

# AVCILAR

## 2022



# Sustainable Development Goals

VOLUNTARY LOCAL REVIEW

Mayor of  
Avcılar

**Turan  
Hançerli**



**Avcılar  
Municipality**



AGENDA  
**2030**





Mayor of  
Avcılar | **Turan  
Hançerli**

 **Avcılar**  
Municipality



A BEAUTIFUL CITY  
**AVCILAR**



# STRONG RESPONSE FROM AVCILAR TO THE CRITICAL CALL FOR ACTION



"Global Goals is a global call for action that includes and emphasizes areas such as climate change, economic inequality, innovativeness, sustainable consumption, peace, and a just and equal life reduced inequalities.

**I would like to state that we, as Avcilar, strongly responded to this call for action critical for the future of our world and future generations."**

**Turan Hançerli**  
Mayor  
Avcilar Municipality

*We, as Avcilar Municipality, believe that the Global Goals are connected with each other, and the key for success in one goal lies in dealing with problems with common aspects in an integrated manner.*



**T**his Voluntary Local Review in your hand is the product of very detailed study. We, as Avcilar Municipality, assessed all of our operations in Avcilar together with Avcilar's people, decision makers, CSOs, and business people and drafted a report showing our progress on 17 Sustainable Development Goals and explaining how we can progress further. We undertake a mission to bring local solutions to global problems and we aim to take Avcilar from history to beyond future along with the entire humanity. As states, cities, communities and people, we have an obligation to be successful. We have to establish a life that is more fair, livable and in harmony with the environment.

Avcilar is a settlement on the European front of İstanbul dating thousands of years back, with the lake on the one side and the sea on the other. It is a junction point of roads and a preferred destination by the immigrants throughout history. Today, it is possible to see traces of many civilizations in Avcilar and reach to new sections of history as the excavations progress. However, the future of Avcilar, which has a history almost as old as humanity in its geographical area, is in danger along with the rest of the world due to the problems that humanity created and is experiencing.

This is where the importance of Sustainable Development Goals, declared by the United Nations and adopted as a solution formula for the problems experienced by the humanity, becomes apparent. These 17 goals, aiming to mitigate and, if possible, solve the historical problems of humanity to allow Avcilar, Türkiye, Europe and the world to continue their lives, are before us as formulas that help us, as Avcilar, adapt ourselves, what we do and what we will do.

In our world, where even the most global problems are caused by and affect the localities, we work in Avcilar to find real solutions to real global and local problems without leaving anyone behind or excluded. Thanks to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals we now have a chance to conduct our regular operations in our plans in accordance with a universal formula. These goals gave us an opportunity to both organize ourselves and plan our future.

**TURAN HANÇERLİ**



## THE PROJECT COORDINATORS' MESSAGES



OGUZ SEN

To ensure and accelerate the localization of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), it is necessary to create an environment where local and regional governments can make meaningful and strong contributions to achieving the SDGs. "Decade of Action," announced in September 2019, calls for the acceleration of solutions to various problems ranging from poverty, gender discrimination and climate change to inequality and elimination of financial deficit. This ambitious call can only be heeded across the world by working at three levels: global, local, and personal. This call remains as the global roadmap for sustainable and inclusive development. In an environment of redevelopment after the pandemic, SDGs provide a framework connected more than ever for full recovery in Avcilar.

#MacroStrategist #SDG-Expert



ALICAN SARIGUL

At the point we reached as the whole world, increased efficiency, skilled labor, improved wealth distribution and green economy has gained great importance. The 17 goals agreed upon by the world leaders in 2015 get to the bottom of these issues, aiming at ending extreme poverty, fighting against inequality and injustice, and adapting to the climate change effects. In a period when many local governments around the world are starting off from that point to localize the Sustainable Development Goals, we, as Avcilar, are glad to be able to strongly respond to this movement thanks to our efficient and effective resource management. I hope that our Voluntary Local Review, which is the outcome of our SDG process, started with a view to finding local solutions to global problems, can be an example for local governments in Türkiye and all around the world.

#GreenEconomist #SDG-Expert



Dr. SERVET KAYA

Our Voluntary Local Review (VLR) covers a vision for building resilient and just cities considering a context of countless problems, inequalities, and areas in need of development regarding climate, environment, poverty, democracy, economy, urbanization, disasters, and species. Realization of this vision and monitoring its contributions to the 2030 Agenda is only possible through action plans that are the product of a determined management approach of strategic awareness and the VLR that involves the commitment to partner with the United Nations. In addition, sharing experiences concerning sustainable innovations and the fight against challenges will be a source of inspiration for all governments, contributing to spreading a culture of acting together for the construction of a future that is more livable, just and sustainable for all.

#Strategist #Management-Scientist

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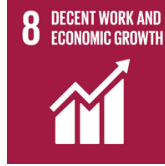









### Institutions Contributed to the Research and Data Collection Process

UNDP Türkiye, UN HABITAT, SDSN Türkiye, SBB, TÜİK, MBB, CSOs, Avcilar District Governorship, Avcilar District Police Directorate, Avcilar District National Education Directorate, Avcilar District Civil Registry Directorate, Avcilar District Health Directorate, Neighborhood Administrations (10 Neighborhoods)



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# SUMMARY

This report evaluates studies and operations conducted by Avcilar Municipality in accordance with the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.




2022 is a year like any other for the world but it points to an important mental transformation for humanity. After the 1929 Great Depression and the following 6-year World War II resulting in the death of millions of people, the peace and settled structure established by the supranational institutions, especially United Nations, was proceeding towards a dead end by the 1970s.

The Cold War whose effects were felt through nuclear armament and the Keynesian economic system being damaged, or even dysfunctional on the one hand; the emerging “Borders of the Globe” issue starting to be taken into humanity’s agenda for the first time on the other hand put the short period of serenity and recovery in danger and revealed the need for a new perspective.

United Nations Environment Conference in Stockholm, whose 50th anniversary is commemorated in 2022, was the outcome of these conditions. 1972 was a year when we, as humanity, understood that “something is not going right and we might reach to a point even more troublesome unless we change course.”

Looking at today, unfortunately the situation we have arrived at is worse than what was foreseen and expected in 1972. Things are not going well neither for us as humanity nor for the world. However, we continue working to change this with our supranational institutions and the 1972 Stockholm Conference was not the last step taken on this road.

In September 2015, United Nations General Assembly identified 3 important challenges for humanity to overcome in 15 years:

-  Ending extreme poverty
-  Fighting against inequality and injustice
-  Adapting to the climate change

17 Global Goals were identified and agreed on to overcome these 3 important challenges. A roadmap of 17 items was drafted and named as the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). There are two striking points of this roadmap: The first is that all items are applicable for all nations. The other similar point is that all challenges are defined so that when these goals are achieved, “no one will be left behind.”

2030 Agenda, including 17 SDGs built on the Millennium Development Goals adopted by the governments in 2001 and expired in December 2015, presenting a roadmap to be completed in 2030, has been put into effect in 1 January 2016.

The year we are in is exactly in the middle between the adoption and completion of the goals. The three main challenges that we need to overcome by utilizing Sustainable Development Goals still persist, continuing to threaten humanity and our planet. Reports showing that progress towards the targets to be reached through Sustainable Development Goals has stopped and the goals receded into the background due to changing order of priorities and many crises humanity needs to fight against.

Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN) Director and the first author of the Sustainable Development Report (SDR) that includes the SDG Index and Indicator Tables, Professor Jeffrey D. Sachs summarizes the point we are at saying that “Fifty years after the first UN Conference on the human environment in Stockholm in 1972, the bedrock SDG principles of social inclusion, clean energy, responsible consumption, and universal access to public services are needed more than ever to respond to the major challenges of our time.

“Poor and vulnerable countries are being hit particularly hard by multiple health, geopolitical, and climate crises and their spillovers. To restore and accelerate SDG progress, we need global cooperation to end the pandemic, negotiate an end to the war in Ukraine, and secure the financing needed to achieve the SDGs.”

As humanity, we are facing multiple interconnected crises. Our cure against these crises is apparent but we are having troubles applying it. To overcome these troubles, supranational, international, national and local institutions must collaborate and cooperate to create solutions. In an age where challenges are both local and global, it is obvious that solutions also must be local as much as they are global. A local government taking action for the same purposes as the United Nations and reorganize its entire structure in accordance with the Sustainable Development Goals presented as a common value for humanity points to the fact that we are using the opportunities presented to us by the age of globalization for good purposes.

Today, any of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals is as valid and vital for a local government with half a million population as it is for a country with a population of billions of people. Individuals and communities need the change to be brought by Sustainable Development Goals. Although some goals require more general policies, the key to achieve some others is localities and local governments. Local governments that grasp the problems of our age and want to respond to them as the conditions of this age require evolve themselves to create policies and solutions in accordance with the Sustainable Development Goals.

Voluntary Local Review report is a document produced with efforts paid through this perspective. It is outcome of a local government’s engaging in the 17 universal goals adopted by the United Nations and reporting all of its operations to that end, taking the opinions of all of its citizens into consideration.



## AVCILAR'S HISTORY

The history of Avcilar dates back to prehistoric ages. The remnants of the Bathonea Ancient City, an old port city, were obtained through the excavations carried out in the Kucukcekmece Lake basin in Firuzkoy neighborhood. When the historical artifacts found in these excavations were examined, it has been found out that some of the tools used in daily life date back to times before the common era and some archaeological findings belonged to the Vikings. It has been revealed in the excavations, which are still ongoing, that the ancient city was used even in the Eastern Roman Empire era (Erbil, 2014). It is known that during and after the conquest of Istanbul in 1453, there were people settled in Avcilar.

*The name of Avcilar comes from the fact that this region was frequented by hunters during the hunting season in the past.*

*Ambarli, one of the first settlements of Avcilar district before the proclamation of the Republic, is a small Greek village of 60 households.*



Avcilar Merkez Districts '90s



Russian Soldiers in Ambarli (1878)



Those who came from Rumelia with the exchange

The name Avcilar (meaning 'hunters' in Turkish) comes from it being a focal point for hunters during hunting seasons in the past. Ambarli, one of the first settlements in Avcilar before 1923, was a small greek village. With the population exchange started after the declaration of the Turkish republic, Turks coming from Greece and Bulgaria settled or had been settled in various points in Avcilar.

The population of Avcilar, which started growing after the population exchange increased rapidly in the 1950s when it was seen as a resort town close to İstanbul. Thus, summer houses and winter houses were started to be built in Avcilar, which has a coast to the lake on the one side and to the sea on the other, and new neighborhoods began emerging.



Citizen with Horse Carriage in Front of Ambarli Fountain

Opening of Turkish Electricity Institution, cement companies and factories operating in other sectors contributed to the development of Avcilar. E5 (D-100), İstanbul's road connection to Europe, going through the district, the presence of İstanbul University Avcilar Campus, filling facilities and the thermal power plant in the west of Avcilar and industrial facilities in Firuzkoy boulevard are the elements that helped the economic, cultural and social development of Avcilar.

Avcilar is the district of İstanbul that was affected worst by the 17 August 1999 earthquake with the magnitude of 7.2 with its epicenter in Golcuk, Kocaeli. The earthquake changed the demographic and sociological structure in Avcilar where 27 buildings were destroyed, 246 people died and hundreds of buildings were heavily or moderately damaged.

Harboring many civilizations in the past, Avcilar is the center of many migration routes of both people and living beings in the nature. It has a multicultural, multinational and multilingual structure.



*In the Environmental Performance Index of 2020 Human Development Index-Districts (HDI-D), which includes items such as treatment performance from services for stray animals to disasters, green space/forest existence, continuously irrigated areas, and percentage of water bodies, **Avcilar took the 2nd place with 78 points among 138 cities across Türkiye.***

## GEOGRAPHICAL STRUCTURE AND TRANSPORTATION

Avcilar is on the European side of Istanbul. It has borders to Kucukcekmece district and Kucukcekmece Lake in the east, the Sea of Marmara in the south, Beylikduzu and Esenyurt in the West and Basaksehir in the north. It's area is 42 million m<sup>2</sup>. When its built environment is examined, it can be seen that there are important industrial zones inside and around the district. There is an important road network in the district with two important roads (TEM and D-100) going through. Access to Avcilar is limited because of the ongoing subway constructions.

## ECOLOGICAL STRUCTURE

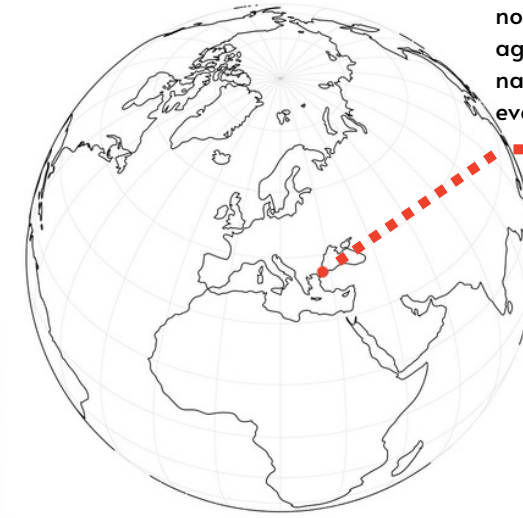
With the Sea of Marmara in the south and Kucukcekmece Lake in the east Avcilar is an intersection point for marine and terrestrial ecosystems. The lake basin is one of the seven designated natural areas of İstanbul and it is a very high priority natural area for breeding and wintering point for water birds. For this reason it has an internationally protected area status and it's a Ramsar site. Kucukcekmece Lake is designated as a Special Protection Area.

Kucukcekmece Lake basin is also within the borders of West Istanbul Meadows, an important botanical area. Rare and endemic plants have been identified in the Bathonea Ancient City archaeological site in this area. 5 species identified here are among the species that must be protected under Berne Convention (Ozcan, 2020). Agricultural areas in the basin were damaged throughout the years due to increased pollution. Agricultural areas, forests and green spaces were replaced by settlements, transportation hubs and open spaces.

