

Willingness of Foreign Retired Residents to Participate In Local Public Life and Strategic Approaches to the Relationship Networks within the Local Community; (Example of Antalya, Turkey)

Zerrin Toprak Karaman*

ABSTRACT

Alongside those coming for short term work, education or holiday visits, an increasing number of people entering the country every day for periods of settlement longer than six months while continuing to maintain their links with their country of origin and those forced to enter for reasons such as political pressures or climate change have made Turkey a growing immigrant recipient country. This study makes an evaluation of the interests of retired resident foreigners of European origin, who have been coming to Antalya and preferring to live there in increasing numbers since the 2000s, in administration and politics as well as of their contributions to social capital.

Key Words: *Crisis management, European Union, Organizational Learning, Emergencies, Crises and Extreme events*

* University of Dokuz Eylül

Faculty of Economics and Administrative Sciences

Buca-Dokuzçeşmeler, 35160, İzmir

zerrin.toprak@deu.edu.tr

Introduction

This study focuses on the profiles of originally European retired foreigners who have chosen the province of Antalya, on the Turkish Mediterranean coast, for a healthy and peaceful life, and those who have chosen to remain a resident over certain periods of time in areas under the administrative control of the Turkish Interior Minister and municipalities, as well as with their participation in public life.

This research examines the place and role of retired foreign residents moving to Antalya, the global network of relationships and their possibility of being utilized as "foreign social capital" in terms of social development indications. Relations with foreigners have developed in a limited and controlled way. Looking from another perspective, foreigners, who are in a position of being 'guests' in another country, are increasingly choosing to live away from local people.

The hypothesis is based on:

- social togetherness and neighboring with foreigners,
- the effects of foreign residents on social life and in shaping local politics, and their interests in political participation,
- the existence of foreign resident citizens

Accelerated by globalization in international relations, the approach towards human rights has become important when considering strategies towards implementation at a local level. These developments also direct local authorities towards transnational relations. Local authorities are encouraged to cooperate at the border and across the border. Turkey has membership to various international organizations concerned with local authorities and their democratic projects such as the Council of Europe (1950). In this case, Turkey's Municipalities can carry out joint activities and service projects with international institutions and organizations, and with the local authorities of the countries with which Turkey has diplomatic relations, or can establish relations through twinning cities.

The foreign activities of local authorities in Turkey have to be conducted in accordance with foreign policy and international agreements. Permission for activities is obtained from the central authorities. "Departments concerning foreign relations" are established in municipalities under various names such as 'coordinatorship' and 'directorate' and with a view to developing foreign relations. On the basis of these regulations, it is aimed at establishing social, cultural and economic relations with the citizens of that country within a short period of time by means of the connections established with the local administrations/authorities outside the country. Another aspect of the research is the creation of mutual services at a local level while one of the other important dimensions is to prevent loneliness in an international political arena and to raise the mutual threshold of trust with the neighboring countries.

The issue of increasing participation in public life is progressively considered essential in democratic societies. The section of "democratic life" in which the civil services stand in their administrative preferences is undoubtedly of importance as well. In the present civil service structuring following the 1992 Rio summit, participatory administration has gained importance because of the tendency towards largely local and society-centered administrative strategies. Nevertheless, within the developing process of improving "human rights", until now the issue of representation has been evaluated as a right unique to the citizens of the country and the problems have tended to be settled within themselves.

Before commencing with the evaluations regarding foreigners who constitute the target mass of the research, we focus on the concepts of "foreigner" and "foreign resident". In connection to this, the restrictions included in the legal regulations towards foreigners in Turkey are stated.

Concept of foreigner and the legislation concerning foreigners in Turkey

During the meeting of the Institute of International Law held in Geneva in 1892, a foreigner was defined as 'one who is in a state or country and who still does not have the right to claim the citizenship of that state.' The Law on Work Permits of Foreigners No. 4817 dated 2003 defines a **foreigner** as "one who is not regarded to be a Turkish national in accordance with the Law on Turkish Citizenship No. 403 dated 1964". This definition is in connection with the legal status of the Turkish Citizen. In fact, the law No. 403 does not define a foreigner but defines the cases or becoming a Turkish Citizenship or renouncing citizenship.

In accordance with the provisions of the Convention of Participation of Foreigners at Local Level in Public Life (<http://conventions.coe.int/>), in the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe, the term "foreign national" is used for people who are non-citizens of the state but who are legally present within the borders of the state (Convention, art. 2). In practice, various criteria have been recognized within the subject of the citizenship of partnerships. Every state, in accordance with the system it adopts, accepts the legal persons in its own country along with their nationality, or regards them as foreigners.

There is no provision concerning the "Concept of Resident Foreigner" in the legislation in force. It was found as a result of our interviews with the concerned authorities (the Ministry of Internal Affairs and the Department of Foreigners) that the concept of "**Resident Foreigner**" is important in the issue of whether a residence permit is granted or not under the implementations of the Department of Foreigners, and how long it will last if granted. The outcome for a Resident Foreigner occurs as a result of research made on the individual. For instance, a longer-term residence permit is granted to the following:

foreigners who have entered the country, settled mainly in the holiday regions and purchased immovables in these regions ...and who are living in Turkey on the condition that they are treated as "foreigners having residence for a specified period of time".

There are many legal regulations that are connected to foreigners such as the 1982 Constitution Law, the Village Law No. 442, dated 1924, the Law on Military Forbidden Zones No. 2565, dated 1981, the Reprisal Law No. 1062, dated 1927, the Municipality Law No. 5393, dated 2005, the Law on the Right to Access to Information No. 4982, dated 2003, the Law on Work Permits of Foreigners No. 4817 and the Land Registry Act No. 2644, dated 1934. Legal regulations have most of the time restricted the activities of foreigners. They have democratic rights such as the right to form association and to participate in established associations. However, their activities are permitted under restrictions. The Law on Work Permits determines the fundamentals and essentials concerning the work permits of foreign national personnel to be employed within the scope of the companies, branches and contact offices operating within the framework of the Law on Foreign Direct Investments No. 4875. Nevertheless, the new regulations on their possibility to acquire land and house in Turkey encourage the arrival of foreigners.

Before beginning with the relationship between public life and foreign residents in the example city of Antalya, Turkey, the following is information on participation in public life taken from research literature regarding retired foreigners.

An approach towards research on migration of retirees in Europe

Interdependence brought to "partnerships" by international agreements urges the increase of administrative capacity so as to achieve similarities in the structuring of countries. Although source reasons may vary between countries, migration carries not only its own characteristic features but also the indication of the quality of life, which migrants are used to across borders. It is possible to view this variation through research by putting forward the characteristics of international migration.

Research concerning international migration began at the end of the 1970s (Williams, King, Warnes, and Patterson, 2000). This research was more about how tourism mobility influences the migration decision of retirees and about how permanent they may be in the country they migrate to. In the process of 'togetherness' over a period of 30 years or more so far, it is observed that the issue of influences of immigrants on the quality of life in the settlements they are in has been brought to our attention. The economic-environmental and regional-political joint steps, developed within the general approach to human rights in the European countries both by the European Union and the Council of Europe, influences countries mutually and multidimensionally. The factors regarding "the quality of life", which are influenced by developments and changes and therefore remain as an open-ended concept, are developed step by step.

In fact, in every aspect of the research, changes at a local level have been included resulting in the increasing influence of residents and locals spending time together. When the information mentioned in the resources given as references in the accessible works is

evaluated in terms of the political-administrative relations of retired foreign residents with local people, it can be said that generally no direct questions were asked to the subjects "concerning the willingness of participating in local politics". Research on migration in Europe is briefly summarized below. The keywords are considered as important to the contents of the articles and helped us put forward the subjects of the articles. In general, research naturally analyses previous work. Our summarized evaluations carry all the findings so far.

When evaluating the field research, it can be seen that generally elderly people moved to the region from the 1970s until 1998. They did this in order to improve the quality of a healthy life due to suitable climatic conditions. In research dealing mainly with the tourism activities of elderly retirees and their tendencies towards purchasing houses (Portugal-Algarve) between 1991 and 1996, the age distribution in the sample is worth examining (Williams, and Patterson, 1998). The age group 50-70 constitutes the majority in the research and the age group 51-60 constitutes 46.6 % in this sample. However, the concept that the main tendency of retirees is the desire to live in "peace and quiet" in the research, where participation in council and political interests is not carried out, stands out. This leads to the conclusion that retirees are aware of their "being guests" in the country they are in.

