

CO-DIAGNOSTICS: KIBRIS ŞEHİTLERİ STREET

Measuring the Quality of Public Life

CO-DIAGNOSTICS: KIBRIS ŞEHİTLERİ STREET MEASURING QUALITY OF PUBLIC LIFE

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FOREWORD

In today's context, particularly one marked by rapid urbanization, climate change, and deepening spatial inequalities, the qualitative evaluation of public spaces and the development of user-based transformation suggestions have become highly important.

This report was developed to analyze the current spatial and social conditions of Kibris Şehitleri Street, one of the important public spaces located in Konak district of İzmir, and to present a multidimensional assessment of the quality of public life through user experiences. The study was carried out through a Co-Diagnostics process, in line with the core principles of the Citizen Design Science approach, directly incorporating users' needs and expectations into the process.

Kibris Şehitleri Street is not merely an urban passageway; it is also a public space with the potential to become a center of social encounters, daily interactions, commercial functions, and collective experiences. Therefore, the study analyzes the experiences of users according to different age, gender, occupational, and mobility profiles, and identifies the current issues and potentials of the area by bringing together face-to-face interviews and survey data.

The findings obtained from the study not only define the current situation, but also include user-based urban suggestions aimed at creating a more inclusive, accessible, comfortable, and safer public space.

Ass. Prof. Pelin Özden

KIBRIS ŞEHİTLERİ STREET

1



As part of the fieldwork on Kıbrıs Şehitleri Street, spatial observation, face-to-face interviews, and a survey study were conducted. Data collection was carried out on one weekday and one weekend day, on 08.11.2025 and 11.11.2025, between 10:00 and 19:00. A five-person team from İzmir Metropolitan Municipality and İzmir Planning Agency simultaneously carried out observations, surveys, and interviews throughout the fieldwork. Spatial observations were conducted by the field team, and the current condition of Kıbrıs Şehitleri Street was documented through photographs. Face-to-face interviews were conducted with a total of 8 key actors, including shopkeepers, local residents, and visitors. The survey study reached 90 respondents through face-to-face fieldwork and a digital survey. Convenience sampling was preferred as the sampling method.

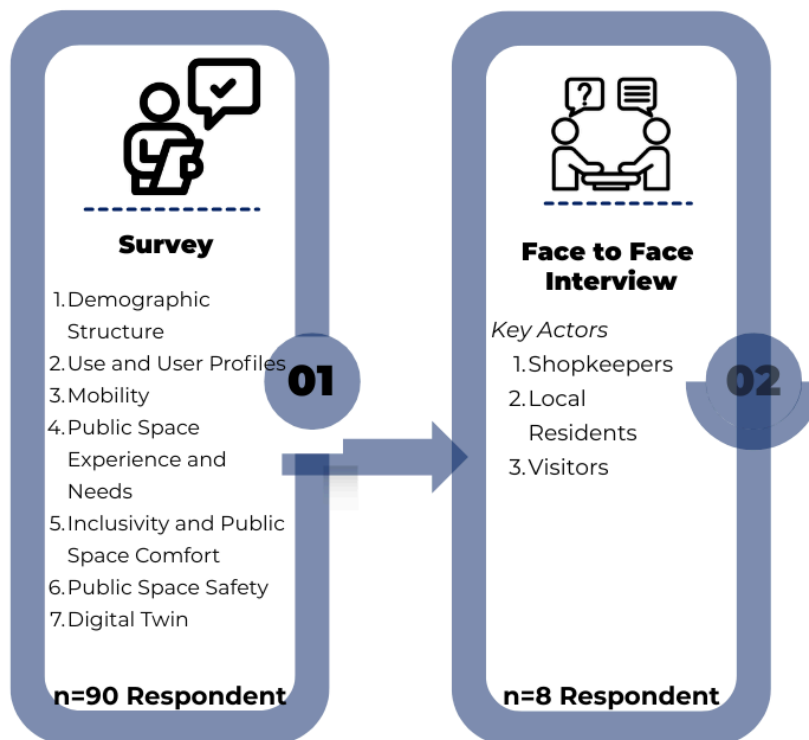


Figure 1: Methodology

1.1. Spatial Observations and Face to Face Interviews

Kıbrıs Şehitleri Street is located in Alsancak Neighborhood, Konak District, İzmir Province. The boundaries of Kıbrıs Şehitleri Street are defined by the adjacent building fabric. The street, which is approximately 800 meters long, takes an average of 12 minutes to walk. As one of İzmir’s important pedestrian axes, Kıbrıs Şehitleri Street hosts commercial units from various sectors as well as cultural and social activities. This street, where everyday life practices, economic activities, and different user groups intersect spatially, stands out as one of the city’s iconic public spaces.



Figure 2: Surroundings of the Area

Kıbrıs Şehitleri Street is characterized as a multifunctional public space. It contains various commercial units in the food and beverage, retail, market and food, service, health and pharmacy, and other sectors. As the first stopping point for tourists arriving from Alsancak Port, Kıbrıs Şehitleri Street stands out as an important public space for tourists, local users, and visitors.



Figure 3: Various Commercial Units

Access to Kıbrıs Şehitleri Street is provided through various transportation alternatives including private cars, public transport, and bicycles (Figure 4). In the immediate vicinity of the area are a ferry terminal, bus stops, tram stops, and İZBAN stations. The various public transportation alternatives available in the area, together with nearby bicycle lanes, increase its accessibility.



Figure 4: Kibris Şehitleri Street Transportation Connectivity

In Konak district, which has a hot climate, temperatures can reach up to 45°C in the summer months (Figure 5). On Kibris Şehitleri Street, it was determined using satellite image data that surface temperatures reached up to 41.5°C in July 2024. The lack of shading elements in the area reduces thermal comfort, especially during the summer months, thereby limiting the area’s potential.

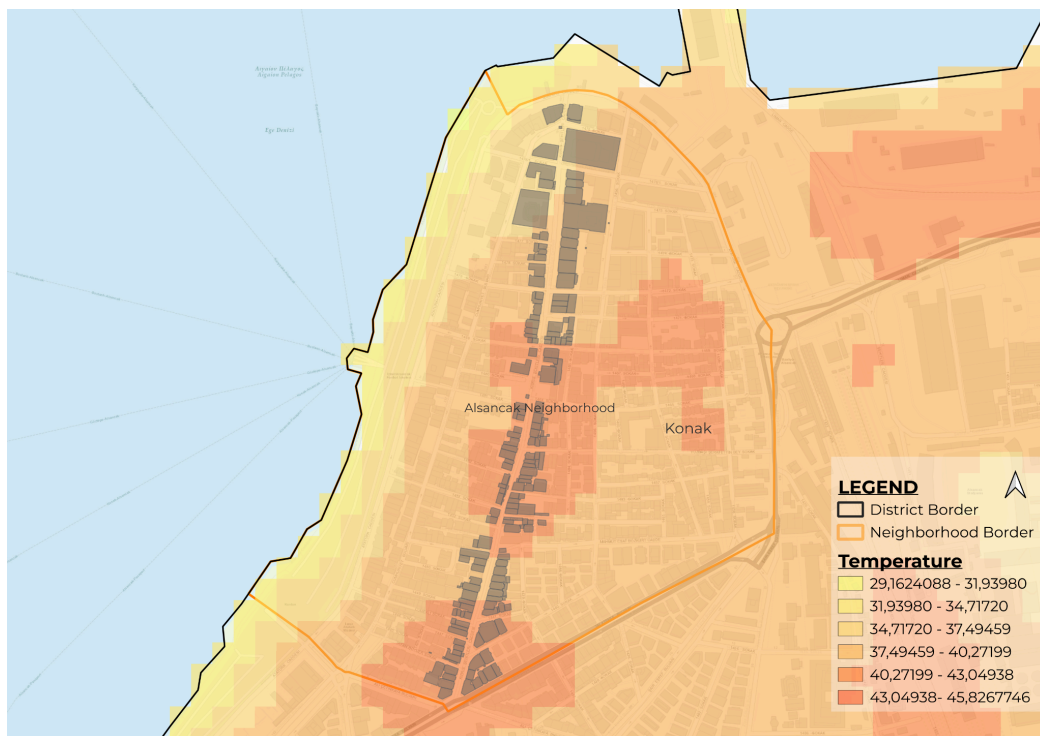


Figure 5: Alsancak Neighborhood Surface Temperature Map
(Source: Created in QGIS using July 2024 Landsat 8 satellite imagery data.)

