

# HISTORIC AREAS OF ISTANBUL



2016 | PROGRESS  
REPORT

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report has been prepared based on the UNESCO World Heritage Committee's decision in its 39<sup>th</sup> Session held in Bonn, Germany requesting “**the State Party to present a progress report on the implementation of the issues indicated in the decision together with a one-page executive summary to the World Heritage Center by February 1, 2016.**”

The report consists of three sections. The first section includes information on the issues indicated in the UNESCO World Heritage Committee Decision on the Management Plan Updating Activities, the Eurasia Tunnel Project, the Yenikapı Land Fill Area Project, the Civil Architecture Examples and the Renewal Areas. The second section provides information about the restoration works performed on civil architecture examples and monuments on the Historic Peninsula. The third section concentrates on training, awareness raising and promotion activities

Within the scope of updating the **Historic Peninsula Management Plan**, the Istanbul Site Management Directorate invited the members of the Advisory Board to a meeting on 15 December 2015 as per relevant national legislation to evaluate the draft management plan and to submit their opinions and suggestions to the Site Management Directorate in writing. The plan has been updated in the light of the views collected from the members of the Board who are the representatives of the institutions, academics and experts. Once the management plan has the undergone the review of the experts of UNESCO World Heritage Centre and ICOMOS International, it will be submitted to the Coordination and Supervision Board of Site Management Directorate for approval.

Improvements have been made in the design of the **Eurasia Tunnel Project**. The tunnel operation building and some of the toll collection kiosks were moved to the Asian side to decrease buildings on the Historic Peninsula on the European side. The sizes of the toll collection kiosks were made smaller. The altitude of the ventilation chimney on the European side was limited with 5 meters. The level pedestrian crossings in Yenikapı and Samatya of 180 meters and 50 meters respectively were constructed to reinforce the city-sea connection. The length of the pedestrian crossings of 55 meters in 11 different points was increased to 277 meters with this project. The project was also revised by the Istanbul Metropolitan Municipality and the Ministry of Transport, Maritime and Communication to move the Kennedy Avenue completely to the south of the Marble Tower. The purpose of this change in design is to reestablish the connection between the Marble Tower and the Land Walls.

The work on the **Yenikapı Fill Area Project** continues as per the recommendations and opinions expressed in the Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment Report.

Within the scope of the **conservation and restoration of the civil architecture examples** in the Area, the work carried out by the Istanbul Metropolitan Municipality Directorate of Cultural Properties Projects and the Municipality of Fatih in 2015 especially in Süleymaniye and Zeyrek is explained in detail in the report.

The objective in the **Renewal Areas Projects**, as indicated in the 2015 Progress Report, was to ensure that all of the planned and approved projects in all of the renovation areas are coordinated and to make revisions in these projects if necessary. Within the scope of the work planned, rather than concentrating only on restoration and conservation work on structures, the aim is to concentrate on the whole Area based on a holistic approach including the street fabric and its infrastructure. The Municipality of Fatih has been working on revising the renovation area projects in question to ensure the effective participation of relevant stakeholders and to carry out certain plot-based applications. Up-to-date information with respect to the projects is provided in the report.

The **second section** of the report concentrates on the restoration work carried out by various institutions on the Historic Peninsula including the world heritage sites. Detailed information on the restoration work carried out by the Directorate General of Foundations, the Istanbul Metropolitan Municipality (IMM) Directorate of Cultural Properties Projects and the Municipality of Fatih is provided as a table.

The third section on **Promotion, Awareness Raising and Training** provides detailed information on the educational, promotional, awareness raising activities, publications as well as seminars, symposia and workshops carried out by the Site Management Directorate, the Istanbul Metropolitan Municipality Directorate of Conservation and Supervision (KUDEB) and the recently established Directorate of Cultural Heritage Preservation.

All of the information and documents provided in the report have been obtained from the authorized institutions and enterprises carrying out effective work in the Area and responsible for the aspects indicated in the Committee recommendation.