Research was carried out concerning the migration of retirees at and above the age of 59 in (Costa del Sol) a popular holiday region in Spain. It concentrated on information on tourist behavior and their social and cultural lives (Rodriguez, 2001).

Italy (Tuscany): Regarding research on Tuscany, since continuous and long-term residence within the municipal territory is a requirement in terms of activities such as renting a car, owning or renting property, receiving health care and etc., it is considered that the data mentioned in the records of the municipality council would be a source of information. However, the researchers sadly had to admit that there existed no discrimination of nationality among the municipal records which they could share with their readers. Thus, although the increase in the number of residents can be observed in figures, no further information could be given beyond the strong estimation that this population increase came from the United Kingdom. Furthermore, issues such as population, immigration and linguistic difficulties are studied from the aspect of their influence on integration; and administrative-political indications are not focused on. The research mentions interesting findings in terms of the influences of rural and urban variations on the socio-cultural life. As a result, the interviews were carried out with the initial idea that the ability to speak fluently is a good indication for integration. It is stated that learning a language is encouraged by artistic and cultural activities in urban areas where they are observed (Florence) and by the tendency of commercial activities in those areas, while the tendency to learn the language recedes in rural regions such as South Tuscany and Umbria (King, and Patterson, 1998).

In Malta and Gozo, the study is on British retirees of at least 50, and their financial contributions to the island where they have settled are dwelt upon (Warnes, and Patterson,

1998). Moreover, it is mentioned that the pressure on housing prices caused by the demand from the development of tourism creates a disadvantageous case for the people of Malta. It is stated that new immigrants to Malta seeking jobs cause a recession in the quality of life of previous comers. The fact that due to this recession the initial immigrants left the island and began a new search for settlement is stressed in terms of periods. These developments outlined indicate that a peaceful atmosphere and reasonable prices are required for quality of life. Actually, this work is striking in terms of the issues it stresses initially at the beginning of 1998. Both the demographic information of the foreign population as well as socio-economic analyses were included and estimations of the population's possibility of being voters were carried out; however, no direct connections were established between administration and politics.

With the knowledge gained from studies carried out in the individual settlements of Tuscany, Malta, Costa del Sol and the Algarve, the approaches used in connection to family relationship of the immigrants from different countries seem to stand out in this research (Williams, King, Warnes, and Patterson, 2000). Research was carried out in regions where tourism, retirement and immigration relating to French, American and British people were evaluated together with specific emphasis on visits by the children to their families. Related to this, a theory was developed regarding the population mobility mechanism.

Although these evaluations are carried out independently, the increasing threats of global climatic changes are important in terms of trying to understand the retired foreigners' choices to return to their grandchildren or to make the country they arrive at as the last stop. No striking or dominating tendencies are observed among the following preferences: to return to their own country, to return to the place they arrived at, to return to another place in their own country, to go to another place in Europe or to another continent. In other words, each of the preferences listed above results in about 20 % on average, with the tendency of going to "another place" or "another continent" showing at a rate of about 10 % among the preferences. Since the option of "other", which shows the preference of going to a different place is not explained, no evaluations could be carried out for Turkey.

Studying the political interests of people in the status of being European Citizens but in the position of "being from a foreign nation" in the country they are in as guests, is important research in terms of our subject (Favell, 2005). According to evaluations carried out between 2001 and 2003 in London, Brussels and Amsterdam, it was concluded that people generally follow events within their own countries although they are far away. People are also not so interested in the elections of the European Parliament as they are in local elections in the country where they are guests. Within the framework of the provisions entitled 'European Citizenship' introduced by the Treaty of Maastricht, which was enforced in November 1993, it is understood that there is not a huge demand concerning the use of the right to vote and to be voted for in the elections of the European Parliament and the municipal elections by the citizens of the European Union who reside in another

member country. European Opposition with “skeptical national votes” is considered to underlie this fact while “nationalist politicians” try to undermine the Constitution of the European Union. It is understood that Belgium leads in this matter. It can be said that nationalist tendencies will cause an effect of “staying away from local policy” especially by foreigners and, in a further scenario, especially by retired foreigners who seek peace.

In examining the recorded literature, it can be seen that until now no thorough study has been carry out concerning the migration of retired foreigners by local administrative organizations. On the other hand, every kind of international propagandas intended to effect local politics is increasing.

Whether the aim of migrants is to find work or to reach more comfortable living conditions during retirement, it becomes easier for individuals with different religious beliefs to communicate through the convergence of different cultures and socio-cultural relations. Cultural relations and interreligious dialogue are expressed also in the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe in a variety of areas. In connection with the fundamental principles of human rights and cultural relations of the Council of Europe and the European Union, Moscow (Russia) 2006(<http://www.interfax-religion.com>) and Sibiu (Romania) 2007 (<http://www.christian-ecology.org>) hosted two essential conferences recently.

It is observed that two fundamental indications of democratic life have developed differently in Europe. Although a democratic right is granted, the tendency by foreign communities, who have just entered the local place, to shun political participation is interpreted negatively by some political groups. Furthermore, in the name of peace and democracy, socio-cultural activities at local level are supported. The democratic approaches developed encourage the settlement of foreigners and their long-term stay outside their own countries. The retired resident foreigners do not consider returning to their own countries unless an important recession is experienced in their living quality standards. The following section examines foreign residents' participation in public life and the political quality of life at the local level.

Participation in public life and its effect on politics in the example of Antalya

The phenomenon of routine international social relations, which start and end at specific times at the local level, has recently become subject to influences resulting from new and different demands. This is due to an increase in foreign residents' preferences for living in Turkey.

Radical regulations regarding the participation of local people in Turkey in the urban/city council were put into force as of 2004 (Toprak, 2008a). In forming the foundations for a strong, centralized council structure, council-centered decision mechanisms are turned into society-centered decision mechanisms. The changes mentioned came into force simultaneously and are important in the effect they have on associations for foreign residents. It is not known how much work was done by the council on other issues

regarding the participation of foreigners in the council. In terms of the public, “a full lack of providing information” about the developments concerned creates another dimension to the matter.

Since Turkey is not a member of the European Union, the citizens of the European Union, who have settled in the country, have no rights with regard to their participation in local politics. Additionally, Turkey’s status is that of being a member of the Council of Europe (1950). The provisions of “the Convention on the Participation of Foreigners in Public Life at Local Level”, one of the Agreements of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe, stands out as one of the issues requiring immediate study in Turkey. Under these conditions, issues related to the study of the participation of foreign residents in public life, their relation with local and central authorities, their interest in local politics and the view of the public towards foreigners are of strategic importance.

Cultural attitudes and integration with society

It is claimed that there exist two independent dimensions underlying the cultural identities of human beings: the degree to which human beings want to maintain their hereditary culture and identity and the degree to which they seek a relation with the society. In connection with this, regarding foreign retired residents, the following issues can be investigated in order to determine their relationships with the society in which they have become a part:

- Preferring social activities which require both national and ethnic groups (integration);
- Preferring social activities which require the national group only (assimilation);
- Preferring the social activities of their own ethnic group and members only (separation); and
- Not wanting to participate in any national or ethnic activities (marginalization).

Profile of foreign residents and their relations with authorities

Determining the profile of Foreign Residents is of importance in terms of the indications of quality of life and their effects on sustainable development objectives included in the strategic planning of the city. Therefore, examining the legal relations of foreigners with local authorities will shed light on the fundamental issues of the research which are studied in terms of participation in public life.

In accordance with the Municipality Law No. 5393, the Municipality is the public legal entity which is established so as to meet “local and common” needs of the residents in the Town. It is also the decision-taking body constituted as a result of election by voters and having “administrative and financial autonomy” (5393, art. 3-a). The word ‘Town’, which is one of the elements constituting this definition, is defined as a settlement unit with a municipality (5393, art.3-c). The general decision-taking bodies of the municipality are the

mayor, the municipal assembly and the council (5393, art.3-b). The residents of the town are the citizens residing in the town. The position of the citizen is regulated specifically under the title 'citizen law' (5393, art.13).

According to the definition of citizen, everybody is a citizen of the town where he/she resides. Citizens have the right to participate in municipal decisions and services. Citizens have the right to be informed about municipal activities and to benefit from the aid of the municipal administration. (5393, art.13/1). The regulation concerning the specification of a citizen is included in the definition that 'every one' living in the town is a citizen of the town where he/she resides. There is no period of waiting in our legislation for obtaining the status of being a citizen. In the Municipality Law No. 1580, which was repealed, there was a specification for "the Turkish citizen". Hence, the legal relation between the citizen and the municipality which initiates in terms of rights and duties as of the moment the citizen is registered in the place where he/she has emerged, extends also to foreigners through the provisions of the related law in connection to their residence permits.

