

## Urban Governance in Turkish Global Competitive Cities: A Study on the Right to the City Perspective

Türkiye Küresel Rekabetçi Kentlerde Kentsel Yönetişim: Kent Hakkı Perspektifi Üzerinde Bir Araştırma

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Journal of Civilization Studies  
Volume 7, Issue 2, pp. 14-27  
September 2022  
DOI: 10.52539/mad.1161732  
Received: 13.08.2022  
Accepted: 25.09.2022  
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### Abstract

Today, the city's values, representation, and reinforcing through the participatory process are turned into an eye by the principle of "governance". The right to the city is one of the indicators is represented with the lens of it. On the other hand, the global city concept is strongly connected with fundamental shifts from traditional government structures to a modern governance mode. Secondary data sources have been considered in this study by following two strategies: a desktop study for theoretical context and an application context based on different global indexes. In theoretical context, the linkage with urban governance, right to the city and new urban policy, and its application according to the perspective of new urban politics has been discussed. The application context has been viewed from Turkish global competitive city perspective by highlighting different global and local indexes. The study found that Turkish cities should improve their public participation practices to strengthen their position for global competition. People-based policies should be strengthened and regulated to better fight in the arena of new urban politics; and bottom-up policies could play an effective role in ensuring right to the city.

**Key Words:** Urban Space, Urban Governance, New Urban Politics, Right to City, Turkish Cities

### Öz

Bugün kentin değerleri, temsili ve katılımcı süreçle pekiştirilmesi "yönetişim" ilkesiyle göz önüne alınmaktadır. Yönetişim göstergelerden biri olan kent hakkı, yönetim perspektifinden ele alınmaktadır. Öte yandan, küresel kent kavramı, geleneksel devlet yapılarından modern bir yönetim biçimine köklü değişimlerle güçlü bir şekilde ilişkilidir. Bu çalışmada; ikincil veri kaynakları iki farklı strateji izlenerek ele alınmıştır. Bunlar: teorik bağlam için bir masaiüstü çalışması ile farklı küresel indekslere dayalı bir uygulama bağlamıdır. Teorik bağlamda, kentsel yönetim, kent hakkı ve yeni kentsel politika ile ilişkisi ve yeni kentsel politika perspektifine göre uygulanmasına odaklanılmıştır. Uygulama bağlamında ise, farklı küresel ve yerel endeksler vurgulanmış, Türkiye'nin küresel rekabetçi şehir perspektifinden incelenmiştir. Çalışmada, kentsel yönetişimin teorik bağlamına, kentsel yönetim, kent hakkı ve yeni kentsel politika ile ilişkisi ve yeni kentsel siyaset perspektifine göre uygulanmasına odaklanılmıştır. Uygulamaya, farklı endeksler öne çıkarılarak Türkiye'nin küresel rekabetçi kent perspektifinden bakılmıştır. Çalışma, Türk kentlerinin küresel rekabetteki konumlarını güçlendirmek için halk katılımı uygulamalarını iyileştirmeleri gerektiğini ortaya koyulmuştur. Yeni kentsel siyaset arenasında daha iyi mücadele edebilmek için insan temelli politikalar güçlendirilmeli ve düzenlenmelidir ve aşağıdan yukarıya politikalar kent hakkının sağlanmasında etkin rol oynayabileceği vurgulanmalıdır.

**Anahtar Kelimeler:** Kentsel Mekan, Kentsel Yönetişim, Yeni Kentsel Siyaseti, Kent Hakkı, Türkiye Kentleri.

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## INTRODUCTION

The urban policy of a country is the distinct course of past political history, the economic structure, cultural accumulation and so on. In this 21st century, this policy is more focused on the impact of globalisation (Brenner, 2004; Swyngedouw, Moulaert & Rodriguez, 2002), technological development (Albalooshia et al., 2021), demographic shift (Ahsan & Rahman, 2013) where competition and its dynamic structure lies in lateral interaction (Jouve, 2003). These interactions can be seen in both the spatial and non-spatial context. Henri Lefebvre has described these interactions in three interrelated concepts in a city such as space, daily life and reproduction of capitalist social relations (Lefebvre, 1991). From Lefebvre's sense, Aslanoglu explained that the city is not only expressed as a local space but it can perform in a global spatial context (Aslanoglu, 1998).

