

ISTANBUL TECHNICAL UNIVERSITY ★ GRADUATE SCHOOL OF SCIENCE
ENGINEERING AND TECHNOLOGY

**URBAN REGENERATION PROJECTS FROM THE PERSPECTIVE OF
SOCIAL SUSTAINABILITY AND PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:
BELGIUM AND TURKEY**



M.Sc. THESIS

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Department of Urban Planning

Urban Design Programme

JUNE 2018

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İSTANBUL TEKNİK ÜNİVERSİTESİ ★ FEN BİLİMLERİ ENSTİTÜSÜ

**SOSYAL SÜRDÜRÜLEBİLİRLİK VE HALK KATILIMI PERSFEKTİFİ İLE
KENTSEL YENİLEME PROJELERİ: BELÇİKA VE TÜRKİYE**

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To my family,



FOREWORD

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

	<u>Page</u>
FOREWORD.....	ix
TABLE OF CONTENTS	xi
ABBREVIATIONS.....	xiii
LIST OF TABLES	xv
LIST OF FIGURES	xvi
SUMMARY	xix
ÖZET	xxi
1. INTRODUCTION	1
1.1 Research Aim and Scope	2
1.2 Research Methodology.....	3
1.3 Limitations of the Research	6
2. THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK.....	7
2.1 Defining Social Sustainability	7
2.1.1 Dimensions of Social Sustainability	10
2.1.2 Social equity	10
2.1.3 Sustainability of community	13
2.2 Public Participation	15
2.3 Urban Regeneration Project Examples	21
2.4 Urban Policies	26
2.4.1 Urban policy in Europe.....	26
2.4.2 Urban policy in Belgium.....	29
2.4.3 Urban policy in Turkey.....	31
2.5 Evaluation of literature review.....	36
3. CASE STUDY	39
3.1 The Yeldeğirmeni Neighborhood Renewal Project.....	40
3.1.1 Location	40
3.1.2 History	41
3.1.3 About the project parameters.....	43
3.2 The Park Spoor Noord Project	50
3.2.1 Location	50
3.2.2 History	51
3.2.3 About the project parameters.....	52
3.3 Structured Interviews	62
3.3.1 The survey in Yeldeğirmeni	63
3.3.2 The survey in Antwerp-North.....	71
3.4 The comparison.....	77
4. DISCUSSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS	87
5. CONCLUSION	91
REFERENCES.....	95
APPENDICES.....	101
CURRICULUM VITAE.....	105



ABBREVIATIONS

ANN	: Autonomous Municipal Company Antwerp New North
BPA	: Special Development Plan
ÇEKÜL	: Çevre ve Kültür Değerlerini Koruma ve Tanıtma Vakfı
CLARE	: Standing Conference of Local and Regional Authorities of Europe
KENTGES	: Integrated Urban Development Strategy and Action Plan
OECD	: The Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development
PERI	: Localized Planning Projects
SNCB	: National Railway Company of Belgium
TAK	: Tasarım Atölyesi Kadıköy
WCED	: World Commission on Environment and Development



LIST OF TABLES

	<u>Page</u>
Table 2.1 : Factors of social equity (Bramley & Power, 2009; Chan & Lee, 2008; Dave, 2011; Dempsey et al., 2011; Kwan Esther Yung & Wan Edwin Chan, 2012).....	11
Table 2.2 : Factors of sustainability of community (Bramley & Power, 2009; Chan & Lee, 2008; Dave, 2011; Dempsey et al., 2011; Kwan Esther Yung & Wan Edwin Chan, 2012).....	11
Table 2.3 : Factors of sustainability of community and their determinant features..	16
Table 2.4 : The ladder of citizen participation (Arnstein, 1969).....	17
Table 3.1 : General framework of the structured interviews.....	63
Table 3.2 : Comparison of the project aims.....	77
Table 3.3 : Comparison of the project process.....	78
Table 3.4 : Comparison of the project actors.....	79
Table 3.5 : Comparison of the project's social aspect.....	79

LIST OF FIGURES

	<u>Page</u>
Figure 1.1 : Research methodology diagram.....	4
Figure 2.1 : French student poster (Arnstein, 1969).....	18
Figure 2.2 : Before and after urban transformation in El Raval, Barcelona (Url 6). ..	22
Figure 2.3 : Roombeek neighborhood after the explosion (Denters & Klok, 2009). ..	23
Figure 2.4 : Roombeek neighborhood after the renewal (Url 7). ..	24
Figure 2.5 : Dreamhamar project site (Url 11). ..	24
Figure 2.6 : The high-way in Antwerp, Belgium (Url 12). ..	25
Figure 2.7 : The proposed Ringland project (Url 12). ..	26
Figure 3.1 : Diagram of the case study structure.....	39
Figure 3.2 : Map showing location of Yeldeğirmeni neighborhood.....	40
Figure 3.3 : Pervititch map of Kadıköy district (Pervititch, 2000). ..	42
Figure 3.4 : Map of Kadıköy district in 2018.	42
Figure 3.5 : Street view from Yeldeğirmeni Neighborhood.	43
Figure 3.6 : General timeline of the Yeldeğirmeni Neighborhood Renewal Project.	46
Figure 3.7 : Street renovations in the Yeldeğirmeni neighborhood.....	47
Figure 3.8 : Re-construction of a common courtyard (TAK Archive).	47
Figure 3.9 : The Ali İsmail Korkmaz neighborhood park.	48
Figure 3.10 : Actors of the Yeldeğirmeni Renewal Project.....	49
Figure 3.11 : Participation process of Yeldeğirmeni Renewal Project.....	50
Figure 3.12 : Antwerp district and location of project site.	51
Figure 3.13 : Project site before the construction (Wever & Lamberts, 2003).....	52
Figure 3.14 : Planning timeline of Park Spoor Noord Project.....	55
Figure 3.15 : Photo of the project.	56
Figure 3.16 : Photo of the project.	56
Figure 3.17 : Panoramic photo of the project.	56
Figure 3.18 : Photo of the project.	57
Figure 3.19 : Photo of the project.	57
Figure 3.20 : Photo of the project.	58
Figure 3.21 : Photo of a playground from the project.	58
Figure 3.22 : Actors of the Park Spoor Noord project.....	59
Figure 3.23 : Photo from the on-site meetings (Wever & Lamberts, 2003).	60
Figure 3.24 : Communication and participation process of Park Spoor Noord.....	61
Figure 3.25 : The equation used to determine sample size (Url 22).	62
Figure 3.26 : Frequency analysis results for social interaction in the community. ..	65
Figure 3.27 : Frequency analysis results for sense of place.....	66
Figure 3.28 : Frequency analysis results for access to public space.....	66
Figure 3.29 : Frequency analysis results for sense of safety.	67
Figure 3.30 : Frequency analysis results for community stability.....	68
Figure 3.31 : Frequency analysis results for project process.....	69
Figure 3.32 : Frequency analysis results for community awareness.	69
Figure 3.33 : Frequency analysis results for community awareness.	70

Figure 3.34 : Frequency analysis results for social interaction in the community. ..	72
Figure 3.35 : Frequency analysis results for sense of place.....	73
Figure 3.36 : Frequency analysis results for access to public space.....	73
Figure 3.37 : Frequency analysis results for sense of safety.	74
Figure 3.38 : Frequency analysis results for community stability.....	75
Figure 3.39 : Frequency analysis results for project process.....	75
Figure 3.40 : Frequency analysis results for community awareness.	76
Figure 3.41 : Frequency analysis results for community awareness.	76
Figure 3.42 : Comparison results for social interaction in community.	81
Figure 3.43 : Comparison results for sense of place.....	82
Figure 3.44 : Comparison results for community stability.....	83
Figure 3.45 : Comparison results for project process.	84
Figure 3.46 : Comparison results for community awareness.....	86





URBAN REGENERATION PROJECTS FROM THE PERSPECTIVE OF SOCIAL SUSTAINABILITY AND PUBLIC PARTICIPATION: BELGIUM AND TURKEY

SUMMARY

This study focuses on the social aspect of urban development projects through the concept of urban social sustainability. It aims to understand social dynamics related to urban life and present the dimensions of social sustainability in urban development. It also aims to understand the relation between public participation and the concept of social sustainability through urban development project processes. In order to create a concrete basis for the conceptual framework of the thesis, factors are established within the concept of social sustainability.

The study consists of two main parts, a theoretical framework and a case study. A general definition of the concept of social sustainability is given in the first part. The concept is then described more thoroughly in terms of social equity and sustainability of community. In the following section, the concept of public participation is explained in connection with its role in sustainability of community. The role of public participation in urban development projects and different implementation types are investigated in a literature review in which some examples of pioneering approaches to social sustainability and public participation in urban practices from different countries are discussed.

The last section of the theoretical part of this study is a review of urban policies, especially those concerning the approaches of governments toward sustainability and participation. This review focuses on legislation that concerns Belgium and Turkey specifically, since the cases are selected from these countries. Following the literature review and review of urban policies, the study investigates two projects in its fourth part. These projects are selected from countries with different development levels in order to be able to track their implementation, reveal benefits and drawbacks, and provide constructive suggestions for urban development practices.

The case study for this thesis involves two projects in order to provide a comparison between different project processes. The first case, named ‘Yeldeğirmeni Neighborhood Renewal’, is selected from metropolitan city Istanbul, Turkey. The second project, named ‘Park Spoor Noord’, is located in Antwerp, Belgium. In this part of the study, the general project processes, participation processes, and project actors are explained for both cases. The investigations of the cases are developed through a series of structured interviews. As a first step, pre-defined sampling groups of inhabitants in the Yeldeğirmeni and Antwerp-North neighborhoods were asked questions related to the sustainability of their communities, their perceptions of the participatory process of the projects, and their position as participants in the community.

The second step for the case study is conducted through structured interviews with professionals who took part in the project process in the local administrations.

Questions parallel with the ones that inhabitants asked were directed at professionals in order to strengthen the results of the study by adding a second layer and a different perspective.

The statements mentioned in the literature review about the concept of social sustainability are supported by the research and structured interviews in both cases. Through frequency analysis, the strong and weak sides of the projects were detected. Considering the answers from local authorities and the existing urban policies in both Belgium and Turkey, the importance of acknowledging the multidimensional and dynamic structure of urban life and urban social sustainability is emphasized. Strong connections within the community and well-managed communication between the different actors of urban life should enhance participation, sustainability of community, and therefore the urban social sustainability of a particular environment.



SOSYAL SÜRDÜRÜLEBİLİRLİK VE HALK KATILIMI PERSFEKTİFİ İLE KENTSEL YENİLEME PROJELERİ: BELÇİKA VE TÜRKİYE

ÖZET

Günümüz kentleri hızlı kentleşme ve küreselleşmenin etkileri ile gelişmekte ve dönüşmektedir. Kentsel alanlarda hızlı kentleşme ve artan nüfus yoğunlukları ile birlikte, yaşam kalitesini geliştirmek ve iyileştirmek adına çok sayıda proje üretilmekte ve uygulanmaktadır. Ancak, bu uygulamaların çoğu kentsel ve toplumsal dinamiklerin, yerine ve kültürüne göre özelleşen ihtiyaç ve gereksinimlere sahip olması nedeni uzun vadede başarı sağlayamamıştır. Globalleşen dünyada, kentsel alanı etkileyen çalışmaların, bölgeye özgü kentsel dinamikleri tarif ederek ve toplumsal bilinci tetikleyerek, sosyal ve kültürel anlamda sürdürülebilirliği sağlaması gerekliliği kaçınılmaz olmuştur.

Kentsel alanlarda sürdürülebilirlik konusu başlangıçta ekolojik sürdürülebilirlik odaklı ortaya çıkmış olsa dahi son yıllarda sosyal sürdürülebilirlik konusu gündeme gelmiş ve önem kazanmıştır. Bu yaklaşım çerçevesinde, dünya genelinde çalışmalar yapılmaktadır. Lakin, ülkelerin gelişmişlik seviyeleri dikkate alınır ise bu çalışmaların kalitesi, kapsamı ve çalışmaların doğrultusunda sağlanan başarı oranlarında farklılıklar gözlemlenebilmektedir. Bu noktadan yola çıkarak, bu tez çalışmasında kentsel alanlarda sosyal sürdürülebilirlik kavramını ve işleyişini anlamak, bu kavramı alt başlıkları ve faktörleri ile değerlendirerek kentsel gelişim proje süreçleri ile arasında somut bağlantı kurmak, kentsel disiplinlerde katılımcı yaklaşımın sosyal sürdürülebilirliğe nasıl katkı sağladığını tarif etmek ve farklı ülkelerde seçilen alanlar üzerinden bu süreçleri değerlendirerek, süreç yönetiminin nasıl daha iyi hale getirileceğine dair öneriler sunmak hedeflenmiştir. Bu hedef doğrultusunda Belçika ve Türkiye’den kentsel yenileme projeleri seçilerek, sosyal sürdürülebilirlik ve halk katılımı çerçevesinden incelenmiştir.

Çalışmanın birinci bölümünde teorik çerçeve tanımlanmıştır. İlk olarak sosyal sürdürülebilirlik kavramı literatür araştırması doğrultusunda açıklanmıştır. Sosyal sürdürülebilirlik kavramı, sosyal eşitlik ve toplumsal sürdürülebilirlik olarak iki alt başlık halinde incelenmiştir. Bu kavramları kentsel tasarım projeleri ve proje süreçleri ile ilişkilendirebilmek adına ise yapılan literatür araştırması doğrultusunda sosyal eşitlik ve toplumsal sürdürülebilirliği etkileyen faktörler tarif edilmiş ve açıklanmıştır.

Toplumsal sürdürülebilirlik içinde de değerlendirilmesi mümkün olan halk katılımı konusu ise ikinci aşamada ele alınmıştır. Bu bölümde, halk katılımı konusunun literatürde nasıl yer aldığı ve nasıl sınıflandırmalara tabii tutulduğu açıklanmıştır. Halk katılımının kentsel disiplinlerde ve kentsel projelerde nasıl işlendiğinden bahsedilmiştir. Bu yaklaşım ile kentsel tasarım, gelişim proje süreçleri arasındaki somut bağlantıyı daha net gösterebilmek adına dünya genelinden katılımcı yaklaşımları ile öncü kabul edilebilecek proje örneklerine yer verilmiştir.

Devamında, günümüz kentlerinde sosyal sürdürülebilirliğin sağlanabilmesi için önemli rol oynayan kentsel politikalar ele alınmıştır. Bu politikaların seçiminde

alışma doęrultusunda incelenmiř olan proje alanlarının bulunduęu lkeler esas alınmıřtır. Belika ve Trkiye odaklı olan bu blmde, ncelikle Avrupa genelini ilgilendiren kentsel politikalar doęrultusunda birinci ve ikinci Avrupa Kentsel řartı irdelenmiřtir. Belika iinde yrrlkte olan kentsel politikalar, lkenin ynetim yapısı gereęi, lke geneli ve Flanders blgesi řeklinde iki ařamalı olarak tarif edilmiřtir. Blmn son kısmında Trkiye’de yrrlkte olan kentsel politikalardan bahsedilmiřtir. Bu kapsamda Belediye Kanunu ve kent konseylerinin ierik ve iřleyiřleri, ardından kentleřme ve řehirleřme řralarının alıřmaları anlatılmıřtır.

alıřmanın ikinci blmnde tez kapsamında gerekleřtirilen alan alıřması aıklanmıřtır. Alan alıřması, tezin kavramsal erevesi ve hedefleri doęrultusunda iki lkede gerekleřtirilmiř projelerin karřılařtırması řeklinde planlanmıřtır. Bu kapsamda, birinci alan Trkiye’nin metropoliten řehri İstanbul’da gerekleřtirilmiř olan Yeldeęirmeni Mahalle Yenileme Projesi olarak seilmiřtir. Proje, tarihi gemiř zengin ve řehir merkezinde bulunmasına raęmen bakımsız hale gelmiř, sunduęu yařam kalitesi zayıflamıř olan Yeldeęirmeni mahallesinin canlandırılması hedeflenerek planlanmıřtır. İkinci alan ise Belika’nın metropoliten řehri Antwerp’de bulunan Park Spoor Noord projesidir. Bu proje, Antwerp-North mahallesinde bulunan Belika demiryollarına ait atıl, boř alanın kentsel yeřil alan olarak yenilenmesi řeklinde tanımlanabilir.

ncelikli olarak her iki proje iin de mevcut literatr ve materyaller taranarak genel sre aıklanmıřtır. Proje alanlarının bulunduęu blgeler, genel tarihi sreleri hakkında bilgiler aktarılmıřtır. Bunu takiben, projelerin hedefleri, sreleri ve proje srecinde rol almıř olan aktrler hakkında bilgi verilmiřtir. Ek olarak, proje srelerinin sosyal boyutu ve katılımcı sreleri detaylı olarak arařtırılmıř ve sre diyagramları oluřturularak aıklanmıřtır.

Yeldeęirmeni Mahalle Yenileme ve Park Spoor Noord projeleri baz alınarak gerekleřtirilmiř olan alan alıřması doęrultusunda, mahalle sakinleri ile yapılandırılmıř grřmeler yapılmıřtır. Amalı rnekleme yntemi kullanılarak ve mahalle nfus sayımları gz nnde bulundurularak rnekleme byklę her iki mahalle iin de 61 kiři olarak belirlenmiřtir. Aynı zamanda, grřmeciler proje uygulamasından nce hali hazırda mahallede ikamet etmekte olan bireylerden seilmiřtir. Bu grřmeler, toplumsal srdrlebilirlik ve halk katılımı altında iki blmden oluřmaktadır. Bu kapsamda grřmecilere toplum ii sosyal etkileřim, mekn algısı, yerel toplumsal memnuniyet, gvenlik algısı, toplumsal istikrar gibi konularda sorular yneltilmiřtir. Ayrıca mahalle sakinlerinin proje srecine hangi oranda, ne řekilde katılım gerekleřtirdikleri ve kentsel konularda katılımcı yaklařım hakkındaki farkındalık ve bakıř aılarını anlamaya ynelik sorulara da yer verilmiřtir. Her iki projeden elde edilen sonular paralel olarak karřılařtırılmıřtır. Proje uygulama ncesi ve sonrasına dair yanıtlar ile tespit edilen deęiřim doęrultusunda, projelerin katılımcı sre ynetiminin bařarı oranı ve blgelerin sosyal srdrlebilirliklerine saęladıkları katkı tartıřılmıřtır.

alıřmanın verimini arttırabilmek adına mahalle sakinleri ile yrtlmř yapılandırılmıř grřmelere ek olarak, yerel otoriteler bnyesinde proje srecinde rol almıř olan profesyoneller ile de benzer yapılandırılmıř grřmeler yapılmıřtır. Bu grřmeler ile, proje srelerinde katılımcı yaklařımın nasıl yrtldę, sre ierisinde yařanmıř olan zorluklar, sre ierisinde lkelerin kentsel politikalarının proje ile iliřkisi ve aktrlerin deneyimleri doęrultusunda kentsel projelerde katılımcı yaklařımın ve projelerin kentsel alanların sosyal srdrlebilirlięine daha iyi katkı

sağlayabilmesi için ne gibi politik iyileştirmelere ihtiyaç duyulduğu ortaya çıkarılmak istenmiştir.

Alan çalışmaları ile elde edilen veriler ve yapılandırılmış görüşme sorularının sonuç analizleri, Yeldeğirmeni Mahalle Yenileme Projesi ve Park Spoor Noord Projesi için karşılaştırmalar yapılarak değerlendirilmiştir. Yerel otorite içinde çalışan kişiler ile yapılmış olan görüşmelerin sonuçları ise yapılan karşılaştırmaya ikinci bir boyut katılmıştır. Ulaşılan sonuçlar, sosyal sürdürülebilirlik, toplumsal sürdürülebilirlik ve halk katılımı konuları ile paralel olarak, çalışmanın dinamik ve çok katmanlı bir yapıya sahip olmasına katkıda bulunmuştur.

Yapılandırılmış görüşmeler sonucunda Yeldeğirmeni Mahalle Yenileme Projesi ve Park Spoor Noord projesi arasında belli farklılıkların ön plana çıktığı gözlemlenmiştir. Kısaca kolektif aktiviteler, mahalle sakinlerinin yaşam alanları ile kurdukları duygusal bağ, kamusal alana erişim imkânı gibi konuların Park Spoor Noord projesi ile birlikte Antwerp-North mahalle sakinlerine göre pozitif bir artış doğurmuştur. Aynı zamanda bu proje ile birlikte Antwerp-North sakinlerinin mahallede yaşamaya devam etme ve çocuklarını ya da torunlarını mahallede yetiştirme istekleri artmıştır. Yeldeğirmeni Mahalle Yenileme Projesi ise bu konularda Park Spoor Noord projesinde daha düşük sonuçlar göstermiş, ancak bahsi geçen belli konular dışında eşdeğer sonuçlara ulaşılmıştır. Görüşmenin ikinci bölümü doğrultusunda ise Park Spoor Noord proje sürecinde gerçekleştirilmiş bilgilendirmelerin, halk toplantılarının ve kamusal aktivitelerin daha verimli olduğu ve mahalle sakinlerini kentsel konularda katılımlarının önemi konusunda, Yeldeğirmeni projesine kıyas ile, fark edilir oranda bilinçlendiği gözlemlenmiştir.

Yerel otoriteler ile yürütülmüş görüşmelerin sonuçları ise mahalle sakinleri ile yapılmış yapılandırılmış görüşme sonuçları ile paralellik göstermektedir. Park Spoor Noord projesi süreci esnasında halk katılımının Yeldeğirmeni Mahalle Yenileme Projesi'ne kıyasla daha verimli olduğu; Belçika kentsel politikalarının kentsel sosyal sürdürülebilirlik ve halk katılımı konularında Türkiye politikalarına kıyas ile proje süreçlerini destekleyici ve kolaylaştırıcı olduğu anlaşılmıştır.

Sonuç olarak, bu çalışma doğrultusunda kentsel alanlarda sosyal sürdürülebilirliğin önemi vurgulanmış, halk katılımının bu kapsamdaki önemli rolü irdelenmiştir. Yapılan karşılaştırmalı alan çalışması doğrultusunda, her bölgenin kendine özgü sosyal ve kültürel dinamikleri olduğu göz ardı edilmeksizin, toplum içinde dayanışmanın sağlanabilmesi ve kentsel sosyal sürdürülebilirliğin sağlanabilmesi için kent içindeki tüm aktörlerin bilinçlenmesi ve iletişim ortamının kuvvetlendirilmesinin gerekliliği ve önemi anlaşılmıştır.



1. INTRODUCTION

It takes countless different constituents in balance to form a city. Over time, especially with the effects of industrialization, the word ‘city’ has gained much more meaning and importance. This situation also created ecological and social side effects alongside its manifold benefits for our communities. These side effects have also become widespread with globalization. After decades of developments in creating better cities, the sustainability of a city has gained importance followed closely by social sustainability. The contradiction between these concepts is seen in parallel with the development levels of countries. Although the effects of globalization are quite visible all around the world, the quality of its implementation has varied, especially in ecological and social matters. By acknowledging that urban development projects have become vital for the sustainability of urban environments, it is also acknowledged that urban projects affect mostly the community and should be designed in order to enhance both ecological and social sustainability.

Over the last few decades, social sustainability became as important a concept as ecological sustainability. This consciousness has brought the importance of the citizen’s role to the fore. At the present time, the role of the citizen in urban development is an irrefutable factor promoting the welfare and sustainability of our cities. Although there are some trends that disregard the views of local inhabitants, the global viewpoint is progressing towards acknowledging the substantial role of citizens as actors of urban development. In parallel with this acknowledgement, governments are paying attention to matters of social sustainability and creating legislation suitable for the conception and implementation of social sustainability in urban development projects.

In light of such actions, especially in the development and social sustainability of urban areas, the concept of participation has become visible thanks to its ability to contribute to the social sustainability of cities. However, because the development of this concept is quite recent, there are not fixed standards concerning how should we act in order to maintain participatory practices in urban life. In the literature, it can be said that there

is a consensus about these issues, but such consensus is lacking when it comes to the project process because of the dynamic structure of urban social life. In the years ahead and in light of pilot projects and projects already implemented concerning social sustainability and public participation, the path will be more obvious. From this point of view, this study is intended to make a contribution to the evaluation of urban projects through the concept of social sustainability. The aims, scope and methodology of the thesis are explained in more detail in the following chapters.

1.1 Research Aim and Scope

This study aims to seek an understanding of urban design projects from a social perspective by focusing on communities with different cultural and sociological backgrounds. The concepts of social sustainability and public participation are used to draw a framework for the study. The objectives of the study derived from this perspective are;

- To understand the relationship between the concept of social sustainability and urban projects,
- To express the position and importance of public participation as a factor of social sustainability in the urban project process,
- To understand the variables of participatory processes in urban projects under different socio-cultural backgrounds,
- To provide constructive suggestions by defining positive outcomes of public participation according to implemented projects.

This study focuses on the social aspect of urban design practices. From this approach, the concept of social sustainability is used to create a framework. There are two dimensions of this concept, mentioned above as social equity and sustainability of community. In order to create a concrete connection between social sustainability and urban design projects, from the factors of social equity and sustainability of community have been introduced. From this point forth, the concept of public participation in urban practices is explained as a factor in the sustainability of community. On the other side, the urban policies of the countries where the case studies are located are mentioned so that issues related to social equity will not be disregarded. The study investigates these concepts through specific case studies from

Belgium and Turkey. Through these implemented projects, each nation's approach to social sustainability and actions related to public participation is evaluated before and after implementation, and the two nations' efforts are compared.

1.2 Research Methodology

The study is based on a conceptual framework that will embody a comparative case study. In order to provide an understanding of recent urban development approaches considering sustainability, the concept of social sustainability is explained through a literature review. In defining the concept, its two main aspects—social equity and sustainability—are determined and explained based upon the literature concerning it. Next, in order to investigate social sustainability in urban development projects, the literature review focuses on the concept of public participation. As these concepts are related to city life, urban policies in this area play an important role. Within the scope of this thesis, the urban policies of the selected countries that are related to the conceptual framework are indicated before the details about the cases. The outcomes of the literature review will later be used as an input for the evaluation of the study cases from the conceptual framework of social sustainability and public participation.

The conceptual framework of the study is analyzed through a comparative case study (Figure 1.1). The selection of the cases was made considering the general approaches of the countries to social sustainability. From this point, the first case was selected in the metropolitan city of Istanbul in Turkey, where urban development projects that generate monetary profit are quite common.

Turkey, as a developing country, can be considered to be still at the beginning stages of structuring the overall process required for urban regeneration projects. The second case is selected from the European continent in order to create common ground in the discussion of the projects. Despite many dissimilarities, urban living conditions in many European countries are similar to those in Turkey, especially in metropolitan cities. Moreover, the social sustainability approach to urban development is more carefully considered in Europe than in still-developing countries. The second case has therefore been selected from Antwerp, one of the biggest cities of Belgium. While Turkey does not have as many projects as Europe that consider social sustainability, since the concept lacks a long history in implementation, this does not mean that there is not enough value placed upon social sustainability in urban environments in Turkey.

Moreover, it provides an opportunity for this research to analyze, understand and compare projects considering different urban policies and time-related variables.

