

İSTANBUL ON THE PATH TO EU TOWN TWINNING FORM

THE TOWN OF ŞİLE	
Number of Inhabitants: 30.218	
Name of Representative (District Governor and/or mayor): Mayor: Can TABAKOĞLU	
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MAIN CHARACTERISTICS (GEOGRAPHICAL LOCATION, HISTORY....)

Şile is a Greek word, and its Turkish encyclopedic equivalence is “Mercanköşk/Marjoram”. Şile is located in northwest part of Turkey, northeast part of Marmara Region, in the part of Çatalca-Kocaeli, in Kocaeli Area and in Black Sea Coast of Kocaeli peninsula. In the east of the district Kandıra of Kocaeli province, in the south also Gebze of Kocaeli, in the southwest Kartal and Ümraniye districts of İstanbul, in the western part of it Beykoz district of İstanbul and in the North the Black Sea located. The area of the district is 796 km² . With Kurnaköy in the west, Değirmençayırı Village in the south, Ağva town in the east, the Şile district which stretches away with its border to Kandıra has roughly an inverted triangular shape.

Şile has a long historical heritage. According to recent studies, the surrounding area of Şile was inhabited in prehistoric ages (Neolithic age). In the Prehistorical researches have been carried out in Black Sea coast region many camps and workshops were founded in different places which belong to various parts of Paleolithic age and especially Epi-Paleolithic period. While cut stone tools are available in the district, the numbers of tools made of flintstones are less.

79% of the district is covered with forests. Its 57 villages are spread over a wide area. The district is flooded by Istanbulite visitors, it has 2 blue flag beaches and it is possible to swim along with 60 km coastline. The Şile lighthouse which is the symbol of the district was established in 1859.

ECONOMIC SITUATION

The sources of income and living of Şile district are tourism, forestry, agricultural activities, Şile cloth weaving and selling of it, fishery and trade. There are small business owners, craftsmen and driver tradesmen, as well as companies from different sectors. Due to the potential sea and historical values “Tourism” is the most important source of income in Şile’s economy and becomes more and more important especially in summer time. In Şile which is considered being holiday resort of İstanbul the accommodation was started with home pensions in 1950s. Today at the hotels and in the lodging houses in the city center there are 2300 beds, in Ağva and its villages totally 1.160 beds are available (totally 284 facilities). However, 365 food and beverage locations spread over whole district. The forestry and agricultural areas consist of 90 % of Şile. As about 10 % of district land is in the nature of agricultural land, the agricultural activities are carried out for the consumption of the families in general. 85 % of Şile forests are coppice forests. The forest villagers by cutting these forests in return for cross-section use them either as fuel or raw material of charcoal or as raw material in chipboard industry. The large amount of forest fruits in the forests are the sources of income for the villagers. Also, the daphne that can be found in large amount in the forests in recent years, a new source of income of forest villagers with non-wood forest products drying installation. Another source of income in the district is Şile cloth weaving production and dresses are produced from the cloth. Besides, motives are embroidered on Şile cloth. Also fishing industry is another source of income since establishment of Şile Fishing Port in 1966. In hosts many boats both in the district and for those coming from outside in fishing season. Together with it’s 57 villages and Ağva, Şile district as a whole has recreation and tourism areas for the protection, improvement and development of the region and İstanbul’s natural values, providing protection-usage balance , integrated with its environment and for entertainment, relaxation and vocational needs of the guests. Thus, demand for nature-culture tourism in the district is rather much.

PROVIDED SERVICES

Şile Municipality determined its mission as “providing economic and ecologic sustainability of Şile”. Within this concept by adopting protection of natural sources as a principle, especially for the villagers in rural district it carries out a series of economic activities. One of them is to provide education about flowering issue for 32 manufacturers with the support of Provincial Directorate of Agriculture and Provincial Special Administration. Every manufacturer started manufacturing in 500 square meters in glasshouse. Also the project was successfully accomplished by selling the products to AĞAÇ A.Ş. and the manufacturers have been maintaining their flowering activities via the cooperative they established for 3 years. On the other hand, 1000 traditional structures in the district have been registered by Cultural and Natural Heritage Preservation Board, with support of Provincial Special Administration the building survey, recitation and restoration projects were completed and the permits were obtained.

Şile Municipality Directorate of Studies and Projects which was established in 2010 has been developing development projects for general requirements of the citizens. The Municipality aims at the participation of disadvantaged groups in economic and social life more effectively, as well as development of innovative sectors in the region and also development of general strategically plans of the region with sustainable development approach, so for the purpose of them it runs the projects of Women’s Community Center; Unhampered Şile, Development of Environment Friendly Sectors in Villages of Şile and Şile, the Alternative Tourism Destination of İstanbul, which are supported by Istanbul Development Agency. The Directorate provides Project Cycle Management education for its personnel on-site and prepares the trainees from Işık University with Project preparation and implementation trainings for the process in the future.

Finally, with participation of Şile Municipality, Şile Forestry Operation Directorate, TÜRÇEK and other stakeholders the projects of “Environmental Education Center” from which all the students in İstanbul benefit, “Honey Filling Facility” for manufacturers of chestnut honey, “ECO- VILLAGE” for Akçakese village and “Dairy Products Processing Facility” for sheep breeders are at the stage of field research and feasibility.