There are 71 parks, median strips and recreational areas in Avcilar and the total area of green spaces within municipality borders is 301,268.76 m<sup>2</sup>. Although it is the district with the most city trees in İstanbul, the green space per person in Avcilar is 1.89 m<sup>2</sup> according to the 2020 data.

The greenhouse gas emission amount of Avcilar in 2019 was estimated as 1,089,334 tCO<sub>2</sub>. Buildings accounted for 51.4% of this amount, transportation accounted for 38.1%, solid wastes and wastewaters accounted for 10.4% and the other 0.1% is caused by other sources such as agricultural irrigation and animal presence.

Avcilar is a settlement where migration routes have converged for centuries, where different communities and cultures meet each other and learn to live together. In addition, our district has been affected by major disasters for hundreds of years, and although many settlements have been destroyed by earthquakes, people have not given up on this geography. Avcilar, which is more resilient, egalitarian, fighting against income inequalities, developing by producing solutions compatible with nature and leaving no one behind, is a place where everyone is welcome and everyone belongs.



**130+**

Number of Universities, High-schools, and Other Education Institutions in Avcilar

**45.3**

Human Development Index

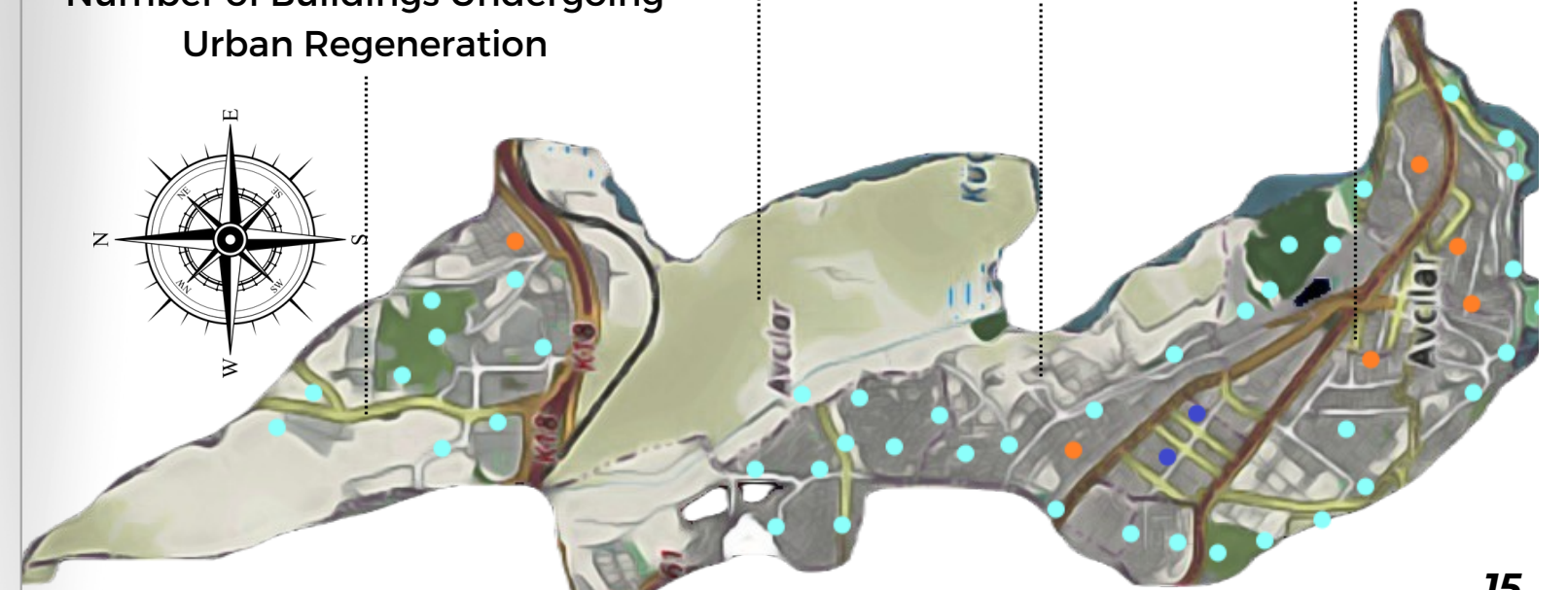
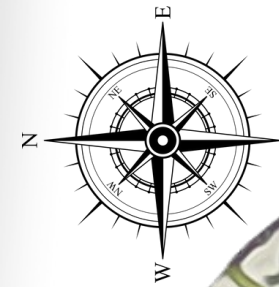
**#1**

Türkiye's Leading District in the Number of Buildings Undergoing Urban Regeneration

**458K**

**Population**

8th Most Populous District of İstanbul





# Recovery in the post-COVID-19 Period to a More Resilient and Stronger State

COVID-19 pandemic was a global shock. It aggravated many long-standing, deep-rooted stresses in our systems, faced by cities across the world and affecting the health, wealth and sustainability of our communities, including the inequality based on prejudice and discrimination.

Therefore, we created solutions to encourage our district's citizens' participation in the social and economic life by understanding the problems and needs that arose in our community. Avclar district has been an example and a leader with its works towards recovery, relief and supporting its citizens

after the Covid 19, both in İstanbul and across the country.

We are managing the transition process successfully by organizing many cultural events to encourage our citizens to engage in the social life, starting training courses for our children to help them overcome the educational problems they suffered during the pandemic, and launching our economic programs for increasing the employment rate.

1



We handed out tablets to students to prevent them from staying behind in education

2



We launched the "Stay with Art" project to support local artists

3



We provided job opportunities to 1500 of our citizens through our Employment Office

1

## Supportive Training Program

As many aspects of life were disrupted during the Covid-19 pandemic, education was also temporarily discontinued in the process. The closing of educational institutions and pause in the face to face education caused a deterioration in the quality of education.

We supported 7500 of our students, who were negatively affected by this situation, with scientific, artistic and physical training courses.

2

## Readapting to Social Life

To recover the broken social connections, regain the social resilience, and reinstate the mobility in the district; we created solutions inspired by art and sports. We organized sports events in the mornings for our citizens across the district, opened culture and art courses for thousands of our residents, held free of charge cinema and theatre shows and performances, nearly 30 feasts and festivals, and more than 80 concerts. We continue our operations in the same direction.

3

## Returning to Business

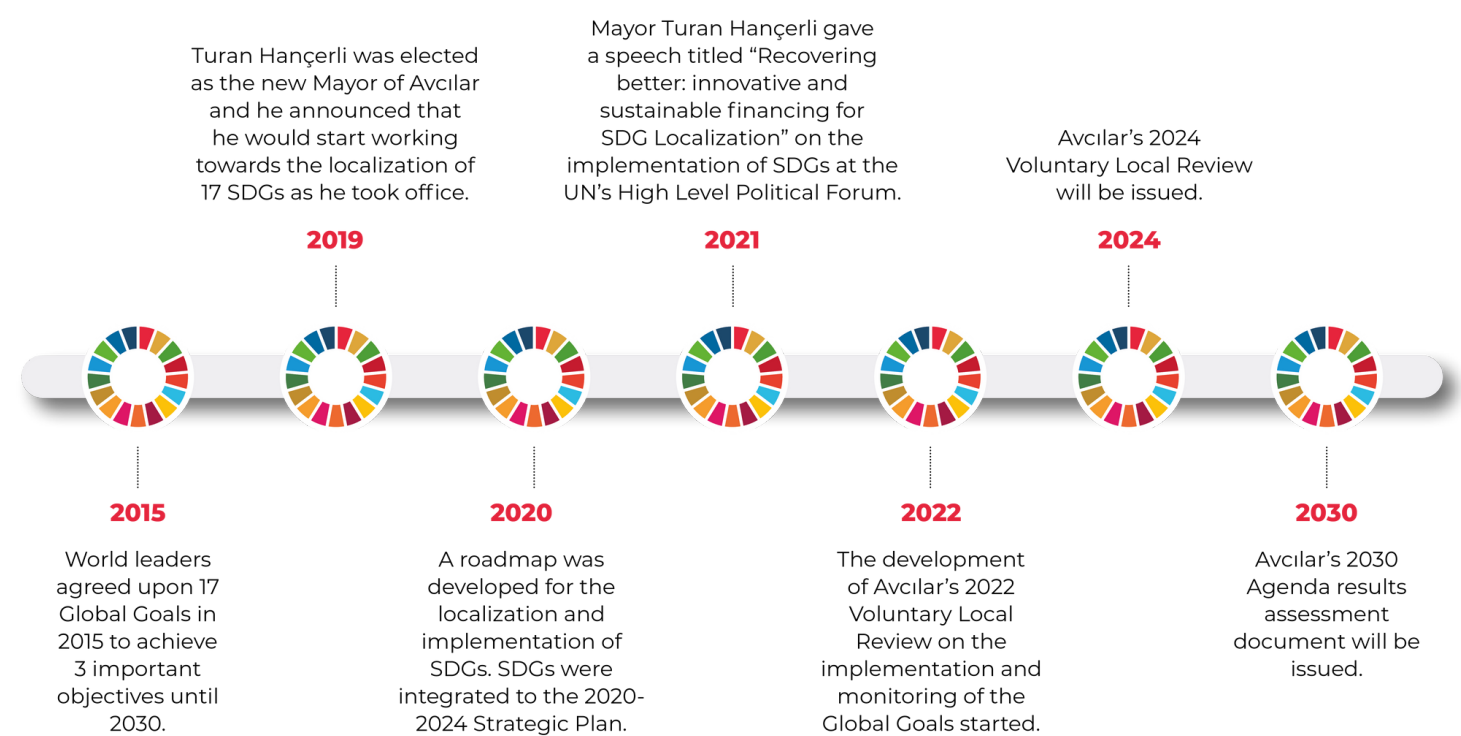
Many of our citizens lost their jobs during the pandemic, and many families' incomes decreased. Within the scope of our fight against increased unemployment rate program, we provided employment opportunities for a yearly average 1200 people, many of whom are women, and launched specific Entrepreneurship Training Programs for them.

We founded Women's Handicraft Markets to support women's contribution to their household's economy. We opened our Innovation and Entrepreneurship Center for the young people. We also increased the number of kindergartens, improving our capacity of childcare services. This issue constitutes the most prominent obstacle for women's participation in the business life and we continue to fight it.





# SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS ADVENTURE



The 17 SDGs consist of goals that define the elements of their goals and more than 240 indicators that measure progress towards these goals. Avcilar is working towards the implementation of 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development to become a leader in creating a sustainable city and world by fully utilizing its resources.

Existing Avcilar 2020-2024 Strategic Plan and Avcilar2029 Vision, that include ambitious targets such as becoming a resilient city and a leader in the urban and regional development, sensitive to climate change and leaving no one behind, support the aim of reaching to the targets mentioned in the Sustainable Development Goals until 2030 in many aspects. Investment plans created in accordance with the requests and demands of Avcilar's people play a vital role in the acceleration of the implementation of 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

IWe voluntarily conducted our review mainly based on the indicators integrated to SDGs in our 2020-2024 Strategic Plan that we created by utilizing data from various sources including official national statistics, municipal data, local citizen surveys and data gathered by CSOs.

In the following process, the outcomes of 2022 Avcilar Voluntary Local Review report will constitute the basis for 2025-2029 Strategic Plan and the relevant indicators. The analysis of all the data we conducted is the cornerstone of our "Leaving No One Behind" mentality.

It is not possible for measurements made without taking into account geographical and demographic characteristics to give healthy results. Avcilar, like other similarly populated cities, is one of the cosmopolitan cities in the world. While preparing our report, we considered local demographics. The data we obtain will play an effective role in the creation of the indicators of our next Strategic Plan.

The data we handle not only informs the public about our current situtation with regard to the Global Goals and the extent of our progress on them, but also present how we performed that progress and how we plan to sustain it. With this study, we declare once more that we are determined to create local solutions for global problems.

When Sustainable Development Goals are viewed from the aspect of governmental levels in Türkiye (central government and local governments), it is understood that some fall in the scope of local government's powers and duties, some fall in the scope of central government's and some fall in both. The powers and responsibilities of different government levels are shown in the table below:



Bringing the UN's 2030 targets one year forward with the 2029 Vision, we categorized the 17 SDGs for Avcilar as follows:

- High priority areas that fall in the scope of local powers and duties, with a strong municipal capacity.
- Medium priority areas that fall in the scope of both levels' powers and duties, with a medium-strength municipal capacity.
- Areas that fall in the scope of central government but the municipality is drawn into by the community's demands, with a weak municipal capacity.





# THROUGH OUR 2029 AVCILAR VISION

**Avcılar  
Belediyesi**  
Best Practices



DIGITALIZATION  
OKU AVCILAR



4 QUALITY  
EDUCATION



11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES  
AND COMMUNITIES



CITY  
URBAN REGENERATION



5 GENDER  
EQUALITY



9 INDUSTRY, INNOVATION  
AND INFRASTRUCTURE



11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES  
AND COMMUNITIES



ECOLOGY  
MOUNT IDA FOREST



13 CLIMATE  
ACTION



15 LIFE  
ON LAND



17 PARTNERSHIPS  
FOR THE GOALS

EDUCATION



4 QUALITY  
EDUCATION



11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES  
AND COMMUNITIES

## FIRST DIGITAL LIBRARY IN TURKEY WE HAVE STARTED **ERA** OF **DIGITAL LIBRARY** IN AVCILAR

By starting the digital library era in Avcilar, we made it possible for the first time in Turkey to access more than 25 thousand books in 35 different categories at the same time, free of charge. Our "Oku Avcilar" service, which has reached more than 90 thousand users since its launch, received an international award in the category of "Smart City Applications".



**WE CREATED AN EXEMPLARY  
MODEL ACROSS TURKEY IN  
URBAN REGENERATION**

# AVCILAR MODEL

We launched the Avcilar Model, which is a first in Turkey, to help our citizens who want to renew their buildings that completed their cycles of life conduct the process in a safe, fast and economical manner.