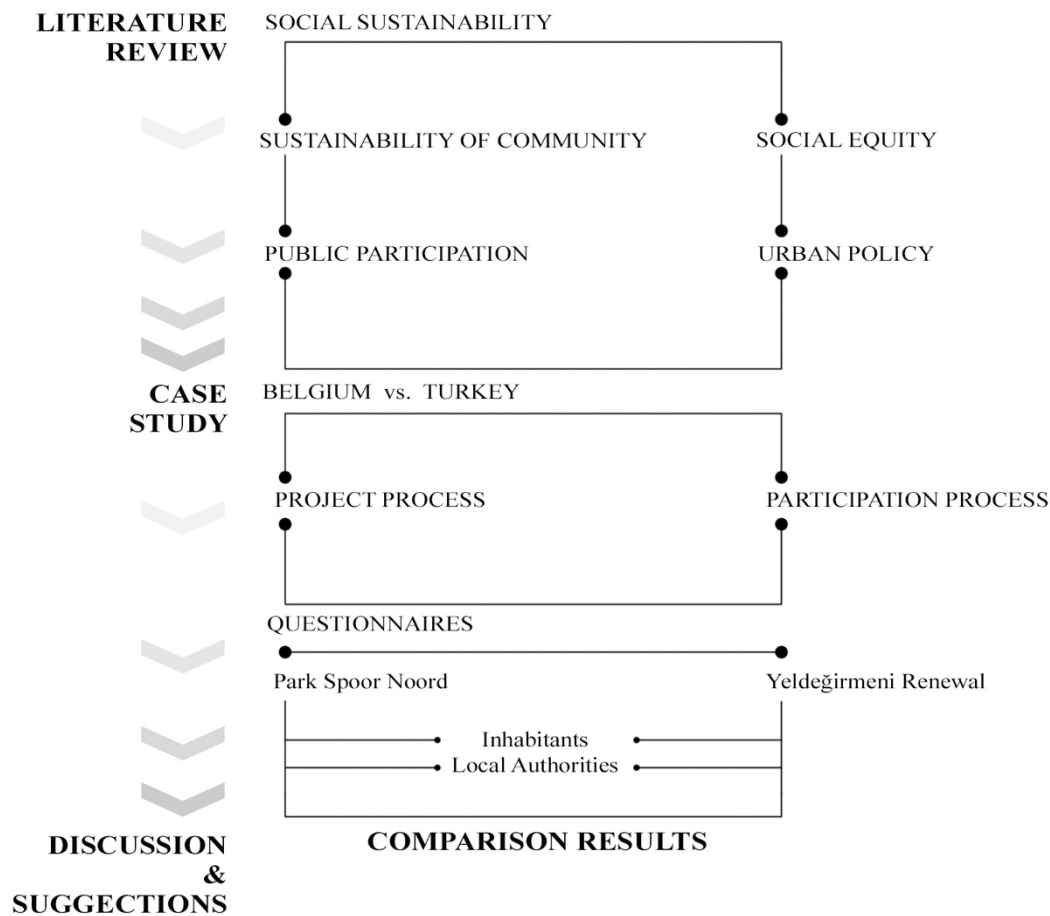


Figure 1.1 : Research methodology diagram.

The case study consists of the urban regeneration projects, one from Istanbul, Turkey, and one from Antwerp, Belgium. Taking place in economic centers and metropolitan cities of their countries, each project stands out as an important example from the perspective of social sustainability. It is also significant that both projects value their participatory processes.

The first case is located in the metropolitan city Istanbul in Turkey. The project, named the ‘Yeldeğirmeni Neighborhood Renewal’ was conceived by the Kadıköy Municipality to rehabilitate and reinstate the urban texture of the neighborhood. What led this project to be chosen for this thesis was its unique approach to social issues. Among the many urban development projects in Istanbul, this project stands out in its attempts to protect inhabitants’ interests and maintain the process of communication

with them. This social approach is explained and investigated in terms of social sustainability and public participation within the scope of this study.

The second case is also located in a metropolitan city—Antwerp, a fast-growing financial and urban center in the Flanders Region of Belgium. The project, known as Park Spoor Noord, is an urban park in the Antwerp-North neighborhood. Among urban development projects in Antwerp, this case stands out as a great contribution to the social and ecological quality of the neighborhood. Moreover, the planning and design process of the project serves as an example of public participation. The project process and the communication between actors are laid out in this thesis in accordance with the conceptual framework.

The projects have some distinct dissimilarities in their scale and class. The Yeldeğirmeni case is a neighborhood renewal project, while the Antwerp case is more like an urban landscape project for a neighborhood. The Antwerp case has many dimensions, such as its unifying and regenerating role and its participatory approach throughout the process, that make it possible to consider it urban regeneration. Moreover, the research focuses on the cases through the concepts of social sustainability and public participation. Rather than classifying the projects, it evaluates them through their relationship with the urban texture and the community.

The study uses the purposeful sampling method because of the qualitative features of the conceptual framework. Yıldırım and Şimşek (2016/1999) explains this method as useful for examining phenomena and cases suitable for this study. Typical case sampling is used to narrate and compare the two different projects in Belgium and Turkey. The sampling is selected from the inhabitants of the Yeldeğirmeni and Antwerp-North neighborhoods. In order to determine the sample size, population sizes were considered with confidence level of %90 and a margin of error of 0.10. The Yeldeğirmeni neighborhood population is 14.276 (Url 1), while that of Antwerp-North is 44.116 (Url 2). According to the equation for purposeful sampling, the sampling size for both neighborhoods should be 61 persons per project. In addition, the sampling is limited to inhabitants who were living in the neighborhoods before the projects' implementation. Structured interviews were held with the sample groups, with questions derived according to the literature review concerning sustainability of community and public participation.

Together with the structured interviews for inhabitants, additional structured interviews were carried out with professionals who had a part in the project process and with the local authorities in the relevant cases. The interviews for analyzing the projects were used to provide a multi-dimensional approach and increase the reliability of the study. More detailed information about the cases, project processes, interview results and considerations will be given in the chapters following the literature reviews of social sustainability, sustainability of community, and public participation.

1.3 Limitations of the Research

There were many aspects to the challenges presented by this research. The literature concerning the social sustainability, public participation, and urban policies related to these two ideas is very complex. By focusing on urban regeneration projects, these concepts can be narrowed down to create a reasonable discussion ground.

The case study process faced some obstacles in the research stage. In order to achieve its objectives and provide constructive suggestions for more sustainable urban regeneration projects in Turkey, the case study was shaped as a comparison between two projects from different countries, each with a participatory process and selected from projects already implemented at least 5 years previously. Although there are many urban regeneration projects in Turkey, almost all of them displace current inhabitants and acts upon economic income. The selected Yeldeğirmeni case is a unique example in Turkish urban regeneration as it is considered to have relatively successfully taken into account inhabitants' interests and included them in the project process. For the Belgium case, the selected project differs in scale and type; however, it is the most proper comparison given the selected criteria. There are more projects with participatory approaches than in Turkey, but most of them are not old enough to evaluate the outcomes or are merely pilot projects.

2. THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

2.1 Defining Social Sustainability

The concept of social sustainability has come into the foreground in discussions concerning urban development and urban renewal in the past few decades. The importance given to urban social sustainability has increased alongside that of ecological sustainability. Considering that most of the world's population is living in an urban environment, this elevation was inevitable. At present, the positions of urban planning and design play an important role in descriptions and practices related to urban social sustainability. The literature written about the concept itself also comprises broader themes both within and beyond its traditional scope. Defining the concept in concrete terms has thus not been very easy; indeed, even the general concept of sustainability has defied strict definition. . The fact that any kind of place is in a constant state of progress and is permanently affected by various factors implies that social sustainability is dynamic (Dempsey, Bramley, Power, & Brown, 2011). The infinite progress of the society itself constitutes into the dynamism of the concept of social sustainability. With the needs and desires of people constantly shifting, it is not possible to delimitate the concept with fixed formulas (Haqi, 2016).

Both former and current studies show that there are many coexistent definitions of social sustainability. According to the World Commission on Environment and Development (1987), sustainability depends on meeting 'the needs of the present without compromising with the ability of future generations to meet their own need'. It is consistent with this idea to say that interpretations of social sustainability are connected with the people and are differentiable according to people's opinions about how they are shaping their own lives (Chan & Lee, 2008). In parallel with these descriptions, social sustainability cannot be restricted to certain perpetually valid features; it is a dynamic progress shaped by various social factors and viewpoints (A. Z. Khan, Vandevyvere, & Allacker, 2013). Social sustainability in an urban context is defined as an environment where human interaction, transmission and culture come together in order to provide for the survival of a city for the years ahead. This definition

is unconnected to some types of sustainability, but it finds its place in between others such as economical or ecological sustainability (Yiftachel & Hedgcock, 1993). The generally accepted consideration of the concept asserts that it is formed by environmental, economic and social constituents (Chan & Lee, 2008). This general definition is classified in three parts by Vallance et al. (2011) as development, bridge and maintenance sustainability. These parts gather together to form an integral whole. Development sustainability represents people's needs, bridge sustainability stands on behalf of ecological environments and maintenance sustainability involves the socio-cultural values and desires of a community; these three come together as one whole social sustainability concept. Chan and Lee's (2008) contribution to the literature explains sustainable development as concurrently with the concept of social sustainability: "sustainable development creates good communities serving different needs of current population without sacrificing the resources available for the future generations." (p.245).

The relationship between community and sustainability has a great role in the literature of social sustainability. This complexity is defined as the coherent progress of each and every component, regardless of the ethnic or cultural differences, that belongs to a community; such progress encourages a physical atmosphere into an integrated whole and at the same time kindles a social integrity that paves the way for advancements that boost a community's quality of life (Polèse & Stren, 2000). Some concepts mentioned within the scope of social sustainability, such as social equity and social justice, are also of particular importance. In order to ensure social sustainability for any community, progress must be planned through interactions and communication on equal, overarching, and permanent grounds. The dynamic process of social sustainability involves not just social matters; environmental, ecological and economic factors are also important for the general scope of the concept (Dempsey et al., 2011). Bradley and Power (2009) supports this standpoint, asserting that social equity corresponds with accessibility while sustainability of communities comprises safety, attachment to place, environmental quality, participation and so on, resulting a recessed bond and form the general concept of social sustainability.

The overall concept of social sustainability reveals the importance of acknowledging its dynamic structure. Theoretical studies, as indicated above, within the literature, show that the connection between people, the economy, and the environment has to be

considered as a whole. It should not be forgotten that the dynamic process of social sustainability puts the welfare of the community first. Increasing the population of an urban area for economic purposes is not what sustainability is about; rather, it is predominately about fixing social structure and community in the long-term (Thwaites, 2007).

The concept of social sustainability appears more substantial when it is connected with a city or neighborhood. Throughout the past few decades, considerations of the results of urban development projects to transform cities into remarkable attraction centers have started to reveal that the innovations inspired by that desire have led to the neglect of cities' function as living spaces. Such approaches surely have benefits for our cities, but at the same time they generate a lack of enough infrastructure to reach the desired social sustainability for the people (Thwaites, 2007). This unfavorable circumstance could represent itself in variable forms, such as architecture lacking the local character, obstacles to the alternatives offered to inhabitants, action based on short-term benefits instead of advocacy for social sustainability for the years ahead, and the inability to adapt structures for different possibilities in the future (Thwaites, 2011).

Jacobs and Appleyard claim that designers modify living spaces without enlightening their inhabitants in most projects and that this neglect leads to a shallow understanding which ignores the local and vernacular cultural values of an environment (as cited in Thwaites, 2007). From this point of view, the role of authorities, planners and designers in maintaining social sustainability in urban development is to create a bridge with the community and minimize the damage of urban projects to the socio-cultural fabric of the city (Ho et al., 2012). The long-term, socially sustainable success of an urban development project requires gathering inhabitants of different ethnicities together and creating a surface communication (Enyedi, 2002). The importance of the role of aspects in urban practices is summarized by Thwaites (2007) as “but the question remains: will they stay there, will they feel able to put down roots, to raise their families, develop and sustain neighborhoods? If not, in what way can we say that this approach is socially sustainable?” (p.5).

The relationship between inhabitants and the environment has a great deal of influence over the dynamic process of social sustainability. Rather than being excluded, the community should be located at the center of the development and design process and should be allowed to shape their environment no matter what the outcome is going to

be (Thwaites, 2011). In this way, the environment, neighborhood, district, or city will be embraced and protected by the community in the long-term.

Beyond these definitions and discussions about social sustainability and its relationship with urban development, there is varied literature about the dimensions of social sustainability. Considering social sustainability is a dynamic and abstract concept, these dimensions initiate more solid ground in the theoretical framework.

2.1.1 Dimensions of Social Sustainability

An understanding of the concept of social sustainability is connected to the variability of features affecting the formation process in specified environments. The classifications of these features also vary in former studies, often expressed as non-physical and physical factors or social equity and sustainability of community. It is also seen in the literature that these factors are investigated more as embedded issues without fixed distinctions (Bramley & Power, 2009; Dempsey et al., 2011; Kwan Esther Yung & Wan Edwin Chan, 2012). In this thesis, two main facets of social sustainability are discussed—social equity and sustainability of community—along with the factors that influence them (Table 2.1 and Table 2.2). Both of these concepts are essential in providing social sustainability for an urban space.

Social equity is mostly concerned with social requirements and governmental concerns on the scale of a city or country, while sustainability of the community, on the scale of a district or neighborhood, is focused on community, life quality and participatory interactions between inhabitants. It should not be forgotten that these two main dimensions for achieving urban social sustainability require harmony in issues of social structure, the economy, ecology and quality of life (Dempsey et al., 2011). Social equity, sustainability of community, and the factors affecting each are discussed in detail below.

2.1.2 Social equity

Social equity as one of the main two dimensions of urban social sustainability is related to urban policies, as well as public welfare services such as accessibility to healthcare and employment. The use of the term can be traced back to the beginnings of industrialization and urbanization, movements which obviously entailed certain problems.

Table 2.1 : Factors of social equity (Bramley & Power, 2009; Chan & Lee, 2008; Dave, 2011; Dempsey et al., 2011; Kwan Esther Yung & Wan Edwin Chan, 2012).

SOCIAL EQUITY				
DEMPSEY ET AL, 2011	BRAMLEY & POWER, 2009	DAVE, 2011	CHAN & LEE, 2008	YUNG & CHAN, 2012
Accessibility (to education, decent housing, public services, social infrastructure, green space, culture and recreation)	Access (to services, facilities and opportunities)	Access (to facilities and amenities)	Accessibility	Fair Distribution of Resources
Affordable Housing	Access to Jobs	Health of Inhabitants	Availability of Job Opportunities	Quality of Built Environment
	Affordable Housing	Family Income / Finance	Provision of Social Infrastructure	Maintenance
	Social Justice	Amount of Living Space		Acknowledging Cultural Diversity
		Land Use Diversity		Long Term Vision
		Infrastructure Planning		
		Urban Policy Design		
		Efficient Governance		

Table 2.2 : Factors of sustainability of community (Bramley & Power, 2009; Chan & Lee, 2008; Dave, 2011; Dempsey et al., 2011; Kwan Esther Yung & Wan Edwin Chan, 2012).

SUSTAINABILITY OF COMMUNITY				
DEMPSEY ET AL, 2011	BRAMLEY & POWER, 2009	DAVE, 2011	CHAN & LEE, 2008	YUNG & CHAN, 2012
Social Interaction / Social Networks in Community (between community members)	Interaction with Other Residents or Social Networks	Perceived Environmental Quality	Ability to Fulfill Psychological Needs (security)	User's Quality of Life
Participation in Collective Groups & Networks in Community	Participation in Collective Community Activities	Participation in Collective Civic Activities	Preservation of Local Characteristics	Community Access and Participation
Community Stability	Pride or Sense of Place	Safety within Neighborhood	Townscape Design (citizen satisfaction)	Sense of Place and Identity
Pride / Sense of Place	Residential Stability (turnover)	Attachment to Neighborhood		
Safety / Security	Security (lack of crime and disorder)	Satisfaction with Home		
		Social Interaction		

The desire for socially stable and equal communities came to light especially in issues related to city planning. By the time industrialization and urbanization were well underway, these social problems began to be considered in urban policies worldwide (Yiftachel & Hedgcock, 1993). From this perspective, it can be understood that social equity serves to solve certain problems that occurred throughout the progress of urbanization.

Social equity comprises a broader scale for urban environments such as cities, provinces or countries. Burton Dempsey et al. (2011) claims that social equity is based on equality in every different aspect that affects people's living conditions (as cited in Dempsey et al., 2011). Although there are discussions about whether it is connected to issues of social capital and social cohesion (Bramley & Power, 2009), focus will be given to social equity in this study. There is a consensus in the literature that this judgment is applicable to social sustainability. Therefore, in accordance with the literature review, five factors were derived by the author to give further information about social equity. These factors are;

- Accessibility (to services, social infrastructure, education, culture and recreation)
- Availability of job opportunities
- Decent and affordable housing
- Quality of the built environment
- Efficient governance and urban policy

The issue of accessibility comprises the large and relatively more important part of social equity (Bramley & Power, 2009), broadly representing accessibility to public services, social infrastructure, facilities, amenities, decent housing, culture and recreation (Bramley & Power, 2009; Chan & Lee, 2008; Dave, 2011; Dempsey et al., 2011). First and foremost, basic necessities such as educational institutions, healthcare facilities, and social infrastructure, and the ability to access them, should be provided, followed by ensured access to secondary needs such as cultural and recreational activities (Chan & Lee, 2008). These terms related to accessibility play a substantial role in citizen's living conditions. Therefore, it is directly connected to generating socially sustainable urban environments.

The availability of job opportunities and decent, affordable housing are also relatively important issues for social sustainability (Bramley & Power, 2009). Varied and agreeable working possibilities will support people financially and psychologically. This is another issue that is directly connected with living quality, and thus social sustainability (Chan & Lee, 2008).

The quality of the built environment and efficient governance and urban policy follows accessibility, working conditions and housing in importance. A well planned and maintained urban environment is going to benefit of citizens, as it allows for both better accessibility and housing. Efficient governance and urban policy are also as essential as these other factors of social equity. Urban policy should give public welfare top priority. The role of administration and government is vital in this area. The authorities are obliged to manage the issues discussed as factors of social equity. Ensuring social equity will effectively protect present and future generations and provide sustainability. Although it is believed that social equity is mostly concerned with the city or country scale, social equity and its factors should not be ignored at the neighborhood scale (Chan & Lee, 2008).

2.1.3 Sustainability of community

The other main dimension considered of social sustainability in the literature is sustainability of communities. This aspect mostly focuses on the neighborhood scale. There are few factors that promote this sustainability mentioned in the literature. Dave (2011) summarizes these factors as place attachment, interaction within the community, safety, environmental quality, permanency and participatory activities; Bramley and Power (2009) adds stability on the residential level to interaction with social networks, participation in collective activities, and a sense of space and safety. The overall viewpoints for community sustainability are summarized under five factors for this thesis. These are;

- Social interaction and participation in the community
- Sense of place
- Satisfaction of inhabitants
- Sense of safety
- Community stability

Social interaction and participation in community, as the first factor for community sustainability, comprises social relations within a community: how well do the inhabitants communicate, what kind of social networks do they have, what kind of collective activities are organized, how do the inhabitants participate in these activities, and what are their personal opinions about these kinds of interactions. There is a consensus in the literature that participation has a non-negligible positive effect for sustainability of communities, and hence for social sustainability (Dempsey et al., 2011). A high level of participatory actions in a neighborhood will promote attachment among inhabitants and lead them to conserve their environment in the present and for the years ahead (Woolever, 1992). Bradley and Power (2009) claims that it is possible to increase the connection between individuals of a community through their participation in collective activities. Social interaction and participation, if present, are also effective for community sustainability in urban design projects. It is also possible to consider these concepts as the opportunity of inhabitants to design creative processes connected to their own urban environments (Kwan Esther Yung & Wan Edwin Chan, 2012). The issue of public participation and its interaction with urban design practices will be discussed thoroughly in the following chapter of this thesis.

The other factor in community sustainability is referred to as a sense of place in the literature. The feeling of belonging to an urban environment will promote inhabitants to embrace the place, which will increase its sustainability. Rapoport (1982) declares that the relationship between space and living style provide meaning for that specific environment and therefore creates a connection between individuals and space. This connection should also be supported by protecting the native features of the environment. Apart from the built heritage from past generations, preserving traditions of a community will increase the sense of place by conveying what was valuable and create a desire to protect this heritage (Chan & Lee, 2008).

The satisfaction of inhabitants has also great deal of importance in community sustainability. The quality of the built environment, how well it is designed and what kind of opportunities it offers to inhabitants will give the space solidarity and lead inhabitants to embrace their own living environment (Chan & Lee, 2008). How the inhabitants perceive their environment is connected to how satisfied they are. If this connection is positive, there will be natural attempts from the community to protect and maintain their living environment.

Safety issues follow social interaction, participation, sense of place and satisfaction of inhabitants as another essential factor of sustainability of community. People want to live in secure, peaceful environment without theft, vandalism or any other life-threatening actions (Chan & Lee, 2008). This issue corresponds with the urban design quality of an environment and its community's level of participation. An environment where inhabitants are actively participating in decision making and design processes related to their own living space will meet their desires and promote satisfaction (Chan & Lee, 2008).

Community stability was selected as another substantial factor for sustainability of community. The will of inhabitants to spend the rest of their lives in an environment is a significant indicator for social sustainability. Stability of community is also connected to crime rates (Bramley & Power, 2009). People tend to choose urban spaces with lower crime to spend their lives and this situation will promote social sustainability for urban environments. The factors mentioned above and their determinant features on the neighborhood scale are listed in Table 2.3. These factors will further be used for examination and comparison of case studies from the perspective of sustainability of community, and thus social sustainability, in this thesis.

Although they can be examined separately, it should not be ignored that all these factors for social equity and for sustainability of community are connected. As social sustainability is a dynamic concept, every aspect of it is interwoven and equally important. In this research, participation in social sustainability will be investigated in detail in order to understand, examine, and evaluate its interaction with present urban design practices.

2.2 Public Participation

Public participation, which is like social sustainability quite a broad topic, finds a place among the features discussed above as a factor of the sustainability of community aspect of social sustainability. In English dictionaries, the definition of participation is 'the action of taking part in something' (Url 3) or 'an act of intense of participating, the fact of taking part as in some action or attempt, a sharing as in benefits or profits' (Url 4). The equivalent word for participation in Turkish is defined as the action of participating by the Turkish Language Association (Url 5).

Table 2.3 : Factors of sustainability of community and their determinant features.

FACTORS	DETERMINANT FEATURES
Social Interaction in Community	informal conversations with other inhabitants in daily life communication between neighbors level of collective activities level of attendance to collective activities
Sense of Place	emotional connection with neighborhood perceived change of the historic texture protection of local values
Satisfaction of Inhabitants	accessibility to public amenities perceived design quality of built environment
Sense of Safety	amount of criminal activities in day time amount of criminal activities in night time perceived neighborliness
Community Stability	will of living in the neighborhood in future years will of raising future generations in the neighborhood

Moreover, in daily use the word describes being deliberately effective and active for a specific process or occasion (Hacılibeyoğlu, 2013). There are many other definitions for participation in the literature. Hacılibeyoğlu (2013) summarizes the definition as every movement and action originating from individual activities and each and every action and interaction of people to be involved in certain steps or in the full extent of a decision making process from the very beginning to the end; until the activities of non-governmental organizations (Hacılibeyoğlu, 2013). Like social sustainability, participation is a dynamic and multi-dimensional concept. Communication, interaction, responsibility, volunteerism, environmental consciousness, attachment, culture, democracy, and negotiation are some notions that characterize the concept that are observed within the framework of participation. This observation makes it possible to mention partaken or participant and participated occasion or idea. Accordingly,

participation is a dynamic concept derived from these interactive phenomena which can be seen as a small reaction or as organization on the urban scale (Hacılibeyoğlu, 2013).

The concept of public participation is also classified in several categories. Arnstein (1969) classifies types of participation with a ladder of citizen participation (Table 2.4). The ladder separates public participation into three main categories: non-participation, tokenism and citizen power. The lowest level, classified as non-participation, is characterized by manipulation and therapy. The purpose underlying these so-called types of participation is to give authorities power to control people through remediation; indeed, there is no concrete participatory action from the citizen's perspective (Arnstein, 1969). Tokenism follows non-participation as the second classification in the ladder. Informing, consideration and placation are the hallmarks of tokenism. Unlike non-participation tokenism allows the citizens to have a voice in the process of decision making. However, there is always the question of whether this voice will be taken into consideration. In tokenism, there is no guarantee that the opinions of citizen will be followed; instead, the authorities still have all the power in the decision-making process (Arnstein, 1969). The last classification, citizen power, consists of three types: partnership, delegated power and citizen control. Partnership represents the citizen right to interact with authorities and conduct negotiations on their own behalf. Citizen control and delegated power refer to the general or overall rights of the citizen along with authorities in the decision-making process (Arnstein, 1969).

Table 2.4 : The ladder of citizen participation (Arnstein, 1969).

8	Citizen Control	Degrees of Citizen Power
7	Delegated Power	
6	Partnership	
5	Placation	Degrees of Tokenism
4	Consultation	
3	Informing	
2	Therapy	Non-participation
1	Manipulation	

These classifications are not strictly separated in reality. There are countless viewpoints and opinions, even in the smallest groups of people. The point that should not be forgotten is the meaning of this concept of public participation, what values it represents and how it relates to present social conditions. Arnstein (1969) gives a short but explanatory answer for these questions;

My answer to the critical what question is simply that citizen participation is a categorical term for citizen power. It is the redistribution of power that enables the have-not citizens, presently excluded from the political and economic processes, to be deliberately included in the future. It is the strategy by which the have-nots join in determining how information is shared, goals and policies are set, tax resources are allocated, programs are operated, and benefits like contracts and patronage are parceled out. (Arnstein, 1969, p.216)

Although this answer summarizes the concept quite successfully, there are some obstacles to this approach from both sides; from the side of authorities, there may be addiction to power, favoritism and action according to self-interest; from the side of the public especially low-income groups, lack of a strong political or economic voice and insufficient education level negatively impact participatory action (Arnstein, 1969).

The concept of participation occupies an important position in social sustainability, especially for sustainability of communities. Within the dynamic structure of sustainability, every side contributing the participation process has an equally important role. As Figure 2.1 describes, without the contributions from each member of the community (authorities, stakeholders, inhabitants and so on) actions will not be sufficient for the long term (Arnstein, 1969).



Figure 2.1 : French student poster (Arnstein, 1969).

On the other hand, well-balanced participation conditions trigger positive transformations and is the key to stronger social connections within a community (Atanur & Arın, 2015). Irvin and Stansbury (2004) explains five features of these well-balanced participation conditions.

- Voluntary actions of city dwellers for behalf of all,
- Easily accessible activities, meetings and information sessions,
- No economic demands from the inhabitants for the activities and processes,
- participants with diverse profiles included in the activities and processes,
- No need of expertise in the discussed issues.

Under these conditions, public participation will be effective in providing social sustainability for urban environments. Unfortunately, general approaches to urban development issues are not very successful from the aspect of participative planning, which hinders the systematic thinking and harmony which are essential for sustainability. Considering the dynamic structure of urban environments and the concept of social sustainability, participation in planning and urban development processes gain more importance (M. M. Khan, Rohra, & Lodhi, 2010). In the following chapter of this thesis, the role of public participation in urban development and how it is examined in the literature will be explained in detail.

Public participation in urban projects

The concept of public participation has an important role in the development of our countries and for the sustainability of communities. Moreover, its role in urban development has come to the forefront in light of recent studies and projects in this field. It is undeniable that every community has its own cultural, historical, social, and economic. Unfortunately, popular actions in urban development are becoming more and more similar with the effects of globalization. It has been shown by various research that standardized and stereotypical design approaches with one-dimensional and identical physical features cause user dissatisfaction since they discard the behavioral and anticipatory differences within a community (Hacıalibeyoğlu, 2013). There is a consensus that to avoid this kind of failure in urban environments, the participation of inhabitants in decision-making processes about their own living space is necessary (Arnstein, 1969; Atanur & Arın, 2015; Basaran Uysal, 2013;

Hacılibeyoğlu, 2013; Irvin & Stansbury, 2004; M. M. Khan et al., 2010). Public participation in urban projects should be assuming an active role in every step of the process. It is a multifaceted concept that initially involves interaction between designers and inhabitants, but the communication and involvement of authorities, governments, politicians and non-governmental organizations are equally as important (Dede, Dikmen, & Ayten, 2012). Although it is possible to pave the way for public participation informally, it is more favorable to include public participation under specific and compatible urban legislation specific to and compatible with the majority's character and requirements (Kaya, 2009).