According to spatial observations conducted on Kıbrıs Şehitleri Street, street furniture in the area was found to be quite limited. There are only a limited number of seating areas in the children's playground and at connection points with side streets such as Mehmet Esat Bozkurt Street. It was also observed that accumulated waste in the area causes hygiene problems.



Figure 6: Seating Areas

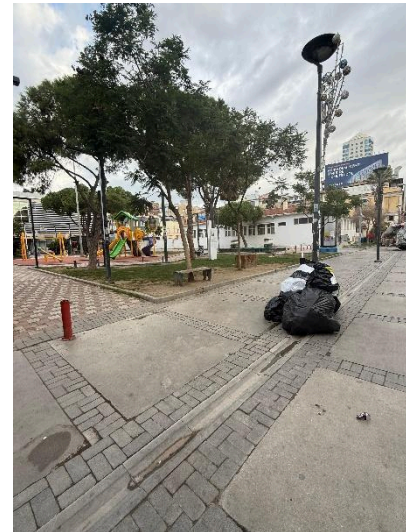











Figure 7: Waste Problem




Spatial observations conducted on rainy days revealed the formation of puddles in the area (Figure 8). In addition, the absence of enclosed or semi-open public spaces in the area during rainy weather restricts user mobility and reduces spatial comfort for users.









Figure 8: Puddles




In order to understand the current condition of Kıbrıs Şehitleri Street and identify users' needs, *face-to-face interviews* were conducted with a total of 8 users, including 3 men and 5 women. During the interviews, different key actors were included, consisting of 4 local residents, 2 visitors, and 2 shopkeepers.




Demographic Information	Interview No: 1
 <p>Gender Male</p>  <p>Age: 66</p>  <p>Respondent Profile: Shopkeeper</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The 66-year-old male user stated that he spends time on Kibris Şehitleri Street every day because he is a shopkeeper. • He reported that the area suffers from safety, cleanliness, lack of shaded areas, odor problems, and infrastructure issues. • He stated that fortune tellers, beggars, and people using illicit substances on the street create insecurity. • He added that puddles and flooding occur on rainy days. • Emphasizing that there is a serious odor problem on the street, the respondent underlined the importance of scheduling waste collection so that shopkeepers do not leave their garbage on the street.
Demographic Information	Interview No: 2
 <p>Gender Female</p>  <p>Age: 55</p>  <p>Respondent Profile: Local Resident</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The 55-year-old female user stated that she passes through Kibris Şehitleri Street every day. • She noted that there are no seating areas for resting and said that seating elements should be placed at wider sections of the street for short-term rest. • She stated that there is a lack of shaded areas on very hot summer days and that shaded areas should be added at the entrance of Mahmut Esat Bozkurt Street and on the port side. • She also described the street as very noisy and said that she feels unsafe due to the change in user profile after 22:00.
Demographic Information	Interview No: 3
 <p>Gender Male</p>  <p>Age: 43</p>  <p>Respondent Profile: Shopkeeper</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The 43-year-old shopkeeper stated that visitors have difficulty walking because of the pavement. He emphasized that this is particularly challenging for users with strollers, disabled users, and the elderly. • He noted that Kibris Şehitleri Street is one of the first places tourists encounter when they arrive from the port. • He stated that beggars and people selling tissues on the street disturb both tourists and local users. • He also reported a serious odor problem and a fly problem caused by the sewer system.

Demographic Information	Interview No: 4
 <p>Gender Female</p>  <p>Age: 39</p>  <p>Respondent Profile: Local Resident</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The 39-year-old female resident stated that she experiences noise problems because of loud music late into the night. • She said that during the daytime she feels unsafe because of fortune tellers and beggars, and late at night because of substance use. • Emphasizing the lack of green space in the area, she noted that trees should be planted. • She also pointed out the importance of seating elements, shaded areas, and cleaning and maintenance works.

Demographic Information	Interview No: 5
 <p>Gender Male</p>  <p>Age: 35</p>  <p>Respondent Profile: Local Resident</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The 35-year-old male user stated that he generally uses the area for a wide range of purposes, such as transit, socializing, and sports/walking. • He reported encroachment problems, insufficient seating elements, and cleanliness issues in the area. • He stated that flooding occurs on rainy days due to inadequate infrastructure and that the ground becomes slippery. • Although he noted that there are partially shaded areas in summer, he emphasized that increasing shaded areas integrated with seating elements would make the area more attractive. • He also stated that the incompatibility of building-front signage creates aesthetic problems on the street.

Demographic Information	Interview No: 6
 <p>Gender Female</p>  <p>Age: 28</p>  <p>Respondent Profile: Visitor</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The 28-year-old female user stated that she uses the area once a week for socializing. • She emphasized insufficient green space, lack of shaded areas, cleanliness, and safety problems. • Stating that the area is very hot in summer, she said that temperatures could be reduced by increasing green space. • She added that she cannot spend time in the area after 23:00. because of substance use and emphasized the need to increase monitoring mechanisms and lighting elements.

Demographic Information	Interview No: 7
 <p>Gender Female</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The 68-year-old female user stated that the street used to be safer in the past, but in recent years the change in user profile has negatively affected perceptions of safety. • She stated that she feels unsafe at all hours of the day. • She added that she has difficulty walking because of the crowd and the pavement. • She also mentioned the cleanliness problem, stating that she is disturbed by shopkeepers leaving their garbage on the street. • She pointed out the need to increase the number of seating elements in the area.
 <p>Age: 68</p>	
 <p>Respondent Profile: Local Resident</p>	

Demographic Information	Interview No: 8
 <p>Gender Female</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The user, who stated that she comes to the area from Karabağlar several times a week, reported experiencing problems related to safety, the area not being disability-friendly, noise, and insufficient green space. • She noted that the waste bins mounted on poles are insufficient and dirty, and that there are odor and fly problems. • She emphasized that a strong sewer odor spreads especially in front of Türkan Saylan Cultural Center. • She stated that, because of the intense crowd on the street, the lack of a dedicated access route for user with disabilities is an important deficiency.
 <p>Age: 22</p>	
 <p>Respondent Profile: Visitor</p>	

1.2. Survey Results

For the survey study, which constituted the second phase of the fieldwork, survey questions were prepared with reference to the study “People & Public Spaces – Usage Patterns of Public Spaces in Munich¹, published by Gehl Web and Partners and previously used to measure more than 1,000 public spaces. The survey, designed to evaluate the quality of the public space, examined seven main topics: *the demographic structure of users, usage and user profiles, transportation mobility, public space experience and needs, public space comfort, public space safety, and the digital twin*. Accordingly, the survey, consisting of a total of 22 questions, focuses on analyzing user experiences and suggestions for the improvement of the public space in a multidimensional and in-depth way. The survey study was completed with 90 respondents.

