



Balkan Cities Network

FIRE AND DISASTER COORDINATION WORKSHOP



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B40 Balkan Cities Network, established with the motto of "Better cooperation, better future", primarily aims to create a better cooperation environment among Balkan Cities. The most important cooperation area is the establishment of a B40 Network Disaster Coordination System that will enable member cities to support each other in case of disaster. Its first step was taken at the B40 Network Fire and Disaster Coordination workshop held in Istanbul on 8-14 August 2022. From the

member cities of the B40 Balkan Cities Network 86 firefighters and fire chiefs came together in this workshop. In addition Fierbinti-Targ Mayor Iusein Iuksel and City Manager Iulian Mares also attended to the workshop.

Initially, firefighters who participated in the B40 Network Fire and Disaster Coordination workshop came together at the meeting dinner at Yıldız Korusu. It was a very warm and pleasant meeting.



On the first day of the workshop, an opening cocktail was held at the Fire Brigade Training Center Bahçelievler Campus. Then, Istanbul Metropolitan Municipality (IMM) Fire Department and Fatih Fire Station were visited. The importance of effective intervention and cooperation in fire, disaster and emergency situations was discussed. It was one of the fundamental ideas that a sustainable, progressive and innovative management approach could be developed owing to the B40 Network.





On the second day of the workshop, firefighters participated in maintenance and repair works at Maltepe and at Bakırköy Fire Station. Herein, equipment and tools maintenance and repair activities has been carried together with the firefighters of IMM.



Then, the mobile training vehicle, mobile rest vehicle, command and communication vehicles were examined in detail with all their technical features. In addition, hands-on exercises were continued carrying out fire response techniques and fire search and rescue techniques.



In addition, the K-9 Dog Search and Rescue Unit in the Fire Brigade Training Facility in Resneli Campus was visited. Hands-on exercises were conducted with K-9 dogs as well as earthquake simulation and rescue activities by the K-9 dog were carried out practically.



On the third day of the workshop, firefighters attended in-station training at Maltepe and Bakırköy Fire Stations with their colleagues from the İstanbul Fire Department. Firefighters drew attention with their seriousness, sensitivity and discipline.





In the afternoon, firefighters visited Turkey's largest Fire Brigade Simulation Center in Büyükbakkalköy Campus with a closed area with 4 fire truck simulators, 1 ambulance simulator and 1 tactical desk operation system. The firefighters, who experienced the simulators at the facility, stated that they were excited as if they were going to real events, that the response activities were very realistic, and most importantly, that possible accidents and risks were reduced to zero. The hazardous materials and items vehicle was also introduced in detail upon the request of the firefighters participating in the intervention operations against hazardous materials.



On the fourth day of the workshop, after the training center was introduced in the Bahçelievler campus of the Istanbul Fire Brigade Training Center, incident command system was discussed. Opinions were exchanged about the fire departments of the member cities. Thus, it was ensured that the member cities had an opportunity to know each other better in terms of power, equipment and tools. In the afternoon, the firefighters hosted at the Disaster Coordination Center were provided with detailed information on Disaster Management and Fire Brigade Information System. It was the common idea of the discussions that how important technology is in the management of disasters and events and that research on this subject would be more effective.



Firefighters who participated in the B40 Network Fire and Disaster Coordination workshop stayed at different stations of the Istanbul Fire Department and participated in the firefighting activities as observers together with the Istanbul Fire Department teams.



On the last day of the workshop, the firefighters were shown the historical places of Istanbul accompanied by a guide and translator. The Basilica Cistern, which was restored and finalized by the Istanbul Metropolitan Municipality and recently opened, was also visited.



Afterwards, a Bosphorus tour including lunch was made.



Finally, MINIATURK, which is located in the area where the farewell dinner will be held, and where the miniatures of Turkey's most important historical monuments are located, was visited. At the dinner, 86 firefighters who participated in the B40 Network Fire and Disaster Coordination workshop were presented with certificates of participation by the Head of the Fire Brigade Department, Mr. Remzi ALBAYRAK, and the Permanent Secretary of the B40 Balkan Cities Network, Ms. Tuğba FİGANKAPLAN.

The B40 Network Fire and Disaster Coordination workshop was very productive thanks to the interest and enthusiasm of the participating firefighters. All firefighters contributed greatly to the development of solidarity between their cities. We think that these organizations held by the B40 Balkan Cities Network will create positive results for the member cities with the participation of member cities.



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