**We overcame the obstacles to urban transformation and started the “Saving Lives Movement”**

We gained a momentum in urban regeneration in Avcilar as a first in 20 years. We launched the “Saving Lives Movement” that saved the lives of thousands of people. According to the latest data 1,338 buildings and 12,341 independent units were demolished. The lives of 38,628 citizens were saved. Our works became an example for the whole country.



Significant Good Practices



## THOUSANDS OF CENTURIES-OLD OLIVE TREES WERE SAVED

Tons of excavation wastes from the ongoing construction of two tunnels at the Ayvack-Kucukkuyu part of the road that connects Canakkale to İzmir and Balıkesir in the Mount Ida, known as the place with second highest oxygen rate in the world, almost destroyed nearly a thousand olive trees in the area. As a result of the talks with the Kucukkuyu Mayor Cengiz Balkan who tried to rescue the olive trees that would have been destroyed by the excavations, the trees were duly removed and loaded to tractors to be carried to the main road and then transferred to articulated lorries.

After the studies conducted to find an appropriate location had been completed, the replantation of the trees, which weigh an average of 1.5 tons each, was started. At the first stage of the study, approximately 500 trees were brought back to life in Avcilar. As we finish the intermittently continuing replantation studies soon, we are planning to create a Mount Ida Forest of nearly 1000 trees. We felt that it was one of our major duties to do our best for the trees that would otherwise be crushed by the excavation wastes and leave them as a legacy to future generations. The people of Avcilar, the City of Beautiful People, will be able to collect olives from the olive trees of Mount Ida Forest next year.

COMPATIBLE WITH NATURE

54.217  
lives sa-

REGENERATED  
BUILDING  
1.624  
unit

REGENERATED  
INDEPENDENT  
15.946  
unit





# Sustainable Development Goals in Avcilar

This Voluntary Local Review (VLR) study contains information on the current situation for each of the 17 Objectives of Avcilar SDGs, including our localization programs, initiatives, indicators and innovative multi-stakeholder partnerships.

We welcome suggestions and feedback regarding this evaluation study that you can send via e-mail to [strateji@avcilar.bel.tr](mailto:strateji@avcilar.bel.tr).



## SUPPORT PROGRAM FOR REDUCING VULNERABILITIES – PEOPLE OF AVCILAR ARE NOT ALONE

To fight against the ongoing problem of poverty aggravated by the global economic effects of Covid-19, we provide hot meals to our citizens twice a day, 365 days a year with our food kitchen whose capacity was increased to support and strengthen the vulnerable groups. We have been also delivering the meals from our food kitchens to the citizens who cannot reach these places due to their health problems or distance since 2019.

As a result of the increased food prices due to the problems arisen in supply chains, logistics and our national economy, our citizens in Avcilar spend more than 28% of their income on food. The strategies we devised to end poverty and reduce vulnerabilities play a critical role in social and economic development of Avcilar.

## LOVE PACKAGE PROGRAM

After some of the first Covid-19 cases in Türkiye had been seen, we predicted the troubles that might arise and took action as Avcilar Municipality to prevent our citizens from falling victim to these troubles. We provided food aid packages we named as “love packages” to our citizens who requested starting from March 2020. We helped the families of Avcilar meet their children’s and own basic nutritional needs and enabled them to healthily grow up their children, allowing them to direct their expenses for this purpose to educational costs of their children. We are continuing our support to protect the children from the effects of poverty and grow up in equal conditions.

## SUPPORT PROGRAM FOR MOTHERS OF AVCILAR

As a result of our studies we identified that the second highest expenditure of families with a baby in Avcilar which they cannot afford due to financial difficulties is diapers and we have started providing diaper aid to the families in need. This program is critical for low income families and has a high multiplier effect. We continues to support Avcilarians mothers to assist them to recover from Covid-19 and support their economic development.



THE SDG STATUS ASSESSMENT  
(out of 100)

AVCILARIANS  
**63,7 SCORE**  
(DEVELOPED)

INSTITUTIONS  
**66,7 SCORE**  
(DEVELOPED)

### SDG 1 - AWARENESS RATE



AMONG CITIZENS  
**%44,5**



BETWEEN STAKEHOLDERS  
**%50,4**

### AVERAGE SCORE / SDG STATUS ASSESSMENT

20-39 Open to Development / 40 - 59 Developing  
60 - 79 Developed / 80-100 Highly developed



1 NO POVERTY



SDG I

No Poverty

End poverty in all its forms everywhere

Although poverty, one of the most basic and biggest social problems of today, is defined differently by various societies based on time and place, it is generally a concept meaning an individual's not being able to meet their basic needs nor have minimum standards of life.

Dealing with poverty on the local level includes enabling citizens' access to extensive services to protect them against economic shocks and stresses. Access to these services is often connected to the reported income which does not reflect the compact reality of poverty. The level of education, employment status, household income, access to childcare and the presence of social security service networks are essential to understand the options (or lack of them) people suffering from poverty have.

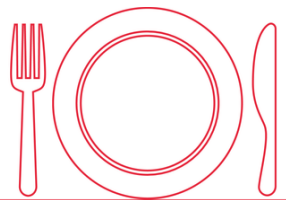
Although this compact reality cannot be grasped by a threshold statistic like yearly income, the Republic of Türkiye's poverty level is the standard we are bound by to measure the change in time and compare geographical areas.

Poverty in Türkiye increased by almost 1% from 13.5% in 2015 to 14.4% in 2021. The effects of this increase is more clearly seen in Avcilar on especially vulnerable and disadvantaged demographics.

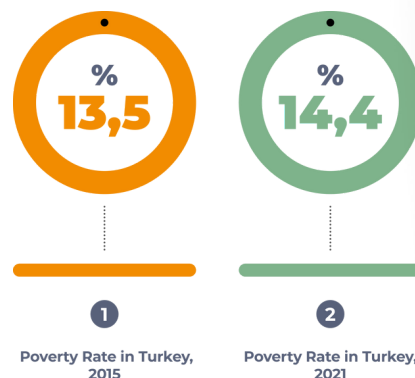
It is important for local governments to identify the people living in poverty from the perspective of Sustainable Development Goals and produce policies to help them get rid of it. In this context, our policies in accordance with the powers given to the local governments by Turkish laws include actions towards helping vulnerable and impoverished people gain resistance, reducing vulnerability against environmental shocks and disasters, supporting accelerated investments, and improving services in education, healthcare and social protection. In addition, we generated the economic development strategies that will raise the income level of the society, creating employment opportunities.

Avcılar Belediyesi  
*Dayanışma Sepeti*

26



We distribute **two hot meals a day** to our citizens in need, 365 days a year.





2 ZERO HUNGER



SDG 2

Zero Hunger

End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture

Eliminating poor nutrition by everyone including vulnerable people; meeting needs with regard to nourishing, safe and sufficient nutrition; securing sustainable food production systems and supporting individuals' right to access and consume safe, affordable, and nourishing foods are the targets local governments can achieve to end hunger.

Food insecurity defined as "a disruption in the ability of a household to regularly buy food without knowing where the next meal will come from due to the insufficiency of their economic resources" is a vital challenge for many households with low income.

One of the biggest problems humanity faced throughout history is hunger. Although poor nutrition instances in Avcilar are rare, regular access to food is becoming an increasingly challenging problem for the low income families of Avcilar.



By establishing markets in easy-to-access locations in all our neighborhoods, we have made approximately 80% of our residents of Avcilar have access to fresh fruits and vegetables.

Food insecurity is an ongoing reality for 15% of the low income households in Avcilar mostly concentrated in Yesilkent and Tahtakale neighborhoods, aggravated like other challenges by Covid-19. Overcoming this challenge in the recovery period after the pandemic is important for sustainable development.

We are using all of our lawful powers to the fullest extent in accordance with the local governments' aim of ending hunger. By setting up markets in certain points in all our neighborhoods, we made fresh fruits and vegetables accessible for our citizens, facilitating their reaching to healthy foods.

In order to provide access to healthy food in Avcilar, we established marketplaces in easy-to-access locations in all our neighborhoods, making approximately 80% of Avcilarians have access to fresh fruits and vegetables in their districts. Avcilar supports the Istanbul Food Strategy, which the Istanbul Planning Agency (IPA) started to develop a healthy, sustainable and fair food policy agenda, and serves as a joint influence center for local ownership of national agriculture and food policies.

NUMBER OF OUR MARKETPLACES

14  
MARKETPLACES

4 INDOOR - 10 OUTDOOR

2022 AVCILAR

## AVCILAR DISTRICT MARKET PROGRAM

District markets are very common in Türkiye, helping citizens meet their fresh fruit, vegetable and other types of food needs and serving as a medium of communication for the people. Supermarket chains increasing in the last 20 years have caused the district markets to lose their importance. However, this restricted the citizens' capability to access healthy and affordable fruits and vegetables.

This program we launched enabled us to regulate district markets with new standards, making them accessible for all groups in the society especially including the disabled, mothers and older people. To facilitate access to food in these markets, we gave places to producers for selling their products not only from İstanbul, but also from other cities.

Our markets became a point for many producers that do not know each other both for meeting with each other and with cooperatives operating in the city in the area of fresh fruit and vegetable production. In addition, they also achieved carbon footprint reduction through the sale of the food produced in the city.



THE SDG STATUS ASSESSMENT  
(out of 100)

AVCILARIANS  
**63,5 SCORE**  
(DEVELOPED)

INSTITUTIONS  
**62,0 SCORE**  
(DEVELOPED)

## SDG 2 - AWARENESS RATE



AMONG CITIZENS  
**%44,6**



BETWEEN STAKEHOLDERS  
**%37,7**

## AVERAGE SCORE / SDG STATUS ASSESSMENT

20-39 Open to Development / 40 - 59 Developing  
60 - 79 Developed / 80-100 Highly developed



## FOOD BANK

We are helping our citizens in need through our Food Bank program which we are launching as of 2022 when the food security challenge began becoming a global problem.

This program we are launching together with TİDER, the Global Foodbanking Network's (GFN) first authorized member in Türkiye, is based on collecting, the donated food, clothing, cleaning and hygiene products, sorting, storing and distributing them to people in need.

Our program aims at the provision of all types of donated and granted foods beneficial for human health, storing them under appropriate conditions and delivering them to families in need. The program has been founded to provide the low-income families that cannot procure the amount of food they need to sustain their lives under normal circumstances, resulting in undernourishment, with food, cleaning products and clothing aids.



2024  
GOALS

Number Of People Receiving Regular Food Aid  
As Hot Meals | 10.000 People

%81

Groceries And Clothing Aid To Contribute To Households'  
GDP | 60.000 Pcs

%65

29



## 3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING



### SDG 3

#### Good Health and Well-Being

Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages

Improving mother and baby health, fighting against communicable and noncommunicable diseases and addiction, reducing the number of diseases and deaths caused by environmental pollution, and boosting the mental and physical wellbeing of people are among our targets within the scope of local governments' aims of achieving a healthy and quality life.

Avcilar is the 15th most populous district of İstanbul, which is the most populous city of Türkiye with more than 16 million people. Our municipality manages the public health and social service programs for more than half a million residents of our city.

Avcilar Municipality is responsible for a series of programs and services for improving the citizens' health and wellbeing. Our Directorate of Youth and Sports Services runs sports programs for the participation of young people in underprivileged groups of society. Our Healthcare Affairs Directorate informs our citizens about pandemics and conducts preventive operations. Our Parks and Gardens Directorate increases the green spaces in our city while our Civil Works Directorate continues their revisions in accordance with our Accessibility Action Plan.

Our Climate Change and Zero Waste Directorate continues to reach its ambitious targets towards reducing emissions and pollution and achieving environmental justice in accordance with our Sustainable Energy and Climate Action Plan.

During the Covid-19 pandemic we started mask production to provide masks to our citizens free of charge. To solve the communication problems of hearing impaired people caused by masks, we produced partially transparent masks. We disinfected all roads and public places during the pandemic. We conducted intensive disinfection and disinfestation operations throughout the city. Within this scope, we disinfected places of frequent hand contact, places of worship (222 times) and public institutions (450 times) thoroughly.

In the same period we helped our disabled citizens who needed patient transfer services. We supported 16,533 of our citizens with our various healthcare services including patient transfer, ambulance, homecare, dental health and polyclinic services and we continue these services.

We supported **16,533 Avcilarians** with our various healthcare services including patient transfer, ambulance, homecare, dental health and polyclinic services.



Patient Transport Service



Ambulance Service



Home Care Service



Oral and Dental Health Service



Polyclinic Service

### FIGHT AGAINST DRUGS AND ADDICTION

As Avcilar Municipality, we know very well that there is no chronic disease in any branch of medicine like addiction that affects not only the person but also the whole society they are in it, biologically and psychologically surrounding them and causing damage.

With this awareness we have brought alive the "C4 System in the Fight Against Drug Addiction" being implemented in Avcilar as a first in Türkiye. We have opened the "Avcilar Municipality Addiction Treatment and Follow-up Center" as a result of collaboration with the C4 Recovery Solutions and Partners group. This program we run together with the Green Crescent Association, a leading CSO in this area, aims in its first stage at reducing the drug addiction rate in our city, which is globally accepted as a public health issue, integrating addicted people in the society again and completely eliminating it in the upcoming stages.

At the point we arrived at today, we know that it's necessary to repair the damages caused by all losses in a person's life to successfully treat the drug abuse disorder. Accordingly, the applied treatment is a holistic model that includes all aspects of a person's life such as biological, psychological, social, domestic and business to recover from all loss, destruction or deficiencies. Our center uses a holistic approach that accepts the families of the applying addicted people.