The city space should be accomplished with the right to the city, as cities are the platform where citizenship rights are recognized, vital needs are introduced or services are embodied. The city's economic, political, social, cultural, scientific, artistic and freedom of equal access to similar services is the foundation of the right to the city. Today, not only those who claim and exercise this right, but also those who go beyond that, are all about the city. However, the cities values, representation, reinforcing through the participatory process are turned into an eye by the principle of "governance". Because the right of the city can be represented with the lens of "governance" indicators such as accountability, participation, transparency, responsiveness, rule of law, equity, effectiveness & efficiency, consensus orientation, strategic vision (UNDP, 2006). Again, governance is the interaction process between actors and organizations plays a key role in the management process. It ensures the participation of individuals, groups and organizations who can manage actively (Yüksel, 2000; Heinelt and Kübler, 2005). Through governance, citizens can raise their voice in economic, political and managerial issues. They can move towards a position where they can attain participation rather than waiting for their duties and responsibilities to be fulfilled (Heinelt and Kübler, 2005). Therefore, those who live in cities have the opportunity to intervene from local to the global city through governance mechanisms.

Turkey is an Asian country rank 61<sup>st</sup> on the overall Global Competitiveness Index 4.0, with relative strengths on public health (86.2), infrastructure (72.6), and innovation ecosystem (50.6) (World Economic Forum, 2018). It is ranked 116<sup>th</sup> (scored 67.4) on the Macroeconomic stability pillar. According to the World Economic Forum in 2018, Turkey ranks 47 in Innovation Index, 51 in Competitiveness Index in 2015. Turkey follows developed economics (active economy) in the past years. As per doing business report, starting a business is relatively costly (93.6, 87<sup>th</sup>), Turkey ranked 43 among 190 economies (43 in 2018 from 60 in 2017) in the ease of doing business (World Bank, 2018). Further, worker-employer relations is scored 47.9 (ranked 113<sup>th</sup>), meritocracy is scored 50.5 (ranked 116<sup>th</sup>), contracting is scored 46.3 (ranked 122<sup>nd</sup>) (World Bank, 2018). In particular, women's participation in the labour market still is very low. The community faces many hindrances further down the value chain in terms of barriers to entrepreneurship and market functioning. Like other developed countries in the world, the city spaces of Turkish cities follows its values, cultures, growth more specifically "governance" issues but 'the right of the city' still follows lack of proper governance implications. Participation is still lagging behind towards successful governance implementation. Therefore, the study is trying to focus that existing position in Turkey regarding in global competitiveness, the existing role of governance in the context of new urban politics, the problems of shift from managerialism to entrepreneurialism in large cities within the perspective of good governance and right to city (more specifically participation) concept. It is expected that this study will provide how people-based policy with a right to the city can make Turkish cities in global competitive role.

## 1. METHODOLOGY

Secondary data sources have been considered in order to highlight the theoretical and Turkey perspective of the chosen study topic. In this respect, two strategies have been followed:

Firstly, a desktop study is conducted to find the linkage of good governance, right to the city and new urban policy; role of urban governance on new urban policy and problems of the shift from managerialism to entrepreneurialism. Data was captured through the analysis of peer-reviewed journal articles. Descriptive statistics were used in order to analyze the data collected from the desktop study.

Secondly, Various indexes such as Global Competitiveness Index by the World Economic Forum, Global Power City Index by the Institute of Urban Strategies of Mori Memorial Foundation, Commercial Attraction Index by Jones Lang LaSalle (JLL), Economic Performance Index by International Monetary Fund (IMF), Global Cities Index and Global Cities Outlook by A.T. Kearney, Cities in Motion Index (CIMI) by IESE business school, Sustainable Cities Index by ARCADIS, Turkish Provincial Competitiveness Index by International Competitive Research Institute (in Turkish: Uluslararası Rekabet Araştırmaları Kurumu- URAK), Socio-Economic Development Order (Sosyo-Ekonomik Gelişmişlik Sıralanması -SEGE) of 2017 by The Ministry of Industry and Technology of Turkey, Numbeo's Cost of Living Index, Local Purchasing Power Index and Quality of Life Index, program and projects documents and reports from government, non-government and international non-government organizations have been explored. These indexes highlight in different aspects such as innovations, education and research opportunities, financial sector development, business environment, infrastructure factors, human capital, city networking, service delivery, new and modern ICT applications, e-governance, gender participation in the economy, income equality, quality of life etc. As the Turkish Statistical Institute (*Türkiye İstatistik Kurumu*- TÜİK) is not publishing city or province-based data for the required issues therefore, TÜİK data is not included in this study. However, it can be stated here that all of these data and information provide an indication of the Turkish global cities' position by emphasizing the right to city, more specifically participation perspective.

