

Association of Social Democratic Municipalities

Association of Social Democratic Municipalities (SODEM) has been founded by the initiative of 12 CHP Istanbul district municipalities on the 13th of June, 2011. Currently, SODEM has 43 members, representing 6.5 million people under member municipalities.

Local authorities carry out a considerable cooperation at the EU-level. This cooperation in the framework of the EU, contributes to the development of common solutions and products, also serves to the cause of the European integration. As Turkey is an accession country to the EU, Turkish local authorities, have channels to participate in cooperation at the EU level.

The primary mission of SODEM is to maintain dialogue between its members and their European counterparts. Thus, it is targeted to enhance the capacity of the member municipalities plus contribute to Turkey's accession process to the EU.

SODEM will address the member municipalities' requirements on the monitoring, representation, promotion and communication at the EU level; plus cooperation networks and strategic partnerships will be established and sustained.

The activities of SODEM at the EU will be the following:

- 1. Setting up EU Representation Office and performing the following tasks:**
 1. EU expertise; monitoring, analysing and informing
 2. Representation, promotion and communication activities
 3. Developing and maintaining cooperation networks and strategic partnerships.
- 2. Developing and sustaining political, social, cultural and economic dialogue**
- 3. Partnership and cooperation building:** Execution of joint activities, mobilization of resources in conjunction with the European counterparts, exchange of best practices and experience
- 4. Benchmarking:** Benchmarking of the best practices and exchange of information, experience and opinions, to be better informed about products and solutions generated by the EU cooperation structure
- 5. Transfer of know how and experience**
- 6. Awareness raising:** Presentation of SODEM activities, their results to the, administrators, relevant public and private stakeholders, citizens and the media