



RECLAIMING STREETS



FOR
WITH CHILDREN

FOR
WITH COMMUNITY

FOR
WITH NATURE

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Reclaiming Streets is a practice-based learning program that has been running since 2022. It aims to create livable, pedestrian- and child-friendly streets through interim and final street transformation implementations.

The Program;



Advocates for a shift from vehicle-centric urban design to a child- and pedestrian-centered approach, aiming to create safe, healthy, and inclusive streets for everyone.



Strengthens municipal capacities in implementing interim and final interventions, ensuring more effective management of complex processes like design, participation, and budgeting.



Offers theoretical and practical workshops and support through MMU's Mentor Program, fostering peer-to-peer learning by connecting different cities.

This program is tailored by Marmara Municipalities Union's (MMU) Local Government Academy in collaboration with Superpool and the Global Designing Cities Initiative (GDCI).

HOW?

Street transformation projects employ phased design strategies to systematically implement changes in urban spaces. These strategies break the design process into a series of quick, actionable steps, with each phase building on the previous one. This method helps address key challenges such as budget limitations, complex permitting and approval processes, and ensuring community involvement throughout the project.

By structuring the process in phases, municipalities can more effectively manage resources while maintaining a clear pathway for ongoing development. It also allows for better collaboration with residents, ensuring that their feedback is integrated at each stage, making the project more responsive to community needs. Overall, this approach offers a practical solution for balancing the technical, financial, and participatory aspects of street transformation initiatives.



WHY?

Streets are critical public spaces for urban dwellers, particularly children. The dominance of private vehicles limits the use of these spaces, hindering children's opportunities for learning, playing, and socializing. Traditional urban design often prioritizes motor vehicles over pedestrian and child-friendly spaces, leading to environments that are less safe, less healthy, and less inclusive for young people.





INTERIM

Interim implementations are temporary interventions using easily obtainable, flexible materials provided by municipalities. These interventions use tactical urbanism tools and encourage community involvement in the design process. Interim implementations allow municipalities to test the project's effectiveness before moving to final and permanent implementation by collecting data before and during the interim phase.



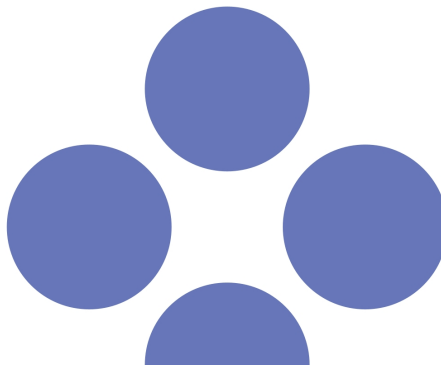
FINAL

Final implementations are developed using data from interim implementations and feedback from residents. This stage aims to make streets safe, healthy, and accessible, focusing on the needs of children and pedestrians. Final transformations might include removing hard surfaces, using sustainable, permeable materials, and enhancing the area with greenery to create a resilient and climate-friendly public space.



WHO CAN PARTICIPATE?

The program involves design and implementation teams comprising decision-makers and practitioners from municipal departments such as Planning and Project, Zoning and Urbanization, Strategy Development, Urban Planning, Urban Design, Parks and Recreation, Transportation, Social Services, and other related units.



