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## **Istanbul SUMP Stage II - Implementation Plan**

**TR14SR306 - NEAR/ANK/2022/EA-RP/0082**

**European Mobility Week 2024:**

**Mobility is Freedom Ferry - Bi-coastal Transport  
Conversations**

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## 1. BACKGROUND AND SCOPE

Istanbul SUMP Stage II, in line with Istanbul SUMP Stage I, aims to analyse the current mobility and transport situation, develop an activity-based transport model, detail the policies and actions to be implemented, and prepare a project pipeline for the SUMP, mainly related to transport systems, taking into account the following principles

- Sustainable mobility - ensuring greater accessibility through sustainable transport modes;
- Integration of all modes of transport - making use of multimodal transport solutions;
- Promoting non-motorised transport - walking and cycling;
- Ensure co-operation between institutional units and provide capacity building where necessary;
- Involving citizens, stakeholders and underrepresented groups;
- Define long-term vision and clear SUMP implementation plan through pilot projects;
- Monitoring and evaluation to ensure effective implementation and secure project implementation

Within the scope of the European Mobility Week, which is organised every year to support sustainable transport, an event called Mobility is Freedom Ferry was held. In 2024, the main theme of the European Mobility Week is 'Shared Public Spaces'. In this event, it was aimed to address the ferries that provide transportation between the two sides as public spaces, to emphasise the importance of the sea route for integrated transport systems and to contribute to social transformation for a sustainable and clean transport in Istanbul.



## 2. EVENT PROGRAMME

The event was held on Friday, 20 September between 10:15 and 12:15 on the Kadıköy-Beşiktaş route on the Şehir Hatları ferry. The event started at 10:00 with passenger pick-up from Kadıköy Pier, followed by a music performance by the Vocal Academy team. Afterward, Akif Türkel, Transport Sector Manager of the Delegation of the European Union to Turkey, and Melda Horoz, Transport Planning Branch Manager of Istanbul Metropolitan Municipality made opening speeches.

Between 10:45-11:15 on the Beşiktaş-Kadıköy ferry made the discussion titled 'Urban and Sea: Traces of Life Together' with Mr. Mert Fırat, moderated by Ms. Melda Horoz, Transport Planning Branch Manager of Istanbul Metropolitan Municipality. Between 11:15-11:45 on the Kadıköy-Beşiktaş route, an origami workshop was organised by Bilge Kaynarca. Between 11:45-12:15 on the last Beşiktaş-Kadıköy ferry of the event, a conversation titled "Environmentally Friendly Transport: Sea Travel" was held with Mr Osmantan Erkir, moderated by Mr Özgür Soy, Head of Transportation Group of Istanbul Metropolitan Municipality.

<b>10:00 – 10:15</b>	<b>Kadikoy Pier</b>	<b>Boarding the Ferry</b>
<b>10:15 – 10:45</b>	<b>Kadıköy – Beşiktaş Route</b>	Vocal Academy Music Performance and Opening Speech
<b>10:45 – 11:15</b>	<b>Beşiktaş – Kadıköy Route</b>	Urban and Sea with Mert Fırat: <i>Traces of Life Together Conversation</i>
<b>11:15 – 11:45</b>	<b>Kadıköy – Beşiktaş Route</b>	Folded Dreams on the Ferry - Origami Workshop
<b>11:45 – 12:15</b>	<b>Beşiktaş – Kadıköy Route</b>	Environmentally Friendly Transport with Osmantan Erkir: <i>Sea Travel Conversation</i>

Table 1: Event Programme of Mobility Freedom Ferry



### 3. VOKAL ACADEMY MUSIC PERFORMANCE AND OPENING SPEECH

After a short introduction of the event on the first route of the ferry, the Vocal Academy team took the stage and performed their music performance. Following the music performance, a gift was presented to Ms. Ayşegül on behalf of the Vocal Academy team.



*Figure 1: Music performance of the Vocal Academy team*





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Afterward, Akif Türkel, the Transport Sector Manager of the Delegation of the European Union to Turkey, and Ms. Melda Horoz, Transport Planning Branch Manager at Istanbul Metropolitan Municipality, took the stage and delivered their opening speeches.



*Figure 2: Opening remarks by Akif Türkel, Transport Sector Manager at the Delegation of the European Union to Turkey and Melda Horoz, Transport Planning Branch Manager at Istanbul Metropolitan Municipality*



#### 4. URBAN AND SEA WITH MERT FIRAT: TRACES OF LIFE TOGETHER

At 10:45 a.m., Istanbul Metropolitan Municipality Transport Planning Branch Manager Ms. Melda Horoz moderated the conversation titled 'Urban and Sea: Traces of Living Together' with Mr. Mert Fırat. on the Beşiktaş-Kadıköy ferry. In this conversation, the impact of the sea and coastal areas, one of the most important elements that shape not only the geographical structure but also the social and cultural fabric of Istanbul, was discussed. During the conversation, it was discussed how public spaces such as Istanbul's coastlines, piers and parks have been centres of social attraction from the past to the present, and the importance of these areas in today's urban life was emphasised.



*Figure 3: A photo from the talk titled 'Urban and the Sea: Traces of Life Together' with Mert Fırat, moderated by Melda Horoz, Transport Planning Branch Manager at Istanbul Metropolitan Municipality*

Ms. Melda Horoz emphasised the important role of maritime transport in reducing urban traffic and combating air pollution, while Mr. Mert Fırat talked about the importance of the ferry in Istanbul's cultural identity. Mr. Mert Fırat explained the place of the ferry in the cultural identity of Istanbul. Ferry passengers shared how valuable the social bonds established in these public spaces are for urban residents and how these bonds contribute to the cultural identity of the urban. Within the scope of the conversation, it was underlined that coastal areas should be protected and used more efficiently in a sustainable manner, and suggestions were presented on how these areas can be supported more effectively in order to strengthen social unity.



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Figure 4: A photo of ferry passengers with Mert Fırat

## 5. DREAMS WE FOLDED ON THE FERRY - ORIGAMI WORKSHOP

An origami workshop was held on the ferry, which started the Kadıköy-Beşiktaş route at 11:15, led by Ms. Bilge Kaynarca. Participants were asked to write their personal experiences about the ferry on the papers distributed at the beginning of the workshop.



*Figure 5: A photograph of passengers writing about their personal experiences during the origami workshop*

These memories revealed the connection of Istanbul with ferries and the emotional effects of travelling in the city on people. After the participants shared their memories about the ferries, origami ships were made.





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*Figure 6: A piece created during the origami workshop*



## 6. ENVIRONMENTALLY FRIENDLY TRANSPORT WITH OSMANTAN ERKIR: SEA TRAVEL CONVERSATION

At 11:45 a.m., Mr. Özgür Soy, Head of Transportation Group of Istanbul Metropolitan Municipality, moderated the conversation titled 'Environmentally Friendly Transport: Sea Travelling' with Mr. Osmantan Erkir on the Beşiktaş-Kadıköy ferry. During the conversation, the environmentally sensitive aspects of maritime transport, its potential as an alternative to Istanbul's heavy road traffic and the role of maritime routes in sustainable urbanisation were discussed. Mr. Özgür Soy mentioned the advantages of maritime transport in terms of energy efficiency, while Mr. Osmantan Erkir emphasised the cultural and social role of ferries in the social life of Istanbul. After the end of the conversation, a gift was presented to Mr. Osmantan Erkir.



Figure 7: A photo from the 'Environmentally Friendly Transport: Sea Travel' conversation with Osmantan Erkir