

# **Determine Of Regional Development Strategies in Izmir**

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## **SUMMARY**

Regional development in Turkey and around the world is possible with the optimal use and development urban and rural development strategies. When the decisions of the regional development are taken, urban land use, natural and artificial thresholds, the agricultural structure analysis, population projections and etc. need to be analyzed. Determine the general range of the decisions of the regional development is required agriculture, industry and services sectors analysis and projections for these sectors. As well as all these are important in determining of a region's economic structure, also optimal use of available natural resources is required.

In this study, in terms of regional development strategies is aimed to increase the capacity of making the right decision an example of the province of Izmir on Turkey. Therefore, the current situation will be analyzed and results interpreted.

## 1. INTRODUCTION

Due to the change which occurred in demographic structure through the World War II, cities have grown rapidly and rural to urban migration has increased. From 1980s onwards, classic cities which took form in the industrial era have undergone a fundamental process of change and transformation. At the present day in Turkey, economic pressure due to the globalization has engendered economic migration. Immigration brought along with it spatial organizations, and identity changes depending on these spatial organizations. This affects especially the social topography of cities and causes uncontrolled urban development.

To prevent uncontrolled urban development and to maintain sustainable development, it is necessary to use socio-economic, socio-cultural and spatial structures effectively. Thus, developing countries can keep up with the change and transformation, and can maintain a higher standard of living and abundance. Within this scope, planning studies on national, regional and local scales must be aimed at achieving an effective and sustainable development. Therefore, regional tendency which is affected by private and public investments and speculations must be enhanced in such a way that regional and interregional inequality can be disposed.

There is a requirement of regional planning strategies in Turkey within the framework of the European Union to reduce disparities between rural and urban, to increase employment and job opportunities, which achieve standards with education, healthcare and social opportunities, revealing the identity of the cities and raising the awareness of local community.

Turkey should make new regularizations in the meaning of not only regional development or orientation toward the EU but also enhancement of competitiveness.

This study aims to investigate the current situation analysis, the problems encountered and socio-economic and socio-cultural potential of Izmir, one of the metropolitan cities, to explain regional planning problems and regional development strategies to be built aiming these problems in Turkey. In the end, spatial and sectoral aims shall be presented for a regional planning process for Izmir.

### 1.1 Necessities for Regional Planning and Organization in Turkey

There is a need for regional planning in Turkey in order to create cooperation, association, standardization and non-particulate integrated approach and an interrelated control mechanism in local planning, regional plan and national scale planning studies. It is the duty of the government in Turkey to provide, evaluate and control socio-economic and socio-cultural development and balanced improvement in all sectors, and to establish the organizations that are necessary for this purpose.

In Turkey these organizations are established within regional development agencies which perform a role between local administrations that take place in urban planning and central authority that makes national development plans (Polatlioglu, 1988).

According to the Law on the Establishment, Coordination and Tasks of Regional Development Agencies, No. 5449, the main objective of the Development Agencies is "to set

out the principles and procedures regarding the establishment, duties, authorities and coordination of the Development Agencies which shall be organized for the purpose of accelerating regional development, ensuring sustainability and reducing interregional and intra-regional development disparities in accordance with the principles and policies set in the National Development Plan and Programs through enhancing the cooperation among public sector, private sector and non-governmental organizations, ensuring the efficient and appropriate utilization of resources and stimulating local potential." (Published on the National Gazette: 08.02.06 No: 26074) (URL 1).

Regional planning and organization are needed in Turkey for the purposes of

- Resolving regional problems which cannot be solved remaining in between decentralization and local administration mechanisms(Kilic, 2005),
- Settling regional scaled urban-rural formations, economic, demographic, social and cultural inequality not in a political way but in a way which shall provide sectoral and social balance,
- Spending less time and less labor for interinstitutional information transfer by providing a database standardization which shall be fundamental to both local and regional planning,
- Providing an objective evaluation and control mechanism for problems between residential areas in the region,
- Updating detailed statistics that are appropriate for the region, for the needs and expectations of the region and for the changes, and by this way creating a regional planning approach to serve national interest,
- Increasing international competitiveness and local specializing to become a global brand,
- Establishing statistical databases in line with the EU Regional Statistics System within European Union accession process.