In the field of urban development, public participation provides several benefits for community sustainability in addition to its benefits specifically for urban projects. According to a literature review gathered from Bond and Thompson-Fawcett, Hirsch, Innes and Booher, Kunnen et. al. and MacCallum, the five main contributions of participation to social sustainability are determined to be: first, the ability of inhabitants to relate to the project process; second, interactive debates between authorities, designers and inhabitants; third, encouragement toward collective education; fourth, equal rights to be a participant; and finally, promoting and reinforcing the social connections within communities (as cited in Cox et al., 2014). These contributions indicate that public participation is a multifaceted way to support social sustainability. Every community and each and every person who has an interest in the case in point, without discrimination, has the right to participate in an urban project process, including in the decision-making phase (WCED, 1987). This approach to urban projects will offer have-nots the opportunity to be included in decisions concerning their own living conditions, such as legislation, planning processes, or agreements (Arnstein, 1969).

Alongside new approaches in urban realms, cities are dealing with major urban transformation projects. These processes are mainly conducted in urgency and are dependent on the economy. However, as with every aspect related to urban life, the role of the people is very important in urban transformations. Atkinson (2010) states that local and civic participation is a significant part of new transformation models and a result of the transformation process. Inhabitants may merely be attempting to increase their quality of life, but they are the actors who are going to accomplish the transformation. There is a delicate balance between social interaction in society and

loss of space identity and social harmony in an area. To maintain this balance, it is highly important to include local public participation in urban transformation and regeneration processes (Atkinson, 2010).

Public participation, besides contributing to community sustainability, aims to convert inhabitants into active actors in the urban design process by means of collaboration in planning, decision-making and problem solving. The concept aims to create a collective consciousness to mobilize on behalf of people's own living space and enhance quality of life by increasing their sense of belonging (Dede et al., 2012). However, practices of public participation also have some disadvantages. For inhabitants, these practices are educational, enhance social communication, and provide more preferable legislation and resolutions. However, the process can be waste of time if their opinions are neglected, and the outcomes can be disadvantageous if not directed by collective interest. For governments, public participation creates a platform for mutual learning and trust and offers beneficial agreements and well-conducted legislation; on the other hand, the process itself can be overpriced, increase opposing views, and lead to incorrect judgments (Irvin & Stansbury, 2004). However, although some things might backfire, the outcomes of the process of public participation in urban projects, if it is arranged with careful consideration and managed professionally, will benefit every actor involved by forming a characteristic identity, reducing unfavorable movements and promoting sustainability of community (Dede et al., 2012).

2.3 Urban Regeneration Project Examples

El Raval, Spain

In Barcelona, Spain, various radical changes were seen in the urban and social structure after the 1980's. The local government and the community started to unite and form civic neighborhood activities, associations and non-governmental organizations. In that period, the El Raval district has been through major changes (Figure 2.2). The area was known as 'out of bounds,' with issues like prostitution, illegal drug trade and high crime rates (Subirats & Rius, 2006).

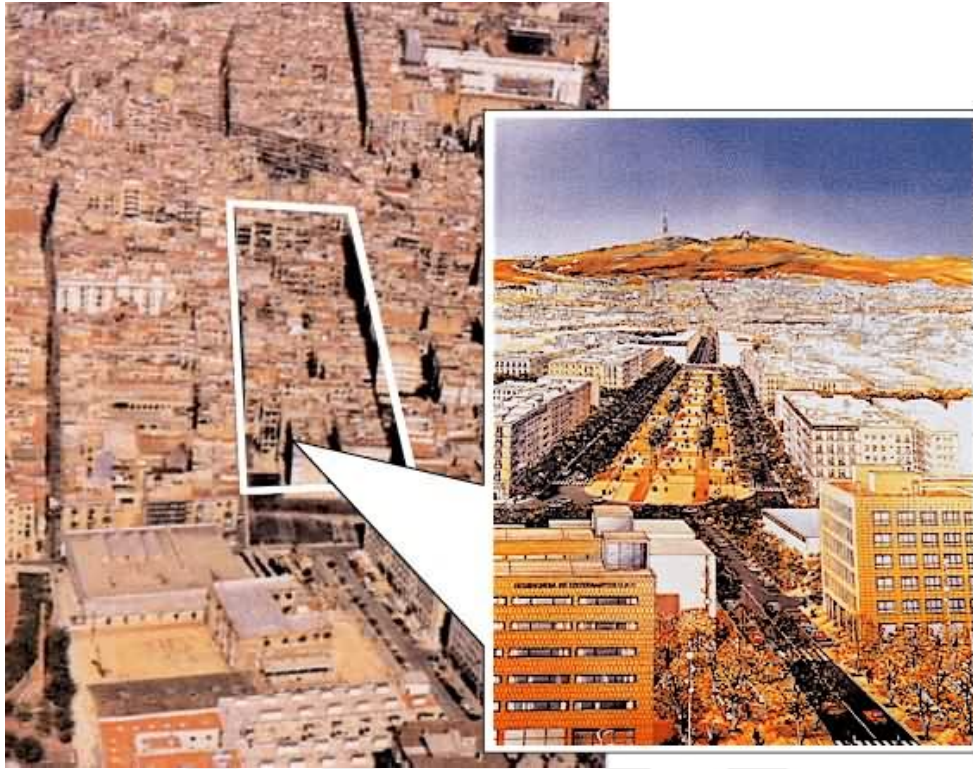


Figure 2.2 : Before and after urban transformation in El Raval, Barcelona (Url 6).

Within the scope of the democratization process in Barcelona, many local planning projects known as PERI were prepared, including one for El Raval, in 1985. In the direction of this plan, the changes have led to gentrification in the district (Kızıldere & Özdemir, 2013). In order to bring the situation under control and balance urban and social texture, the local government supported the civic unions and non-governmental organizations active in the El Raval district. Overall works on the area can be classified in three groups: socio-cultural programs, socio-health programs, and maintenance programs (Kızıldere & Özdemir, 2013)

Roombeek, Netherlands

Roombeek is one of the neighborhoods in the city Enschede, in the Netherlands. A massive accident in a fireworks warehouse led to the demolition of the neighborhood in 2000 (Figure 2.3). Many of the inhabitants of the neighborhood had to leave their houses, a situation which required immediate action to rebuild the neighborhood (Denters & Klok, 2009). The genuine about the renewal was the approach of the local authorities. Despite the urgent need for quick implementation, the municipality was determined to conduct the process with maximum public participation. Denters and Klok (2009) describe three main stipulations that the local authorities of Roombeek followed:

- Each and every affected inhabitant that should have a voice in the renewal.
- Ideas stated should stand on behalf of other affected inhabitants.
- The renewal plans should pay attention to and be in accordance with the results of the participatory process.

Throughout the process, numerous public meetings were held, and communication between inhabitants as participants and local authorities were considered successful according to research that determined that 80 percent of Roombeek inhabitants were aware of the fact that they had a voice in the renewal (Denters & Klok, 2009). Another unique feature of this participatory process in Roombeek is that inhabitants made the final decisions in the planning, after which the Enschede council approved the renewal plan without further discussion (Denters & Klok, 2009). The implementation of neighborhood renewal was accomplished in 2008 (Figure 2.4).



Figure 2.3 : Roombeek neighborhood after the explosion (Denters & Klok, 2009).

In the Roombeek case, it should be kept in mind that there was an unusual incident that forced inhabitants to act collectively. However, the success of the participatory approach in this case should not be disregarded because of its uncommonness. Studies of the Roombeek case clarify that the attempts of the local authorities to create accessible participatory communication conditions were essential for the success of the project (Denters & Klok, 2010). The abnormal initial factors of this case are not obstacles to its being held up as an example in the field of urban development.



Figure 2.4 : Roombeek neighborhood after the renewal (Url 7).

Dreamhamar, Norway

The project known as ‘Dreamhamar’ is the reconstruction of Stortorget Square in Hamar, Norway. The project was conducted by Ecosystem Urbano with a participatory design approach between 2011 and 2013. The local government aimed for a creative, collective design shaped by inhabitants rather than present a ready-made project (Url 8). For the new square, three main goals were determined and opened to discussion: a lively streetscape, a social-natural ring, and a creative arena (Url 9). The process was conducted with on-site meetings, workshops, lectures, brainstorming days, and an online application for easy access (Url 10). This pioneer process enabled the inhabitants to express themselves and their aspirations for the urban square which belonged to them (Figure 2.5).



Figure 2.5 : Dreamhamar project site (Url 11).

The project was considered a successful participatory design from the beginning to the end of its implementation (Aguilar, 2015). Local authorities helped to create communication between different actors of the project, and the result was a new square that inhabitants of the neighborhood use as a gathering place. Dreamhamar is an example of a place that belongs to people. It is an area to experience various events and atmospheres.

Ringland, Belgium

Alongside these examples with participatory approaches, the Ringland Project comes to mind as a large-scale urban development project designed and developed by local inhabitants (Url 12). The project focused on the transformation of a highway in Antwerp, Belgium into a large urban green space (Figure 2.6).

The uniqueness of the Ringland Project comes from its origin as an idea of Antwerp's local citizens shaped in 2013. This attempt formed into a social organization called 'Het Ring-genootschap vzw'. Like other large-scale urban development projects, the Ringland Project also required far-reaching research, which was conducted by professional experts. However, the process planning, and project funding was executed solely by local inhabitants (Url 12). The project of aims to change the city's highway structure (Figure 2.7).



Figure 2.6 : The high-way in Antwerp, Belgium (Url 12).

The Ringland Project also stands out in its effect on the urban policy of the City of Antwerp. Throughout the process, the proposal was accepted as applicable by the Antwerp City Council and, funded by the Antwerp City Council and the Flemish Government thanks to its realistic research background (Url 12).



Figure 2.7 : The proposed Ringland project (Url 12).

2.4 Urban Policies

Alongside these studies in the academic world, there are various legal policies that attempt to validate social sustainability, and therefore public participation, in the urban development of our cities. In this study, urban policies of European countries in general, and in particular of Belgium and Flanders, will be examined in support of the first case study, Park Spoor Noord in Antwerp. Later on, the urban policies of Turkey will be examined to constitute a better understanding of the urban development process of the second case study, the Yeldeğirmeni Neighborhood Renewal Project.

2.4.1 Urban policy in Europe

The prominent legal works concerning urban development in Europe are devised by the Council of Europe. A preliminary campaign known as the ‘European Campaign for Urban Renaissance’ between 1980 and 1982 triggered numerous actions for urban development policies in Europe. Under the motto ‘A better life in towns,’ the campaign focused on four dimensions of urban life. These were;

- Improvement of the physical urban environment,
- Rehabilitation of existing housing stock,
- The creation of social and cultural opportunities in towns,
- Community development and public participation (European Urban Charter I, 1992).

Thereafter, the campaign and the efforts of the Council of Europe in the urban development of European towns transformed into the Council’s Standing Conference

of Local and Regional Authorities of Europe (CLRAE) in 1986. From then on, numerous conferences and discussions and reports have been held by the CLRAE to encourage municipalities to engage in urban development (European Urban Charter I, 1992). These attempts of the CLRAE shed light on the preparation of the first European Urban Charter in 1992 and, following that, the second European Urban Charter in 2008 (Url 13).

European Urban Charter I

The first Urban Charter is mentioned as a preliminary action for European countries related to matters of urban development (Url 13). The charter contains notions of human rights in an urban environment and describes several principles for urban development. The most prominent part of the charter is ‘the European Declaration of Urban Rights,’ which was formed during the annual session of the CLRAE in 1992. According to the declaration, urban inhabitants have twenty rights: security, an unpolluted and healthy environment, employment, housing, mobility, health, sport and leisure, culture, multicultural integration, good quality architecture and physical surroundings, harmonization of functions, participation, economic development, sustained development, services and goods, natural wealth and resources, personal fulfilment, inter-municipal collaboration, financial mechanisms and structures, and equality (European Urban Charter I, 1992). These rights that the declaration mentions are also connected to the concept of social sustainability. It can be said that ensuring these rights for citizens will also increase the level of social sustainability in an urban environment.

This declaration is followed in the Charter by elaborations that explain the matters deeply. It will not be relevant to this study to give detailed information about all such explanations, but one, focused on citizen participation, urban management and urban planning, is rather relevant to this study. In this elaboration, the Charter details a route for especially local authorities to create a vision for citizen participation and local democracy. The principles expounded are:

- Citizen participation in local political life must be safeguarded through the right to elect representatives, freely and democratically
- Citizen participation in local political life must be effective at all levels of the local, political and administrative structure

- Citizens are entitled to be consulted over all major projects affecting the future of the community
- Urban management and planning must be based upon maximum information on the characteristics and special features of the town
- Local political decisions should be based on urban and regional planning conducted by teams of professionals
- Political choices, the final stage in the decision-making process, should be vital and comprehensible
- Local authorities should ensure the participation of young people in local life (European Urban Charter I, 1992)

These seven principles create conditions for providing for the needs of society through equal and harmonious communication and interaction between the individuals and authorities of an urban community. The charter asserts that people who are likely to be influenced by legislation, decisions or implementation are needed and are required to be heard and become a part of these processes.

European Urban Charter II

The second European Urban Charter was formed in order to answer the fast growing, global needs of urban life. The charter was created by the council in 2008 and aimed to fill the gaps in matters related to the sustainability of the built environment, which European cities need to consider (Url 13). With this second charter, also called the 'Manifesto for a New Urbanity,' the Council of Europe perceived a need for a new approach because of the improvements and changes in urban lifestyles. Therefore, the charter aimed for a much more interwoven urban life and added new principles to the previous ones. These principles can be summed up briefly as follows:

- Our cities are assets which we should pass on to next generations.
- Our cities are ideal for a historic compromise between economy, society and environment.
- Our cities are responsible for building a model of urban government which takes account of the new demands of democracy, particularly where participation is concerned.

- Our cities are conducive to creative diversity, innovation, personal development and access to learning and knowledge.
- Our cities are key players in the globalization process and are the ideal for the knowledge-based economy which is the future of economic growth in Europe.
- Our cities should be made first and foremost for the people who live there, citizens.
- Our cities should be sustainable, respecting the local and global environment.
- Our cities which are cities of knowledge and culture, need their past and present, built from diversity, in order to protect themselves into the future (European Urban Charter II, 2008)

The charter continues with more detailed information exhorting local municipalities and bureaucracies to maintain our cities in a more sustainable and collective way. Apart from these charters, Europe has various organizations that take interest in and publish declarations about the urban development of European towns in addition to the ones mentioned above. Within the scope of this study, a brief explanation of overall European policy has been given in order to form a frame for the European aspect of urban development and sustainability of European cities, themes focused on social equity, sustainability of communities and public participation. A more detailed explanation of urban policies related to case studies in Belgium and in Turkey will be given in the following sections.

2.4.2 Urban policy in Belgium

Belgium, as a member country of the Council of Europe, follows the principles of the European Urban Charter and other declarations concerning the urban development of European cities. In 1999, Belgium proclaimed its National Urban Policy, also known as the 'Federal Big City Policy'. According to OECD (2017), social cohesion, social equity, sustainable urban development and renewal are highlighted in this policy.

It is possible to discriminate between parts of the Federal Big City Policy of Belgium according to different domains, including economic development, spatial structure, climate resilience, human development, and environmental sustainability. The human development and environmental sustainability domains are to the forefront of the policy since they were presented with more comprehensive details (OECD, 2017).

The implementation of National Urban Policy in Belgium works at the federal level and requires individual contracts with cities. Moreover, it should not be forgotten that Belgium consists of three regions: Brussels-Capital, Walloon and Flanders. Each region has its own policies in addition to the National Urban Policy of Belgium. In the following chapter, the urban policy of the Flanders region will be explained in detail.

Flanders Region

Apart the 'Federal Big City Policy' in Belgium, the Flanders region has its own urban policy. In parallel with the Big City Policy, Urban Policies in Flanders aims to provide solutions to increase the quality of life in Flemish cities and thus provide sustainable urban development. The policy involves the cities Antwerp and Ghent as metropolitan cities of the Flanders region, eleven other regional cities, and also the Flemish Community Commission for Brussels. Qualified housing, job opportunities, decent healthcare, an efficient educational system, and secure urban life are the primary matters that need to be addressed and improved (Flemish Government, 2010).

The Flemish government has released its own urban policy, known as Sustainable and Creative Cities. Within this policy, various principles aim to ensure sustainability for cities in Flanders. These principles are;

- Funding for improvement of living quality,
- Counseling for urban development projects,
- Funding for experimental and innovative urban development projects,
- Urban programs for cooperation of cities and policy,
- Funding for neighborhood guides about inhabitants' rights and habits,
- Promoting researches for urban issues (Flemish Government, 2011).

Alongside with these policies, the government of Flanders acknowledges the importance of the role of inhabitants through participation. Inhabitants should be able to have a voice in their city and play an active role in decision-making, design and management processes or urban projects (Flemish Government, 2010). In order to legitimize the role of inhabitants, a report named 'Citizen Participation in Flemish Cities, Towards an Innovative Participation Policy' was constituted by the Participation Working Group (Flemish Government, 2010).

Urban policy in Flanders triggered urban development projects in the city of Antwerp. Over the past decade, there have been several urban development projects in Antwerp, such as the transformation of a former marshalling yard into an open green space, named 'Park Spoor Noord' (Meeus, Devos, & De Blust, 2016). An incentive for these urban development projects is the At Home in the City Award, originally called Thuis in de Stad, presented by the Flemish government. The award has three categories: integrated infrastructures, innovations, and citizen initiatives. In 2009, the Park Spoor Noord Project was awarded with 125,000€ under the first category as a physical spatial project focusing on several aspects of urbanity (Flemish Government, 2010).

Urban policies in Flanders are also supported by multiple funding programs. According to the operational Programme for the Flemish Region of Belgium, the European Union allocated approximately 200 million€ from the European Regional Development Fund (Url 14), approximately %24 of which was set aside for urban development projects. The overall aim of this fund is to promote urban development projects for the economic success of cities and enhance urban quality of life in Flemish metropolitan cities (Url 14). Other incentives for urban development in the Flanders region from the Flemish Government are project and concept grants (Flemish Government, 2010). The two main criteria for project grants are that the project is an instrument for the development of new dynamics in the urban environment and that it provides for %30 participation at minimum with private partners. Concept grants improve the quality and foundations of urban development projects. Through this innovative aspect, concept grants pave the way for powerful and sustainable urban development projects (Flemish Government, 2010).

2.4.3 Urban policy in Turkey

The development of urban policies in Turkey from the perspective of social sustainability has recently become more common. There is various legislation relevant to city life and its dynamics. However, it is evident that there are some logical gaps concerning participation of inhabitants in regard to sustainability of the community. The Municipal Law, the Construction Zoning Law, City Council Regulation, the Law for Metropolitan Municipalities, and the Law on the Usage of Timeworn Historical and Cultural Property with Restoration and Protection are the urban laws in Turkey about which there are still ongoing discussions in the political and academic worlds.

Among these regulations in Turkey, the Municipal Law and City Council Regulation specifically mention public participation in urban life.

The Municipal Law No: 5393 enables urban transformation through its article 69, titled Land and Housing Development, and its article 73, titled Urban Transformation and Development. In 2006, the conditions for the declaration of an urban transformation zone were broadened with a change in article 73 of the Municipal Law. This situation stirred many discussions about what type of transformations are possible for land without any structures or construction on it (Özden, 2010).

The Construction Zoning Law No: 3194 consists of statements that can be considered to oppose the general principles of urban transformation and regeneration by advocating displacement instead of in-situ transformation. Subsequently, the Law on the Usage of Timeworn Historical and Cultural Property with Restoration and Protection No: 5366 was passed in 2005 and became one of the primary laws concerning urban regeneration. Because of this policy, complicated urban policies in Turkey have become more tangled. The law, standing against the necessities of social sustainability in urban environments, promotes point target solutions and rejects integrative planning understanding (Özden, 2010).

On the other hand, The Council of Urbanization was established in 2007 to provide for sustainability in urban development. The council published the 'Integrated Urban Development Strategy and Action Plan (KENTGES)', in 2010 (Url 15). Subsequently, the Council of Town Planning was established with the theme 'New vision in town planning' in 2017 (Url 16). Furthermore, the Ministry of Environment and Urbanization carries out studies promoting sustainable and environmentally friendly urban areas. In this context, a protocol was signed between the Ministry of the Environment and Urbanization and the Mimar Sinan Fine Arts University to create an Urban Design Guide in 2016. With the participation of relevant actors such as local authorities, investments, designers, stakeholders, and non-governmental organizations, this guide was published after a yearlong effort. This very first project stands out in the development of the field of urban regeneration in Turkey by defining standards for improving place identity while at the same time protecting it. The guide also aims to form new approaches in urban planning policies. It contains information targeting administrations and local authorities to structure their urban design units (Url 17).

Municipal Law and City Council

Municipal Law No: 5393, dated 2005, targets the administration of local governments in Turkey. The Law asserts that the participation of inhabitants should be managed by municipalities. There are two specific articles prominent in this matter: Article 9 titled the ‘Parish of a county and its administration,’ and Article 13, titled ‘Law related to Fellow-citizenship’.

“Article 9: The chief aldermen shall be committed to determine common requirements of the inhabitants with the participation of the volunteers, to improve the living standards of the parish, and to carry on relations with the municipality and other public institutions and corporations, as well as to declare opinion on the matters which concerns the parish, to cooperate with the other institutions and to perform the other duties conferred upon by the laws.” (Municipal Law No: 5393, 2005)

“Article 13: Everyone is a fellow-citizen of the county which he lives in. The fellow-citizens shall be entitled to participate in the decisions and services of the municipality ... The municipality shall perform necessary activities to improve the social and cultural relations between the fellow-citizens and to preserve cultural values.” (Municipal Law No:5393, 2005)

There are other articles concerning the role of community, dealing with topics such as association and participation, and the right to information. The law also states that municipal meetings should be open to the public, their time and place should be announced beforehand, and outcomes should be publicized within a week. Yet another article in the Municipal Law describes city councils as more functional tools for the participation of local communities (Pektaş & Akın, 2010).

“Article 76: City Council shall be responsible from promotion of urbanization and fellow-citizenship vision, preservation of the rights of the inhabitants and materializing the rules stipulating developmental consistency, environmental care, social solidarity, transparency, participation in management and stable operation of control mechanism.” (Municipal Law No:5393, 2005)

In accordance with the article 76 of the Municipal Law, the ministry of internal affairs released the City Council Regulation in 2006, which stated that the sustainable development of quality of life, participation awareness, social integration, and environmental precision are the main prerogatives of a city council (City Council Regulation, 2006). The regulation also indicates several duties of the City Council. Some of these are as follows:

- To promote public participation, development of citizenship and community consciousness and the adoption of a multi-partnered governance approach,
- To ensure the preparation and implementation of a long-term plan for the resolution of sustainable development problems,
- To develop participation and democracy within the framework of the principle of locality,
- To preserve and develop the historical, cultural and natural values of the city,
- To support environmentally sensitive programs that improve the quality of life based on sustainable development,
- To contribute on the development and institutionalization of civil society,
- To increase the activities of children, young people, women and the disabled in social life and
- to ensure they have an active role in decision making,
- To contribute on the implementation of transparency, participation, accountability and predictability in urban management. (City Council Regulation, 2006)

These policies highlight the regard that should be given to the community in urban development. However, the implementation of these in reality has some gaps. For instance, the City Council does not work in a systematic way, nor does it recognize individuals if they are not organized (Akalin, 2016). Urban policy in Turkey needs improvement, especially in practice. There are also more recent movements toward sustainable urban development and public participation. These practices of the Council of Urbanization and the Council of Town Planning will be explained thoroughly in the following sections.

Council of Urbanization and KENTGES

The Council of Urbanization was initiated in 2007 by the Ministry of Environment and Urban Planning. The actions of the council proceeded until 2009 and concluded with the production of KENTGES in 2010 (Url 18). According to the manifesto of the Council of Urbanization, numerous issues were identified concerning sustainability in urban development dynamics and the livability of urban settlements (Ministry of

Environment and Urban Planning, 2006). It is clear in the manifesto that the role given to inhabitants in urban life is enhanced in comparison to urban regulations in Turkey. Some principles mentioned in the manifesto about participatory approaches could be summarized as:

- Public participation is inevitable for sustainable urban development.
- In order to develop participatory approach arrangements should be done starting from local governments.
- Have-nots should be incorporated into participatory processes.
- Local authorities should be developed to enhance participation and transparency in decision-making. (Ministry of Environment and Urban Planning, 2006)

As a result of the meetings and manifesto released by the council, a final document titled the ‘Integrated Urban Development Strategy and Action Plan’, also referred to as ‘KENTGES,’ was published in 2010 (Url 18). This plan comprises guidance for urbanization and city development, the enhancement of local authorities, and the determination of centralized and local actions concerning mobility, infrastructure, housing, conservation, quality of life, social policies and participation (Url 18). Within the frame of sustainability, the plan initiates some actions, focusing on the participation of inhabitants. Some prominent provisions are summarized below.

- City Council should be empowered in order to increase social solidarity and integration.
- Participation guidelines should be prepared in order to ensure participation in spatial planning processes and decisions.
- Educational and cultural activities which protect local culture, sense of belonging and human rights should be supported in order to create awareness about these matters. (Ministry of Environment and Urban Planning, 2010)

Council of Town Planning

Improvements and actions concerning sustainable urban development have gathered speed with KENTGES in Turkey. In 2017, the Council of Town Planning released a consensus document under the theme ‘New vision in town planning’ about the latest vision of the Ministry of Environment and Urbanization. According to this document,

the preservation of natural, cultural, and historical assets should be maintained since they are the keystones of a city; neighborhood culture and authentic local values should be protected; the concepts of smart and green cities should be popularized; urbanization should be eliminated, and urban development should be provided for Turkish cities (Ministry of Environment and Urban Planning, 2017). This vision is an indicator of forthcoming positive progress in urban development in Turkey. The consensus document gives much advice concerning sustainable urban development, planning, design, and the role of local authorities. The document also suggests that city councils should be more active and collaborate in all processes related to cities (Ministry of Environment and Urban Planning, 2017). While these improvements in the urban policies of Turkey, especially concerning sustainable urban development, are quite recent, they are future-oriented.

2.5 Evaluation of literature review

The literature part of this study explores three main areas: concepts of social sustainability and public participation, project examples from different countries, and the urban policies that belong to the countries in the cases. As indicated beforehand, urban environments are shaped and affected by various factors that lead to the dynamic structure of social sustainability (Dempsey, Bramley, Power, & Brown, 2011). The concept provides for the survival for urban environments in the future by lumping together human interaction, transmission, and culture (Yiftachel & Hedgcock, 1993). This perspective is considered a primary objective of urban regeneration projects in this research. The ability of the concept of social sustainability to advance the living conditions of communities through consideration of the dynamism and features of urban life become paramount in the case studies, and the projects are evaluated according to how they were able to contribute to their urban environments from the perspective of social sustainability.

Accordingly, public participation is also considered as a dynamic concept connected to maintaining social sustainability in urban environments. The outcomes from the literature review regarding these concepts is used as a relatively concrete foundation to investigate the case studies. Social interaction in a community, sense of place and safety, the satisfaction of inhabitants, and community stability are determined to be features of socially sustainable urban environments. In determining public

participation and its success in the case study, project processes and community awareness are questioned based on the foundation laid out in the literature review.

Examples from several countries are given in order to offer a vision of the possibilities that participation and social sustainability offer to urban environments. It is evident through the processes of the example projects that actions taken by local authorities in accordance with social sustainability have led to successful results for their communities and urban environment. It is also seen within the example projects that the role of the citizen in any kind of urban project is crucial in creating sustainable, livable, and developed urban environments. Participatory approaches in urban regeneration projects are both possible when both local authorities and the people themselves attempt them. As it is the community that deals with the positive and negative aspects of its urban environments, the community is the primary actor for any kind of urban project.

