



Balkan Cities Network

**YOUNG CITY
REPRESENTATIVES SUMMIT**



b40network.org/youngsummit

B40 Young City Representatives Summit was held in Istanbul on 23-28 August 2022 and it brought young people together from the member cities of B40 Balkan Cities Network. The young people represented their cities at the Summit and participated in four days of speeches, panels, networking activities and workshops. They also gave keynote speeches and presented their cities sharing a platform with the young people from Balkan cities in attendance.



The B40 Young City Representatives Summit program has been prepared on the basis of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.

The most important issue considered in the program is to raise awareness about the importance and role of youngs in realizing Sustainable Development Goals.





The B40 Young City Representatives Summit program has been prepared with the motto ***"Youth Together For Better Future"***. Young City Representatives are leaders of change needed to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals to improve people's lives and the health of the planet. Young City Representatives have a say in the planning of the future by proposing innovative solutions, inspiring change and adding dynamism.





Youth Together For Better Future

Young City Representatives come together through the opening ceremony. They are welcomed by Yiğit Oğuz Duman, Advisor to Mayor. He stated that he was very pleased to host them in Istanbul. He said that young people have a very important role in the future of their city and wanted them to never lose their courage and excitement. He informed Young City Representatives about the vision and activities of the B40 Balkan Cities Network. He also introduced briefly B40 Balkan Cities Network in the direction of ***"Better Cooperation Better Future"***.





Microphone Yours

Young City Representatives presented their cities with great enthusiasm. They were admired for their motivation and talent.



Young City Representatives were very well prepared for these presentations. They had a very successful performance.



In their presentations, they did not neglect to invite other young people to their cities. There was also a lot of fun while the young people introduced their cities.

Youth Together With Mayor Ekrem İMAMOĞLU

Young City Representatives met with Mayor Ekrem İMAMOĞLU, Founding President of B40 Balkan Cities Network.



Mayor Ekrem İMAMOĞLU, who was welcomed with great enthusiasm by the youth, addressed them as follows:

"You represent the B40 cities here today. We established the B40 Balkan Cities Network to create a better future for you. And our motto is "Better Cooperation, Better Future". The most important step of this cooperation is to increase the friendship and solidarity between our cities. And you will contribute to this friendship and solidarity. You are the future of your cities. Tomorrow, when you become the leaders of your cities and your country, your friendships will turn into cooperation between your cities.





In the B40 Network, we work with our member cities in the fields of environment, climate, technology, innovation, local democracy, culture, art, and local development. We organized workshops on these issues at the B40 Young City Representatives Summit. Because we care about your views on these issues and we want to listen to your ideas. I want youth to be the strategists and policymakers of B40 Network cities. Please claim this: This is your future and you have a say in your own future.



As the cities of the B40 Network, we attach great importance to your feelings, your designs, your perspectives, your honesty, and your conscientious values. You are the future of your cities; so start building this future today. Please always keep your self-confidence at the highest level. Believe in yourself; because we believe in you. Keep your hopes high; because you are our hope. If you produce with mind, science, and art in every aspect of life, there is hope. If you stand up for democracy, freedom, brotherhood, and peace, there is hope. Where there is youth, there is hope. My motto is: We have youth! Please also remember: You are not responsible only to yourself, only to your family, or only to your city. You are responsible to all Balkan cities and even to the whole world. We are very happy to be hosting you here in Istanbul."



Participatory Youth and the Future

Young City Representatives met with the Youth Assembly representatives of Istanbul Citizens' Council.



Istanbul Youth Assembly offers solutions to the problems and needs of the young people of Istanbul regarding city life. This also contributes to our youth policies in this direction. They discussed the ways to develop proposals together to create a city where they live fairly and freely, where intercultural dialogue is increased, gender equality is ensured, poverty is reduced, and civic solidarity is strengthened.



Workshops

B40 Young City Representatives Summit included 7 workshops in order to increase the awareness of young people about their social responsibilities and contribute to their personal development. Workshops aimed to provide Young City Representatives with expert insights into the issues and topics they are most passionate about.



