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 RADOJIČIĆ
Mayor of Belgrade

On behalf of City of Constanța

Ioan RUSU
Deputy Mayor of Constanța

On behalf of City of Çanakkale

Rebiye Turan ÜNÜVAR
Deputy Mayor of Çanakkale

On behalf of City of Durres

Emirliana SAKO
Mayor of Durres

On behalf of Municipality of Edirne

Resit 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 ZORIĆ
 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