

Urban Sustainability Concept of Conservation Strategies in Turkey

Derya Altunbaş

(Dr. Derya Altunbaş, Çanakkale Onsekiz Mart University, daltunbas@comu.edu.tr)

1 ABSTRACT

In Turkey, there are some changes about the regulation on conservation to adopt EU policies on this issue some changes came into force after 2005. With these changing there are advantages and disadvantages on immovable historical structures and natural asset. For sustainability and future structuring in urban areas these steps are very important in Turkey because of conservation policy. Rules and regulations changing will be determined comparatively before and after 2005. Government and local administrations mutually working will be explained. In the paper organizational structuring and decision making mechanisms on the settlement that have historical character will be identified and will be criticised by the application problems of the decision on behalf of the conservation. Process of the immovable historical and natural assets conservation and problems will be examined also. Sustainability concept of historical buildings and natural assets conservation strategies fund and financial inabilities, achieving problems without technology on the other hand trying to sustain will be explained in the paper within the deterministic scientific methods.

2 INTERNATIONAL VIEW TO CONSERVATION AND TURKEY

2.1 The Decisions Council of the European Union

In Official Journal of the European Communities, that pressed 06.03.2001 c73/6; council resolution of 12 February 2001 (2001/C73/04) on architectural quality in urban and rural environments declared the decisions as below. The fifth research and development framework programme (RDFP) which, for the first time incorporates a key action a the theme of ‘the city of tomorrow and cultural heritage’ and address the issue of establishing a good quality building environment; (b) the ‘Framework for action: Sustainable urban development in the European Union’ submitted by the commission, which includes the preservation and improvement of building quality as an objective of European Union; (c) the European Spatial Development perspective (ESDP), which evokes the concept of ‘creative management of the architectural heritage’ including contemporary architecture, in approach to preserving the cultural and architectural heritage. Hereby affirms that; (a) architecture is fundamental feature of the history, culture and fabric of life of each of our countries; that it represent an essential means of artistic expression in the daily life of citizens and that it constitutes the heritage of tomorrow; (b) architectural quality is a constituent part of both the rural and urban environment; (c) the cultural dimension and the quality of the physical treatment of space should be taken into account in community regional and cohesion policies; (d) architecture is an intellectual, cultural, artistic and professional service which is both cultural and economic. Hereby expresses its attachment to (a) the common characteristics shared by European towns and cities, such as the importance of historical continuity the quality of public areas the social mix and the richness of urban diversity; (b) the fact that good quality architecture, by improving the living context and relationship between citizens and their environment, whether rural or urban, can contribute effectively towards social cohesion and job creation, the promotion of cultural tourism and regional economic development. Calls on the commission to (a) ensure that architectural quality and specific nature of architectural service are taken into consideration in all its policies, measures and programmes; (b) seek, in consultation with the Member States and in accordance with the rules governing the Structural Funds, ways and means of ensuring in the application of those funds a wider consideration of architectural quality and the conservation of cultural heritage; (c) in the context of existing programmes: foster measures to promot, disseminate and raise awareness of architectural and urban cultures with due respect for cultural diversity, facilitate cooperation and networking between institutions devoted to upgrading cultural heritage and architecture, and support incipient European-scale events, encourage, in particular, the training and mobility of students and professionals and thus promote the dissemination of good practice, (d) keep the council implementation of such measures.

2.2 Sustainability of Historical and Cultural Asssets

Firstly, general concept of the sustainability is determined by the UNESCO for heritage assets. When we talk about sustainability we have to remember first of all of the conservation issues because of these type of

assets belong to everybody from the past to future in the world in any local area. Therefore it must be conserved that will be hint from history to the future for next generation. Heritage areas and immovable historical and natural assets that registered by conservation commissions are very important at this stage in Turkey. The concept of sustainability of conserving the immovable historical assets and cultural heritage is related with urban sustainability in the context of social sustainability. The meaning of social sustainability defined as the kind of progress that harmonious development of living conditions of the residents of the various social groups in the settlements. In sustainability context Turkey's approach related with the UNESCO also. Cities and urban issues at UNESCO through the humanizing the city projects. Cities and urban issues are tackled by all five Sectors of UNESCO. Social and human sciences, Natural Sciences, Education, Culture, Communication and Information. UNESCO programmes and projects on cities and urban issues take into account the U.N Millenium Development Goals, the UNESCO Convention on the protection and promotion of Diversity of cultural expressions and the UNESCO strategy on Human Rights to:

1. Balance urban growth with environment
2. Create city centres of democracy
3. Enhance the city as a living and liveable cultural heritage