## 2. THEORETICAL CONTEXT

### 3.1. Linking Good Governance, Right to the City and New Urban Policy

The concept of good governance first used by the World Bank in the form of “good governance”, has gained a solid place in the literature of the United Nations. In the 1992 report, this term is defined as “the manner in which power is exercised in the management of a country's economic and social resources for development” (World Bank, 1992). However, these supranational institutions are threats to the nation-state identity, claims to produce policies for global capital, also criticized for their perception of governance. It is suggested that governance, which is supposed to contribute to the process of democratization in the first place, is actually a method in which decisions are taken by the central government but imposed to local entities. Governance will be “good” when it will serve not just any public interest but that of the poorest, vulnerable and marginalized people in the society. Good governance is meaningless in the city space if we found a large segment of the people still living below the poverty level, lack of participation and partnership, highly inequitable distribution of wealth, extensive corruption, unsustainable socio-economic development and so on (Lemanski, 2017, Brenner & Theodore, 1996).

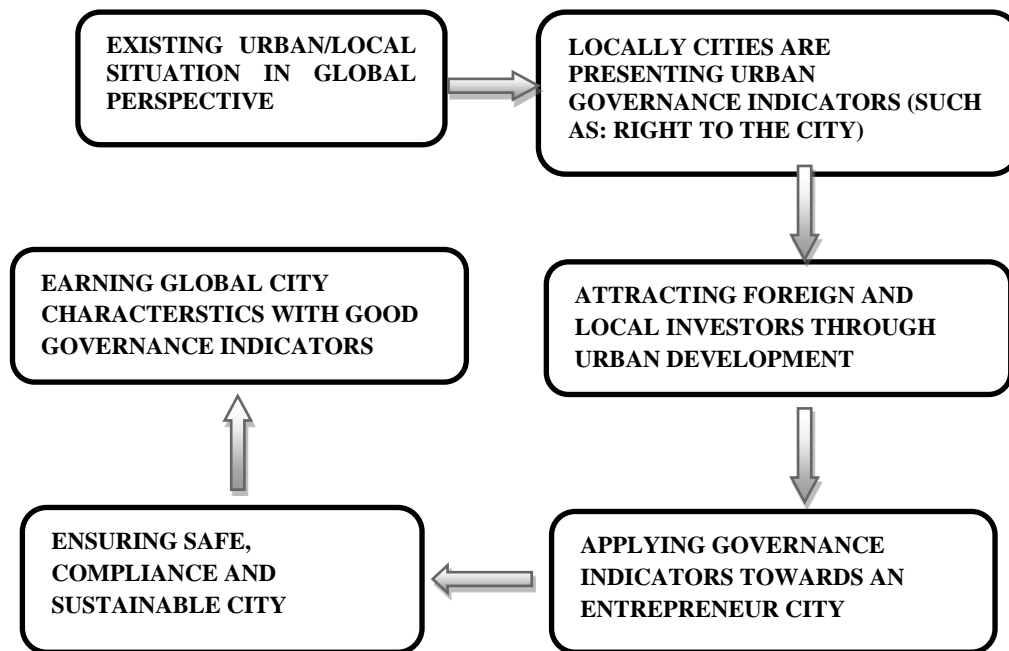
On the other hand, right to the city normally means the provision of services such as shelter, drinking water, sanitation, transportation, green and clean environment and numerous other basic urban facilities, in addition to the larger extent to transform the city into a citizen-friendly space. These services are the basis of city right but city people are talking about the value, heterogeneity, culture that needs to be represented in every process of the city (Tanrıvermiş, Ahsan, Güneş, Blengabs & Mataracı, 2021). According to Plato, the city, however big or small, is divided into two, one is the city of the poor, the other

of the rich (Plato, 1901). The concept is used in the context of the practice of governance dimension more specifically participation. In this study, the phenomenon of right to the city is not just as a demand of the city people but also the right. This right is collective in shape rather than an individual where collective power is exercised (Lefebvre, 1968), right to practice, reshape and transform.

