Megaron, Vol. 21, No. 3, pp. 393–411, September 2026

Megaron
https://megaron.yildiz.edu.tr - https://megaronjournal.com
DOI: https://doi.org/10.14744/megaron.2026.24808

Article

Integrating social resilience into the sustainable management of Edirne's historic city center

Hülya Evcen[1], Hale Mamunlu Kocabaş[2]

[1]*Independent Researcher, İstanbul, Türkiye*
[2]*Department of City and Regional Planning, Mimar Sinan Güzel Sanatlar University, İstanbul, Türkiye*

ARTICLE INFO

Article history
Received: 17 March 2026
Revised: 26 September 2026
Accepted: 3 October 2026

Key words:
Edirne's Historic City Center; Social Resilience; Urban Vulnerability; Sustainable Urban Planning and Management; Cultural Heritage Conservation.

ABSTRACT

In recent years, the concept of social/community resilience has gained increasing attention in resilience discussions and is becoming more prominent in planning and conservation literature. This study examines the historical city center of Edirne, selected for its unique historical fabric, multi-layered cultural heritage, and diverse dimensions of vulnerability. Within this area, the Selimiye Mosque and its complex were inscribed on UNESCO's World Heritage List in 2011. Current interventions focus mainly on physical preservation, integrating social, cultural, and environmental dimensions is essential for sustainable outcomes. In this context, the study aims to identify the determinants of social resilience in the Historic Urban Landscape of Edirne and to examine the relationship between these determinants, management and planning processes. This study is designed as mixed-methods research and employed multiple data collection methods, including literature review, on-site observation, surveys, and semi-structured interviews. Participants were purposively sampled from groups directly involved with the historical city center. The survey was structured based on indicators of urban vulnerability, resilience, and social resilience, covering physical/environmental, social, economic, and administrative dimensions. This study was prepared to demonstrate that indicators of social resilience not only produce data describing the current social situation, but also offer a concrete information infrastructure that can be used in spatial planning processes. In this context, the study theoretically aims to operationalize social resilience in historic city centers through measurable indicators based on the integration of conservation and planning processes. Findings indicate that social resilience is critical for effective management, with community engagement, sense of belonging, and social awareness as key factors. Urban vulnerabilities are multidimensional, emphasizing the need for a holistic HUL approach. Edirne demonstrates how social resilience can be integrated into historic urban landscape management, providing a framework to balance conservation and contemporary urban use in historic environments.

Cite this article as: Evcen, H, & Mamunlu Kocabaş, H. (2026). Integrating Social Resilience into the Sustainable Management of Edirne's Historic City Center. Megaron, 21(3):393–411.

* Manuscripts produced from a doctoral dissertation; name of the Doctoral Dissertation: This study was developed from a doctoral thesis titled "Spatial And Social Impacts Of The Vulnerabilities Of Edirne's Historical City Center On The City in The Context Of Urban Resilience.

***Corresponding author**
*E-mail address: hulyaevcen06@gmail.com

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INTRODUCTION

Contemporary historic cities face vulnerabilities in the face of rapidly changing social, spatial, and environmental conditions. These vulnerabilities are particularly acutely felt in historic city centers. Protecting, ensuring the sustainability, and maintaining the resilience of historic city centers in the face of urban development dynamics is becoming increasingly important. There is a mutually beneficial interaction between the resilience of the city and the preservation of historical environments.

Current interventions focus mainly on physical preservation, integrating social, cultural, and environmental dimensions is essential for sustainable outcomes.

However, in order to ensure the sustainability of these areas through conservation, not only physical resilience but also the dimension of social resilience has gained increasing importance.

This study proposes a theoretical framework that considers social resilience in historic city centers as a mediating capacity between urban vulnerability and spatial planning decision-making processes. Within this framework, urban vulnerabilities (physical, social, economic, and administrative dimensions) are shaped by the social resilience components of local communities (belonging, participation, social solidarity, perception of security and demographic continuity, satisfaction with public services, satisfaction with social and cultural life, satisfaction with urban life and economy); the strength or weakness of these components directly affects the effectiveness of planning decisions. Therefore, social resilience is not considered a passive consequence of vulnerabilities, but rather a dynamic intermediary layer that determines the quality of the planning process. This approach reveals that resilience in historic city centers should be addressed not only through physical interventions but also through administrative and participatory mechanisms that strengthen community capacity, considering the city as a whole.

In this context, the study aims to identify the determinants of social resilience in the Historic Urban Landscape of Edirne and to examine the relationship between these determinants, management and planning processes. The research seeks to answer the following questions:

1. What are the key components that determine social resilience?
2. How are these components related to dimensions of urban vulnerability?
3. How can social resilience indicators be integrated into planning processes?

The Edirne Historical City Center (Urban Conservation Area) was chosen as the study area due to its unique historical fabric, multi-layered cultural heritage, and diverse dimensions of vulnerability. The Kaleiçi district, located within the historical city center, is the first settlement area of Edirne. As part of the Historical City Center, the Kaleiçi settlement, with its old and historical building stock, aging and inadequate facilities, and urban fabric largely preserved through individual rather than holistic conservation efforts, struggles to maintain its existence.

Edirne, which served as the capital of the Ottoman Empire for 92 years, has adapted to physical, social, and economic changes brought about by wars and migrations, and has reached the present day. The Edirne Historic City Center carries the living traces of the past into the present with its old city fabric and distinctive architectural works, playing a role in the spatial and social life practices of Edirne's residents.

Located in the historical city center of Edirne, the Selimiye Mosque and its complex were included in UNESCO's World Heritage list in 2011 (UNESCO, 2025). The city center's historical and cultural fabric is one of the most important elements of the city's identity. Built by Mimar Sinan and included in the World Heritage list, the Edirne Selimiye Mosque is located in the most visible and central point of the city. Many other historical and cultural heritage elements (such as the Old Mosque, the Three-Domed Mosque, the Ali Pasha Bazaar, the Bedesten, the Rüstem Pasha Caravanserai, the Municipal Building, and the Governor's Office) and public service buildings are also located in the historical city center of Edirne. (Figures 1-2)

The Historic Urban Landscape (HUL) approach, defined by UNESCO in 2011, emphasizes the holistic consideration of urban areas, integrating heritage conservation with social, cultural, economic, and environmental aspects while promoting participatory governance and sustainable development.

In this context, ensuring social resilience has become increasingly important for the holistic planning and sustainable management of Edirne's historic urban landscape, representing an innovative planning approach.

While the social resilience of a city holds a significant place in the urban conservation literature, it has been addressed primarily in relation to the historical city center of Edirne.

METHODOLOGY

This study is designed as mixed-methods research and utilized multiple data collection techniques, including literature review, on-site observation, survey application, and semi-structured interviews. Face-to-face surveys and interviews were conducted with 72 participants who experienced the city and its historic city center between May and July 2024. Participants consisted of real estate agents (14 people), neighborhood heads (16 people), and residents of

Figure 1. Selimiye Mosque (Top left), Old Mosque and Edirne Municipality (Bottom left), Saraçlar Street (Top right), National Education Directorate and Edirne Governorship (Bottom right). (July, 2024).

