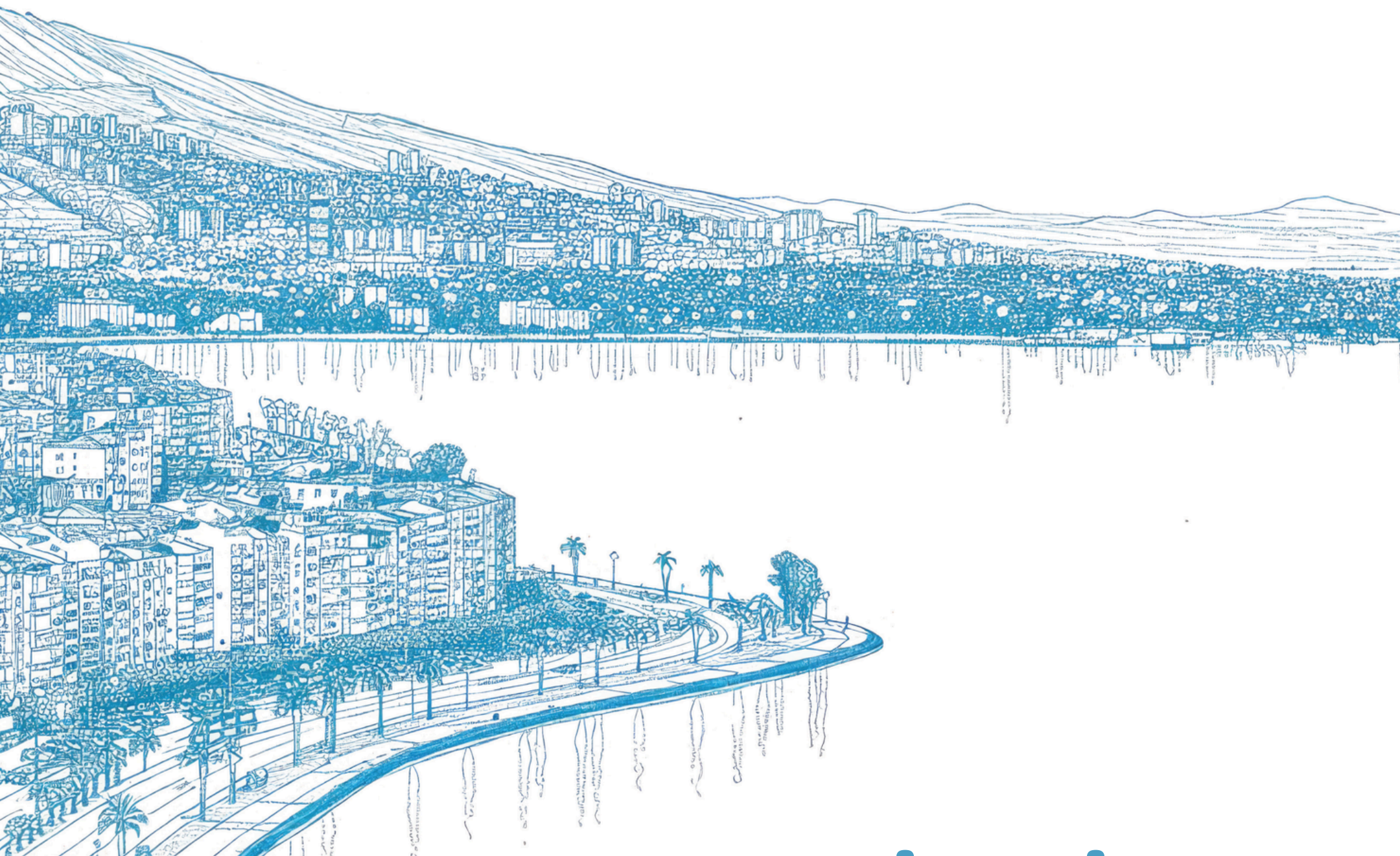

RESILIENT İZMİR

A STRATEGIC AND INCLUSIVE INITIATIVE FOR MULTI-HAZARD PREPAREDNESS AND RISK REDUCTION EVENT

EU Technical Assistance Financing Facility (TAFF)
for Disaster Prevention and Preparedness

Funded by the European Union

GFDRR
Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery

Administered by THE WORLD BANK
IBRD • IDA | WORLD BANK GROUP

ABOUT THE PROJECT

Resilient İzmir: A Strategic and Inclusive Initiative for Multi-Hazard Preparedness and Risk Reduction

Izmir, Türkiye's third-largest city, faces a complex and evolving risk landscape shaped by earthquakes, tsunamis, floods, landslides, wildfires, industrial accidents, and climate-related hazards. Rapid urbanization, the concentration of critical infrastructure and industrial facilities, and increasing climate pressures further intensify the city's vulnerability and the potential for cascading impacts across systems and communities.

The Resilient İzmir Project was launched to support a more integrated, inclusive, and risk-informed approach to disaster preparedness and risk reduction in the city. Financed by the European Union under the Technical Assistance Financing Facility (TAFF) and implemented by the World Bank and GFDRR in coordination with AFAD and relevant stakeholders, the project aims to strengthen institutional capacities, improve coordination mechanisms, and support evidence-based decision-making for disaster and climate resilience. The project combines technical analysis, stakeholder engagement, and capacity-building activities through a multi-hazard perspective. Its activities include risk and institutional assessments, stakeholder analysis, training needs analysis, technical workshops, and the development of strategic recommendations to support disaster risk reduction planning and preparedness efforts in İzmir.

