



**Women on Bicycle Initiative  
(Bisikletli Kadın İnisiyatifi – BKİ)  
İstanbul Türkiye**

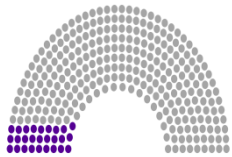
# Turkey is the best country in empowerment of women



## Violence against women

Honor killings dominate the violence dimension.

- ▶ In the last 3 years 5.000 women are killed by their husbands, partners, brothers or fathers.



## Representation in decision making processes

Number of women in parliament is the most visible issue.

14.5 % of the parliament. For local governments it goes below 5 %.

# Politicians tell the story



“I don’t believe in equality of women and men.”

R. Tayyip Erdoğan,  
President

The answer to a woman who asks for a job: “Is housework not enough?”

Veysel Eroğlu, Minister Of Forestry  
And Water Affairs

“Marriage of working women ends in divorce”

Bülent Arınç, Former Vice Prime Minister

## Society embraces the story


“Mom’s working impacts the child negatively.»

 59% agree

 60% agree



“Women’s working harms family life”

 43% agree

 45% agree



“Women should always obey their husbands.”

“Man makes money, woman looks after home”



“Women are vulnerable in working environment»

Women workers are “emotional, unsteady, have low level of attachment to work”

“A woman should not earn more than her husband»



# Women: Nowhere but home



Participation in labor force  
F: 34%  
M: 77%



Marriage age: 23



First birth: 24

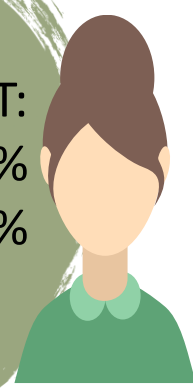
Women at senior levels:  
Bureaucracy: 9%

Parliament: 14%





NGO's: 15%

Young NEET:  
F: 45%  
M: 19%



Part of the labor force:  
Among University Graduates 72%  
Others 25%

Those employed are in agriculture or unskilled jobs

# of Entrepreneurs:  90 K  1.030 K



# What about cycling?

- Women see cycling as a leisure time event.
- 5% of the women use bicycle. 65 % wants to cycle.
- Only 0,6% of women use bicycle for shopping, going to work, school. (In general it is 3%)
- False thoughts of women:

Istanbul is not a bicycle friendly city



My age is not proper for cycling.





I travel by  
bicycle around  
the world



I commute by  
bicycle in İstanbul





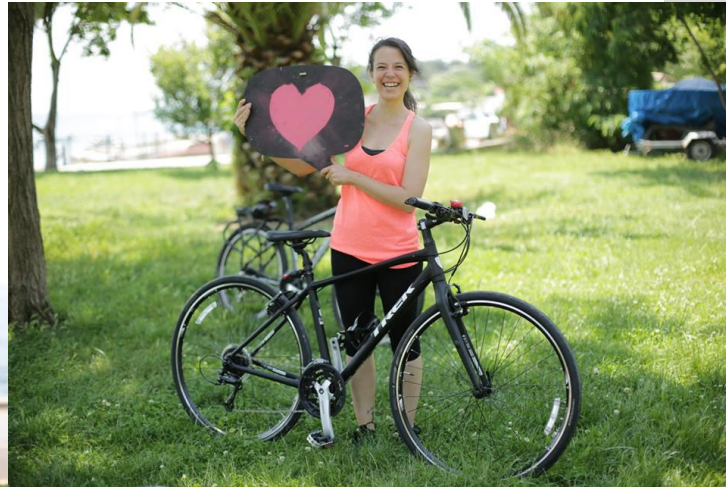
There are other women who commute by bicycle in our **car-centric, hilly** and **middle eastern country**.



We united our powers as first women then cyclist, and formed BKİ by saying **possible** (MÜMKÜN) to use bicycle in İstanbul in daily life.



**We all learned the hard way, by ourselves, there were no women to ask/share/discuss. Only male dominated groups who see cycling as different than us.**







## But there are other women who want to cycle...

Like us, they have fears to start cycling because of similar reasons (surely you have similar stories) :

- It is dangerous to cycle in İstanbul
- There is no cycle path
- My family does not approve
- I am not strong/fit enough
- The distance is too long
- I don't have a bicycle
- My route is not suitable for riding
- I cannot go to work by sweating
- No parking place
- Disrespect of drivers ...



# What we do: Mainly sharing experience

Ride in the traffic together with beginners (who already can cycle)





# What we do: Mainly sharing experience

## After work rides







# What we do: Mainly sharing experience

## Weekend rides





# What we do: Mainly sharing experience

## Teach them how to cycle







# What we do: Mainly sharing experience



## Repair course







# What we do: Mainly sharing experience

Meetings to discuss issues they want to ask





# What we do: Mainly sharing experience

Meetings to give information about what we are doing and how they can contribute





## What we do: Mainly sharing experience

Facebook group for questions, comments, sharing ideas and fun (İstanbul is a big city and there are women from other cities)

[facebook.com/groups/bisikletlikadıninisiyatifi](https://facebook.com/groups/bisikletlikadıninisiyatifi)

[instagram.com/bisikletlikadın](https://instagram.com/bisikletlikadın)

[bisikletlikadıninisiyatifi@gmail.com](mailto:bisikletlikadıninisiyatifi@gmail.com)





- Finding ways to get it easier on their routes
- Accompanying them to the work
- Integration with public transport
- Parking solutions
- Showing how they can manage with different situations (including abuse!)
- Suit-up and make-up solutions
- Alternative routes



# Guideline for women



## Bisiklet Seçiminde Nelere Dikkat Etmeliyim?

Bisiklet seçimi güvenli ve rahat bir sürüş için önemlidir. Seçeceğiniz sele, farklı gidon ve kadro boyları size rahat sürüş sağlayacaktır. Bisiklete başlarken bölümünde bisiklet sürmeyi öğrenmek isteyenler için ipuçları ve amacınıza uygun bisiklet seçiminde nelere dikkat etmeniz gerektiğine dair bilgileri bulabilirsiniz.

Öncelikle hangi amaçla bisiklet süreceğinizi belirleyin. Aşağıdaki yönlendirme sorularını cevaplayarak nasıl bir bisiklet seçeceğinize karar verebilirsiniz.



Şehir içinde işe gidip gelirken veya kısa sürüşler için şehir bisikletlerini tercih edebilirsiniz.



Zorlanmadan yokuşları çıkmak için tekerlekleri kalın (26 inch) bisikletleri tercih edebilirsiniz.



Çocuğunuzu okula, parka götürmek için hem arkada hem de önde kullanılabilecek taşıma aparatlarını tercih edebilirsiniz.



Toplu taşıma araçlarını rahatça kullanarak bisiklet sürmek için katlanır bisikletleri tercih edebilirsiniz.

**Download:**  
<https://www.etietieti.com/et-i-sari-bisiklet-projesi/bisiklet-kilavuzu.pdf>



What have we learned so far...?

**Society**  
**Politicians**  
**Private companies**



<http://www.etietieti.com/eti-sari-bisiklet-projesi>

<http://sivildusun.net/>



# Sarı Bisiklet (Yellow Bicycle project – ETI)





# What we want to see on the streets





# Sisterhood







Thanks to all of you  
for believing in  
freedom of cycling 😊