



## FORM BEST PRACTICES CONTEST 2025

Municipality Finike Municipality..... Country TÜRKİYE

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Name project

Harbor Garden and Umut 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 project is a two-part project that revitalizes two neglected areas in our district, bringing them back into use for the benefit of our citizens of our district.

**Part 1 – 'Liman Bahçe' Area Arrangement:**

'Liman Bahçe' means 'Harbour Garden' in English. In the harbor area of Finike—one of the district's key attractions—the spaces surrounding the marina were historically used by local residents for recreational purposes and popularly referred to as the "promenade walk." However, before the project, these areas were occupied by uniform-use facilities that were not suitable for families and were generally unappealing to the public. In order to eliminate the abandoned atmosphere that had settled over the Finike Harbor—once actively used in the 1990s and earlier—and to reopen the space for public use, our municipality redesigned the site as a park and recreational area. This renewed space has now been completed and opened for public service. Projemiz Nisan 2021 de başlayıp, Mayıs 2023 te fiziksel ve mali olarak %100 tamamlanmıştır.

**Part 2 – Umut Park Area Arrangement and Construction of a Social Facility:**

To create a comfortable, enjoyable, and accessible space offering diverse opportunities for our disabled citizens—especially children—both residents and visitors to our district, a 4,300 m<sup>2</sup> section of the Finike Göksu Streamside Recreation Area has been developed under the name *Umut Park* as a comprehensive facility ('Umut' means 'Hope' in English). The area includes a playground designed for children and youth with disabilities, an adventure track, a fitness zone, a sensory center, the *Umut Workshop*, *Umut Café*, and seating/rest areas. This park stands as an important hub for raising awareness about inclusive and interactive living together with our disadvantaged citizens.

Previously, the area contained a damaged building that had been marked for demolition. After its removal, the newly developed space emerged as a continuation of the existing recreational area—offering a breathing space amid dense surrounding development. It now serves as a place for relaxation, social interaction, and enjoyment for both locals and visitors, while also promoting the active participation of our disadvantaged children and youth in community life.

Our project commenced in April 2021 and was fully completed—both physically and financially—by May 2023.

Goal project

The aim of our project is to revitalize two neglected areas in our district: the "promenade walk" located within the harbor and an unused section of the recreation area along the Göksu Stream.



By redesigning these spaces, we seek to make them accessible and functional for the residents of our district—particularly for our disabled citizens.

#### Result project

We can evaluate the outcomes of both parts as follows:

##### **Outcomes of Part 1 – Harbor Garden Area Arrangement:**

- A comprehensive and functional space has been created where various activities can be carried out simultaneously, allowing for the organization of small-scale events.
- The adventure course built in the existing, previously used section of the area, without disturbing its natural character, includes a climbing wall applied to a natural slope and other unique features. This is the first implementation of its kind in the city. The space was planned without altering the natural or physical structure; the climbing and sliding units placed on the slope are designed to support children's self-discovery as well as their motor and muscle development on natural ground.
- The rocky area behind the tea garden and park section has been transformed into a rock garden, supported with native Finike stones and landscaped accordingly. An RGB wall washer lighting system has been applied to the Harbor's stone wall located in this section, aiming to create a distinctive ambiance within the harbor. This high stone wall has also been adorned with bougainvillea plants—an iconic element of coastal settlements. Along the harbor walkway, half-height stone walls have been topped with concealed LED-lit wooden seating units, creating an aesthetic and functional public space.
- While the tea garden and other improvements meet the social and cultural needs of residents and visitors of all ages, increased public use of the harbor has also contributed to economic activity. The fish restaurant within the harbor, which was reconstructed through private enterprise, has indirectly boosted local economic dynamism.
- Furthermore, the area housing the municipality-owned building—used as a classroom by the public education center—and the renovated mini stage and square within the harbor boundaries now accommodate a wide range of events such as exhibitions, conferences, concerts, performances, children's festivals, and watercolor festivals. This not only contributes indirectly to the recognition of Finike at both national and international levels, but also paves the way for new and diverse socio-cultural activities.