Subsequently, the urban policies of each country are explained as another aspect. Although it is possible to consider urban policy as a subcategory of social equity, its importance in evaluating projects cannot be ignored. The policies in force at the time of project planning and implementation are explained in order to discuss their effects on the success of the projects. It is evident from the review that European and Flemish policies managed to create a more concrete basis and framework for urban regeneration projects than Turkish ones. Considering the time frame of the regulations, it is possible to claim that Turkey needs time to see positive results from newly created regulations. However, the confusion in Turkish policies should not be ignored. Recent work to promote social sustainability and public participation is hopeful, but the current practice of urban transformation projects to deny the people a role and defend profit from land development is still a major problem in Turkey. These reviews about the urban policies in each country culminate in the evaluation of the projects from the perspective of both social sustainability and public participation. On the one hand, Belgian policies were supportive and protective of the people and their role throughout the project process, while the policies in Turkey at the time of the project placed importance on capital and investment rather than the people, who are the most important actors in an urban regeneration project. These findings are considered through the evaluation of the projects in the case studies and the discussion of their results.



3. CASE STUDY

The case study for this thesis examines two different projects from Turkey and Belgium. These cases are investigated under four parameters derived from the dynamic structures of social sustainability and public participation. The aims, general processes, actors and social processes of the Yeldeğirmeni Neighborhood Project in Turkey and the Park Spoor Noord Project in Belgium are explained within the scope of the case study. Subsequently, structured interviews were prepared in order to analyze and measure the success rates and outcomes of the projects from the perspective of social sustainability and public participation. The structured interviews were conducted with the inhabitants and local authorities of the project neighborhoods (Figure 3.1).

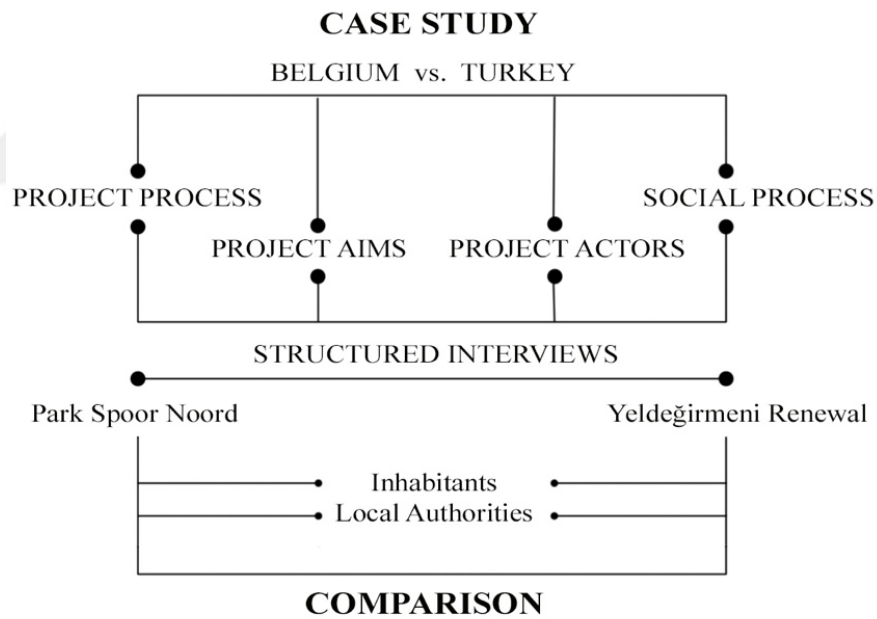


Figure 3.1 : Diagram of the case study structure.

Similar interviews were planned with the designers of both projects; however, it was not possible to reach those actors within the timeframe of this study. The challenges encountered throughout the research process and interviews of the case study will be discussed in the relevant chapters. Detailed information about the sites and project parameters are given in this section. The structured interviews and the projects' results and comparisons are examined in the following section of this study.

3.1 The Yeldeğirmeni Neighborhood Renewal Project

3.1.1 Location

The first case selected for this thesis is located in the metropolitan city of Istanbul, from Turkey. Istanbul, has strategic importance because of its possession of land in both Europe and Asia. The city functions as a connector for not only physical elements, but also cultural and social matters. The case project is located in one of the 21 neighborhoods of the Kadıköy district (Url 19). Kadıköy also has strategic importance because of its location on the Asian side of Istanbul and coastline on the Marmara Sea at the entrance of the Istanbul Bosphorus. Therefore, the Yeldeğirmeni neighborhood, also known as Rasimpaşa, is equally important. The neighborhood is located on the Üsküdar border of the district (Figure 3.2).

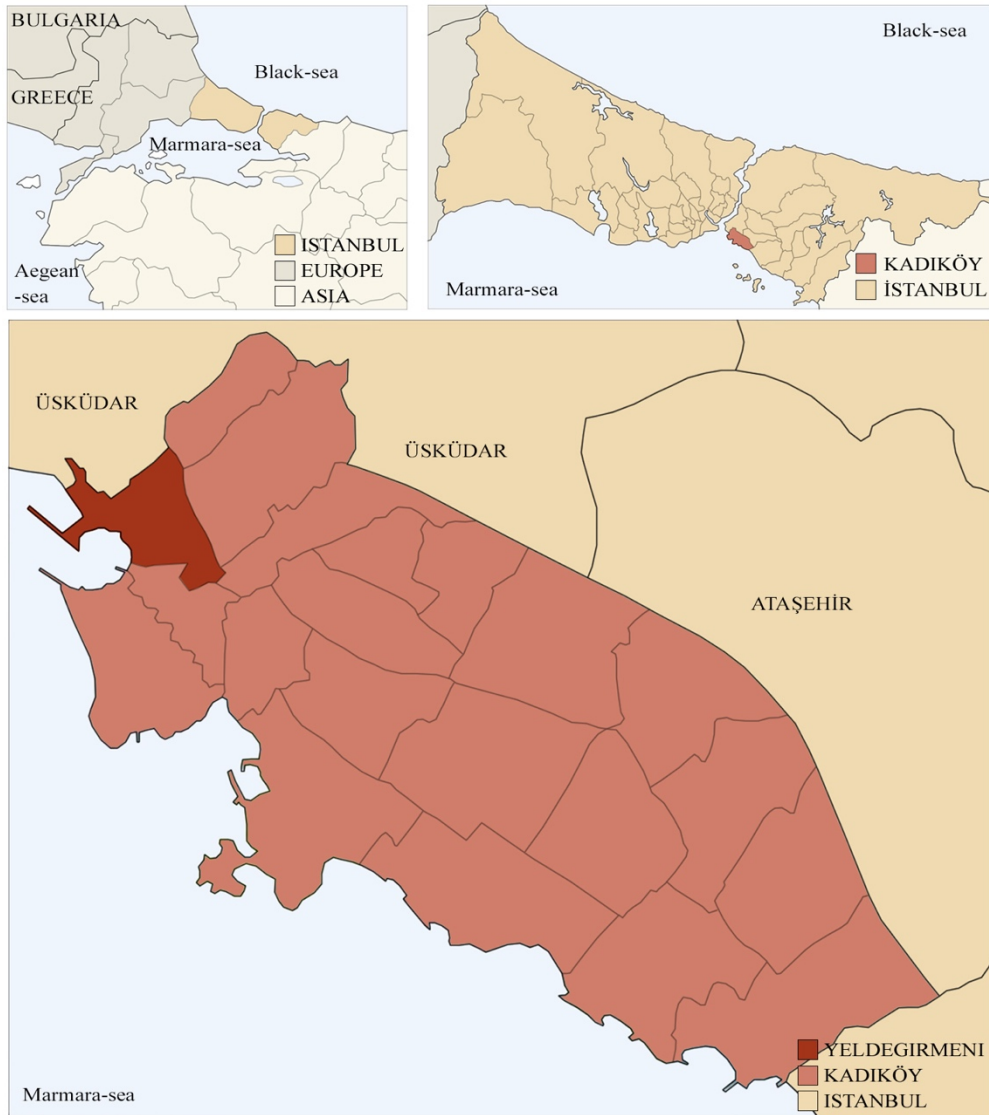


Figure 3.2 : Map showing location of Yeldeğirmeni neighborhood.

3.1.2 History

The neighborhood of the project was also known as Yeldeğirmeni in the past. It is one of the historic zones of the Kadıköy district, along with Haydarpaşa Bay and Moda. In Ottoman times, the district was used for summer vacations by the inhabitants of Istanbul. Since that period, the Kadıköy district has gained importance and been developed as new settlement. The majority of its inhabitants were traders with different religions and lifestyles than Muslims. New houses, religious buildings, and schools were constructed in Kadıköy through the influence of these people. In the republican period, the Kadıköy district, especially the Yeldeğirmeni, Osmanağa, and Caferağa neighborhoods, was densely populated and one of the biggest economic centers of Istanbul. Although this particular historical character no longer exists, there is still an urban culture in Kadıköy. The Yeldeğirmeni neighborhood is one of the areas where the urban neighborhood culture is still visible.

The general population was ethnically diverse until the 20th century. Turkish, Jewish, Greek, and Armenian inhabitants were living in harmony in Yeldeğirmeni. During the initial years of the republican period, Yeldeğirmeni was an active and lively neighborhood in every way. At present, the diversity in population is not as clear as in the past, and rural immigrants constitute the majority of population.

The streetscape of Yeldeğirmeni began to be formed at the start of the 19th century. General building types were attached houses and villas, with some empty plots. Some of these villas were demolished during the middle of the 20th century. Some city blocks were divided in order to construct apartments in Yeldeğirmeni. This situation is visible in the plans of Jacques Pervititch in 1936-1983 (Figure 3.3). The result was new roads and buildings constructed in the area and new city blocks filled with apartments. The area has been filled with buildings from then on, which can be seen in the aerial maps of the present day (Figure 3.4).

In the recent history of Yeldeğirmeni neighborhood, the area was declared an urban conservation site by the Superior Council for Conservation in 1981 in order to protect its remaining historical buildings. In 1996, a conservation plan for Yeldeğirmeni was drawn up by Istanbul Regional Conservation Council Number II. Later on, the borders of the urban conservation site plan were revised by the same commission in 1998 (Tarkay, 2010).

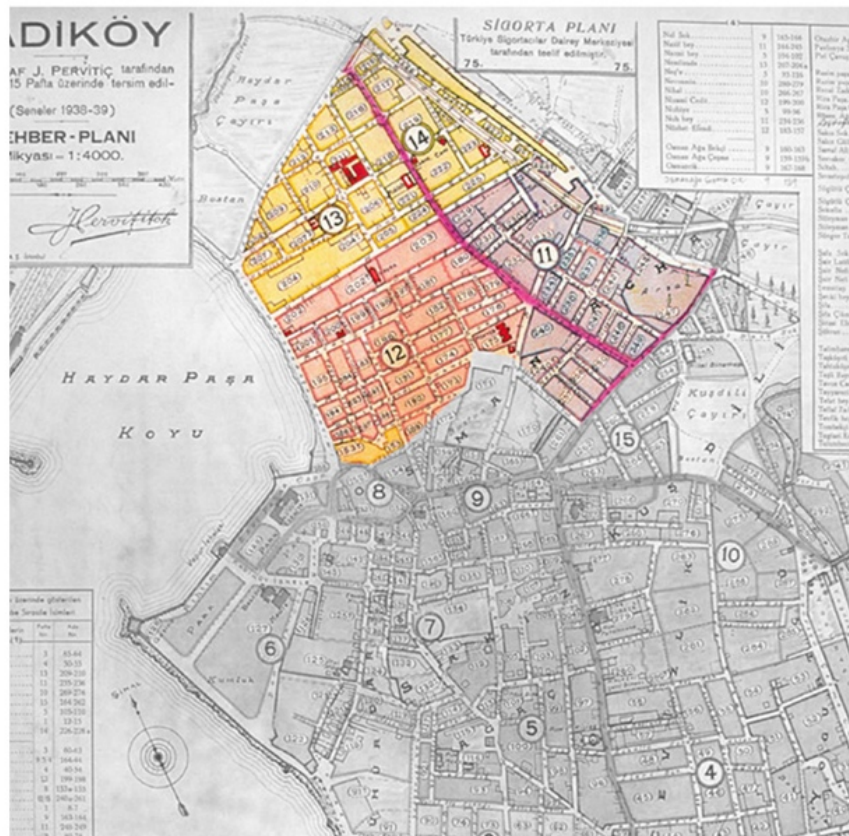


Figure 3.4 : Map of Kadıköy district in 2018.

3.1.3 About the project parameters

The Yeldeğirmeni Neighborhood Renewal Project represents an important recognition of the need to protect the social, historical, and cultural values of a neighborhood in Turkish urban renewal projects. It stands out as a pioneering example through its consideration of preservation as its main objective rather than the demolition of decrepit urban structures, which is characteristic of the majority of urban renewal projects in Istanbul. The project was formulated to restore the traditional Turkish neighborhood culture which was almost extinct in the Yeldeğirmeni neighborhood (Figure 3.5).



Figure 3.5 : Street view from Yeldeğirmeni Neighborhood.

The Yeldeğirmeni Renewal Project began in 2010 as a cooperative effort between the Kadıköy Municipality and the ÇEKUL non-governmental organization. It was planned as a 3-year process, but since what they were dealing with was and is always going to be a dynamic process, it is not appropriate to say that the project is finished. However, most of the predicted operations were completed by the end of 2013, as scheduled.

Project Aims

Yeldeğirmeni Neighborhood Renewal Project had four main objectives as stated in the project book published by ÇEKÜL and the Kadıköy Municipality in November 2011. These aims are;

- To protect the history and the neighborhood culture,
- To develop integrated vitalization strategies,
- To promote social solidarity and participation,
- To strengthen the neighborhood's connection with the city. (Arısoy, 2014)

The first and the most important objective was to protect the historical character and neighborhood culture of Yeldeğirmeni. The identity of the project area can be summarized as slow, traditional and neighborhood-friendly, as it was important to create a socially and economically sustainable environment in this city center. Secondly, the project aims at the development and implementation of integrated vitalization strategies in Yeldeğirmeni. Because the revival of a neighborhood is a multidimensional and dynamic process, another main objective for the authorities who conducted the project was to encourage the participation of different actors and people from different sectors. The third aim was to make sure the local government ensured the sustainability of the project. It was clear that even though physical interventions are important and essential in short term, they are not permanent if not continued through social interventions. The sustainability of a renewal project is feasible with inhabitants who have financial capability, ambition and a sense of responsibility. The project aimed to start the process by creating a democratic negotiation space. Finally, the last objective was to integrate Yeldeğirmeni neighborhood into its surroundings and the city, as the neighborhood was excluded from the focus of the city because of its location. Additionally, there were new transportation projects planned around the neighborhood that were going to affect the area and lead to corrosion and loss of identity. By ensuring a strong connection with the city, these new projects will turn into opportunities in the near future of the Yeldeğirmeni neighborhood (Arısoy, 2014).

Project process

In 2010, the Yeldeğirmeni Neighborhood Renewal Project began under the efforts of the Kadıköy Municipality and ÇEKÜL, a non-governmental organization. As was explained in the project aims section, the key objective of the project was to ensure the

neighborhood's ability to renew itself rather than renew the neighborhood. According to the activity reports of the Kadıköy Municipality, the project expenses were met by the local budget without any additional funding. The implementations within the scope of this urban renewal project were designed to create public spaces and mobilize civil initiative. The overall process of the project can be seen in the timeline diagram below (Figure 3.6). In 2010, as a preliminary stage of the project, the Kadıköy Municipality and ÇEKÜL organized a survey study in order to understand and determine the problems and opportunities in the neighborhood. The time period up to 2011 was used to constitute action planning alongside supporting local organizations. The first visible action for the benefit of the community was the opening of the voluntary house in November 2010. The voluntary house was the official office of the renewal project, meant to create an innovative, interactive setting between the project authorities and the community. The building, which was provided by the municipality, was also used as a children's study and mental health center (Arisoy, 2014).

Between 2011 and 2013, the physical implementations were carried out in the Yeldeğirmeni neighborhood. The three main features of this implementation were vitalization corridors to create focal points, communal spaces, and service buildings. Street renovations, facade renovations, infrastructure renovations, re-functioning empty lots, historic building restorations, re-constructed common courtyards, a neighborhood park, outdoor sports spaces, a monument garden, and public space renovations were built to provide these improvements (Figure 3.7, Figure 3.8). The Ali İsmail Korkmaz neighborhood park, the Yeldeğirmeni Art cultural center, the Ahmet Haşim House restoration, and the Söğütlüçeşme parking-lot come to the forefront throughout the physical implementations of the project (Figure 3.9).

Actors of the project

The Yeldeğirmeni Neighborhood Renewal Project was based on cooperation between the Kadıköy Municipality and ÇEKÜL. It was in fact a follow-up of the Kadıköy Historical Bazaar Revival Project, which was also conducted by the Kadıköy Municipality and ÇEKÜL. In Yeldeğirmeni, since the objective was to trigger a social revival, the Kadıköy Municipality and ÇEKÜL declared the inhabitants of Yeldeğirmeni neighborhood the pioneer actors of the project (Figure 3.10). Thereafter, the contributions of the Kadıköy Municipality and ÇEKÜL were supported by the opening of TAK; design, research and participation cooperation of Kadıköy.

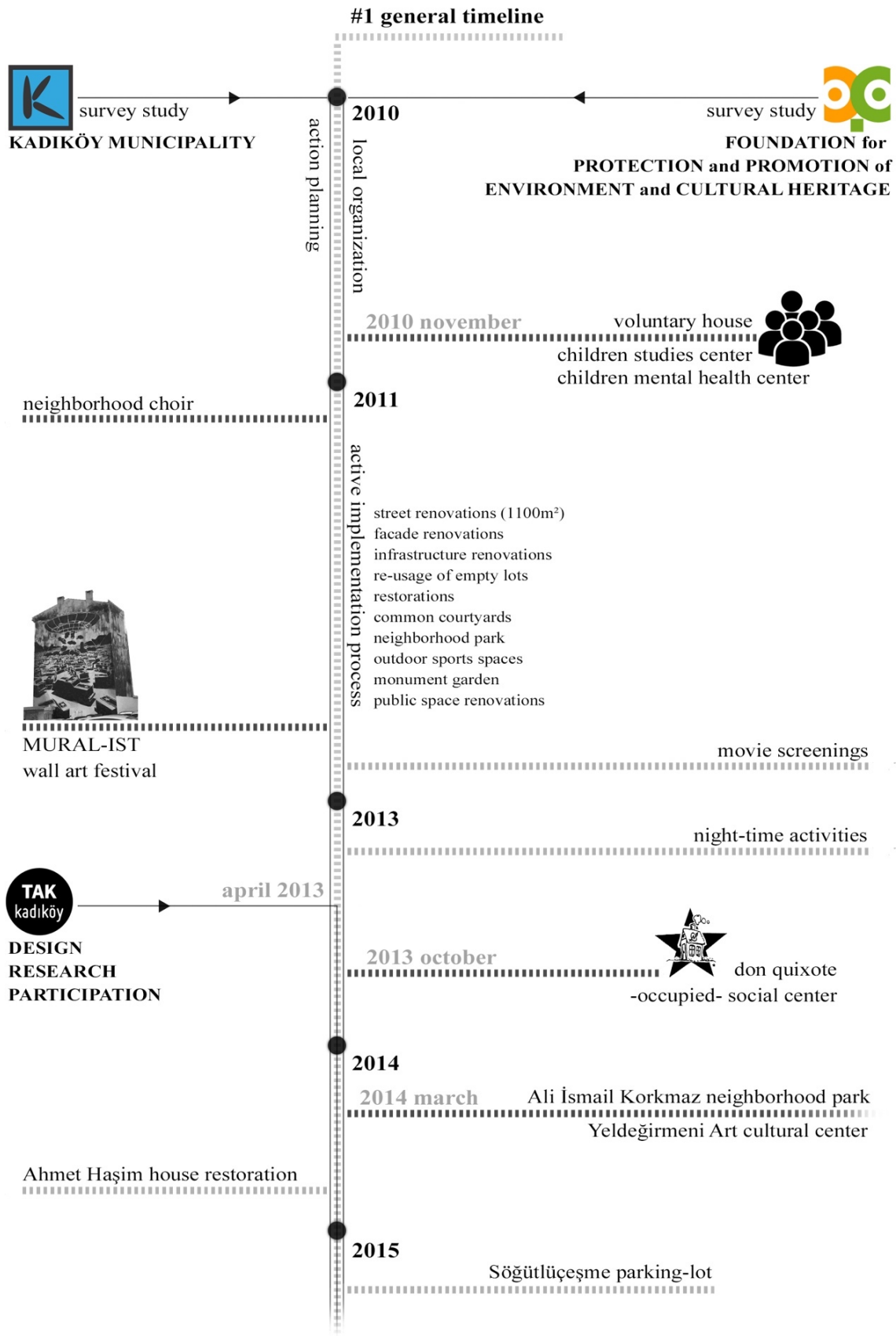


Figure 3.6 : General timeline of the Yeldeğirmeni Neighborhood Renewal Project.



Figure 3.7 : Street renovations in the Yeldeğirmeni neighborhood.



Figure 3.8 : Re-construction of a common courtyard (TAK Archive).



Figure 3.9 : The Ali İsmail Korkmaz neighborhood park.

TAK was incorporated into the Yeldeğirmeni Neighborhood Renewal Project in April 2013. Its contribution to the project was to present small-scale projects which would support the physical interventions in communication with the local community (Arisoy, 2014).

From the beginning of the project process, all actors of the project put in an effort to sustain the inhabitants as active actors. Starting with surveys focusing on the community, some of the personnel from ÇEKÜL were involved in peer to peer communication with inhabitants. One to one interviews were held on a regular basis in order to create an intimate relationship with inhabitants and make them feel comfortable enough to express their feelings and personal views about the project. (A. Arisoy, personal communication, February 22, 2018). This process was substantial not just for people who were interested in being part of the project, but also for the have-nots in the community of the Yeldeğirmeni neighborhood.

The positions of the actors (Kadıköy Municipality as a local authority, ÇEKÜL as a non-governmental organization, TAK as a union of researchers and designers, and the Community as local inhabitants) contributed to the process on a participatory basis. In the following chapter, the participation process and the social aspect of the project will be explained in detail.

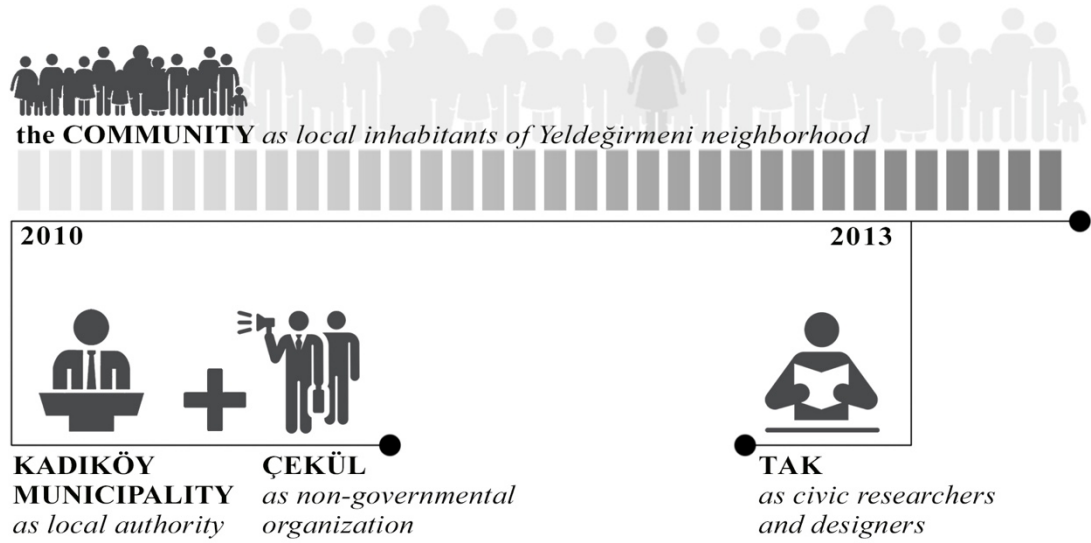


Figure 3.10 : Actors of the Yeldeğirmeni Renewal Project.

Social aspect of the project

The renewal of a neighborhood is not just about physical improvements but also about social renovations. For the Yeldeğirmeni Neighborhood Renewal Project, improving the social structure of the community was the key to creating a sustainable renewal. The Kadıköy municipality, ÇEKÜL and TAK, as major authorities of the project, took action to include the local community in the precept process from the very beginning. Generating a participatory base for renewal was one of the important objectives of the project.

The dynamic process was supported with participation meetings, street festivals, courses and workshops throughout the process (Figure 3.11). The establishment of the voluntary house in November 2010 was the first action taken to create a socially sustainable environment. The voluntary house also functioned as the official office of the project authorities. This action provided opportunities for interaction between the municipality, non-governmental organizations, and the local community. Participatory actions, public availability sessions, and active participation meetings were held under the roof of this building and spread around the neighborhood. Apart from the participatory actions held there, the building created an environment for the local community to organize social activities such as concerts, movie screenings, night time activities, courses, and workshops. This socially interactive atmosphere was key to the success of the project, since this social connection in the community will lead the people to protect their neighborhood in the long-term.

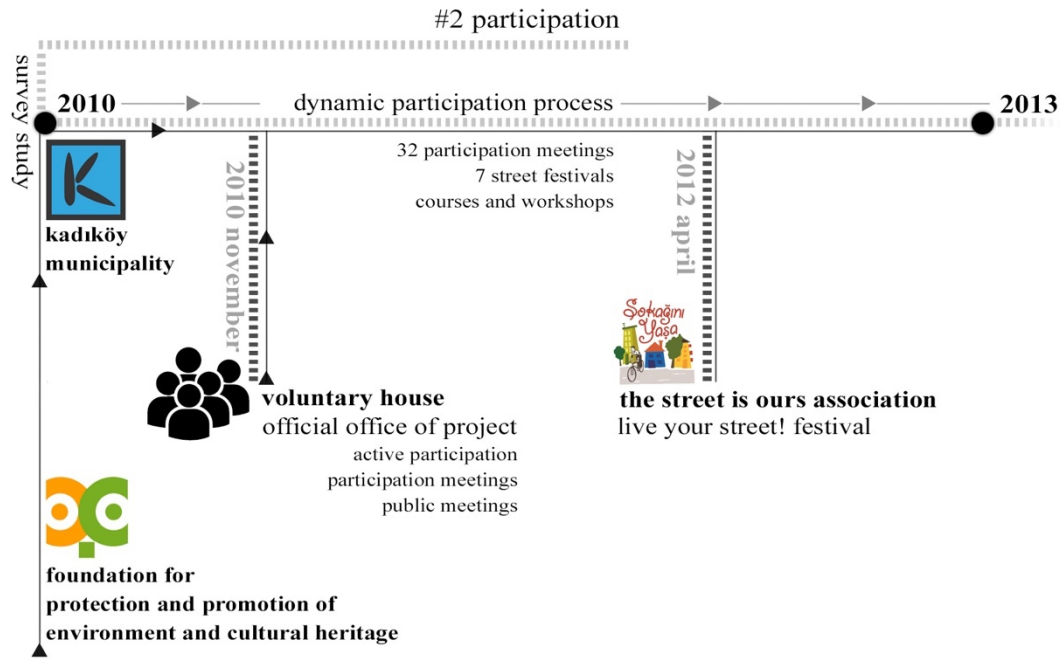


Figure 3.11 : Participation process of Yeldeğirmeni Renewal Project.

The participation process was supported by different contributors such as non-governmental organizations, academicians, students, and conscientious people from different neighborhoods of Istanbul. This process also benefited by taking advantage of the outcomes of these contributions. Online platforms, surveys, campaigns, etc. were used for constant information flow (Arisoy, 2014).