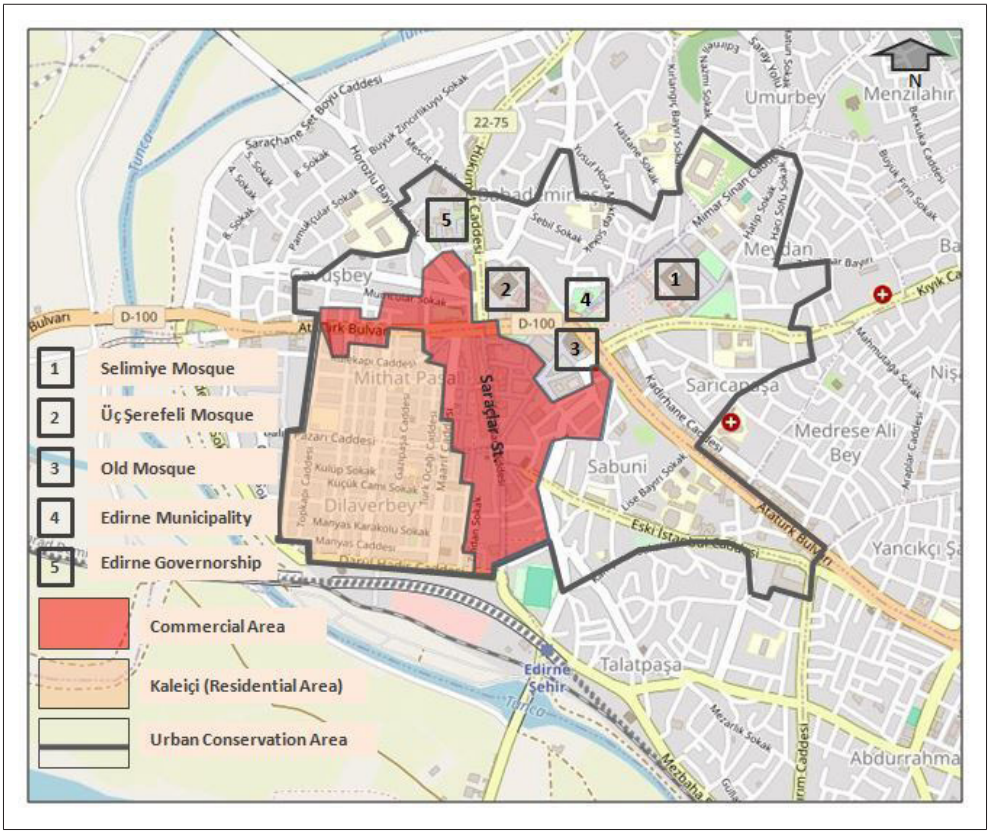

Figure 2. Edirne Central District Urban Site Area.
Source: (Map base) Googlemap.com, March 2024; KAIP, 2007; Yenigün Ölmez, 2021.

the city center, selected from groups directly involved with and experiencing the city and its historic city center.

The general flow of the research process consists of the following stages: literature review, preparation of survey and interview questions, pilot study, data collection, data cleaning, reliability analysis, thematic analysis of interviews, and integration of findings.(Table 1)

Sampling Strategy and Participant Selection

A purposive sampling strategy was used because the research aimed to collect information from individuals who have direct experience and knowledge of the study area. Participants were selected according to the following criteria: (i) being at least 18 years old, (ii) living, working, or regularly using the historical city center, and (iii) being sufficiently familiar with the social and spatial characteristics of the area. A total of 72 questionnaires were included in the analysis. For the qualitative component, interviews were also conducted with neighborhood heads, real estate agents, and residents of Edirne Central District during the survey.

Survey Structure

The survey consists of three sections. The first section collected demographic information including age, gender, educational background, occupation, and length of residence in the work area. The second section (participation in physical and social propositions) included statements measuring different dimensions of urban resilience such as spatial/physical resilience, social resilience, economic resilience, and institutional/administrative resilience. The third section focused on participants' perceptions of the historic city center; these included attitudes related to belonging to the city, urban participation, and social solidarity.

Data Analysis Procedure

Quantitative data were analyzed using statistical software.

Tablo 1. The general flow of the research process

Literature review
↓
Preparation of survey and interview questions
↓
Pilot study
↓
Data collection
↓
Data cleaning
↓
Reliability analysis
↓
Thematic analysis of interviews
↓
Integration of findings
↓
Results and conclusion

Table 2. Quantitative data-Qualitative data

Quantitative data		Qualitative data
Participation in Physical and Social Propositions: *Physical/spatial *Social *Economic *Institutional	⇔	*Belonging to the City *Participation *Social Solidarity

Descriptive statistics were then used to summarize participant characteristics and response distributions.

The internal consistency of the scale was assessed using Cronbach's Alpha coefficients. Qualitative interview data were analyzed using thematic analysis.

Finally, the findings from both quantitative and qualitative analyses were integrated to develop a planning strategy framework and a decision support framework to enhance the resilience of the historic city center. (Table 2)

The questions regarding participation in physical and social issues were prepared using a Likert scale and evaluated together with the results obtained regarding belonging to the city, urban participation, and social solidarity.

Interviews were conducted in a semi-structured format, and participants' experiences with the space, perceptions of belonging to the city, and solidarity practices were examined in depth. The responses to the survey questions were analyzed using SPSS (Statistical Package for Social Science) to create frequency tables. Quantitative data were evaluated using descriptive statistics, while qualitative data were analyzed using thematic analysis.

The emerging themes were linked to the study's research questions. The themes identified through the qualitative analysis were considered alongside the key findings from the quantitative analyses.

During the analysis process, the data were first coded and then classified under the themes of vulnerability and resilience. Rather than establishing a definitive resilience threshold, the results were defined based on participant perceptions; in this context, a participation rate of 50% or higher was considered "high resilience potential." The data obtained based on participant perceptions are important for providing insights into enhancing the city's social resilience.

The limitations of the study are that the sample size remained at the local level and the findings were evaluated within the context of the Edirne Historical City Center. Nevertheless, the study offers significant qualitative contributions in terms of revealing site-specific indicators of social resilience.

LITERATURE

Urban Vulnerability and Resilience

According to UNDRR[1] (2017), vulnerability is "conditions determined by physical, social, economic, and environmental factors or processes that increase the susceptibility of an individual, community, entity, or system to the effects of hazards." Vulnerability differs from risk in that it corresponds to a situation encountered suddenly and unpredictably. The concept of risk includes predictability. According to Sarewitz et al. (2003), what distinguishes vulnerability from risk is the difference in policies for dealing with extreme events.

The concept of urban vulnerability refers to the level at which a system can be damaged by external shocks (Cutter et al., 2003). Resilience, on the other hand, is defined as a system's capacity to resist, adapt to, and recover from these shocks. In historical environments, vulnerability is not limited to physical structures but also encompasses social, economic, and administrative dimensions. In the literature, the role of local communities, spatial planning tools, and governance models stand out as important elements in strengthening resilience. However, the number of studies that address these approaches within a holistic framework in historical environments is limited. The vulnerabilities of a city can stem from both structural (natural disasters, climate change, etc.) and non-structural (social, economic, etc.) impacts. A city's resilience means that its physical, social, economic, and institutional components can continue to function against unexpected negative threats at any moment. For this to happen, these characteristics must have a robust, sustainable, harmonious, and adaptable potential.

Urban vulnerability can manifest in physical, social, economic, environmental, and governance dimensions (Davoudi, 2012; Meerow et al., 2016). Resilience is crucial for the long-term sustainability and adaptation to crises of historical environments. Studies on resilience in the literature began in the 1970s, primarily focusing on the balance between urban and ecological systems. Research on the resilience of cities has been developed to address the potential consequences of disasters, risks, and hazards, primarily aiming to reduce and prevent physical damage.

Satisfaction with urban services and urban resilience are interrelated concepts. Satisfaction with urban services refers to indicators that reflect individuals' evaluations of public services provided by local governments. Urban resilience is not merely a concept encompassing satisfaction with urban services; it describes the capacity of an urban system to prepare for, adapt to, recover from, and adjust to uncertainties. While satisfaction with public services may be a factor in a city's resilience in the face of uncertainties and crises, it is not sufficient on its own. Satisfaction with urban services is not a substitute for urban resilience, but rather a crucial component of a city's social resilience. The main themes of urban resilience are the city's environmental-physical resilience, its social resilience, its economic resilience, and its institutional resilience (Table 3).

Table 3. Key Themes in Urban Resilience

Key themes in urban resilience.	- Environmental and physical resilience. - Social resilience. - Economic resilience. - Institutional resilience.

The Physical Resilience

The physical resilience of a city refers to the ability of its infrastructure and superstructure to maintain their functionality in the face of any threat. Infrastructure is paramount among basic public services. Roads, bridges, airports; housing, commercial, and recreational areas; clean water infrastructure, and waste recycling or disposal are all important aspects of urban infrastructure (OECD, 2016; UN-Habitat, 2018). The continuity of infrastructure services is crucial in the face of crises and unexpected shocks. The usability of information and communication networks is as important as the robustness of urban infrastructure. A systematic, holistic approach to urban infrastructure is effective in building public trust. Ensuring equal access to infrastructure and basic services is vital for meeting the vital needs of the urban population and for a city to function and develop properly. Given the increasing number of shocks and stresses affecting cities worldwide in recent years, fully integrating the design and management of infrastructure and basic services into the concept of resilience is becoming a crucial issue. Therefore, taking measures related to the physical robustness and sustainability of the city is important in ensuring its social resilience.