PRGRAM GOALS

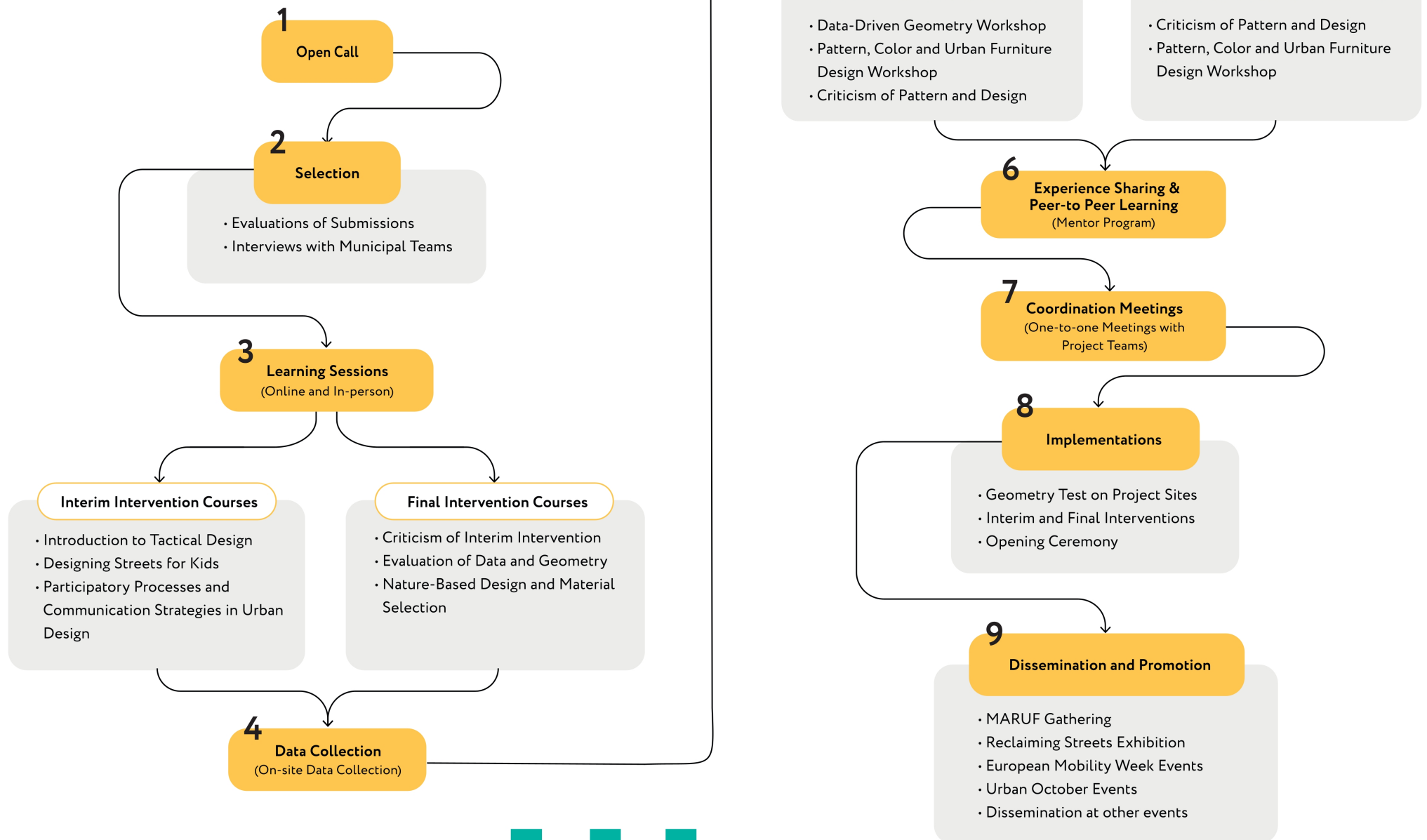
The program aims to create public spaces that prioritize pedestrian and child use through rapid, cost-effective design strategies and to raise awareness about street transformation projects. It also seeks to enhance the knowledge and capacity of municipal representatives in creating children and climate-friendly public spaces. Another key objective is to support and promote urban design practices that prioritize pedestrian and child use.



PROGRAM

Interim Intervention Program: 6 months

Final Intervention Program: 8 months





PROGRAM PARTNERS



MMU & LGA

Marmara Municipalities Union (MMU) is a Local Government Association in Türkiye with over 190 members, operating in 11 provinces, including 6 metropolitan cities in the Marmara Region. Established in 1975, MMU works to improve municipalities' competence and create sustainable cities. The organization focuses on researching global developments and best practices in local governance and urbanization, fostering democratic and sustainable urban management, raising awareness about the protection of the environment, nature, and historical values, sharing knowledge, experience, and resources, and supporting local governments' efforts to build institutional capacity. MMU's Local Government Academy reaches 16K urban practitioners annually and organizes various programs to enhance their skills and knowledge.