ONGOING PROJECTS

- **Şile Ecosystem Management Academy:** To establish a sustainable and high level local development model via actively benefiting from the local potentials and resources, so as to strengthen global competitiveness of Şile. Using information technologies and scientific research methodologies to prevent the conflict between protection of natural and cultural values and developing the work and life conditions of the local institutions and communities.
- **İstanbul’s Alternative Tourism Destination:** In Şile district, by supervising the protection&usage balance of natural and cultural sources, with improving ecotourism and adventure tourism to contribute to compete with İstanbul’s other global tourism centers.
- **Energy –Efficient LED Lighting Technology Research, Development, Training and Application Laboratory Project (EVATEG) 2012-2013:** To contribute to increase the production of LED lighting technology in our country with the cooperation of university, public and private sector; to improve the communal areas that will provide knowledge and technology production and transfer and to make it functional with applicable models by minimizing the cost of LED production and usage in our country.
- **Excellence in Public Sector (EXCELLENCE) 2013-2014 (Budget: 57000 €):** It was designed for increasing the administration capacity of the public sector in the programme region by promoting the total quality concept and applying modern common quality management tools.

TOWN TWINNING EXPERIENCES

- Idstein in Germany- Yemeğin Dili Yok (Food needs no words) 2010 Şile.
- Barcoldine in Australia –Şile Cloth Art Exhibition 2003.
- Cazin in Bosnia-Herzegovina – International Şile Cloth Handcrafts Festival, participant 2012.
- Melbourne in Australia, since 1998 joint activities with RMIT University in art, culture and education fields.
- 1998 wall painting titled “Karadeniz” (Blacksea),
- 2001 exhibition titled “Şile Balıkçısı” and a variety of installation works
- 2005 “Karadeniz ve Şile Bezi” themed wall painting application on Port Breakwater Wall ,
- 2010 “Dokumak” titled different art activities and wall painting application in Dostluk Park area,
- 2012 Wall painting work titled “Gül ve Grafik” at the port, a series of exhibitions titled “Kismet” at Maltepe Ship.
- Memorandum of understanding is signed with China Xian Yang Municipality for future town twinning relationship, 2012.

SITUATION ANALYSIS

PROBLEM AREAS

As not having adequate agricultural land, 79% of the land covered with forests and as there is industry and limited job opportunities in general, Şile causes young population to migrate to other districts of İstanbul.

Despite its potentials, Şile faces problems such as unplanned urbanization, increased poverty, immigration, deterioration resulted in the quality of urban environment and ecological resources. When current conditions of İstanbul and Şile considered, it is one of the most disadvantageous districts in the region because of immigration, unemployment, poverty, limited social & cultural activities, low education level and limited opportunities of access for fundamental public/law and health services.

Projects are required to provide sustainable economic development especially in 57 villages in urban area and in the Centre, to facilitate to value natural sources effectively by protecting natural and cultural assets and to stimulate economic, social and cultural life.

AREAS OF STRENGTH

Şile, is a lovely district close to İstanbul metropolitan, far from its traffic and stress. Tourism is an important source of income for the economy. With its sea and historical values tourism increases especially in summer. Although being a well-known place in terms of domestic tourism and daily tours, actually it has original values rarely known. When it comes to its historical richness both with outdoor activities and also natural beauties, there are many characteristics of Şile that has not yet discovered by the people. Şile district as a whole has recreation and tourism areas for the protection, improvement and development of İstanbul’s natural values, providing protection-usage balance, integrated with its environment and for entertainment, relaxation and vocational needs of the guests. Aware of the necessity of considering tourism the most important economic sector in the development of the district in nature-focused innovative sustainable approaches by providing developed product and service substructure, local authority and other local official and civil institutions have been working on transferring their knowledge, skill, experience, bilateral relations, potential and thoughts developed in this area for many years into concrete projects with innovative approaches.

POTENTIAL AREAS OF COOPERATION

ŞİLE District of governorate and local municipality seeks for potential partners in the following areas to work on joint projects to exchange technical expertise and knowledge.

Areas of Cooperation		Areas of Cooperation	
Environment-Environment Protection	X	Tourism	X
Urban Transportation		Citizen Participation	
Social Services	X	Local Social and Economic Development	X
City Branding	X	Urban Planning	X
Energy Efficiency		Implementation of EU Projects	X
Culture		Other	

Remarks (Information on Areas of Cooperation)

According to the district development index done by Ministry for Development in 2004, Şile is one of the most underdeveloped districts of İstanbul. From this aspect, the district as a whole requires sustainable improvement activities in economic, social and cultural areas. The fact that 65% of its population around 30.000 living in 57 villages, 79% of it is covered with forests, some of its villages being 60km far from the district Centre and 120 km far from İstanbul makes activities reducing social and economic exclusion of the population that is in a disadvantageous condition because of the deprivation and poverty in urban part of the district vital. The fact that there are 2 drinking water basins in the district, many endemic plant and animal types live and Şile forests are among the most important natural areas of İstanbul makes it necessary to focus on working for protection of environment. The district's potential for ecotourism, adventure tourism, sea tourism may become the basic dynamics of sustainable economic development of the district and all upper scale town planning should be carried out in this direction. Because of the need for improving the projects about preventing social exclusion, rural development, eco-tourism and environment protection getting started at the moment by establishing stronger relations with the institutions in EU, it is desired to make cooperation in concept of town twinning program in the stated areas .

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