Any individual, who resides or has relations within the municipal territory, shall be liable to obey the orders, decisions and announcements of the municipality based on current laws. Individuals must also pay municipal taxes, levies, duties, contribution and participation shares (5393, art.13/3). Under the new regulations, the distinction of "citizen" in article 13 and "living" in article 14 of the law No. 1580 was annulled and the two joined. Regulations concerning the rights and duties underlying the citizen law will be clarified further once they have been related to the content of the Convention on the Participation of Foreigners in Administration / Public Life (which Turkey has not signed yet) of the Council of Europe of which we are a member.

In accordance with current legislation, foreign residents are liable to obey the decisions, orders and announcements of the municipality in which they reside, which are based purely on laws. Moreover, they have "**administrative**" relations with local authorities in terms of local taxes relating to their home and the local services from which they benefit in return. Although it is not observed in practice, individuals have the right to benefit from the aid of the council according to a regulation under the heading of "the poor" within municipal territory. Nevertheless, they do not have any "**political**" rights in terms of participating (administration) in the municipal decisions and services and in terms of electing and being elected.

The profile of foreign residents in Antalya and the tables determining their administrative-political approaches are analyzed below.

Foreign residents and administrative-political approaches in Antalya

Statistics show that in the middle of 2005, the number of foreigners residing in Turkey on a residence permit was 163,018, but that by March 1st 2007, this number had risen to 202,085. According to information dated 2007 from the Ministry of Internal Affairs (Toprak, Kaya, & Tenikler, 2007), 202,085 people, who were born in a foreign country, reside in

Turkey. 26, 575 of them are in Turkey for education. 22,720 foreigners still work while 152,789 people reside in Turkey for various other reasons. The highest numbers of foreigners in Turkey live in İstanbul (106.000). Bursa ranks the second while Antalya ranks the third with 12, 832 resident foreigners living there as of 2007. Of these foreigners, 93,724 were shown to be Europeans from countries within the European Union and of this number, 9,902 came from Bulgaria, 7,940 from Germany and 7,940 from England. Of those settled in Antalya, the majority were from the following six countries: Germany (5971), Holland (2039), England (1992), Denmark (1267), Ireland (1045) and Norway (676). Other European countries of origin included Belgium, Austria, Sweden, France, Finland, Italy, Greece, Poland and Luxemburg.

When the reasons influencing settlement in Turkey are evaluated, climatic conditions stand out as a very strong variable. However, not only the climate but also cheap living conditions and cultural and historical assets are significant. These reasons show a definite preference for living in Turkey. The political and service conditions in their own country do not appear as a driving factor leading foreigners to leave their own country.

Whether foreigners choose to come to Turkey as a short-term tourist or with the purpose of settling for a period, they influence the council at a local and at central levels as service demanders. The protection of social peace and the formation of sound settlements take place on the basis of the existence of a state council (the central and local authorities) that respects modern law and universal values. In connection with this, the effective distribution of goods and services as well as the provision of democratic participation at local level are the "sine qua non" bases for the councils of modern cities.

Research was carried out in April and May 2007 on foreign retirees (500 people), aged 40 or above, living in districts affiliated to Antalya and who have lived in this region for at least 6 months. Research was also carried out on residential Turks (505 people), within the same region, above the age of 15, through face-to-face interviews. The interviews were carried out in Antalya, the central district, as well as Alanya, Manavgat, Kemer, Kalkan and Kaş which are affiliated to Antalya, and Korkuteli where foreigners do not live.

The questionnaires were carried out on foreign residents in the municipalities as follows: Antalya Center (28.4%), Alanya (27%), Kaş (14.0%), Kemer (12.4%), Manavgat (10.6%) and Kalkan (7.6%) (**Table.1**). The participants in the questionnaire are mainly British citizens 24.2% (121 people), German 22.6% (113 people), Dutch 13.2% (66 people), Norwegian 12.6% (63 people), Danish 10.2% (51 people) and Belgian 5.8% (29 people) The profile is composed of foreigners with European citizenship origin. Foreigners generally do not show a profile of travelling from country to country but mostly come to Turkey directly from their own countries.

The districts where foreigners settled in Antalya were found to be the districts of Güzeloba, Barbaros, Fener, Selçuk, Yeşilbahçe, Liman, Gürsu, Arapsuyu, Öğretmenevleri, Kuşkavağı, Altinkum and Akkuyu. According to statistical information from the Police Headquarters, the initial place where foreigners live densely is Antalya Center while Alanya is the second, Manavgat the third and Kemer the fourth. Foreigners were found to live more in coastal towns such as Belek and Side than the city center of Manavgat.

Table 1 Districts Where Interviews Were Made

District where research was made	Frequency	Percentage
Antalya Center	142	28.4
Alanya	135	27.0
Kaş	70	14.0
Kemer	62	12.4
Manavgat	53	10.6
Kalkan	38	7.6
Total	500	100.0

The number of interviewees is 500 in total – of which males constitute 55% (275 people) and females constitute 45% (225 people). When the above was considered, it was found that among the total participants in the questionnaire, 51.6% have a residence permit, while significantly the percent of people continuing their residence on a tourist visa is high at 44.8%. The rate of people holding the status of double citizenship is only 1.8%. Most foreigners (74.2 %) (371 people), who participated in the questionnaire, are married while 17.8% (89 people) are single. The group proclaiming to be neither rates at 7.4% (37 people) and those giving no answer 0.6% (3 people).

Table 2 Age of the Interviewee

Age	Frequency	Percentage%
40–54*	127	25.4
55–60	127	25.4
61–65	115	23.0
66+	126	25.2
No answer	5	1.0
Total	500	100.0

(*Retired foreigners living in the region between the ages of 40 and 54)

Of the foreign residents fitting the profile of retired foreigner, and taking part in the survey, 25.4% were within the age groups of (40-54) and (55-60), 23% were in the age group of (61-65) and 25.2% were aged 66 and over (**Table 2**). The group not included in the active age group were only 25.2%. This profile shows the existence of a group that may be effective in the participation of public life in terms of the questionnaire sample.

Those between 40-54 being within the age group capable of working, show the potential of retired foreigners likely to be very active and participatory.

In the research carried out, it is observed that only people holding the status of double citizenship, an overwhelming majority of foreign residents, think about returning to their own countries when there is an important problem.

Table 3 Their Legal Status in Turkey

Legal Status in Turkey	Frequency	Percentage
Residence permit	258	51.6
Tourist visa	224	44.8
Double citizen	9	1.8
Citizen of Republic of Turkey	4	0.8
Other	3	0.6
No answer	2	0.4
Total	500	100.0

51.6% of the participants in the questionnaire have residence permits. The rate of people extending their residence with a tourist visa has an important rate at 44.8%. The rate of people holding the status of double citizenship is 1.8%.

Table 4 Income

Monthly average house income	Frequency	Percentage%
Under € 1000	11	2.2
€ 1.001 – 2.500	82	16.4
€ 2.501 – 5.000	55	11.0
Above € 5.001	21	4.2
No answer	331	66.2
Total	500	100.0

According to the table of distribution of income, 16.4% have a monthly average home income of between ?1001 and ?2.500. 11 % have a monthly average home income between ?2.501 and ?5.000. 4.2% have an income above ?5001. However, foreigners at a very high rate of 66.2% have not declared their income. Briefly, it is possible to say that retired foreigners are self-sufficient. While it is observed that a considerable majority of people who have a monthly income of under ?1000 are women. It appears that men have an income of between ?1000 and ?5000. When the financial power of people, who have

declared their incomes, is evaluated under the minimum wage conditions in Turkey, as is also observed from the declared values, the minimum wage is above the amount declared as (562.50 YTL= ₺315.30) monthly gross and (403.03 YTL =₺225.91) monthly net with the calculation of $1\% = 1.7840$ YTL taken as average for 2007 according to the data from the Central Bank of the Republic of Turkey (**Table 4**).

When the property status was studied, 48.6% of foreigners live in rented houses. The percentage of foreigners living in a house which they own is again at a high rate of 47.6%. It is shown that there is an increasing relationship between education level and participation in cultural life and public life. The education levels of foreign and local people are shown below in the questionnaire sample.