¹ Gehl & Partners (2023). People& Public Spaces-Usage Patterns Of Public Spaces In Munich

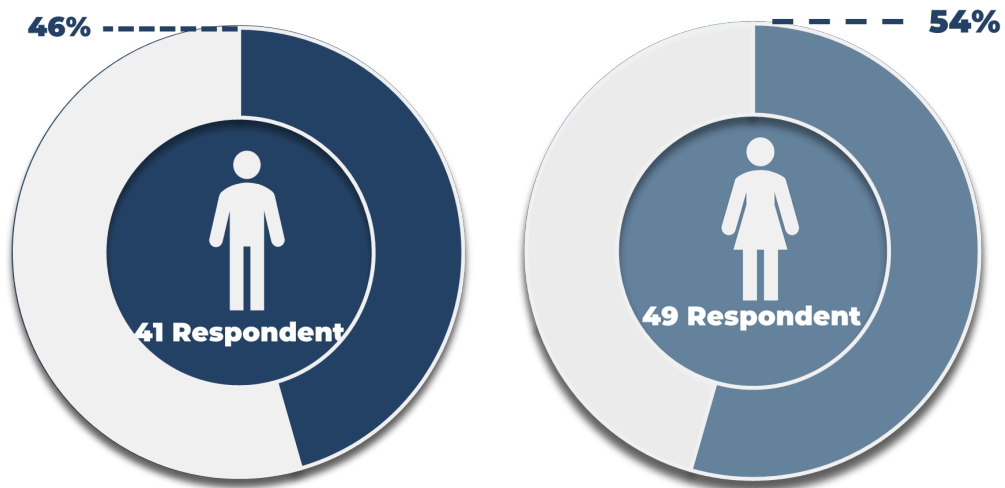


Chart 1: Gender Distribution of Respondents

Chart 1 shows the gender distribution of respondents. Among the 90 area users who participated in the survey, **49 were female and 41 were male**. In other words, 54% of the area users participating in the survey were female and 46% were male.

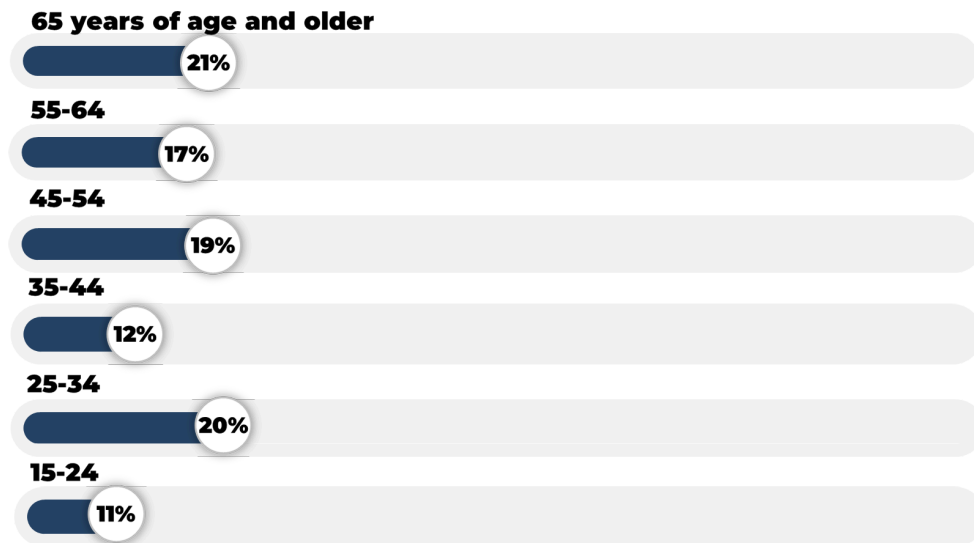


Chart 2: Age Distribution of Respondents

Chart 2 shows the age distribution of users who participated in the survey by age group. The age distribution indicates that there were **10 respondents aged 15–24, 18 respondents aged 25–34, 11 respondents aged 35–44, 17 respondents aged 45–54, 15 respondents aged 55–64, and 19 respondents aged 65 and over**. The highest participation rate was **21%** among respondents aged **65 and over**, followed by the **25–34 age group at 20%**.

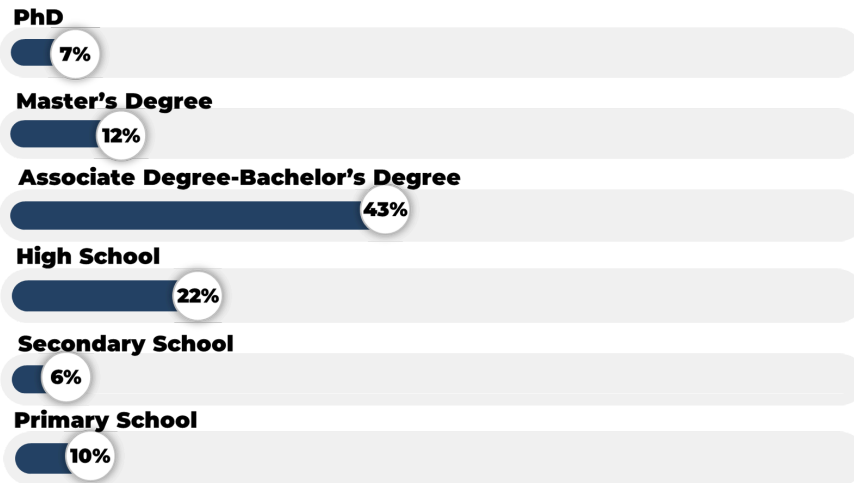


Chart 3: Educational Background of Respondents

Chart 3 shows the educational background of respondents. According to the distribution in the chart, **9 respondents are primary school graduates (10%), 5 are secondary school graduates (16%), 20 are high school graduates (22%), 39 hold an associate and/or bachelor's degree (43%), 11 hold a master's degree (12%), and 6 hold a PhD (7%).**

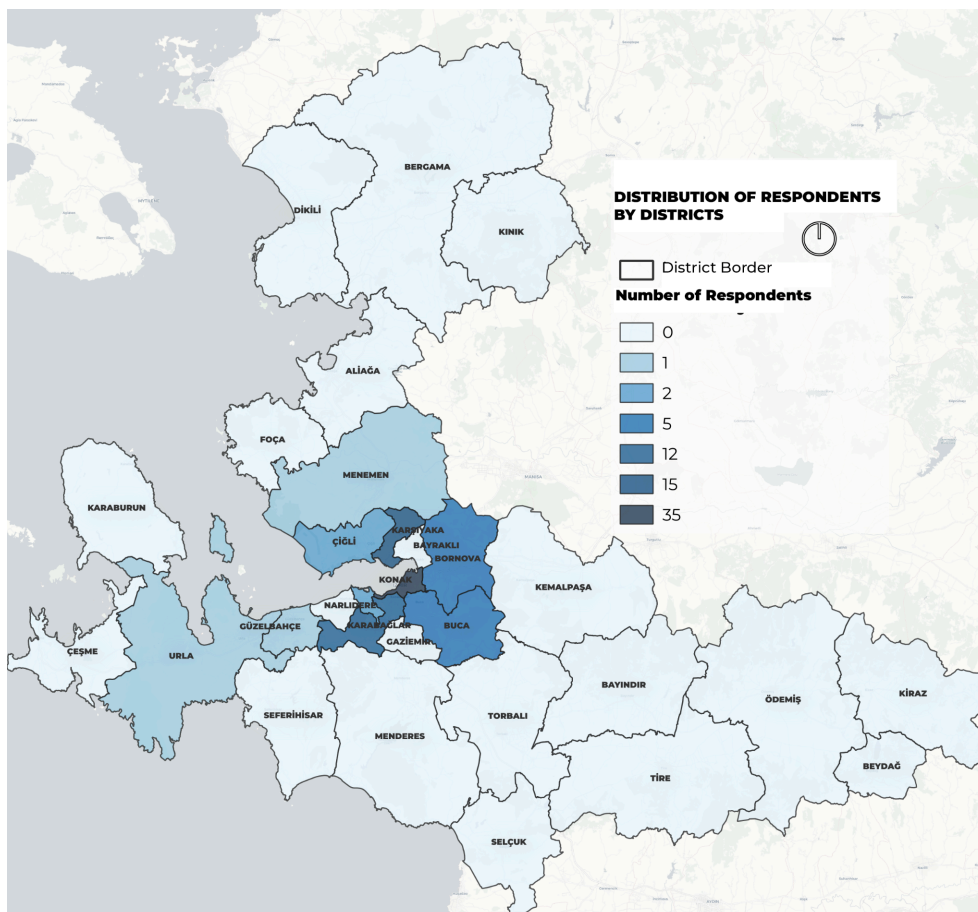


Figure 9: Map Showing the Distribution of Respondents by District of Residence

Figure 9 shows the distribution of respondents by district. An examination of the districts of residence of the **90 respondents reveals participation from 13 different districts**. The highest participation rate came from Konak district, at **88%, with 35 respondents**. **15 respondents were from Karşıyaka (17%), and 12 respondents were from Karabağlar district (12%).**