Economic Resilience

Economic resilience refers to the processes, mechanisms, and activities that enable cities to become the driving force of socio-economic development in a country or region by creating job opportunities, increasing household income, generating investment, reducing social tensions and crime, increasing public equality and participation, promoting social solidarity, and improving security and safety (UN-Habitat, 2018).Ensuring economic resilience is essential for the social resilience of the city. The economic resilience of a city is also related to the effectiveness of its current and potential economy. Economic resilience reveals which sectors have development potential within the city. In times of crisis and shock, an effective, proactive planning strategy is needed to quickly assess the before, present, and after situ-

[1] United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction

ations and ensure the continuation of economic activities in these sectors. Therefore, the city should have integrated management mechanisms in its risk management and disaster planning processes to ensure the continuity of economic activities.

The Institutional Resilience

According to Kasperson and Kasperson (2001), if institutions cannot plan for hazards or changing social conditions and risks, the vulnerability of the system may increase. Therefore, a comprehensive vulnerability theory to global change should take into account a range of risks, thresholds, and institutional responses and resources (given that vulnerability will manifest itself differently at different scales).

In a rapidly changing and increasingly complex world, individuals, institutions, and societies need to be resilient—structured in a way that allows them to cope with, adapt to, and shape change.

To increase institutional resilience, it is necessary to raise awareness, adopt a participatory governance approach, regulate the legal framework, strengthen institutions and policies, ensure coordination between institutions/organizations, and increase information sharing between official and private institutions. According to Eren (2019), the three most important issues that local governments should focus on during crises are: public support, self-help (individuals protecting themselves), and mutual assistance/support. This may require practice and training. The most dynamic relationship between institutions and society in a city's institutional resilience is their ability to possess the necessary tools to help each other and themselves in unexpected times of crisis.

The Growing Importance of Social Resilience in Ensuring Urban Resilience

Resilient cities are those that, both in their physical and social structures, can maintain their functionality against all kinds of risks (natural, technological, social, etc.) that may arise in their sphere of influence, and can survive by rapidly adapting to new conditions (Godschalk, 2003). A resilient city should be adaptable, inclusive, capable of responding quickly, able to change and transform, open to cooperation, and possess mechanisms that can generate creative solution processes(Lewis, 2020).

Wardekker (2023a) points out that there are two important frameworks of urban resilience: the 'System Resilience' framework, which focuses on maintaining functions and processes, and the 'Community Resilience' framework, which emphasizes urban life and community capacity and self-sufficiency.

In ensuring the social resilience of a city, Cutter et al. (2008) emphasize that factors such as "demographic structure, social networks and social inclusion, social values and commitment, risk awareness, healthy and good living conditions, quality of life-high satisfaction" are important. In studies that examine the resilience of historical city centers from a social perspective, urban participation (Wardekker 2023a; Cao, 2023; Keck&Sakdapolrak, 2013; Castro, 2021) is an important parameter. In historical environments, preserving the city's identity (Wardekker, 2023a; Walidonna et al., 2024) is seen as an important element for the resilience of the city (See Table 4). The Resiliage project, a UNESCO and European Union project, examines the resilience of the city through the concepts of social cohesion, social ties, collective action, collective memory, and sense of belonging. (Pavlova, 2024)

The social resilience of a city is defined as the capacity of communities within the city to adapt and change in the face of crises and transformation processes. One of the important characteristics of a city's social resilience is the concept of "belonging to the city." Belonging to the city is considered an indicator of the relationship individuals establish with the space they live in.

For the social resilience of the city, it is the ability of citizens to organize themselves (to form organizations) as a result of the combination of a sense of belonging to the city, urban participation, and social solidarity (Keck & Sakdapolrak, 2013; Zeng et al., 2022). In the literature, within the context of the city's social resilience, emphasis is placed on its relationship with a sense of belonging to the city, social solidarity, and urban participation. (Table 4)

There is a reinforcing relationship between urban resilience/social resilience and the preservation of historic environments, whereby each positively influences the other. (Wardekker et al., 2023b, Walidonna, 2024). Cutter et al. (2008), through their studies prioritizing the social dimension of cities, established indicators and sub-categories of social resilience that will ensure urban resilience. The main headings of these indicators are ecological, social, economic, institutional, infrastructure, and societal indicator dimensions. According to their social and societal dimensions, the relevant indicators are listed as: demographic structure (age, gender, occupation, class, salary), social networks and social inclusion, social values-loyalty, faith-based organizations, local risk awareness, guidance services, presence of pathophysiological diseases (alcohol, drugs, various addictions), healthy and good living conditions (mental health status, stress-related conditions), and quality of life (high satisfaction). (Table 4)

According to Zeng et al. (2022), parameters and appropriate indicators for social resilience include demographic changes (population flows, migrants), income level (household income, poverty level, GINI coefficient), security (crime rate, perception of security), social networks of communities (number of civil society organizations), and access to services (access to public services, public trans-

Table 4. Social resilience parameters for the historic city center

Studies on historical and cultural heritage, urban resilience, and the social resilience of the city.	Social resilience parameters for the historic city center.
Cutter et al. 2008.	Demographic structure, social networks and social inclusion, community values and commitment, risk awareness, healthy living conditions, quality of life, high satisfaction.
Zeng et al. 2022.	Demographic changes, income level (household income, poverty level, GINI coefficient), social networks of communities (number of NGOs), access to services (access to public services, etc.)
Wardekker, 2023a.	Public participation, quality of life, focus on local initiatives, increasing the resilience of vulnerable groups, developing social support networks, strengthening urban identity, improving people's skills and education, and ensuring social equality.
Walidonna, 2024.	Urban identity, management of physical and cultural heritage, social development, economic development, a multidimensional and collaborative approach.
Cao, 2023. (urban resilience)	Community participation, social cohesion, inclusion, economic diversity, sustainable infrastructure, environmental sustainability, effective governance, stakeholder collaboration, integrated risk management, conducting risk assessments, incorporating resilience into urban planning, proactive planning, and leveraging technology and innovation.
Castro, 2021.	Encouraging and integrating social participation, robust participation tools, social connections, and strong links to cultural heritage assets into the institutional framework.
Keck&Sakdapolrak, 2013.	Social learning, participatory decision-making, collective transformation.
UNESCO and the European Union (Resiliage project)	Social cohesion, social bonds, collective action, collective memory, sense of belonging.

port). According to Wardekker (2023a), public participation, quality of life, focusing on local initiatives, increasing the resilience of vulnerable groups, developing social support networks, strengthening urban identity, improving people's skills and education, and ensuring social equality are important for the social resilience of the city. (See Table 4) Education, awareness, and individual skills are important tools when facing potential urban hazards (Azad & Pritchard, 2023).

In historic city centers, the vulnerabilities of the city may lie in its environmental/physical, social, economic, and institutional characteristics, which are components of the city. Data obtained from qualitative research for identifying vulnerabilities can be applied at the local level and can make significant contributions to holistic urban resilience. According to Stolte et. al. (2024), knowing the vulnerabilities of the city is important in understanding its potential resilience characteristics.

The social resilience of a city is a characteristic that, along with the physical resilience of the city and its historic city center, should possess against unexpected and uncertain threats. The social resilience of a city against structural or non-structural threats encompasses the entirety of relationships involving human interaction, which is a crucial part of urban life. This includes all human relationships with space, with each other, and with institutions.

According to the literature that examines historical cities within the framework of resilience, the heritage, identity, and cultural values of the historical environment possess characteristics that encourage increased resilience. Understanding the relationship between the city and society/individuals, both physically and environmentally, and socially, economically, culturally, and institutionally, is crucial for understanding vulnerabilities and resilience. Research aimed at understanding this relationship will significantly contribute to planning processes that will produce solutions. The environmental, social, economic, and spatial resilience of contemporary cities are beginning to be considered together, and studies are being conducted in this direction. (Table 5)

For an urban system to be resilient, it must incorporate features such as being adaptable, robust, having redundant capacity, flexible, inclusive, and integrated.

The concept of resilience has provided ideas for systems with many components and intense interrelationships, such as cities, that can ensure the system's ability to sustain itself in times of uncertainty and sudden danger (Walker & Salt, 2006; Davoudi, 2012).

The Historic City Center of Edirne within the Spatial Development Process

The Kaleiçi district, where traces of civil architecture and traditional residential fabric are still present, has developed

Table 5. Key sources and topics examining historical cities from a resilience perspective

References	Topics
Chen&Bian&; Wang, 2024	Urban resilience guides historic and cultural cities in resisting the impacts and pressures they face.
Jigyasu et al., 2013 (UNSDR)	Heritage preservation promotes resilience.
Castro, 2021	In disasters, community resilience ensures the preservation of cultural heritage.
Wardekker et al., 2023(b)	The interaction between cultural heritage and societal resilience in volcanic regions affected by disasters.
Walidonna et al., 2024	To provide an analysis of the factors contributing to the resilience of urban heritage sites.

in a grid-like urban structure and houses residential functions. The Kaleiçi settlement is part of the Historic City Center. The old and historical building stock, along with aging and inadequate facilities, attempts to maintain its existence through mostly individual rather than holistic preservation efforts within the urban fabric.