## **1.2 Regional Development Policies in Turkey's European Union Accession Process**

Turkey has had European Union candidate status since 1999. Using various regulations and tools, Turkey tries to comply with EU policies (Kayasu vd, 2006).

In general, Turkey's regional development policies are;

- Reducing disparities between regions, increasing competitiveness in the international arena and accelerating local/regional economic development by making local specialization possible,
- Preventing intergovernmental paradox between local and central administrations, and enabling institutionalization,
- Encouraging investment in priority development areas (Kayasu vd, 2006).

Looking into regional development studies which are tried to be carried out in Turkey, it is obvious that the policies are not reflected to the applications, that investment accumulation in certain areas causes imbalance between regions, and that there are interinstitutional authority confusions.

There have been attempts to apply the EU regional policies to the current administrative structure of Turkey; however all have failed as a result of different local characteristics and information and infrastructure deficiencies.

### **1.3 Determination of Regional Planning Strategies in Turkey's European Union Accession Process**

It is very important to create regional planning strategies in Turkey in order to prevent inequalities in the region through the European Union Accession Process. In general, main strategies which are necessary to be created within the scope of regional planning in Turkey consist of:

- Making use of the funds provided by the European Union (SAPARD (Special Accession Programme for Agriculture and Rural Development), IPARD (Instrument for Pre Accession Assistance for Rural Development)etc.) to design rural development projects, and preventing migration by producing strategies within rural settlement and development plans,
- Making sectoral analysis and redirecting the development with regards to featured sectors and increasing new employment opportunities,
- Protecting environmental and natural values within the context of national and international agreements and conventions (Ramsar, basin protection, wetland conservation etc.),
- Determining urban historical structure strategies, and conserving and maintaining urban and archaeological sites.
- Improving transportation and connections to promote trade and increase export both in national and regional scale,
- Providing supports and incentives to make local specialization possible,
- Creating statistical data and information infrastructure in compliance with the European Union standards,
- Precluding intra-regional inequalities in socio-cultural sense,

## **2. DEFINING SUSTAINABLE REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT STRATEGIES FOR THE PROVINCE OF IZMIR**

### **2.1 General Overview of Izmir Region:**

Izmir is Turkey's third largest city in terms of socio-economic development and competitiveness. It is the socio-economic and socio-cultural center of Aegean Region.

The contribution ratio of Izmir to Aegean Region GDP (Gross Domestic Product) is 50% and to overall Turkey GDP is 7%. Additionally, Izmir is a rising city which is capable of enhancing competitiveness with its historical background, metropolis qualifications and brandization ability and innovational views in globalizing world (URL 2).

### **2.2 Socio-cultural Structure of the Province of Izmir**

Izmir has a population of 3.965.23 in 2011. According to immigration statistics, within 2007-2008 period Izmir has attracted the most immigration from Manisa (10%), Istanbul (9%), Ankara and Mardin (5%), Konya and Aydin (4%) provinces (DPT, 2008).

Izmir comes at the 5<sup>th</sup> rank regarding the development grade of the education sector in Turkey with a total of 7 universities. Primary health indicators of Izmir range above the country

average values. In addition to its history and cultural structure and embodying many ancient cities, Izmir has a seaport town characteristic. Regarding the cultural structure, Izmir distinguishes for its environmental values and tourism sector. Agro tourism, winter, coastal, sea, thermal, cultural, convention, nature, religious etc. tourisms are possible in Izmir. Also Izmir's original production which can make local specialization, is shown in (Figure 1) with other tourism qualifications.

