

## PERSONAL INFORMATION **Batuhan Akkaya**

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## PERSONAL STATEMENT

A sustainability-focused urbanist integrating climate and heritage conscious solutions into socio-spatial transitions, urban development, governance, and research. He is working as a project manager and researcher at Wonderland. He has worked across Europe, the USA, and Turkey on projects involving decarbonization, climate action planning, urban design guidelines, neighborhood regeneration, municipal infrastructure, heritage management, social impact assessment, spatial planning, street design, urban research, and the adaptive reuse of public buildings. He co-founded of Urban.koop, an Urban Studies Cooperative that supports fair urban transitions in Turkey.

## EDUCATION

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01/01/2022– 01/01/2023 **MA Cultural Heritage Studies**, Central European University (Austria)

09/2020 – 07/2021 **Special Program for Urban and Regional Studies**, Massachusetts Institute of Technology (USA)

09/2011 - 11/2014 **MSc Urban Design**, Istanbul Technical University (Turkey)

09/2005 – 02/2011 **BSc Urban and Regional Planning**, Yıldız Technical University (Turkey)

## WORK EXPERIENCE

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10/2022 – present **Project Manager and researcher, Wonderland (Vienna - Istanbul)**

**Provided research and technical guidance in two DUT/JPI-funded international projects: PED-ACT:** Coordinated the integration of AI frameworks to residential energy efficiency indicators for Positive Energy Districts in 9 cities. **POSEIDON:** Contributed to digital instruments and tools for retrofitting urban districts toward net-zero outcomes. (**Positive Energy Districts, #Net Zero Cities, Energy Efficiency, Energy Communities**).

**Contributor** in the Fair Mobility (15-minute city) project, focusing on accessibility and gender-responsive transport planning under DUT.

**Managed two EU projects:** CISCA: Curriculum design for community sports and active city models. YE-2C: Youth empowerment and circular economy advocacy in urban contexts.

10/2022 – present **Co-founder, Urban.koop (Istanbul)**

**Urban Public Policy Lead** for the €200M Izmir Sustainable Urban Development Program (ISUD), commissioned by AFD and Groupe Huit. Oversaw the risks and strategic development of climate-adaptive WASH infrastructure, blue/green corridors, and sponge city systems, aligned with urban regeneration and equity principles. (**Urban climate mitigation & adaptation, Urban infrastructure, Municipal Utilities, Water Treatment**)

**Led the design team for Istanbul's Healthy Streets Strategy**, within the GIZ-supported Sustainable Urban Mobility Plan (SUMP), emphasizing inclusive mobility, air quality, and active travel.

**Provided strategic consultancy** to Balıkesir Metropolitan Municipality, developing spatial and community-oriented solutions under the Cittaslow framework.

**Managed the urban design guidelines teams** for Maltepe-Balıkçıköy Heritage District and green infrastructure planning for Karşıyaka District, combining conservation, resilience, and local entrepreneurship.

Coordinated, Turkey's **Cultural Heritage as a Resource for Resilience During the Climate Crisis Research Report** for ÇEKÜL foundation. (**cultural heritage, climate change, regional climate mitigation & adaptation**)

04/2016 – 10/2022

### Project Manager, Kadıköy Municipality Directorate of Strategy Development

**Coordinated multiple EU funded projects.** focused on urban management, social resilience, heritage and mobility including CONSIDER (**cultural heritage, Re-purposing of abandoned buildings**); Making City and INSPIRES (**Urban climate mitigation & adaptation**); CIVITAS Fast Track SUMP Plus (**Sustainable urban mobility**).

**Coordinated the Yeldeğirmeni Heritage Site Revitalization program** including citizen participation process, land use plan and urban design guidelines (**Urban planning, Urban design, Municipal utilities, Re-purposing of abandoned buildings**).

Successfully implemented **public infrastructures**, such as developing an innovation and co-production policy for municipal services and implementing Turkey's first municipal-operated co-working space, IDEA for young entrepreneurs, and local citizens (**Municipal utilities, Skills development, Urban infrastructure**)

Successfully managed **Kadıköy Municipality Project Management Board's** agenda. Supported Kadıköy Municipality's Strategic Plan 2020-2024 (**Municipal utilities**).