Saraçlar Street, the main street of the historical city center, is a street where the service sector and retail trade (shops, restaurants, cafes, etc.) are predominantly located. (Edirne Municipality, 2007) Today, Saraçlar Street, which is located in an urban protected area, has been pedestrianized and is an axis where commercial functions are concentrated. The historical city center is still important for the city dwellers. (Figure 2)

According to the 2007 approved KAIP report, the analysis shows that 62% of the project area consists of residential areas, 10% of outbuildings, and 9% of commercial areas. One-story buildings constitute 55%, two-story buildings 22%, and three-story buildings 13%. (Figure 2) The current population in the historical city center, within the project area, is 26,105 (KAIP,2007, pp. 113-114; KAIP, 2007).

Throughout the spatial development process of Edirne, the historical city center has maintained its central character. From the Kaleiçi (Castle District) Development Plan, commissioned by Mayor Dilaver Bey in 1905 after the 1903 fire, to the development plans made after the Republic, Kaleiçi has predominantly retained its residential function, while Saraçlar Street has retained its commercial function. (Figures 2)Public service facilities are still present in the historical city center. A Conservation Development Plan for the Historic City Center was prepared in 1991. Plans made after 2000 had limited effects on the historic city center, and it was subsequently regulated by the 2007 Conservation-Oriented Development Plan. The 2007 approved Conservation-Oriented Development Plan aimed to improve the deterioration of the historical fabric.

Currently, the Ministry of Culture and Tourism and the Edirne Governorship are jointly working on the renovation and restoration of Saraçlar Street, which is 1500 meters long. Restoration and conservation efforts related to the historical environment are being carried out under the coordination of the Edirne Governorship. It is stated that in the future, the area where the 25 November Stadium is located will be transformed into a city square, thus supporting the holistic conservation policies of the historical city center and the work of the Edirne Municipality. (Devrim Newspaper, 2025) As of 2025, within the scope of the ongoing street revitalization project, 376 buildings have been intervened in, and 195 of them are being restored to their original form. Work continues in many areas, primarily in Saraçlar, Balıkpazarı, Çilingirler, and Terziler streets. Efforts are being made to revive the historical fabric of the streets and make them compatible with the city's identity (Batı Ekspres, 2025). The Conservation-Oriented Revision Zoning Plan is still in the approval process. Consistency of decisions and policies is crucial for ensuring the holistic/social resilience of the historical city.

In the historical city center of Edirne, the plans that organized the historical macro form between 1930 and 1960, namely the Plan of Prof. Earnst Arnold Egli and the Plan of Gündüz Özdeş, were implemented. With the increase in urban population, in 1956, the Zoning Law No. 6785 was enacted for the purpose of urban planning, followed by the Master Zoning Plan in 1963 and the Zoning Plan in 1966. The State Planning Organization was established in 1961, and with the five-year development plan covering the years 1968-1972, Edirne was included in the list of priority development regions. With the encouragement of industry in the 1970s, urban development activities increased in the city. Between 1960 and 1980, the 1966 Development Plan and the 1975 Supplementary Development Plan, which was added to this plan, were implemented. The 1975 plan designated areas for mass housing and industrial zones, and Trakya University was opened. With the 1984 plan, the area around the Selimiye Mosque, the Üç Şerefeli Mosque, and the Old Mosque became a protected historical site, and the activities of housing cooperatives accelerated (Edirne Municipality, 2003; Solmaz, 2021). Edirne was removed from the list of priority development provinces in 1976.

In the historic city center, the deterioration of the urban fabric intensified with construction activities following the urban development plans of 1966 and 1984.Tourism is one of the important sectors that provides significant economic input to the city. The presence of many monumental works in the central district has ensured that historical and cultural tourism remains vibrant. Edirne's central district offers religious, cultural, and shopping tourism. Kaleiçi, located in

the historical city center, is the first settlement area of Edirne. Due to the inadequacies of the aging urban fabric and the political decisions made regarding the city in the 1970s and 1980s, the old city residents living in the historical city center mostly began to prefer the developing areas of the city (Figure 3).

Trakya University was established by a Decree Law in 1982 in Edirne. The campuses of Trakya University, located in the Central District of Edirne, are shown in Figure 3. The Balkan campus is the largest campus, located on the Istanbul road in the southeastern part of the city. To the west of the city, in Karaağaç, the Faculty of Fine Arts is located alongside the Old Karaağaç Train Station and the Lausanne Monument.Due to the increasing population, proximity to the university, and the fact that students also reside in these areas, the Fatih, Kocasinan, Şükrüpaşa, and Atatürk neighborhoods have become preferred, and the city has expanded in this direction.

Changes in the Social Structure of Edirne City

Edirne, which has been home to many civilizations, has shown demographic differences during the Ottoman and Republican periods. While settlement existed within the city walls (Kaleiçi) until the 14th century, its population increased during the Ottoman period in the 16th century (Diktaş, 2008, p. 43). The population consists of Muslims and non-Muslims (Greeks, Armenians, Bulgarians, Catholics, Jews, Protestants) (Yurt Encyclopedia, 1981). Furthermore, Romani culture holds an important place in its multicultural structure. In the late Ottoman period, there were Romani migrations from Greece and Bulgaria (Historical Background, 2025). Although people of Romani origin mostly live in the Menzilahir neighborhood, they also partially reside in Kaleiçi and other neighborhoods.

The population of Edirne Province was 150,889 in 1927, while in 2023 it was 419,913. The population of Edirne Central district increased from 68,279 in 1927 to 194,991 in 2023. Approximately 195,000 people live in Edirne city center (DIE, 2002, TUIK, 2024, 2026a; Population of the city center by year, 2026). According to Turkish Statistical Institute (TUIK) data, Edirne province have a population of 421,247 in 2024. In 2024, Edirne received 17,332 migrants from other provinces and 16,323 migrants to other provinces, resulting in a net migration of 1,009 people and a net migration rate of 2.4. Migration from other countries was 1,361, while migration to other countries was 881. (TUIK, 2026b).

Looking at the population of immigrants who underwent citizenship procedures in Edirne until 1993, by year, those who came from Bulgaria were the most numerous between 1950-1986 (Edirne Municipality, 2007). The year with the highest net migration in Edirne was 2023 (TUIK, 2026b). It can be considered that the Kahramanmaraş earthquakes of February 6, 2023 affected Edirne as well as the entire country. The increase in net migration in 2021 and 2022 is thought to be due to the influx of people from other

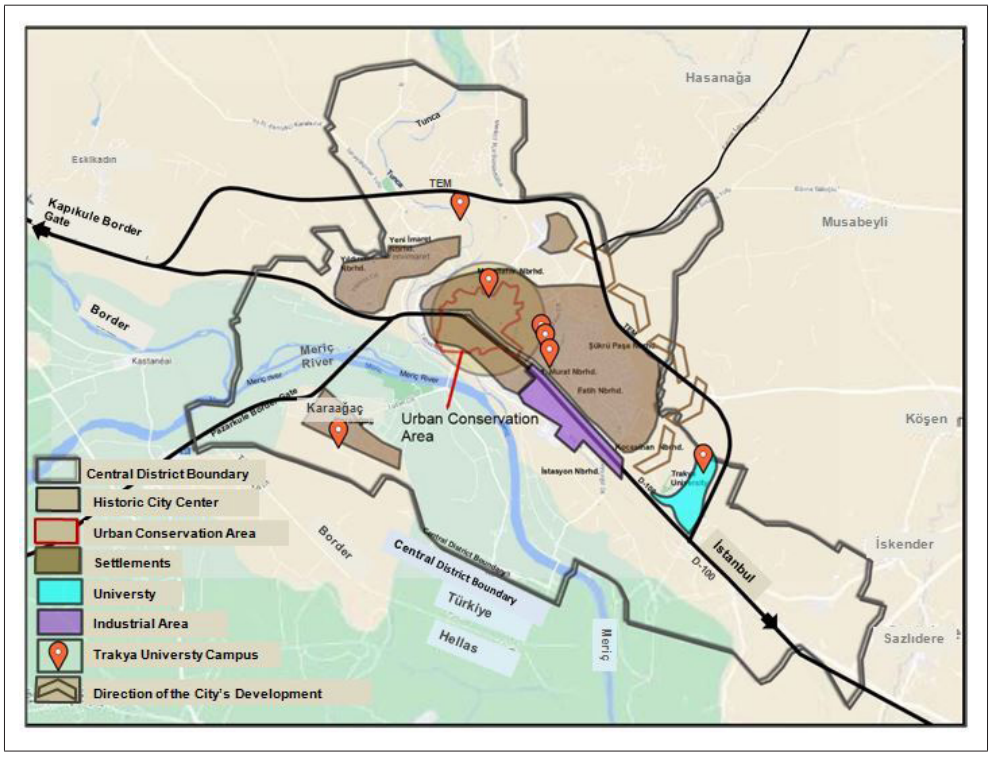

Figure 3. Diagram showing the location of existing functions in Edirne Central District.

