



Report of the Meeting on Franco-Turkish decentralized cooperation: Opportunities for city-to-city partnerships

Tuesday 3 February 2014, 14:00-17:30

İTÜ Maçka Campus - Bucharest Meeting Room - Istanbul

Reporter: Sümeyye Saral

People attending

Mehmet DUMAN, **UCLG-MEWA**, General Secretary
Ihsan IKIZER, **UCLG-MEWA**, General Coordinator
Adrien LICHA, **UCLG-MEWA**, Project Coordinator
Randa AL SABBAGH, **UCLG-MEWA**, Project Officer
Sümeyye SARAL, **UCLG-MEWA**, Project Officer

Christian PHILIP, **CODATU**, General Secretary
Julien ALLAIRE, **CODATU**, Executive Manager

Bertrand WILLOCQUET, **French Development Agency (AFD)**, Director of Turkey
Serge PERRİN, **French Development Agency (AFD)**, Project Manager
Yıldız KURUOĞLU, **French Development Agency (AFD)**, Investment Officer

Göktuğ KARA, **Delegation of European Union (EU) to Turkey**, Sector Manager for Transport Policy

Abdullah Talha MERT, **EGO General Management, Ankara Metropolitan Municipality**, Electric-Electronic Engineer in Rail Systems Department
Yalçın Doğanay, **EGO General Management, Ankara Metropolitan Municipality**, Electric-Electronic Engineer in Rail Systems
Gültan KIŞANAK, **Mayor of Diyarbakır Metropolitan Municipality, Co-President of UCLG-MEWA**
Hüseyin BAYRAK, **Diyarbakır Metropolitan Municipality**, Deputy Secretary General
Ebru ÖKMEN, **Diyarbakır Metropolitan Municipality**, Head of International Relations
Deniz KIRAÇ, **Diyarbakır Metropolitan Municipality**, Environmental Engineer
Can ERDEM, **Diyarbakır Metropolitan Municipality**, Architecture and Planning
Gülsüm Tekin, **Eskişehir Metropolitan Municipality**, Industrial Engineer
Fulya Pinici, **Eskişehir Metropolitan Municipality**, Civil Engineer
Erdal BALSAK, **GABB**, Project Department, Civil Engineer

Halil İbrahim ÖZDEMİR, **Gaziantep Metropolitan Municipality**, Urban Planner
Mehmet YAŞAR, **Gaziantep Metropolitan Municipality**, Urban Planner
Bektaş MERCİMEK, **Kahramanmaraş Metropolitan Municipality**, Responsible from Northern Provinces
İsa ÇİĞİL, **Konya Metropolitan Municipality**, Department Chief of Mass Transportation
İbrahim TEKİN, **Konya Metropolitan Municipality**, Environmental Engineer
Hasan ALICI, **Malatya Metropolitan Municipality**, Head of Department of Transportation Services
Mehmet Kayış, **Malatya Metropolitan Municipality**, Maritime Transportation and Management Engineer
Sümeyye YEL, **Malatya Metropolitan Municipality**

Roland RIES, **Mayor of Strasbourg, President of Cites Unis France (CUF)**
Pierre SERNE, **Region Ile de France**, Vice-President in charge of transportation
Bernard RIVALTA, **Greater Lyon / SYTRAL**, Vice President in charge of transportation, President of SYTRAL

Sibel BÜLAY, **EKOIQ Magazine**, Local Government Editor
Hasan ALICI, **Malatya Metropolitan Municipality**, Head of Department of Transportation Services

Robert Couzon, Member of the Board of SMTC Clermont-Ferrand
Patrick Ferry, head of innovation and development, SMTC Clermont-Ferrand

Hubert PEUGEOT, **Alstom Transport**, Vice President Commercial

Background

After the first meeting in 2008 between actors of Franco-Turkish decentralized cooperation, events to meet became fewer. However, it is also since 2008 that some local authorities have started to concretize their cooperation. Today's recent developments have opened the door to new collaborations. The re-opening of chapter 22 of the negotiation on Turkey adhesion to the European Union, the preparation of the UN conference on Climate Change in December 2015 in Paris (COP 21) or the agenda of gender equality are opportunities for French and Turkish local authorities to collaborate.

In this framework, on 24 September 2014, UCLG-MEWA, the Union of Municipality of Turkey and Cites Unies France (CUF) organized a coordination meeting to explore concrete opportunities for gathering French and Turkish local leaders. This meeting, which happened within Vivapolis event (organized by Ubifrance on 23 September 2014, in Istanbul) gathered many actors of Franco-Turkish decentralized cooperation, allowed to agree on the steps to be taken in order to concretize the new dynamic of Franco-Turkish relations.

As a result of this coordination meeting the following events were selected in view to organize meetings for local leaders:

- 16th CODATU Conference of urban transport (CODATU XVI), 2 - 5 February 2015, Istanbul
- Preparation of local authorities to the UN Conference on climate change (COP21), December

2015, Paris

- Meeting of UCLG Committee on Gender Equality to be held in Istanbul in 2015 (to be confirmed)
- Preparation of local authorities to negotiation on Chapter 22 on Turkey accession to the European Union.