##### **Outcomes of Part 2 – Umut Park Area Arrangement and Construction of a Social Facility:**

- A space has been created where our disabled citizens can fully participate in life, and where all children—regardless of their abilities—can benefit from all the facilities without barriers.
- The flooring material used in the playground and activity areas is *Grassfoam*, a flexible sub-layer with a natural grass-like appearance that complies with TSE's relevant impact and fall standards. It allows for water drainage and has a texture that enables wheelchair mobility. This material, used for the first time in the region, contributes to climate change and drought mitigation efforts thanks to its water-efficient design.
- The platform ramp in the playground is specially designed to be accessible for children with disabilities. The equipment used throughout the area is also inclusive, easing access and use for disabled children. Moreover, a special swing has been installed that can be comfortably used by children in wheelchairs and their caregivers.
- The use of high-strength laminated wood in the playground and shaded seating structures provides a natural, aesthetic, and high-quality application.
- The sensory center includes features that enable sensory-based activities and also hosts an outdoor musical instruments section—implemented for the first time in our district and neighboring areas.
- Plants surrounding the sensory center were carefully selected based on their scent, color, and texture characteristics.
- The entrance arch that defines the park's entrance is covered with transparent plexiglass pieces reflecting the park's overall color scheme. On sunny days, the light projections from these elements create an aesthetically pleasing and playful atmosphere at the entrance. This not only enhances the park's identity but also contributes to the development of children's visual perception and color recognition skills.



- The on-site cafeteria has attracted significant interest and contributed greatly to local economic activity. *Umut Workshop*, located within the park, offers a wide range of opportunities for various educational and cultural activities. In addition, a space along the stream has been developed where citizens can relax, cool down, and socialize.

#### Finance (costs and benefits)

The total budget of our project is €429,190.00, of which 26% was financed through sponsorship support, while the remaining amount was covered by our municipality's own budget.

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

A total of 50 professionals from the fields of Landscape Architecture, Architecture, Civil Engineering, Electrical Engineering, and Mechanical Engineering were involved in the design, construction, and site development phases of our project. Currently, a total of 20 individuals are employed full-time within the project's social facilities and workshops, working in various roles such as Instructors, Waiters, Cooks, Kashiers, Maintenance Staff, and Security Personnel.

#### Additional information (if necessary)

##### **Sustainability and Institutionalization of Our Project:**

This project was designed with the well-being and safety of the people of Finike as a top priority, taking into account the citizens' needs, habits, and expectations. Renovations and improvements will continue in the future in line with these evolving demands.

The recreational area where *Umut Park* is located is strategically positioned for potential expansion toward the north to meet future needs. The park layout was developed in consultation with the administration of the Special Education Practice School in our district, and is designed to allow intensive use in a compact area. It also offers facilities that can be utilized by schools and rehabilitation centers.

*Umut Café*, which operates within the park and is managed by a subsidiary of our municipality, is envisioned in the long term as a workplace offering employment opportunities to individuals with autism, Down syndrome, and other disabilities.

The *Umut Workshop*, located within the facility and operated under the Municipality's Department of Culture, provides diverse educational and recreational activities for both disadvantaged and non-disabled children. The workshop is expected to expand its programs in the future according to needs and community interest.

The Sensory Center, adventure course, and open-air fitness areas offer children and youth opportunities to explore their own boundaries through various sensory and physical activities.

##### **Replicability of Our Project by Other Municipalities:**

In today's world, creating inclusive spaces where all citizens can equally benefit from social areas, and revitalizing idle or neglected spaces for public use, are of vital importance. In this regard, our project serves as a model. Designing public spaces in compliance with accessibility regulations is also among the top priorities of contemporary municipal governance. Each municipality can implement similar initiatives based on its own scale and resources.

Our project includes numerous elements that align with the criteria listed under "3. Quality of Urban Life Policies" of the Cittaslow Charter. To raise awareness and spark curiosity about the Cittaslow movement—especially among the children and citizens visiting our project sites—we have also visually incorporated the Cittaslow logo on park signage and in the window coverings of the café section. Considering all these elements, any Cittaslow community around the world can adapt and implement this project to suit their own context.

Link website <https://www.finike.bel.tr/tr/projeler/liman-bahce-ve-umut-park>

(if available)

**Once filled in this form please send it to: [info@cittaslow.net](mailto:info@cittaslow.net)**

**- Participation Deadline, 12 May 2025 -**