THE SDG STATUS ASSESSMENT  
(out of 100)

AVCILARIANS  
**63,5 SCORE**  
(DEVELOPED)

INSTITUTIONS  
**66,1 SCORE**  
(DEVELOPED)

#### SDG 3 - AWARENESS RATE



AMONG CITIZENS  
**%43,0**



BETWEEN STAKEHOLDERS  
**%48,7**

#### AVERAGE SCORE / SDG STATUS ASSESSMENT

20-39 Open to Development / 40 - 59 Developing  
60 - 79 Developed / 80-100 Highly developed



### OUR NEW MOTHER AND BABY PROTECTION PROGRAM

This program we started in 2021 focuses on increasing the rate of babies' drinking breast milk, which is a basic need for them to have the best start of their lives, ensuring their healthy physical and mental development, along with informing expectant mothers about the importance of the breast milk. The breast milk use rate in Yesilkent neighborhood, chosen as the pilot area for implementation, increased from 12% to 54%. Our final target is to reach the level of World Health Organization criteria for breast milk use in all of Avcilar.

In addition, within the scope of this program we support women of Avcilar by putting our vehicle fleet in their service to take them to Women's Early Cancer Diagnose and Training Center for routine screenings.



Number Of Disabled Persons And Relatives Receiving Consultation Services | 8.000 People

**%66**

Number Of Centers For Fight Against Narcotics And Addiction Opened | 1 Unit

**%100**

Raising Breast Milk Feeding Rate To World Health Organization Standard | 65% Rate

**%50**

2024  
GOALS





4 QUALITY EDUCATION



## SDG 4 Quality Education

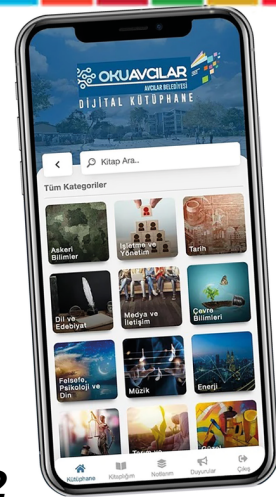
Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all

According to the laws of the Republic of Türkiye, the central government is the only authority regarding the educational issues and local governments' powers and responsibilities are limited to school constructions and providing support to schools for maintenance costs.

There are more than 130 educational institutions in Avcılar (2 universities, 34 high schools, 27 secondary schools, 23 primary schools, 37 kindergartens, and other private educational institutions) where students from all ages receive education and join various programs. The number of students that receive education in our district at the level of higher education each year is approximately 72,000.

We are running courses and providing education in our children's homes to preschool children, in our Town Houses to children from ages 6 to 18, and in cultural centers to trainees over 18 in areas they need, helping them gain technical and artistic skills and discover the capabilities within them in accordance with the powers given to us as a local government.

One of the most important instruments of sustainable development and ending poverty is achieving inclusive, quality education for all. For this reason access of all children to quality preschool education, construction of inclusive and safe schools and improvement of the existing ones, accessible and quality technical education based on gender equality, increase in the number of young people and adults with various skills including technical, vocational and entrepreneurial skills, removal of social gender inequalities in education and securing equal access to all levels of education and vocational training for vulnerable people including the disabled and children, achieving literacy in the majority of the society and providing them with basic mathematical knowledge, creating educational opportunities conscious of children, disabled people and gender equality are our priorities as Avcılar Municipality and we continue to develop supportive policies, strategies and programs in this area.



**WITH OKU AVCILAR  
WE STARTED THE DIGITAL LIBRARY  
AGE AT AVCILAR**

By starting the digital library era in Avcılar, we provided access to more than 25 thousand books in 36 categories at the same time, for the first time in Turkey, free of charge. Our "Oku Avcılar" service, which has reached more than 90 thousand users since its introduction, **received an award in the category of "Smart City Applications" at the "ALTIN KARINCA" Municipality Awards.**

**36**  
Different  
categories

**25.000+**  
books

**90.000+**  
users



Educational service  
to **71,895 students**  
every year



### AVSES PROGRAM

We are not leaving visually impaired children behind in terms of education, the most basic child right. We created a digital library of audiobooks versions of educational books we produced through the AVSES program we launched to enable visually impaired children access education like other children.

Visual impairment is not an obstacle to education in Avcılar.



### PHYSICAL SKILL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

We taught swimming to children who cannot swim or even haven't even been to a swimming pool in their lives in the swimming pools we set up in the schoolyards in the neighborhoods mostly occupied by low-income families. Our children received swimming lessons in groups by swimming trainers.

THE SDG STATUS ASSESSMENT (out of 100)	AVCILARIANS	INSTITUTIONS
	<b>63,7 SCORE</b> (DEVELOPED)	<b>65,9 SCORE</b> (DEVELOPED)

### SDG 5 - AWARENESS RATE



AMONG CITIZENS  
**%43,9**



BETWEEN STAKEHOLDERS  
**%52,7**

### AVERAGE SCORE / SDG STATUS ASSESSMENT

20-39 Open to Development / 40 - 59 Developing  
60 - 79 Developed / 80-100 Highly developed

### WE STARTED THE DIGITAL LIBRARY ERA

With a view to a new generation of libraries, we launched our "Oku Avcılar" (Read Avcılar) project which had the privilege of being the first digital library of Türkiye.

Created by the Avcılar Municipality, the first digital library of Türkiye is at service of our citizens 24/7 with its immense archive free of charge.

Thanks to our "Oku Avcılar" application which carried public libraries to a digital platform, our citizens of all ages are now able to access 22,000 books under 28 categories in accordance with the Ministry of National Education from Turkish and Western classics to encyclopedias and dictionaries at all times. The application that includes thousands of e-books from nearly 300 publishers can be accessed from tablets and mobile phones.

We plan to implement "Oku Avcılar" app as an assisting tool in the schools, helping students go beyond the limitations of formal education and improve themselves in all places. Thanks to this app that can be used on tablets and mobile phones, teachers will be able to design specific libraries for their students, assign homeworks for groups and track students' reading cards. We also provided tablets to our children to enable them to use this application.



Number Of People Using The Digital Library   250.000	<b>%61</b>
Number Of Children Receiving Training At Physical And Motor Skills Development Courses   7.000 Children	<b>%59</b>
Number Of Children Receiving Training At Synthetic Thinking Training Courses   20.000 Children	<b>%61</b>
Number Of Children Receiving Training At Analytic Thinking Training Courses   3.000 Children	<b>%46</b>

2024  
GOALS





## SDG 5 Gender Equality

Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls

Roughly one in every 3 families in Avcilar is having troubles with accessing to childcare services. This rate is higher in low-income families and parents from lower levels of educational background. Data shows that the number of families having troubles with accessing childcare services is more in 2021 compared to 2011. This points to a source of stress that forces primary caregivers, mostly women, to leave the workforce. This stress became a strong shock with a very high multiplier effect during the COVID-19 crisis, a period when women disproportionately left or lost their paid jobs.

Considering equal participation in social life by all genders as a ground rule, our municipality seeks to develop empowering policies in leadership and decision-making mechanisms for eliminating discrimination against women and girls, supporting women's empowerment through technology, and ensuring fair employment, economic resource allocation and financial service rights to achieve the "Gender Equality" goal of SDGs.

In this context, we as Avcilar Municipality signed the European Charter for Equality of Women and Men in Local Life in September 2020. It is included in this charter that each signatory will work to develop an Equality Action Plan to support the implementation of the commitments made on this matter. We are achieving all the items included in this charter we signed one by one. We continue to implement our Local Equality Action Plan which we devised and confirmed in our municipal council, making it a legal document in 2021.

We decided to expand the inclusiveness of our 2024-2029 Strategic Plan with the targets we will identify under the guidance of the data related to SDG 5 (involving indicators measuring pay gap between genders, access to childcare, etc.) obtained within the scope of our Voluntary Local Review in order to underscore this value that lies in the heart of all of the operations we conduct in our city.



### WE ESTABLISHED WOMEN'S COUNSELING CENTERS

We established the Women's Counseling Center for the purposes of informing, empowering and supporting women in Avcilar and providing legal and psychological counseling to women subjected to physical, psychological and sexual violence.

As Avcilar Municipality we are working with all our power for an equal and peaceful life in Avcilar for each of the 450 thousand Avcilar citizens.

### CHILDREN'S HOME PROGRAM

After establishing the fact that families are having troubles with accessing childcare services which is a source of stress forcing primary caregivers, mostly women, out of the workforce, we launched this program to support these families and remove this source of stress and continue building a Children's Home for every neighborhood where children can show their skills and creativity, build healthy relationships and enrich their lives.

### WOMEN'S EMPLOYMENT INITIATIVE

We broke new ground on women's employment in Avcilar Municipality. We employed women in our Transportation Services Directorate for the first time in the municipality's history.

- We founded 5 women's handicraft markets increasing women's rate of participation in production and economy.
- The success stories of Avcilar's women became a book.
- We provided entrepreneurship training to women.
- We organized tours for women where we discover the beauties of Istanbul together.
- We provided psychological counseling and women's counseling services (1.634 Women).

Thanks to our reading/writing courses and vocational courses approved by the Ministry of National Education, women could participate in the production and generate income through the products they produced in the handicraft courses, contributing to their household economy.

### THE STORIES OF WOMEN OF AVCILAR HAS BEEN A BOOK

As part of 8 March International Women's Day, a "Creative Writing Workshop" was held under the leadership of writer Jale Sancak, which lasted for 8 weeks. The stories written by the participants during the workshop were published under the name of "Purple Pencil Women's Stories".



THE SDG STATUS ASSESSMENT (out of 100)	AVCILARIANS	INSTITUTIONS
	<b>64,8 SCORE</b> (DEVELOPED)	<b>68,5 SCORE</b> (DEVELOPED)

### SDG 5 - AWARENESS RATE

 AMONG CITIZENS  
**%43,3**

 BETWEEN STAKEHOLDERS  
**%53,0**

### AVERAGE SCORE / SDG STATUS ASSESSMENT

20-39 Open to Development / 40 - 59 Developing  
60 - 79 Developed / 80-100 Highly developed



2024  
GOALS

Number Of Women Who Received Advisory Services   5.000 Women	%56
Number Of Women's Handicraft Markets   8 Unit	%100
Number Of Events Held Within The Scope Of Social Equality  10 Events	%67
Number Of Women's Counseling Centers Founded   1 Unit	%100







## 6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION



### SDG 6

#### Clean Water and Sanitation

Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all

One step to be taken in our city for achieving the clean water and sanitation goal is the elimination of irregular and unplanned urbanization. Within this context, planned urbanization will help increase the population that can access the securely managed drinking water services on the one hand and protect existing clean water sources through sanitation on the other.

The total length of the drinking water network in our district is 416,403 meters as of 2021. In addition to our water storage capacity of 10.000 m<sup>3</sup>, the 2.000 kVA drinking water treatment facility in the district serves our citizens' to help meet their drinking water needs.

In the context of wastewater infrastructure, our network length is 356,510 meters. Ambarli Advanced Biological Wastewater Treatment Facility in our city with a 400,000 m<sup>3</sup>/day capacity produces 7,593,688 m<sup>3</sup>/year biogas and 39,479,310 kg/year dried sludge. The amount of recovered water in the region thanks to this facility is 867,090 m<sup>3</sup>/year.

The rate of solid materials increased to 25% in the mud dehydration unit is increased to 90% in the mud drying unit. By this way, the obtained dried mud can be used as fuel in the industrial facilities.

Wastewaters from the right side of the Kucukcekmece Lake coast flowing into the Kucukcekmece Wastewater Pretreatment Facility will be transferred to the Ambarli Advanced Biological Wastewater Treatment Facility. Thanks to the Ambarli Wastewater Tunnel, the collectors that work over their capacity will relieve, the wastewater in the basin will directly be taken into the system and reach to the Ambarli Advanced Biological Wastewater Treatment Facility.



Length Of New Rainwater Canals M | 40.000 Meters %58



## 7 AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY



### SDG 7

#### Affordable And Clean Energy

Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all

The implementation areas of this SDG in our district are generating clean and sustainable energy, ensuring energy efficiency and self-sufficiency in new buildings through regulations to be put into effect, and renewal of owned public buildings in terms of energy efficiency and clean energy generation.

In accordance with the targets and purposes of our Sustainable Energy and Climate Action Plan, we first calculated and recorded the energy consumption in our district including the industry for the base year of 2019 as 4,075,278 MWh. We established that 60% of this consumption was caused by buildings. As the local government, we determined our targets as primarily reducing the energy need of the buildings that have the highest share of emissions through reduction activities and then utilizing renewable energy methods in accordance with the powers provided to us by the law.

Improving the existing and future buildings' energy efficiency and promoting the widespread adoption of sustainable construction techniques and use of environmentally friendly materials are the main topics regarding the energy sector targets in our action plan.

Considering that a part of the electricity consumption can be met by renewable resources through solar energy systems to be set up as integrated on the roofs of especially residences and tertiary buildings, we aimed a reduction of 239.838 tons CO<sub>2</sub>e regarding the buildings and energy for the target year 2030. Within this scope, our reduction actions in our plan are as follows:

- Heat insulation and energy transformation in residences and related awareness-raising activities
- Ensuring transition to natural gas from coal, LPG and electric use in heating in residences through urban renewal
- Awareness-raising activities for the insulation of non-residential buildings
- Energy efficient lighting shift in non-residential buildings
- Transition to higher energy efficiency residences through urban renewal
- Achieving energy efficiency in municipal buildings
- Energy efficient transformation in street lightings and,
- Increasing renewable energy implementations in residential, commercial and industrial buildings.

