

Izmir City Council Youth Assembly

Izmir City Council Youth Assembly aims to ensure that young people take a role in city administration, decision-making mechanisms, and social life, and to increase solidarity among young people in Izmir and Turkey, and contributes to the strengthening of local democracy with its efforts in this direction. It supports the participation of young people in international studies, aims to organize the energy of youth in the best way in terms of a higher level of integration of Izmir with new technologies and sustainable development.

General Structure and Operation

Youth Assembly General Assembly gathers young people between the ages of 15-30 studying about youth of individuals, institutions and organizations listed in Article 8 of the City Council Regulation under the same roof.

In the General Assembly of the Youth Assembly, the youth councils of the district city councils, the Izmir City Council Youth Assembly studying groups, the student councils of the universities, the university student societies/clubs, high school students, non-governmental organizations and youth-related groups of the chambers and public institutions (Family, Labor and Provincial Directorate of Social Services, Youth Centers, Vocational Education Centers and Public Education Centers) are involved in the presence of youth-related representatives, taking into account the principles of good governance and gender equality. There are representatives from 125 institutions in the General Assembly of the Izmir City Council Youth Assembly. More than 400 young people contribute individually.

In the General Assembly, the election of the chairman of the assembly and the members of the executive committee of the assembly are made separately. 14 principal and 14 alternate members of the executive committee, apart from the chairman, are elected by the general assembly.

‘The Chairman’ calls the members of ‘The Executive Committee’ of the assembly for the first meeting in a month. At the first meeting, the 14-member council appoints a vice chairman and a council secretary among the members of the executive committee, in order to carry out the administrative affairs of the council. It is essential that gender equality is taken into account when determining the ‘Vice Chairman’ . In addition, ‘The Executive Committee’ forms the

necessary commissions to carry out the studies of the assembly. Currently, there are four commissions in the parliament. *Student Commission* aims that to carry out studies that will enhance the well-being of the students in Izmir. *Event and Project Commission* plans to organize for once activities of the assembly, and also carries out studies and works with appropriate methods in order to research the projects and determine the grant programs that the assembly can apply. *The Social Media and Press Commission* manages the social media accounts of the assembly and conducts its relations with the press. *The Local Administrations Commission* aims to provide communication between the assembly, local administrations and youth units of local administrations and to establish a common mind plane.

According to the votes received by the council members, a list of 14 members of the youth council executive committee is formed. Resignation, absenteeism, death, long-term illness, violation of regulations and directives, etc. In case of vacancy due to any reason, the member who receives the highest votes from the substitutes enters the main list.

Election dates and agendas of the assemblies, together with the decision of the city council executive committee, are carried out by the Secretary General of the Izmir City Council at least 15 days ago.

Working Groups

Due to the needs that arise in order to facilitate the production of individual participants in a collective area, it is possible to establish various working groups under the assembly in order to facilitate and deepen the thematic study areas. These working groups will vary in the process depending on the needs.

Currently, the Informatics Working Group is working on the technology policies of Izmir. In addition, they aim to meet the information needs of the Izmir City Council and the Youth Assembly regarding technology.

Plans for Future

- Increasing the efforts to improve coordination and cooperation between youth assemblies in Izmir.
- National Youth Assemblies Meeting Organization.
- Training about water within the scope of sustainability.
- Contributing to ensuring that local work is need-based by conducting field research and reporting activities for youth participation in local governments.
- Develop participatory and inclusive events and organizations by ensuring youth participation.
- Capacity building and awareness activities for young people.