The concept of New Urban Policy (NUP) is closely associated with fundamental shifts from traditional government structures to a flexible mode of governance. Thus, the shift from centralized to decentralized, bureaucratized to more horizontal, hierarchical to vertical, top-down planning approaches to bottom-up in close association with access to decision-making. Therefore, new administrative structures, development co-operation, public-private partnerships, participation and new political forums within the jurisdiction of urban governance are playing roles of implementation of new urban policies. All contribute to the stability of an urban society, economy, culture, political, environmental issues of which urbanization, a spatially grounded social process combining a built form, produced spaces and resource systems (Harvey, 1989). In the urbanization process, objectives or agendas interact through a particular configuration of interlocking spatial practices. Now, these processes and objectives are more focused on space-based economy in the world and defined it as “New Urban Politics” (Cox, 1995). These spaces (cities or communities) are competing for mobile capital, which directs the concept of conservative liberalism. As space-based of these economies more local in spirit but global in character therefore it can be termed as glocalisation. Brenner argues that post- 1970’s, the entrepreneurial approaches to urban governance have proliferated to the catalysts of ‘glocalization strategies’ which rescale the national state space through different characteristics, functions and services (Brenner, 2004). The combination of globalisation and localization describes the adaptation of international products around the particulars of a local culture in which they are sold, meaning how regional tendencies are interested in the proliferation of global corporations. Swyngedouw, Moulaert, and Rodriguez pointed this as a ‘gradual shift’ away from distributive policies, welfare considerations, and direct service provision towards more market-oriented approaches for obtaining promotion and competition towards a global city (Swyngedouw, Moulaert & Rodriguez, 2002; Jouve, 2004).

Author has constructed the following figure 1 to represent the relationship between good governance, right to the city and new urban policy by highlighting how the global economy and the local situation can move forward towards gaining global city characteristics in good governance perspectives. The global economic competition drives from local resources, capital with good governance practices in the present world. The global city a node of global economy movement starting from enhancing local legislation and economic situation, foreign local investors as well as providing some urban /local governance indicators which make towards an entrepreneur city. This entrepreneurial city requires a safe, compliance and sustainable city within the framework of urban governance indicators to compete between cities. The linkages and competition of a city have a direct and tangible effect on urban governance towards gaining global city characteristics.

**Figure 1.** Linking good urban governance, right to the city and new urban policy



Source: Author's construction

### 3.2. Role of Urban Governance on New Urban Policy

In urban governance, urban policy-making, fragmentation of competencies, and responsibilities are considered as striking aspects in different spatial and administrative scales. Therefore, renegotiations between the different levels of government such as local, regional, national, and global actors, developing networks and assemblies over competencies, decision-making powers are needed. However, this negotiation is less in local government level and more at the international level due to the globalisation impact. However, local government can deliver an important role in the urban scale as well as citizen rights within the mechanism of governance indicators. Swyngedouw, Moulaert, and Rodriguez's case studies on Berlin, Athens, Brussels, Lisbon, and Bilbao have presented that participation contributed to the redefinition of roles through local authorities (Swyngedouw, Moulaert & Rodriguez, 2002). The European Declaration of Urban Rights has given importance on citizen rights where three governance indicators such as multicultural integration (Article 9), participation (Article 12) and equality (Article 20) should imply an equal acceptance of duties, citizens of European towns (Council of Europe, 1992). This indicator implies that peaceful multi-cultural co-existence, co-operation between all the various partners, applying rights to all citizens can play an effective role in urban management and governance. Even the European Union Local Self-Government Act, 1985 also put emphasize on local participation and service delivery. Therefore, urban governance makes these principles or laws a real platform from a legal perspective.

Presently, governmental interventions at local level can make an entrepreneurial city, which can create more job opportunities; can win over the city's value of change while reinforcing the debate that the citizens lost their right to speak. Therefore, Swyngedouw, Moulaert and Rodriguez's case study results represents that local government should ensure role on civil rights within the framework of urban governance. Again, competitiveness make this room on stage but decentralization, responsibilities away from local governments too often highly exclusive partnership agencies make a process of privatized urban governance. Therefore, besides state-led actors, the non-governmental actors are involved in the urban processes that have the right to speak as much as bureaucratic restructuring. Their formation also opens the door within the periphery of the right of the city. Moreover, the rights of the minorities or those who do not

own the property of the city argue that there is no mention of existence. In this respect, urban governance and policy issues are vital in the gentrified part of the city (Shaw, 2012).