Table 5 Education Level of Interviewee (foreigners)

Education Level	Frequency	Percentage
University	256	51.2
High School	203	40.6
PhD.	29	5.8
Primary School	8	1.6
No answer	4	0.8
Total	500	100.0

Concerning the educational level of the settled foreigners in the survey; the highest percentage (51.2%) is the university graduates, high school graduates comprise (40.6%), people with Phds (5.8%) and those with only primary education 1.6%. In general, we can say that the settled retired foreigners have a higher educational level than the local people in the survey. This is an important factor in the evaluation of the results (**Table 5**).

The education level of the interviewed local people in the sample shows that a large percent of 40.6% (205 people) are only primary school graduates, 15.8% (80 people) are middle school graduates while 29.5% (149 people) have had high school education, and those with university, master, or Phd degrees is only 10.9%. When compared with the local people included in the questionnaire sample, the relatively high level of education of foreign residents is an important factor in evaluating their possible contribution to urban development programs. This development makes it worth studying the evaluation of foreign residents as “foreign social capital” and their possible contributions to urban development programs.

The general opinion of the mayors interviewed in the places where foreigners are densely settled, in the council area of the province of Antalya is that foreigners bring colour to the socio-economic life of Antalya and add dynamism to the structure of the city. The foreign residents who are likely to create demand also by their incomes reinforce this opinion. Presently it is expected to implement integrated policies facilitative for the serv-

ices of the council. In these integrated activities, the society is also expected to contribute. How will the contributions of foreign residents in the area in which they are located be shaped in terms of our subject? This subject is analyzed in this section on the grounds of the questionnaire results. This is also closely related to the degree to which the state (society) and the community internalize democracy. The presence of the social and physical belongingness of foreign retired residents in the settlements where they are present is examined below.

Relation of social capital and foreign social capital

In connection to material and moral values of the society, Social Capital is in fact not a new concept in social sciences. Ibn Khaldun (1331-1405), the first theorist in history to state the indisputable effect of climate on the human character and the constitution and development of societies, related social sustainability with "the theory of asabiyya" (<http://www.uludagsozluk.com/k/ibn-i-haldun>). It is a subject which was considered important and dealt with centuries later by Adam Smith (1723-1790), Emile Durkheim (1858-1917), Max Weber (1864-1920), Montesquieu (1689-1755) and other authors. In the modern sense, the word "social capital" was defined by Robert D. Putnam (1970), researcher on politics, and the sociologist James Coleman (1988) in their studies. When participation in public life is mentioned, it is important to study this subject and the subject of social capital as it is closely related to the subject of foreign residents.

Interpreted under the titles of good administration or governance based on participation in decision and execution mechanisms in state administration at central and local levels, the approaches in the new administration strategies direct us to the concept of "social capital". Social capital is defined by Bourdieu, "made up of social obligations ("connections"), which is convertible, in certain conditions, into economic capital and may be institutionalized in the form of a title of nobility" (Bourdieu, 1985). Putnam "features of social organization such as networks, norms, and social trust that facilitate coordination and cooperation for mutual benefit" (Putnam, 1995).

Definition of social capital is made by Fukuyama as "the ability of people to work together for common purposes in groups and organizations" (Fukuyama, 2005). Social capital may be defined as the resources embedded in a social structure that are accessed and/or mobilized in purposive action (Lin, 2001). David Halpern defines concept of social capital as social networks and norms and sanctions that govern their character. It is valued for its potential to facilitate individual and community action, especially through the solution of collective action problems (Halpern, 2005).

Social capital that is engendered by the fabric of social relations and that can be mobilized to facilitate action, has informed the study of families, youth behavior problems, community life, public health, democracy, governance, economic development and general problems of collective action (Adler and Kwon 2002). Concept of social capital has

received wide attention from a variety of disciplines including, public administration, sociology, political science, management, economics and anthropology. Social capital is interpreted as the ability of human beings (Sargut, 2006) to work together as individuals, groups or organizations for their common objectives. As a matter of fact, social capital is regarded also in practice as a value that puts all elements of business life, economy, organizational behavior, politics and sociology at its heart.

Having presently reached this point and having also mentioned “the total of material and moral values”, it can be stated that, the phenomenon of “human and the social capital” is defined within the networks of the organization. An example is a councils’ understanding of countries and the relations between legal decision-makers and society is necessary. This togetherness must be supported by variables such as trust, information, communication and dialogue.

Retired foreigners in terms of the strengthening of the above-mentioned socioeconomic variables on the network of global relations can be viewed as a new immigration type. It is necessary to be aware of the fact that foreigners, on the network of integrated relations in such areas as international, administrative, socio-cultural, political, etc. also interact in the places where they have settled down for reasons due to climatic conditions, apart can not only make an economic contribution but are also a socio-cultural value to the town as a source of “foreign social capital” (Toprak, 2007). The term of foreign social capital is used here by the author to define only settled foreigners since they are mainly skillful and educated people. Their economic purchasing power does not have priority in this sense. In connection to this, the socio-cultural and administrative-political unities with local people developed by immigrants from foreign countries, who bring amongst other things different cultures, tolerance and solidarity, need to be researched.

Even though facilitating the gathering of people is an essential step in socialization, it is not easy to say that any developments are likely to be made in the society in this way alone. The value of individual capital is constituted under available educational conditions. Social capital is a collection of systems. It does not occur by itself even if it is at different levels of democratic and economic conditions. For the constitution, functionalism and sustainability of social capital, the ruling authority (government) has to take a decision for ratification. This has to be facilitated at all administrative ranks since it is known that the high ranking administrators, who have known throughout history that meeting encourages the production of ideas and simultaneously paves the way for the evaluation of the performance of the council, perceive social meetings as a threat.

Therefore, for an acceptable reason such as “social security”, it is generally known that the freedoms of demonstration, meeting and marches are regulated provisions in the name of democracy in the participation in social life. The organization support given to foreigners, the legal structure and the ability to communicate are interpreted below.

Skills of using turkish

The strongest indication showing the willingness of social integration is the willingness to speak the language of the country one is in. When the answers to the questions towards understanding the skill of using Turkish are examined, it is understood that difficulties are faced in filling in official documents. In analyzing Turkish speaking efficiency, 33.2% of the respondents declared that their Turkish language skills are adequate for shopping, 18.2% for communication with Turkish neighbors and 7.8% for filling out formal forms. Those admitting to limited speaking skills have difficulties in almost all options: shopping (32.4%), communication with neighbors (45.6%) and filling out forms (22.6%). Those indicating very poor skills have most difficulty in filling out forms (51%). Only 8.8% of the participants indicated that they cannot speak Turkish at all (**Table 6**). In fact, shopping is a strong indication of communication apparent in almost all of the values.

Table 6 Use of Turkish

How well is Turkish used?		Fluent	Quite good	Limited	Very poor	Can't speak Turkish	No answer	Total	N	Ave.
Shopping	Frq	52	166	162	80	34	6	500	494	2.2
	%	10.4	33.2	32.4	16.0	6.8	1.2	100.0		
Communication with Turkish Neighbors	Frq	44	91	229	81	44	11	500	489	2.0
	%	8.8	18.2	45.8	16.2	8.8	2.2	100.0		
Filling in official forms	Frq	34	39	113	255	44	15	500	485	1.5
	%	6.8	7.8	22.6	51.0	8.8	3.0	100.0		

Regarding the management of daily life in spite of low Turkish speaking ability, 59% of the respondents indicated that many people in the neighborhood can speak their language, 11% of the participants said that they are easily able to find a person who can speak their language, 17.8% stated that they mainly carry on their lives with people from their own countries and 27.4% left it unanswered.

A noticeable difficulty faced in Antalya is the structural problems. The rapidly increasing population of retirees confronts the public administration (at local and central levels) with a new foreign group expecting local services similar to those of the local people. This subject is examined below.

Difficulties faced by foreigners in public space

The foreign residents state that they have had problems in public services during the period they stayed in Antalya. These problems are related to council services, health

services, residency and visas, language and worshipping (Table 7). When the problems faced in Antalya are listed, high percent (47.6 %) stated that religious and worshipping problems are “not very important”. This is followed by linguistic problems at 28.6%. The problems found to be most important are those related to health services 26.8%, council problems (22.8%) and problems with residency permits and visas (21.4%), According to the research data, the percentage of foreign residents who state that they have serious “council problems” in Kalkan and Kaş is high. A high percentage of foreign residents who claim to have serious problems with “health services” reside in Antalya, Manavgat and Kalkan. One wonders how local people evaluate the case in response to the opinions of foreign residents concerning the difficulties they are faced with. In other words, how much they are aware of the difficulties.