Superpool

Superpool is a research-focused architecture and urban design office founded in 2006 by Selva Gürdoğan and Gregers Tang Thomsen. Involved in numerous cultural and educational projects, Superpool has created a working environment that questions urban conditions and envisions the future of cities. Utilizing its knowledge and experience to create better public spaces, Superpool continues its work by focusing on bringing early childhood issues to the forefront in architectural education and practice.



GDCI

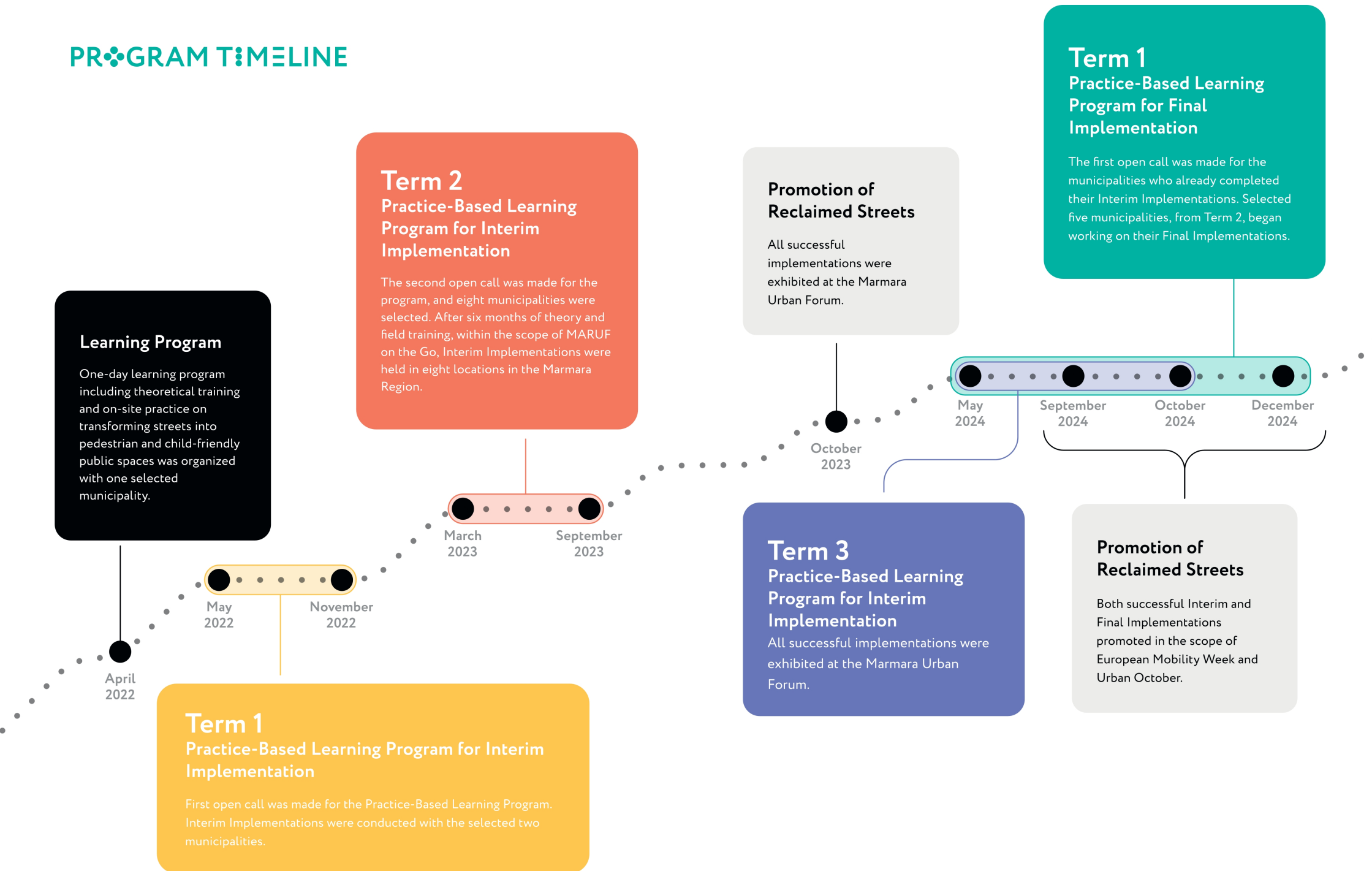
Global Designing Cities Initiative (GDCI) is a nonprofit organization actively working in various cities around the world, focused on transforming streets to create healthier, safer, and more vibrant urban spaces. It aims to share best practices, facilitate peer-to-peer guidance, and strengthen communication through a global network of urban planning experts. GDCI committed to reimagining streets as places for people, shaping cities that are safe, healthy, accessible, and equitable for everyone.