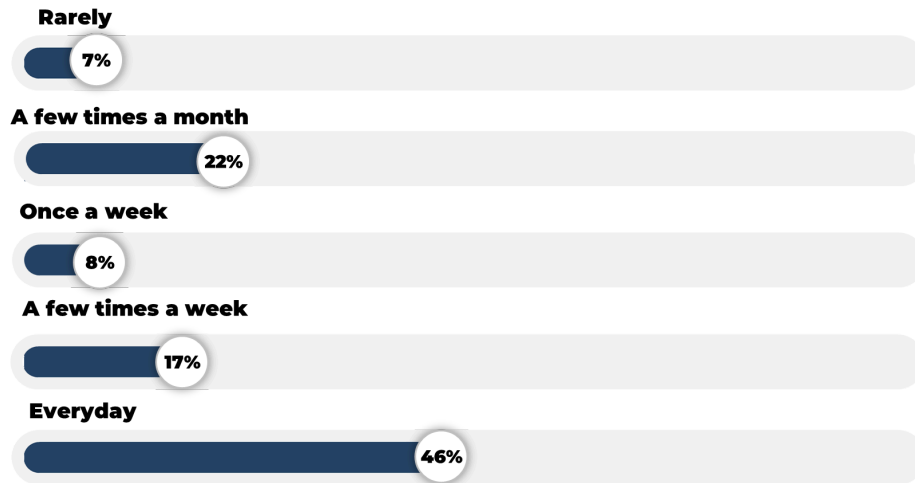


Chart 4: Distribution of Respondents by Frequency of Use of Kibris Şehitleri Street

Chart 4 shows the distribution of respondents by frequency of use of the area. Of the 90 respondents, **42 use the area every day (46%), 15 several times a week (17%), 7 once a week (8%), 20 several times a month (22%), and 6 rarely (7%).**

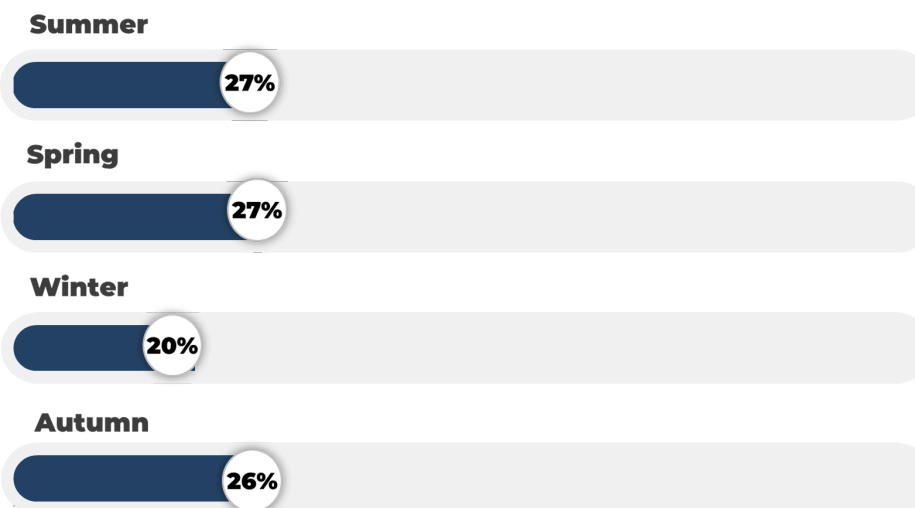


Chart 5: Distribution of Respondents by Seasons in Which They Use Kibris Şehitleri Street *

Chart 5 shows the distribution of respondents by the seasons in which they use Kibris Şehitleri Street. Among the 90 respondents, **usage was reported 60 times in autumn (26%), 47 times in winter (20%),**

*This multiple-choice question allowed respondents to provide multiple answers, with 90 respondents giving a total of 233 responses.

63 times in spring (27%), and 63 times in summer (27%). The similar proportions indicate that the area is actively used in all seasons.

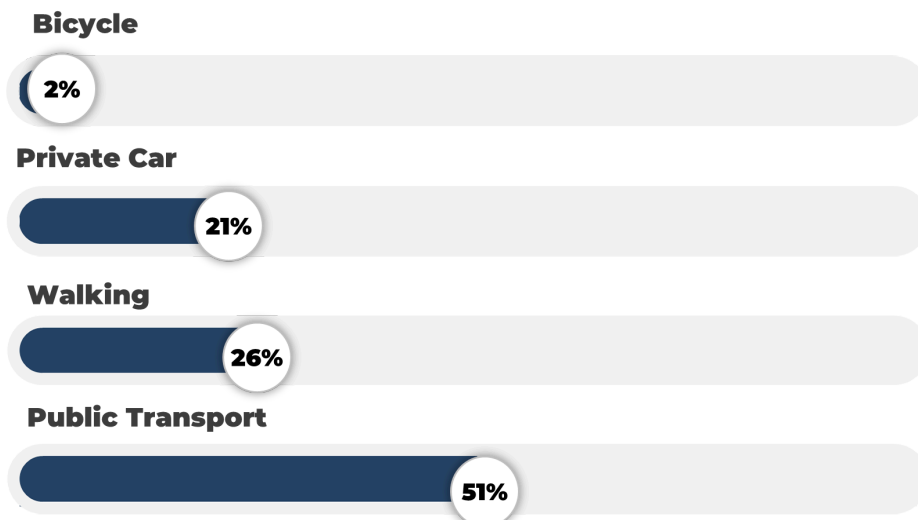


Chart 6: Distribution of Means of Transportation Used by Respondents to Access Kıbrıs Şehitleri Street *

Chart 6 shows the distribution of the means of transportation respondents use to access Kıbrıs Şehitleri Street. **22 respondents reported coming by private car (21%), 55 by public transport (51%), 28 on foot (26%), and 2 by bicycle (2%).**

