

Citizens in Nilüfer involved in communication with local authorities

The case

Founded in 1987, with its 290 000 inhabitants the town of Nilüfer is the largest and fastest growing part of the Metropolitan Municipality of Bursa, Southern Marmara Region of Turkey. There are 7 industrial zones within the boundaries of Nilüfer and the town has 42 districts and 22 villages. There are 3.86 persons per household in the town of Nilüfer and the number of vehicles per household is 1.13. Nilüfer has 48 primary and secondary education institutions and some 40 sports clubs.

The change process

In 2002 Nilüfer City Council has decided to implement the Local Agenda 21. The current Nilüfer City Council has taken the initiative further since its election on October 24, 2009 and so the Nilüfer Neighbourhood Committees were established. These Neighbourhood Committees consist of so called “natural” members such as the representatives of local villages, schools and parent-teacher association, health clinics, sports clubs and religious institutions.

Members to the committees are selected from the people of neighbourhood and a member is selected on each and every 600 people. If the population of the settlements is under 600 also a member is selected. Elections of Neighbourhood Committees are held using the secret ballot method. A single list of candidates running for elections is prepared. There is a Representative Electoral District Committee that announces the results and notifies the Secretariat of the Nilüfer City Council Presidency.



A Chairman of the Neighbourhood Committee is selected and he/she is responsible for the decision making at neighbourhood level and represents the Committee in front of the City Council. Neighbourhood Committees should meet at least once a month.

In the first meeting of the Neighbourhood Committee, two vice chairmen and a registrar are selected. Neighbourhood Committee decisions shall be taken by 2/3 majority of votes.

The Neighbourhood Committee has the right to discuss the problems of the neighbourhood. The mandate of the Neighbourhood Committee is one year. There

is a quota in the Neighbourhood Committee: it should include 1/3 women and 1/3 youth (18-29 years).



The decisions in the Neighbourhood Committee meetings are approved by the Nilüfer City Council and are recorded on a regular basis.

After the establishment of the Neighbourhood Committees in December 2009 the Committees issued an inventory of neighbourhood problems and held neighbourhood meetings. On these meetings the future actions were determined and potential

issues of interest for the neighbourhood were identified.

In 2010 the Municipality of the Nilüfer City Council distributed to the Committees an ASPHALT Program. Neighbourhood Committees reviewed the program and amended it.

The issues that different committees dealt with in 2010 were also mainly related with the work of municipal Construction Department, Clean Works Department, Parks and Gardens Department, Cultural and Social Affairs Directorate and the Veterinary Directorate.

The outcome

In their first year of operation the Nilüfer Neighbourhood Committees achieved a certain level of success in influencing the decision taken and policies implemented by the local government. These committees were formed not only to provide a solution to everyday problems of the neighbourhood but also to develop the future plans for development of the neighbourhood.

Lessons learned

In 2011 it is envisaged that the revision of the Strategic Plan in 2012 will be done with the help of these committees and they will work as well on the investment budget of the Council's investment plans. In 2013 the idea is to have the committees taking part in the discussion and preparation of the budget of Nilüfer Municipality.