04/2021 – 06/2021

### Research Assistant, The World Bank Development Research Group

Worked with Group's **Poverty and Inequality Branch** lead social scientist. Conducted qualitative data about diverse land use reform cases and building state capability. Prepared an outline for conducting ESG in Turkey context.

12/2014 – 01/2016

### Project Manager, Kentsel Strateji

**Published Social Impact Assessment (SIA) Guideline.** The guideline raised the need to SIA for urban projects in Turkey (**Territorial impact assessment**)

**Conducted Social Impact Assessments.** Coordinated Kartal East Centre Project, Social Impact Assessment. Study has been prepared as the first Social Impact Assessment for urban transformation project in Turkey. Completed Perşembe Bazaar Heritage District's Revitalization Project Social Impact Assessment report (**Territorial impact assessment**).

**Implemented TAK urban labs in Kadıköy and Kartal District** to bring together stakeholders and enhance participatory governance (**Re-purposing of abandoned buildings, Municipal utilities, Skills development**).

07/2012 – 11/2014

### Program Coordinator, ÇEKÜL

**Coordinated "Nature and Culture Oriented Regional Road Maps Program"** (Through the program, 15 sub-projects, nature and culture oriented vision plans and assessments were conducted between 2012 and 2015. In this context, 25 cities and 9 regions studied among in Turkey). Devised nature and culture-oriented development and risk mitigation strategies; prepared historical and geographical analysis; participated in field observations. organised participatory processes workshops and focus group meetings in case cities and regions. (**environmental impact assessment, cultural heritage impact assessment, regional planning, tourism development**)

## KEY SKILLS

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**Languages:** Native speaker of Turkish, Excellent command in English (C1), German (A2)

### Operational and Technical Skills

**Analyzing, mapping and presenting** social, economic, spatial and participatory data

**Coordinating and monitoring** short and long-term development projects

**Co-operating** with international organizations, governorates, development agencies, municipalities, private sector, non- governmental organizations and local stakeholders.

**Assessing** social and heritage impact

**Developing** urban context strategies.

**Advising** plans of operation for public services and infrastructures.

**Researching** literature reviews and best practices.

**Disseminating**, writing, editing and designing the project reports.

**Capacity building** with training programs, workshops and seminars.

**Strategic thinking and design thinking** in urban development context.

**Facilitating and organizing**, meetings, workshops, public meetings

**Data Analysis, graphic, modelling:** ArcGIS, QGIS, NetCAD, Adobe Illustrator, InDesign, Photoshop for graphic design; AutoCAD, Sketchup, Rhinoceros;

### Awards and Grants

(2022) Central European University Scholarship.

(2020) USA The Fulbright Hubert H. Humphrey Fellowship Grant.

## Project Portfolio and Publications

### Projects

(2023 – 2025) **POSEIDON**. The project is designing and developing instruments for Mediterranean cities that foster the transition of existing districts into Positive Energy Districts (PEDs). The DUT Partnership

(2023- 2025) **PED-ACT. Auto characterization of PEDs for digital references towards iterative process optimisation**. Partnership between Sweden (Dalarna University, Umea University, Umea Kommun, Umea Energy, Borlange Municipality, Tunabyggen), Austria (Wonderland, AIT Austrian Institute of Technology), Turkiye (Middle East Technical University, Karşıyaka Municipality, Ankara Metropolitan Municipality, Demir Energy, İzmir Institute of Technology)

(2023- 2025) **CISCA Curricular Innovation for Synergy between Community Sport and Activism**. Partners University of Thessaly (UTH) (Greece), Wonderland- Platform for European Architecture (Austria), Regionalne Centrum Wolontariatu (RCW) (Poland), Comparative Research network EV- (CRN)- (Germany), Mine Vaganti NGO- MVNGO (Italia)

(2024 – 2025 ) **Istanbul Sustainable Urban Mobility Plan, Healthy Streets Design Lead**. The project is a natural continuation of the Istanbul SUMP Stage I activity, which forms the basis for the implementation of a wide range of sustainable urban mobility solutions in Istanbul and aims to achieve the main SUMP objectives. Beneficiary Institution: Istanbul Metropolitan Municipality (IMM).

