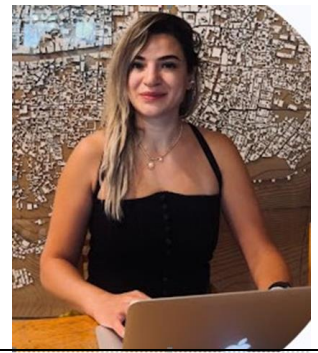


Büşra Durmaz

Startup Founder-CEO at DREAMap

Project Specialist-Consultant for EU/Green City Action Plan(GCAP)
Expert/UN Habitat-FCDO Projects/METU Technopark/SUMP Expert

durmaz.busra88@gmail.com



Dr. Büşra is the Founder and CEO of DREAMap in Flanders, Belgium, and was a postdoctoral researcher at KU Leuven's SADL. She works on the Horizon Europe UPPER project, focusing on Serious Games, modal share, and urban transition pathways. She has extensive experience in urban mobility and planning projects. Büşra has taught at Middle East Technical University and consulted on Green City Action Plans for Ankara, Istanbul, and Kocaeli, as well as sustainable mobility and street accessibility projects in Ankara. Her academic research covers urban regeneration and creative industries..

Years of experience

14 years

Years in the current employment

3 years

Qualification/Education

- **Ph.D. Degree**, Middle East Technical University (METU), Turkey- City and Regional Planning, 2022
- **Master's Degree**, METU, Turkey-Department of Regional Planning, 2014
- **Bachelor's Degree**, METU, Turkey- Department of City and Regional Planning, 2011
- **EIT Jumpstarter Program**, European Institute of Technology, Turkey, 2024
- **EIT INNOMOTION Program**, European Institute of Technology, Belgium, 2025
- **Erasmus Mobility**, KU Leuven, Belgium – Faculty of Engineering Science, 2015-2016

Career History

2025 - Present

Start-up DREAMap
Start-up Founder – Managing Director

2023 - 2025

KU Leuven – Institute for Mobility (LIM)
Post-doctoral Researcher

2012 - 2022

METU-Department of City and Regional Planning
Teaching/Research Assistant

2019 - 2024

Arup Engineering
Technical Lead-Analyst-Urban planning&Mobility expert

2020-2022

METU Technopark R&D Project
Project Founder/Academic Consultant

Country of Experience

Turkey, Belgium

Language skills

- Turkish (mother tongue)
- English (proficient)
- Dutch (beginner)

Selected Project Experience

EBRD Projects

Green City Action Plan, Istanbul-Ankara- Kocaeli, Turkey

The Green City Action Plan (GCAP) is a strategic tool that helps cities identify key environmental challenges and develop targeted, investment-ready actions. It combines data analysis, stakeholder input, and policy alignment to guide sustainable urban transformation..

FCDO-UN Habitat Global Future Cities Project

Increasing Quality and Accessibility of Streets in Çankaya Neighborhoods in Ankara, Turkey

The project, part of the FCDO Global Future Cities Programme, focuses on enhancing street quality, safety, and accessibility to create more inclusive, pedestrian-friendly, and livable urban environments for all residents, including people with disabilities and vulnerable groups.

Horizon Europe Project

Unleashing the Potential of Public Transport in Europe (UPPER), Belgium

The UPPER project aims to enhance the attractiveness and usage of public transport in European cities through policy innovation, user engagement, and advanced mobility solutions.

EU Projects

Ankara Sustainable Urban Mobility Plan (SUMP), Turkey

It developed a strategic framework to improve sustainable urban mobility through data-driven analysis, stakeholder engagement, and integrated transport planning.

Local project

Ankara Development Agency Urban Farming Project

It aims to enhance sustainable food access by utilizing underused urban areas.

Selected Experiences

Project experience

DREAMap – Driving Empowering Accessibility Mapping, Leuven, Belgium (Start-up)

DREAMap tackles accessibility challenges by leveraging advanced, data-driven mapping solutions to identify and address barriers faced by vulnerable groups in urban spaces. Its innovative approach lies in its dual focus: firstly, by fostering a collaborative ecosystem with municipalities and NGOs, DREAMap creates tailored, actionable mapping initiatives that directly respond to local needs. Secondly, through continuous technology-driven advancements, the platform enhances its app capabilities and outreach efforts, ensuring a scalable, user-centric solution that effectively serves and empowers its target audiences.