MUNICIPAL PARTNERS (SO FAR)

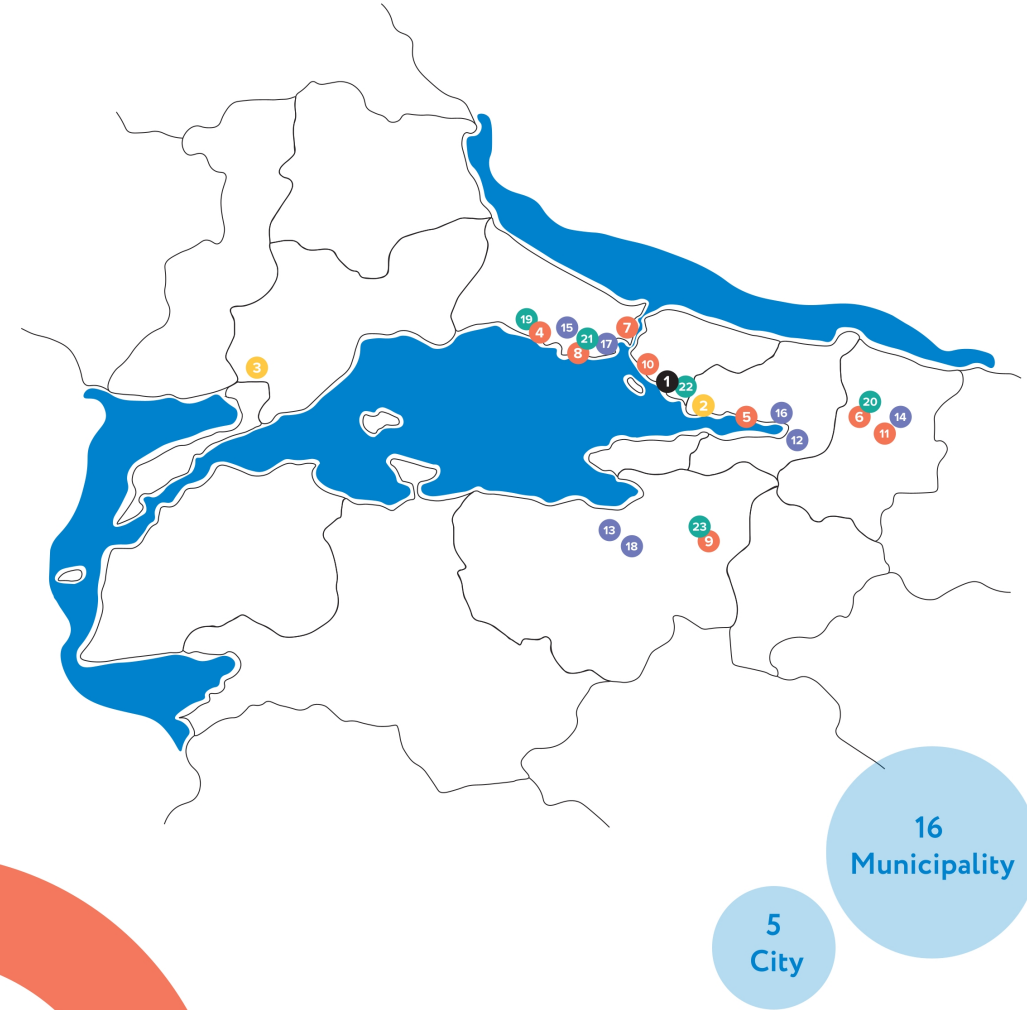


PROGRAM TIMELINE



PAST EXPERIENCES

The program aims to create public spaces that prioritize pedestrian and child use through rapid, cost-effective design strategies and to raise awareness about street transformation projects. It also seeks to enhance the knowledge and capacity of municipal representatives in creating children and climate-friendly public spaces. Another key objective is to support and promote urban design practices that prioritize pedestrian and child use.



1st Term Interim May - November 2022

2nd Term Interim March - October 2023

3rd Term Interim May - October 2024

1st Term Final May - December 2024

- 1 Maltepe Municipality
- 2 Gebze Municipality
- 3 Malkara Municipality
- 4 İstanbul Metropolitan Municipality
- 5 Kocaeli Metropolitan Municipality
- 6 Sakarya Metropolitan Municipality
- 7 Arnavutköy Municipality
- 8 Bahçelievler Municipality
- 9 İnegöl Municipality
- 10 Kadıköy Municipality
- 11 Serdivan Municipality
- 12 Kocaeli Metropolitan Municipality (2 Teams)
- 13 Nilüfer Municipality
- 14 Serdivan Municipality
- 15 Avcılar Municipality
- 16 İzmit Municipality
- 17 Fatih Municipality
- 18 Osmangazi Municipality
- 19 İstanbul Metropolitan Municipality
- 20 Sakarya Metropolitan Municipality
- 21 Bahçelievler Municipality
- 22 Maltepe Municipality
- 23 İnegöl Municipality



before

Osman Yılmaz Neighbourhood, Gebze by Gebze Municipality

Date: October 2022

City, Country: Kocaeli, Türkiye

Total Size of the Area: 1000m²

Reclaimed Street Area: 540 m²



before

Meteoroloji Street, Malkara by Malkara Municipality

Date: November 2022

City, Country: Tekirdağ, Türkiye



after

Overview: The street, which is heavily used during school entrance and exit hours and where two schools serving approximately 500 students are located, was transformed into a school street. Pedestrians' mobility was expanded with new pedestrian crosswalks.

#SchoolStreet



after

