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Başiskele is a relatively new county in Kocaeli Province constituted in 2008, which covers the sub-districts of Bahecik, Yuvacık, Karşıyaka ,Yeniköy and Kullar. The name "Baş İskele" (Head Quay") was previously the name of a neighborhood close to the coast of the Sea of Marmara that was already known by that name in the 16th century. The municipality of Başiskele, which covers the whole area of the district, is a merger of the former independent municipalities of Kullar, Yeniköy, Bahecik, Karşıyaka (before named Döngel) and Yuvacık. It is located at the eastern side of Marmara Region and situated at the south of the İzmit Gulf. County of Basiskele is an important transition route that connects İzmir, Bursa to Kocaeli and İstanbul. Being a natural port, İzmit Gulf is a busy seaway. There are plenty of factories in Basiskele as a result of the rapid industrialization, many people immigrated from other parts of Anatolia to Başiskele.

According to Turkish Statistics Institution the population of the county is around 93000 today. Basiskele is a well-known city with its historical places, tourist attractions and intense industrial activities, recently there have been serious developments in culture, arts and education as well.

HISTORY

It is known that Basiskele and its vicinity were settled about from 3000 BC. Came from Megara, a city of old Greece, looking for a settlement to live. The group founded town of Astakoz in the place of present Basiskele. After devastating caused by an eartquake the people living in the area had to migrate to Nicomedia. Later on Başiskele region was referred to with Bythinia. The region was controlled by the Seljuks after having conquered by them 1078. However, soon after the first Crusade region came under Byzantine domination again. In the reign of Sultan Orhan the region was reconcuered by the Ottomans and came under Turkish domination definitely and was improved.

TOURIST ATTRACTIONS

Basıskele is also a place where nature-friendly people engage in activities. The passagers are observed in the shores of Başiskele. Beşkayalar Nature Park, the valley where Soğukdere and Sıcakdere is united reach Yuvacık Dam. There is a rich flora around the Dam. At the same time canyon in the area is an important place for trekking lovers.

BAŞISKELE DIRECTORATE OF NATIONAL EDUCATION

It is a governmental organization in charge with the planning and coordination of all kinds of educational and training activities from pre-school, to secondary and adult education in Başiskele district. The Directorate is responsible with taking all required actions in the field of education to realize a real increase in the management and organizational capacity of this largest governmental body of the Başiskele Region. Besides, it collaborates and co-operates with the other directorates and institutions in Kocaeli, in many National and International projects. Başiskele Directorate of National Education has experience in Key Activity 2, Comenius Multilateral, Comenius Network, Leonardo Da Vinci

VETPRO and Partnership Projects, Leonardo Da Vinci Transfer of Innovation, Grundtvig Learning Partnership. 23 institutions under the directorate have been granted by EU funds in the previous five years. Başiskele Directorate of National Education consists of different branches, bureaus, permanent boards and commissions according to the characteristic of the service. Main duties and services of the Directorate are;

- Personnel
- Appointment
- Examination
- Investigation
- Evaluation and Culture
- Education and Training
- Student Affairs
- Program Development In-service Training
- Computer & Examination Services
- Pre-primary Education
- Special education & Guidance
- In-school Physical Education & Sports
- Teacher Services & Social Works
- Scholarships & Dormitories
- Private Education Institutions

- Health Affairs, Non-formal Education, Apprenticeship
- Vocational Technical Education
- Research, Planning & Statistics
- Budget and Capital expenses and Implementations
- Educational Tools & Equipment
- Archive & Administrative Department
- Civil Defense Services
- Press and Public Relations.

There are 10 nursery,30 primary,31 secondary ,10 high schools 4 vocational schools and There are 1640 teachers and around 20000 students in Başiskele County.

Directorate of Education of Başiskele District is open and highly motivated for possible partnerships, in order to exploit new opportunities for collaborating with different institutions from different countries and develop project ideas that address social, educational, environmental and economic challenges.

The European idea and intercultural learning are important elements of our education and training life. Therefore, the Başiskele Directorate of National Education gives special importance for planning and undertaking project activities. In this context, Emin Öztürk was appointed as a Project Coordinator and a project coordination unit was established within the directorate and started its activities in April 2018.

The unit organizes seminars and training programs about project cycle management for all stakeholders from governmental, non-governmental, public and private institutions in Basiskele, plays an important role in consultation and information providing about LLP and ERASMUS+.