Thus on Tuesday 3 February 2015, UCLG-MEWA, UMT, CUF and CODATU organized a meeting for Franco-Turkish cooperation with a specific focus on transportation and preparation to COP21.

Minutes

Gültan KIŞANAK, Mayor of Diyarbakir Metropolitan Municipality, welcomed participants in its capacity as co-President of UCLG-MEWA made a short introduction about the city of Diyarbakir. **Roland RIES, Mayor of Strasbourg**, who co-chaired the meeting in its capacity as President of Cités Unies France, emphasized on the importance of decentralized-cooperation and city-to-city partnerships.

He also stressed that “twin cities” concept started to use after WW II and has been implemented with a general link between cities. Since that time the way cities cooperate has evolved toward more specific and punctual cooperation. The crucial point within this new framework of cooperation is the share of experiences among partners regardless of their success.

He mentioned that the Municipality of Strasbourg runs some projects with **Kayseri Metropolitan Municipality** since 2010 on the two following subjects: “cultural heritage” and “urban planning”. In these projects faculties of architecture in partner cities work together and exchange students to share knowledge.

He concluded his speech reminding that **Cities Unis France** established working groups for every country it has activities in. Strasbourg Municipality recently to the presidency of the working group on Turkey and the mayor renewed its commitment to develop Franco-Turkish relations at local level.

Can ERDEM made a presentation on Diyarbakır tramline project. They have started to prepare this project in 2011 and now they are ready to implement their project. The tramline Diyarbakır would like to build has 13.5 km line with around 33 vehicles. To realize this project the municipality needs to reach 123.000.000 Euro funding.

Gültan KIŞANAK explained that the municipality is still in negotiations with İller Bank (National Bank for Local Authorities) and it will explore further opportunities with Development agencies such as AFD and European Development Bank. She emphasized on the fact that the municipality has no debts and then is able to finance directly a part of the project. She also added that the municipality is considering operating the tramline via a private company subordinated to municipality and that the project is waiting the approval from council of ministers.

Pierre SERNE, Vice-President of Ile-de-France in charge of transportation and member of the board of CODATU, informed the participants about the accomplishments of Ile-de-France Region on cooperation with cities. Ile-de-France has a tradition of carrying out decentralized cooperation and improving this cooperation with the metropolitans all around the world e.g. Dakar, Antananarivo, Casablanca. The Region usually gets cooperation offers mostly on urban planning, transportation, *conclusions_meeting3rdFeb2015*

environmental infrastructure. **Pierre SERNE** emphasized that the Region has not had a partner from Turkey until now and express his interest for Diyarbakir project. Ile de France had not had any tramlines until 90s and right now they have ten of it and they develop an expertise that they will be happy to share with other cities. Mr. SERNE insisted that nowadays cooperation became symmetrical where peers can learn from each other sharing good practices experiences and mistakes. He also thanked CODATU for the support they provide in resolving problems the region is facing.

To conclude Mr. SERNE explained that Ile-de-France region use different systems for financing cooperation. Projects could be funded by the entirely by the region, in cooperation with the French Development Agency or established on a base of an agreement where the partner municipality contract Ile-de-France as service provider.

Bertrand WILLOCQUET, director of the French Development Agency (AFD) in Turkey, presented AFD and more specifically the work the agency is doing since it has established a country agency in Turkey in 2005. During 10 years the Agency has worked in Turkey, it invested 2 Billion Euro and worked with municipalities in terms of promoting the green growth and sustainable urban development. AFD supports Turkish municipalities by financing their investments programs. AFD made an agreement with Deniz Bank and other Turkish banks to reach small and medium scale municipalities to provide them loans; it could also provide direct grants, under specific criteria to Metropolitan Municipalities. A publication about AFD presents the kind of projects, which the agency is able to finance. Attached to the loans it provides, AFD also provides technical assistance based on the French expertise.

Hasan ALICI explained the problem of his municipality in terms of finding finance and expressed the will of Malatya Metropolitan Municipality to find a partner as they completed their project on trolleybus.

Bertrand WILLOCQUET stated that they cannot build a direct relation in terms of funding when the amount project is low. The agency has to grant loans over the contractual bank for lower municipal projects.

The meeting ended with the presentation of **Göktuğ KARA**, from the Delegation of the European Union in Turkey, on the Instrument on Pre-Accession Assistant (IPA). Until today, investing mostly on railway systems, IPA has been granted 585 million Euro in Turkey. While entering a new period, IPA has decided to change its point of view and to give importance on urban areas. The new strategic plan envisages working on three main subjects: Smart Growth, Strategic Planning in Urban Areas and Project Pools, and Sustainable Finance.

Under the project proposal calls they are covering %85 of expenses, %15 is expected from the project partner. The priorities of the programs are climate change, low carbon transportation, smart transportation systems and establish a Transportation Centre within the Ministry of Transportation, Maritime Affairs and Communications. IPA also supports cities in meaning of prepare a master plan.

As a conclusion of the meeting, **Mehmet DUMAN**, Secretary General of UCLG-MEWA, thanked the participants for their contribution to the development of Franco-Turkish relations at the local level and reminded that the next steps of this cooperation will be in Lyon on 1-2 of July for the Summit of Cities and Territories on Climate Change and in December in Paris during the COP21.