THE SDG STATUS ASSESSMENT (out of 100)	AVCILARIANS	INSTITUTIONS
	<b>67,2 SCORE</b> (DEVELOPED)	<b>65,4 SCORE</b> (DEVELOPED)

#### SDG 5 - AWARENESS RATE



AMONG CITIZENS  
**%50,3**



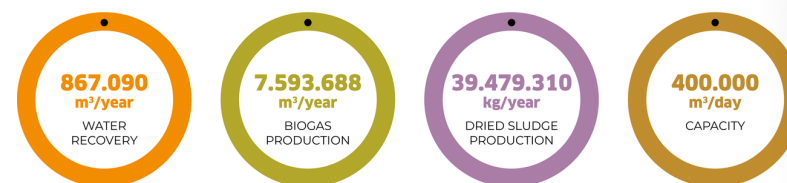
BETWEEN STAKEHOLDERS  
**%49,2**

#### AVERAGE SCORE / SDG STATUS ASSESSMENT

20-39 Open to Development / 40 - 59 Developing  
60 - 79 Developed / 80-100 Highly developed



#### AMBARLI ADVANCED BIOLOGICAL WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT



THE SDG STATUS ASSESSMENT (out of 100)	AVCILARIANS	INSTITUTIONS
	<b>67,5 SCORE</b> (DEVELOPED)	<b>63,0 SCORE</b> (DEVELOPED)

#### SDG 7 - AWARENESS RATE



AMONG CITIZENS  
**%50,6**



BETWEEN STAKEHOLDERS  
**%43,4**

#### AVERAGE SCORE / SDG STATUS ASSESSMENT

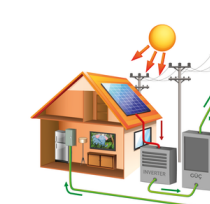
20-39 Open to Development / 40 - 59 Developing  
60 - 79 Developed / 80-100 Highly developed

Increased Energy Efficiency For Municipal Buildings | 20% Rate

**%40**

#### TARGET IS 239,838 TONS OF CO<sub>2</sub>E REDUCTION BY 2030

Considering that some of the electricity consumption can be obtained from renewable resources, especially with solar energy systems to be installed in residential and tertiary buildings, we have targeted a reduction of 239,838 tons of CO<sub>2</sub>e for the target year 2030 in buildings and energy.





## 8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH



## SDG 8

## Decent Work And Economic Growth

Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all

Avclar Municipality launched ambitious programs to create decent jobs and achieve economic growth for all its citizens. Because decisions regarding the minimum wage are in the central government's power, we are more focused on developing policies that promote employment and support innovations for sustainable economic growth.

These policies include working towards removing the obstacles for employment in front of the young people in the age of transitioning from school to business life and others that suffer economic or educational difficulties. For the last 5 years before the COVID-19, our citizens' average earnings had been steadily increasing. However, the crisis caused a sharp fall in these numbers in the last 3 years. Obstacles still exist for our citizens from Avclar who want to guarantee their economic safety.

As Avclar, our target is to provide everyone in our city without discrimination based on age, gender, race or nation, with sufficient job opportunities and a decent work environment where social rights are under protection.

We are creating and implementing policies that encourage entrepreneurship, creativity and innovation; support micro, small and medium-sized enterprises; and promote local culture and products in accordance with our targets. While we are progressing towards these targets, we will continue to protect the educational rights of our children, pave the way for their personal improvement and prevent child labor.

We will also continue our programs that will remove the obstacles to economic security such as our Employment Office and Entrepreneurship and Innovation Center.

## AVCILAR MODEL EMPLOYMENT OFFICE

Taking the pulse of the labor market in our city we facilitate employment both for employers and for job seekers. We attend to each of our job seeking citizens and try to solve their unemployment problems.

As a municipality trying to solve all the problems of their citizens with a social municipalism approach, we turned our initiative with the "Employment Mobilization for the Fight Against Unemployment" motto into a program and made it sustainable.

We are helping an average of 1200 people a year find decent employment opportunities.



## AVCILAR ATTRACTION CENTER STRATEGY

As a result of this program we launched with the purpose of reducing the development gap between regions and attract private investments to our city through employment, production and export by reviving the investment environment of our city, we proudly brought an investment to our city that provided jobs for 2000 citizens of ours producing 5 million smartphones a year with the opening of Xiaomi, a global tech leader, and its supplier Salcomp firms.



THE SDG STATUS ASSESSMENT (out of 100)	AVCILARIANS	INSTITUTIONS
	<b>64,2 SCORE</b> (DEVELOPED)	<b>66,2 SCORE</b> (DEVELOPED)

## SDG 8 - AWARENESS RATE



AMONG CITIZENS  
**%42,0**



BETWEEN STAKEHOLDERS  
**%52,0**

## AVERAGE SCORE / SDG STATUS ASSESSMENT

20-39 Open to Development / 40 - 59 Developing  
60 - 79 Developed / 80-100 Highly developed

2024 GOALS

Employment Rate Of The Applicants Of Avclar Employment Office   %20 Rate	<b>%55</b>
Number Of Employment Offices Opened In Avclar   1 Unit	<b>%100</b>
Avclar Entrepreneurship And Innovation Center Opened   1 Unit	<b>%100</b>

We Launched an **Employment Mobilization**  
Provide Hope for Youth and Remedy for Unemployment

Trough Our Employment Center, **1050 Avclarrians Were Employed In The Last 6 Months.**

Güzel İnsanlar Kenti  
AvclarA-2029  
AVCILARKARARLI  
GİVEN ÜSTÜNDÜK  
BİRLİK OLDUK





9 INDUSTRY, INNOVATION  
AND INFRASTRUCTURE



SDG 9

## Industry, Innovation & Infrastructure

Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation

Two of the most important arterial roads of İstanbul, D-100 and TEM highway, go through Avcılar. One of our operations that we conduct to make Avcılar, which is the junction point of important arterial roads of İstanbul, more sustainable, livable and safe is the infrastructure investments to facilitate transportation for everyone in our city. We act in awareness of opportunities of design for everyone when repairing and renewing thousands of roads and pavements in our city making it greener and fairer.

We continue to develop policies in awareness of the fact that the existence of an efficient, quality, sustainable and resilient infrastructure is important for the fight against challenges to be faced by industries and cities.

Our basic goals and policies in this area include developing innovative and sustainable technologies; increasing free access to information and communication technologies in public areas; adopting clean and environmentally-friendly technologies; ensuring local development by supporting small sized industry and micro enterprises operating in R&D.

10 REDUCED  
INEQUALITIES



SDG 10

## Reduced Inequalities

Reduce inequality within and among countries

Historically, Avcılar had been a hub for migration routes even before common era. This characteristic of Avcılar is still relevant today, with Avcılar being one of the districts of İstanbul that have the highest level of racial, religious and ethnic diversity. However, thanks to the culture created by its memory rooted in its history, this diversity does not cause inequalities in our region.

People have the right to fully participate in all aspects of life to understand, announce, develop and realize their potentials. Being deprived of this right due to differences in power, religion, race, ethnicity, gender, age and sexual orientation causes social inequality. Local governments have a key role to reduce inequalities in their countries.

This diversity in Avcılar also affects the communities' legacy to build a wealth in addition to the way how they access resources, experience public spaces, and overcome systemic inequalities.

The areas we plan to strengthen in our city include providing public services without discrimination; supporting economic inclusiveness and empowering everyone, without regard to their age, gender, disability, race, ethnicity, religion, and economic or any other type of status; eliminating all practices that involve discrimination; implementing planned and well-managed migration policies; and ensuring equal opportunities.

Within this context, Local Equality Action Plan, issued by the Social Equality Department we founded in our institution, has been approved and put into effect by our municipal council in 2021.

### OUR APPLIED SOLUTION AND INNOVATION CENTER IS IN SERVICE

We have added a new one to the projects that add value to Avcılar. We opened our Applied Solution and Innovation Center, which will support our young people to bring their creative ideas to life.



THE SDG STATUS ASSESSMENT (out of 100)	AVCILARIANS	INSTITUTIONS
	<b>67,4 SCORE</b> (DEVELOPED)	<b>65,3 SCORE</b> (DEVELOPED)

### SDG 9 - AWARENESS RATE



AMONG CITIZENS  
**%48,9**



BETWEEN STAKEHOLDERS  
**%46,3**

### AVERAGE SCORE / SDG STATUS ASSESSMENT

20-39 Open to Development / 40 - 59 Developing  
60 - 79 Developed / 80-100 Highly developed

40



### AVCILAR LOCAL EQUALITY ACTION PLAN



*Avcılar Local Equality Action Plan was adopted by the Municipal Council in November 2021. Local Equality Action Plan; It includes short, medium and long term goals and activities in the subjects of Urban Services, Education, Health, Employment and Economic Empowerment, Participation in Decision Mechanisms, Combating Violence..*

THE SDG STATUS ASSESSMENT (out of 100)	AVCILARIANS	INSTITUTIONS
	<b>67,4 SCORE</b> (DEVELOPED)	<b>65,3 SCORE</b> (DEVELOPED)

### SDG 10 - AWARENESS RATE



AMONG CITIZENS  
**%48,9**



BETWEEN STAKEHOLDERS  
**%46,3**

### AVERAGE SCORE / SDG STATUS ASSESSMENT

20-39 Open to Development / 40 - 59 Developing  
60 - 79 Developed / 80-100 Highly developed

41



2024  
GOALS

Avcılar Entrepreneurship And Innovation Center Opened   1 Unit	%100
Number Of People Directly Benefited From Avcılar Entrepreneurship And Innovation Center   100 People	%10
Training Sessions Offered In Avcılar Entrepreneurship And Innovation Center   20 Training	%10

2024  
GOALS

Social Equality Department Founded   1 Unit	%100
Local Equality Action Plan Developed   1 Unit	%100
Number Of Events Held Within The Scope Of Social Equality   60 Event	%17
Number Of People Directly Benefited From The Disabled People's Center   1000 People	%29



## LIFE SAVING MOVEMENT

Avcilar was the district of Istanbul where the most damage and casualties occurred in the 1999 Golcuk Earthquake with a magnitude of 7.2. On this path we took with the aim of making our city resilient to prevent this painful events from happening ever again, we gained a momentum in the last 3 years in urban renewal that surpassed the actions of the previous 20 years. We saved and continue to save the future of thousands of people.

## PROGRAMS OF PUBLIC SPACES FOR ALL

We secured access to safe, inclusive and accessible public spaces and green spaces for women, children and older people, making 45% of our pavements in our city appropriate in terms of accessibility.

In addition, we significantly increased the area of green spaces in our city, helping it breathe, where children can easily access and spend their time freely.

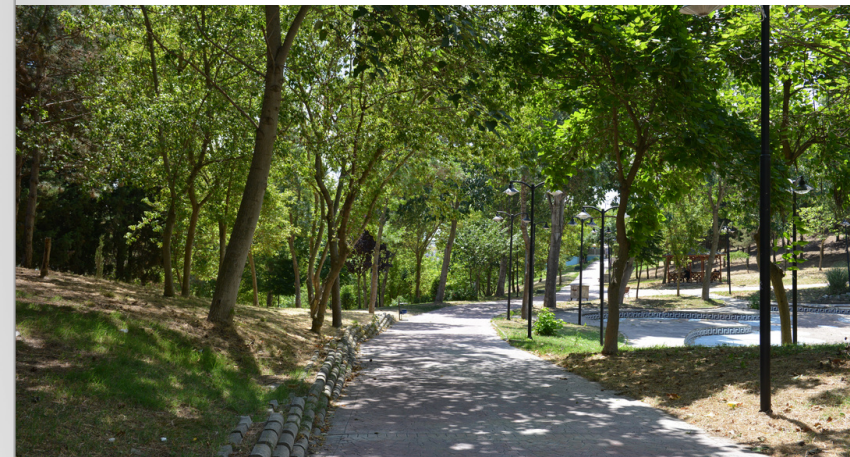
To increase the driving safety in Avcilar, we provided road and pavement repair and maintenance services all around our city and conducted asphalt road renewal works.

We brought alive our Gulten Nakipoglu Center for People with Disabilities project to help our citizens with disabilities and their families actively participate in social life, making their lives easier.



## AFFORDABLE HOUSING FOR ALL PROGRAM

Thanks to our urban renewal program, “Avcilar Model” that we launched to renew risky buildings in our city and support the fight against increasing real estate prices, the VAT rate of homes to be renewed under urban renewal decreased to 1% from 18%. By this way, real estate costs have been brought down and our citizens in Avcilar have been able to access safe and affordable homes.



**WE BRING A PUBLIC BEACH TO AVCILAR.**

*Through renovation of Deniz Koskler Beach, which has been unusable for a long time, we have made our neighbors able to swim and breathe easily.*



**11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES**



## SDG II

### Sustainable Cities And Communities

**Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable**

Although all local actions are important for achieving the 17 Goals, SDG II further highlights the local government actions in that it encompasses daily operations.

An immediate rebuilding of Avcilar, where most of the building stock was damaged in 1999 Golcuk Earthquake, became needed both because buildings were built before the earthquake and the citizens were scared due to their memories related to the earthquake.

Accordingly, we brought alive the “Avcilar Model”, which is an exemplary model of urban renewal for Türkiye. Avcilar Model is a model that provides support to our citizens in various areas to help them conduct the renewal process of their buildings whose lifespans expired in a safe, fast and economical way.

To make Avcilar Model functional and ensure the fast renewal of buildings, we worked together with the central government. VAT rate in urban renewal, which is a major expense, has been decreased to 1% from 18% as a result of this operation. This means that the VAT of a 400.000TL worth building is down to 4.000TL from 72.000TL.

As Avcilar, we adopted a rationalistic urban planning model to provide housing for everyone, improve prosperity, and create a sustainable and modern city. By this way, we accelerated the urban renewal to make our city safe, affordable, resilient, green and culturally inspiring. As a result, we created low-cost and safe housing opportunities in Avcilar.

For an inclusive and sustainable urbanization that serves sustainable development we, as the local government, continue to implement our programs and policies that facilitate access to basic services; take measures against disasters; ensure access to safe and accessible public and green spaces and transportation vehicles and nodes for everyone, especially disadvantaged people; protect the cultural and natural heritage; and reduce the urban effects on the environment through waste management and clean public transportation.

**1.624**

NO. OF BUILDING UNDERGOING URBAN REGENERATION

**15.946**

NUMBER OF INDEPENDENT UNITS UNDERGOING URBAN REGENERATION

**54.217**

**WE SAVED THE LIVES AND TOMORROWS OF OUR NEIGHBORS**



## SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORTATION PROGRAMS

After taking greenhouse gas inventory of Avcilar, we found out that the real share of transportation in the emissions is 38.1%. To reduce this rate and achieve sustainable transportation we identified 5 actions in our Sustainable Energy and Climate Action Plan and prepared our programs starting from 2023 accordingly:

- Increasing pedestrian transportation by 15% through pedestrianization
- Increasing the share of bicycles in transportation by improving cycling infrastructures
- Replacing the municipal service vehicles and other vehicles in the municipal fleet with low-carbon vehicles
- Adapting smart parking applications to our city
- Launching “park and continue” programs to reduce the traffic congestion.