Table 7 Difficulties faced in Antalya

What kind of problems are you faced with in Antalya?		Very important	Important	Indifferent	Unimportant	Not Very Important	No answer	Total	N	Av e.
Administrative	Freq.	39	114	117	81	100	49	500	451	2.8
	%	7.8	22.8	23.4	16.2	20.0	9.8	100.0		
health services	Freq.	25	134	114	60	117	50	500	450	2.8
	%	5.0	26.8	22.8	12.0	23.4	10.0	100.0		
residence permit and visa	Freq.	37	107	73	92	139	52	500	448	2.6
	%	7.4	21.4	14.6	18.4	27.8	10.4	100.0		
Linguistic	Freq.	23	39	116	132	143	47	500	453	2.3
	%	4.6	7.8	23.2	26.4	28.6	9.4	100.0		
Religious and Worshipping	Freq.	12	28	86	88	238	48	500	452	1.9
	%	2.4	5.6	17.2	17.6	47.6%	9.6	100.0		

Table 8 Difficulties faced by foreigners in public life according to local people

Do you think that foreigners are faced with problems in any areas of public life?	Frequency	Percentage %
Yes	148	29.3
No	332	65.7
No answer	25	5.0
Total	505	100.0

When the local participants of the survey in Antalya were asked whether foreigners are faced with any problems in public life, a large group of 65.7% answered this question

with “no”, 29.3% answered this question with “yes”. 5% gave no answer (Table 8). These evaluations show that the local people are not informed about the problems faced by foreigners or that they show no interest. In other words, it is possible to say that they have a similar but disinterested lifestyle. However, some of the local people follow foreigners closely and are aware of their problems.

Table 9 Problem areas of foreigners in public life according to local people

If you think so, in which of the following places have you witnessed foreigners having a problem?	Frequency	Percentage%
Business areas	35	23.6
Official institutions	89	60.1
Entertainment places	25	16.9
Religious places	15	10.1
Public Transport	21	14.2
Other	3	2.0
No answer	11	7.4
Total	199	13,430%
Base	148	100.0

(*Base 100%, 1 Person gave more than one answer.)

According to the local participants who have witnessed foreigners facing problems, the areas are rated as follows: public life, “official institutions” 60.1%, “business areas” 23.6%, “entertainment places” 16.9%, “public transport” 14.2% and “religious places” 10.1%. “other” constitutes 2% while the rate of “no answers” is 7.4%. When reviewed in terms of subjects, the information given by foreigners as problems is parallel to the evaluations given by the local people. Although they constitute only 30%, it is clear that there exists a group of local people who are aware of the problems foreigners experience (Table 9).

Some important points regarding the participation of foreign residents in public life could not be investigated in this research due to legal reasons. Hopefully, these questions may be addressed in future research. In conclusion, the “foreign residents” focused on in this work live densely by the coast and/or in rural areas close to the coast or in isolated locations. They concentrate on influencing the authorities in terms of ensuring service efficiency. It is possible to put them under the heading of “seasonal tourist immigrants” of sociological studies.

When the institutions and organizations, to which foreigners apply for assistance in settling their problems, are examined, social relations stand out, as observed in the follow-

ing table. The figures shown in **Table 10** indicate that civil services are unable to play a significant role in facilitating the problems of foreigners with the municipality due to language difficulties.

Table 10 Organizations assisting them in the settlement of problems

From which social organization do you get help for the settlement of the problems you are faced with?	Frequency	Percentage%
My Friends	422	84.4
Consulate	274	54.8
Local Government	64	12.8
Local Non-governmental Organizations	50	10.0
Foreign Non-governmental Organizations	48	9.6
Church	41	8.2
I don't get help	14	2.8
Other	8	1.6
No answer	28	5.6
Total	949	%18,980
Base	500	100.0

(*Base 100 %, 1 Person gave more than one answer.)

Friendships hold a stronger position than organizations in providing assistance for the settlement of problems. As a matter of fact, individual relationships are seen to far exceed organizations with 84.4%. The consular support given to foreigners is at a rate of 54.8%. Local authorities are represented at a low ratio of 12.8% among the organizations from which assistance is obtained. Local non-governmental organizations are at a rate of 10% while foreign nongovernmental organizations are at a rate of 9.6%. Churches are observed to have an influential position at 8.2% (**Table 10**).

Foreign residents first of all lean towards friendships for facilitating their relations with the local authorities since they find this more effective and easily accessible. Nevertheless, it is found that the Municipal authorities of Alanya could not constitute an official department with a view to facilitating the contact of foreign residents on the network of local service with the municipal staff in terms of addressing foreigners in their own language. On the other hand, there are voluntary individual support groups for ensuring relations with the council. Furthermore, foreigners stated that they do not need to speak Turkish and that many people in the area where they live can speak their mother tongue (59%). This state-

ment is confirmed by people who say that they find a person able to speak their mother tongue (11%). It is clearly understood that personnel with foreign language skills will be required in municipality offices in the near future in order to provide an efficient service to foreigners.

In other words, metropolitan municipalities must establish "Departments of Foreign Relations". Although foreign residents generally arrive with their interpreters, there are no "official problems" of understanding between personnel and foreigners at Antalya Metropolitan Municipality. However, although there is a density of foreigners in Alanya, an official department of foreign relations has not been established. It appears that civil servants with foreign language skills have been assigned to municipality offices in Alanya but have not been distributed thoughtfully regarding the need to communicate with foreigners.

In the final analysis, the need for qualified and specialized staff continues to be a serious problem at the municipality offices in Turkey. Knowing a foreign language should be a criterion for employment. It can be easily seen that in an area where the number of foreign settlers continues to increase and tourism is also increasing, it is becoming more and more important that municipalities are prepared for the newly developing conditions required in the service organizations which deal with foreigners. Knowing a foreign language is becoming more and more important in the career requirements of officials in municipal services.

Foreigners are not willing to learn Turkish in general. Is it possible to relate the foreigners' disinterest in learning and speaking Turkish to their unwillingness to communicate with the local society and to their returning to their home countries after a short period of time? Do the desires of students wanting to improve their foreign language skills create a reason for foreign residents failing to learn Turkish?

The fact that foreign residents do not learn Turkish appears not to create problems with shopping but causes problems in relations with neighbors who are often only able to speak their own language. In connection with this it appears that people do not force themselves to participate in the cultural and social networks of public life. Further the inability of foreign residents to learn the Turkish language creates a strong preventive case for their participation in political life. These issues are worth observing and examining within the developing process.

Access to information

An essential aspect of participation in public life is accessing information. This fact is of importance in terms of the establishment of people's social connections as well as in the interactions with the public administration intended to affect the quality of their lives. The Law on the Right to access Information No. 4982 dated 2003 puts forward the relations with

the public administration through the provision “everybody has the right to acquire information” (4982, art.4/1). It is stated that foreigners residing in Turkey and foreign legal people functioning in Turkey will enjoy the provisions of this Law on the condition that the information they request is related to them or their fields of activity and is within the framework of reciprocity (4982, art.4/2). Moreover, their rights and liabilities emerging from the international conventions, to which Turkey is a party, are reserved.

On October 13 2004, an unofficial “council of foreigners”, but with no legal ground, was established in the district of Alanya with a view to facilitating relations with foreigners. Officially this is a “working group”. The council has 18 members as of 2007 primarily from Germany, Austria, the Netherlands, Belgium, Denmark, Finland, England, Ireland, Norway, Sweden and Switzerland. The Council of Foreigners of the Alanya Municipality has taken upon itself to assign a representative to the office situated in the old office of “the mufti” next to the Kuyularönü Mosque two days a week, Monday and Thursday. The Council of Foreigners has the value of a democratic mechanism developed within the municipality ensuring contact both as a meeting place, where opportunities are created for foreigners to meet each other and in terms of municipal services between Alanya Municipality and foreign residents. The duty of the assembly is limited to activities towards exchange of information and the local services which people deal with.

During an interview with the mayor of Side, it was learned that it has been planned to establish a council at the municipality for foreigners, as in the example of Alanya, so as to bring the complaints and wishes of the foreigners living in Side to the agenda and also to benefit from the experience of foreign retirees. In this way, the idea of facilitating the participation of foreigners in local public life appears to be recognized by local authorities.

Besides the fact that municipalities have activities “in an administrative sense” towards foreign residents, they also have to include “foreign residents” in their strategic plans in order to carry out the required institutionally progress. Municipalities are charged with making strategic plans in a participatory understanding for the sustainable future of their towns (5393, arts.41 and 38/b). Antalya has 12.832 foreign residents as of 2007.