Gentrification is a means of global urban competition and is identified as one of the major areas of disparities where governance mechanisms should work. Governance in state-led gentrification may go beyond its original purpose and therefore poor income groups become more vulnerable (Pierre, 1999). In the present world, global competition not only bounded with mega-projects but also enduring legacies of art, literature, architecture, and design within the perspective of governance mechanisms such as Florence, Venice, Paris (McAdams, 2016). Nowadays, perceptions of quality of life, access to better services and social benefits, and so on are all attractive aspects of city life. Again, the role attributed to the city today is to produce employment and to contribute to taxes to provide support for development. Legislators and investors who are aware of the importance of the system in the interests they make room for themselves. Therefore, cities with local resources and capital also take its place in a globally competitive environment. However, competition between cities and the role of the citizens also changes. While waiting to find more places in the process, the possibility of finding themselves even thrown out of the system appears with the emergence of other actors. In urban governance, equal responsibility falls on all actors in society. Only attributing responsibility to one side is contrary to the essence of the concept. Especially, the low-income and disadvantaged groups are seen as inadequate representation and rights as per “right to the citizen” concept.

### **3.3. Problems of the Shift from Managerialism to Entrepreneurialism**

In the 1980s, the new governance style has an innovative path but it is bounded with a favourable package for capitalist development. The speculative qualities of urban investment style for entrepreneurialism have no stability and volatility (Harvey, 1989). For example, Houston, Dallas was boom towns in the 1970s and suddenly dissolved in the 1980s. Silicon Valley, once upon a time the high tech wonder of new products and new employment suddenly lost its lustre. Even in Britain, at local level, local participation mechanisms were not respected or applied in a very “formalist” way, resulting power at elite level where grassroots level movements or voices were very low.

Cox argues that new urban policy treatment of the local-global discourse is built on assumptions of weak competition in terms of the level of exchange (Cox, 1995). In this weak form, capital exploits labour or redistribution mechanism which is the heart of the new urban policy. Because, when weak competition becomes logically unsustainable then strong competition (i.e. competitive advantage) is happened through revolutionizing its production which remains the problems of capital.

Equality, women empowerment, reducing rich-poor gap, ensuring social cohesion in rapidly growing cities etc. are the thematic areas of good governance. It has seen that sometimes disadvantaged groups are under-represented and cannot make use of their city rights. Wealthy citizens are living in gated spaces, such as villas, planned residential areas etc. whereas poor are living in abandoned spaces such as slums, squatters, and shantytowns (Jessop, 2002). Brenner and Theodore argue that power elites and urban bodies expect the new forms of urban intervention that makes a trickle-down effect on the surrounding territory (Brenner & Theodore, 2002). However, they have frequently resulted in gentrification and uneven development (Brenner & Theodore, 1996), so governance deviates from its original purpose (Pierre, 1999).

### **3. TURKEY CONTEXT**

In Turkey, the trends of liberalization started after the 1980s with a close relationship between local administration and urbanisation phenomena, and globalisation became prominent due to the internationalization of its cities as per the quality of world cities. Among the cities, Istanbul plays the most prominent competent global city (Ministry of Industry and Technology, 2017; Zibel, 2008) which stands

between Asia and Europe. Istanbul is a city of science, arts, technology, culture, tourism, sports, international business, trade and marketing, locational opportunities all helped to achieve “world city” status. It is one of the most prominent emerging cities in the world with innovations and infrastructure has marked reliable financial centre, therefore it has ‘Magnetism’ role through a lens of economy, cultural interaction, touristic attraction, location and accessibility, competitiveness, education and research etc. According to the Globalisation and World Cities Research Network, Istanbul makes in Alpha position and Ankara in Gamma position (Globalisation and World Cities Research Network, 2016) however in 2020 classification, Istanbul moved to one category down makes it Alpha (-) city and Ankara remains in Gamma position. Istanbul ranked 31 (out of 40) in terms of Global Power City Index in 2015. The Global Financial Centers Index (GFCI) (Z/Yen) focuses the ranking is an aggregate of indices from five key areas such as business environment, financial sector development, infrastructure factors, human capital, reputation and general factors. As per GFCI, Istanbul has increased 9 ranks from 68 to 59 and 30 rating from 590 to 620 in GFCI 25th edition and GFCI 24th edition respectively (Z/Yen 2019) and in 2020, it has ranked 64 and rating 595 in GFCI 28<sup>th</sup> edition; however other Turkish cities are not indexed in the list (Z/Yen 2020). As of 24 September 2021, Istanbul stands relatively broad international diversified international financial center.

