



## **Bringing healthcare closer to communities: SHIFA stakeholders visit soon-to-be operational Health Centre in Bornova, Türkiye**

İzmir, 23 June 2026 — Representatives from the European Union Delegation to Türkiye, the Republic of Türkiye's Ministry of Health, and the Council of Europe Development Bank (CEB) visited the soon-to-be operational Health Centre in Bornova, İzmir, Türkiye today under the Strengthening Healthcare Infrastructure for All (SHIFA) Project. SHIFA, a €140 million EU-funded initiative – implemented by the Ministry of Health of the Republic of Türkiye with support from the CEB – aims to improve healthcare access for migrants and host communities across Türkiye.

Scheduled to begin delivering healthcare services in the coming months, the Health Centre in Bornova will significantly expand access to primary healthcare in one of İzmir's largest urban districts. The 3 000 m<sup>2</sup> five-storey facility, constructed at a cost of approximately €2.8 million, will serve the needs of both a large Turkish community and a diverse migrant population.

Designed as an extended facility providing a broader package of services than standard health centres, Bornova Health Centre will have capacity for 12 doctors supported by multidisciplinary health personnel. It is expected to serve approximately 20 000 outpatients per month, delivering preventive, diagnostic and follow-up services tailored to community needs.

Services will include family medicine and routine primary care, maternal and child health services, expanded immunisation, noncommunicable disease screening and management, basic laboratory diagnostics, psychosocial support, physiotherapy, and health promotion activities. Emergency intervention services and patient transport to hospitals will also be provided, reducing pressure on hospital services in the district.

Among the site visit participants were Christian Ballaro, Acting Head of the Connectivity and Development Section at the EU Delegation; Jasmina Glisovic, Head of Grant Operations and New Instruments at the CEB; Ministry of Health Migrant Health Department Head Muhammed Zahid Kaya and Procurement Department Head Mücahit Uzunkaya, and the Head of Public Health Services in İzmir, Specialist Dr. Ali Emre Çetinkol.

On behalf of the European Union, Mr. Ballaro stated: *The European Union is proud to support SHIFA's efforts to strengthen access to quality healthcare across Türkiye, making a positive difference in the lives of people and their communities. The Bornova Health Centre stands as a tangible example of our partnership with Türkiye, the Ministry of Health, and the CEB, advancing inclusive healthcare for all.*

Ms. Glisovic said: *"SHIFA reflects the strong and sustained partnership between the EU as donor, the CEB and the Ministry of Health. Bornova Health Centre will be a concrete example of how these joint efforts are strengthening service delivery at local level. Facilities such as this will ensure that more communities in need can access quality care."*

Mr. Kaya stated: *"Health services provided at Migrant Health Centres, which are a part of our primary care centres and administered by the Ministry of Health, play a significant role in ensuring that migrants living in our country and host communities affected by migration can effectively benefit from health services and in facilitating access to these services. The investments made and healthcare facilities constructed under the SHIFA Project, with the support of the European Union and in cooperation with the CEB, contribute to providing these services in a more inclusive, accessible and sustainable manner."*

Mr. Uzunkaya noted: *"Infrastructure investments under the SHIFA Project are designed with a long-term perspective, ensuring that health facilities are not only delivered to a high standard, but remain functional and responsive to evolving needs. The quality of construction of Bornova Health Centre reflects this forward-looking approach."*

Dr. Ali Emre Çetinkol stated: *"We in İzmir PHD are very happy to have contributed to this successful project. The need for primary healthcare services in our rapidly-growing district of Bornova has long been felt. This facility, delivered under SHIFA, will now provide quality and accessible healthcare to all residents of Bornova."*

The centre forms part of the broader SHIFA Project, which is constructing or renovating and equipping almost 80 health centres across Türkiye by end-2027. Other SHIFA achievements to date include the rehabilitation of a hospital emergency unit; creation or renovation of 110 hospital-based physical therapy units; the delivery of 99 pieces of state-of-the art medical

equipment to 45 hospitals; and the provision of 100 000 maternity kits to support pregnant women and new parents.

The site visit precedes a SHIFA Steering Committee meeting on 24 June, attended by stakeholders, at which project progress and future milestones will be discussed.