The research projects of the division of Social Sciences Research and Policy under the MOST (Management of Social Transformations) have focused on cities and social transformations, urban policies and democracy, renewal of historic cities and training of city professionals. (http://portal.unesco.org/shs/en/ev.php-URL_ID=7239&URL_DO=DO_TOPIC&URL_SECTION=201.html) Another project is RehabiMed. It is a network of Mediterranean experts from organizations and institutions of fifteen countries that are; Algeria, Cyprus, Egypt, France, Greece, Israel, Italy, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Palestinian, Spain, Syria, Tunisia and Turkey. On the basis of this argument, RehabiMed has chosen as strategic objective to strengthen the activities rehabilitation and preservation of traditional architecture, as factors of sustainable development. (social, economic and environmental) By following the objectives projects contribute to the improvement of residents' daily life and try to local economic activities to foster. Architectural immovable assets will be preserved at the same time that the symbol of the cultural or historical datas. (http://www.rehabimed.net/EN_UK/ACTIVIDADES/Paginas/activi_pres.aspx)

3 INSTITUTIONAL APPROACH TO SUSTAINABILITY OF CONSERVATION IN TURKEY

In Turkey, first legal presentation was the number of 5805 Law at 1951. According to this law, only architectural and historical assets would have been restored, preserved and repaired by the determined principles. This was the beginning of conservation service of the immovable cultural and historical assets whereby the commission of GEEYAK (Gayrimenkul Anıtlar ve Eski Eserler Yüksek Kurulu). In 1973 the number of 1710 was Immovable Assets and Historical Art Law includes contemporary approaches to Conservation of Cultural and Natural assets in the era of Republic of Turkey (Tapan 1998, 203). Another Law was in 1983 that was the number of 2863 Conservation of the Immovable Cultural and Natural Assets . According to this Law, the difficulties of the administration from center was solved by the distribution of the duties to the Regional Commissions. In 1987, the number of 2863 was changed by the 3386 Law. UNESCO and other international institutions was searching new ways to develop structural body affected Turkey's conservation policies. The contents had been changed with the date on 14.07.2004 and the number of 5226 Law. Participation, localization, transparency were some of the new principles of this new Law. At the administrative dimension that related with conservation policy there was inadequacy of the technical worker for local governments in reality although it was necessary for conservation. In practice it is very important problem for the conservation of immovable assets. Financial supports were increased by tax ratio changed in divisions of the other payments from the government. In spite of this, local administrations haven't used the financial aid opportunity until today, unfortunately. Because, there are few municipalities that have city planners, architects, restoration specialist except for main city municipalities in Turkey. In this organizational structure of conservation or planning areas will not able to be successful (Güçhan, 2002: 59). Local administrations have to be this technical structure for conservation and planning very urgent because of the planning of the conservation has very dynamic character. (Azrak, 2002:59).

3.1 Administrative Structure Conservation Issues

Ministry of Culture and Tourism is responsible for the conservation issues at the central administration. There is a High Council of Conservation and Regional Commissions of the Conservation at the local level. Decisions of the High Council are principles apply by the regional commissions. There are 28 regional Commissions of the Conservation. Each of the Regional Commissions is responsible for their cities. Adana, Ankara, Antalya, Aydın, Bursa, Çanakkale, Diyarbakır, Edirne, Erzurum, Eskişehir, Kayseri, Karabük, Konya, Muğla, Nevşehir, Samsun, Sivas, Şanlıurfa, Trabzon, Van, Kocaeli are Regional Commissions of the Conservation in Turkey. According the Law these commissions make register then classify of the assets and make register the sites of historical, cultural, archeological and natural that belong their regions. These Regional Commissions work the members of the commissions that is seven as a specialist in their field like city planner, architecture, archeologist, art historian and lawyer. The members of the commissions are chosen from universities and other institutions for conservation duty to the regional commissions for five years or three years respectively. On the other side, there are some technicians at the commissions that they are permanently these are staff of the Ministry. They prepare the reports about the registered or will be registered assets. Commissions come together every week for decisions and decisions are taken according to the high council principles decisions. Local administrations, citizens or non governmental organizations can apply to these commissions when there is any question about the immovable historical and cultural assets in the region.