Istanbul Green City Action Plan (GCAP), Istanbul, Turkey

As the Technical Lead for the project, I spearheaded the management of indicator databases and conducted comprehensive data searches to establish a robust analytical foundation. I played a pivotal role in preparing the Policy and Urban Framework Report for Istanbul and led the technical assessment of environmental and sectoral indicators. Additionally, I coordinated the action development process and oversaw the writing of the GCAP Final Report, ensuring the creation of detailed Action Fact Sheets.

Ankara Green City Action Plan (GCAP), Ankara, Turkey

As the Technical Lead for the Ankara Green City Action Plan (GCAP) project, I was responsible for data collection and institutional visits for the indicator database. I coordinated and authored technical assessment reports, led the prioritization of challenges, and helped develop the vision and strategic objectives. I managed and organized the action development process, actively contributed to shortening the long list of actions, and oversaw the preparation of the Ankara GCAP Final Report including the creation of Action Fact Sheets. Additionally, I provided technical coordination for the GCAP Launch Event, conducted technical analysis and structured content for stakeholder engagement activities and online surveys, and actively participated in Steering Committee meetings to finalize the shortlist of Ankara GCAP actions.

Increasing Quality and Accessibility of Streets in Çankaya Neighborhoods in Ankara, Turkey

I conducted data research and prepared baseline reports to identify potentials and gaps in the healthy streets context of Çankaya. I analyzed the legislative framework, including supranational documents, laws, regulations, and technical standards, and examined the city context of Ankara-Çankaya. I carried out literature reviews and developed proposals for cycling facilities and networks in the pilot area of Bahçelievler Neighborhood. Fieldwork included on-site data collection and converting this data into clear formats, as well as conducting in-depth interviews with local residents. I also performed Turkish-English proofreading of reports and deliverables. Additionally, I actively participated in preliminary analyses, presentations, and stakeholder engagement activities. My role involved moderating and organizing both in-person and online participatory meetings and workshops, managing communication with participants, and producing final synthesis reports. My position was as a technical team member and urban planning expert..

Ankara Sustainable Urban Mobility Plan (SUMP), Turkey

I conducted a detailed assessment of current planning practices, focusing on the legal and regulatory framework. I also carried out an in-depth analysis of available data and the existing mobility conditions in Ankara to support the development of a sustainable and integrated urban transport strategy.

Ankara Development Agency Ankara Urban Farming (Project team composed of Professors and Research Assistants at METU Department of City and Regional Planning), Ankara, Turkey

The tasks undertaken are on making investigating and reporting all the dimensions related to legal measures about urban agriculture in Turkey including a strength/weakness analysis for the gaps and positive aspects.

Barrier-free Smart City Analytics GIS Software database and System Architecture, Ankara, Turkey

As the Project Manager and Founder, I led the development of a GIS-based participatory accessibility data infrastructure focusing on urban barriers faced by persons with reduced mobility, including people with disabilities, the elderly, and children. The project introduced two core innovations: a smart city-oriented, digital approach to accessibility analysis, and a participatory digitalization model enabling data generation and planning based on fieldwork and stakeholder input. I oversaw the design of the system architecture that integrates spatial data with the perspectives of diverse stakeholder groups.

Academic experience

Post doc Research, Leuven, Belgium & Teaching Assistant, Ankara, Turkey

As a post-doctoral researcher at KU Leuven's Institute for Mobility (LIM), Spatial Applications Division Leuven (SADL), I contribute to the European UPPER project, focusing on serious games as a research tool, modal share calculation, and analyzing urban transition pathways aligned with the Theory of Change. Previously, as a teaching and research assistant at Middle East Technical University's Department of City and Regional Planning, I supported the development of critical thinking skills and comprehensive approaches to urban planning and policy challenges. My role involved fostering structured problem-solving methods to address complex urban issues both academically and practically..

Other skills

- Synthesized academic literature into practical knowledge through extensive reading and organization.
- Conducted research and produced insights on urban/regional planning, regeneration, gentrification, sustainability, creative industries, and green-energy cities.
- Skilled in academic reporting, article writing, and deep analysis of scholarly materials.
- Completed award-winning master's thesis on urban transformation and gentrification with comprehensive qualitative research.
- Experienced in qualitative methods including stakeholder interviews, surveys, and theoretical framework development.