



IGLUS Action-Learning Experience in Istanbul, Türkiye

June 5-8, 2024

With its 16 million+ inhabitants, Istanbul is among the world's megacities and the most populous city in Europe. It is about 20% of Türkiye's population and is the country's economic, cultural, and historic hub. Istanbul accounts for over 30% of Türkiye's GDP and 50% of the country's tax revenue. It is Türkiye's financial and economic hub, even though it is not the capital. Another defining feature is its geographical location between Europe (West) and Asia (East), separated by the Bosphorus strait, which also connects the Black Sea (North) with the Mediterranean (South). Istanbul is one of the oldest and most important cities in world history, dating back to the 7th century BCE (then called Byzantium), renamed Constantinople (the capital city of East Rome) in 330 CE. As of 1453 Istanbul becomes the capital city of the Ottoman Empire until its fall in 1922.

During all its history it played a key role in the Silk Road and is about to redefine itself as the "pivot" of the New Silk Road, namely because of its central role in world aviation transport, actively fostered by a series of mega-projects over the past 10-15 years. In 1953 Istanbul had 1 mio. inhabitants and the larger Istanbul today now has approximately 20 million. This demographic explosion was accompanied especially during the past 20 years by a metropolitan governance reform, by huge investments into transport (bridges, tunnel, airport, metro) and by real estate developments more generally, an evolution that comes with its problems, namely in the areas of transport, housing, water and environmental issues. The main challenge of Istanbul today is to master its growth and remain attractive as a world economic and touristic hub.

During this Action-Learning Experience, a group of maximum 30 IGLUS participants will be exposed to the three main problems – transport, housing, and water/green infrastructures – as faced by Istanbul, as well as to the ways by which the authorities, business, and society at large are dealing with them and addressing them, within the larger context of migration, social inequality, and further infrastructural development. This IGLUS Action Learning Experience is a unique opportunity to learn firsthand and get to know the main actors involved in Istanbul's (metropolitan) governance of its problems and challenges.

This intensive four-day action-learning experience – Wednesday June 5th to Saturday June 8th, 2024, ending with a good-bye dinner – is jointly organized by IGLUS (iglus.org) and Istanbul Technical University (ITÜ) and will take place at ITÜ's Taskisla Campus, close to famous Taksim place. It is comprised of lectures by knowledgeable local experts in the areas of transport, housing, green-blue infrastructures, waste management and urban governance (mornings) and field visits illustrating the issues (afternoons). There will be ample opportunity to discuss these issues with various stakeholders. Participants are professionals from all over the world dealing with similar challenges in their respective cities. The entire four-day action



learning experience will be accompanied and moderated by IGLUS founder and director Prof. Matthias Finger.

The costs for this four-day action learning experience in Istanbul amounts to 500 USD. This does NOT include travel and lodging, which must be organized by each participant own his/her own.