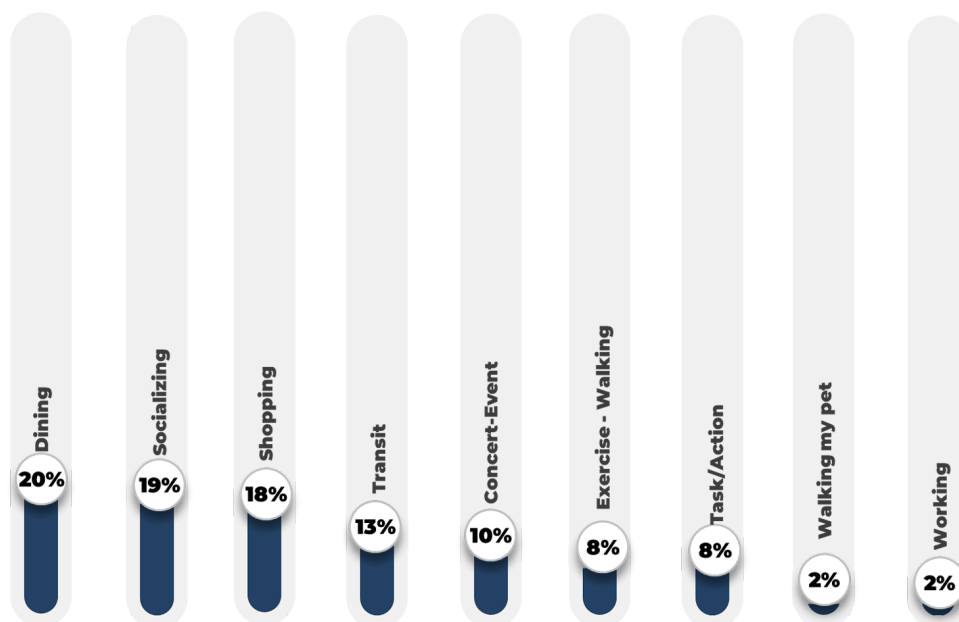


Chart 7: Distribution of Respondents by Purpose of Use of Kıbrıs Şehitleri Street**

*This multiple-choice question allowed respondents to provide multiple answers, with 90 respondents giving a total of 107 responses.

**This multiple-choice question allowed respondents to provide multiple answers, with 90 respondents giving a total of 277 responses.

Chart 7 shows the distribution of respondents by purpose of use of Kıbrıs Şehitleri Street. **56 respondents reported using the area for eating/drinking (20%), 53 for socializing (19%), and 50 for shopping (18%).**

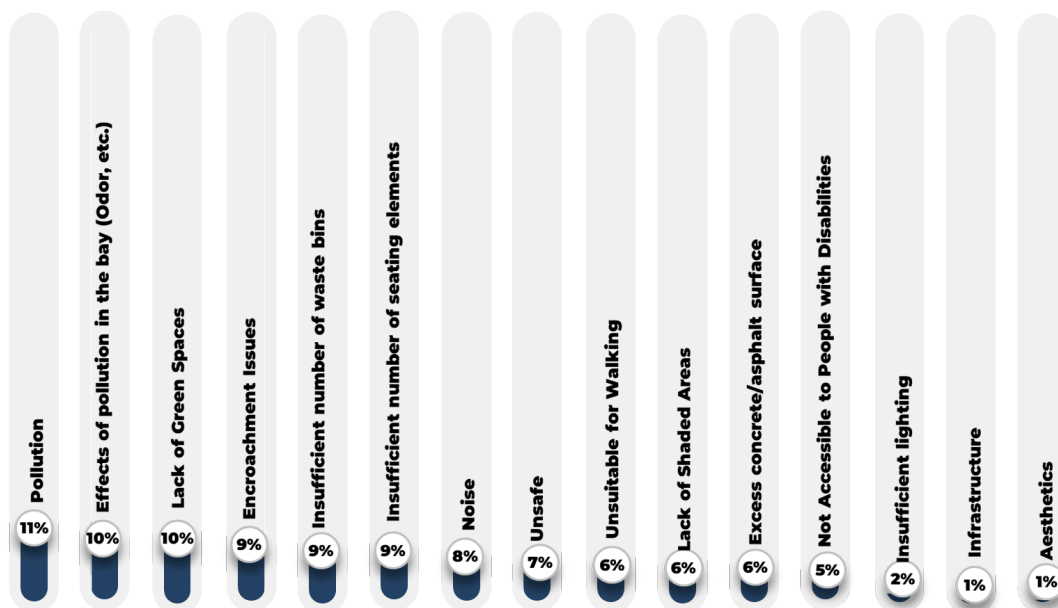


Chart 8: Issues Observed on Kıbrıs Şehitleri Street *

Chart 8 shows the distribution of issues observed by area users on Kıbrıs Şehitleri Street. Among the most frequently mentioned issues were “*dirty,*” repeated by 66 respondents (11%); the effects of bay pollution (odor, etc.), repeated by 54 respondents (10%); insufficient green space, indicated by 52 respondents (12%); and encroachment problems, repeated by 46 respondents.

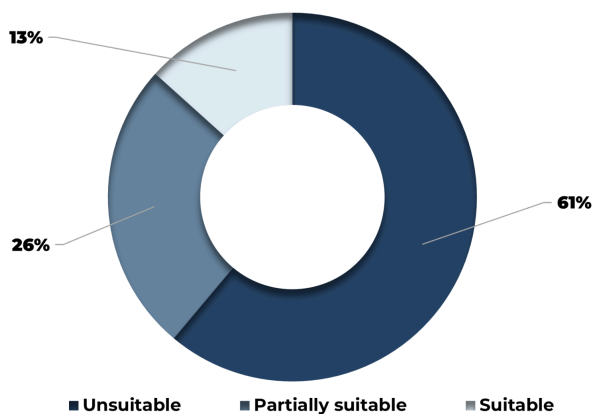


Chart 9: Functionality of the Location and Design of Existing Seating Elements

Chart 9 shows the distribution of respondents’ views on the functionality of the location and design of the existing seating elements on Kıbrıs Şehitleri Street. **12 respondents found the seating elements suitable (13%), 23 found them partially suitable (26%), and 55 found them unsuitable (61%).**

*This multiple-choice question allowed respondents to provide multiple answers, with 90 respondents giving a total of 536 responses.

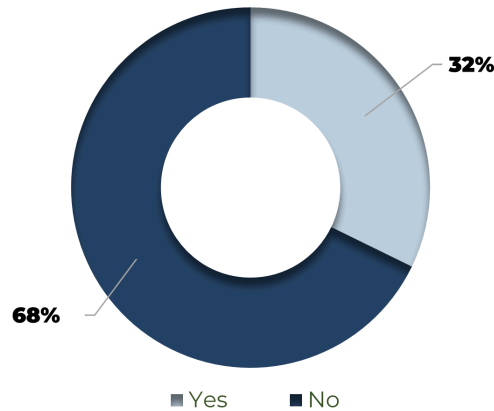
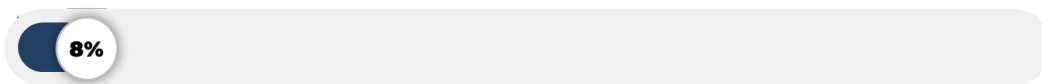


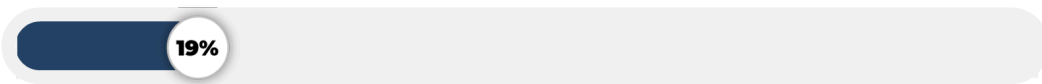
Chart 10: Rate of Respondents' Ability to Use Kıbrıs Şehitleri Street During Extreme Weather Events

Chart 10 shows the distribution of respondents' ability to use Kıbrıs Şehitleri Street during extreme weather events. Of the **90 respondents, 61 stated that they could not use the area during extreme weather events (68%), while 29 stated that they could use the area under extreme weather conditions (32%).**

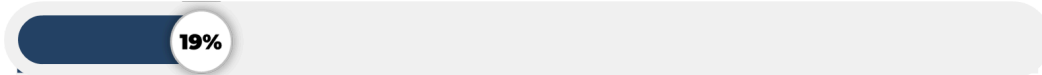
Lack of Infrastructure



Safety Risks (Slippery Surfaces, Windy Conditions, etc.)