Particular emphasis is placed on strengthening coordination among institutions, improving communication and awareness, and supporting inclusive approaches that consider the needs of vulnerable groups such as children, older persons, and persons with disabilities.

As part of the project, technical workshops and participatory discussions bring together representatives from public institutions, local governments, academia, civil society organizations, infrastructure operators, and technical experts.

These processes help generate practice-based insights, identify operational and institutional challenges, and contribute to the development of targeted capacity-building and resilience measures.

Beyond İzmir, the project also aims to contribute to broader knowledge sharing on urban resilience and disaster preparedness. By documenting lessons learned, approaches, and practical experiences, the project seeks to provide useful references for other cities and countries working to strengthen multi-hazard disaster risk management and climate resilience.

SUMMARY

The Resilient İzmir Event, held on 29–30 January 2026, was organized under the Technical Assistance Financing Facility (TAFF), financed by the European Union and implemented by the World Bank and GFDRR. The event formed a key milestone within the broader Resilient İzmir Project, which aims to strengthen disaster risk reduction capacities through a comprehensive, multi-hazard and institution-focused approach. It brought together a wide range of stakeholders from public institutions, local administrations, academia, civil society, and the private sector to assess existing capacities and identify priority areas for action.

The event combined an opening session, an academic panel, and technical working groups, creating a structured platform for evidence-based dialogue, institutional reflection, and cross-sectoral exchange. Discussions were not limited to knowledge sharing; rather, the workshop functioned as an analytical tool to systematically capture institutional practices, coordination challenges, and operational gaps.

The workshop built on a robust preparatory process, including institutional visits and stakeholder consultations conducted prior to the event. This ensured that discussions were grounded in real-world practices and aligned with identified needs, enabling participants to move beyond general assessments and focus on actionable, context-specific solutions.

Across both days, the workshop generated a comprehensive evidence base on disaster risk management in İzmir. It highlighted existing technical strengths while also revealing persistent challenges related to inter-institutional coordination, data sharing, and the operationalization of established frameworks.

With strong participation exceeding initial expectations, the workshop demonstrated high institutional ownership and engagement. It contributed to a shared understanding of İzmir's multi-hazard risk landscape and established a foundation for the development of targeted capacity-building measures, training programmes, and future technical assistance interventions.

170+ participants

Opening session attendance reflecting strong institutional interest

70+ technical participants

Second-day working groups exceeding initial expectations

Multi-sector engagement

Strong participation from public institutions, academia, civil society, and private sector representatives

Technical Working Groups

Earthquakes, floods, landslides, industrial accidents, droughts, wildfires and other climate-related hazards

Training Needs Analysis Groups

Focused on human capacity and psychosocial resilience

WORKSHOP OVERVIEW

The workshop was designed as a structured and participatory process to capture practice-based insights on disaster risk management in İzmir. Building on prior desk review, stakeholder mapping, and institutional consultations, the methodology ensured that discussions were grounded in real operational contexts rather than high-level assessments.

At the core of the approach were thematic technical working groups, bringing together institutions with direct responsibilities across key risk areas. These groups followed a structured discussion format guided by pre-defined question sets, focusing on institutional roles, existing capacities, coordination mechanisms, and implementation challenges. This enabled participants to move beyond formal mandates and reflect on how systems function in practice.

The workshop also integrated Training Needs Analysis sessions to identify gaps in skills, knowledge, and institutional learning systems. The findings emphasized the need for continuous, practice-oriented training approaches that combine technical capacity with operational and human dimensions of disaster preparedness.

By facilitating cross-institutional dialogue, the workshop helped uncover coordination gaps, overlapping responsibilities, and opportunities for stronger collaboration. Overall, the process generated a structured and comparable evidence base to inform capacity-building efforts and future interventions under the Resilient İzmir Project.

KEY TAKEAWAYS & INSIGHTS

The workshop discussions highlight four strategic priorities shaping disaster risk management in İzmir, supported by evidence from technical working groups and stakeholder inputs.

A system is only as strong as its connections

Institutions demonstrate strong technical expertise and established systems. However, these capacities largely operate within institutional boundaries, limiting coordination, information flow, and overall system performance.

Capacity exists—but not yet fully connected.

Frameworks matter—but implementation defines impact

While national and local frameworks provide a solid foundation, their effectiveness depends on how they are applied in practice. Variations in coordination, roles, and local dynamics influence real-world outcomes.

The gap lies in operationalization.

Risks are interconnected—responses should be too

Disaster risks in İzmir interact and trigger cascading effects across systems. Yet, planning and interventions remain largely hazard-specific, highlighting the need for more integrated approaches.

From siloed approaches to integrated risk management.

Resilience is built by people, not only systems

Operational effectiveness depends on the people managing risk. Stress, workload, and field conditions shape outcomes, underscoring the need for continuous learning, preparedness, and psychosocial support.

Human capacity is a critical driver of performance.


AFAD
TEŞEKKÜRLER

Disclaimer: This document was developed under the Technical Assistance Financing Facility for Disaster Prevention and Preparedness (TAFF), financed by the European Commission's Directorate-General for European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (DG ECHO), through the Union Civil Protection Mechanism (UCPM) budget. TAFF is implemented by the World Bank and the Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery (GFDRR). For more information, please contact: UCPM_TAFF@worldbank.org or see https://www.gfdrr.org/en/taff. The contents of this publication are the sole responsibility of World Bank and can in no way be taken to reflect the views of the European Union.

EU Technical Assistance Financing Facility (TAFF) for Disaster Prevention and Preparedness

Funded by the European Union

GFDRR Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery

Administered by THE WORLD BANK IBRD • IDA | WORLD BANK GROUP