Jones Lang LaSalle (JLL)’s Commercial Attraction Index shows that Istanbul is among the top 20 trade centres in the world. However, Ankara, the capital of Turkey provides more specific administrative, education, research and development activity. Other Turkish cities could not make room in terms of city power though Bursa has a strong automotive cluster, Izmir and Kocaeli have trade hubs, industrial zones etc. The competitiveness of Izmir is visible on a global scale also. Izmir ranks 190 out of 300 largest metro areas on the Economic Performance Index, 2014-2016 (Bouchet et al., 2018). The following tables show the position of Turkish cities which have sufficient status as global city in different indexes such as city competitiveness, cities performance, global power city etc.

**Table 1.** 2025 City Competitiveness Projection

City	Rank 2025	Change from 2012	Score/100	Change from 2012
Istanbul	70	+1	49.3	+3.9
Ankara	103	-	39.6	+2.0

Source: Economist Intelligence Unit, 2013

**Table 2.** Global Cities Index Results, 2012-2018 (out of 135 cities)

City	2018	2017	2016	2015
Istanbul	26	25	25	29
Ankara	75	74	74	72

Source: A. T. Kearney 2018 Global Cities Report

**Table 3.** Global Cities Outlook Results 2016-2018 (out of 135 cities)

City	2018	2017	2016	Difference from 2016-2018
Istanbul	96	88	80	-16
Ankara	101	98	86	-15

Source: A. T. Kearney 2018 Global Cities Report

**Table 4.** General Index of Turkish Competitive Cities by URAK

City	2016-17 General Index value	2012-2013	2011-2012	2010-2011	2009-2010
Istanbul	69.13	1	1	1	1
Ankara	46.04	2	2	2	2
Izmir	33.80	3	3	3	3
Kocaeli	28.39	5	5	5	5
Bursa	25.49	4	4	4	4

Source: URAK, 2018

From table 1 to 4, five large Turkish cities with heterogeneous characteristics are competing to become a part of ‘global city’ networks, among them Istanbul made a strong room and Ankara made a position as a global city. As per URAK (a Turkish based centre) Izmir, Kocaeli and Bursa area also making position among Turkish cities (URAK, 2018). These cities are trying to provide better infrastructure, better service delivery, new and modern information and communication technology, e-governance and so on. The entrepreneurship concept of new urban policies in these large cities has the major effect of urban governance. The rapid growth in industry and commerce, retail sector, foreign trade, foreign investments, and transit trade all makes these Turkish cities a growing hub. However, Istanbul is such a city where branches of many worldwide companies/big companies are located. However, from 1980s to till now the speculation of land, housing and property and rent through state-led gentrification, privatized gentrification, as well as public-private gentrification, is clearly active in Istanbul, Ankara, Izmir, Bursa and other cities. In the perspective of state-led gentrification such as Urban Transformation (In Turkish: Kentsel Dönüşüm) projects are seen to facilitate in making profits from refashioning urban environments for higher-income groups (Bahçeci, 2006; Tansel, 2018; Ezme, 2017) instead of social housing for low and middle-income households. The market-oriented transformation of such gentrification in inner cities to large-scale urban strategies forces one to develop new concepts for the role of governance networks, a way of globalized capitalism (Brenner, 2004). Many of the urban transformation projects did not target the most disaster-prone areas, the poorest segments of society deprived of the projects (Tansel, 2018). Even, Housing Development Administration of Turkey (TOKİ)-initiated public-private partnerships effectively refashioned the Administration’s operation as a ‘catalyst for the private sector’ (Atasoy, 2016), a role explicitly championed by the Administration itself (TOKİ, 2011). The Taksim Gezi Park protests at Beyoğlu in Istanbul in 2013 is a notable example where local people did not want to replace the park with a shopping centre inspired by the design of an old Ottoman barracks for global facilities. Around 5,000 demonstrations across Turkey were estimated to have taken place (de Bellaigue, 2013). Finally, this social unrest and later on, governmental positive movements for the protestors make a dynamic globalisation impact.