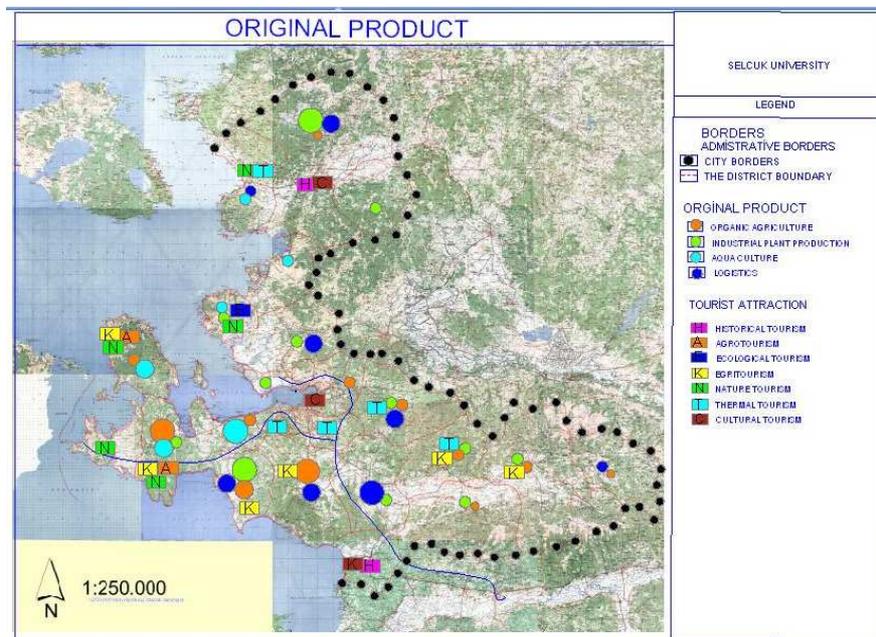


Figure 1 Original Products and Tourist Attraction in Izmir

### 2.3 Socio-economic Structure of the Province of Izmir

Izmir comes at the 3<sup>rd</sup> rank following Istanbul and Ankara regarding its contribution to Turkey GDP, export share, brandization and patent formation, and being an international trade center. On sectoral basis, the largest contributions of Izmir are in service (54,4%), industry (37,5%) and agriculture (8,1%).

Izmir has got efficient river basins for rural development. Also there are huge forest areas. So Izmir rural policies are important for rural area development and safe the existence of plant as shown in (Figure 2).

Though regional specialization in Izmir is below the country average, sectoral diversity is above Turkey average value. Izmir, thus, needs policies concerning regional specialization.

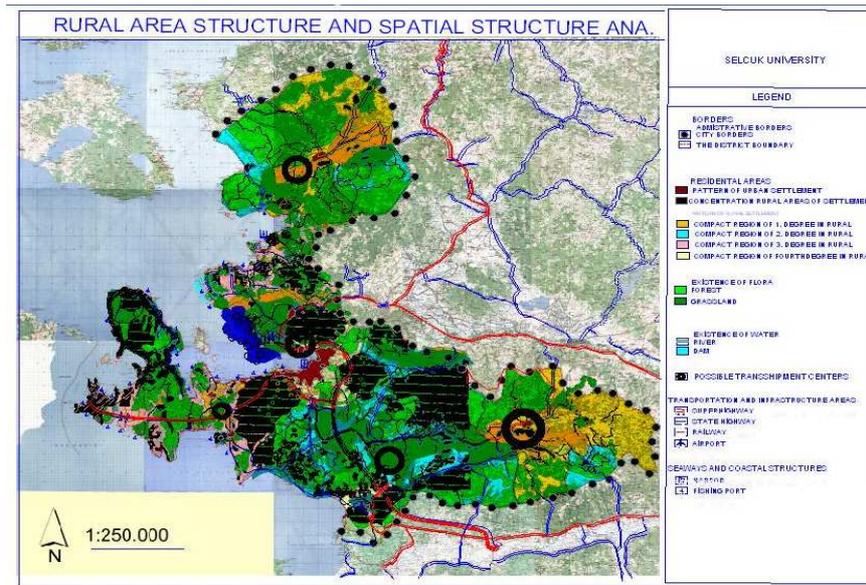


Figure 2 Rural Area Structure and Spatial Structure Analysis

## 2.4 Environmental Values of the Province of Izmir

There are protected areas which have national and international importance in Izmir. Karaburun and Foca especially are the most important coastal areas where Integrated Coastal Zone Management approach must be adopted.

Kucuk Menderes, Gediz and Bakircay are the most important basins located in Izmir. Having an international importance, Gediz Basin has also been designated as a Ramsar site to protect rare bird species. Foca district also hosts very important ecosystems. Environmental values and national resource analyze is shown in (Figure 3).

