



THE STATE OF NATIONAL URBAN POLICY IN TURKEY

Name of national urban policy	<i>Integrated Urban Development Strategy and Action Plan 2010-2023 (KENTGES)</i>
Date of national urban policy	2010
Explicit or partial	Explicit
Legal status (e.g. act of the legislature, executive order, administrative guidance, etc.)	National strategy
Previous/secondary policies	<i>Urban Transformation Law (2012); Metropolitan Municipality Law (2014)</i>
Stage of development	Implementation /monitoring and evaluation
How developed (e.g. through a participatory/stakeholder process, or act of parliament, etc.)	Stakeholder participation
Implementing body	Turkish Ministry of Environment and Urbanization
Government system	Centralised
Type of national urban agency	General national planning authority
Implementation mechanism (e.g. committee, involvement of multiple agencies, national-local co-ordination)	No information available

Current national urban policy

Turkey's national urban policy is the *Integrated Urban Development Strategy and Action Plan 2010-2023 (KENTGES)*. Adopted in 2010, KENTGES establishes principles, strategies and actions for providing healthy, balanced and livable urban development, as well as structural solutions for urbanisation. These are grouped under three main axes:

1. **restructuring the spatial planning system**, including strengthening it, improving co-ordination across relevant agencies, and building capacity;
2. **improving the quality of space and life in settlements**, including sustainable urban form and transport; integration of infrastructure investment into spatial planning; revitalisation of central business districts and neighbourhoods; balanced distribution of social services; preservation of open space and cultural and historic areas; disaster risk mitigation; and building safety standards; and
3. **strengthening the economic and social structures of settlements**, including managing rural-urban migration by strengthening rural settlements; increasing urban solidarity, integration and tolerance; providing services to disadvantaged groups; and ensuring citizen participation in the spatial planning process (Republic of Turkey Ministry of Public Works and Settlement 2010; OECD, 2015).

The process of developing KENTGES started with an Urbanization Council held in 2009. Ten separate commissions featuring 500 experts from 151 institutions convened to identify

Turkey’s urban development challenges and set an agenda through 2023. Their report, *KENTGES Integrated Urban Development Strategy and Action Plan (2010-2023)* was adopted by the High Council in 2010 and provides a roadmap for national and local governments for urbanisation and planning. Institutional and legislative reform followed, including the establishment of the Ministry of Environment and Urbanization in 2011, the enactment of the *2012 Urban Transformation Law*, which addressed rapid growth and urban disaster risk management, and the update in 2104 of the *Metropolitan Municipality Law*, which extended the borders of metropolitan municipalities up to provincial borders (Republic of Turkey Ministry of Environment and Urbanization, 2014).

The *Turkey HABITAT-III National Report (2014)* evaluated some of the challenges related to implementing KENTGES, and found that it was limited in its response to urbanisation. This was due, in part, to the fact that spatial planning was not better co-ordinated and distributed between central and local authorities. This has resulted in increased rural-urban migration and spatial segregation in cities. On the other hand, the KENTGES target of “Creating a Sustainable Urban Transportation System” was being implemented and the central government was providing technical and financial assistance to local governments (Republic of Turkey Ministry of Environment and Urbanization, 2014).

Areas covered by current urban policy

Sector	Sectoral representation in the <i>Integrated Urban Development Strategy and Action Plan 2010-2023 (KENTGES)</i>
Economic development	Extensive
Spatial structure	Extensive
Human development	Moderate
Environmental sustainability	Extensive
Climate resilience	Moderate

Specific issues covered by current national urban policy

Turkey’s *Integrated Urban Development Strategy and Action Plan 2010-2023 (KENTGES)* includes the following characteristics:

Criteria for national urban policies	Appears in the policy
Responds to population dynamics	X
Promotes a territorial approach (in particular urban-rural linkages)	X
Addresses the urban systems (from large to medium and small cities) and the connectivity among cities	X
Prepares for infrastructure and services in cities (including public space)	X
Promotes urban land-use efficiency	X
Enhances environmental sustainability and resilience to climate change	X
Develops effective urban governance systems (horizontal co-ordination and vertical alignment)	
Promotes effective municipal finance systems	
Supports partnership and co-operation between urban actors	X
Safeguards inclusiveness and participation in the process and outcomes (inequity, segregation, safety, etc.)	X
Ensures robust and comparable urban scale data	

Bibliography

OECD (2015), "Regional Outlook Survey Results: Turkey", unpublished.

Republic of Turkey Ministry of Environment and Urbanization (2014), *Turkey HABITAT-III National Report*, December 2014, Ministry of Environment and Urbanization, Ankara, <http://unhabitat.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/07/Turkey-national-report.pdf> (accessed 20 June 2016).

Republic of Turkey Ministry of Public Works and Settlement (2010), *KENTGES: Integrated Urban Development Strategy and Action Plan*, 4 November 2010, Ministry of Public Works and Settlement, Ankara, www.kentges.gov.tr (accessed 20 June 2016).