3.2 Sustainability and Conservation Problems

Sustainable Development approach to emerge and progress in the perspective of institutional caused to changing in the world and Turkey's institutional organizations from 1972 until today. National and international legal and organizational steps are progressed, nowadays in Turkey. In historical urban sustainability approach sustainable development has duality of demands and constraints in Turkey (Altunbas, 2004:104). In historical urban sustainability approach, there are some problems about the plans and the application mistakes before the preparing of conservation plans. There are some areas that have a lot of buildings on the archeological ruined in cities. When preparing the preservation planning these situations get trouble to the planners or commissions of the conservation. It is necessary to have the large scale projects as internationally financed on these type of the areas and financial aid for their repairment. Some of them are living areas of the city centers that have buildings constructed on before conservation plan of the cities. Another historical sustainability problem is functional changing of the historical and cultural assets because of the building plans are not suitable for other uses. Although, these type of applications are necessary for urban economies and tourism aspects to alive their constructions it can be disappeared of the quality of documentary characters that belong to the cultural or historical data (Altunbas, 2007: 634). Therefore it is very important the implications of the projects to the areas and technical workers must be educated urgently in the near future for sustainability within details of the conservation. Another, problem is the approach of Municipalities and continuity of the specialists of the conservation in the organization. Each of the municipalities has to have city planners and conservation specialists but unfortunately have not any unit that related with the conservation areas in the small local administrations. Therefore, it can be appear some mistakes on conservation of historical and cultural assets. After the Law of 5226 organizational structure was changed on conservation issues. Regional Commissions members was increased from five to seven and added lawyer to the Regional Commissions. On the other hand it was weakened their working on in some areas. Local administrations are strongly encouraged to decision making in the conservation process with solutions on assets that decisions belong to them on their own. This case has critical point of view because of the lack of adequate educated people about the conservation in the local administrations. Another conservation problem is financial aid and multi ownerships of the historical assets. There are a lot of owners of a historical building for example. Some of them can't be found to have permissions for repairment when somebody wants to buy or use the assets. Generally these are empty houses. Some of them are ruined and necessitate huge amount of money for conservation. Many owners of the old assets haven't enough money to restorate or reconstruct of the historically and culturally because they can't afford their expenses. There is another problem that related with sustainability of urban historical or cultural assets that is urban rant. When the building is not there or the parcel is empty the owners of the building don't want to construct of it or do not construct same of the first, more rooms larger than first they want to have all the time.

4 CONCLUSION

There are some improvement of the legal side of the conservation of the urban sustainability. Turkey rules and regulations changed after the beginning of the sustainability process to achieve of conservation of the cultural and historical assets. In Turkey, international and national sustainable development approaches are parallel to the world. After 2005, within the changing of Law 5226 to 2863, it was strongly encouraged to have decisions making on conservations to the local administrations in Turkey. Technical infrastructure and knowledge about the conservation technics need to be improving also in municipalities. Therefore, there are some confusion issues of the targets and the applications about the conservation policy. The law brought a new entity to the local administrations. Local administrations can structure Project Offices inside their official bodies. Conservation Application and Inspection Offices can be structured in the municipalities by the new Law. According to the Law these offices are worked without the controlling of the Regional Conservation Commissions in many areas of conservation. On the other hand, the institutional organizational structures must be developed on the municipalities and local administrations. Education of the workers from the beginning to the end of the constructions for each conservation event will be helpful for sustainability of historical and cultural assets. Repairement is essential for sustainability therefore some training facilities can be created internationally or nationally very widely for sustainability of these types of assets. Organization of conservation in administrative perspective is very weak in local administrations because of the lack of experienced technical staff on the conservation issues. It is urgent to employ experienced staff to have continuity in conservation units within the municipalities with their technical workers that must be defined as the unit of sustainability of natural, historical and cultural assets.

5 REFERENCES

- ALTUNBAS, Derya: Yerel Yönetimlerin Koruma politikaları ve Uygulamaları. In: Yerel Yönetimler Üzerine Güncel Yazılar, Vol.II pp. 629-659 Ankara, 2007
- ALTUNBAS, Derya: Uluslararası Sürdürülebilir Kalkınma ekseninde Türkiye'deki Kurumsal Değişimlere Bir Bakış. In: Yönetim Bilimleri Dergisi, Vol.1 Number 1-2,pp.103-119 Ankara, 2004
- AZRAK, Ülkü: Kültür ve Yaşam Kaynakları Kamu Malıdır, Yerel Kimlik. In:Tarihi Kentler Birliği Dergisi, pp.59-79, İstanbul 2002
- GÜÇHAN, Ş. Neriman : Türkiye'de Koruma Alanının Örgütlenmesinde Belediyelerin Rolü.In: Kentleşme ve Yerel Yönetimler Sempozyumu, pp.59-65. Adana, 2002
- REHABIMED http://www.rehabimed.net/EN_UK/ACTIVIDADES/Paginas/activi_pres.aspx
- Official Journal of the European Communities, 06.03.2001 c73/6; council resolution of 12 February 2001 (2001/C73/04)
- TAPAN, Mete: Cumhuriyet Döneminde Doğa ve Kültür Varlıklarını Koruyamamanın Korunması. In: 75 Yılda Değişen Kent ve Mimarlık, Ed.Yıldız Sey , Tarih Vakfı Yayınları, pp.199-209.İstanbul, 1998.
- UNESCO http://portal.unesco.org/shs/en/ev.php-URL_ID=7239&URL_DO=DO_TOPIC&URL_SECTION=201.html