Overview: The area, which is used as a parking lot although several schools surround it and are heavily used by children and caregivers during school entry and exit hours, was transformed into a square through a pop-up intervention followed by an interim implementation. Additionally, the road connected to the square was transformed into a school street.

#Square #SchoolStreet



before

Özkent Street, İnegöl

by İnegöl Municipality

Date: September 2023

City, Country: Bursa, Türkiye

Total Size of the Area: 3400 m2

Reclaimed Street Area: 1750 m2



before

Emir Sultan Street, Bahçelievler

by Bahçelievler Municipality

Date: September 2023

City, Country: İstanbul, Türkiye

Reclaimed Street Area: 650 m2



after

Overview: In front of the school in the area was closed to vehicle traffic and transformed into a public space. As part of the application, the street was closed to traffic and resting, sitting and play areas were created for residents and children, and parking areas were placed in the area for cyclists.

#Square #SchoolStreet #PlayStreet



after

Overview: A part of the street serving the middle school in the area was closed to vehicle traffic, while the sidewalks were widened in the other part to create safe walking areas for pedestrians and children. Safe areas providing opportunities for children to play, learn and social interaction were created in the closed part of the street.

#SchoolStreet #PlayStreet



before

Esentepe Neighbourhood, Körfez by Kocaeli Metropolitan Municipality

Date: September 2023

City, Country: Kocaeli, Türkiye

Reclaimed Street Area: 950 m²



before

Eğitim Street, Büyükçekmece by İstanbul Metropolitan Municipality

Date: September 2023

City, Country: İstanbul, Türkiye

Reclaimed Street Area: 440 m²



after

Overview: The streets around the primary school located in the area were transformed into pedestrian and child-friendly public spaces, making them safe for both children and their caregivers. A safe school street was created with the streets closed to traffic. Various playgrounds were also designed for children on the street.