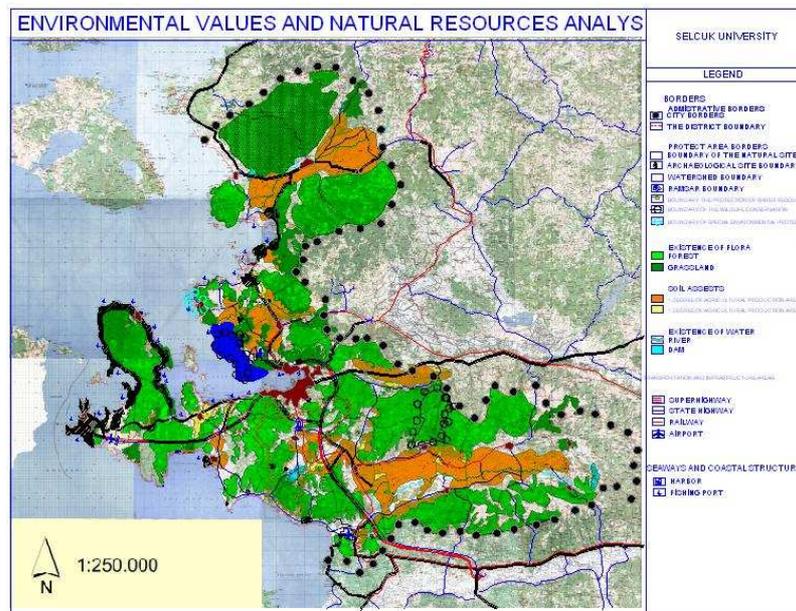


Figure 3 Environmental Values and Natural Resources Analysis in Izmir

Izmir is an important earthquake zone. So while planning the new residential areas in the city or rural areas, threshold analysis is going to direct plan. Izmir's threshold analysis is shown in (Figure 4).

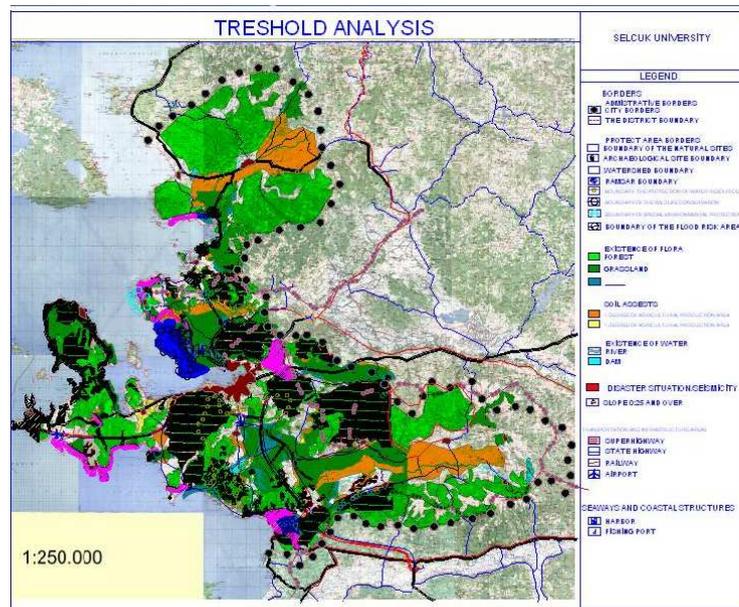


Figure 4 Threshold Analysis in Izmir

## 2.5 Defining the Problems and the Potentials

### Socio-Cultural Structure

#### Potentials

- Being the center of the Aegean Region in social, economic and cultural aspects,
- Coming at the 5<sup>th</sup> rank regarding the development grade of the education sector in Turkey,
- Coming at the 4<sup>th</sup> rank among the most competitive cities in the country regarding GNP (Gross National Product) and quality of life,
- Having 7 universities which are pioneer in institutional cooperation, R&D and innovation techniques,
- Hosting numerous cultural and art activities,
- Containing different cultural and ethnic structures,
- Embodying many ancient cities and urban values in addition to being a historical seaport town,
- Raising national and international touristic awareness,
- In terms of environmental values, hosting many bird species, having wildlife protection areas and forests.

