

Istanbul Metropolitan Municipality

Country	Türkiye
Population	14,2 millions
World region	Europe

● Context

Istanbul Metropolitan Municipality (IMM) governs the entire metropolitan province of İstanbul, a transcontinental megalopolis bridging Europe and Asia. It is a single metropolitan municipality that coordinates urban services, infrastructure, land-use planning and public works across 39 district municipalities. IMM blends centralized metropolitan-wide governance with decentralized district-level municipal councils, managing essential services, transport, water and sewerage, urban development and environmental planning for a population of 14,2 million.

● Economic profile

World Bank income group: Upper-Middle

Major economic activities

Istanbul accounts for approximately 29% of Türkiye's national GDP. The city's economy is driven by industry and manufacturing (textiles, food processing, petrochemicals), finance, international trade, logistics and port operations, tourism, services, construction and real estate, and growing knowledge-based activities.

Own source revenues

IMM finances its operations primarily through allocations of nationally collected taxes redistributed by formula under Law No. 5216, supplemented by service fees, utility revenues, property-related income, and municipal enterprise revenues. Own-source revenues represent a limited share of total income.

● Governance structure

Year of constitution: 1984 — Statutory Decree No. 195

Type of metropolitan government: Metropolitan government – two-tier (directly elected)

Legal framework

A two-tier metropolitan municipality system was established in 1984 (Statutory Decree No. 195). The Constitutional Court later affirmed metropolitan municipalities as local administrations. Subsequent legislative reforms—particularly the Law on Municipalities (No. 5393), the Law on Metropolitan Municipalities (No. 5216), the Law on Development Agencies (No. 5449), and later amendments—implemented the core principles of the earlier Public Administration Fundamental Law initiative, shaping the modern framework of metropolitan governance in Turkey.

Administrative structure

IMM is headed by a Metropolitan Mayor directly elected by citizens across the entire metropolitan province. Alongside the mayor, governance is shared with the Metropolitan Council, which is composed by a proportion of district councillors elected in each of the 39 districts. IMM thus operates through a metropolitan-wide executive (the mayor) and a deliberative body (the council) that integrates district-level representation. Below the metropolitan tier, 39 district municipalities function as second-level local governments, each with its own directly elected district mayor and district council.

Annual revenue, expenditure and sources

IMM's revenues come from municipal enterprises, service fees, public utilities, municipal taxes/charges, property-related revenues, and other municipal income. In 2022, the total budget was 1,242 millions USD and the tax revenues and incomes represent only 10% approx.

Number and type of administrative units

39 district municipalities.

KEY STRATEGIC PLAN



Resilience

Istanbul Climate Change
Action Plan



Strategic

Istanbul Vision 2050



Innovation

2030 Istanbul Smart City
Strategic Plan