

WHV – Sustainable Heritage for the Future in Historic İzmir

The Historical Port City of Izmir, Türkiye

Cultural property inscribed on the Tentative List (2020)

PROJECT DATES

04 - 15 September 2023

THE SITE - Located at the edge of a wide and sheltered gulf, İzmir connects to a rich hinterland extending north, east and south through a series of rivers and valleys. İzmir's geographical position is surrounded by Madra Mountains and Balıkesir provincial border to the north, Kuşadası Gulf and Aydın provincial border to the south, Çeşme Peninsula and the Gulf of İzmir, which derives its name from the city itself, to the west, and Manisa provincial border to the east.

OBJECTIVES - The project aims to raise awareness about the intersection between sustainability and heritage, to encourage young people to create new ways to participate in the site management system, to strengthen their engagement in heritage conservation and promotion through further development of a sustainable volunteer network, to learn new aspects of the sustainability in the heritage sites and to contribute to the visibility of the site.

ACTIVITIES - With the guidance of the site management office, the volunteers will join a tour in the historic city centre, Smyrna Ancient City, Old Smyrna and Yeşilova & Yassitepe Mounds excavation areas, and World Heritage sites of İzmir like Ephesus and Pergamon and create contents and posts on the Instagram account of the site. All tours will include mini Q&A meetings with the experts, and volunteers will get a chance to ask their questions about the protection, conservation and sustainability of the archaeological sites. Also, they could get a chance to put forward suggestions about the sustainability of the sites in the mini-workshops. Youths will attend a workshop to discuss the participation strategies for young people in heritage management, sustainability in the heritage sites and facilitate the further development of the volunteer network. Accompanied by the experts from the Directorate of Excavations, the volunteers will carry out archaeological excavation and documentation in Smyrna Agora and Smyrna Theatre. The volunteers will produce photos and videos showcasing the site and its locals associated with intangible cultural heritage.

PARTNERS - Ministry of Culture and Tourism, Governorship of İzmir, İzmir Provincial Directorate of Culture and Tourism, İzmir Metropolitan Municipality, Konak Municipality, İzmir Development Agency, TARKEM (Historical Kemeraltı Construction Investment Trade Inc.), Directorate of Excavation of Smyrna Ancient City, Directorate of Excavation of Old Smyrna, Directorate of Excavation of Yeşilova Mound, Ephesus Site Management Office, Pergamon Site Management Office, UNESCO National Commission, ICOMOS Turkey.

The Historical Port City of Izmir Site Management Office

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<https://whc.unesco.org/en/whvolunteers>