BURSA, Turkey

Overview of Bursa

Bursa

Source: BEBKA

Bursa’s administrative structure

The Bursa province is subdivided into 17 districts, with each district including a corresponding district municipality, while the city of Bursa provides the administrative functions of the Bursa province.

Key figures

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<tr>
<td>Bursa Province</td>
<td>2 842 547</td>
<td>6.6%</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<td>Turkey</td>
<td>78 741 053</td>
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Challenges for Bursa’s resilience

- **An export-driven automobile industry is influenced by fluctuation in the foreign market and the need for high-skilled labour force is critical**

Bursa’s economy has a strong concentration of automotive manufacturing, textile and furniture production, and an increasing service sector that supports production and development activities in the secondary sector. As the local economy shifts towards specialised and advanced automobile production, shortages in skilled labour have become an increasing challenge. Failure to supply the labour market with the appropriate level of highly skilled workers will limit not only the growth of the local economy, but also the ability of local firms to compete globally.

Furthermore, Bursa’s export-driven manufacturing industry has meant that reduced demand for its products in foreign markets adversely impacts its economic growth, innovation capacities and employment development. In 2008, exports diminished rapidly as a consequence of the economic recession and declining orders from European markets, leading to decreased GVA growth (-2%) in Bursa.

- **Population growth is putting pressure on the city’s infrastructure and public services**

Bursa is experiencing strong migration from Turkey’s east and southeastern regions attracted by the city’s growing economy. Particularly in the eastern part of the city, the influx of new residents is changing local communities and putting pressure on infrastructure and public services.

Besides, as a consequence of the rapid population inflow over the past decades, uncontrolled land development for industrial use has become a challenge for Bursa’s outskirts and hinterland. The rapid industrialisation process and reasonable land costs have resulted in the emergence of unplanned industrial sites in areas under natural protection, causing a loss in the quality of agricultural land and more vulnerability to risks of natural disasters.
**Elements for building resilience in Kyoto**

**Economy**
- *Workforce development is enhanced to increase high-skilled labour* to meet the demand on the labour market. Burse uses financial and technical programmes from several institutions and also supports directly the creation of SMEs and facilities the hiring of new employees.
- *Bursa’s Chamber of Commerce and Industry and its partners have enhanced the development of competitive clusters*, including rail systems, aerospace, baby and children’s clothing, and raw vegetables and fruits.

**Society**
- *Programmes on social challenges are taking place with the national and regional governments*, for example through the “Social Development Programme” (2011) and the “Small-Scale infrastructure for social development” (2014) totalling TRY 12 million.

**Environment**
- *Bursa is implementing a comprehensive set of strategies* including Bursa’s Master Plan (2012) and the 2014-2023 Regional Development Plan, to address environmental resilience issues such as the preservation of ecosystems, balanced development between urban areas and the conservation of lands, and the reduction of natural and technological hazards.

**Institutions**
- *The Regional Development Agency, BEBKA, plays an important role in enhancing overall development and co-operation between Bursa’s public and private sectors*. It was created in 2009 mainly to reduce disparities on regional development.
- *The long-term vision* embodied in the 2014-2023 Regional Development Plan *provides Bursa’s future framework for sustainable development*
- *The Local Agenda 21 programme, created in 1997, established the Bursa City Council to promote policy coordination among stakeholders and decentralisation of the local decision-making process with a special focus on the concepts of “sustainable development” and “good governance”.*

**Conclusions**
- Bursa recognised the potential in its evolving economy that transitions from automobile to advanced manufacturing. This development lays the foundation to support the growth of a more diversified and advanced economy through strategic policies that aim at skills development on the one hand, and the attractiveness of the city to high-skilled workers on the other.
- Beyond the support for organisations providing business services that nurture the evolution of SMEs and a start-up scene, the Bursa region is looking to balance urban development throughout the region, by co-ordinating urban development plans to steer new housing and industrial developments and ensure the preservation of natural land.
- Exploring compact city possibilities could help address Bursa’s central challenges regarding population growth and the pressure on developing new housing, as well as diminish the development of illegal dwellings outside designated areas. While Bursa is already pursuing a polycentric urban development in its future development plan, further integrating land-use and transportation policies would support the city’s fast economic development to happen in a low-carbon and climate-resilient way.