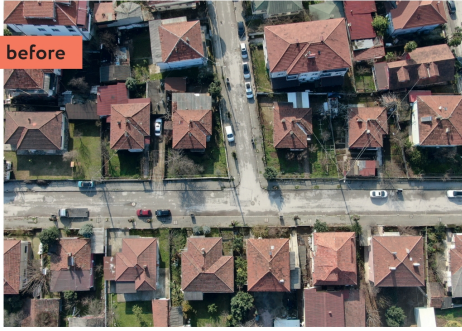
#SchoolStreet #PlayStreet



after

Overview: Traffic arrangements were made for the primary school located in the area and its surroundings for pedestrians and children to walk safely. The lanes around the school were narrowed, reducing the turning radius of vehicles, and the sidewalks were widened to prioritize pedestrian access.

#SchoolStreet #PlayStreet



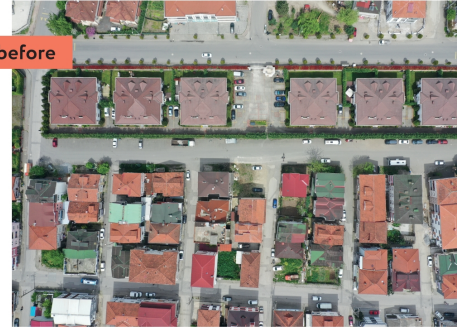
before

Donat Street, Adapazarı by Sakarya Metropolitan Municipality

Date: September 2023

City, Country: Sakarya, Türkiye

Reclaimed Street Area: 634 m²



before

Necmi Kardeş Street, Serdivan by Serdivan Municipality

Date: September 2023

City, Country: Sakarya, Türkiye



after

Overview: Vehicle traffic on the street located in the area was reduced to one direction and the lane width was reduced. The area at the intersection of the streets was also closed to vehicle traffic. Recreation and play elements were placed in the area gained as a public space.

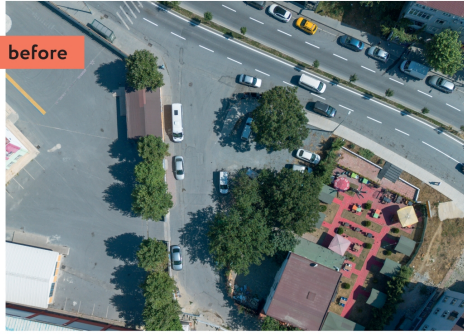
#PlayStreet



after

Overview: The street located in the area and used as a parking area by vehicles was closed to vehicle traffic and transformed into a safe play street for children. The play street was equipped with both resting areas for residents of the neighborhood and various play areas that will support the physical, mental, social and emotional development of children.

#PlayStreet



before

Berksoy Street, Arnavutköy by Arnavutköy Municipality

Date: September 2023

City, Country: İstanbul, Türkiye

Reclaimed Street Area: 570 m²



before

Mehmet Ayvalıtış Square, Kadıköy by Kadıköy Municipality

Date: September 2023

City, Country: İstanbul, Türkiye

Reclaimed Street Area: 450 m²



after

Overview: The road lane on the street serving the school was narrowed and the gained area was arranged for pedestrians. With the wide sidewalks and slowed down vehicle traffic arrangements, a safe school street that allows waiting, spending time and socializing after school has been gained.

#SchoolStreet



after

Overview: A street located around the square was closed to vehicle traffic and transformed into a public space that residents and children can use safely. Pedestrian crossings were defined on the roads surrounding the square and slowing down measures were taken for vehicles. This application was completed with the contributions of Istanbul Metropolitan Municipality, WRI Turkey, Global Walkability Correspondents Network and Sokak Bizim.