#### Problems

- High rate of elderly population,
- Concentration of educational facilities in metropolitan municipality borders and, as a result of this, increase in the educational immigration within metropolitan municipality borders,
- Rural to urban migration for a variety of reasons,
- Concentration of healthcare institutions in the center,

- Lack of infrastructure for cultural activities,
- Deficiency of the museums in terms of quality and quantity,
- Lack of regional planning at the local, regional and international level.

### **Socio-Economic Structure**

#### **Potentials**

- Being 3<sup>rd</sup> largest city of Turkey in terms of socio-economic development and competitiveness,
- Producing almost half of Aegean Region GDP, coming at the 6<sup>th</sup> rank among 81 provinces in Turkey regarding the ratio of GDP per capita,
- Containing qualified and competent human resources,
- Majority of OIZs (Organized Industrial Zones) and SIAs (Small Industrial Areas) in number and areal extent,
- Advancing the featured sectors such as organic agriculture, greenhouse cultivation, ornamental plants cultivation, food and drink manufacturing in the basin by using advanced technology,
- Being in the 2<sup>nd</sup> position in Turkey by manufacturing volume of leather and apparel and by general industrial volume,
- Having a Technology Development Area,
- Having the potential for both tourism and investment by courtesy of wind energy and geothermal energy,
- Enabling various modes of transport as an ancient seaport town,
- Having a great tourism potential with its historical and cultural features,
- Offering the opportunity of cruise tourism which grows increasingly.

#### **Problems**

- Lack of local specialization and expertise,
- Small and multipartite structure and inefficient use of agricultural lands in rural areas,
- Negative influences which occur in environmental structure as a result of basin usage and industrial activities.
- Inadequate publicity on Izmir in terms of tourism and investment,
- Identification problem on convention and exposition tourism,
- Inadequacy of transportation infrastructure despite of the potential in logistics sector,
- Negative effects of environmental pollution on the ecosystem, which is caused by industry,
- Absence of Izmir within the scope of Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance Rural Development (IPARD) which is financed by the EU.

## **2.6 Reasons of Regional Inequality in Izmir**

**Labor Exchange:** Rural to urban migration that emerged in Turkey after 1950s caused an increase in urban population. Since the demand for infrastructure-ready zoned land could not be met, slum areas occurred as a result of population growth. However, people of the slum population who immigrated to urban in the hope of finding a job increased the unemployment rate. This caused social and cultural stratification and differentiation featuring income disparity in cities. Especially people who emigrated from rural areas, willing to work in service sector or industrial sectors, with the ability in information technologies and required qualifications cannot be employed. Therefore, while rural areas lose available work power,

urban areas have to face with an unemployment problem with the lack of occupational safety and regular income. This causes labor exchange between sectors and regional inequality.

**Exclusion of Global Parameters in Planning:** If the pressure and incline of the influences of globalization on the cities are not determined during planning, this causes regional inequality. While making a city plan for a metropolis such as Izmir, social, cultural, economic, environmental values of spatial transformations from past to present must be considered on the basis of global parameters as well as natural resources and administration. This is an essential factor for local administrations and city planners in preparing plans to achieve sustainable development.

Solving these inequality problems and predicting transformation patterns are significant in organizing the places of future both for Izmir and for surrounding residential areas.

### **3. DETERMINATION OF SECTORAL AND SPATIAL AIMS FOR THE PROVINCE OF IZMIR**

In a regional plan which shall be created in accordance with national and international developments, and taking current economic, social, cultural and environmental structure into consideration, the main aim can be determined as "becoming a global brand, thus increasing competitiveness, within the principles of sustainable development and environmental consciousness, using information technologies at the highest level and specializing locally." Strategies which shall be created within the scope of regional development for the province of Izmir can be stated in two groups - spatial strategies and sectoral ones.