provinces and Istanbul during the Covid Pandemic (March 2020-2021-2022-May 2023) (BBC Türkçe, 2023). Edirne and its historical city center are affected by irregular migration movements due to its location as a border city. The establishment of Thrace University and industrial areas has caused changes in the city's population. With the outbreak of the Syrian civil war in 2011, Edirne became a transit point and sometimes a stopping point for Syrian refugees who wanted to go to Europe from Edirne.

Today, the multicultural structure that forms the social fabric of Edirne includes Romani people, refugees from other countries, and those who have come from within and outside the country, all of whom are located partly in the central district of Edirne, particularly in Kaleiçi, which is a part of the historical city center.Edirne's status as a tourism, university, and transfer hub causes seasonal population movements, increasing the instability of its demographic structure, which is a significant vulnerability.

RESULTS

The survey and interviews were conducted in May and July 2024 with individuals over the age of 18 residing in the central district of Edirne, as well as with neighborhood headmenand real estate agents.

65% of the participants are between 35-55 years old, and 61% are male. 88% have completed high school or higher education. (Figure 4) 38% of the participants are private sector employees and tradespeople, 29% are civil servants, and 23% are retirees. (Figure 5) 76.4% of participants have lived in Edirne for 21 years or more. (Table 6) 65.3% of participants were born in Edirne, and 34.7% were born outside of Edirne.

In the section measuring participation in physical and social propositions, a Likert scale was used, Cronbach's Alpha reliability analysis were performed to measure validity. According to the analysis performed using SPSS software, the 20-item scale has a reliability of 87%.

This study proceeded with a descriptive research approach to analyze the established model and hypotheses. SPSS IBM version 25 statistical analysis program was used for data analysis. Reliability Analysis and Normality Test were applied. In these analyses, the acceptable margin of error (statistical significance level/p-value) was set at 5%.

Ho: The participation values regarding physical and social propositions related to Edirne satisfy the assumption of normal distribution.

H1: The participation values regarding physical and social propositions related to Edirne do not satisfy the assumption of a normal distribution.

Since the p-value is 0.295 > 0.05, the Ho hypothesis cannot

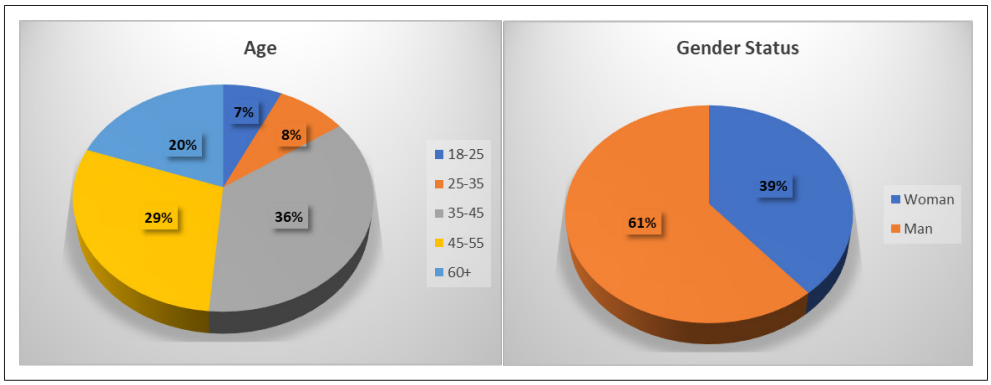

Figure 4. Age and Gender Distribution.

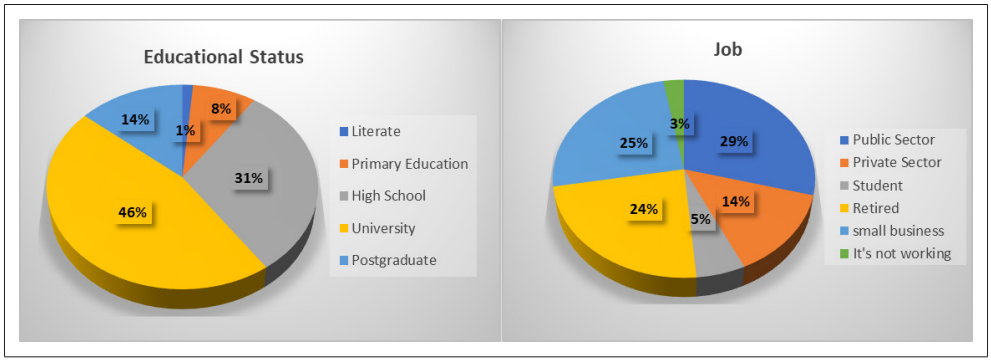

Figure 5. Education and Occupational Status.

Table 6. How long have you been living in Edirne?

	Frequency of answer	%
Less than 1 year	1	1.4%
1-5 years	8	11.1%
6-10 years	1	1.4%
11-15 years	3	4.2%
16-20 years	4	5.6%
21+	55	76.4%
Total	72	100

be rejected at the 0.05 significance level. This means that the participation values regarding the physical and social statements about Edirne satisfy the assumption of a normal distribution. (Table 7, Figure 6)

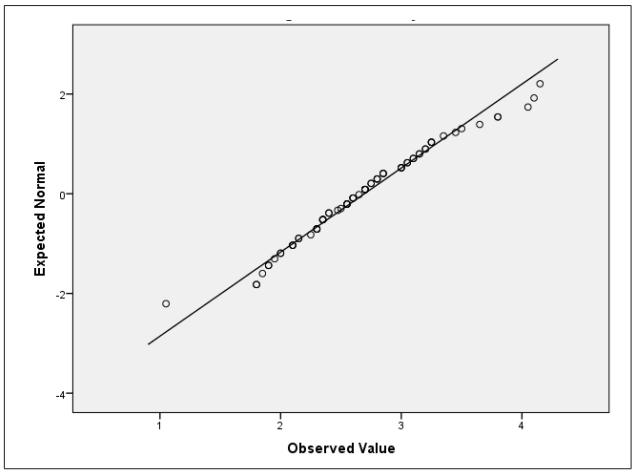

Figure 6. Normality distribution of participation in physical and social propositions related to Edirne.

Graphical Assessment of Normality

The normality of the data was evaluated using graphical methods, including a normal Q–Q plot. The graph indicated that the data were approximately normally distributed.

The frequency and percentage table regarding participation in physical and social proposals related to Edirne is shown in Appendix 1.

Participation questions and responses to physical and social propositions prepared under the headings of environmental/physical, social/societal, economic, and institutional were analyzed with the themes of vulnerability and resilience. (See Table 8)

The results regarding participation in the physical and social propositions about Edirne are shown in Table 8. A participation rate of 50% or higher is considered high potential for resilience. As a definitive resilience threshold and instead describe the results more as participant perceptions. Since the number of undecided respondents was approximately 20% and the percentages of those participating and those not participating were close, the proposition "natural values are being preserved" was marked as both fragile and resilient.