The overall process of the Yeldeğirmeni Neighborhood Renewal Project from the aspect of sustainability of community and public participation was explained in this chapter. In order to make the comparison, the Park Spoor Noord Project will be expounded in the following chapter with a similar framework.

3.2 The Park Spoor Noord Project

3.2.1 Location

Belgium as a European country consists of three regions—Flanders, Wallonia and Brussels. The project site is located in the Flanders region. There are five provinces in the Flanders region, of which Antwerp is one. The Antwerp province is divided into three administrative arrondissements: Antwerp, Turnhout and Mechelen. The city of Antwerp, one of 30 cities in the Antwerp arrondissement, has 9 districts, one of which is also called Antwerp; the project is located in this district (Figure 3.12). Within the

Antwerp district, there are 22 neighborhoods. Seefhoek, Stuivenberg and Dam are the ones that are located in the area surrounding the project site in Antwerp-North.

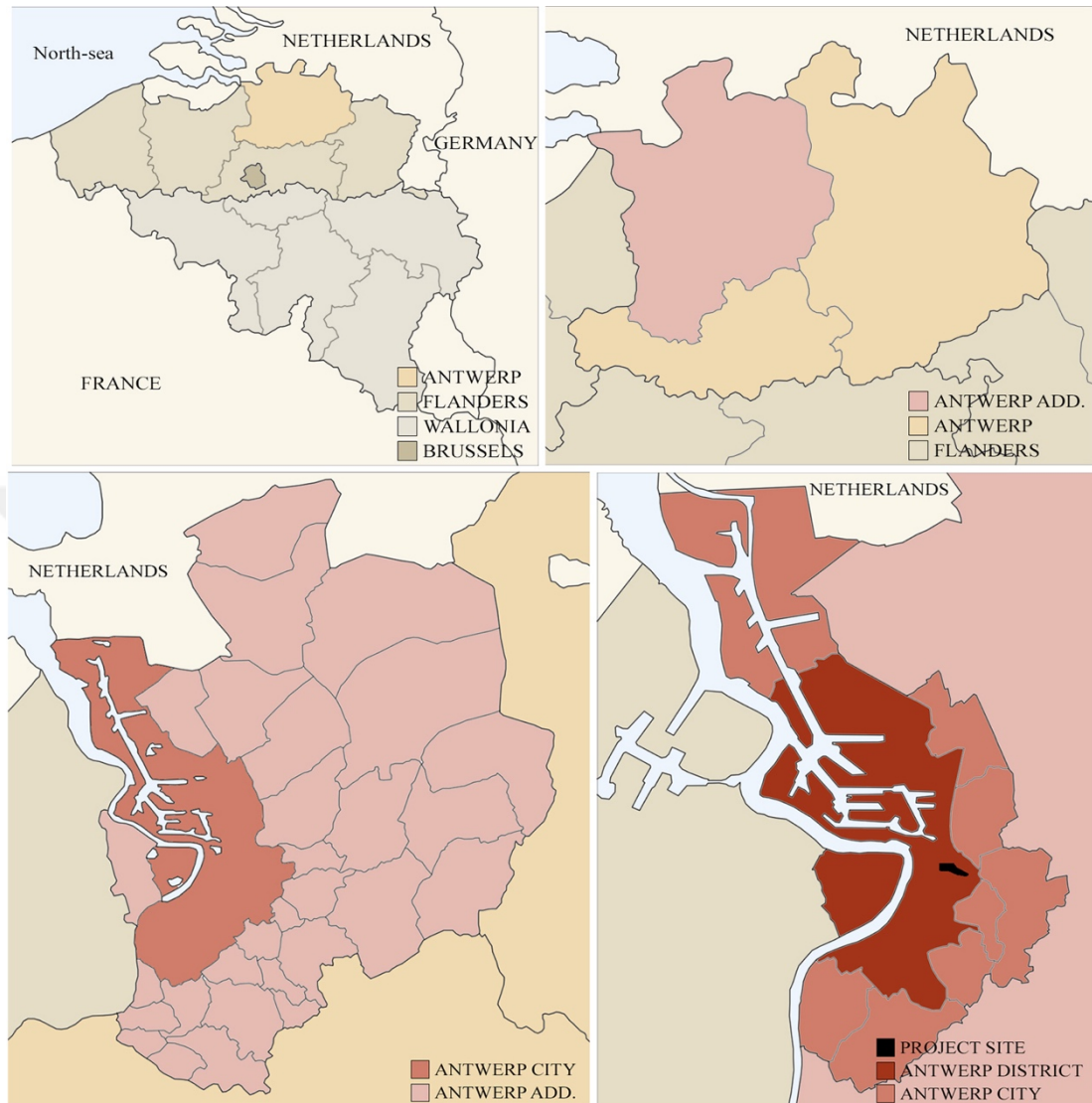


Figure 3.12 : Antwerp district and location of project site.

3.2.2 History

The City of Antwerp owes its historical prominence to its commercial port area built in the beginning of the 14th century. This economic advantage, has made the city a metropolis. Until the 20th century, the city experienced ups and downs from a political perspective, affecting the economy of the city. After the world wars, the City of Antwerp re-gained its former prominence (Url 20).

At present, the City of Antwerp, the second biggest city of Belgium's Flemish region (Url 21), is known for its diverse social and economic character. The city is also known for its harbor, industrial facilities, and prominence as a center of the diamond trade.

Along with this economic activity, the city has densely populated residential areas that lack public open spaces (LUDA Project, 2003). This was the situation in Antwerp-North and the surrounding neighborhoods. In Belgium, Antwerp-North is also known for its ethnic diversity, with more than 150 diversified nationalities (Url 21).

3.2.3 About the project parameters

The Park Spoor Noord project was initiated by the City of Antwerp with the intention of increasing living standards and transforming vacant land for the benefit of inhabitants (Figure 3.13). The project covers an area of 24 hectares in total, 18 of which were turned into an urban park while the rest was enhanced by its former owner, SNCB, the National Railway Company of Belgium (Lorquet, 2012). The area, referred to as a marshalling yard, has been the property of SNCB since 2000. The area was a vacant site within a densely populated residential area with a definite need for green space. It was also referred to as a ‘zone for public use’ in the regional plan, a classification which was changed to ‘zone for urban development.’ Accordingly, the authorities took action to renew the area for the public welfare.



Figure 3.13 : Project site before the construction (Wever & Lamberts, 2003).

Project aims

The Park Spoor Noord Project was more than just an opportunity to create open green space for the City of Antwerp. The location of the project site added great importance to the renewal of this marshalling yard, especially for the inhabitants of the neighborhood. Before the project began in earnest, authorities took action to determine and understand the condition of the site and its surroundings. They held survey studies in 1999 which revealed the extreme need for open green space, not just for the neighborhood but also for the city as a whole (Park Spoor Noord, 2011). Within this

densely populated neighborhood with obviously diverse ethnicity, the lack of green spaces and recreational areas was the main problem for the City of Antwerp.

It was decided that the marshalling yard would be renewed as an urban recreational area with certain objectives. These can be summarized briefly as follows;

- To provide a green space for the neighborhood,
- To increase the quality of life of the community,
- To protect the historical texture of the site,
- To promote the development of the neighborhood.

The first and main aim was to give the city an open green space where people could socialize, play sports, meet for cultural activities, and so on. The subordinate aim of the project was to improve the living quality of the neighborhood using this park area. The park was designed to create a connection between surrounding neighborhoods and eliminate the barrier effect of the former railway site. The restoration of the historical buildings in the area was intended as another objective of the project, in order to protect assets and transmit cultural history to subsequent generations (Lorquet, 2010).

At the time, Antwerp-North was an urban zone in decline in every aspect. The overall aim of the Park Spoor Noord Project was accordingly to create for a resurgence in the neighborhood. The project was developed in order to offer people a neighborhood where they would very much like to spend their lives and raise their children and to offer investors a location for new innovations and enterprises (Park Spoor Noord, 2011).

Project process

The regional planning change in 1998 from zone for public use into zone for urban development was the trigger for the renewal in the project area. The period between 1998 and 2009, as can be seen in the planning timeline diagram (Figure 3.14), comprises all kinds of actions during the Park Spoor Noord Project. The surveys by Tempera and Opbouwwerk showed that there was a certain need for open green space in Antwerp-North. The project was officially started when the SNCB, the national railway company of Belgium, abandoned the marshalling yard. The attention given to the project site led Federal Urban Policy to provide grants for the project. In the beginning of 2000, the city established an urban planning cell called SOMA in order

to start the planning process, which it did in the first month of 2001. Accordingly, the Autonomous Municipal Company Antwerp New North, ANN in short, was established. This foundation was tasked with the management of the grants of the project. Within the scope of the planning process, the consensus report was approved in October 2001 (Lorquet, 2010, 2012; Park Spoor Noord, 2011; Wever & Lamberts, 2003).

The policy agreement between the three major authorities of the project, the City of Antwerp, the SNCB and the ANN, was signed in the last month of 2001. Following this agreement, a design competition for the site was announced. In January 2003, the winner was announced. Out of 5 projects in the second round, the design 'Villages & Metropolis' by Bernardo Secchi, Paola Viganò, Buro Kromwijk, and Iris Consulting won the international competition. In keeping with the general aim for the project site, the winning design was planned as a green space for both the neighborhood and the city. It is a green space which also functions as a junction between surrounding neighborhoods (Figure 3.15, Figure 3.16).

Throughout the process, the Federal Urban Policy kept giving grants for the project. Implementation started immediately after a seven-month survey of the site by the Archaeological Department that started in March 2003. This was followed by the approval of the BPA, the Special Development Plan Park Spoor Noord. Constructions on the site had started in the beginning of 2004. During the course of construction, grants from Federal Urban Policy continued, with an additional € 14 million grant from the European Target II Programme financed by Europe, Flanders and the City of Antwerp. Construction lasted for five years. In 2008, the western part of the project opened to public use. Finally, the Park Spoor Noord was opened in its entirety in June 2009 (Lorquet, 2010, 2012; Park Spoor Noord, 2011; Wever & Lamberts, 2003) (Figure 3.17, Figure 3.18, Figure 3.19, Figure 3.20, Figure 3.21).

Actors of the project

The Park Spoor Noord Project was initiated as an attempt of the City of Antwerp to increase the quality of life of the Antwerp-North neighborhood. The local authorities, the City of Antwerp and the Autonomous Municipal Company Antwerp New North played the role of executive actors during the project process.

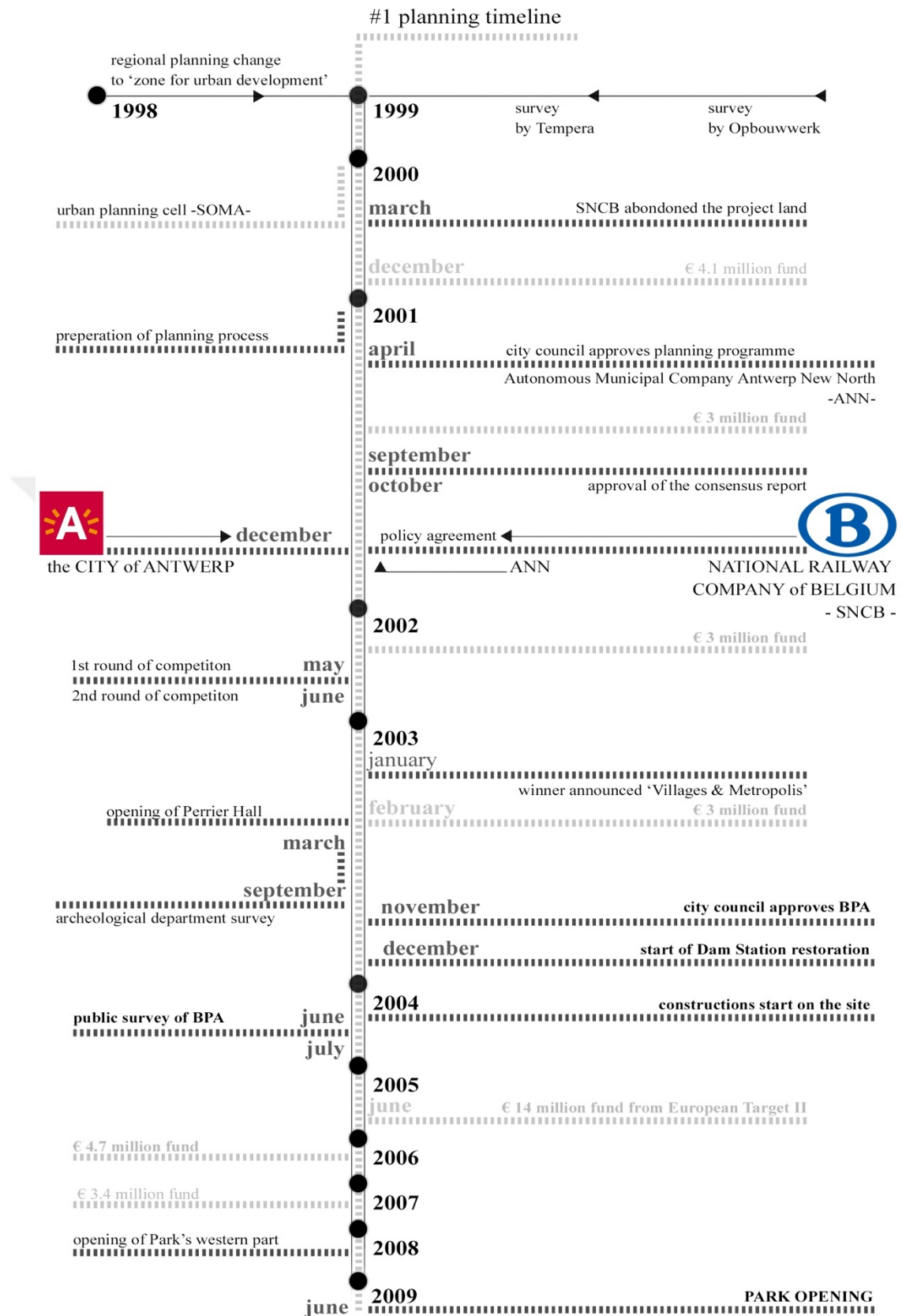


Figure 3.14 : Planning timeline of Park Spoor Noord Project.



Figure 3.15 : Photo of the project.



Figure 3.16 : Photo of the project.



Figure 3.17 : Panoramic photo of the project.



Figure 3.18 : Photo of the project.



Figure 3.19 : Photo of the project.



Figure 3.20 : Photo of the project.



Figure 3.21 : Photo of a playground from the project.

Subsequently, with the announcement of the competition winners, Bernardo Secchi, Paola Viganò, Buro Kromwijk, and Iris Consulting, represented as Studio 03, became actors as designers of the project. At the same time, inhabitants of Antwerp-North were involved in the project process, in the beginning through participation in the survey studies and afterwards through activities and workshops on site with the designers (Figure 3.22).

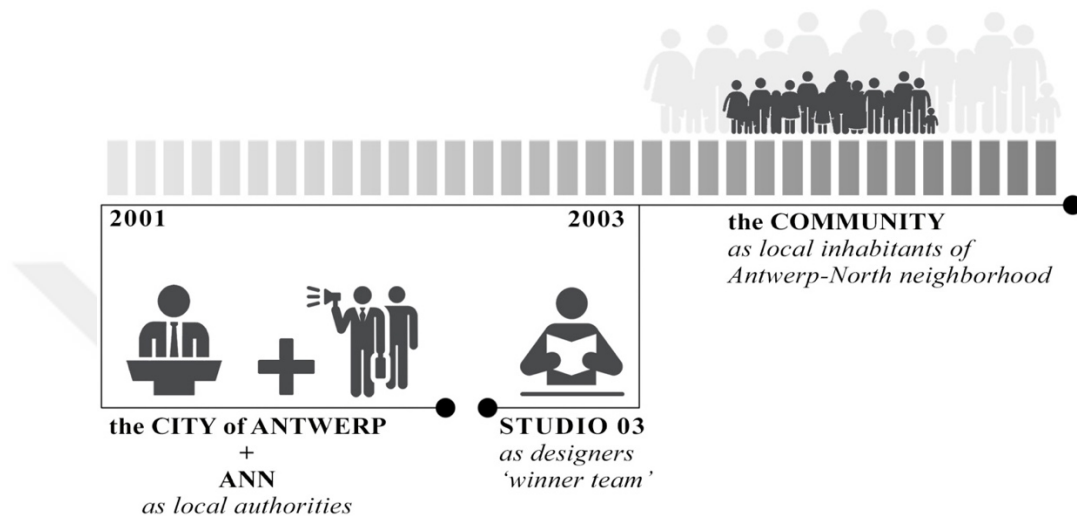


Figure 3.22 : Actors of the Park Spoor Noord project.

Social aspect of the project

A prominent feature of the Park Spoor Noord Project is the way that the authorities controlled the social aspect of the process. The project took form as an answer to the need for green space in Antwerp-North. From the very start, the important role of the community during the project was clear. Public surveys in 1999 aimed to understand and determine public needs concerning the marshalling yard. The inhabitants were asked about their vision for the land. The survey revealed that there was a common need for green space and places for children. It was also determined that the general desire of the inhabitants was to not divide it for separate usages, but to protect its totality as an open urban green space (Wever & Lamberts, 2003).

Thereafter, the planning process was formed in parallel with the participatory actions of inhabitants. After the establishment of the planning cell SOMA, 'Think-Tank Days' were organized to encourage brainstorming. These unique events involved exhibitions, meetings and discussions between the planning team, city partners, external experts, and inhabitants. Residents were given the opportunity to present their opinions through

this event. As a result, an exhibition was held and outcomes from the event also contributed to the creation of the consensus report (Wever & Lamberts, 2003).

The international competition for the Park Spoor Noord was also shaped around a communicative basis. In the second round of the competition, the five selected team and the residents met for 'Trek je Plan' day, or 'Plan your Park' day, in September 2002. The intention of this event was to bring together inhabitants and the project teams and incorporate the inhabitant's wishes into the design projects. This event was followed by a much bigger campaign called 'Park in Sight'. The campaign consisted of exhibitions, meetings, discussions, and a festival called 'Park in Zicht'. In order to make project outcomes more tangible, a walk in the project site was held with the winning team and residents (Figure 3.23).



Figure 3.23 : Photo from the on-site meetings (Wever & Lamberts, 2003).

The other campaign for communication and social actions within the scope of the project was the Inspirational Programme in between 2005 and 2008, during which a festival, a street run, an event called 'Dig!,' and exhibitions regarding the project were arranged. In addition, to include the inhabitants in the project, a visit for special target groups was arranged by the project team. The overall timeline of the social aspect of the project explained above has been outlined in the diagram below to clarify the process (Figure 3.24). With the opening of the Park Spoor Noord, the community gained an open green space where they can gather together and arrange and take part in social and cultural activities (Lorquet, 2010, 2012; Park Spoor Noord, 2011; Wever & Lamberts, 2003).

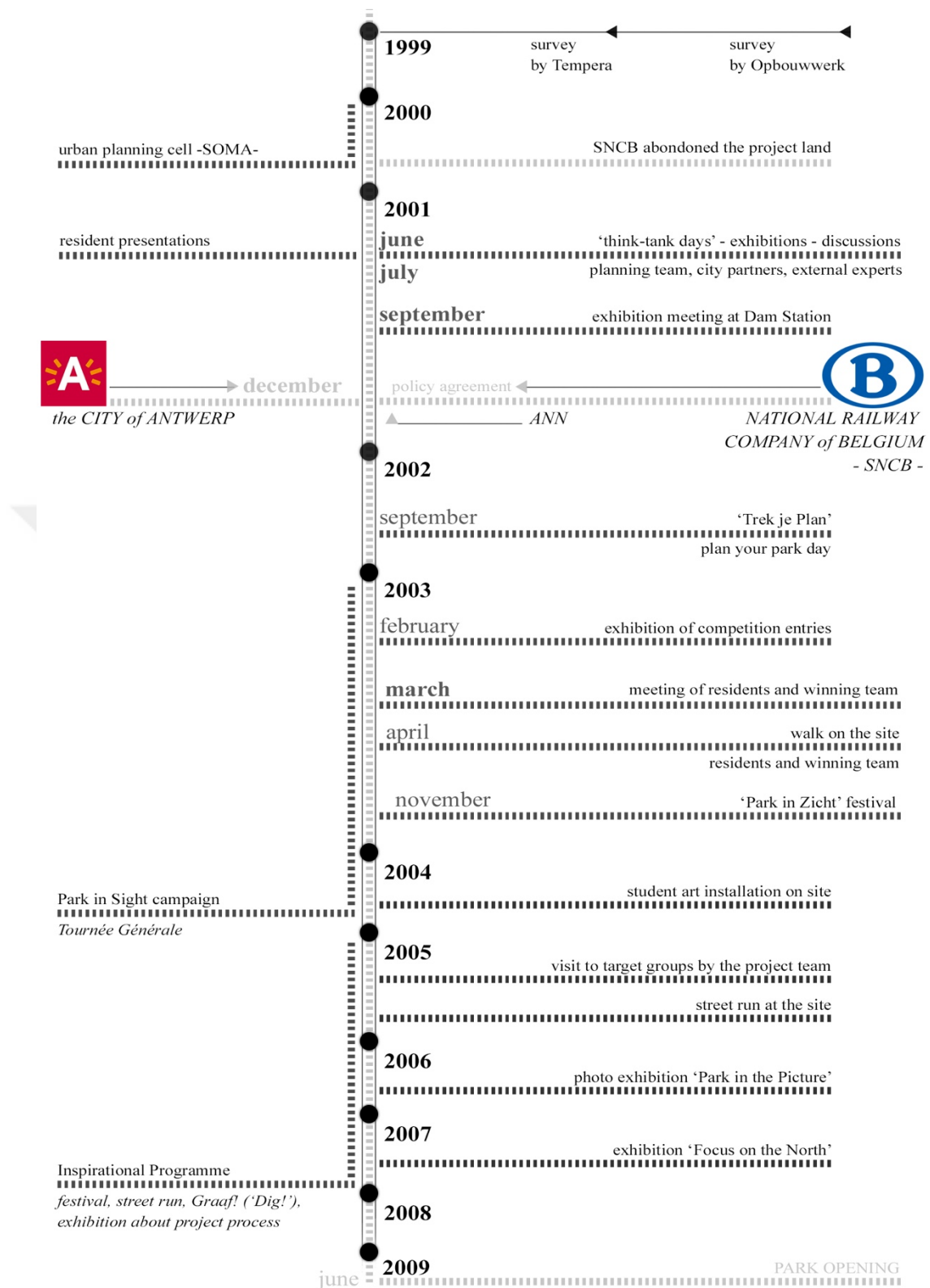


Figure 3.24 : Communication and participation process of Park Spoor Noord.

3.3 Structured Interviews

The case study is conducted with two projects, one from Turkey and one from Belgium, analyzed through a series of structured interviews. In accordance with the practice of purposeful sampling (Yıldırım and Şimşek, 2016/1999), the sampling size for the survey was determined through an equation considering population size, confidence level and margin of error (Figure 3.25). In the equation, N represents the population size, e the margin of error, e the percentage in decimal form, and z the z-score determined by the confidence level. For this study, the confidence level is %90, the z-score 1,65, and the margin of error 0.10. The population sizes of the case projects are considered in addition to these variables. The population of Yeldeğirmeni neighborhood is 14.276 (Url 1), and the population of Antwerp-North is 44.116 (Url 2). According to this data, the sampling size was calculated to be 61 persons per project. Although there is a significant difference between the population sizes of the neighborhoods, it is clear that after specific values there is no need for increasing the sample size (Yazıcıoğlu & Erdoğan, 2004).

$$\frac{\frac{z^2 \times p(1-p)}{e^2}}{1 + \left(\frac{z^2 \times p(1-p)}{e^2 N} \right)}$$

Figure 3.25 : The equation used to determine sample size (Url 22).

After the determination of the sampling size, it was also taken into account whether or not the inhabitants were living in the neighborhoods during the project process. The inhabitants of both neighborhoods were asked before the interviews about the length of their residence in the neighborhood. The questionnaires were held in April of 2018 with inhabitants who had lived in the neighborhood long before the projects' planning and implementation.

In the survey, thirty-nine questions examine both levels of sustainability of community, and thus how projects affected the social sustainability of the neighborhoods, and residents' perception of the participatory process of the project and their points of view concerning participating in matters related to their own urban environment (Table 3.1).

Table 3.1 : General framework of the structured interviews.

Sustainability of Community	Social interaction in community	chats with others in daily life friendships with neighbors collective activities held by inhabitants
	Sense of place	emotional connection with neighborhood perceived historical texture quality perceived preservation of local values
	Satisfaction of inhabitants	opportunities to access public space perceived built environment quality
	Sense of Safety	perceived safety in day time perceived safety in night time
	Community stability	will to live in the neighborhood will to raise next generations desire to move away
Public Participation	Project process	project informing community meeting public activities accessibility to community meetings have-not's interaction with the project participant involvement with the project
	Community awareness	participating communal activities defending personal opinions participating actively in planning or design

Structured interviews with questions shaped in accordance with these considerations were held with two independent sampling groups. As an additional classifier, a minimum of 10 years' residence in Yeldeğirmeni and 15 in Antwerp-North was required of interviewees in order to ensure that interviewers had lived in the neighborhood throughout the project process. Moreover, additional interview questions were prepared for the local authorities and designers involved in the projects. Unfortunately, it was not possible to reach the designers of either the Yeldeğirmeni or the Park Spoor Noor projects.

3.3.1 The survey in Yeldeğirmeni

The survey for the Yeldeğirmeni Neighborhood Renewal Project was held in the Yeldeğirmeni neighborhood with 61 inhabitants. After verifying that interviewees met the necessary conditions, in this case a minimum ten years of residence in the neighborhood up to the present date, questions were directed to inhabitants. In order

to provide second and third perspectives for the survey, interviews were prepared for the local authorities and designers. It was possible to contact the Kadıköy Municipality and ÇEKÜL as local authorities, but TAK, considered the designer in the study, refused to participate, claiming its work in Yeldeğirmeni was not started at the beginning of the project. The results of the structured interviews are analyzed through the program SPSS Statistics. To begin with, questions measuring the factors of sustainability of community were directed to interviewers under five sub-sections: social interaction in the community, sense of place, the satisfaction of inhabitants, sense of safety, and community stability.

Sustainability of community in Yeldeğirmeni

Questions were posed to interviewees concerning social interaction in the community, inhabitants' chats with others in daily life, their friendships with neighbors, and collective activities held by inhabitants both before and after the project. According to the frequency analysis performed with SPSS Statistics, the frequency results of chats with others in daily life is positive in the present time. On the other hand, the results for the same question about before the project, revealed that 39,3 percent of respondents answered that they had fewer daily chats with neighbors. (Figure 3.26). The same results also show that percentage of the answer 'same,' which is quite close to the answer 'less,' is 34,4. From this point, the results of this question will not be determinant by itself. The next question aimed to measure the frequency of friendships between inhabitants. It revealed this frequency to be %88,5, with %41 of interviewees responding that this frequency was the same before the project. Although %36,1 of interviewers answered that they had more friendships with their neighbors before the project, it will not be determinant by only this question. Lastly, in order to understand the effects of the project on social interaction in the community and therefore sustainability of community, the interviewees were asked about the collective activities in the neighborhood organized by inhabitants. The frequency analysis for this question group does not show a clear majority concerning interviewees' opinions in this matter, with %45,9 positive and %54,1 negative. Similarly, the results for before the project revealed no distinction with %54,1 positive and %45,9 negative answers.