Gender participation in the global economy is one of the indicators of good governance in new urban politics. Turkey has been ranked 130th in the World Economic Forum (WEF) gender gap index out of 149 countries in 2018. Though the Turkish government made some successive progress in the recent past and formulated regulations to protect. Government developed women’s conditions and gender gap in labour force participation as well as minimising professional and technical roles but still Turkey ranked one of the lowest in the world. Therefore, more successive progress is needed for the involvement of women participation and providing equal opportunities in job and other activities in Turkish economy.

Even income equality is one of the governance indicators that can increase city values, for instance, Geneva ranks highest in governance where the quality of life ensures a sustainable global city. However, it has also been seen that the emergence of new and extreme forms of socio-economic inequality in global cities for instance income inequality in Turkey 0.40 (0-complete equality and 1-complete inequality) which means that Turkey still a faraway for increasing valuation of its cities through equality indicators.



According to the perspective of Cities in Motion Index (CIMI), governance is understood to have a strong correlation with the state of public finances of a city.

**Table 5.** Cities in Motion Index (CIMI)

Sl no.	City	Performance	CIMI
118	Istanbul	Medium (range between 45 and 60)	45,85
135	Ankara	Low (between 45 and 15)	39,61

**Source:** IESE, 2019

The table 5 represents that only two Turkish cities are listed in the Index out of 174 cities in the world. Identifying the values of governance dimensions, Istanbul and Ankara performance ranking are 118 and 135 respectively (IESE, 2019). Though Istanbul’s performance is medium and but Ankara represents low where public accounts decisively affect the population’s quality of life and the city’s sustainability.

Mercer’s 21st annual ‘Quality of Living’ survey shows that Istanbul ranks 130 under 231 cities in the world. Number, the world’s largest database of user-contributed data about cities and countries worldwide among them the following table 5 shows the cost of living index, local purchasing power and quality of life index in global competitive Turkish cities.

**Table 6.** Cost of Living in Turkish Cities

Sl no.	City	Cost of living index	Quality of life index	Local Purchasing power index
1	Istanbul	37.73	112.08	37.96
2	Ankara	34.71	131.46	43.69
3	Izmir	33.00	142.19	40.73
4	Kocaeli	33.85	106.45	-
5	Bursa	35.07	161.01	41.79

**Source:** Numbeo, 2020 (Access 09.01.2020)

From the above table 6, the cost of living index in Istanbul is high, even local purchasing power and quality of life index are lower than Ankara, Izmir and Bursa. Though Istanbul is one of the world’s hubs in terms of aspiration and expectations where opportunities are ripening gradually and offers high potential for entrepreneurs but there need to maintain and manage with good governance perspective where the cost of living and quality of life should be higher.

In the last 30 years, other Turkish Municipalities have taken on a lot of new and important functions contrary to be classical service-producing organizations in many places (Yıldırım, 2014). However, cities such as Ankara, Izmir, Antalya, Bursa are playing the major national role (Ministry of Industry and Technology, 2017) but still have not make room in international competition. Especially, Ankara enjoys its power to global politics. Mayors in these big cities make contracts with some multinational and international organizations to serve citizens in his/her city. With this relation, mayors get financial sources from the foreign and this also helps to increase the level of cities in the world. Therefore, reconstruction and development agreements between these city corporations and international banks or organizations are clearly visible. The following table indicates sustainable cities index by ARCADIS in 2018 covering 3 sub-indexes such as people sub-index, planet sub-index and profit sub-index. Only Istanbul city are indexed out of Turkish cities.

**Table 7.** Sustainable Cities Index 2018

City	People sub-index	Planet sub index	Profit sub-index
Istanbul	75	88	80

Source: ARCADIS, 2018

In the table 7, the people sub-index measures social sustainability - quality of life in the present and prospects for improvement for future generations where Istanbul ranks 75 out of 100 cities in the world these means that the quality of life of the people in Istanbul still needed to improve towards achieving a social sustainability, a reasonably equal distribution of income and low crime rate. In planet sub-index perspective sustainable attributes in Istanbul still weak. However, the profit pillar measures the economic health of Istanbul, the productive capacity, infrastructure and innovation are required.

The Ministry of Industry and Technology of Turkey has conducted Socio-Economic Development Ranking in 2017 focusing 52 variables in different monitoring and evaluation tools of regional development. As per ranking, Istanbul remained 1st position followed by Ankara, Izmir, Kocaeli, Antalya and Bursa. The following table 8 shows the socio-economic development ranking of provinces.