- Environmental/Physical (Infrastructure): Participants' evaluations regarding environmental and physical proposals related to Edirne indicate that historical and natural values are mostly preserved, they are partially satisfied with infrastructure services, transportation facilities, and the adequacy of green spaces, and public transportation is mostly inefficient.
- When participants evaluated the city from a social perspective, they stated that there were not many opportunities to spend their leisure time. They were partially satisfied with the variety of social activities and the existence of cultural events. They considered the city to be safe, and the quality of life was generally deemed good.
- The vast majority of participants believe that Edirne is generally a safe city. However, in interviews with participants, it was mostly stated that the Kaleiçi area, which is part of the Historical City Center, had a more respectable and livable spatial and social structure before the 1980s. While there are concerns about nighttime street safety in Kaleiçi, it is currently considered an option for those whose economic level does not allow them to afford new and comfortable housing in developing areas, due to the more affordable rental and sale prices of housing there.
- According to the participants, the attitude of Edirne residents towards foreigners (refugees or those from other places) is partially positive, and there is a general belief that urban solidarity can be easily

Table 7. Tests of normality

	Kolmogorov-Smirnova			Shapiro-Wilk		
	Statistic	df	Sig.	Statistic	df	Sig.
Participation in physical and social proposals regarding Edirne	0.077	72	0.200*	0.980	72	0.296

*A Sig. value of 0.20 indicates that the data are normally distributed.

Table 8. Questions on participation in physical and social propositions (Evaluated based on survey and interview questions from May-July 2024.)

CATEGORY /SIZE	PARTICIPATION IN PHYSICAL AND SOCIAL PROPOSALS	PERCENTAGE OF AGREEMENT	PERCENTAGE OF DISAGREEMENT	VULNERABLE (LESS THAN 50%)	RESILIENce potential (HIGHER than 50%)
ENVIRONMENTAL /PHYSICAL (INFRASTRUCTURE)	Natural values are being protected.	37.5% *(Undecided: 20.8%, therefore both)	41.7%	X	X
	I am satisfied with the infrastructure services in the city.	12.5%, *(Undecided: 13.9%)	73.6%	X	
	I am satisfied with the transportation options in the city.	18.1%, *(Undecided: % 18.1)	63.8%	X	
	Public transportation is efficient.	25%, *(Undecided: 20,8%)	54.2%	X	
	Historical values are being preserved.	51.4% *(Undecided: % 25)	23.6%		X
	I am satisfied with the adequacy of green spaces in the city.	15.3%, *(Undecided: 25%)	59.7%	X	
SOCIAL / COMMUNITY	There are many opportunities to make the most of my free time.	25%, *(Undecided:27.8%)	47.2%	X	
	I am pleased with the variety of social activities.	27.8%, *(Undecided:22.2%)	50%	X	
	There are numerous cultural activities.	25%,*Undecided:26.4%	48.6%	X	
	It is a safe city.	86.1%, *Undecided:4.2%	9.7%		X
	I find the quality of life in the city to be good.	56.9%, *Undecided:27.8	15.3%		X
	People in Edirne have a positive attitude towards foreigners (non-tourists - refugees or those from other places).	27.8%, *Undecided:25	47.2%	X	
	The people of Edirne can easily demonstrate urban solidarity during difficult times.	44.5% *Undecided:34.7%	20.8%		X
	People in Edirne can easily demonstrate social solidarity during difficult times.	55.6%, *Undecided:27.8%	16.6%		X
ECONOMIC	It's not considered an expensive city to live in.	9.7%, *Undecided:15.3%	75%	X	
	I am satisfied with the job opportunities in the city.	20.8%, *Undecided:20.8%	58.4%	X	
	Rental housing prices in the city are affordable.	4.2%, *Undecided:6.9%	88.9%	X	
	Housing prices in the city are affordable.	8.3%, *Undecided:11.1%	80.6%	X	
	The city center will meet all your needs.	48.6% *Undecided:27.8%	23. 6%		X
INSTITUTIONAL/ ADMINISTRATIVE	I am satisfied with the city administration's services.	22.2%, *Undecided:30.6%	47.2%	X	

achieved during difficult times.

- Economically, the city is considered to be relatively expensive to live in, and job opportunities are generally unsatisfactory. According to participants, rental/sale prices for housing in the city are not sufficiently affordable. However, it is generally believed that the city center meets all needs. According to real estate agents, religious tourism is mostly in the form of day trips rather than overnight stays.
- Administrative: The response received indicated partial satisfaction with the services of the city administration.

Belonging to the city, participation and social solidarity

In this section, the data obtained from surveys and interviews are grouped under three main themes: These are; (1) belonging to the city, (2) urban participation and (3) social solidarity.

To assess the social resilience of the city, responses to survey and interview questions related to belonging, participation, and social solidarity were analyzed (See Tables 9, 10, 11).

Regarding questions about belonging to the city, participants mostly gave positive answers. 94.4% of participants thought they knew the city, 93.1% followed the city's development process, and 73.6% had a means or opportunity to be informed about decisions made regarding the city. 72.2% followed local newspapers. While 68.1% knew about the Edirne City Council, 58.3% were unaware of the Edirne City Council's activities. (Table 9) They stated that the first thing that comes to mind when Edirne is mentioned is the Selimiye Mosque, and that the most important features of Edirne are primarily its history and culture.

When we examine the participants' answers to questions about the participatory environment, we see that 73.6% are not members of civil society organizations. 72.2% do not participate in the work of local newspapers. 55.6% do not follow the process of making planning decisions for the city. 70.8% want to participate in decisions related to the city. 76.4% are not active in the decision-making processes in the city where they live. (Table 10) According to the participants' answers regarding the participatory environment, although they want to participate in decisions related to the city, they are not active in this regard.

According to the survey and interview results:

Resilient characteristics associated with belonging to the city are that participants mostly follow the city's devel-

Table 9. Belonging to the city

Belonging to the city	Yes	No
Do you think you know this city?	94.40%	5.60%
Are you following the city's development process?	93.10%	6.90%
Do you have any means or channels to stay informed about decisions regarding the city?	73.60%	26.40%
Do you follow local newspapers?	72.20%	27.80%
Are you familiar with the Edirne City Council?	68.10%	31.90%
Are you aware of the work of the Edirne City Council?	41.70%	58.30%

Table 10. Participation environment

Participation Environment	Yes	No
Are you a member of any NGOs?	26.40%	73.60%
Do you participate in the work of local newspapers?	27.80%	72.20%
Are you following the process of making urban planning decisions?	44.4%	55.60%
Do you have a desire to participate in the decisions made regarding this city?	70.8%	29.2%
Are you actively involved in the decision-making processes in the city where you live?	23.6%	76.4%

Table 11. Social solidarity

Social Solidarity	Yes	Undecided / Neutral	No
Is the attitude of the people of Edirne towards foreigners (refugees or those from other places) positive?	27.8%	25%	47.2%
Can the people of Edirne easily provide urban solidarity during difficult times?	44.5%	34.7%	20.8%
Can the people of Edirne easily provide social solidarity during difficult times?	55.6%	27.8%	16.6%

opment process. It is having an environment and tools to be informed about decisions made regarding the city. The process of making city planning decisions is followed by 44.4% of the participants. The resilient characteristics of a participatory environment include the participants' general willingness to engage in decisions related to the city. In interviews with participants, it was mostly stated that they were able to learn about decisions made about the city through social media, local newspapers, and Edirne television. Their desire to participate in decisions made about the city shows that they have a positive attitude towards urban participation. The existence of a participatory environment is an important element in the preservation of the historical urban heritage, along with a sense of belonging to the city. (Table 10)

Regarding the participatory environment, insufficient active participation in decision-making processes within the city has been identified as a vulnerability. The desire to participate in decisions concerning the city, and having access to a platform or means to be informed about these decisions, are resilient characteristics of a participatory environment. Being involved in matters concerning the city of Edirne, and having a desire to participate in urban public decisions related to the city, is an important part of a sense of belonging to the city. Although participants are willing to participate in decisions concerning the city, they often do not follow the decision-making process for urban planning decisions.

The survey results show that 55.6% of participants believe that social solidarity is strong. Looking at the participants' answers to questions about social solidarity, it is seen that the percentage of those who were undecided is not small. According to the participants, the people of Edirne believe that they can more easily provide social solidarity in difficult times. According to the participants, the attitude of the people of Edirne towards foreigners (refugees or those from other places) is partially positive, and the belief that urban solidarity can be easily provided in difficult times is partially held by 44.5% of the participants. Positive attitudes regarding urban and social solidarity do not vary significantly depending on the length of time spent living in Edirne. The majority of participants believe that urban and social solidarity can be provided in Edirne in difficult times (Table 11).

DISCUSSION

The data obtained within the scope of the research shows that social resilience in Edirne does not exhibit a one-sided structure. The strong sense of belonging to the city among the majority of participants, their willingness to participate in decision-making processes, and their belief that solidarity is possible in difficult times can be seen as an important foundation of social capacity. However, the insufficient support of this desire through institutional mechanisms prevents its full potential from being realized. In this context, it is understood that social resilience is not only a societal capacity but also a structure directly related to administrative and political processes.