Lack of Canopy



Puddles Due to Heavy Rain



Chart 11: Reasons for Not Being Able to Use Kıbrıs Şehitleri Street During Extreme Weather Events *

Chart 11 shows the distribution of the reasons why respondents cannot use Kıbrıs Şehitleri Street during extreme weather events. Among **the most frequently observed issues, puddles caused by heavy rainfall ranked first, cited by 39 respondents (54%). 14 respondents emphasized the lack of overhead canopy (19%), 14 pointed to safety risks (slippery ground, windy weather, etc.) (19%), and 6 highlighted infrastructure deficiencies (8%).**

*This open-ended question allowed respondents to provide multiple answers, with 44 respondents giving a total of 73 responses.

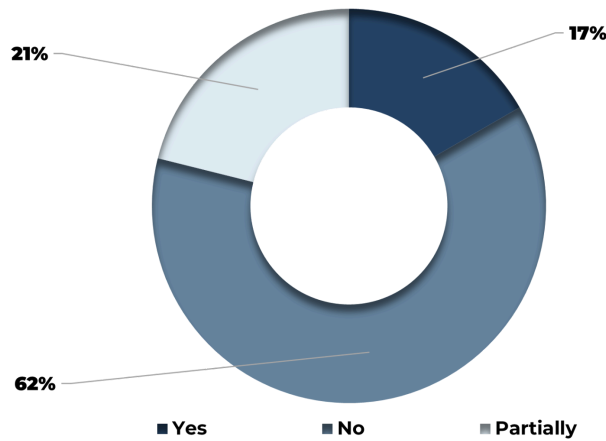


Chart 12: Adequacy of Shaded Areas on Kibris Şehitleri Street

Chart 12 shows the distribution of respondents' views on whether there are sufficient shaded areas on Kibris Şehitleri Street during the summer months. Of the **90 respondents**, **56 think there are not enough shaded areas (62%)**, **19 think they are partially sufficient (21%)**, and **15 think there are sufficient shaded areas (17%)**.

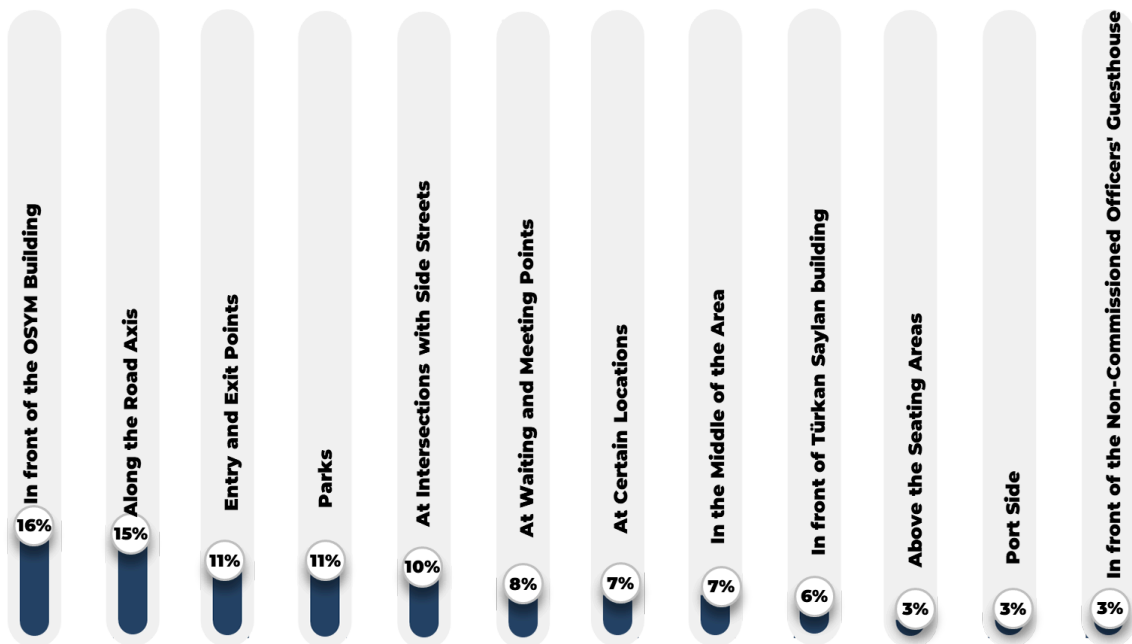


Chart 13: Locations on Kibris Şehitleri Street Where Shaded Areas Should Be Increased*

Chart 13 shows the distribution of the locations where respondents indicated that shaded areas should be increased on Kibris Şehitleri Street. **10 respondents emphasized the area in front of the ÖSYM building (16%)**, **9 the street axis (15%)**, and **7 the entrance and exit points of the area (11%)** as locations where shaded areas should be increased.

* This open-ended question allowed respondents to provide multiple answers, with 63 respondents giving a total of 62 responses.

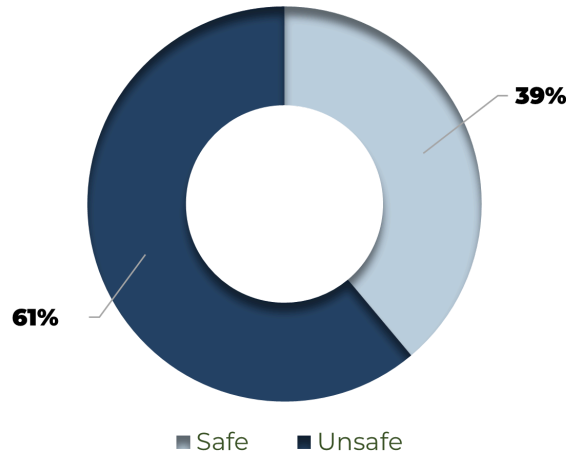


Chart 14: Distribution of Respondents' Opinions on the Safety of Kibris Şehitleri Street

Chart 14 shows the distribution of respondents' opinions regarding the safety of Kibris Şehitleri Street. **35 respondents find the area safe (39%), whereas 55 find it unsafe (61%).**

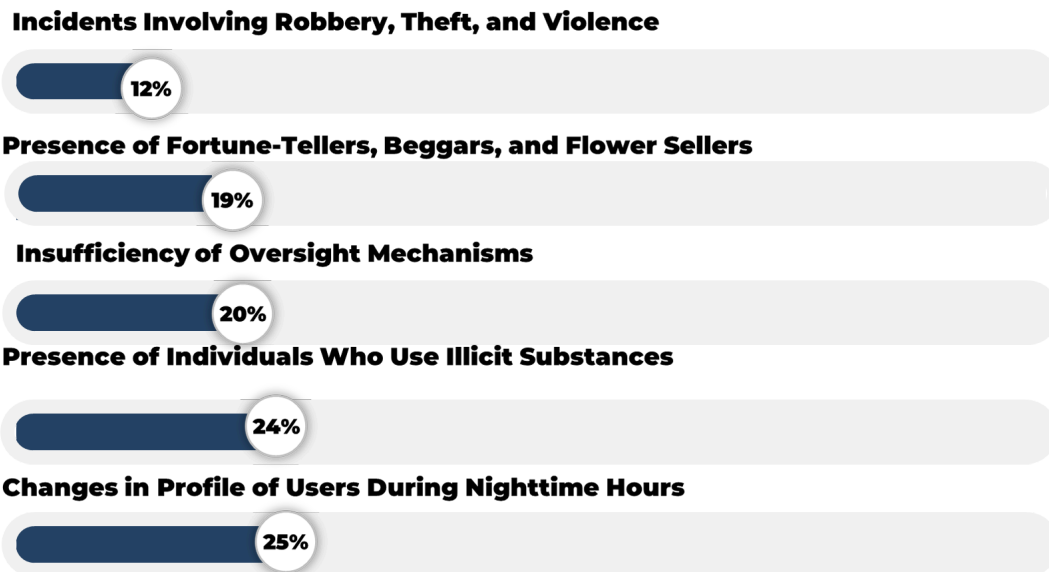


Chart 15: Reasons for Safety Concerns Regarding Kibris Şehitleri Street *

Chart 15 shows the distribution of respondents' reasons for safety concerns regarding Kibris Şehitleri Street. Findings related to safety perception show that **15 respondents emphasized the changing human profile at night (25%), 14 cited the presence of people using illicit substances (24%), and 12 stressed the inadequacy of monitoring mechanisms (20%).**

*This open-ended question allowed respondents to provide multiple answers, with 47 respondents giving a total of 59 responses.