It is observed that foreign residents constitute a strong population potential enough for the establishment of at least two municipalities, since it is possible to establish a municipality in settlement areas where the population exceeds 5000. Despite the presence of this considerable population, it was learned that no action plans or objectives towards “foreign residents” was included in the strategic plans of Alanya Municipality and Antalya Metropolitan Municipality, where foreigners are mainly settled. There is a general approach in the strategy plan referred to as “short term tourism”. As is observed, the strategic positions of foreigners in settlements are not taken into consideration and it is understood that foreigners are thought as if they were short-term tourists visiting Turkey. During in-depth interviews with the mayor, his attention was attracted to the requirement of opening a new department and determining objectives in a strategic plan which would include foreign residents.

Tendency of voting in local elections

With a view to expanding representation and developing it for the benefit of the society through mutual interaction, it is important to take decisions at a local level and shape them with a participatory understanding. This is directly related to voting rights.

Table 11 Voting preferences of foreigners in local elections

Would you choose to vote in local elections in Turkey?	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	130	26.0
No	334	66.8
No answer	36	7.2
Total	500	100.0

It is observed from the tabulated values (**Table 11**) resulting from determining the preferences of foreigners towards voting at a local level that foreign residents are not willing to participate in local politics. According to the data, 66.8% do not want to vote at a local level while 26% gave a positive answer and 7.2% gave no answer.

Table 12 Evaluating voting activities in local elections in Europe in terms of the effect on Turkey

How do you perceive for Turkey the activities of acquisition of foreigners' rights to vote in local elections in Turkey	Frequency	Percentage%
Not beneficial	209	41.4
Beneficial	156	30.9
Very Inconvenient	100	19.8
No answer	40	7.9
Total	505	100.0 %

When the local people were asked how they evaluated the concept of foreigners' rights to vote in local elections in Europe, in terms of the effect on Turkey, the negative results were high at 41.4%. These respondents stated that they did not consider the use of the right to elect and to be elected in local elections by foreigners beneficial for Turkey. A group of 19.8% expressed this development and/or change towards the use of political rights by considering it as "very inconvenient". Thus, 61.2% evaluated it negatively while only 30.9% found such activities beneficial and 7.9% gave no answer (**Table 12**).

Table 13 Voting Preferences of Foreigners in General Elections

How would you perceive the participation of foreigners in general elections?	Frequency	Percentage%
Positive	99	19.8
Not sure	150	30.0
Negative	209	41.8
No answer	42	8.4
Total	500	100.0

When the foreign participants of the questionnaire were asked their evaluations concerning their participation in general elections, 41.8% replied negatively while 19.8% considered it positively. The foreigners who were not sure constituted a significant number of 30%. Furthermore, 8.4% gave no answer (**Table 13**). It is possible to say that there is a higher interest in general elections than in local elections.

The majority, who consider the foreigners right to vote in general elections as positive, generally hold the status of double citizenship. It has also been possible to carry out a psychological analysis on this subject. The analysis shows that retirees entering a new country do not want to participate in the tense atmosphere that can occur as a result of elections. They choose to take the position of guests under the existing legislation. Furthermore, retired foreigners come to a foreign country mainly for “a peaceful and healthy quality of life”. They do not come to change the local politics - at least initially. However, it is important to investigate whether a similar attitude may or may not develop when international regulations concerning their behavior as “legal citizens” are enforced; this will however become clear in time.

In questionnaires carried out on European citizens from foreign nations in the previous sections, it was found that the right to participate in local elections occurs. However, no intense participation is recorded regarding the use of this right. It can be estimated according to the questionnaire results that a similar tendency may develop for Turkey in the initial years.

Are foreign residents homogeneous groups closed off from the outside?

It is of great importance in terms of the Council of Europe that different cultural and ethnic groups live peacefully together, and participate in public life. Local integration is considered on the grounds of “**qualified education, organization in social spheres and the mutual cultural expansion of institutions**” together with a series of policies establishing the “participation” connections on the mutual interaction network (Council of Europe. 2004). In an atmosphere where the possibilities for foreigners to participate with the local

people in administration and where political mechanisms are in place, the preferences in using the place for the purpose of accommodation also influences togetherness. Are the housing conditions developed by the separation of communities from each other in settlement planning an indication of the preference of foreigners to stay away? Following is an examination of the indications of participation in public life.

The essential fundamental indications of participation include obeying the requirements of modern life. An example of this is the participation in non-governmental organizations in terms of socio-cultural activities, which constitute the dynamics of public life, as well as the shaping of home and accommodation conditions.

During the interviews carried out in Antalya and Alanya center and the nearby towns, it was noted that foreigners initially purchased detached houses in the town they were in when they decided to settle down at the beginning of the 1990s. As a result, a scattered type of settlement developed where foreigners did not gather in specific regions in the developing city. However, after the year 2000, a recently new housing demand has created a build-and-sell market. In the new developments occurring under the guidance of housing companies, foreigners are directed towards a collective residence model similar to gated communities. These are generally higher in price than the average local housing regulated by the purchasing power in Turkey. This is stimulated by foreigners' demands of luxury housing and also closely related to the shaping of the housing demand geared towards them.

In another aspect, these settlements, which are marketed as civil society models, are established on principles that will prevent the development of any civil societies, completely contrary to their claim.

In previous years, foreign house owners mostly restored old houses and turned these aged structures into a reusable form. The ruined appearances of these houses were changed and a positive contribution was made to the aesthetic appearance of the city. Despite this change, large settlements close to the outskirts of settlement have been created recently in the name of stimulating the housing market but without regard to any urban strategies. In an atmosphere where people are alienated from each other and where socio-cultural convergence is being discussed more and more, gated places of residence increasingly isolate people from each other. The inability to integrate with the city, which may occur by restricting the common use of urban spaces, has to be regarded as a social threat (Kaya, 2007).

Table 14 Special housing (gated community) for settled retired foreigners

Do you support foreigners for wanting special housing complexes in Antalya?	Frequency	Percent%
Positive	143	28.3
No Idea	56	11.1
Negative	305	60.4
No Answer	1	0.2
Total	505	100.0

Furthermore, according to the answers to the question concerning the construction of special houses for foreigners (**Table.14**), 60.4% considered the construction of special houses negatively, 28.3% considered it positively and 11.1% did not give their view on this.

This is also closely related to relations with neighbors. Relations with neighbors are an important indication of the willingness to live together. According to evaluations on preferences of areas densely populated by foreigners and local people and towards the willingness of togetherness, 61.6% of the local people included in the sample prefer not to live in areas densely populated by foreigners. 20.4% say that whether the district is densely populated by foreigners or not, doesn't make any differences for them, while 16.8% prefer to live in foreign districts. When the wish of foreigners to live together with the local people is examined, a contrary tendency is observed. In connection with this, foreign residents were asked a question about whom they prefer as their neighbor (**Table 15**). Results showed those preferring local people (13.6%), those preferring people from their own country (3.8%) and those preferring the Europeans (9.2%). These are low results compared to 69.6% who stated that it was not important for them who lived in their neighborhood.

Table 15 Whom Do You Prefer to Live With in Your Neighborhood

Whom do you prefer to live with in your neighborhood?	Frequency	Percentage%
People from my own country	19	3.8
People from European countries	46	9.2
With local people	68	13.6
It does not matter	348	69.6
No answer	19	3.8
Total	500	100.0

It is observed that the majority of the foreign residents, who prefer people from their own country or from European countries as their neighbors are men. Moreover, it is

observed in research that the sample group between the ages 40 and 54 want local people as their neighbors. In addition, a high rate of the people, who prefer local people as their neighbors or who say "it doesn't matter", are English, whereas the overwhelming majority of foreign residents, who want to live with people from their own country, are German. The majority of those who did not show any preference for neighboring and who wanted local people as their neighbors were foreign residents with university level education. People with a tourist visa prefer people from European countries and their own countries as their neighbors while people with a residence visa prefer local people.

In this case, it cannot be stated that there is a strong tendency for foreigners to wish to reside in distinct communities. Despite this, housing constructors continue to plan such a spatial breakdown without considering the aspects of social togetherness of public policy that have been discussed. In the final analysis, it can be put forward that the cultural relations between foreigners and the local people are still "in a weak process" and that this will not be strengthened if they reside separately.

Besides settlement arrangements and participation in communal activities, the fact that both local people and foreigners involve in public life with all its elements is important in terms of the structure of a sustainable democratic society and the state. How ready is the public administration to ensure the legal grounds for attaining this target? The answers given to this question have to be evaluated together with the legislation regulations paving the way for activities such as associations.