The next question group concerning sustainability of community focused on sense of place. Emotional connection to the neighborhood, the perceived quality of the historical texture, and the perceived preservation of the local values were analyzed

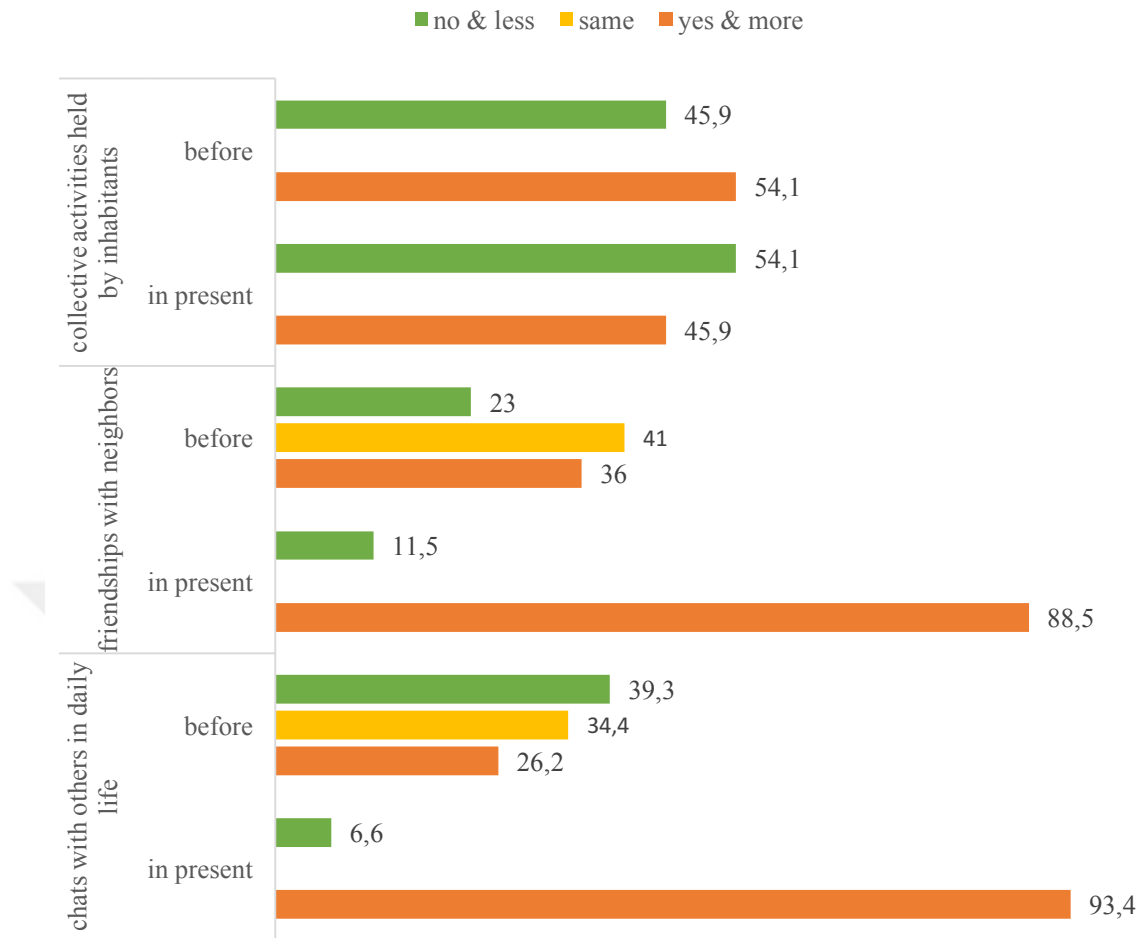


Figure 3.26 : Frequency analysis results for social interaction in the community.

through frequency tests in SPSS. The results for emotional connections of inhabitants with neighborhood is rather positive, with %86,9 of answers claiming that inhabitants have an emotional connection to the Yeldeğirmeni neighborhood. Despite these positive results, the frequency analysis suggests that %34,4 of inhabitants had stronger relations with their neighborhood, while %60,7 claimed that there was no difference compared to the conditions before the project. The other factor measured to analyze sense of place was the perceived quality of historical texture. The results of the analysis do not indicate a majority of opinion in any direction, but 49,2 percent of interviewees claimed that the historical texture of their neighborhood was neglected before the renewal project. A similar approach was taken to perceived preservation of local values that belonged to the neighborhood. There is no clear distinction between positive and negative results, but %32,8 of interviewees claimed that preservation was better and %37,7 claimed that it was unchanged compared to conditions before the project (Figure 3.27).

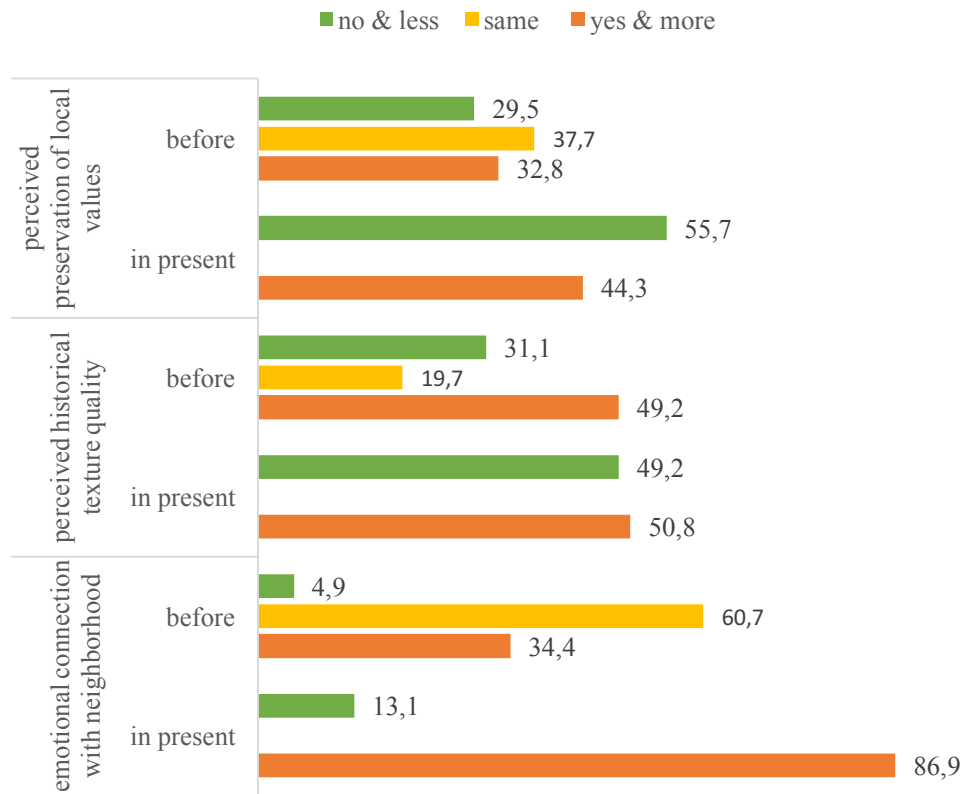


Figure 3.27 : Frequency analysis results for sense of place.

Third question group was designed to analyze the satisfaction of the inhabitants. In order to assess the levels of this factor, interviewees were asked about accessibility to public spaces and how they perceived quality of the built environment in their neighborhood. The frequency analyses revealed that %72,1 of respondents claimed to have opportunities to access public spaces in the present, with %29,5 claiming that they had less access to such places before the renewal project (Figure 3.28). The results concerning the quality of the built environment were not quite as striking, with 50,8 percent perceiving the quality as good and 49,2 percent as bad.

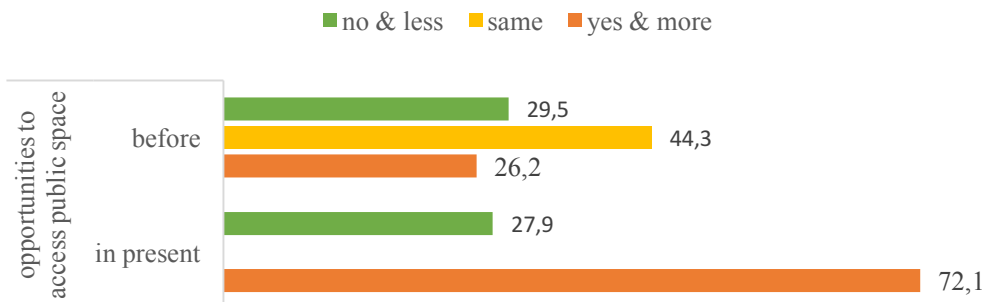


Figure 3.28 : Frequency analysis results for access to public space.

Sense of safety is another factor affecting sustainability of community, and therefore the social sustainability of an urban environment. In this context, interviewees were asked if they perceived their neighborhood to be safe and to evaluate the situation before the renewal project. The frequency analysis for safety questions revealed that the majority of the community (%68,9) thought that their neighborhood was not safe enough in the day time, and answers showed that 57,4 percent of the community thought that there was no change from before the project. A similar question for night time revealed equal rates of positive and negative answers. However, there was an increase in the rates of people who thought that the neighborhood was more dangerous before the project (Figure 3.29).

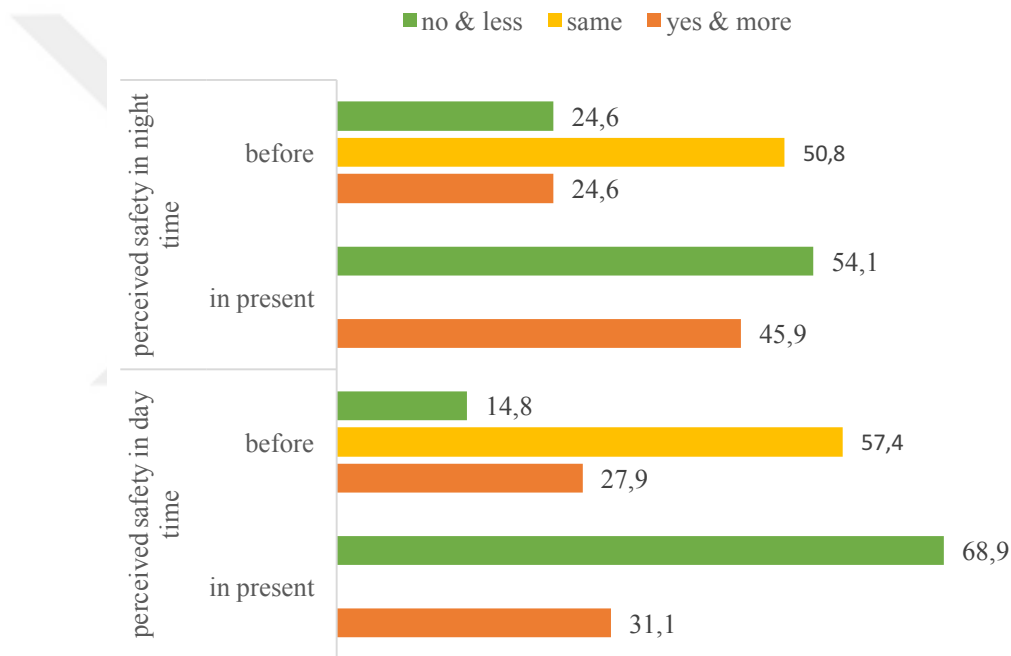


Figure 3.29 : Frequency analysis results for sense of safety.

The last factor investigated for sustainability of community was determined to be community stability within the context of this study. At this point, the interviewees in the Yeldeğirmeni neighborhood were asked if they were willing to continue living there and to raise their children/grandchildren in the neighborhood. The survey results indicate that inhabitants are quite pleased with living in the neighborhood, regardless of the effects of the renewal project. %85,2 of interviewees answered that they would continue in Yeldeğirmeni, while %86,9 affirmed that they would have stayed even before the project (Figure 3.30). Similar rates are seen for questions about their willingness to raise the next generations there. The frequency analysis shows that 63,9

percent of answers were positive for the present time, while 60,7 percent were also positive for before the project. Lastly, the interviewees demonstrated the stability of the community, with %62,3 indicating no desire to move out of the neighborhood.

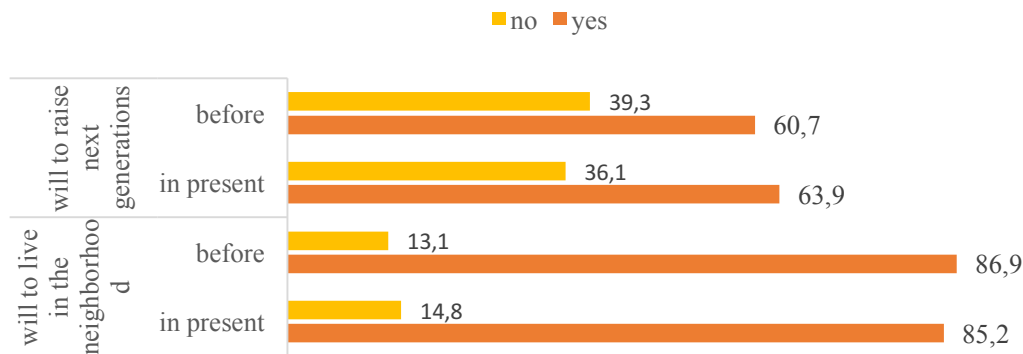


Figure 3.30 : Frequency analysis results for community stability.

Public participation in Yeldeğirmeni

The second step in this case study and survey is focused on the concept of public participation. The study evaluates participation as a highly effective and important aspect of urban development projects. Accordingly, another section on public participation was added to the structured interviews. The inhabitants of Yeldeğirmeni neighborhood were asked questions related to project process and community awareness. According to their responses and the frequency analysis it is clear that inhabitants do not think there was enough effort to provide participatory designs in the project process. To be more precise, for project information 63,9 percent, for community meetings 73,8 percent, for public activities 72,1 percent, and for accessibility to these 68,9 percent of interviewees replied with negative answers, claiming that these services were not provided sufficiently during the project process. The follow-up question on whether there was enough interaction and communication with the have-nots of the community, and whether they felt their ideas and opinions were considered. Like the questions about the project process, %75,4 of interviewees found efforts in these areas insufficient. Overall, %54,7 of respondents had an overall negative impression of the effectiveness of participants' involvement in the project process. In parallel with these results, the general perception among the inhabitants of the Yeldeğirmeni neighborhood about whether their views and opinions were considered earnestly and taken into account for the project is also 65,6 percent negative (Figure 3.31).

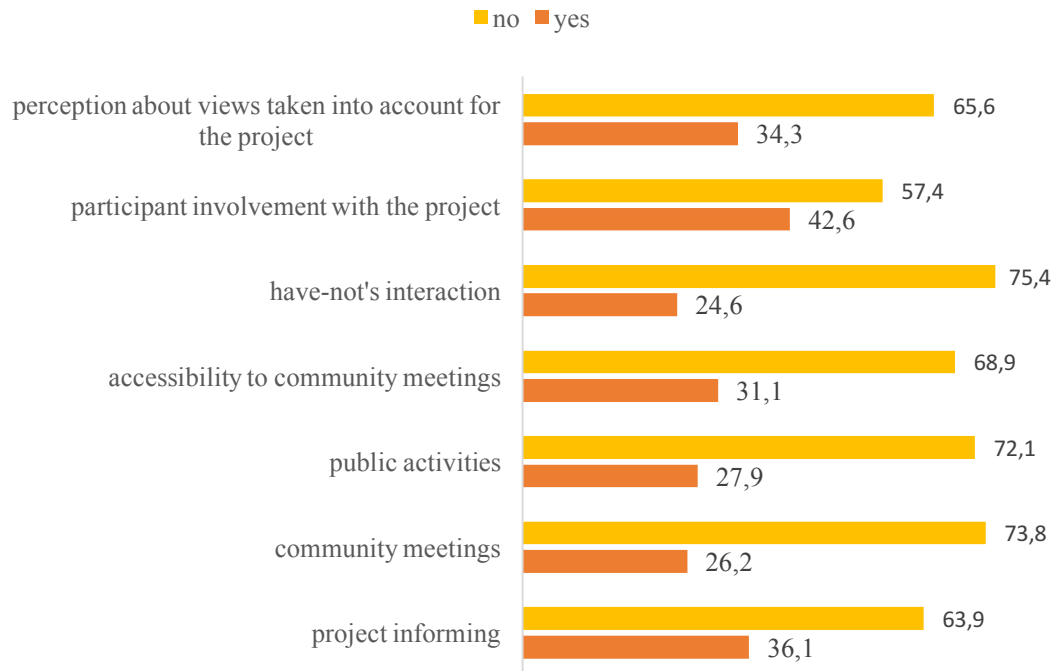


Figure 3.31 : Frequency analysis results for project process.

The last part of the structured interviews focused on community awareness within the concept of public participation. In this part, interviewees were asked about their willingness to participate in communal activities and defend their ideas, their perception of whether they had a voice in matters related to their neighborhood and their desire to be active in matters of planning or design in their neighborhood. The results show that the will to participate in communal activities and defend personal opinions was very present, as 88,5 percent answered positively for participation, and 95,1 percent answered positively for defending personal opinions (Figure 3.32).

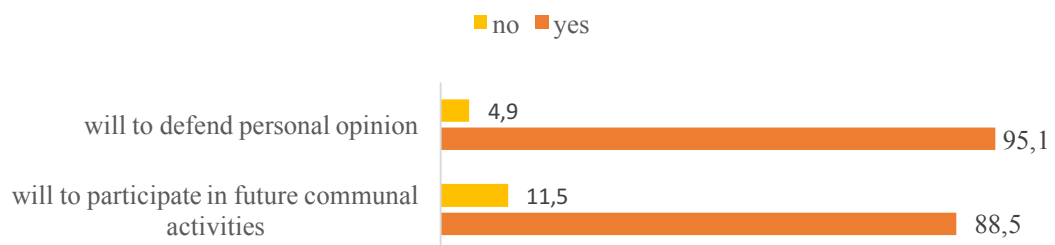


Figure 3.32 : Frequency analysis results for community awareness.

The notion that inhabitants had a voice in these matters was not accurate according to %54,1 of the interviewees answering positively and %45,9 answering in the negative. It is evident in the frequency analysis that the perception on this matter before the

project was similar, with %55,7 of interviewees answering positively and %44,3 negatively. Lastly, concerning the desire to play an active role in the planning and design of their neighborhoods %83,6 expressed such a desire in the present, while %82 expressed such a desire from before the project (Figure 3.33).

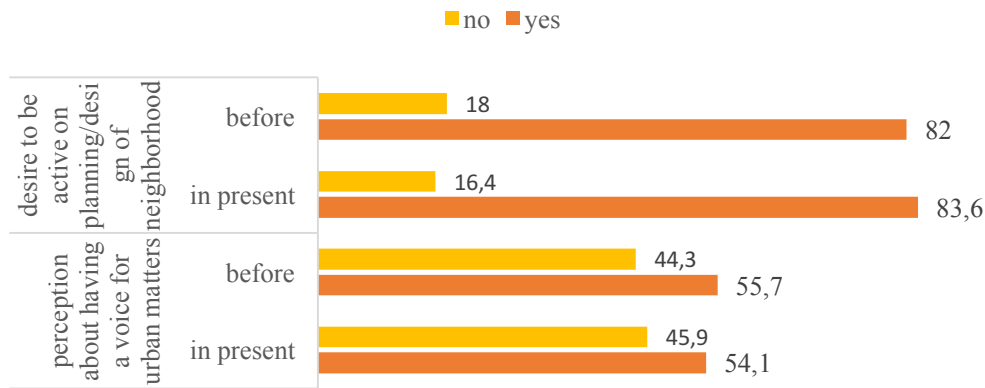


Figure 3.33 : Frequency analysis results for community awareness.

Local authority perspective

The structured interviews with the users of the project were supported with another one specifically prepared for local authorities in order to strengthen the results of the case. For the Yeldeğirmeni Neighborhood Renewal Project, participants were selected from the Kadıköy Municipality and ÇEKÜL. The questions comprise an evaluation of the perceptions of these actors about the project process, how the participatory process was maintained, and about the urban policies related to the project. According to the answers of the project coordinator and the project reporter:

- there could be more research conducted before implementation,
- the neighborhood does not have enough public space, although it is better than before,
- the opinions of the community were taken into account throughout the project process,
- information meetings, on site meetings, exhibitions and festivals, design workshops and focus group meetings were conducted throughout the process,
- there was not enough participation from the inhabitants.

The interviewers claimed that the lack of empathy, resources, and well-equipped working crews, along with the insufficiency of the physical conditions on the project

site, caused difficulties during the project process. However, they claimed that the participatory approach of the project will contribute to the social sustainability of the neighborhood.

The answers also pointed out that the project took a pioneering approach to urban development in Turkey, even though urban policy in Turkey is not sufficient for promoting urban social sustainability and public participation. They also suggested that urban policy in Turkey should be developed through social impact evaluations, participatory process guidelines, and participation plans.

The answers from the project coordinator of ÇEKÜL were in parallel with the Kadıköy Municipality. In addition to those answers, ÇEKÜL claims that they had difficulties with the project management and communication between local authorities and the inhabitants of the Yeldeğirmeni neighborhood. He suggested that bottom-up administration practices should be developed and strengthened in order to enhance urban policy in Turkey, especially regarding social sustainability and participation in urban life.

3.3.2 The survey in Antwerp-North

The second case for this thesis is Park Spoor Noord in the Antwerp-North neighborhood. The same procedure was followed define the sampling for the structured interviews with one difference—interviewees had to have lived in the neighborhood for more than fifteen years. Interviews were held with 61 inhabitants from Antwerp-North. During the interview process, language became an issue since some of the older inhabitants were not able to speak English. Also, it was difficult to reach inhabitants of the neighborhood on the project site since that the people using the park are mixed with external visitors. In addition to structured interviews with inhabitants, it was planned to give questionnaires to local authorities and the designers of the project. However, since the project was designed by an Italian company as part of an international competition, it was not possible to reach the designer during the thesis process. The results of the structured interviews with inhabitants were examined with SPSS Statistics. The outcomes of the structured interviews will be explained in the following sections in two parts; sustainability of community and public participation.

Sustainability of community in Antwerp-North

The first part of the structured interviews focused on measuring and understanding the effects of the Park Spoor Noord Project on sustainability of community. Social interaction in the community, sense of place, the satisfaction of inhabitants, sense of safety and community stability were examined as factors of sustainability of community. According to the results, the percentage of daily chats with neighbors is high in the present, and the general judgement is same for before the project, although 36,1 percent of the interviewees answered that they had fewer before. Very similar reactions were observed in answers about friendships with neighbors both in the present and before the project. Lastly, the interviewers asked about the presence of communal activities held specifically by inhabitants. The frequency analysis revealed that %70,5 of interviewers claimed they have such activities in the present, with %67,2 claiming they did not before the project (Figure 3.34).

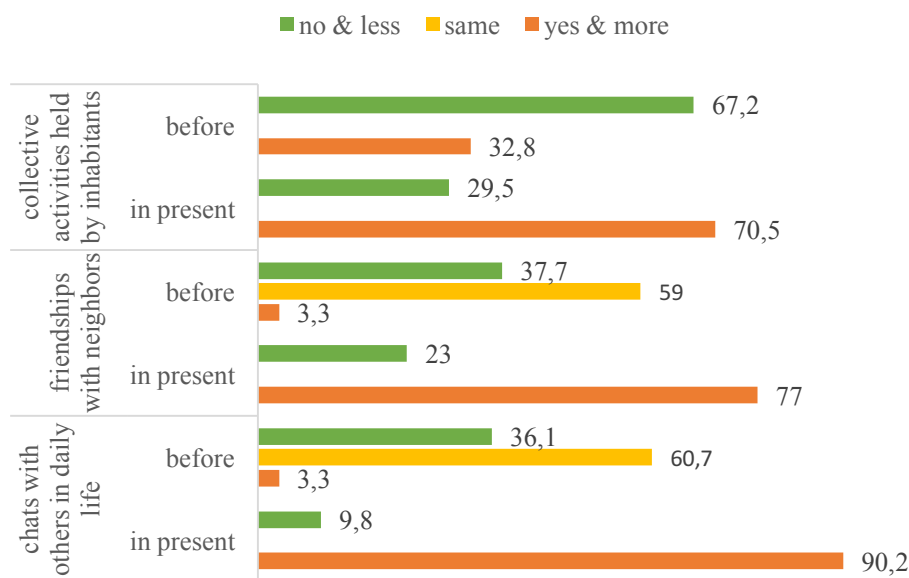


Figure 3.34 : Frequency analysis results for social interaction in the community.

Questions related to sense of place were also asked to gauge sustainability of community. These questions aimed to understand the change in sense of place between the present and before the project through emotional connection, the perceived quality of historical texture, and the perceived preservation of local values. According to the frequency analysis, the 83,6 percent of the interviewees claimed to have a positive emotional connection to their neighborhood in the present. This connection was claimed to have been weaker before the project by 44,3 percent of the interviewees,

although 45,9 percent claimed that it was same before the project. The majority of the interviewers (%63,9) thought that the quality of the historical texture of their neighborhood was well-preserved in present, while %57,4 claimed it had been neglected before the project. Lastly, the perceived preservation of local values in the neighborhood was 80,3 percent positive in the present. Moreover, the majority of the interviewers (%63,9) stated that it was same before the project (Figure 3.35).

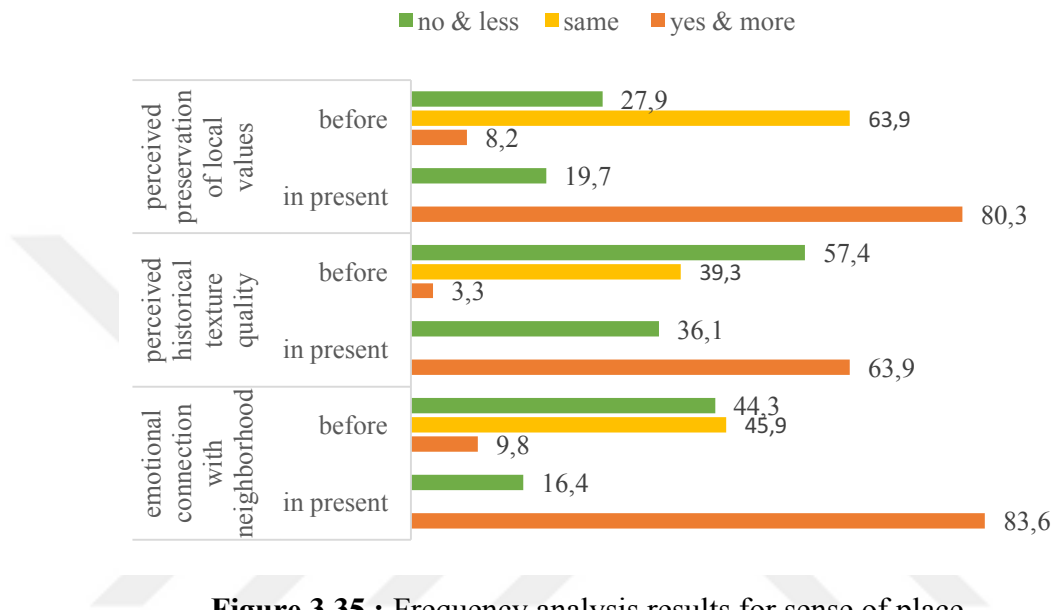


Figure 3.35 : Frequency analysis results for sense of place.

In order to understand the satisfaction of inhabitants, interviewees were asked about their accessibility to public spaces and their perception of the quality of the built environment of the neighborhood in the present and before the project. 83,6 percent of interviewees claimed that they had good opportunities in present in this matter, and 88,5 claimed that they had fewer opportunities before the project (Figure 3.36). Accordingly, the generality of the results shows that the community perceived the built environment as having good quality, with a 62,3 percent positive answer rate.