WITH OUR SPORTS COURSES, WE ATTENDED ALL OF AVCILARIANS FROM 7 TO 70 IN SPORTS

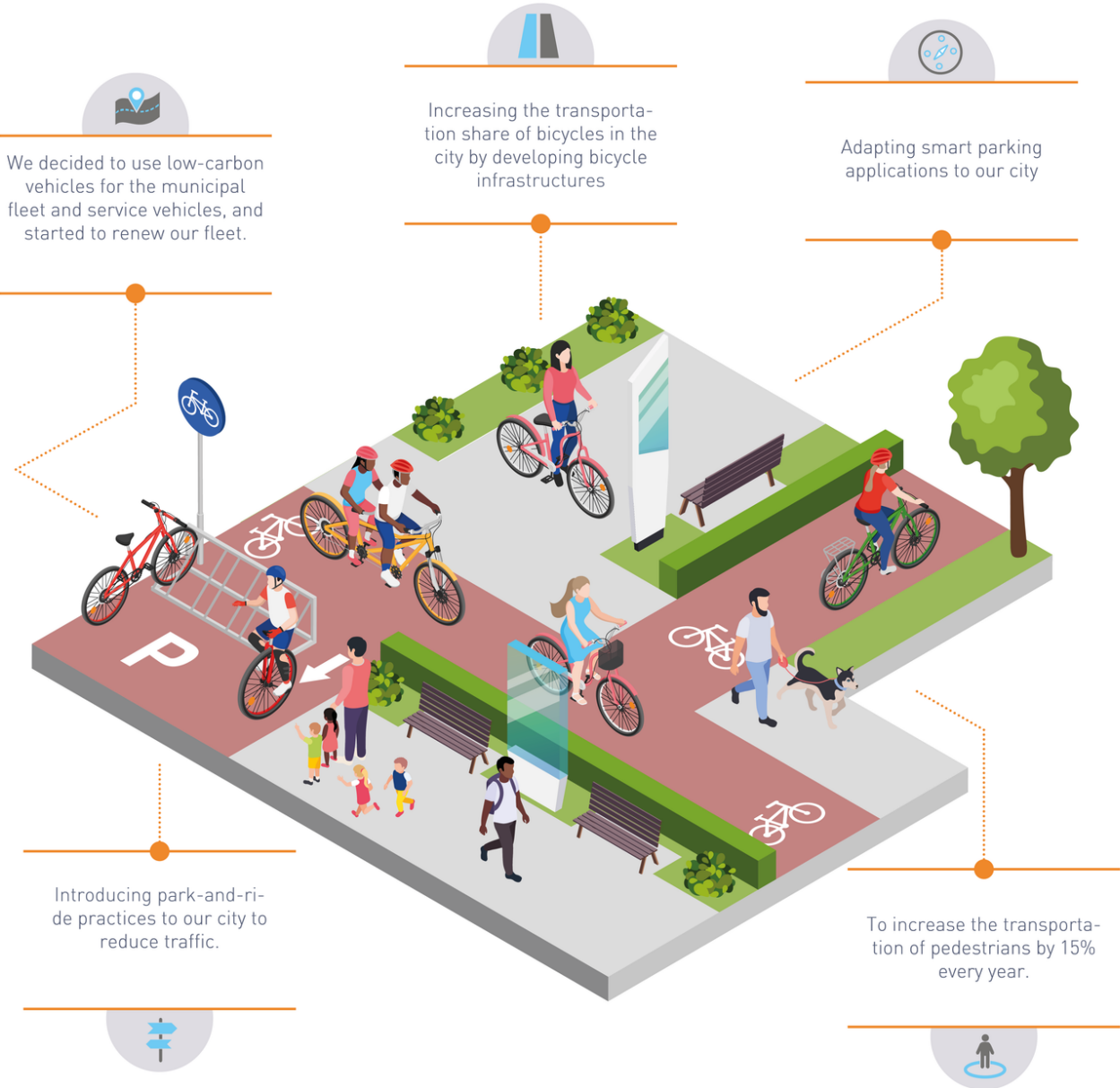
We brought our 7,500 children and adult Avcilarians together with sports activities with the courses we opened in 11 branches, from football to karate, from



WE HAVE INCREASED THE GREEN SPACES WHERE

We carried out renovation and improvement works in our 48 parks throughout our city. We Bring 8 New Parks and Sports Fields to Avcilar. We have significantly increased the green areas that will give our city a breather and where our children can spend time freely.

- 48 Parks renovation and improvement
- 10 New parks and exercises area
- 9 Parks revision work
- 8 New parks and sports grounds



THE SDG STATUS ASSESSMENT (out of 100)	AVCILARIANS	INSTITUTIONS
	<b>67,7 SCORE</b> (DEVELOPED)	<b>69,8 SCORE</b> (DEVELOPED)

### SDG 11 - AWARENESS RATE



AMONG CITIZENS  
**%50,2**



BETWEEN STAKEHOLDERS  
**%59,5**

### AVERAGE SCORE / SDG STATUS ASSESSMENT

20-39 Open to Development / 40 - 59 Developing  
60 - 79 Developed / 80-100 Highly developed



New Accessible Parks And Exercise Areas Especially For Disadvantaged Individuals   8 Unit	%63
Park Revisions Carried Out Within The Scope Of Accessibility   7 Unit	%57
Accessibility Criteria Fulfilled In The New Parks And Exercise Areas   %100 Rate	%80
Number of trees planted   20.000 Unit	%69
Number Of Buildings Renewed Within Safe And Affordable Urban Renewal Program   25.000 Unit	%65
Number Of Cultural Events Held For Strengthening The Social And Environmental Connections Between Our Neighborhoods   100 Event	%59

2024  
GOALS







## 12 RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION



### SDG 12

## Responsible Consumption And Production

Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable

In accordance with the zero waste implementations included in the targets of the Avcilar Sustainable Energy and Climate Action Plan and Avcilar Green City Action Plan we are aiming to reduce the solid waste generation by 15% and take the organic waste amount down to zero in Avcilar. Within the scope of this target, we are carrying out ambitious and innovative projects.

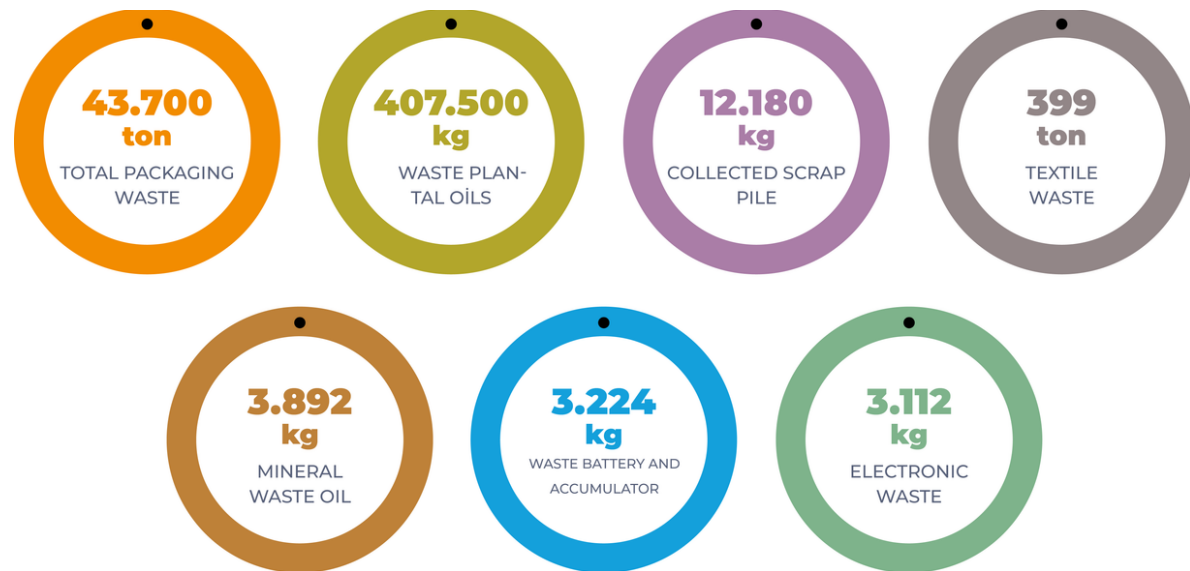
Waste in Avcilar is not considered as garbage anymore. It should be understood that no waste should be seen as garbage anymore. Today we recycle wastes to use them as raw materials and in this way we protect our nature.



Thanks to the Mamamatiks, which are placed on the busiest points of the city, both plastic bottles are recycled and the food needs of our dear friends on the street are met.



As of 2022 we have started to gradually limit the use of disposable plastic bags, straws and cutlery tools in our municipality and we continue to work towards totally eliminating it. In the upcoming years, Avcilar Municipality will launch various innovative projects to reduce and recycle its own wastes.



- 1 Collection and Transport of Domestic Solid Waste
- 2 Collection and Transport of Rubble, Construction and Coarse Waste
- 3 Washing / Sweeping Streets, Streets and Squares
- 4 Cleaning of Schools, Places of Worship, Public Institutions and Organizations

- 5 Unauthorized Ads, Posters, Advertisements, etc. Removal of Materials
- 6 Manual Sweeping of Streets, Streets and Squares
- 7 Cleaning of Parks and Green Spaces
- 8 Cleaning of Beaches and Recreation Areas

THE SDG STATUS ASSESSMENT (out of 100)	AVCILARIANS	INSTITUTIONS
	68,5 SCORE (DEVELOPED)	67,4 SCORE (DEVELOPED)

#### SDG 12 - AWARENESS RATE



AMONG CITIZENS  
**%51,4**



BETWEEN STAKEHOLDERS  
**%53,9**

#### AVERAGE SCORE / SDG STATUS ASSESSMENT

20-39 Open to Development / 40 - 59 Developing  
60 - 79 Developed / 80-100 Highly developed



2024  
GOALS

Number Of Recyclable Waste Collection Points Created   500 Unit	%77
Amount of Collected Vegetable Oil Wastes   600 Tons	%73
Amount Of Collected Mixed Package Wastes   60.000 Tons	%73
Amount Of Collected Electronic Wastes   6.000 Kg	%52
Amount Of Textile Wastes Collected   1.000 Tons	%53





13 CLIMATE ACTION



## SDG 13 Climate Action

Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts

As Avcilar we believe this: Although Climate Action SDG is mainly considered as an ecological Goal, indeed it intersects with all aspects of life and must be addressed as a global issue in accordance with the principle of “leaving no one behind.”

In addition to the challenges faced by the vulnerable groups in our communities, climate crisis affects impoverished people, older people, disabled people, people deprived of regular and safe shelter, and women, creating a multiplier affect. We consider adaptation to climate change as an ethical obligation and an environmental emergency, addressing it as an opportunity for transitioning to green economy.

**With the automatic wilting system that we set up in our parks and gardens, we save nearly 60% of water.**

Avcilar is a prominent district with its exemplary action plans that aim at a low carbon footprint future equal for all in terms of climate. Actions within the scope of our Avcilar Green City Action Plan provide a new perspective for Avcilar towards adaptation to climate crisis.

Avcilar’s Sustainable Energy and Climate Action Plan sets targets for fighting against the negative effects of climate change by prioritizing environmental justice and leaving no one behind.

As we raise awareness among our citizens and engage them, especially those from vulnerable groups, in the processes of our operations we conduct to do our part against the effects of this crisis, we are building a climate-adaptive Avcilar by increasing the green infrastructure and resilience of our city.

Turan Hançerli, Mayor of Avcilar, takes initiative in these processes actively managing the climate actions within the framework of his duties and responsibilities.



## WE ARE NOT THE OWNER OF NATURE, BUT A PART OF IT

Our “SAVING THE OLIVE TREES OF THE MOUNT IDA” project which is a natural rescue program led by Turan Hançerli, Mayor of Avcilar, aims at saving the hundreds-of-years-old olive trees facing the threat of destruction due to the construction of the two tunnels near the Ayvacık-Kucukkuyu part of the road that connects Çanakkale to Izmir and Balıkesir. Turan Hançerli, Mayor of Avcilar, took action to save the olive trees together with Cengiz Balkan, Mayor of Kucukkuyu, ensuring that the trees at risk of being crushed under tons of excavation wastes were transferred to Avcilar. Today, saved trees continue to live as oxygen sources of Istanbul both in Avcilar and in neighboring districts where they have been given as gifts.

The ages of these trees, delicately loaded to lorries in Kucukkuyu by Avcilar Municipality Parks and Gardens Directorate teams to be taken and planted to several points at Avcilar, vary from 100 to 500.



## COLLABORATION WITH TEMA

*With the cooperation protocol we signed with TEMA, nature education began to be given in schools and the "Forest of Hope" was started to be created with the donations of saplings from newly married couples in our city.*

## FOREST OF HOPE PROGRAM

Avcilar Municipality continuously works together with relevant institutions and CSOs to protect the soil, air and water of Avcilar and increase the area of green space in the city. One of the most striking examples of the efforts paid in this regard is the “Forest of Hope”, created for nature education in schools and marrying couples in our district in accordance with the collaboration protocol signed between TEMA (Turkish Association of Afforestation, Protection of Natural Assets and Fight Against Erosion) and Avcilar Municipality within the scope of the municipality’s sustainable environment program.

Every marriage license signed by couples in Avcilar becomes a “Breath for Future” in our Forest of Hope with the saplings we donate for them.



**PARIS** In order to strongly emphasize the commitment to reduce Avcilar’s carbon emissions by 40% by 2029, we signed the Paris Agreement.