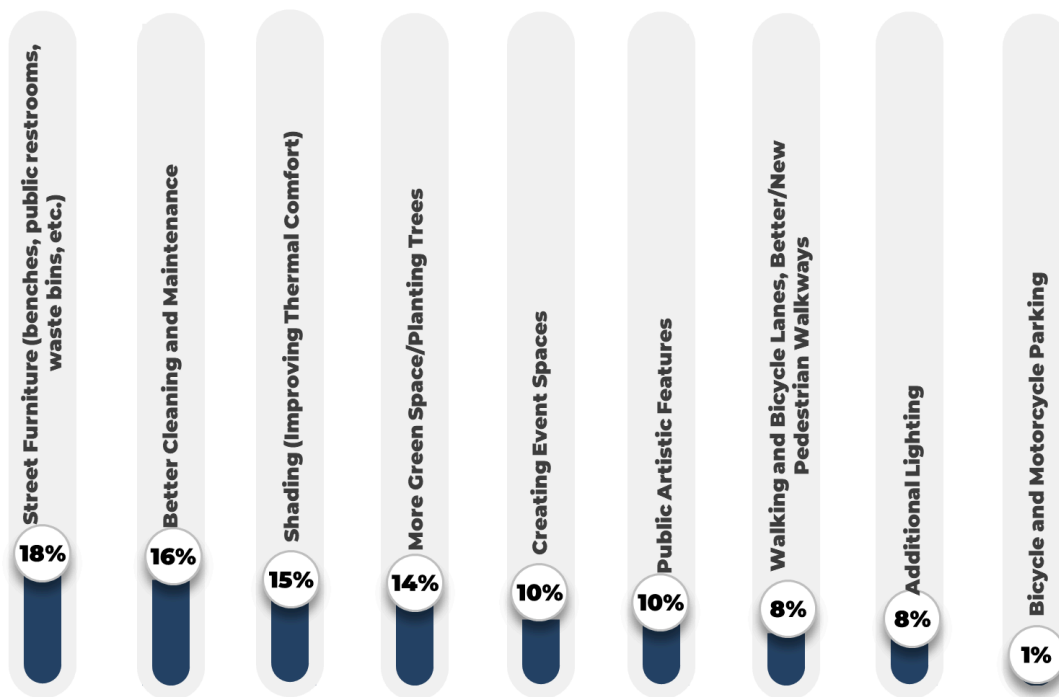


Chart 16: Distribution of the Changes Respondents Want in the Area *

Chart 16 shows the distribution of the changes respondents want in order to make Kibris Şehitleri Street more attractive. The leading requested change was **street furniture**, mentioned by **66 respondents**. Other demanded changes included **better cleaning and maintenance, cited by 60 respondents; shading (increasing thermal comfort), cited by 56 respondents; and more green space/tree planting, cited by 54 respondents.**

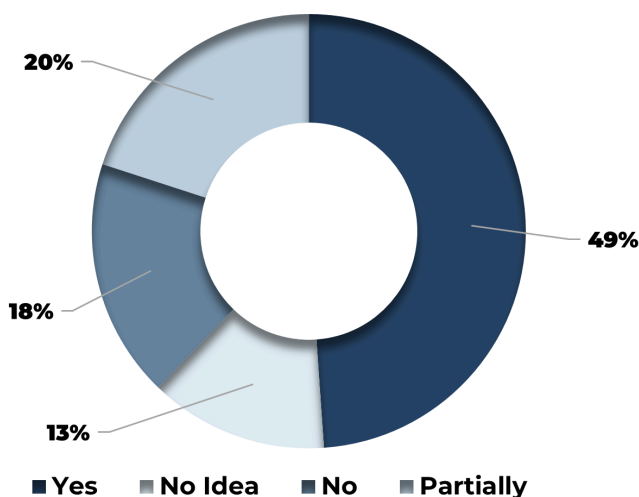


Chart 17: Distribution of Respondents' Perceptions of the Contribution of Digital Systems to Solving Problems in the Area

*This multiple-choice question allowed respondents to provide multiple answers, with 90 respondents giving a total of 377 responses.

Chart 17 shows the distribution of respondents' views on the contribution of digital systems (artificial intelligence, simulation, etc.) to solving problems in the area. It was observed that **44 respondents believe that problems can be solved faster thanks to digital systems (49%)**. By contrast, **18 respondents (20%) partly believe this, 16 respondents (18%) do not agree, and 12 respondents (23%) have no opinion on the subject.**

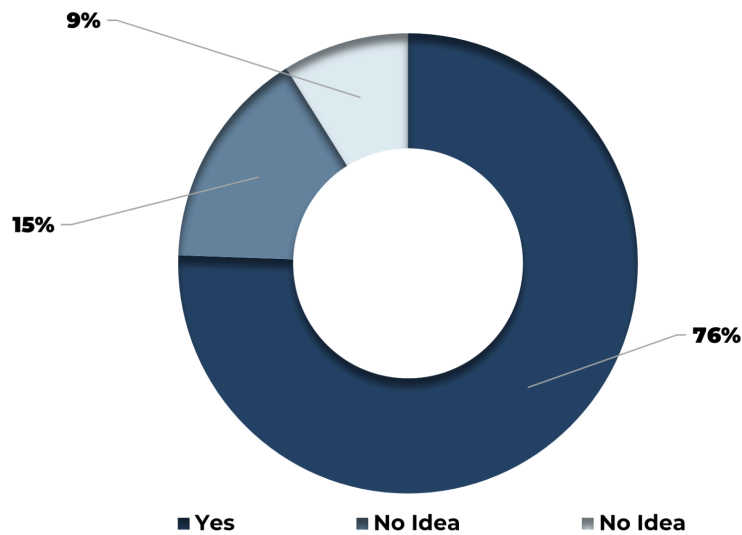


Chart 18: Respondents' Likelihood of Using a Digital Map if Available

Chart 18 shows the distribution of respondents' likelihood of using a digital map in their daily lives if one were available in the area. Of the **90 respondents, 68 stated that they would use a digital map if one existed in the area (76%), 14 said they would not (15%), and 8 stated that they had no opinion on the matter (9%).**

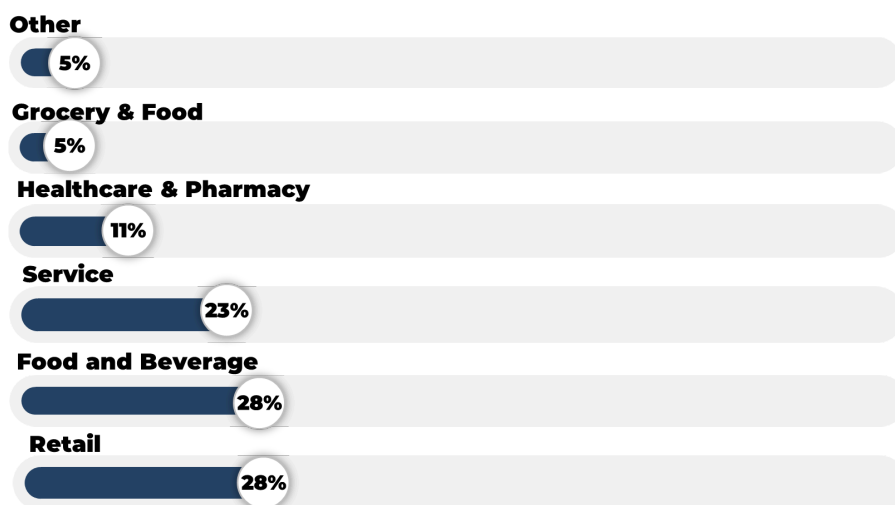


Chart 19: Type of Shopkeepers Interviewed

Chart 19 shows the sectoral distribution of the interviewed shopkeepers. Of the **18 shopkeepers interviewed, 5 are in retail (28%), 5 in food and beverage (28%), and 4 in the service sector (23%).**