(2023 – 2024 ) **Fair Mobility**. 15 min city project that foster sustainable options for personal mobility and logistics in urban outskirts and beyond. The DUT Partnership.

(2023- 2024) **Izmir Sustainable Urban Development Program Pre-Feasibility Studies**. Beneficiary: AFD (French Development Agency), Group Huit and Izmir Metropolitan Municipality.

(2023- 2024) **YE-2C Youth Empowerment for Circular Cities**. Partners Wonderland (Austria), LDIP (Kosovo), ECREC (Netherlands), ETMI (Albania), NOVI HORIZONT (Montenegro)

(2022- 2023) **Turkey's Cultural Heritage as a Resource for Resilience During the Climate Crisis Research Report**. Cooperation between Urban.koop, ÇEKÜL Foundation, TBB (Union of Municipalities of Turkey).

(2021- 2022) **Balıkesir Dumlupınar Neighbourhood Urban Design Guidelines**. Cooperation between Urban.koop, Balıkesir Metropolitan Municipality, Kentsel Tasarım Rehberleri

(2020- present) **CONSIDER: Sustainable Management of Industrial Heritage as a Resource for Urban Development**. EU founded

project. Project Partners Kadir Has University, Kadıköy Municipality and other nine beneficiaries.

(2019- 2020) *Havran Urban Design Guidelines*. Cooperation Havran Municipality, Urban Koop.

(2018-2020). *InSpires: Increasing Community Resilience in Climate Adaptation Process Project (InCRECA)*. EU founded project. Beneficiary : Kadıköy Municipality.

(2019). *Kadıköy Municipality 2019 -2023 Strategic Plan*. Kadıköy Municipality.

(2018-2019). *Yeldeğirmeni Heritage Site Revitalization Strategy and Urban Design Guide* Cooperation Kadıköy Municipality and ÇEKÜL Foundation.

(2014- 2019) *Kadıköy Mural Art Festival*, Kadıköy Municipality in cooperation with Muralist and ÇEKÜL Foundation

(2018-2019). *Caferağa Neighbourhood Action Plan*. Kadıköy Municipality.

(2017-2018). *Integrated and Participatory Climate Action for Kadikoy Municipality Project*. Kadıköy Municipality.

(2017). *IDEA Concept for Public Spaces: Public Policy Advice Document and Case Implementation Project in Kadıköy*. Kadıköy Municipality and KASDAS <http://www.ideakadikoy.org/>

(2016). *Social Impact Assessment for Perşembe Bazaar Heritage District Project*. Cooperation Istanbul Metropolitan Municipality and Kentsel Strateji. <https://kentselstrateji.com/proje/persembe-pazari-sosyal-etki-degerlendirmesi/>

(2015). *Social Impact Assessment for Kartal East Centre Project*. Cooperation Kartal Municipality, Kentsel Strateji and TAK Kartal. <https://kentselstrateji.com/proje/kartal-yeni-merkez-projesi-sed-raporu/>

(2016). *Kadıköy Spatial Strategic Plan Pre-Feasibility Studies*. Kadıköy Municipality.

(2016). *Neighbourhood Action Plan for Kartal District*. Cooperation Kartal Municipality, Kentsel Strateji and TAK Kartal. <https://www.kartal.bel.tr/tr/dosyalar/mep.pdf>

(2013-2014). *TAK Model (Design Research Participation Labs), TAK Kadıköy and TAK Kartal Implementations*. Cooperation; Kentsel Strateji, Kadıköy Municipality, Kartal Municipality, ÇEKÜL foundation, DESTEK Platform. <http://takortak.org/>

(2014). *Cultural Routes System Guide for Çukurova Region*. Project Partners ÇEKÜL Foundation, TBB (Union of Municipalities of Turkey) and TKB (The Turkish Union of Historical Towns). Project Supporters Governorship of Mersin and Adana.