#Square #PlayStreet

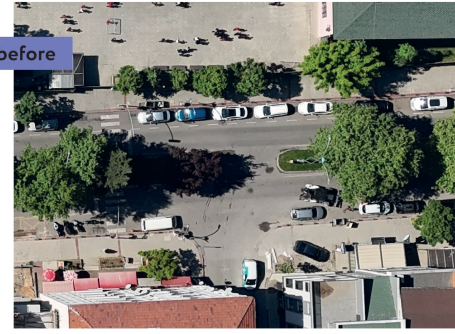


before

Yeşilkent Neighbourhood, Avcılar by Avcılar Municipality

Date: October 2024

City, Country: İstanbul Türkiye



before

Atatürk Boulevard, İzmit by Kocaeli Metropolitan Municipality

Date: October 2024

City, Country: Kocaeli, Türkiye



after

Overview: Leyla Bayram Elementary School is the most crowded elementary school in Türkiye with approximately 7000 students, between the ages of 4-14, receiving education in this school. This area has completely closed to traffic, slowed down the traffic on the main axes with speed bumps, and created a place where children can play safely on their way to and from school, providing caregivers a place they can wait safely with urban furniture, guiding floor drawings and traditional groundplays placed in the area.

#SchoolStreet #PlayStreet



after

Overview: The first phase of the three-stage project on Atatürk Boulevard in Kadıköy Neighborhood has been completed. The area was redesigned to create pedestrian- and child-friendly public spaces. Low-cost design strategies using temporary and flexible materials make the streets safer and actively engage neighborhood residents.

#SafeStreet #Square



Hurlu Street, Başiskele
by Kocaeli Metropolitan Municipality

Date: September 2024
City, Country: Kocaeli, Türkiye



Sokullu Street, Nilüfer
by Nilüfer Municipality

Date: September 2024
City, Country: Bursa, Türkiye
Total Size of the Area: 8200 m2
Reclaimed Street Area: 2000 m2



Overview: Street, which provides access to kindergarten, primary school and secondary school (with a capacity of 980 students), were closed to vehicle traffic; safety railings and walls around the school were renewed and the school gate was widened for emergencies. As part of the green space arrangements, trees were planted, seating areas were created for students and their parents, and various playgrounds were designed with patterns on the ground, providing a more fun and safe place for children.

#SchoolStreet #PlayStreet



Overview: Safe areas were created for children and parents. A one-way decision was taken for vehicles, increasing pedestrian comfort at school entrances and exits. Sitting and waiting areas and benches were placed for parents, pedestrian crossings were defined and lines were clarified. Sokullu Street was redesigned into a public space as a square and school street that children and pedestrians safely use.

#SchoolStreet #PlayStreet #Square



before

Eğitim Street, Büyüçekmece by Istanbul Metropolitan Municipality

Date: September 2024

City, Country: İstanbul, Türkiye

Reclaimed Area: 440 m2

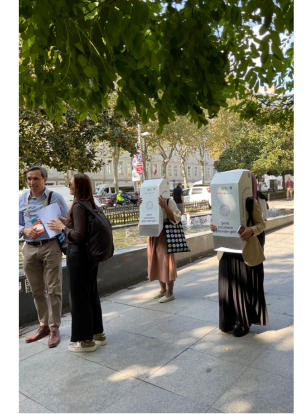


after

Overview: In 2023, within the interim project, traffic regulations were implemented around Akçansa Mehmet Akif Ersoy Elementary School to ensure safe walking spaces for pedestrians and children. In 2024, Istanbul Metropolitan Municipality transitioned to a permanent installation with a nature-based design, creating wide pedestrian paths and seating areas for caregivers, along with new urban furniture.

#SchoolStreet #PlayStreet

MARMARA URBAN FORUM (MARUF)



Visit MARUF's website from here:
<https://www.marmaraurbanforum.org/>

10k+ m² Reclaimed Space

13 Interim Implementations + 5 (so soon)

1 Final Implementations + 4 (so soon)

5 Cities

16 Municipalities



CONTACT



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in marmarabelediyelerbirliği

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f globalstreets

in global-designing-cities-initiative



Superpool

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