



## FORM BEST PRACTICES CONTEST 2025

Municipality Finike Municipality

Country TÜRKİYE

Contact person Mr. Cüneyt YILMAZ

Telephone +905462543888

E-mail [kultur.sosyal@finike.bel.tr](mailto:kultur.sosyal@finike.bel.tr)

Name project

Finike Municipality Cittaslow Children's Festival and Adventure Park Project

Category Certification Criteria: mark the category of your project

- ☐ Energy and environmental policies (politiche energetiche e ambientali);
- ☐ Infrastructure policies (politiche infrastrutturali);
- ☒ Quality of urban life policies (politiche per la qualità urbana);
- ☐ Agricultural, touristic and artisan policies (politiche agricole, turistiche, artigianali);
- ☐ Policies for hospitality, awareness and training (politiche per l'ospitalità, la consapevolezza e la formazione);
- ☐ Social cohesion (coesione sociale).

Summary project

Our district is located approximately 2.5 hours by car from the city center of Antalya. Educational and social activity opportunities for our children are currently limited to what is provided by local public institutions—including our municipality—and by institutions in neighboring districts. Until 2023, we institutionally recognized that there had been no specific festivals, fairs, or similar events in our district or surrounding areas that focused solely on children and their parents, where they could spend quality time together and strengthen their bonds. Furthermore, no space had been built specifically dedicated to this target group.

As a result of consultations and brainstorming sessions held with representatives of other public institutions in our district, neighborhood heads (muhtars), NGOs, parents, our child development specialist, dietitian, and art teachers, the following key points were identified:

- Not every family in our district has the socioeconomic means to regularly take their children to social spaces in Antalya's city center—such as play areas, camps, science centers, or workshops—during weekdays or weekends.
- Compared to children living in urban centers, children in our district are increasingly falling behind in terms of participation in engaging and educational social activities. The primary reasons for this are logistical limitations and the district's remote geographic location.
- It was also observed that children in our district are developing a growing tendency toward fast-food-style eating habits and are gravitating toward fast consumption in general, largely due to a lack of adequate social activities.

Due to the findings outlined above, our municipality—together with public institutions, NGOs, local producers, tradespeople, and citizens—took action and developed a strategy in the form of the **"Finike Municipality Cittaslow Children's Festival and Adventure Park Project."** Within the scope of this project:

- An idle area along our district's coastal strip was transformed into an **Adventure Park** through various interventions. These included the installation of urban furniture, sports stations (such as a climbing wall, survivor game area, zipline, trampoline, beach football area), children's play structures (including equipment for children with disabilities and electric ride-on toys), and a mobile café built from a repurposed 50-year-old decommissioned bus—created in line with recycling and zero-waste principles. Portable stands were also added to enhance the space.



- The **"Finike Municipality Cittaslow Children's Festival"** has been launched as an annual tradition held during the last week of September (Cittaslow Sunday week) within the Adventure Park. This festival blends traditional and modern activities to create an intergenerational bridge—featuring stilt walkers and mascots, stage performances, wooden games, inflatable play parks, transformers, sack races, egg-and-spoon races, and survivor-style games.
- Throughout the festival, thematic talks such as Slow Food sessions are held for parents, while children can participate in hands-on workshops. Women entrepreneurs, homemakers, mothers, local restaurant owners, handicraft producers, and artisans are given booths at the festival to present goods aligned with themes such as "healthy eating, local foods, child nutrition, and handmade children's items and toys." These booths enable families and children to meet their needs in a healthy and engaging environment.

Our project has successfully achieved its goal and continues to improve and expand with each passing year.

#### Goal project

In recent times, we as the local government in Cittaslow Finike have observed that many of our children are confined to their homes, spending excessive time on computer games due to a lack of events or spaces that spark their interest within the district or nearby areas. As a result, they have grown increasingly disconnected from previous generations and traditional customs, gradually becoming detached from the cultural identity of our town. We have noticed weakening family bonds, rising social isolation, robotic behavioral tendencies, unhealthy eating habits, and a general trend toward conformity—leading children to lose their sense of belonging to the calm geography they inhabit.

It is also evident that adults share part of the responsibility for this issue. Many have adapted negatively to modern technological trends, spending excessive time on mobile games and videos, resorting to unhealthy food and drink choices for their children, and not spending enough quality time with them. Moreover, there is a notable shortage of adequate and accessible spaces in the vicinity where families can enjoy meaningful moments together. These observations were made and reported to us by our municipal team, including our social worker, dietitian, and child development specialist, and our problem analysis confirmed their findings.

For these reasons, we aimed to address this issue by targeting approximately one-fifth of our population—around 10,000 children—and two-fifths—around 20,000 parents—with the following objectives:

- To instill our "Cittaslow" identity, particularly in our children, who are the future of our community,
- To revive and pass down forgotten children's games, traditional healthy local foods, and regional handicrafts to both present and future generations,
- To strengthen the sense of belonging and urban identity by encouraging children and parents alike to enjoy meaningful and high-quality time together, rediscovering or relearning traditional games and local cuisine,
- To foster awareness of "slow food" culture across all generations, from children to elders,
- And finally, to reclaim an idle area along our coastal strip by redesigning it as a space suitable for activities that align with these goals, making it available for use by our children and their families.