(2014). *Cultural Routes System Guide for Kelkit Basin*. Project Partners ÇEKÜL Foundation, TBB and TKB. Project Supporters Niksar Municipality and Governorship of Tokat.

(2014). *Cultural Routes System Application Suggestions in Niksar and Surroundings*. Project Partners ÇEKÜL Foundation, TBB and TKB. Project Supporters Niksar Municipality and Governorship of Tokat.

(2014). *Cultural Routes System Guide for Yeşilirmak Basin*. Project Partners ÇEKÜL Foundation, TBB and TKB. Project Supporters Niksar Municipality and Governorship of Tokat.

(2013). *Van Lake Basin Cultural Based Vision Plan*. Project Partners ÇEKÜL Foundation, TBB and TKB.

(2013). *Southern Marmara Rural Heritage Strategy Plan*. Project Partners ÇEKÜL Foundation, TBB and TKB

(2013). *Çukurova Nature and Culture Based Vision Plan*. Project Partners ÇEKÜL Foundation, TBB and TKB

(2013). *Muğla Nature and Culture Based Vision Plan*. Project Partners ÇEKÜL Foundation, TBB and TKB

(2013). *Network Action Plan for Thrace (Tekirdağ, Kırklareli, Edirne)*. Project Partners ÇEKÜL Foundation, TBB and TKB

(2012). *Revitalization Plan for Traditional Fabric of Gaziantep*. Project Partners ÇEKÜL Foundation TBB and TKB

(2012). *Cappadocia Strategic Direction Plan (Aksaray-Nevşehir-Nigde-Kayseri-Kırşehir)*. Project Partners ÇEKÜL Foundation, TBB and TKB.

(2012). *Lakes Region Interaction Plan (Burdur, Isparta, Afyonkarahisar)*. Project Partners ÇEKÜL Foundation, TBB and TKB.

(2012). *Cooperation Plan for The Golden Triangle (Aydın, Denizli, Muğla)*. Project Partners ÇEKÜL Foundation TBB and TKB.

(2012). *Strategic Plan for Thrace's Connecting Power: Nature, Water and Culture (Tekirdağ, Kırklareli, Edirne)*. Project Partners ÇEKÜL Foundation TBB and TKB.

## Publications

Akkaya, B., (2024). **Critical Heritage Urbanism: Exploring Climate Change And Heritage Nexus In Izmir's Waterbodies**. MA Thesis in Cultural Heritage Studies: Academic Research, Policy, Management. Central European University, Vienna, May 2024. Access link: [https://www.etd.ceu.edu/2024/akkaya\\_batuhan.pdf](https://www.etd.ceu.edu/2024/akkaya_batuhan.pdf)

Nasya, B. Vurucu, Y and Akkaya, B. (2024). **The PED Manifesto: Turning the balance of local energy into POSITIVE**. ISBN 978-3-9505120-2-1. Access link: <https://wonderland.cx/wp-content/uploads/2024/10/Manifesto-for-WEB.pdf>

Akkaya, B. Erdoğan, E.,(2018). **IDEA: Model for Co-Production in Public Space**, Kadıköy Academy Publications.

Göksu, A., Akkaya, B., Özkan, M., Candan, C., Mutlu E., (2015). **Social Impact Assessment (SIA) Preparation Guide**. Urban Vision Platform Publications. Access link: <https://kentselstrateji.com/proje/sosyal-etki-degerlendirme-rehberi-sed/>

Akkaya, B., (2015). **Yeldeğirmeni Neighbourhood: The Earliest Apartments**. Mekan Magazine

Akkaya, B., (2014). **Urban Soundscapes: Evaluating the Sonic Layers of Kadıköy Historical Bazaar and Near Surroundings**. Master Thesis. Istanbul Technical University

Göksu, A., Akalp, S., Akkaya, B., Sarı, Ö., Ulubaş, A., (2013) **81 City 81 Vision Program Summary**. Urban Vision Platform Publications. Access link: <http://www.kentselvizyon.org/81kent81vizyon.html>