Edirne's status as a border city, coupled with seasonal migration movements and population fluctuations stemming from the university, creates discontinuities in its demographic structure. This mobility generates certain risks in terms of social cohesion and continuity at the neighborhood level in the historical city center. Therefore, the conservation approach in historical environments should not be limited solely to physical rehabilitation projects; it must be addressed together with social policies that support the established community structure. Otherwise,spatial improvements may not produce the expected effect if community continuityis not ensured.

In the field of historical and cultural heritage, while the concept of conservation is considered holistically with environmental/physical, social, and economic development, an interdisciplinary approach in the preparation of urban plans and policies can yield positive results (Hosagrahar et al., 2016). In this context, this study aims to identify the determinants of social resilience in the historical city center of Edirne and to examine the relationship between these determinants and management and planning processes.

The research seeks to answer the following questions:

What are the key components that determine social resilience?
The social resilience criteria for Edirne and its Historical City Center have been determined as follows: demographic situation, satisfaction with social and cultural life, satisfaction with urban life and economy, social solidarity, sense of belonging to the city, participatory environment, and satisfaction with public services.

How are these components related to the dimensions of urban vulnerability?
When explaining vulnerabilities related to the components of the city's social resilience, important findings are made regarding the areas in which the city's resilience can be ensured.

Satisfaction with social and cultural life: The lack of diversity in social and cultural activities and insufficient opportunities for leisure activities are among the vulnerabilities indicated by the participants.

Satisfaction with urban life and economy: Being an expensive city to live in, insufficient job opportunities, and the low prices of houses for sale/rent are among the problems encountered in urban life in Edirne and its historical city center.

Social solidarity: According to the participants, the people of Edirne can provide social solidarity in difficult times.

Belonging to the city: In this context, the partial lack of social inclusion is among the vulnerabilities obtained from the interview analyses.

Participation environment: Survey and interview questions revealed that participants were only partially members of NGOs, mostly did not participate in the work of local newspapers, were mostly unaware of the work of the Edirne City Council, mostly did not follow the decision-making process for urban planning, and were mostly not actively involved in decision-making processes in their city. Their lack of active participation in city-related decisions, despite their desire to do so, is a vulnerability related to this component.

Satisfaction with public services: According to the results of surveys and interviews conducted in Edirne and its historical city center, dissatisfaction with infrastructure services, transportation facilities, public transport services, and the adequacy of green spaces in the city, and partial satisfaction with the services of the city administration, are among the vulnerabilities in this context.

How can indicators of social resilience be integrated into planning processes?

This study, using the example of Edirne's Historical City Center, demonstrates that social resilience is not merely a complementary concept in the preservation of historical environments and planning processes; rather, by following the Historical Urban Landscape (HUL) approach, it provides a decisive framework for understanding vulnerabilities and identifying areas of intervention.

The research findings revealed the key factors affecting the resilience capacity of the historic city center and formed the basis for developing the proposed planning framework. Accordingly, the findings were translated into spatial, social, economic, and institutional intervention areas, and priority strategies were developed for decision-makers.

Infrastructure/Spatial

Vulnerabilities related to satisfaction with public services are mostly related to the physical environment and infrastructure.

In the study area, which also includes the Kaleiçi settlement, in addition to physical preservation efforts, the integration of the city's general/social resilience characteristics/policies into processes that positively influence physical spatial decisions can be evaluated, thereby creating a historically integrated environment with the city.

Social

According to the statements obtained from the interviews, it was revealed that spatial identity is mostly associated with the Edirne Historical City Center and the Selimiye Mosque. The study shows that those living in Edirne and in the historical city center have a sense of belonging to the city.

The fact that the participants in the research were knowledgeable and mostly engaged about their living environments/cities in the interviews can contribute to increasing the overall resilience capacity of the city and making it less affected by vulnerabilities.

In Edirne, which has a historical city center, it was assessed that the participants have the social capacity to ensure the holistic/social resilience of the city in times of crisis and danger, and that they are open to education, awareness and sensitivity studies, as well as cooperation with other social and institutional actors.

Participants' positive attitudes towards belonging are positive attributes in terms of their ability to organize and participate (Keck & Sakdapolrak, 2013). It is thought that these attributes will have positive effects in creating a participatory approach environment in the city's public policies. Having data on belonging to the city, urban participation, and social solidarity has the potential to contribute to processes that will generate solutions for the social/holistic resilience of the city.

While the vast majority of participants believe that Edirne is a safe city, interviews with participants revealed that the Kaleiçi region, which is part of the Historic City Center, has lost its more refined and livable spatial and social structure since the 1980s, leading to increasing concerns about nighttime street safety. This is considered a social vulnerability. The decrease in the sense of social security in the historic city center may also reduce the tendency towards social solidarity.

According to the responses given by the participants in the study, the fact that the majority of participants in Edirne and its Historical City Center have a university or higher education level, find the city safe, were born in Edirne, and believe that the historical and natural values of the city are largely preserved, that the city center can meet all their needs, and their general perception of satisfaction are factors that may contribute to the social resilience of the city.

Economic

Cities create processes, mechanisms, and activities that enable them to be the driving force of socio-economic development in a country or region by creating job opportunities, increasing household income, attracting investment, reducing social tensions and crime, increasing equality and participation, promoting social cohesion, and improving security and safety (UN-Habitat, 2018, p. 9).

The fact that most participants perceive the city as an expensive place to live and that job opportunities are generally seen as limited underlines the need to increase the resilience of the city's economy. The city's economic development policies can be evaluated in relation to its spatial and social policies.

Institutional
Partial satisfaction with the city's municipal services is among the issues to be considered in order to increase the overall/social resilience of the city. When the vulnerabilities and resilience of the city of Edirne and its historical city center are evaluated together with qualitative data, it can facilitate the production of protection and planning policies that will increase the social resilience of the city.

CONCLUSION

The social resilience of a city is not only a relational and dynamic process, but also a political process encompassing urban and public policies. While Edirne has large-scale Strategic Plans and Environmental Planning Plans, it also has smaller-scale Implementation Zoning Plans and Conservation Zoning Plans. Although the issue of participation is addressed in the plans, improving the public's active participation in the implementation process could enhance the quality and feasibility of the plans. For this, appropriate practices supported by education and awareness-raising aimed at developing practices that will increase participation in the planning process can be tried. İncreasing stakeholder awareness, and making collaborations more effective are important for the resilience of the city.

In the current situation, it is observed that Conservation Zoning Plans largely focus on spatial arrangements; legal and administrative tools that address social resilience in a holistic way are limited. This situation can be considered one of the factors that reduce the effectiveness of plan decisions in practice. Updating the Management Plan emerges as an important necessity in this context.

While Law No. 2863 (Law on the Protection of Cultural and Natural Heritage) mentions participation by stating that Master and Implementation Development Plans should be prepared "within a specific vision and theme, including participatory area management models," there is insufficient effective activity related to this issue in practice. The legal and administrative framework can make it mandatory to plan and implement processes aimed at increasing the social resilience of the city.

The current approach to cultural heritage site management requires not only the spatial preservation of cultural assets but also a systematic assessment of the attitudes of residents in historical city centers regarding belonging to the city, urban participation, and social solidarity, as well as the vulnerabilities of the city. In this context, integrating social resilience indicators into site management and spatial planning processes supports not only the preservation of historical city centers but also their sustainability as living and evolving urban systems.

Adding social resilience indicators as an "analysis" to the current "Cultural Heritage Site Management" legislation in Türkiye will enhance the overall resilience of the city.

The stages for developing a Planning Decision Support Framework based on the social resilience of the city can be structured as follows: identifying the city's vulnerabilities, determining indicators of social resilience, analyzing the relationship between vulnerability and resilience, developing priorities for urban planning and conservation policies, integration into the area management plan, participatory decision-making and its integration into planning decisions, monitoring and feedback. (Table 12)

In the proposed Planning Decision Support Framework—which is grounded in the city's social resilience—practices that actively involve residents in the process (such as identifying urban vulnerabilities and social resilience indicators, as well as participatory decision-making) could be expanded. Thus, alongside data derived from participants' perceptions, positive urban relationships—such as social solidarity and a sense of belonging to the city (as demonstrated in this study)—can play an effective role in fostering resilience, and specifically social resilience.