**GREEMENT**

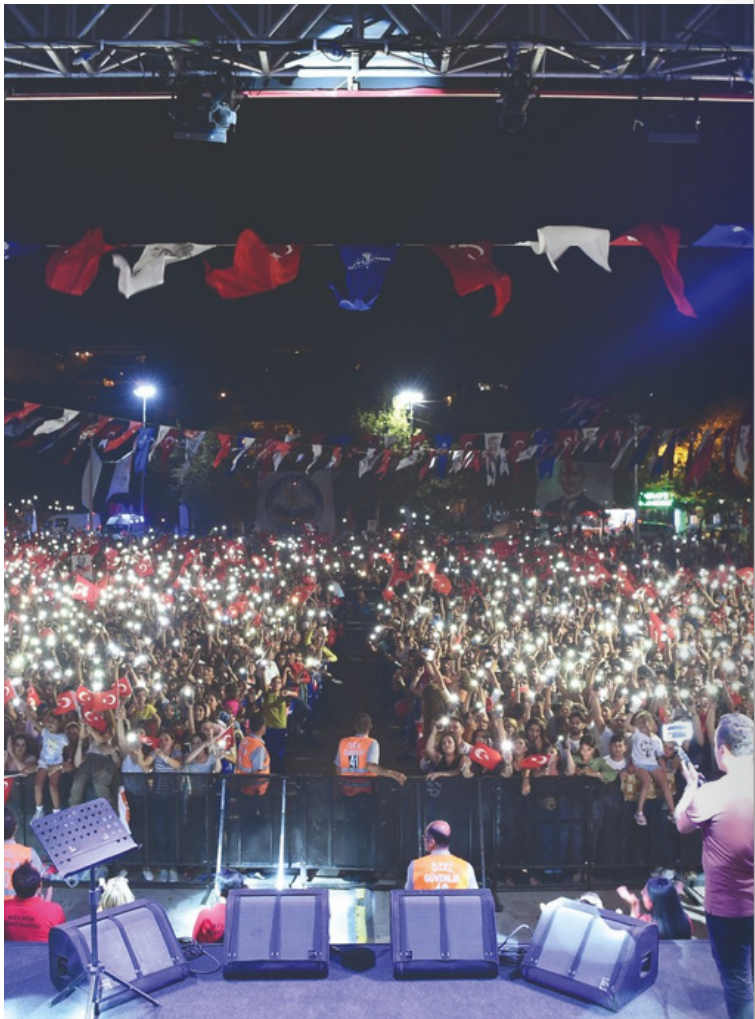




ENGAGING YOUNG PEOPLE IN THE  
DECISION MAKING PROCESSES

We activated the Youth Council under Avcilar’s City Council to give the young people between the ages of 15 and 22 in Avcilar, who requested to fight against environmental injustice, a platform where they can share their unique points of view with adults in the municipal council. We support the Youth Council that includes young environmental pioneers from Avcilar for creating awareness-raising projects towards adaptation to climate change and reaching to promised levels.

Turan Hançerli, Mayor of Avcilar, also decided to organize a climate festival in Avcilar every year starting with 2022 in order to draw attention to the climate crisis, raise awareness and reinforce the young people’s participation. While providing a venue of entertainment to young people, the festival will also serve the purpose of raising awareness about climate crisis with the forums, workshops and other events held by experts in the issue.



**13.863**  
NUMBER OF TREES PLANTED IN 3  
YEARS



PROGRAM OF TURNING WASTES INTO  
COMPOST

With this program we launched to protect the fertility of our soil, reduce the wastes and neutralize our carbon footprint by 2050 in Avcilar, we turn organic fruit and vegetable wastes we collect from marketplaces into compost in our Waste Collection Centers, increasing the fertility of our soil and reducing the need for herbicide and pesticide use.

We also recycle the tree pruning wastes and mowed weeds in our district as fertilizer and park material.

XEROPHYTIC LANDSCAPE

A solution we proposed to prevent the effects of climate change as global warming intensifies today is the xerophytic landscape approach that aims the efficient use of water.

Within the framework of this approach we reduced the seasonal flower use in the choice of appropriate plants due to ecological concerns. As a result of the studies conducted by our experts we concluded that the use of trailing and permanent plants for landscape arrangements is more appropriate because they ensure higher amounts of water savings and are more resistant against drought and started our operations in accordance with these conclusions.

This model we implement allows us to plan and practice our water use more efficiently, which helps us create sustainable landscapes and reduce the negative effects of droughts. To protect our water resources and use them efficiently, we have stopped the wild flooding implementations in our parks and gardens and instead set up an automatic irrigation system which enabled us to save up to 60% of water.

THE SDG STATUS ASSESSMENT (out of 100)	AVCILARIANS	INSTITUTIONS
	<b>64,9 SCORE</b> (DEVELOPED)	<b>65,9 SCORE</b> (DEVELOPED)

SDG 13 - AWARENESS RATE



AMONG CITIZENS  
**%41,0**



BETWEEN STAKEHOLDERS  
**%47,7**

AVERAGE SCORE / SDG STATUS ASSESSMENT

20-39 Open to Development / 40 - 59 Developing  
60 - 79 Developed / 80-100 Highly developed

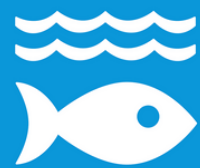


2024  
GOALS

Sustainable Energy and Climate Action Plan Developed   I Amount	%100
Yearly Increase Rate For Composted Organic Waste   5% Rate	%0
The Department To Coordinate The Nature-Friendly Operations Founded   I Unit	%100



14 LIFE BELOW WATER



SDG 14  
Life Below Water

Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development

Our city of Avcilar is the home to Kucukcekmece Lake which bears critical importance not only for the region or the country but also for the whole world with regard to the diversity of aquatic ecosystem species.

Species living in the Kucukcekmece Lake are facing grave danger due to a variety of causes such as irregular settlements around the lake after 1970s, underground waters from waste burial pools along with industrial and household wastes pouring into the lake, and weakening rivers or their disconnection from the lake. Unfortunately, the most economically important fish species in the city, *Esox lucius*, *Scardinius erythrothalmus*, *Mugil cephalus*, *Anguilla anguilla*, *Dicentrarchus labrax* have disappeared.

Although the average amount of caught fish through fishery activities was approximately 15 tons/year, fishing in the lake is now forbidden. The color of Kucukcekmece Lake in the Water Quality Class Color Codes is red. According to the biological quality elements it is classified as Bad Ecologic Potential and according to the Maximum Ecologic Potential and Surface Water Bodies Classification it is classified as Bad.

The lake is a stop on the migrating birds' migration routes. According to the research conducted by the Prof. Dr. Kurtulus Olgun, there have been 171 species of birds from 20 orders and 44 families observed in the lake basin.



In addition to the loss of species in the aquatic ecosystem, 20 orders as terrestrial species and 171 bird species belonging to 44 families were observed in the lake.

When the endangerment status of the observed bird species have been examined based on the criteria set by the International Union for Conservation of Nature, it is understood that there are 160 species in LC (least concerned), 2 species in VU (vulnerable) and 9 species in NT (near threatened) categories. The damage caused in the aquatic life also started to affect the life on land.

We aim to repair the damage done to the lake with the major investments we made into our programs launched to clean and restore the lake ecosystem.

In addition to our cleaning activities, we will also carry out the following activities with the Avcilar Green Action Plan.

- Developing joint projects with academia and surrounding municipalities for the restoration of the damaged lake ecosystem
- Establishing the lake-sea link with green corridors



THE SDG STATUS ASSESSMENT (out of 100)	AVCILARIANS 62,5 SCORE (DEVELOPED)	INSTITUTIONS 65,0 SCORE (DEVELOPED)
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SDG 14 - AWARENESS RATE

AMONG CITIZENS  
%39,0

BETWEEN STAKEHOLDERS  
%48,8

AVERAGE SCORE / SDG STATUS ASSESSMENT

20-39 Open to Development / 40 - 59 Developing  
60 - 79 Developed / 80-100 Highly developed



Reclamation Works Carried Out At Kucukcekmece Lake   I Unit	%100
Lake-Sea Connection Through A Green Corridor In The District Completed   %10 Rate	%0

2024 GOALS

The most important fish species *Scardinius Erythrothalmus*, *Esox Lucius*, *Mugil Cephalus*, *Anguilla Anguilla*, *Dicentrarchus Labrax* can no longer be fished in Küçükçekmece Lake.



Scardinius Erythrothalmus



Anguilla Anguilla



Mugil Cephalus



Dicentrarchus Labrax



Esox Lucius





15 LIFE ON LAND



## SDG 15 Life On Land

Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss

We are going through a period in which terrestrial life declines as a result of erosion, unplanned urbanization and unthoughtful construction.

In our city, we decided to create a Biodiversity Team consisting of NGOs, an academic council formed by experts and our directorates, in order to protect, develop and support the sustainable use of our terrestrial ecosystem by restoring it to its former state.

In the coming years, this team will accelerate their work on measuring, reporting and recommending the Singapore Index in our region with data and information from the field.

As part of the Avcilar Green City Action Plan, we are customizing this index for Avcilar. Like the Singapore Index, the customized Avcilar Index will show both physical biodiversity and management outcomes, but will be tailored to local context and management.

This includes the goal of achieving and maintaining natural biodiversity with "no net loss" by 2035.

Included as part of Urban Ecosystems and Resilience, this strategy includes objectives such as:

- Using local plant species only for the future botanical landscaping operations in Avcilar (2022)
- Stipulating the use of local plant species on a certain amount of area in the landscaping projects for zoning plan licenses (2023)
- Updating the surveyings and (structural and botanical) inventory of all parks and green spaces in our city and archiving them as accessible by the relevant parties (2023)
- Texting xerophytic landscape implementations in potential planting areas and reporting the results (2023-2024)
- Raising awareness about the faunal diversity of Avcilar (2024)
- Avcilar's Green Cover Inventory Study (2025)
- Developing a strategy for the city to protect and improve local biodiversity (2025)



THE SDG STATUS ASSESSMENT (out of 100)	AVCILARIANS	INSTITUTIONS
	63,9 SCORE (DEVELOPED)	61,9 SCORE (DEVELOPED)

### SDG 15 - AWARENESS RATE

AMONG CITIZENS  
**%42,7**

BETWEEN STAKEHOLDERS  
**%44,4**

### AVERAGE SCORE / SDG STATUS ASSESSMENT

20-39 Open to Development / 40 - 59 Developing  
60 - 79 Developed / 80-100 Highly developed



2024  
GOALS

Green Action Plan Developed For Protection And Sustainable Use Of Biodiversity And The Ecosystem | I Unit

%100





16 PEACE AND JUSTICE  
STRONG INSTITUTIONS



## SDG 16

### Peace, Justice And Strong Institutions

Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels

Increasing the transparency, efficiency and accountability of every institution at all levels, according to Goal 16; it is aimed to adopt inclusive, sensitive, participatory and representative decision-making mechanisms at all levels and to ensure the public's access to information, and to protect their fundamental rights within national laws and international agreements.

Avcilar Municipality, as a local government, is of critical importance at this point. In the first step, the public's ability to participate in the management, to hold their managers accountable, and to be held accountable by the managers takes place in Avcilar within the scope of SDG 16.



### FOR REAL SOLUTIONS TO REAL PROBLEMS

Number of city council council meetings

580

MEETINGS

Number of meetings and events held with NGOs

72

MEETINGS AND  
EVENT

Number of meetings held within the scope of neighborhood

310

MEETINGS

### A BRILLIANT IDEA PLATFORM

A Brilliant Idea is another participation program we brought alive in Avcilar with a view to build and govern the future of our city together with the people living in it.

Within the scope of this project, the ideas and suggestions of our citizens are received and evaluated by our experts within the framework of our strategic plan based on the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals and brought alive if deemed appropriate.

We brought alive approximately 10% of approximately 300 ideas suggested by citizens sent to us via this platform.



### DIGITAL DEMOCRACY PLATFORM

Digital Democracy Platform is an online forum where citizens of Avcilar, seeking to have a say and take part in local governance meet, discuss the current issues and submit the conclusions of their discussions to the municipal council as a policy draft.

As a result of the discussions held on this platform, traffic routes of several roads changed and public transport stations were set up at certain points in our city. All of these actions taken were based on the decisions made together by citizens after the discussions they had on this platform.

THE SDG STATUS ASSESSMENT (out of 100)	AVCILARIANS	INSTITUTIONS
	<b>63,6 SCORE</b> (DEVELOPED)	<b>69,9 SCORE</b> (DEVELOPED)

### SDG 16 - AWARENESS RATE



AMONG CITIZENS  
**%66,3**



BETWEEN STAKEHOLDERS  
**%59,6**

### AVERAGE SCORE / SDG STATUS ASSESSMENT

20-39 Open to Development / 40 - 59 Developing  
60 - 79 Developed / 80-100 Highly developed



### SHARE YOUR IDEA PARTICIPATE THE MANAGEMENT

PARTICIPATION FROM LOCAL TO UNIVERSAL AT  
AVCILAR with Sustainable Development Goals

Have a good idea for a better, more livable city?  
Do you want to make your voice heard and share?  
You decide the investment priority so that the resources of our city can be used more effectively and efficiently. Let's build the future of the city together by producing "Real Solutions to Real Problems".



Citizens' Level Of Satisfaction At The District Policing Services   %85 Rate	<b>%75</b>
Citizens' Level Of Satisfaction At The Resolution Of Complaints Made To The Municipal Call Center   %90 Rate	<b>%100</b>
Direct Participation Of At Least 5000 Citizens In The Government's Yearly Budget Planning	<b>%58</b>
Submitting The Demands Sent To The Government Through The Digital Democracy Platform To The Municipal Council   %50 Rate	<b>%10</b>
Evaluation Of The Projects Sent To The Government Through The "A Good Idea" Platform   %100 Rate	<b>%80</b>

2024  
GOALS





## 17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS



### SDG 17

#### Partnerships For The Goals

Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development

While the SDGs from 1 to 16 are about creating the future we want, SDG 17 focuses more on the way how we will realize this future. Partnerships are key for all governing mechanisms including local governments to provide the citizens services they need. They also create space for common ownership with different perspectives and new ideas.

