

WHV – Youth Organization for the Future of Heritage

The Historical Port City of Izmir, Türkiye

Cultural property inscribed on the Tentative List (2020)

PROJECT DATES

08 - 21 September 2024

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 - After conducting two successful projects in the framework of the campaign, The Historical Port City of İzmir Site Management Office aims at further increasing awareness of the cultural heritage values of the historic port city, disseminate the positive effects of the project throughout İzmir, and increase the capacity of youth and locals. The project has three specific objectives: building a network among youth to increase awareness about cultural heritage conservation; raising awareness and contribute to conservation consciousness about the values of the historical port city of İzmir; and sharing and exchanging knowledge among young people through collaborative activities.

ACTIVITIES - Volunteers will experience the city through walking and interacting with locals, users, tradespeople, visiting the archeological sites in Smyrna Agora, Smyrna Theatre, Old Smyrna, Yeşilova and Yassitepe mounds, Ephesus and Pergamon. They will produce social media posts targeting the interest of the wider public, preparing visuals to be shared via the newly created Instagram account of the Volunteers of İzmir. Volunteers will also take part in archeological excavation, documentation and conservation activities, under the direction of the heads of excavation of Smyrna Ancient City and of Old Smyrna. They will be involved in a visitor management training at the Ethnography Museum, practice visitor guidance, and assist and support the cultural activities taking place at the museum. All the activities are organized in cooperation with former volunteers engaged in the 2022 and 2023 World Heritage Volunteers projects, constituting an exemplary approach to project sustainability and youth leadership in heritage preservation and promotion.

PARTNERS - İzmir Metropolitan Municipality; Smyrna Ancient City Excavation Department; Old Smyrna Excavation Department; Yeşilova Höyük Excavation Department; Konak Municipality ; Governorship of İzmir; İzmir Development Agency ; Provincial Directorate of Culture and Tourism; Ege University Ethnography Museum; Kemeraltı Tradesmen Association; TARKEM (Historical Kemeralti Construction Investment Trade Inc.).

The Historical Port City of Izmir Site Management Office

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