#### **3.1 Spatial Strategies**

- Providing seaports specialization on transport connections for human and goods transportation,
- Rearranging public transportation and routes between the districts within the metropolitan municipality,
- Improving transport connections between Aegean Region, Izmir and nearby cities,
- Renovating and rearranging the coastal protection areas of the province of Izmir and determining protective structuring conditions in line with the EU standards,
- Enhancing the works on culturally and historically important archeological sites which are situated on coastal areas,
- Constructing treatment facilities within industrial areas for protecting environmental values,
- Taking Bakircay, Gediz and K. Menderes Basins into the scope of basin protection and regional scaled projects.
- Preserving the basins and encouraging rural development.
- Rearranging incomplete upper scale plans,
- Providing upliftment to local public to achieve the improvement of potential on local and regional basis,
- Determining the functions using strategic planning for the development of Izmir region and sub region, locating primary investment areas and improving institutional structure,

- Making investments on current energy potentials in sub regions,
- Determining comprehensive and disincentive policies to prevent the environmental impacts of second home use,
- Providing suitable, regular and adequate social infrastructure services which fulfills public expectations,
- Completing all river rehabilitation works in Izmir Bay,
- Performing cadastral renovation together with land arrangement works to prevent land partialism problem in the rural areas,
- Making arrangements in the seaports for the improvement of aquaculture products,
- Improving the economic potential for cruise tourism not only in Izmir but also in the other coastal residential areas in Aegean Region.

### **3.2 Sectoral Strategies**

- Defining strategic aims in industrial investments and completing infrastructure investments,
- Improving R&D services which are devoted to increase labor force and employment that depends on economic structure,
- Achieving institutionalization in terms of qualified manpower on high technology based production,
- Improving other infrastructure and transportation systems within free trade zone and, thus, promoting foreign trade,
- Increasing international competitiveness by specializing on convention and exposition tourism,
- Creating projects with the cooperation of producers to improve long-standing agricultural production mechanism of Izmir within the scopes of rural development projects and EU funds,
- Encouraging to turn the renewable energy producing potential of the city into investments,
- Maintaining the competitiveness by using advantage of Izmir's closeness to foreign market,
- Enabling brandization for the featured products of industrial sectors (such as textile) and agricultural sectors (such as cosmetics, organic products, pharmaceutical products).

## **CONCLUSION**

In the European Union accession process, regional planning studies in Turkey become increasingly important. Within this period, in addition to the supports which shall be provided by the European Union, founding regional organizations, increasing international competitiveness, eliminating interregional disparities and doing rural development studies are of great importance for Turkey.

Decisions of project and plans to be produced should be directive to those which shall be made on subscale planning of residential areas of the region, and be connective for upper scale which is out of administrative demarcations. The project and planning decisions to be made should be aimed to be independent from administrative borders and be integrated into

upper scale plans. If this aim is achieved, then a sustainable and interrelated development can be maintained on national, regional and local scale.

For that purpose, program areas should be defined in accordance with the information and data gathered, identifying the problems encountered and the possibilities on area basis, through the sample of the province of Izmir. Problems and potentials analysis has been used as a method for current situation analysis so as to determine program areas appropriately.

Evaluations showed that in order to provide sustainable regional development, it is very important for Izmir to gather its potential around a main vision instead of different specializations, and to support it. The most important elements which helped Izmir to make its own image are cultural tourism with ancient cities and mythological stories, culinary tourism with local dishes in which olive oil is held in high esteem, cosmetics and medical tourism with thermal springs, and the natural flora.

Commercializing those kinds of environmental and cultural values and obtaining international competitiveness for the province of Izmir require an urban image. It is very important that exposition tourism has always been highlighted for the specialization of the urban identity of Izmir. As a support of this main vision, other elements related to Izmir's potentials should also be featured.

All these aims must be achieved within the context of sustainable regional planning in compliance with the European Union standards, with the help of strong governance and definitive judgment and control on the implementation of plans.

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## **BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES**

Dr. Şükran Yalpir, born in 1974 and graduated in 1995 as Dipl. Eng. in Surveying from Selcuk University and completed doctorate degree in 2007 at the Natural Science of Institute. of Selcuk University. She worked as Surveying Engineer between 1995 and 1998 in public administration of Konya. She has been working in Selcuk University, Department of Geodesy and Fotogrametry Engineering

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