

The 3rd International Geography Symposium - GEOMED2013**Administrative geography analysis of legislation # 6360 regarding metropolitan municipalities in Turkey (2012)**Hulusi Karagel^{a*}, Döndü Üçeçam Karagel^b^a *Mustafa Kemal University, Faculty of Education, Antakya, 31000, Turkey*^b *Mustafa Kemal University, Faculty of Art and Science, Antakya, 31000, Turkey*

Abstract

6360 including the amendments and regulation on the metropolitan municipalities in Turkey and some related acts and decree laws has entered into force by being republished in Gazette no. 28489 of 06 December 2012. The Act has a geographical aspect in addition to the other aspects which have to be examined. Thereby, in this study, # 6360 was analyzed in terms of administrative geography. The scope of the research is the administrative geography analysis of the metropolitan municipality in Turkey between the years of 1984 – 2012. This study will make up the deficiencies on the local government systems of the metropolitan municipalities in Turkey, and the geographical basics, aspects and the problems of the system. On the contrary to the law, Antakya's, which is the central district of Hatay, not being a newly established county, but being turned into a metropolitan sub-provincial municipality; the use of certain authority of the governor and some rights, authority and charges of the special provincial administrators by the 'Investment, monitoring and coordination committee'; metropolitan and sub-provincial municipalities' being allowed to serve in all kinds of ways in the purpose of supporting agriculture and livestock, are just one part of the findings contrary to the common knowledge. Metropolitan municipality which is defined by the act, is basically neither a settlement with the distinguishing features of a city, nor an organization which is in charge of providing public and municipal services in the center of population. It is an administrative zone, having administrative and financial autonomy which is valid in law. However, in approximately the last 30 years, the present metropolitan municipalities have shown that they are not properly structured institutions for serving wide rural areas that are extending to the provincial borders.

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1. Introduction

Legislation # 6360 dated 12.11.2012 and titled “Law regarding Amendments in Some Legislations and Statutory Decrees for the Establishment of Metropolitan Municipalities and Twenty Six Districts in Thirteen Provinces” became effective after its publication in official gazette #28489 in 06.12.2012. 30 articles of the legislation composed of a total of 39 articles two of which are provisional and 27 lists took effect in its publication date and 9 articles and a total of 25 sub-clause based on 3 articles along with one clause based on an item will become effective with the first local administrations elections that will be held following this date. In addition to several different dimensions of the legislation investigated in various academic circles, there is also its geographical dimension that requires analysis and examination in terms of “urban geography”, “regional development and planning geography” and “administrative geography”. In this context, the content of articles in Legislation # 6360 was analyzed in terms of administrative geography in the current research; the findings were interpreted and discussed in the framework of political and academic views along with laws, statutory decrees and regulations regarding the principles of causality, comparison-associations and distribution. Rationale behind the research question/problem can be cited as follows: the topic that was discussed was not fully comprehended in almost any of the circles in this process because discussions were based on completely personal views and information with weak reliability and validity in academic and political circles; the individuals who prepared the proposal were not able to express either the purpose of the infrastructure that they wanted to develop or the model it was based on; they presented a totally defensive attitude about the proposal instead of making changes or revisions regarding the points that were criticized or providing satisfactory explanations; the legislation was not brought to Parliament's Planning and Budget Commission although it was discussed in Grand National Assembly of Turkey Internal Affairs Commission between the dates of 10-21 October 2012; the fact that the legislation has a wide legal array (Grand National Assembly of Turkey, 1949; 1950; 1963; 1981; 1983; 1984a; 1985a; 1985b; 2004; 2005a; 2005b; 2005c; 2007; 2008b) and that the legislation engaged the agenda of the Grand National Assembly of Turkey, President of the Republic and the public opinion for a long period. Therefore, the purpose of the current study is to provide the analysis of administrative geography of Legislation # 6360 that includes changes and amendments in some legislations and statutory decrees related to metropolitan municipalities in Turkey, to provide the geographical dimensions of the legislation and to remove the questions marks in minds. With the help of this research, it will be possible to fill the gap, although partially, that exists about the concept of metropolis, metropolitan municipality local government system, geographical foundations, dimensions and problems of the system as well as to provide a supplementary resource related to the field. As a matter of fact the number of studies undertaken in the field of administrative geography is so scarce, it is almost nonexistent.

2. Study Area

The first metropolitan municipalities were established in *Istanbul, Ankara and Izmir* in 1984 with Legislation #3030 with the power provided by the Constitution (Grand National Assembly of Turkey, 1982: 126) to relatively integrate the large and small local governmental disunity in big urban areas in the country, to coordinate the relationships among municipalities and to present urban services in a more productive manner (Keleş, 1994: 242; Eke, 1982: 27; Arıkboğa, 2009: 738). These metropolitan municipalities were by *Adana* in 1986 with Legislation #3306, *Bursa* in 1987 with Legislation #3391, *Gaziantep* with Legislation #3398, *Konya* with Legislation #3399 and *Kayseri* in 1988 with Legislation #3508. Similar initiatives continued in the following years as well. In this framework, statutory decree with Legislation #504 published in 1993 allowed the establishment of metropolitan municipalities in 7 more provinces that are *Antalya, Diyarbakır, Erzurum, Eskişehir, İzmit, Mersin* and *Samsun* (See Bakanlar Kurulu, 1993). The foundation of metropolitan municipalities in the periods of 1984, 1986-1988 and 1993 continued with the establishment of *Sakarya* Metropolitan Municipality after Marmara Earthquake of 1999 (Year 2000 statutory decree with Legislation #593, see Bakanlar Kurulu, 2000). Following a long cessation in the tradition of establishing metropolitan municipalities in our country, 13 more metropolitan municipalities were established in 2012 with Legislation #6360. These are *Aydın, Balıkesir, Denizli, Hatay, Kahramanmaraş, Malatya, Manisa, Mardin, Muğla, Şanlıurfa, Tekirdağ, Trabzon* and *Van* metropolitan municipalities (Fig. 1).

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