



**B40
Balkan Cities Network
Declaration**

This declaration was finalized by the participating mayors and municipality representatives after the first **B40 - Balkan Cities Network** kickoff meeting hosted by Istanbul Metropolitan Municipality on 29-30 November 2021.

We, as the leaders of the local governments of the participating Balkan cities and the founders of the B40 - Balkan Cities Network;

- Being aware of the potential that sustainable development and peace present for the cities in our region,
- With a shared vision for a European future,
- Aspiring to establish a fruitful cooperation in areas of common interest,
- Knowing that climate change and other global challenges we face requires working together towards common solutions at local, regional and global level,
- Recognizing that good governance requires a resilient, democratic, transparent, and inclusive local governance, based on data, science and shared wisdom for future cities,
- Emphasizing the critical importance of the localization of the New Urban Agenda and other international agreements and plans, particularly the Sustainable Development Goals,

Under the framework of the B40 - Balkan Cities Network, established at the Istanbul Summit, in line with the abovementioned common values, we declare to;

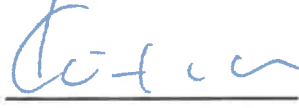
- Work together through this Network to strengthen the dialogue among our cities,
- Cooperate in the fields of economy, culture, innovation, sustainability, and solidarity,
- Develop new areas of cooperation focusing on reversing the effects of the climate change, and strengthening local democracy and good neighborly relations in our region,
- Evaluate the difficulties encountered at the local and regional levels within the framework of reciprocity and dialogue in common platforms by sharing solutions and good practices with the parties,
- Contribute to the recommendation development processes for decision makers at all levels,
- Assist in the planning of the Network meetings and the specification of the meeting agendas in line with the annual priorities to be determined by the Network members and participating in the meetings with Mayors and technical personnel,
- Host and participate in the Network meetings,
- Encourage participation of local communities through participatory activities,
- Provide support to the Network Secretariat.

Date: 30.11.2021

On behalf of Istanbul Metropolitan Municipality


Ekrem İMAMOĞLU
Mayor of Istanbul

On behalf of City of Athens


Kostas BAKOYANNIS
Mayor of Athens

On behalf of City of Belgrade


Zoran RADOJIĆ
Mayor of Belgrade

On behalf of City of Constanța


Ionuț RUSU
Deputy Mayor of Constanța

On behalf of City of Çanakkale


Rebiye Turan ÜNÜVAR
Deputy Mayor of Çanakkale

On behalf of City of Durres


Emiriana SAKO
Mayor of Durres

On behalf of Municipality of Edirne


Recep GÜRKAN
Mayor of Edirne

On behalf of Municipality of Kardzhali


Hasan AZIS
Mayor of Kardzhali

On behalf of Municipality of Kırklareli


Mehmet Siyam KESİMOĞLU
Mayor of Kırklareli

On behalf of Kotor Municipality


Vladimir JOKIĆ
Mayor of Kotor

On behalf of Municipality of Laktaši



Miroslav BOJIĆ
Mayor of Laktaši

On behalf of Municipality of Mytilene



Stratis KYTELIS
Mayor of Mytilene

On behalf of City of Podgorica



Ivan VUKOVIĆ
Mayor of Podgorica

On behalf of Municipality of Prishtina



Merita MALIQI
Head of International
Cooperation and EU Integration
of Municipality of Prishtina

On behalf of Municipality of Prizren



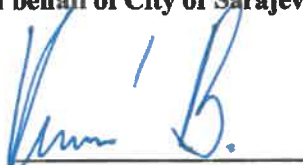
Sevil Laman KAZAZ
Director of Tourism and
Economic Development of
Municipality of Prizren

On behalf of City of Pula



Filip ZORIČIĆ
Mayor of Pula

On behalf of City of Sarajevo



Benjamina KARIĆ
Mayor of Sarajevo

On behalf of City of Skopje



Danela ARSOVSKA
Mayor of Skopje

On behalf of City of Split



Ivica PULJAK
Mayor of Split

On behalf of Tekirdağ Metropolitan Municipality



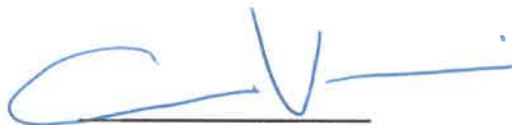
Kadir ALBAYRAK
Mayor of Tekirdağ

On behalf of City of Thessaloniki



Konstantinos ZERVAS
Mayor of Thessaloniki

On behalf of Municipality of Tirana



Erion VELIAJ
Mayor of Tirana