**Table 8.** Socio-economic Development Ranking of Provinces

Rank	Province	Score	Level
1	Istanbul	4,051	1
2	Ankara	2,718	1
3	Izmir	1,926	1
4	Kocaeli	1,787	1
6	Bursa	1,336	1

Source: Ministry of Industry and Technology, 2017

Furthermore, considering ranking of provinces by 8 sub-dimensions such as demographics, employment, education, health, competitive and innovative capacity, financial, accessibility and quality of life, it has seen that though Istanbul is the number 1 competitive province but the quality of life is ranked 5 and health is ranked 10 whereas Ankara is playing a robust role in different variables (see table 9). Though Bursa appears to lower rank in demographic, education, and health variables but it ranked 1<sup>st</sup> in quality of life. Again, the quality of life is very low in Kocaeli.

**Table 9.** Development Rankings by Sub-dimensions in the Competitive City Provinces

No	Province	Demographic variables	Employment	Education	Health	Competitive and innovative capacity	Finance	Accessibility	Life quality
1	Istanbul	1	3	5	10	1	1	1	5
2	Ankara	10	4	1	1	2	2	3	2
3	Izmir	7	11	4	5	3	4	4	3
4	Kocaeli	4	1	13	32	7	3	2	34
6	Bursa	11	6	14	26	5	7	9	1

Source: Ministry of Industry and Technology, 2017

## DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSION

Adequate forms of urban governance with a globalized knowledge-driven economy may stabilize new urban policies. Urban governance re-establishes the nation's space (Brenner, 2004) highlighting its "good" indicators. Even, re-scaling urban governance can give a new flavour for new urban policies (Brenner, 1999). Decision-makers, while serving their rapidly expanding cities is often concerned about their political sustainability. During the decision-making process, policymakers are needed to approach

tentatively or conservatively against power-sharing with the citizen. In this direction, the sensitivity of politics can reach both side balances. Again, people oriented development can make Turkish cities in global competition level.

Good urban governance can lead to the right of the city but implementing institutions, the outputs, and the whole process should all be taken together in the process. Participatory indicators can support redistributive urban policies, capital realisation of the distinction between the interests of the city or the citizens of the city should be well understood. As a result, within the framework of the management understanding of the dominant neo-liberal policies, urban governance should serve as the basis for this. It is important to aware of the distinction between the interests of the capital in urban areas and the rights of the city's true owners. In the present world, competition is evident where urban space should play an independent role with a reasonable attitude in the maintenance and stabilization of space economy or within the periphery of new urban policy. Finally, to attain stronger and more sustained competition, Turkish cities are needed continuous learning for innovation and advancement within the framework of public participation otherwise urban space, daily life and reproduction of capitalist social relations will remain imbalanced and biased.

Turkey's global competition more specifically EU membership process should have a positive impact on the urban balanced economic growth, investment, equal participation and opportunities etc. by improving transparency and other urban governance indicators with adequate high standards and practices. A number of laws and regulations such as Law Number 5393 of Municipal Law, Law number 5302 on Special Provincial Administration, Law number 5216 of Metropolitan Municipal Law, and Law no 6360 about Metropolitan Municipality System have passed to make urban and local administrative actors in close bond in Istanbul, Ankara and other Turkish cities. As private sector involvement is increasing in property and gentrification based development in Turkish cities, therefore, the urban governance may influence by both local and global forces. The market value of such residential property or gentrification-based development must be determined in a transparent and participatory manner. In this respect, market value must be decided upon objectively, the collateral value must be harmonized and people-based policies should be formulated and regulated to better fight in the arena of new urban politics. Because people-based policy with a right to the city perspective will lead a number of mutual benefits (such as intrusions of new actors and stakeholders in the local to the international market, growth of channels and networks to make active participation, encouraging state policymaking processes) which make global competitive role. Again, bottom-up policies can be able to ensure the voice and right of the city in the competitive cities under new urban policy discourse in Turkey.

Finally, it can be stated here that specific "case-based" depth analysis could provide a solid result, but the compilation of these global indexes and discussion of these data provide guidelines to find Turkish global cities' positions and needed future action. Again, the relationship between right to city, urban spaces and globalization is a complex phenomenon based on the different global city perspective but this study tried to show how it could play role in Turkey's perspective. Again, the case-based impact assessment in enhancing competitiveness could investigate in further studies.

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