

## **ABSTRACT/ GAZIANTEP**

### *« FROM EVALUATION &CONSULTATION TO APPLICATION »*

Gaziantep, with a population of 1,8 million, is the sixth biggest city of Turkey. Having witnessed a very regular, continuous and successful rate of growth since more than 25 years, the city is highly industrialized and now exporting towards 171 foreign countries of the world.

The city of Gaziantep, the rising star of the region, actively participates in the efforts of integration of Turkey to the European Union and is an active member of various European networks in different fields such as « Cities for Children », « Cities for Mobility », « Energy –Cities » and « Eurocities ».

The strategic target of transforming and developing the city to be more prosperous and to become a global center of culture, history and art is firmly adopted and embraced by all of political, administrative, social and civil instances and actors of the city.

The opinion leaders of Gaziantep have created in the past years a foundation named « GAGEV »with the purpose of helping to the achievement of a sustainable and harmonious development of the city.

Rapidly, the foundation has found efficient partners and shareholders such as the City Council, Gaziantep University, Zirve University, Kalyoncu University, Metropolitan Municipality, District municipalities, Chamber of Commerce and Industry and many other multiple civil and professional associations together with private interested companies, groups, experts, academicians etc..

The main target was to create an all inclusive platform open also to the citizens where major problems of the city can be discussed, determined, detected and analyzed in the fields of culture, tourism, housing, planning, health, education, environment and transport.

The system is so established that after a very complex period of data collecting, interviews, researches and consultations on a pre-selected subject, a final conference is organized where solutions are proposed after diagnostics to the problems and priorities are established after hours of discussions.

Every speech is registered, filmed and every submitted report or document is classified analyzed and evaluated. After having realized 11 big conferences in recent years to which the Governor of the city is traditionally participating as the chair person, in order

to give to the conference a symbolical value, importance and weight with the very active participation of all of the shareholders,.

A considerable amount of data, views, critics, advises are accumulated through years.

Although the decisions taken during the conference are on advisory basis having no compulsory power, all of the decisions are meticulously and carefully executed and realized by the Metropolitan Municipality of Gaziantep.

One of the most important results of these conferences was the inclusion and acceptance of environmental considerations, rules and principles as « MUST » standards in the urban planning.

All of the projects and urban plans of the city are now respecting environmental issues, they are all ecologically friendly and they are also considering the needs of children, women and handicapped citizen.

The second very important result of GAGEV conferences is that now no project of the city is now undertaken without achieving a prior consensus with the citizen.

A considerable side effect can be mentioned also since a culture of mutual respect during discussions is established. All of the views even most oppositional ones are listened and respected.

The biggest result obtained is the decision to construct a new ecological city of 200000 habitants totally environmentally friendly.