Participating in the activities of associations

With respect to the foreigners' freedom to join Turkish associations and to establish foreign associations, it is necessary to examine the provisions of the Law on Associations No. 5253, which entered into force in 2004. The Law on Associations can be thought of as important in terms of its decreasing the probability of unnecessary intervention in the social activities of associations. It may also be beneficial in the development of associations and in facilitating the strengthening of civil society in Turkey.

Foreign foundations, in the events where cooperation internationally is regarded as beneficial, shall be entitled to operate directly in Turkey, open a branch, establish higher institutions or join higher institutions established or cooperate with foundations established under the condition of reciprocity. This is on the condition that they obtain agreement from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and that they obtain a permit from the Ministry (5253, art.22).

With respect to foreigners, the fact that 50% are not a member of any association stands out among the answers to the question (**Table 16**) concerning the membership to any associations and the profile of members. It is also significant that 50 % of the foreigners do have membership of an association. Culture and art associations comprise 25.6 % and sports 23 %, respectively. The associations, in which Turkish and foreign members form a mixed group, have the highest values in terms of their rates of participation in the cultural (84.4%) and sports (93%) activities, respectively. These are followed by environ-

mental (5.8%), occupational (5.4%), educational (4.4%) and political (3.6%) in terms of their members. When the profiles of members of associations are studied, the percentages expressed in the form of "mixed rates (Turks and foreigners)" occur as occupational associations (59.3%) and in descending order, environment (48.3%), educational (45.5%) and political issues. (33.3%).

Table 16 Which associations are you a member of and who are the members of these associations?

What type of an association are you a member of?	Frequency	Percentage%		People from my own country	People from different countries	Mixed (Turks and foreigners)	No answer	Total
Culture/Arts	128	25.6	Freq.	6	12	108	2	128
			%	4.7	9.4	84.4	1.6	100.0
Sports	115	23.0	Freq.	0	7	107	1	115
			%	0.0	6.1	93.0	0.9	100.0
Religious	92	18.4	Freq.	14	48	30	0	92
			%	15.2	52.2	32.6	0.0	100.0
Environment	29	5.8	Freq.	4	14	10	1	29
			%	13.8	48.3	34.5	3.4	100.0
Occupational	27	5.4	Freq.	3	8	16	0	27
			%	11.1	29.6	59.3	0.0	100.0
Education	22	4.4	Freq.	5	7	10	0	22
			%	22.7	31.8	45.5	0.0	100.0
Political	18	3.6	Freq.	5	6	6	1	18
			%	27.8	33.3	33.3 %	5.6	100.0
Other	5	1.0	Freq.	1	1	3	0	5
			%	20.0	20.0	60.0 %	0.0	100.0
Not member	250	50.0						
Base	500	100						
Total	686	137.2						

(*Base 100%. 1 Person gave more than one answer.)

As it is also observed from **Table 16**, membership of religious associations ranks the second to culture/arts and sports associations at 18.4%. When the association profile is studied, it shows that the percentage of people coming from their own country is 15.2, that of people coming from different countries 52.2 and mixed Turks and foreigners 32.6.

As a whole, membership to associations purely for foreigners ranks political associations as the highest at the rate of 27.8% and culture/arts as the lowest rate of 4.7%. However, the percentages of the associations of mixed Turks and foreigners are higher. These rates show that there is a high tendency to come together for sports associations (93%), culture and arts (84.4%), and religious issues (32.6%). It is possible to conclude from this study sample that integration can occur in almost every issue. Religious associations can be evaluated as an important indication of foreigners' communication among themselves locally and their participation in local public life.

Table 17 Activities towards foreigners' taking active role in public life

How do you perceive foreigners' association endeavors to take an active role in Public life?	Frequency	Percentage%
Not beneficial	217	43.0
Beneficial	130	25.7
Very Inconvenient	123	24.4
No answer	35	6.9
Total	505	100.0

Among the people living in Antalya, 43% of the participants in the research stated that they do not consider the endeavors of foreigners associations in taking an active role in public life as beneficial, 24.4 % stated that they consider this very inconvenient. The people who considered it negatively stood out with a total of 67.4 %, 25.7 % stated that they considered the endeavors beneficial and 6.9 % gave no answer (**Table 17**).

Foreign residents from the perspective of local people

Do foreign residents attract the attention of local people? As a matter of fact, 53.3% of the local people who participated in the research stated that they talked about foreigners in their daily lives from time to time whereas 35.6% said that they never talked about them and 9.9 % said they frequently did.

Is it possible to relate being interested in foreigners with neighborliness? When the issue is discussed, it becomes important to study the issue of the level of intensity of neighbors with foreigners so far. 56.8% of the participants in the research have never had any foreign neighbors, while 42.8% have had foreign neighbors. It appears that local people generally have neighborly friendships with foreigners but without developing any strong ideas about them.

In evaluations concerning foreigners' statement of their most distinctive characteristics, primarily "kind" 38.5%, "honest" 31.3%, "entertaining" 26.8% and "hard working"

20.8% were the most chosen positive attributes. Heavy drinking 33.3%, “untrustworthy” 14.9%, rakish 10.1% and gambler 8.3% were the most negative. As can be seen, positive attributes out-number negative ones.

Regarding the settlement of foreigners in Antalya, local people indicated “degeneration of values” (46.9%), “degeneration of the native culture” 45.9% and “increase in unregistered work” 11.5% as being the most unfavourable factors. On the other hand, 28.7% indicated “the increase in economic prosperity”, 20.2% “multiculturalism and tolerance”, 10.3% “achievement of democratic environment”, 7.9% “increase in city security” and 4% “less bureaucracy” as favorable factors.

Although important steps have been taken to integrate foreigners into the society, local people's threshold of trust to foreigners is still low. It can be linked to how much the local people understand foreigners and vice versa. Other dimensions of social integration are studied below.

The church and social integration

Recently (2005-2007), the actions of foreign residents in Antalya and especially Alanya demanding their own church have been prominent. When speeches mentioned in the press are evaluated, it is seen that those wishing for the provision of a church constitute a small group. This does not include all foreign residents but has been brought to an international dimension. However, these wishes are observed to aim at obtaining a church “without giving any contributions”. It is observed that foreign residents are not poor according to the evaluations of the questionnaire carried out in Antalya. It can also be remembered from the previous sections that 66.2 % of foreigners have not declared their income (**Table.4**). The income of those who declared it is above the level of the minimum wage in Turkey. However, as mentioned above, foreign residents tend not to contribute to the construction of religious places when these are included in the indications for quality of life.

The rights and freedoms provided for in the Constitution of the Republic of Turkey (1982) are related to the sustainability of the state (1982. art.14). Everybody has the freedom of conscience, religious belief and opinions. Worshipping, religious rites and ceremonies are permitted provided that they are not against the provisions of article 14 (1982. art.24). The writer is of the opinion that beyond the right of everybody to be free to fulfill what is required by their beliefs, the costs of the religious structures, which are considered as a demand that does not have the criteria of “being local and common” in the local service criteria of Turkish local authorities, should not be undertaken by these local authorities.

Municipalities can however support the preservation of cultural and natural assets and historical structures as well as the places and the functions of these places that are of importance in terms of urban history. With a view to achieving this, they can maintain and repair them or suitably restore to their original form to the Municipality Law(5393. art.

14/b). It is known that municipalities carry out restorations of churches with the support of these regulations. Wishes concerning churches seem to increase depending on both local demands and demands from the countries sending their citizens in terms of both places and converting existing ones into a usable form.

The demands of foreign retired residents for locations and buildings for Churches from municipalities or the central authority are not supported legally. Municipalities and the central administration do not grant any locations or buildings to Muslims either. Such structures and areas are donated by individuals. It may be thought that the demands of a small group, not including all foreign residents, concerning the supply of a church are carried over to the international political arena. These demands should not relate to the economic position of foreigners.

As a matter of fact, besides churches, places, which appear as a house or café from outside, are sometimes assigned the function of meeting places for religious purposes. Some of them have signboards with foreign names such as 'X's House' or 'Saint John Cultural Center'. During the interviews, it was stated that such places received local guests from Alanya and Antalya and that sometimes up to 150 people paid a visit for Sunday services. Many of the Turkish citizens, whom we interviewed, stated that "they were Muslims" but visited these places as they liked there and as they were curious. They were also asked during interviews whether they were interested in the City Council of Antalya and its working groups, which were shaped as a place for meeting and discussion. They repeated that they did not participate in the City Council but that they sought for finding an "opportunity for talking to foreigners" in these places. The writer believes that the number of people who have given up or converted to Islam in provinces where foreigners are densely populated, and the factors they have been influenced may constitute a separate research study.

