**#communication**

**#urban economy**

**FORMATS**

**#MARUF21**

**Side events**



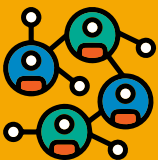
**Parallel sessions**

**Special sessions**

**B2B meetings**

**Networking sessions**

**Closed meetings**



**Awards**

**Dialogue meetings**

**Training sessions**



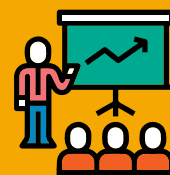
**PhD Showcase**



**Talks**

**Workshops**

**Roundtable meetings**



**Exhibitions**

**Plenary sessions**



## WHO ORGANIZES?



Marmara Municipalities Union (MMU) is the first and the largest regional Local Government Association in Turkey with more than 190 members from the Marmara Region, which is the northwest corner of Turkey, rich in finance, industry, commerce, tourism as well as scientific and cultural activities. The Marmara Region inhabits around 26 million residents, making up one third of the population of Turkey. At the center of the region is the Sea of Marmara, which is an inland sea giving the region its name, and connecting Turkey's Asian and European parts.

Since its foundation in 1975, MMU has played important roles in nurturing agreements and collaboration among mayors and council members of different political parties, helping increase the authorities and resources of its member municipalities, and representing them internationally. It carries on activities in areas such as environment, urbanization, migration and social cohesion, local economic development, resilience, technology, and innovation. Its activities include training, consulting, raising awareness, capacity building activities, knowledge and experience sharing, supporting research, organizing events and stakeholder meetings.

Consisting of 193 member municipalities, MMU operates across 12 provinces, 6 of which are metropolitan municipalities (Balıkesir, Bilecik, Bolu, Bursa, Çanakkale, Edirne, İstanbul, Kırklareli, Kocaeli, Sakarya, Tekirdağ and Yalova). Its center is located in İstanbul.

For more information on MMU: [www.marmara.gov.tr/en](http://www.marmara.gov.tr/en)



## MAIN PARTNER



UN-Habitat, which is the United Nations programme for human settlements and sustainable urban development established in 1978 with the vision of “a better quality of life for all in an urbanizing world”, is among the main partners of MARUF21.

**UN HABITAT**  
FOR A BETTER URBAN FUTURE



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