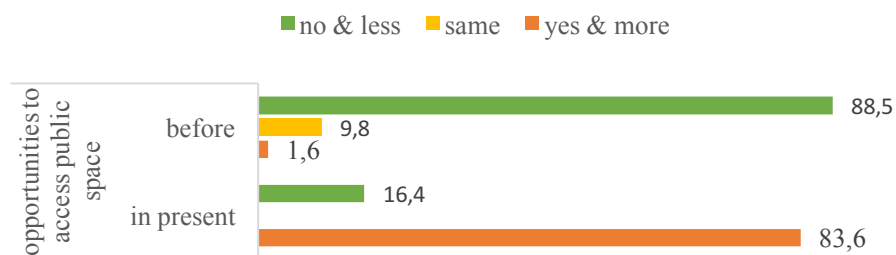


Figure 3.36 : Frequency analysis results for access to public space.

One of the factors mentioned in the structured interview is sense of safety. Regarding this topic, interviewees were asked about how they perceived the safety issue in their neighborhood for both day and night in both the present time and before the project. According to the frequency analysis, interviewees claimed that the neighborhood was not very secure in the daytime (%75,4) while it was perceived as secure in night time (%57,4) in the present. On the other hand, the results for before the project revealed that the day time security perception was same (%57,4), while for night time it was riskier (49,2) compared to the present (Figure 3.37).

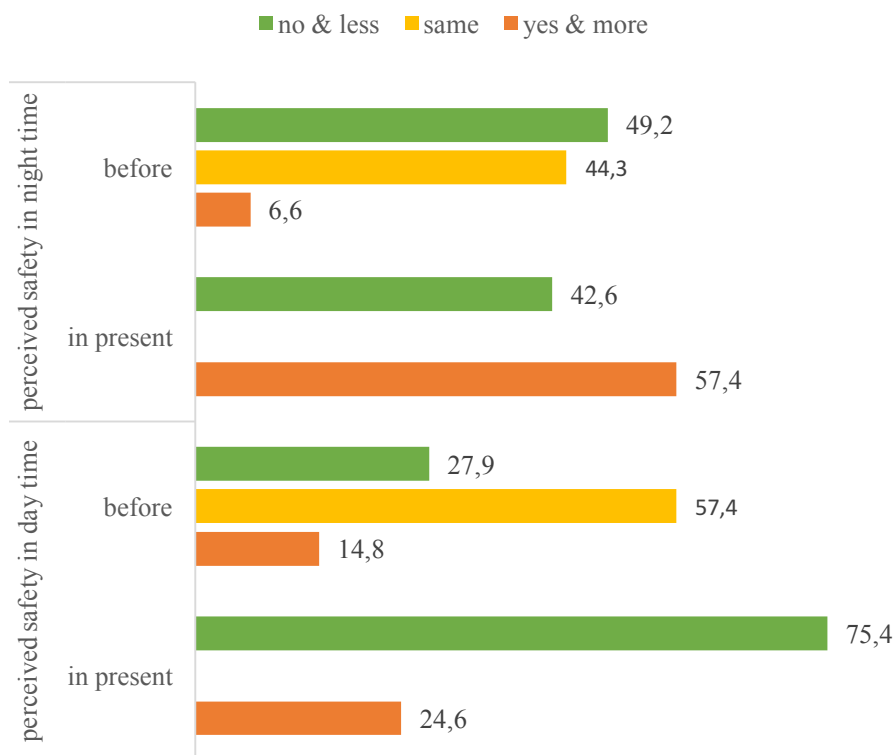


Figure 3.37 : Frequency analysis results for sense of safety.

The last factor, community stability, was examined through questions about whether inhabitants were willing to continue living and raise children in the neighborhood, if the project had changed their ideas, and whether they wanted to move away from the neighborhood. The outcomes for these questions show that 88,5 percent of the interviewers wanted to live in the neighborhood in the present, while this rate was 60,7 for the time before the project. Similarly, the answers for willingness to raise the next generations in the neighborhood were 78,7 percent positive in present, while they decreased to 50,8 percent for the time before the project. Additionally, a %59 majority of the interviewees did not want to move out of the neighborhood (Figure 3.38).

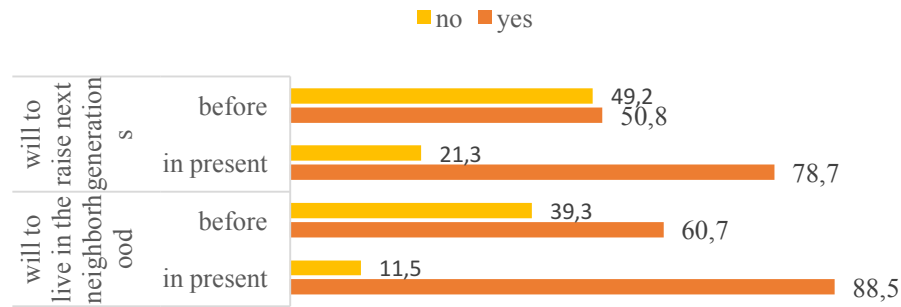


Figure 3.38 : Frequency analysis results for community stability.

Public participation in Antwerp-North

The second part of the structured interviews concerned public participation and consisted of two sections, project process and community awareness. Questions in the project process part aimed to analyze how the inhabitants of the Antwerp-North neighborhood perceived the participatory approach of the Park Spoor Noord Project. According to the results of the frequency analysis, the interviewees approved of the projects efforts in this area; project informing results were 77 percent positive, community meeting results 68,9 percent, public activity results 77 percent, and accessibility to these 70,5 percent (Figure 3.39). In addition, the outcomes show that there was no consensus among interviewees whether have-nots had enough opportunity to be included in the project process. On the other hand, 60,7 percent of the interviewers thought that the participant involvement in the project was not sufficient. Lastly, the results reveal that a majority of the inhabitants did not think their ideas and opinions were taken into account during the project process.

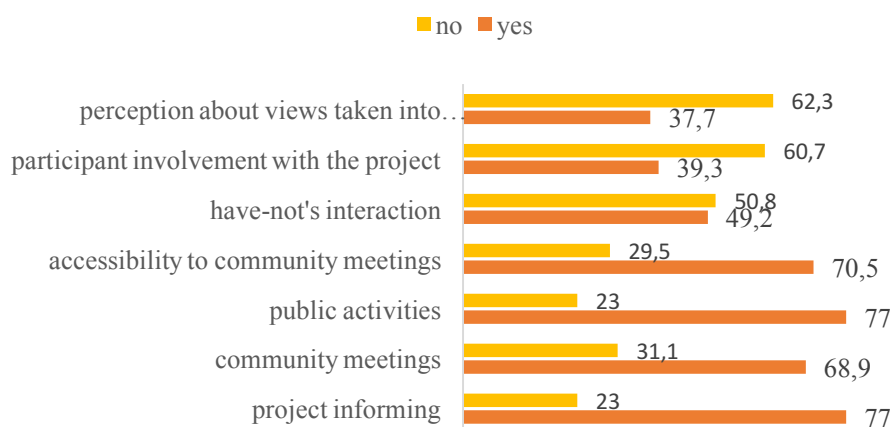


Figure 3.39 : Frequency analysis results for project process.

The last part of the structured interviews concentrated on understanding community awareness in the neighborhood. From this point, interviewers were asked whether they were willing to participate in communal activities and defend their ideas, whether they felt they had a voice in community related matters in the neighborhood, and if they were willing to have an active part in the planning or design of the neighborhood. According to the frequency analysis, the 78,7 percent of the interviewees claimed that they were willing to participate in future communal activities, and 72,1 percent claimed to be willing to defend their personal ideas (Figure 3.40). The general perception of whether inhabitants had a voice in the matters related to their neighborhood was negative both in the present (%60,7) and for before the project (%80,3). Lastly, the answers revealed that the overall desire to be actively included in issues related to the planning and design of the neighborhood was slightly positive with 55,7 percent of answers positive in the present. However, this is notable since the result was 80,3 percent negative for before the project (Figure 3.41).

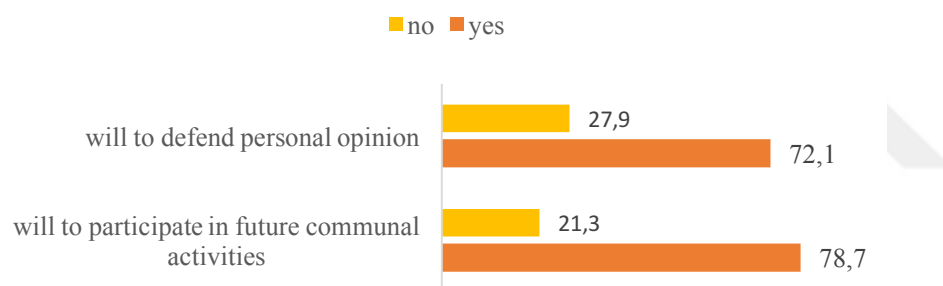


Figure 3.40 : Frequency analysis results for community awareness.

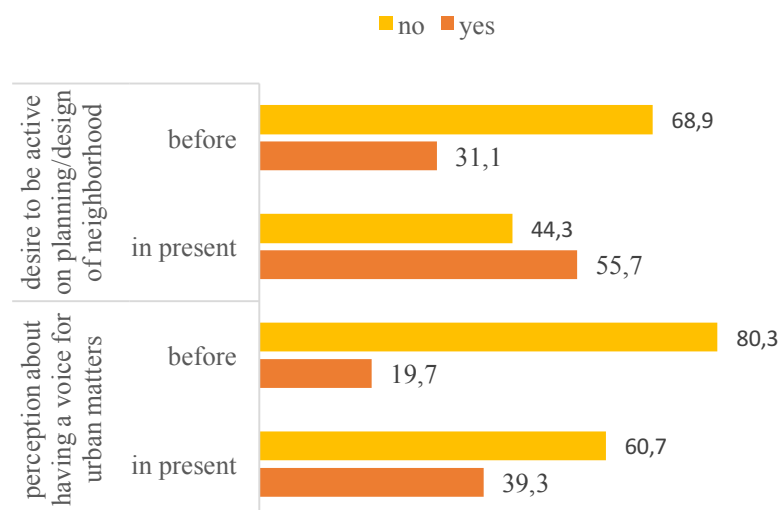


Figure 3.41 : Frequency analysis results for community awareness.

The local authority perspective

Corresponding structured interviews were also conducted with local authorities of the City of Antwerp for the Park Spoor Noord Project. According to the urbanist who worked as a project coordinator in the spatial planning department,

- there was enough research conducted before the project,
- the neighborhood does not have enough public spaces, although it is better than before,
- the opinions of the community were taken into account throughout the project process,
- information meetings, on site meetings, exhibitions and festivals, design workshops and focus group meetings were conducted throughout the process,
- there was enough participation from the inhabitants.

The answers also claimed that the participatory actions through the project process would have a positive effect for the sustainability of the community whereas there were not increase in social community monitored. They also conducted additional activities such as face to face communications with inhabitants, basic communication campaigns, and additional visits with have-nots.

According to the project coordinator, the Park Spoor Noord project took a pioneering approach to urban development in Flanders. The urban policy in Flanders is quite sufficient for promoting social sustainability and public participation. Although they did not have a very efficient urban policy on their side and had to put in enormous effort to create communication grounds, the urban policy in Flanders is quite supportive of social sustainability and public participation through budgets, schedules, planning, and permission to have straight and serious communication in the present.

3.4 The comparison

Comparison of project parameters

The case study of this thesis concentrates on a comparison between two cases from Turkey and Belgium, focusing on the project processes and structured interview results. Four parameters, the project aims, project process, project actors, the and social aspects of the projects, examined above, are compared. First, the project aims for each

project are evaluated within the scope of the framework of the thesis (Table 3.2). As shown in the table, the main concern for each project was the development of the project neighborhoods by increasing the neighborhood quality and protecting their historical texture. One of the aims of the Yeldeğirmeni Neighborhood Renewal Project was to develop integrated vitalization strategies, which indicates that there is a need for effective development planning in Turkey. It was also claimed that another aim of the projects was to promote social solidarity and participation. However, these issues were not directly claimed by the Park Spoor Noord Project. The relatively different aims for Park Spoor Noord, providing green space and increasing the quality of life, show that the conditions in Belgium are one step further than Turkey with regard to planning strategies and public participation.

Table 3.2 : Comparison of the project aims.

YELDEĞİRMENİ RENEWAL	PARK SPOOR NOORD
To protect the history and neighborhood culture,	To provide a green space for the neighborhood,
To develop integrated vitalization strategies,	To increase the quality of life of the community,
To promote social solidarity and participation,	To protect historical texture of the site,
To strengthen the neighborhood's connection with the city.	To promote the development of the neighborhood.

Secondly, the general processes for each project are examined, starting with the beginning of project planning. There was a survey study held by local authorities in each case to create a solid background for project. The first difference was the international design competition for Park Spoor Noord. Another main difference in the processes was legal in nature; for Park Spoor Noord, in addition to general urban policies, there was a specific policy agreement and a consensus report provided in order to maintain the process and funding, while for the Yeldeğirmeni Neighborhood Renewal Project, only the general policies in Turkey were observed throughout the process. The public meetings, festivals, campaigns, and implementation of the projects were quite similar during the general project process (Table 3.3).

Table 3.3 : Comparison of the project process.

YELDEĞİRMENİ RENEWAL	PARK SPOOR NOORD
Survey study before project planning	Survey study before project planning
-	International design competition
-	Policy Agreement & Consensus Report
Public meetings, festivals and campaigns	Public meetings, festivals and campaigns
Project implementations	Project implementations

The third parameter for examining the cases is the project actors. Both projects were initiated through the attempts of the local authorities of the project sites, but the contributions of a non-governmental organization to Yeldeğirmeni were clear from the very beginning of the project. The nature of the designers as actors differs for each project, since for Park Spoor Noord there was an international competition for the design of project, while the designers were grouped under an organization with the attempt of the Kadıköy Municipality during the project process (Table 3.4).

Table 3.4 : Comparison of the project actors.

YELDEĞİRMENİ RENEWAL	PARK SPOOR NOORD
Planned by the local authority and a non-governmental organization	Planned by the local authority
TAK; researchers and designers (involved later on)	Competition winning team (from the beginning)
The inhabitants on Yeldeğirmeni	The inhabitants of Antwerp-North

Lastly, the social aspects of the projects are examined through a consideration of the participatory actions in the Yeldeğirmeni Neighborhood Renewal and Park Spoor Noord. The Voluntary House of Yeldeğirmeni comes to the forefront in the comparison through its provision of a permanent place for inhabitants to register their suggestions and complaints. Public meetings, festivals, workshops, etc. were conducted for each project. The meetings and visits conducted with the designer team and inhabitants for Park Spoor Noord is one difference, but similar meetings and visits were held by the non-governmental organization ÇEKÜL for the Yeldeğirmeni Neighborhood Renewal Project (Table 3.5).

Table 3.5 : Comparison of the project's social aspect.

YELDEĞİRMENİ RENEWAL	PARK SPOOR NOORD
Voluntary house	-
Public meetings and information sessions	Public meetings and information sessions
Communal activities and festivals on site	Communal activities and festivals on site
-	Exhibitions and campaigns about the project
Target group meetings by ÇEKÜL	Target group meetings by the designer team

In order to evaluate these aspects on a more concrete basis, the structured interviews are a part of the comparison. The questions were derived in order to understand the outcomes and success rates of the projects in regard to the social sustainability in each neighborhood. The comparison of the results from structured interviews of each neighborhood are explained in detail below.

Comparison of structured interviews

The comparison between the Yeldeğirmeni Neighborhood Renewal Project and Park Spoor Noord Project constitutes the last part of this study, revealing how participatory approaches were conducted and how this conduct affected the social sustainability of neighborhoods. The results are examined in accordance with the sections of structured interviews concerning sustainability of community and public participation. Responses from inhabitants, and the positive or negative rates of such responses, were analyzed regarding social interaction in the community, sense of place, the satisfaction of the inhabitants, sense of safety, and community stability. According to the frequency analysis, there was no distinct difference observed in the frequency of daily chats and friendships after the project implementation in both neighborhoods. However, there was an apparent increase in the rates of collective activities held by the inhabitants of Park Spoor Noord. The interview results show that the positive reaction rate to these questions was 70,5 percent in the present, while it was 32,8 percent for before the project (Figure 3.42).

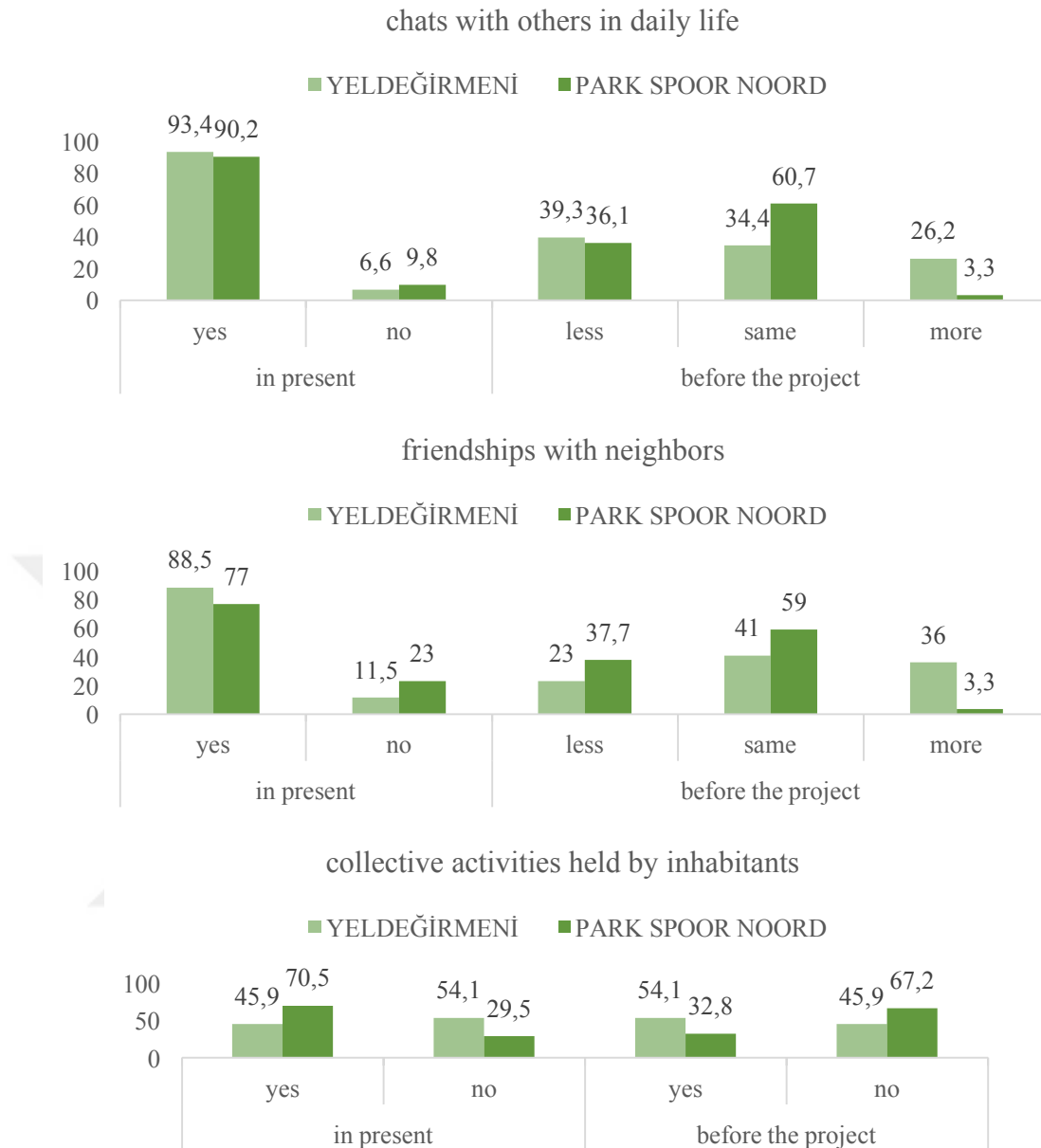


Figure 3.42 : Comparison results for social interaction in community.

The factor sense of place refers to the questions about the emotional connection of inhabitants to their neighborhoods and how they perceive the change in the quality of historic texture and conservative attitudes towards local values of neighborhoods. The comparison of the results reveals that there was an increase in the inhabitants' level of sentimental connection with their neighborhood in the Park Spoor Noord case, while there was no significant difference in the Yeldeğirmeni case; however, despite the lack of change in rates, 86,9 percent of the interviewees from Yeldeğirmeni claimed that they had an emotional connection to their neighborhood. The answers for both Yeldeğirmeni and Antwerp-North show that there has not been enough attention given

to historical quality or the preservation of the neighborhoods. Moreover, a greater proportion of residents involved with Park Spoor Noord (%80,3) had a positive view of the project's protection of local values (Figure 3.43).

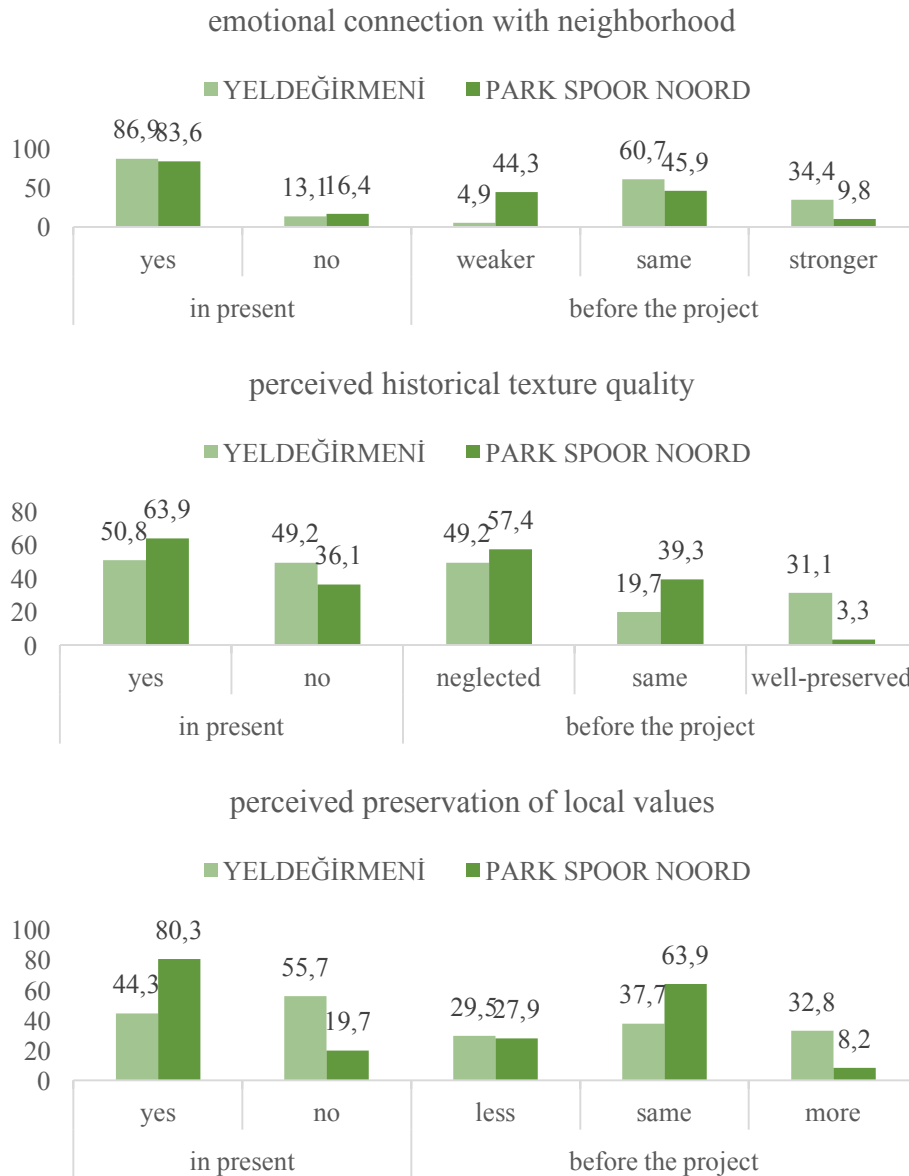


Figure 3.43 : Comparison results for sense of place.

When it comes to the satisfaction of inhabitants and sense of safety, the results were average for both the Yeldeğirmeni and Antwerp-North neighborhoods. Opportunities to access public space increased in the eyes of interviewees in Antwerp-North, but perceptions of the quality of the built environment were low for both neighborhoods. For sense of safety, although there was a slight increase in the perceived security levels in Antwerp-North, there was still no significant change for both neighborhoods concerning security issues.

The last factor mentioned in the structured interview, community stability, yielded better results for the inhabitants of the Park Spoor Nord project than for those of Yeldeğirmeni. According to the frequency analysis, the interviewees' willingness to live and to raise future generations in the neighborhood increased by approximately %20 as a result of the Park Spoor Noord Project, while there was no definable change resulting from the Yeldeğirmeni Renewal Project. However, similar proportions of inhabitants from both neighborhoods (app. %40) expressed a desire to move away (Figure 3.44).

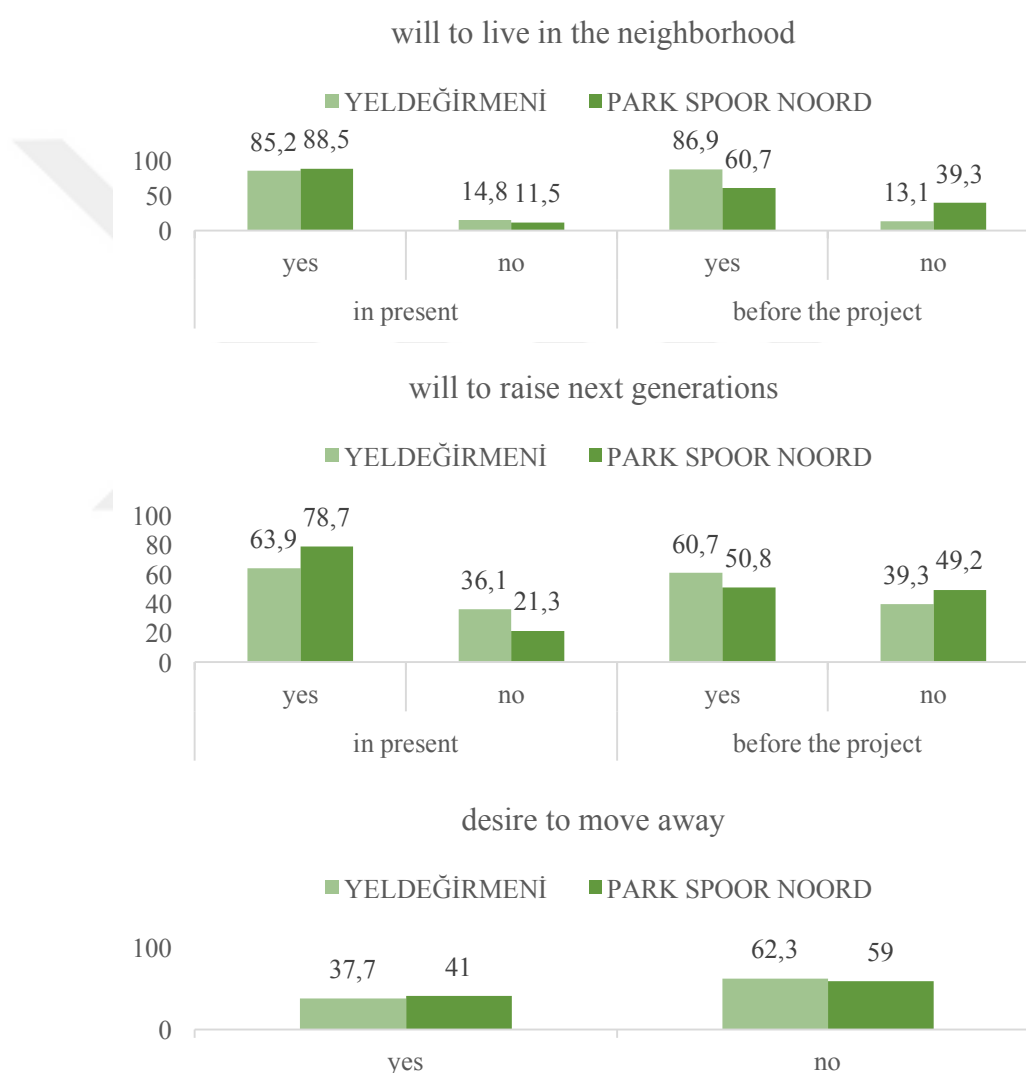


Figure 3.44 : Comparison results for community stability.