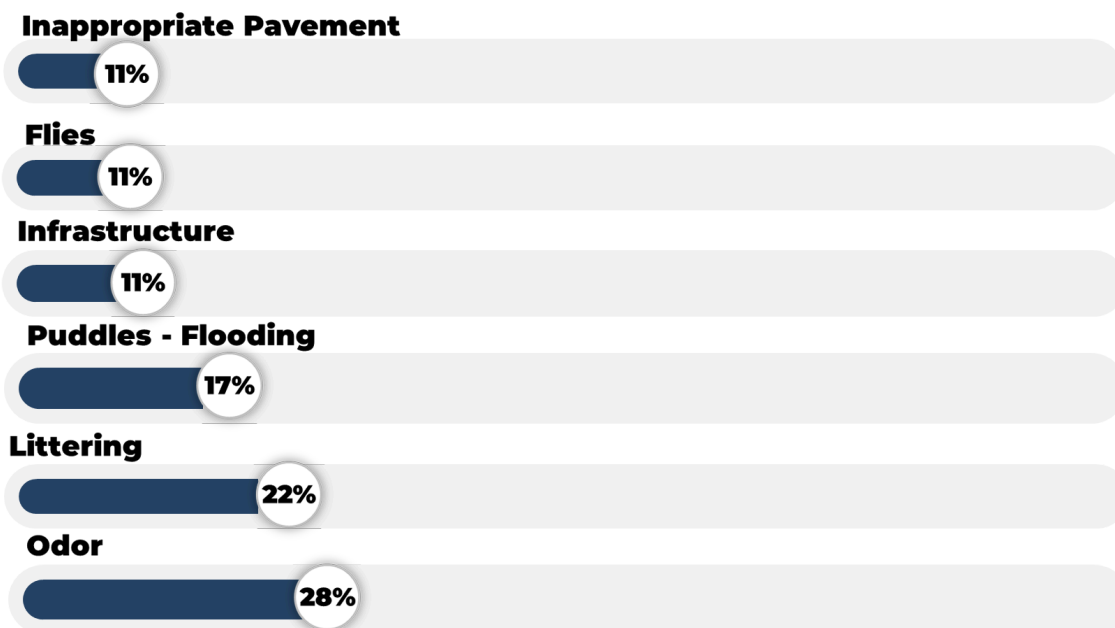


Chart 20: Notes Interviewed Shopkeepers Wanted to Convey About the Street

Chart 20 shows the distribution of the notes interviewed shopkeepers wanted to convey about the street. **5 respondents emphasized the odor problem (28%), 4 the waste problem, and 3 puddles (17%).**

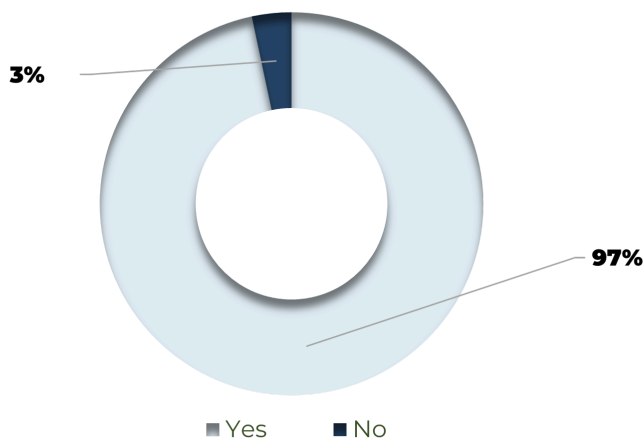
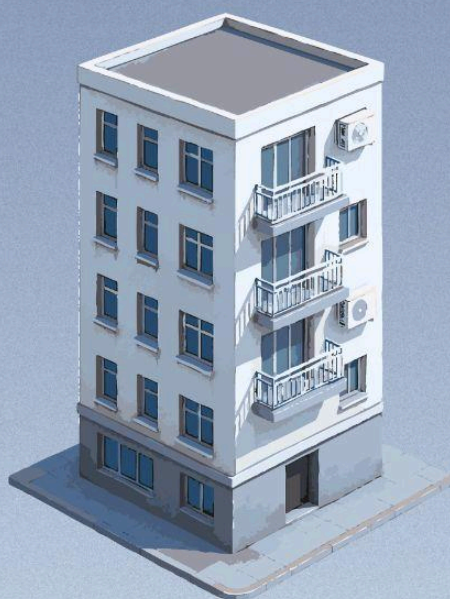


Chart 21: Respondents' Demands for Expanding Participatory Processes in Public Spaces in İzmir

Chart 21 shows the proportion of respondents demanding the expansion of participatory processes in public spaces in İzmir. **While 87 respondents requested the expansion of participatory processes (97%), 3 stated that they did not want this (3%).**

RECOMMEN- DATIONS FOR PUBLIC SPACE

2



In order to measure the quality of public life and identify needs on Kıbrıs Şehitleri Street, **a survey with 90 respondents and face-to-face interviews with 8 users** were completed. As a result of the analysis of the interviews and survey study, the age ranges that use the area most frequently, the users' age profiles, the places where users live, the most frequently repeated purposes of use, problems, and recommendations were compiled.

Table 1: Trends in Area Use

Categories	Trends in Area Use
Age Range of Users	Ages 65 and older, Ages 25–34
Places Where Users Reside	Konak, Karşıyaka
Most Frequently Repeated Uses	Eating and Drinking, Socializing
Most Frequently Repeated Issues	Cleanliness, Effects of Bay Pollution (Odor, etc.), Insufficient Green Space, Encroachment Problems
Most Frequently Repeated Suggestions	Street Furniture, Better Cleaning and Maintenance , Shading (Increasing Thermal Comfort)

Based on the results of the fieldwork recommended solutions are as follows:

- In response to the issues raised regarding cleaning and maintenance on Kıbrıs Şehitleri Street, **solutions to address the odor and litter problems,**
- **A greener Kıbrıs Şehitleri Street** by reducing the amount of concrete and asphalt surfaces,
- **Seating elements** that were strongly demanded by respondents and that can support activities such as sitting, resting, viewing, socializing, and eating and drinking in public space, thereby increasing the potential for social interaction,
- Shading elements such as **overhead canopy, eco-friendly practices, and eco-friendly urban elements to be proposed in the design** that will address climate-related issues,
- An **activity area** capable of hosting various cultural and artistic events,
- Developing design elements that **enhance urban comfort in public spaces, such as strengthening infrastructure and improving pavement, and the development of design standards for users with special needs through an inclusive design approach,** in this area, where extreme weather events such as flooding occur.
- Solutions for safety concerns predominantly regarding the changing human profile at night and the use of illicit substances.

Based on the assessment, the urban elements proposed for the spatial transformation of Kıbrıs Şehitleri Street are as follows

- Durable pavements
- Green spaces
- Trees
- Seating Elements
- Eco-friendly seating areas (for large groups)
- Shading and rain cover elements
- Activity area
- Artistic Features
- Lighting Elements
- Waste Bins