However, it is not very easy to associate the targets and indicators of the Goal 17 directly with the responsibilities of the local governments. While associating the targets of Avcilar with the Sustainable Development Goals, we tried to put our own perspective on them, adding our context and reporting on the indicators where data are available. Nevertheless, it is a fact that we still need more extensive and holistic indicators.

With less than 10 years left for the final target year of SDGs, Goal 17 points to an opportunity to review how local and regional governments can be a part of the critical facilitators of the shared global development agenda. We as Avcilar have proved expertise on various issues from finance, commerce, technology and official development aids to advanced data collection/sorting and international collaboration that we are eager to share with partners from all around the world.



#### International and Local Organizations We Are Members Of

58



ICLEI  
(Local Governments for Sustainability)



UCLG  
(United Cities and Local Governments)



TBB  
(The Union of Municipalities of Türkiye)



MBB  
(Marmara Municipalities Union)



Thrace Municipalities Union

## AVCILAR MUNICIPALITY TAKES ITS PLACE AMONG 12 STAR CITIES

Avcilar Municipality was awarded **the “12 Star City” award with the title of “Local Democracy Week Partner Organization of the Year”, one of the most prestigious awards of the Council of Europe.**



We call on ourselves and other national governments **to increase the recognition and participation of cities and local governments** as key contributors to inclusive global partnerships for our Goals and our networked, multilateral future.

"As fundamental contributors to the inclusive global partnerships on Goals for our interlinked and multilateral future we call national governments to recognize the cities and local governments and increase their participation in the relevant processes."

THE SDG STATUS ASSESSMENT (out of 100)	AVCILARIANS	INSTITUTIONS
	<b>64,4 SCORE</b> (DEVELOPED)	<b>68,4 SCORE</b> (DEVELOPED)

#### SDG 17 - AWARENESS RATE



AMONG CITIZENS  
**%40,2**



BETWEEN STAKEHOLDERS  
**%53,0**

#### AVERAGE SCORE / SDG STATUS ASSESSMENT

20-39 Open to Development / 40 - 59 Developing  
60 - 79 Developed / 80-100 Highly developed



2024  
GOALS

Increase In The Number Of Sister Cities   3 Unit	<b>%33</b>
Number Of Events And Meetings Held With CSOs   36 Event	<b>%39</b>
Number of Memberships to International Organizations   5 Unit	<b>%20</b>
Number of City Council Meetings   60 Unit	<b>%53</b>
Institutions Collaborated With For Projects   12 Unit	<b>%17</b>



# RESEARCH METHOD:

SDGs have been integrated to our strategic plans, performance programs, performance-based budget and other action plans on the local level we developed as the Avcilar Municipality.

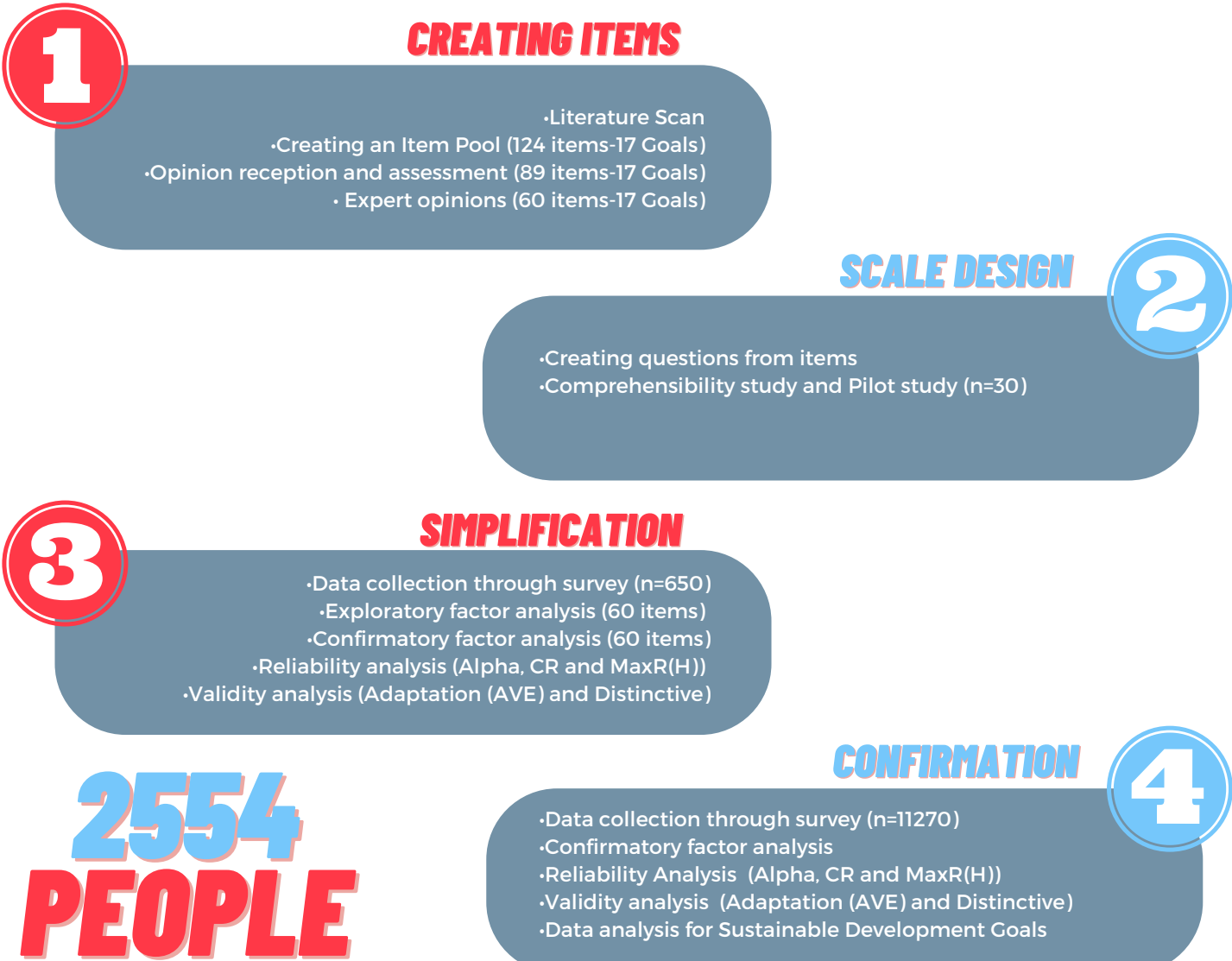
Our study of developing the Voluntary Local Review has been started to monitor our municipality's contributions to realizing the 2030 Agenda by achieving the Sustainable Development Goals on the local and global level; and to increase the efficiency and effectiveness of local strategic goals and targets by aligning them with the SDG goals and targets.

Accordingly, awareness-raising activities and training courses were carried out first with municipal personnel and executives and then with internal stakeholders through a detailed study on "**Localization of Sustainable Development Goals and Voluntary Local Review**" to increase their level of awareness, and institutional business processes were reviewed within this context. Awareness-raising activities for the external stakeholders were also continued.

Within this scope, the studies that demonstrate the perception of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals on the local level were examined, all the sub-targets of 17 goals were evaluated within the context of local governments in an integrated approach with the aim of developing a **Voluntary Local Review Scale**. Consequently, the scale development steps were designed in line with the structure of the study. The stages followed in this study are shown step by step below.



For this research, national and international "**Sustainable Development Goals and Voluntary Local Review**" literature was scanned to create a roadmap by designing the scale development steps, utilizing existing SDG scales. The scale development steps of this study are:





For this research, two groups, one as citizens and one as stakeholders, were interviewed. The sample group represents the main mass at a reliability rate of 95%. **Within a 95% reliability range**, the margin of error for the citizen group is ±2.92. The population data for Avcilar district used in the margin of error calculation was received from **TÜİK POPULATION REGISRTY SYSTEM RESULTS BASED ON ADDRESS (ADNKS) DATED 31 DECEMBER 2021** report. The neighborhood distribution of the sample was identified and implemented based on TÜİK 2021 ADNKS result rates. **2554** valid interviews that can be used in the analysis were conducted. Stakeholders operating in Avcilar at the time of survey with correct contact information were reached and stakeholder interviews were conducted with 118 organizations and persons accepting to join within project field time.

Interviews were conducted on the field using face to face surveying technique. All studies included a team of surveyor, supervisor and controller. **25% of the surveys were supervised through accompanying on the field method; 9% were supervised through telephone control with voice recording and 2% through backchecking (reinvestigation on the field).** The rest of the surveys were personally checked on the entry system. The surveys were analyzed using SPSS program.



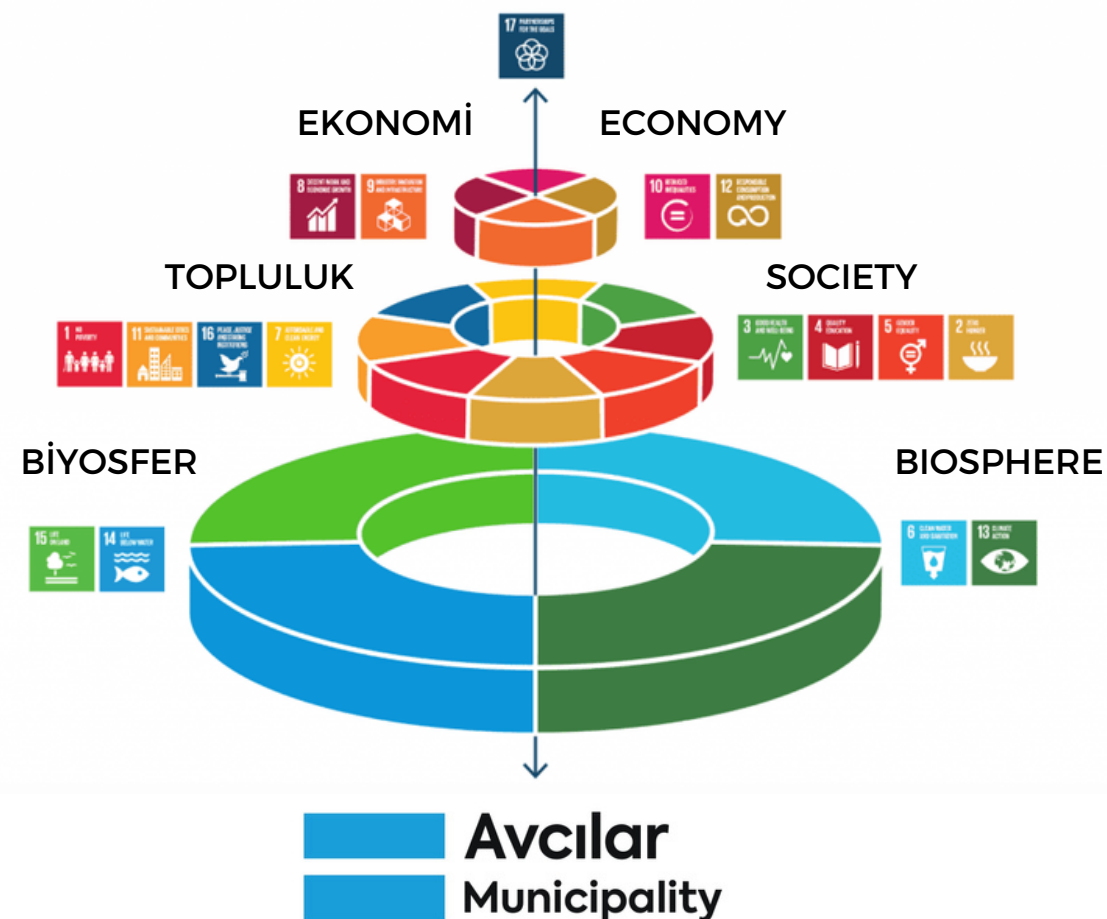
# CONCLUSION:

## SDGs Are Multipliers:

-  A common language that encourages partnerships and progress towards the Goals.
-  These partnerships have a multiplier effect and create a momentum.

Together with our national and international partners, we have created an ecosystem of community-based partners, including local people and communities, universities, faculties, academics and students.

Our employees, who are experts in their fields, are knowledgeable about the steps required to transform goals into different actions. Although this Voluntary Local Review (VLR) has been prepared by Avcilar Municipality, **all Avcilar residents will need to come together to define and build the future we want in order to achieve the goals.**



**Avcilar welcomes innovative and original ideas for fighting against local and global challenges and tests the appropriate ones.**

Avcilar's actions related to SDGs from urban regeneration to waste management demonstrate the innovations introduced to overcome the challenges in the city and provide services for the citizens.

**Hyperlocal solutions show us how we can achieve the 2030 Agenda.**

We continue to turn to our neighborhoods and local communities to learn how solutions should be formed together for challenges regarding issues from rethinking public security and investments in public transport and green space to supporting shelter and food security in the remaining 9 years of these 10-year actions. The local context enables us to design solutions that combine the approaches based on data with the experiences of our residents to whom we provide services.

**Because the SDGs are interlinked, so should be our solutions.**

Although the programs and projects in this report are mainly categorized under certain SDGs, initiatives that are associated with the SDGs offer many intersecting benefits. We must continue to produce holistic solutions that prioritize long-term benefits for the health, resilience and wellbeing of our people, communities and planet in the long term.



# ATTRIBUTION

This first edition of the Voluntary Local Review of Avcilar’s progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals is only a brief summary of the tireless efforts paid by our colleagues, neighbors and partners for improving the life in our city and our world.

Note to the reader: We thank you for your generosity sharing your time with us and hope that our love for this city and our hard work can be seen in this report.

We also hope that the readers will seize the opportunity to form partnerships centered on this constantly growing community of practice devoted to prosperity, the planet and people that leave no one behind along with going deeper and obtaining more information.



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# AVCILAR

## Sustainable Development Goals

2022 VOLUNTARY LOCAL REVIEW

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Avcılar

**Turan  
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