The concept of public participation was examined in the second part of the structured interviews. First, to the inhabitants of the Yeldeğirmeni and Antwerp-North neighborhoods were asked questions related to project process. According to the frequency analysis, the residents involved in the Park Spoor Noord Project in Antwerp-

North reported higher rates of informing the community about the project, community meetings, and public activities. The responses to these questions were approximately 30 percent positive for the Yeldeğirmeni Renewal Project, while they were approximately 70 percent positive for Park Spoor Noord. Although fewer than half of the interviewees in both projects thought that there was sufficient communication with have-nots in the communities, the rates for Park Spoor Noord were still 30 percent higher than those of the Yeldeğirmeni Renewal Project. However, the perception of the inhabitants of their involvement with the project process and whether their opinions were taken into account in the project were less than 40 percent positive for both the Yeldeğirmeni Renewal and Park Spoor Noord projects (Figure 3.45).

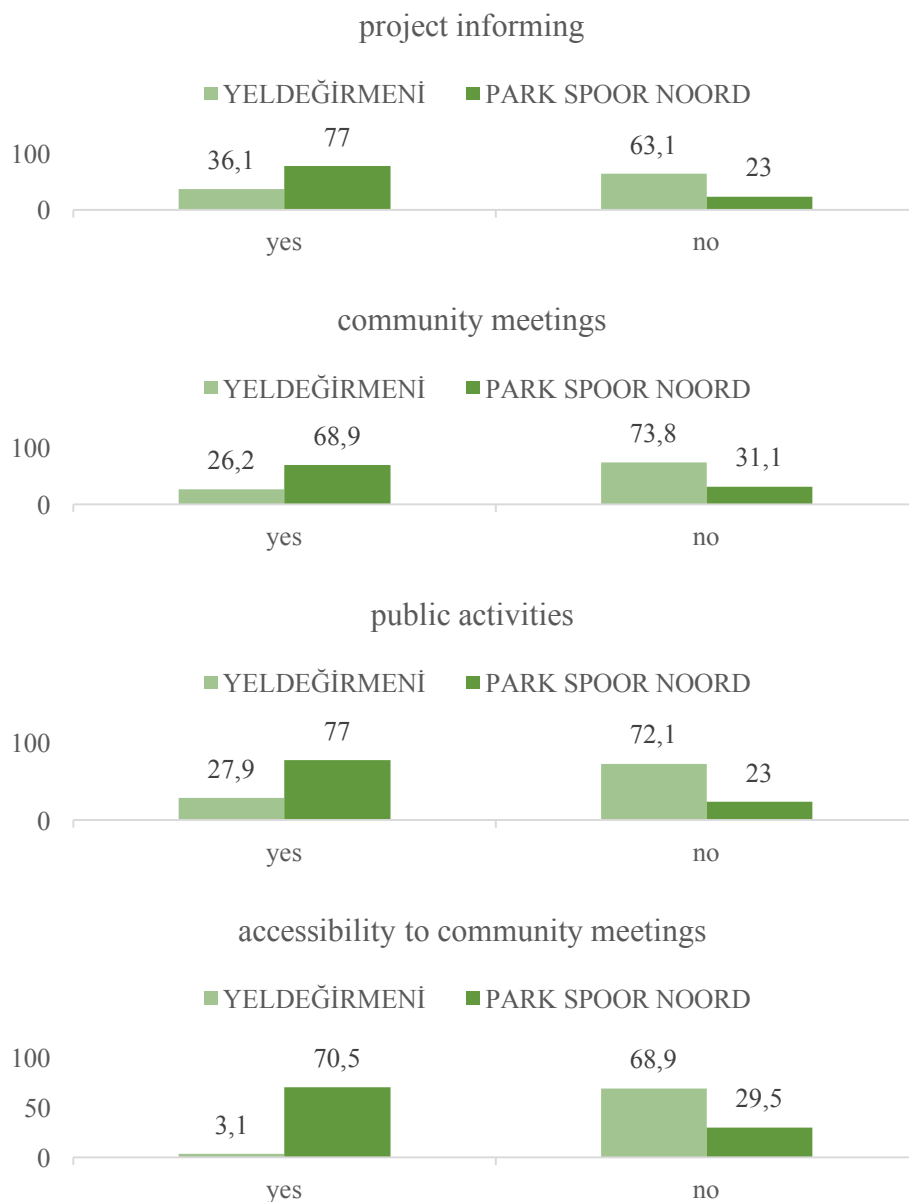


Figure 3.45 : Comparison results for project process.

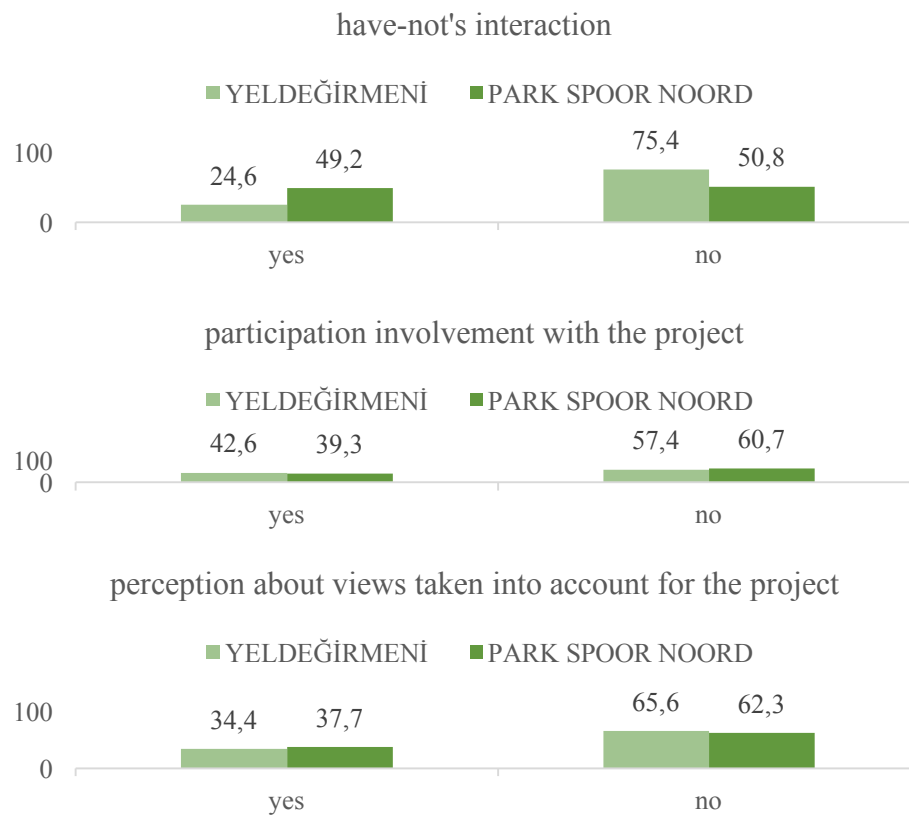


Figure 3.45 (continued): Comparison results for project process.

Lastly, the second part of the public participation section of the structured interviews sought an understanding of community awareness in the Yeldeğirmeni and Antwerp-North neighborhoods. Questions regarding the residents' willingness to participate in future communal activities and defend their personal views, perception of whether they had a voice in urban matters, and their desire to be a part of planning or design processes in their neighborhood, were directed to interviewees. According to the frequency analysis, inhabitants of both neighborhoods were willing to participate in future activities and defend their personal opinions, with more than 70 percent of replies positive. Their perception of whether they had a voice in urban matters was around average and unchanging for the project in Yeldeğirmeni, while negative responses increased by approximately %20 for Antwerp-North. There were similar reactions regarding inhabitants' desire to be active in the planning or design processes; the rates were around %80 positive, and there was no change observed for the Yeldeğirmeni neighborhood. In Antwerp-North, however, 55,7 percent of interviewees expressed such a desire, up from 31,1 percent from before the Park Spoor Nord project (Figure 3.46).

The comparison reveals that the Park Spoor Noord project made a greater contribution to the sustainability of the community, and therefore the social sustainability of the neighborhood, than the Yeldeğirmeni Neighborhood Renewal Project. As seen in the results and considering the connection of public participation to social sustainability, effective management of the participatory process throughout the project influences sustainability of community. In light of the results of this comparison, it is fair to say that the participatory process was managed more efficiently for the Park Spoor Noord than the Yeldeğirmeni Neighborhood Project.

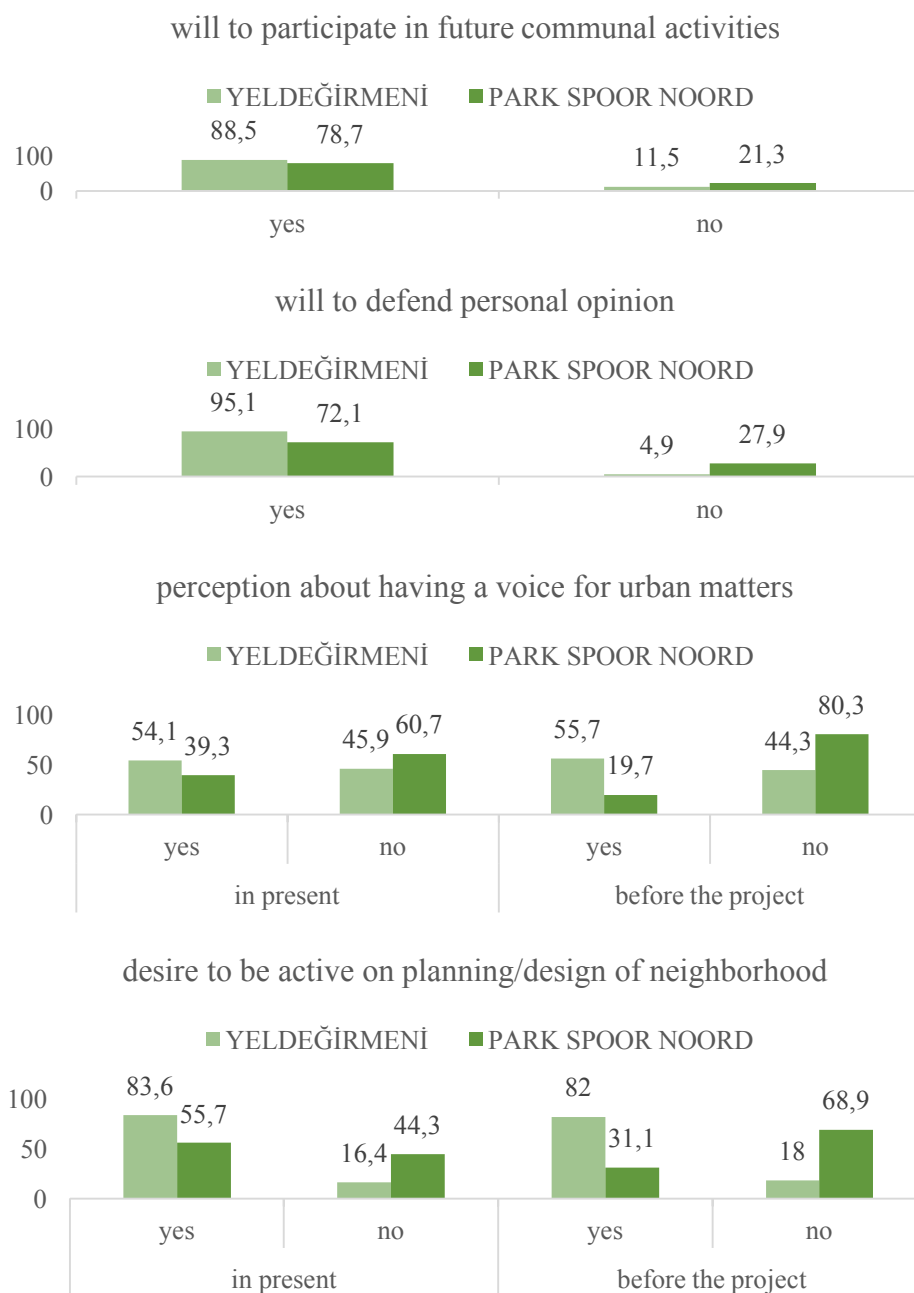


Figure 3.46 : Comparison results for community awareness.

4. DISCUSSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The concepts of social sustainability and public participation are both dynamic concepts, as explained in the literature review. WCED (1987) describes sustainability as dependent upon addressing ‘the needs of the present without compromising with the ability of future generations to meet their own need’. From this perspective, the concept of social sustainability is multidimensional, since it is related to the social matters in an urban environment. It is not appropriate to make concrete judgements but there are certain factors that are certainly in social sustainability. These factors have been determined in order to understand how urban development projects affect the sustainability of communities and analyzed through research on the project planning and implementation process and the structured interviews conducted in the case study of this thesis.

The overall results show that the implementation of the Park Spoor Noord Project has affected sustainability of community and public participation in Antwerp-North neighborhood more than the that of the Yeldeğirmeni Neighborhood Renewal Project. These results for the first section of the structured interviews, sustainability of community, can be summarized as;

- Increase in the collective activities held by inhabitants,
- Increased emotional connection level of inhabitants to their neighborhood,
- Increase in opportunity to access public space,
- Increased will to live and raise next generations in the neighborhood.

These outcomes indicate that the project in Belgium had been conducted in a way that better enhanced social sustainability, compared to the outcomes of the development project in Turkey.

The concept of public participation supports social sustainability by providing a relatively quantifiable feature, but it is also considered a dynamic concept in the literature. Irvin and Stansbury (2004) suggests five features that indicate well-balanced

participation practices: voluntary actions of city dwellers for behalf of all, easily accessible activities and meetings, no economic demands from the inhabitants for activities and processes, inclusion of participants with diverse profiles in activities and processes, and no requirement of expertise in the discussed issues. In accordance with these findings from the literature review about public participation, the projects are also evaluated for their participatory processes in the case study of this thesis.

The second part of the structured interviews, which focused on evaluating public participation, revealed similar outcomes to those of the sustainability of community section. There are again more positive reactions regarding the Park Spoor Nord project. These can be summarized as;

- Positive reactions to project informing, community meetings and public activities,
- Positive increase in the perception of having a voice in urban matters,
- Increase in the desire to be active in the planning or design of the neighborhood

These results, derived from structured interviews with inhabitants, are also compared with interviews with the professionals who took part in the project. The outcomes of the interviews with the Kadıköy Municipality, ÇEKÜL, and the City of Antwerp are in parallel with the results of those with inhabitants. Authorities in Yeldeğirmeni expressed concern over deficiencies in well-conducted communication with residents and the lack of urban policies regulating these kinds of urban development projects. On the other hand, the process was considered sufficient in regard to social sustainability, even though authorities in Antwerp-North claimed that there were inadequacies in urban policies. The authorities involved in Park Spoor Nord have also stated that they have already improved their urban policies concerning these matters, while those in the Yeldeğirmeni case have said that there is still a distinct need for regulations concerning social sustainability and public participation.

The impact of urban policies on the success rates of both projects were quite important over the processes. As explained in the urban policy section, the regulations concerning the social sustainability of an urban environment and participation in an urban community date back to the 1990's in European countries. According to the European Urban Charter I and II, it is necessary to sustain physically and socially qualified urban environments and provide avenues for participation. For the Park

Spoor Noord Project, it is possible to claim that the process was conducted in accordance with this legislation. Moreover, the Flemish government has urban policies derived from the European Urban Charters and contributed more detailed policies specifically concerning public welfare in the development of the urban environment. For the Park Spoor Noord Project, these urban policies influenced the process positively. The response in the structured interview from the local authority, the City of Antwerp, supports this argument through its claim that although there were some inadequacies, it was not an obstacle for the project, and that they have already improved their urban policies concerning these matters.

For the Yeldeğirmeni Neighborhood Renewal Project, although there were no specific regulations concerning social sustainability and public participation, urban policies related to these matters were contained in the Municipal Law and the City Council Regulation at the time of the project. It is understood from the research that there were inadequacies in maintaining public participation in urban development project processes. Although these laws encouraged ensuring participation, doing so was relatively optional. It can be claimed that this lack of support for participation in projects in urban policies led to a partial failure to accomplish the objectives of the Yeldeğirmeni Neighborhood Project. This claim is supported by the replies to the structured interviews from the Kadıköy Municipality and ÇEKÜL. They stated that there was a lack of certain legislation creating a framework for the social sustainability of urban environments and communication and participation practices in communities.

Urban policy in Turkey has improved specifically regarding urban sustainability matters in recent years. The Council of Urbanization, KENTGES and The Council of Town Planning have provided new statements in order to create a more solid vision for socially sustainable and participatory urban development in Turkey. As explained in detail in the urban policy section, these improvements claim that certain types of public participation are mandatory. In light of these policies, it is possible to say that urban policy in Turkey has become more similar to European and Flemish policies and continues to progress, and that the positive effects of these improvements will lead to increased social sustainability in urban environments in Turkish cities.

The examples given as other perspectives for the framework of this study aim to create a vision for future urban development projects. It can be understood from the Roombeek example that fostering accessible participatory communication in the

community and between the community and local authorities is critical for the success of an urban project in regard to social matters. The Dreamhamar Project showed an important approach by allowing inhabitants to express their feelings and dreams about an urban space that belongs to them. Moreover, the Ringland Project stands as an example showing the strength of the community and participatory actions even without encouragement from local authorities. Well-conducted communication and participation in any community is able to change an urban environment for the benefit of current residents and future generations.

The nature of the concepts of public participation and social sustainability is multidimensional. Every issue related to people's lives in an urban environment is also related to these concepts. Therefore, it is not possible to establish specifically determined guides valid for every urban development project. There should be inclusive strategies shaped according to the features of the physical, social and cultural environment. The case study points out that both projects are important for their cities thanks to their attempts to promote public participation and support social sustainability. The outcomes from the interviews revealed that the Park Spoor Noord project was more successful in these matters than the Yeldeğirmeni case. However, it should not be forgotten that the Yeldeğirmeni case is a pioneering example for Turkey and stimulated a recognition of the importance of public participation and urban social sustainability.

The case study of the thesis shows that there were inadequacies in the communication practices and policies of the Yeldeğirmeni Project, and therefore in those of urban development projects in Turkey. The improvements in urban policies that took form after the project are also explained beforehand, but the communication within and between communities, local authorities and designers as actors of an urban project should be strengthened for socially sustainable urban environments. It is clear that enhancing social sustainability through urban development projects and maintaining public participation requires multifaceted resolutions. The dynamic structure of communities and cities should be kept in mind in every step. Moreover, the process could be improved by increasing the knowledge level of the community, from administrative actors to the have-nots of the community.

5. CONCLUSION

Over the past decades, the progress of urban life and urban structures has become more widespread with the effects of globalization. The fast growth of cities has led to the need for sustainability. Originating in studies and advancements in ecological sustainability, the concept of social sustainability has come to the forefront. The recognition that cities belong to people has promoted this approach. Urban environments and communities have become prominent in urban development in our cities.

Urban environments consist of many different features, from the physical environment to economic, cultural and social elements. As a result, social sustainability is vital for providing long lasting and prospering cities. Social sustainability is a dynamic concept, in parallel with the urban environment. By centering the humanitarian needs and creating a balance with the built environment, the concept suggests ways to provide self-functioning and constant improvements. In today's world, over-crowded cities have begun to prioritize providing social sustainability in order to be able to deal with urban issues.

There are various dimensions of social sustainability that need to be considered for urban development. It is proper to classify these under two categories: social equity on larger scales and sustainability of community on local ones. The first dimension, social equity, focuses mostly on political and administrative issues. Providing sufficient opportunities for communities and efficient governance constitutes the basis of social equity. On the other hand, sustainability of community focuses on more small scales such as districts and neighborhoods. The social interactions in between inhabitants, their sense of belonging, sense of safety, satisfaction with their built environment and stability are factors of sustainability of community.

This study utilizes the concept of social sustainability to explore the concept of public participation. Like social sustainability, public participation is a dynamic and multi-dimensional concept. It is understood from the literature review that maintaining participatory practices in urban regeneration project processes will contribute to the

social sustainability of the urban environment. Of particular significance is how public participation is conducted in the project process. It is quite possible that an urban project can be planned and organized with only public participatory actions; however, it is more likely that the local authorities will be in charge. Creating awareness and providing enough information to citizen about their rights will likely motivate the community to step up for their living space.

As the last part of the literature in the research, urban policies from selected case countries are examined—Turkey in the case of the Yeldeğirmeni Neighborhood Renewal Project and Belgium for the Park Spoor Noord Project. According to the research on urban policy in Belgium and Turkey, there were a distance between the countries in the recognition of the importance of social sustainability and public participation at the time of the projects. The policy in Belgium is qualified with articles that support public participation and the improvement of urban social sustainability, while policy in Turkey ignores the people and focuses on the income from urban regeneration projects. Although there are some articles that creates the illusion of support for local public participation and therefore social sustainability, there are many gaps that hinder them in practice. However, it should be mentioned that there have been recent works on paper in Turkey focusing on the quality of urban environments and the importance of public participation, which can be considered promising within this complicated policy and system. It should also be kept in mind that time periods for these laws differs for the evaluation of the projects later on. Urban policy in Belgium went a long way back, and their practices, especially in providing social sustainability to Belgian cities, are more efficient.

The surveys held for this study illuminate the situation more clearly. According to the research on the project process for both cases, it is valid to say that Belgium provided more governmental support to the Park Spoor Noord Project. The ANN established during the Park Spoor Noord Project was vital in dealing with finances and funding, while the Yeldeğirmeni project was conducted with only the local budget, without any additional funding. The results from the research also reveal that continuity in each and every part of the project process is highly important. Such continuity can be seen in the Park Spoor Noord project process, while there were many disconnections in the process of the Yeldeğirmeni Project. It is also understood that the authorities who were conducting the project process of Park Spoor Noord were better equipped and well-

educated about how to conduct an urban development project on behalf of the community.

The structured interviews revealed more tangible results about the social aspect of the projects. Inhabitants from both neighborhoods were asked questions about the sustainability of their community, the project's participation process, and community awareness about participation. The evaluation and comparison of the questions related to sustainability of community more positive results for the Park Spoor Noord Project than for the Yeldeğirmeni Project. These can be summarized as increases in collective activities held by inhabitants, the emotional connection level of inhabitants with their neighborhood, opportunities to access public space, and the willingness to live in the neighborhood and raise subsequent generations there. In the second part concerning public participation, outcomes were also positive for the Park Spoor Noor Project. This is made clear by positive reactions to project informing, community meetings and public activities, the positive increase in the perception that residents have a voice in urban matters, and an increased desire to be active in the planning or design of the neighborhood. The frequency analysis conducted for the results of interviews revealed that the Park Spoor Noord Project was more successful than the Yeldeğirmeni Neighborhood Renewal Project from the perspective of inhabitants and local authorities regarding matters of social sustainability and public participation.

In order to evaluate the outcomes of this research from as many perspectives as possible, time factors should also be considered. In parallel with the time difference in the urban policies of Belgium and Turkey, the projects were planned and implemented in different years. The Park Spoor Noord case started in the 2000's, while the Yeldeğirmeni case was begun in the 2010's. It is likely that with time, the outcomes can be changed in the positive direction for Yeldeğirmeni case, since attempts to increase and promote social consciousness in Turkey are an ongoing process.

The outcomes of this thesis study light the way for urban development projects from the perspective of social sustainability and, as a dimension of social sustainability, public participation. It was not possible to reach the designers of the projects within the timeframe of this thesis. Integrating every actor of an urban development project into the research would bolster the reliability of similar research in future studies.



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APPENDICES

APPENDIX A: Structured Interview Questions – Inhabitants

APPENDIX B: Structured Interview Questions – Local Authorities



APPENDIX A

Structured Interview Questions for Inhabitants of Yeldeğirmeni and Antwerp-North Neighborhoods

Social Interaction in Community

1. In your daily life, do you have a chat with other people living in your neighborhood?
2. Before the project, how do you remember the frequency of these chats?
3. Do you have friendships with your neighbors?
4. Before the project, how was your friendships with your neighbors?
5. Are there any collective activities held by inhabitants?
6. Before the project, were there any collective activities held by inhabitants?

Sense of Place

7. Do you feel emotionally connected with the neighborhood you live in?
8. Before the project, how was this emotional connection?
9. Do you think the historical texture of your neighborhood is protected?
10. Before the project, how do you remember the historical texture of your neighborhood?
11. Do you think local values of your neighborhood are preserved well?
12. Before the project, how do you remember the importance of these values?

Satisfaction of Inhabitants

13. Are you satisfied with your opportunities to access public space in your neighborhood?
14. Before the project, how was the amount of public space in your neighborhood?
15. Do you think structural elements (facades, pavements, streets, etc.) of your neighborhood are well designed?

Sense of Safety

16. Do you think there is a security problem (day time) in your neighborhood?
17. Do you think there is a security problem (night time) in your neighborhood?
18. Before the project, how was the security problem (day time) in your neighborhood comparing today?

19. Before the project, how was the security problem (night time) in your neighborhood comparing today?

Community Stability

20. Do you want to continue living in this neighborhood with current conditions?

21. Before the project, did you want to continue living in this neighborhood?

22. Do you want to raise your children / grandchildren in this neighborhood?

23. Before the project, did you want to raise your children / grandchildren in this neighborhood?

24. Do you intend to move away within 5 years?

25. What is your reason to move away from this neighborhood?

Project Process

26. Did you find information about the project enough?

27. Did you find community meetings about the project enough?

28. Do you think that public activities about the project were satisfactory?

29. Was it easy to have access to the meetings held during the project process?

30. Do you think that have-nots had the opportunity to contribute in the project process?

31. Do you think you as user and participant involved in the project process?

32. Do you think your views were taken into account as user and participant?

Community Awareness

33. Do you participate in neighborhood activities that can be held in future?

34. Do you defend your views and opinions about issues that are relevant to your neighborhood?

35. Do you think that you have a voice in matters that concern neighborhood residents?

36. Before the project, did you think you have a voice in matters that concern neighborhood residents?

37. Would you like to play an active role on planning and design of your neighborhood?

38. Before the project, did you like to play an active role on planning and design of your neighborhood?

APPENDIX B

Structured Interview Questions for Local Authorities of Yeldeğirmeni and Antwerp-North Neighborhoods

1. Do you think that sufficient preliminary research has been done for the planning and design of the project?
2. Do you think there is enough public space in the neighborhood?
3. Before the project, how was the amount of public space in the neighborhood?
4. Do you think inhabitant's opinion and proposals are taken into account in the planning and decision-making process of the project?
5. Do you think the project process conducted with participatory approach?
6. As local authority, what kind of activities have been carried out to ensure the participation of the public in the project process?
7. Do you think that the participation rate of the inhabitants in the project process were sufficient?
8. Do you think the participatory approach implemented in the project will contribute to the community's sustainability in the long run?
9. Do you think there is an increase in social communication within the neighborhood after the project process?
10. What kind of difficulties have you encountered during the project process?
11. In addition to what was done for the project, what are the activities you think you need to undertake to ensure public participation in the urban development projects of Antwerp / İstanbul?
12. Do you think the project has a pioneering approach to urban development projects of Antwerp / İstanbul and other Flemish cities / Turkish cities?
13. Do you think the urban policies of Antwerp / Turkey are sufficient to ensure social sustainability in urban areas?
14. Do you think that the urban policies of Antwerp / Turkey promote public participation?
15. For your personal view, what kind of regulations urban policy of Antwerp / Turkey needs, especially concerning social sustainability and public participation?

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