#### Result project

To achieve the goals of our project, we chose to implement the **"Finike Municipality Cittaslow Children's Festival and Adventure Park Project"** as a comprehensive initiative. This project brings together a wide range of components that serve our objectives—including children's play



equipment, urban furniture made from recycled materials, a mobile kitchen built in accordance with zero-waste principles, and various engaging activities. With this approach, we achieved the following results:

- A landscape and environmental arrangement was carried out on an approximately 2-decare idle area located on the coastal strip of our district. By placing urban furniture, sports stations (climbing wall, survivor game area, zipline, trampoline, beach football area, etc.), children's play equipment, a mobile café produced with recycling and zero-waste principles, and portable booths, an "Adventure Park" was built and the area was brought back into public use.
- For the first time, our district gained a traditional festival targeting children and families. Based on the Municipal Council Decision we made in 2024, this festival began to be held every year in the last week of September at our Adventure Park, bringing together traditional mascots such as stilt walkers, stage performances, wooden games, modern inflatable play parks, transformers, sack races, and egg-and-spoon races, etc. thus building a bridge between generations.
- Sales booths were established, where women entrepreneurs, homemakers, mothers, restaurant owners, handicraft producers, and artisans operating in our district took part with items in line with the themes of "healthy nutrition, local foods, child nutrition, handmade children's items and toys," while also creating spaces for the marketing of our local products.
- The value of some of our local dishes was rediscovered, and they began to appear on the daily menus of local restaurants; children also began to prefer these dishes over fast food.
- Children started spending less time in front of mobile games and began wanting to go to the Adventure Park and engage in physical activities.
- The sense of belonging to our city among our children and families increased indirectly.
- The level of awareness and consciousness of our children and families regarding Cittaslow and Slow Food increased.

#### Finance (costs and benefits)

The approximate total budget is 49.500,00 €; %20 of it is carried out from our Municipality's own budget, and the rest is carried out with donations and sponsorship supports of firms and citizens.

#### Staff (staff involved and use of time)

During the construction of the Adventure Park area, 20 part-time personnel—including engineers, architects, landscape architects, graphic designers, electrical technicians, plumbers, carpenters, and machine operators—were employed for a period of 5 months starting from 01.07.2023. At the Finike Municipality Cittaslow Children's Festival and other social activities held in the Adventure Park (weekend events, workshops, etc.), at least 40 personnel are employed in fields such as child development specialists, dance instructors, music instructors, mosaic instructors, wood painting instructors, animators, boat attendants, baristas, service staff, and cleaning staff. In addition, at our Finike Municipality Cittaslow Children's Festival, NGO representatives, sponsor companies, and representatives of organizations we cooperate with, such as Slow Food, also actively take part as speakers, moderators, booth attendants, etc. Outside the festival period, 10 full-time staff work in the Adventure Park, including 2 cleaning staff, 1 security guard, 4 mobile café staff, and 3 inflatable game boat attendants.

#### Additional information (if necessarily)

**Start and End Dates of the Project and Completion Rate:** The project officially commenced on 03.07.2023 with preparatory meetings and problem analysis, and was physically completed on 31.01.2024. Financial completion was achieved on 30.03.2024. Accordingly, the project implementation period is defined as 03.07.2023–30.03.2024.

**Sustainability and Institutionalization of Our Project:** Finike has always maintained the profile of a calm city that values its cultural heritage, aiming to preserve these values while looking toward the future and representing our country in the best possible way on the international stage. The mission and vision of our municipality are aligned with this profile. Our project is in service of this



identity, mission, and vision. Prior to becoming a member of the International Cittaslow Network, our municipality officially obtained approval from the Ministry of Environment, Urbanization and Climate Change to join the network and to implement projects in line with its criteria.

Furthermore, due to the public's interest in our project—fully completed and launched by the end of 2023—exceeding our expectations, it was unanimously decided with the Municipal Council Decision dated 06.09.2024 and numbered 72 that the Finike Municipality Cittaslow Children's Festival will be held every year on September 23–24 or during the weeks including these dates, with continuous development. **Considering all these elements, our project is politically sustainable and institutionalized.**

Approximately 80% of our project's budget was covered through sponsorship support, and as of 2025, sponsorship planning and pricing for local product booth sales have been arranged to fully offset 100% of the costs of the upcoming festival. In order to ensure the continuity and further development of this project in the coming years, in addition to our current supporters, we have held discussions—many of which have yielded positive results—for in-kind and financial support and partnership with UNICEF, companies producing food products for children, stationery manufacturers operating in our region, producers of children's care and cosmetic products, children's textile manufacturers, event planning firms, local businesses, and others. Preparations for cooperation protocols are currently ongoing. All possible and unforeseen expenses, as well as damage, equipment malfunctions, etc. that may occur in the Adventure Park area, will be covered by our institution's own budget in accordance with our Municipal Council Decision and the Ministry's official approval. **Considering all these elements, our project is financially and economically sustainable.**

**Applicability of the Project by Other Municipalities:** Our project has served as an example for other municipalities in our country, and in particular, we have received information that many municipalities—including primarily other Cittaslow member municipalities in Turkey—adapted the children's festival component of our project and organized similar children's festivals in 2024.

**This proves that our project is at least partially adaptable and applicable by other municipalities.**

**NOTE:** During the implementation of the construction of our Adventure Park area, some unexpected technical issues occurred. Therefore, since it was not completed in time for the first Finike Municipality Cittaslow Children's Festival, which was scheduled for 22.09.2023, the festival that year was held in another area within our district. However, starting from 2024, it has been held at its originally planned location, the Adventure Park.

Link website <https://www.finike.bel.tr/tr/projeler/finike-belediyesi-cittaslow-cocuk-senligi-ve-macera-parki-projesi>

(if available)

**Once filled in this form please send it to: [info@cittaslow.net](mailto:info@cittaslow.net)  
- Participation Deadline, 12 May 2025 -**