Do retired resident foreigners constitute a disadvantaged group?

Being disadvantaged is related to exclusion in social processes. The phenomenon of exclusion occurs as economic exclusion, social exclusion, institutional-cultural exclusion and political exclusion. Exclusion can also be caused by historic institutional and structural factors.

The phenomenon of exclusion is in fact considered together with economic exclusion. Nevertheless, when compared with national and local people, our sample group is not relatively included in the group with a low purchasing power. Thus, when exclusion is considered from an institutional aspect, it is caused by the lack of institutional systems and structures to protect disadvantaged groups against social exclusion. Does the insufficiency of institutions and institutional organizations created to meet the social-institutional needs in a foreign country cause institutional exclusion for the retired foreigners?

The fact that the groups which become disadvantaged by socio-cultural differences and economic insufficiencies, take part in public participation mechanisms in administra-

tive and political aspects, is thought to be influential in the operation of democracy and the provision of its sustainability. Attaching importance to ensuring and/or facilitating the participation of the disadvantaged groups in administration is now a strategic acceptance having reached an ethic level in developed democratic perception at international level.

Foreigners have been faced with legal restrictions in Turkey as in the worldwide situation for a long time for fundamental reasons such as the principle of state security. However, when the conditions of foreigners are reviewed under the conditions of the existence of regulations such as establishing associations, etc. foreign residents cannot be considered among the disadvantaged groups. Nevertheless, the general framework legally drawn up by the Council of Europe for the purpose of providing foreigners with the same institutional equality for opportunity as the local citizens should also be examined under the present conditions.

The contributions of the retired foreign residents in Turkey to economic life are in fact very limited generally for foreigners due to the provisions in the legislation listed subjects. It is necessary to go over the limited economic contributions of foreigners to the development of social urban prosperity in areas other than commerce. It is of importance in expanding the framework of benefiting from foreigners as social and economic capital to develop a strategy which does not create any changes against the working conditions of Turkish citizens especially in economic activities.

Briefly, "the foreign residents", focused on in this work, live densely by the coast and/or in rural areas close to the coast for a period of 3 to 4 months. In cultural terms, they do not make any strong contributions to local people. The fact that they are not permanent residents causes them to regard themselves as "guests". In the event that they choose Turkey for permanent residence, their socio-cultural contributions may be supposed to increase.

Retired foreign residents have high expectations of services provided by local and central authorities. Such expectations may be an advantage also in terms of local people. In the event that foreigners choose Turkey at an increasing rate and as permanent residents, it may be thought that their socio-cultural contributions will increase in the area they are in. Foreign groups are expected to state their conditions for preferring the activities / social activities of both the national and their own cultural group (integration). This is of importance for social peace. Without doubt not living in gated communities is regarded as a strategic preference to facilitate reconciliation. The writer is of the opinion that local authorities should use their legal responsibilities in the issue of construction and should not allow building in areas which will create gated communities.

On the other hand, a legal foreign person only has the right of ownership to a maximum of two and a half hectares of land (2644, art. 35/1). In accordance with the 2008 Deeds Legislation (No 2644) the amount of land foreigners can own in any given district should not exceed 10% of the total land of the district within the zoning or partial zoning and development plan. This ratio is the upper limit. According to the strategic importance of a place, the Council of Ministers may also determine a lower ratio. These strategic consid-

erations are irrigation, energy, areas of religious, cultural or natural significance and military zones. Although the land ownership limit of real foreign individuals has been set as 2.5 hectares, a limit has not been set for commercial ventures.

An issue that has been overlooked in the current legislation is the absence of a limitation on the number of foreign nationals purchasing land from villages and municipal councils and residing there. In other words, although an area scale has been established, there is no consideration of density or purchase-individual relationships. The author considers that particularly in rural areas land purchase and residency should not be permitted until a socio-cultural infrastructure has been established in the locality. The achievement of a higher quality of life for relatively low outlay coupled with a favorable climate has made Turkey an attractive settlement option for retired foreigners. The increasing demand from non-nationals, therefore considered foreigners, and in particular retirees from European countries for cemetery plots and their allocation by local authorities has also started to be questioned by the general public (Toprak, and Karakurt, 2008). That research concludes with recommendations on the use of cemeteries in the changing political climate of a globalising world.

Conclusion

Alongside those coming for short term work, education or holiday visits, an increasing number of people entering the country every day for periods of settlement longer than six months while continuing to maintain their links with their country of origin and those forced to enter for reasons such as political pressures or climate change have made Turkey a growing immigrant recipient country.

It is evident throughout history that the immigration of people from one country to another for whatever purpose has been the cause of administrative problems and crises in the host country. Foreigners, in particular the increasing numbers settling in holiday resorts and coastal areas, are generally better educated and financially better off than the local inhabitants by which they are often considered "foreign social capital" (Toprak, 2008b). It is also evident that the positive social, cultural and economic impacts, which begin in the settlements, eventually spread to the larger region and eventually to the whole country, unlike economic or political migrants that are a burden to the economy. Whether these retiree migrants present an economical and political opportunity for the host country is an important point of debate.

The fact that various cultural and ethnic groups live peacefully in a place and participate in public life is considered very important in the present Europe. The social differences caused by deep economic cliffs in society and the social negative effects they cause are more or less similar in every country. The agenda of integration in the social sense deals not only with social conditions, psychological needs and interpersonal relations in poor societies but also with different cultures, socio-economic structures and religious and ethnic values.

On the other hand, the low threshold of trust towards foreign residents in Turkey is an urgent problem that requires solving. In connection with this, the fact that foreign residents live far from the local society is not regarded appropriate in terms of the benefits of social integration. In an attempt to resolve this problem, the State has an important role as much as the participatory programs intended to develop social dialogues. In support of this, the roles and responsibilities of citizens of like-interest groups in increasing the efficiency of both democratic participation and urban services should be "diagnosed" and the society should be reintroduced to and reconciled with its surroundings.

The foreigners who come have economic power and reside here for certain times of the year in order to continue to live more comfortably and under more suitable climatic conditions. In recent years their numbers are rapidly increasing. The rate of people, who continue to reside with a tourist visa is high at 44.8% of the sample group. It is observed that the most preferred months for foreigners are those which have an appealing temperature i.e. May (87%) and April (82.8%). When the question concerning how long they have been living in Antalya was asked, the answer of more than 5 years was given by 40.8%. Although they stay for short periods, settled foreigners who own or rent homes, automatically pay local taxes, make contributions and therefore are entitled to have rights. In other words, it is intended to treat foreign residents as citizens. The writer wonders if under these conditions, foreign residents could be considered as accepted citizens?

Therefore, it is becoming increasingly important to evaluate the situation in terms of foreigners and their participation in the process of partnership in city administration which local people have within the legal developments currently being implemented. On the other hand, foreign residents' living away from the local society is not considered beneficial in terms of the process of developing social- cultural integration.

Turkey should start the process of diagnosing the issue of foreign retired residents from various aspects. With a view to establishing social and political research on foreign residents, departments should be established and institutions of social content, having a structural feature to be open to integrated programs and able to implement them, should be constituted. Furthermore, reviewing the legislation in force in such a way that will harmonize with the stated objective is of importance in terms of sound operation of the social system. Only the newly available information will be able to eliminate those ideas which are mistaken prejudiced. It is important that, as many views as possible of the society's attitude towards foreigners, where available, be evaluated to eliminate wrong or incomplete information. So as to attain this objective, it is necessary to develop projects and strategies to ensure joint activities.

A survey of the legislation concerning the purchase of land by foreigners reveals a tendency amongst legislators towards "foreigners purchasing property and residing in our land", so long as "the strategic location of the choice of land" is carefully considered. A more restricted special policy based on permits has been established for villages. Nevertheless, the Turkish Constitutional Court has approached any policies that are seen to be "assisting residency and increasing ownership" with caution and found the propor-

tions too high and subsequently turned down the policies. The refusal of the Constitutional Court is based on location and strategic analyses. The author believes that strategies that take into account the reaction of the local and/or general population have not been fully considered in either the drafting or rejection of the legislation.

At this point, it appears impossible to consider the right of foreigners not living permanently in Turkey but going back and forth to their home country to obtain the status of Turkish citizen.

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