

Dear Mayor Dr. Idug, dear Project Partners, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Many thanks for the warm welcome in your beautiful city!

On behalf of our Lord Mayor, Professor Doktor Würzner, I would like to convey to you cordial greetings from Heidelberg and his congratulations on our successful project application.

As mayor of the city with the oldest university in Germany and as president of the European city network "EnergyCities", Prof. Dr. Würzner is always aware of the high value of international professional exchange. At the Heidelberg Environment Office, we have often benefited from such international cooperation projects and are sure that we will benefit again and gain some valuable insights from our newly launched twinning project Bornova - Heidelberg – „BORNBERG“ (or „HEIDELNOVA“?).

Our twinning project will focus on the two themes of climate protection and climate change adaptation. These two issues are at the top of the agenda in most cities around the world, sharing the recognition that they must do their part to ensure that international efforts and agreements to reduce greenhouse gas emissions are successful. Climate protection and climate change adaptation begin and end in the municipalities. As a city administration, we are the direct contact persons for our citizens, our schools, our universities and our companies for all questions regarding energy savings, adaptation measures and support options.

Like Heidelberg, Bornova has been a pioneer municipality in climate protection for many years. Already in 2016 at the annual conference of Energy Cities in Bornova, Prof. Dr. Würzner stated: Turkey and the Izmir region are important partners in the European energy transition. Bornova and Izmir invest in solar energy. They are also trying to implement energy-efficient cooling systems and buildings with thermal insulation in countries with high temperatures in order to reduce energy costs. Here in Turkey, you have discussed decentralised energy

supply strategies in Europe, the role of municipalities in setting energy standards and in developing environmentally friendly infrastructure.

In mutual visits, the exchange on climate protection topics was deepened, with a provisional highlight at the International Climate Protection Conference in May 2019 in Heidelberg. Around 1,000 climate activists from the fields of politics, business and science sent a clear signal to the world: ambitious climate protection and compliance with the Paris Agreement and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development are feasible. Climate-friendly and sustainable cities are a key to this.

In the name of our Lord Mayor Prof. Dr. Würzner we are pleased to be able to continue this technical exchange and mutual support of our climate protection and adaptation measures with our current twinning project BORNBERG.

Thank you very much for your attention!