

Cihan ERÇETİN

Dr. / Urban Planning & Sustainable Mobility Expert · Urban Planning & Sustainable Mobility Expert

PROFILE

Dr. Cihan Erçetin is an urban and regional planner-transport (sustainable mobility) expert with 14+ years of experience in sustainable urban mobility, accessibility, and urban policy. City & regional planner with 14–15 years in sustainable mobility, accessibility, and urban/environmental policy. Led indicator databases, technical assessments, action development, and senior review across EBRD-supported Green City Action Plans in Istanbul & Ankara; coordinated stakeholder engagement and final reports. Recent postdoc at KU Leuven on Horizon Europe UPPER, focusing on serious games, modal-share methods, and transition pathways. Strengths: interdisciplinary analysis, on-time delivery, multi-actor coordination, technical writing.



EDUCATION

- **Ph.D.**, City and Regional Planning — Middle East Technical University (METU), 2022
- **M.S.**, Urban Policy Planning and Local Governments — METU, 2014
- **B.S.**, City and Regional Planning — METU, 2011
- Minor, Political Science and Public Administration — METU, 2011

RECENT EXPERIENCE & PROJECTS

Technical Lead — **Arup** (Istanbul & Ankara, Turkey) · Sep 2019 – Nov 2024

- *Green City Action Plan (GCAP) Projects* — Istanbul, Ankara, Kocaeli (EBRD) · Dec 2021 – Nov 2024:
Led indicator databases, technical assessments, and action development for Istanbul & Ankara GCAPs; coordinated final reports with Action Fact Sheets and contributed to vision/strategy and challenge prioritization. Conducted institutional/site visits, structured stakeholder engagement (incl. online surveys), supported launch/steering meetings, and provided senior technical review across deliverables. Integrated air-quality-relevant measures (e.g., LEZ, TOD, cycling feeder networks) into action portfolios, aligning policy and implementation pathways. Produced bilingual (TR/EN) reports and decision-support materials for municipalities, finance institutions, and stakeholders.

- *Bicycle Strategy, Master Plan and Pilot Implementation for Integrated Non-Motorized Multimodal Transport in Ankara* (UK FCDO–UN Habitat) · Sep 2019 – Sep 2021

Developed Ankara's first comprehensive bicycle strategy and master plan; integrated spatial analysis, stakeholder input, GPS-based mapping, and pilot implementations. I acted as a versatile expert filling all gaps. I conducted data research and prepared baseline reports on Ankara's urban transport, focusing on cycling potential and gaps. I analyzed the legislative framework, including supranational documents, laws, regulations, and technical standards. I assessed the city context and demographics, performed literature reviews, and carried out field research such as land use, gradient, traffic, and parking analyses. I tracked the entire bicycle Master Plan network via GPS and presented the results as Google Earth KMZ files. Additionally, I proofread deliverables in Turkish and English and organized stakeholder participatory meetings.

PMO Technical Lead / Researcher — **KU Leuven, Institute for Mobility** (Leuven, Belgium) · Aug 2023 – Dec 2024

Horizon Eurppe Project – KU Leuven: *UPPER (Unleashing the Potential of Public Transport in Europe)*

Contributed to Horizon Europe UPPER, focusing on serious games as method, modal-share methods, and transition pathways (Theory of Change) for public transport. Supported monitoring/indicator frameworks to compare policy packages and guide urban mobility transitions.

SELECTED PROJECTS

- EU Project: “*Technical Assistance for Accessibility of Passenger Transport Services in Turkey*” — **Corporate Solutions Consulting Ltd.**; 03/2018–02/2020
Road & Urban Transport Expert

Delivered research & data analysis, stakeholder consultations, compliance checks with European standards; identified PRM accessibility gaps and training needs; contributed to strategy design. As a Non-Key Expert specializing in Road and Urban Transport, I led research and data analysis, managed stakeholder consultations, and conducted interviews to evaluate transport accessibility and compliance with European standards. I identified critical gaps—particularly for people with reduced mobility—assessed organizational training needs, contributed to sector-specific thematic development, and supported the creation of a comprehensive strategy through desk research and data synthesis.

Led research/data analysis, stakeholder consultations and interviews; assessed accessibility gaps (esp. PRM), training needs, and compliance with European standards; contributed to comprehensive strategy.

- EU Project: “*Ankara Sustainable Urban Mobility Plan (SUMP), Turkey*” – **DAI Global**; 02/2023–08/2023
Demand Side Analysis SUMP Expert

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. Assessed planning practices and legal/regulatory frameworks; analyzed data and existing mobility conditions to inform an integrated strategy.

- EU Project: “*Enhancement of Institutional & Administrative Capacity of Directorate of Transport, Maritime Affairs and Communications Research Centre, Ankara*” – **WeGlobal**; 10/2021–04/2022
Urban Planning & GIS Analyst

As a Non-Key Expert in Urban Planning and GIS Analysis, I conducted a comprehensive stakeholder analysis for five transport modes, prepared the Stakeholder Analysis Report, and developed a GIS-based stakeholder map using Google MyMaps. I also identified key stakeholders in three cross-cutting themes—environment, safety & security, and innovation—including public institutions, NGOs, universities, and industry actors, and integrated them into the stakeholder list and visual map. Built GIS-based stakeholder maps, led cross-cutting stakeholder identification (environment, safety & security, innovation), and authored the Stakeholder Analysis Report.

- Self entrepreneurship project / R&D — METU University Technopark: “*Barrier-free Smart City Analytics GIS Software & System Architecture (Ankara)*”

GeoInsight Ltd; 02/2020-12/2021

Project Founder/Manager

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. Managed a GIS-based participatory accessibility platform for PRM, integrating spatial data with multi-stakeholder inputs for planning decisions.

RESEARCH & ACADEMIC EXPERIENCE

I have held academic roles at both the Turkish National Police Academy's Traffic Institute and the Department of City and Regional Planning at Middle East Technical University (METU). At the Police Academy, I delivered undergraduate and graduate-level courses on Urban Transport Planning and Safety, Contemporary Approaches in Transport Planning, Human Rights, and Internal Security Management. At METU, as a teaching and research assistant, I supported planning education with a focus on developing critical thinking, analytical problem-solving, and a structured understanding of complex urban dynamics and policy debates, aiming to prepare students for the challenges of real-world urban planning practice.

SKILLS

- Regulatory & Compliance Analysis: legislative/regulatory reviews within urban transport and accessibility projects; stakeholder/agency coordination
- Project & Portfolio Delivery: cross-functional coordination, schedule/quality control, stakeholder engagement, and final deliverables
- Task management, analysis, reporting
- Client Engagement & Proposal Support: stakeholder meetings, launch events, steering committees, and bilingual report authoring.
- Project technical leadership; coordination of complex, multi-actor workflows; on-time, high-quality delivery.
- Urban planning & policy; Transit-Oriented Development (TOD); urban conservation/regeneration; GCAP action planning.
- Public transport & active mobility strategies; cycling planning; accessibility analysis; stakeholder engagement.
- Accessibility mapping, sustainable mobility mapping screening/inspection
- Qualitative methods: in-depth interviews, stakeholder mapping, user surveys; legislative and regulatory analysis; qualitative mapping analysis
- **Language:** *English* (Professional level); *Turkish* (mother tongue); *Dutch* (Beginner level)
- Software skills: **AutoCAD**, **ArcGIS Online tools:** Map Viewer, Survey123 Field data collection tool, **Adobe Photoshop**, **MS Office**, **Google MyMaps GIS tool**, **Google Earth** participatory mapping and reporting