The management of the historic city center should focus on the social resilience of the city, as this is necessary to reduce vulnerabilities and increase social endurance. Furthermore, the social resilience of the city should be considered not merely as an abstract conceptual discussion, but as an analytical layer that can be used in decision-making processes.

It is crucial for civil society organizations, Trakya University, the Ministry of National Education, local and central governments, and other public and private institutions to inform each other about their work on policies aimed at ensuring the social resilience of the city and to utilize today's technological and communication opportunities. The importance of the issue of the city's social resilience and the planning processes that enable institutions and society to work together can be emphasized in policies and urban planning at all scales.

Table 12. Planning Decision Support Framework Based on the Social Resilience of the City

1.	Identifying the city's vulnerabilities. (Physical, social, economic, and administrative vulnerabilities)
2.	Determining indicators of social resilience.
3.	Analysis of the relationship between vulnerability and resilience.
4.	Developing priorities for urban planning and conservation policies.
5.	Integration into the area management plan.
6.	Participatory decision-making (Local people, Municipality, Central government, NGOs, University, Local economic actors, etc.)
7.	Integration of this into planning decisions. (Coordination between area management, conservation plan and urban planning policies)
8.	Monitoring and feedback.

Although this study relies on a limited sample size in terms of evaluating the social resilience of the city through the perceptions of local actors, it offers a framework for including local indicators in the planning process.

In conclusion, ensuring the sustainability of historical city centers in environments of uncertainty and multiple vulnerabilities depends not only on spatial interventions but also on strengthening social capacity. The Edirne example shows that social resilience offers an important basis for re-examining the relationship between conservation and planning in cities with historical city centers.

In conclusion, the sustainability of the city of Edirne and its Historical City Center is possible through ensuring the social resilience of the city and supporting physical conservation efforts through participatory channels that foster a sense of belonging.

ETHICS: There are no ethical issues with the publication of this manuscript.

PEER-REVIEW: Externally peer-reviewed.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST: The author declared no potential conflicts of interest with respect to the research, authorship, and/or publication of this article.

FINANCIAL DISCLOSURE: The author declared that this study has received no financial support.

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A*ppendix 1.* The table below shows the frequency and percentages of participation in physical and social proposals related to Edirne

		Gender			
		Female		Male	
		Column N %	Count	Column N %	Count
I am satisfied with the infrastructure services in the city.	I strongly disagree	60.7%	17	36.4%	16
	I disagree	14.3%	4	36.4%	16
	I'm undecided	21.4%	6	9.1%	4
	I agree	3.6%	1	13.6%	6
	I strongly agree	0.0%	0	4.5%	2
I am satisfied with the transportation options in the city.	I strongly disagree	32.1%	9	22.7%	10
	I disagree	32.1%	9	40.9%	18
	I'm undecided	17.9%	5	18.2%	8
	I agree	14.3%	4	18.2%	8
	I strongly agree	3.6%	1	0.0%	0
Public transport efficient.	I strongly disagree	32.1%	9	22.7%	10
	I disagree	21.4%	6	31.8%	14
	I'm undecided	25.0%	7	18.2%	8
	I agree	17.9%	5	22.7%	10
	I strongly agree	3.6%	1	4.5%	2
There are many opportunities to make the most of my free time.	I strongly disagree	28.6%	8	20.5%	9
	I disagree	14.3%	4	29.5%	13
	I'm undecided	46.4%	13	15.9%	7
	I agree	10.7%	3	27,3%	12
	I strongly agree	0.0%	0	6.8%	3
I am pleased with the variety of social activities.	I strongly disagree	25.0%	7	15.9%	7
	I disagree	21.4%	6	36.4%	16
	I'm undecided	35.7%	10	13.6%	6
	I agree	17.9%	5	22.7%	10
	I strongly agree	0.0%	0	11.4%	5
Cultural activities are numerous.	I strongly disagree	21.4%	6	15.9%	7
	I disagree	32.1%	9	29.5%	13
	I'm undecided	32.1%	9	22.7%	10
	I agree	14.3%	4	20.5%	9
	I strongly agree	0.0%	0	11.4%	5
Historical values are being preserved.	I strongly disagree	3.6%	1	9,1%	4
	I disagree	21.4%	6	13.6%	6
	I'm undecided	17.9%	5	29.5%	13
	I agree	39.3%	11	40.9%	18
	I strongly agree	17.9%	5	6.8%	3
Natural values are being protected.	I strongly disagree	10.7%	3	6.8%	3
	I disagree	32.1%	9	34.1%	15
	I'm undecided	17.9%	5	22.7%	10
	I agree	39.3%	11	34.1%	15
	I strongly agree	0.0%	0	2.3%	1

Ap*pendix 1.* Continued

		Gender			
		Female		Male	
		Column N %	Count	Column N %	Count
It's not considered an expensive city to live in.	I strongly disagree	35.7%	10	54.5%	24
	I disagree	28.6%	8	27.3%	12
	I'm undecided	25.0%	7	9.1%	4
	I agree	10.7%	3	4.5%	2
	I strongly agree	0.0%	0	4.5%	2
I am satisfied with the job opportunities in the city.	I strongly disagree	35.7%	10	34.1%	15
	I disagree	14.3%	4	29.5%	13
	I'm undecided	32.1%	9	13.6%	6
	I agree	17.9%	5	20.5%	9
	I strongly agree	0.0%	0	2.3%	1
Rental housing prices in the city are affordable.	I strongly disagree	53.6%	15	47.7%	21
	I disagree	32.1%	9	43.2%	19
	I'm undecided	10.7%	3	4.5%	2
	I agree	3.6%	1	2.3%	1
	I strongly agree	0.0%	0	2.3%	1
Housing prices in the city are affordable.	I strongly disagree	50.0%	14	52.3%	23
	I disagree	28.6%	8	29.5%	13
	I'm undecided	14.3%	4	9.1%	4
	I agree	7.1%	2	9.1%	4
	I strongly agree	0.0%	0	0.0%	0
It is a safe city.	I strongly disagree	3,6%	1	4,5%	2
	I disagree	0,0%	0	9,1%	4
	I'm undecided	7.1%	2	2.3%	1
	I agree	28.6%	8	40.9%	18
	I strongly agree	60,7%	17	43.2%	19
I find the quality of life in the city to be good.	I strongly disagree	3,6%	1	4.5%	2
	I disagree	10.7%	3	11.4%	5
	I'm undecided	39.3%	11	20.5%	9
	I agree	39.3%	11	47,7%	21
	I strongly agree	7.1%	2	15.9%	7
I am satisfied with the adequacy of green spaces in the city.	I strongly disagree	25,0%	7	15,9%	7
	I disagree	46,4%	13	36,4%	16
	I'm undecided	17.9%	5	29.5%	13
	I agree	10.7%	3	11.4%	5
	I strongly agree	0.0%	0	6.8%	3
People in Edirne have a positive attitude towards foreigners (refugees or those from other places).	I strongly disagree	21.4%	6	29.5%	13
	I disagree	10,7%	3	27,3%	12
	I'm undecided	35,7%	10	18.2%	8
	I agree	28,6%	8	20.5%	9
	I strongly agree	3.6%	1	4.5%	2

A*ppendix 1.* Continued

		Gender			
		Female		Male	
		Column N %	Count	Column N %	Count
The people of Edirne can easily demonstrate urban solidarity during difficult times.	I strongly disagree	0,0%	0	13,6%	6
	I disagree	10.7%	3	13.6%	6
	I'm undecided	46.4%	13	27.3%	12
	I agree	21.4%	6	36.4%	16
	I strongly agree	21.4%	6	9,1%	4
People in Edirne can easily provide social solidarity during difficult times.	I strongly disagree	0,0%	0	7.0%	3
	I disagree	10.7%	3	14.0%	6
	I'm undecided	28.6%	8	27.9%	12
	I agree	39.3%	11	34.9%	15
	I strongly agree	21.4%	6	16.3%	7
The city center meets all your needs.	I strongly disagree	3.6%	1	9.1%	4
	I disagree	10.7%	3	20.5%	9
	I'm undecided	32.1%	9	25.0%	11
	I agree	42.9%	12	34.1%	15
	I strongly agree	10.7%	3	11.4%	5
I am satisfied with the city administration's services.	I strongly disagree	10.7%	3	15.9%	7
	I disagree	35.7%	10	31.8%	14
	I'm undecided	35.7%	10	27.3%	12
	I agree	17.9%	5	20.5%	9
	I strongly agree	0.0%	0	4.5%	2