

# MARSEILLE FORUM JUNE 2019

# Turkey



## The right to housing has been enshrined in the Turkish Constitution since 1982 (art. 57)

In the context of planning that takes into account the particularities of cities and environmental conditions, the State shall take appropriate measures to meet housing needs and shall also support collective housing initiatives. CETIM (COHRE publication). The recent constitutional amendments (2017) do not seem to have affected this article.

## Urban gentrification in Istanbul

"The Turkish Government is implementing urban transformation through sudden top-down decisions that do not take sufficient account of environmental protection or consultations with citizens. In the process, population trends are largely ignored, making it impossible to build a civic consensus on the pace and nature of economic development. (...) Beyond the Taksim (Istanbul) renovation project, what is now being criticized is the lack of democratic management of decisions on new public infrastructure and urban transformation. The Turkish government is called upon to report on the environmental and socio-economic impacts of its actions and to give people a greater voice at the local level in the decision-making process." (Mark Perini) – article from Carnegie Europe.

A very didactic film explains the concept of **Ekumenopolis** which is currently being developed in Istanbul. It is about showing a city that is growing very quickly and without limits.

Thus, urban development has been carried out in a rapid and uncontrolled manner, particularly in formerly uninhabited neighbourhoods. The Turks speak of **"gecekondu"**, which literally means **"built in one night"**, but whose quality is close to that of slums. The construction of the two bridges over the Bosphorus (1973 and 1988) further accelerated the movement. It is an urban growth that feeds on itself: in order to relieve the city's congestion, new centres and roads are built, but they then lead to the development of new constructions.

Film shown at the Urban Social Forum in Naples in 2012



Demonstrations and police violence in Istanbul



### FAITS & CHIFFRES

Plus de **4 millions** de réfugiés en Turquie (République de Turquie, Ministère de l'Intérieur)  
Aide humanitaire de l'UE dans le cadre de la Facilité de l'UE en faveur des réfugiés en Turquie :  
**€ 2,09 milliard** en 2016-2019  
Montant total de l'aide accordée dans le cadre de la Facilité de l'UE en faveur des réfugiés en Turquie :  
**€ 3 milliards** en 2016-2017  
**€ 3 milliards** en 2018-2019

## Turkey has welcomed more than 4 million refugees, 95% of whom are Syrians!

Turkey continues to host one of the largest refugee populations in the world, with more than 3 million registered Syrian refugees, but the risks of forced return persist. No solution has been found for the situation of internally displaced persons in the south-east of the country. (Amnesty International Report 2017-2018)



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