In the first half of the workshops, expert speakers from universities, public and private sectors and civil society made presentations. In the second half, they made comments and evaluations on the subject with Young City Representatives.



Most of Young City Representatives attended whichever workshop they are interested in on the same day. They shared their opinions and contributed to the discussion topics of the workshops.





Environment and Climate Workshop

At the environment and climate workshop Young City Representatives have demonstrated great awareness of the environment and climate risk. Particularly the topic of the responsibilities of youngs to protect natural ecosystems and to reduce environmental pollution and carbon footprint was discussed in the workshop which was very productive thanks to their interest and participation.



Culture and Art Workshop

Culture and art workshop was very productive and enjoyable with the intense interest and valuable contributions of the youngs. Youth especially expressed their expectations about cities in terms of cultural opportunities and cultural interaction. They argued their right to participate and contribute to cultural life. They especially mentioned the common cultural values of the Balkan cities to improve brotherhood and cooperation.



Science, Technology and Innovation Workshop

Science, technology and innovation workshop was very lively and interactive thanks to the innovative perspectives of the Young City Representatives. They expressed their technological and creative expectations from the cities of the future. They mentioned their demands for the creation of free, entrepreneurial and creative cities.



Young City Representatives defined the ways to increase the quality of life in cities by using science, technology and innovation. They also defined the smart city ecosystem and their roles to take a more active place in this ecosystem.



Human Rights and Local Equality Workshop

Human rights and local equality workshop was a session where Young City Representatives expressed their views on democratic participation processes. Social participation tools and access opportunities for young people were discussed. They reflected their sense of social responsibility and their awareness. They especially expressed their expectations from cities in order to take a more constructive role in social events.



Young City Representatives discussed the needs to be done to live in a city where people live equally and freely, where intercultural dialogue opportunities increase, gender equality is ensured, income injustice is prevented and poverty is reduced.



City and Sport Workshop

In the city and sports workshop, a very pleasant conversation was held, reflecting the love and interest of the Young City Representatives in sports. The relationship between sports, health and success was discussed. Their views about what their sports habits and discipline gave them were extremely interesting. They specifically expressed their views on sports and the social, cultural and economic development of cities.



City and Architecture Workshop

In the city and architecture workshop, first of all, the issue of sustainable cities was discussed. The role and impact of cities in achieving sustainable development goals was discussed. The expectations of the youth in this regard and their contributions to the cities were evaluated. It was extremely impressive to listen to how architectural tastes and preferences were interpreted by Young City Representatives.



Self-Improvement and Career Planning Workshop

At the self-improvement and career planning workshop Young City Representatives expressed their career and future expectations. They expressed their views on self-improvement methods. Career planning and career development were evaluated. Evaluations were made on the professions of the future and the qualifications required for them.

Welcome Party and Concert



Youth City Representatives Talent Show and Kareoke Night



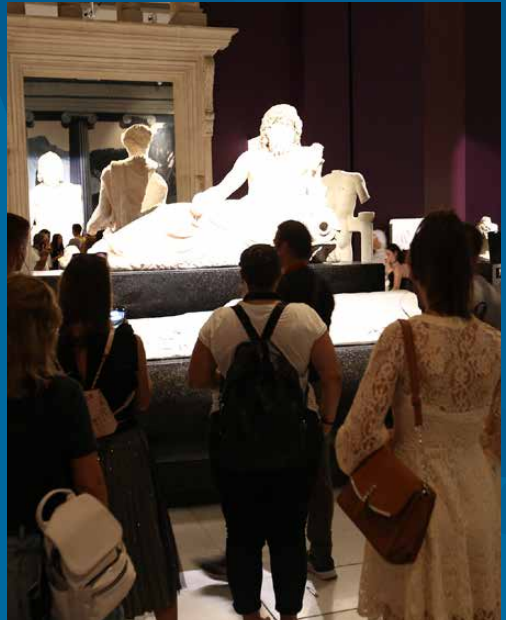
Balkan Folk Dance Show, Anatolian Folk Dance Show and Folk Songs Night



Bosphorus Tour by Boat



City Tour on Historical Peninsula



Farewell Event and Concert



Photo Album





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