Turkey has ten historical sites in ‘UNESCO World Heritage List’ including Istanbul. ‘Suleymaniye’ is one of the four historical World Heritage Sites of Istanbul since 1985 with Zeyrek, Sultanahmet Archaeological Park and Theodosian Land Walls. An important number of historical timber houses belonging to late 19th - early 20th century exist in Suleymaniye and Zeyrek districts as significant residential areas of the old city -Historical Peninsula-. Forming a unique urban character, the Historical Peninsula had been planned in organically shaped streets with houses, monuments and fountains. While timber houses of this organic urban texture had shown the unique architectural manner in parallel with their daily usage, fountains had social and architectural role in micro scale, functional and aesthetic values of the street life. They mainly support the high architectural value by their characteristic wood/stonework of their age. Today, it’s worth to underline that the existing timber/masonry heritage produced by this traditional architectural manner needs an ‘integrated conservation approach’ through scientific principles to be passed accurately and honestly to the future generations. At the same time, responsibility of local authorities and inhabitants is also required.

Regarding the issues above, ‘Directorate for the Inspection of Conservation Implementations’ (KUDEB) under Istanbul Metropolitan Municipality managed to develop an education model by ‘TIMBER AND STONE TRAINING WORKSHOPS’.

KUDEB was established in 2006 and located in one of the most important historical timber mansions in Suleymaniye. KUDEB is generally responsible for Maintenance & Repair procedures of registered civil architecture examples, Control of restoration implementations, Laboratory analyses and conservation proposals for building materials, Technical advice, Education and Publications as guide for other KUDEBs and institutions.

KUDEB is a model structure of municipalities and local governments to lead the procedures for maintenance & repair of civil architecture and provide the communication with inhabitants and owners.

KUDEB of Istanbul Metropolitan Municipality differently acts as a center and institute by its Laboratories, Project and Publication Groups, Inventory & Archive Group and Training Workshops with consultancy of professors from Istanbul University and Istanbul Technical University.

Restoration & Conservation Laboratories of KUDEB have duties about examination, identification, simple/high scientific instrumental analyses and conservation proposals of building material samples in micro scale and historical buildings or remains as whole. Various experts from different fields related to conservation like architecture, geology, chemistry, archaeology, conservation, forest and mine engineering are employed.

Project Group shortly develops methodologies for conservation and maintenance of civil architectural examples and control the implementations. Architects specialized in conservation, restorers and conservators take place in architectural documentation, project and restoration implementation.
Studies and experiences are published as books, proceedings, journals or catalogues by the Publication Group. A scientific refereed journal named as ‘Restoration and Conservation Studies’ is prepared quarterly and delivered to all national professional institutions about restoration-conservation, libraries, universities, academics, public/private sector related to the field and some international institutes.

Inventory&Archive Group is responsible for the inventorial work of determined architectural or urban sites and digital archive system of the historical registered buildings.

Timber and Stone Training Workshops were established in order to educate the trainees about either the traditional techniques of these crafts (woodwork and stonemasonry) or restoration and conservation idea and to provide ‘well-educated teams’ for restoration works. Both theoretical and practical education programmes supported by seminars and publications are organized by the mentioned workshops in approximately six months’ term.

Activities of Timber Training Workshop on ‘traditional timber houses’ and Stone Training Workshop on ‘historical fountains’ are especially focused in World Heritage Site and Historical Peninsula of Istanbul. Beginning from individual cultural properties, it’s aimed to enlarge the scale of sustainability of the heritage by the EFFECTIVE SUPPORT OF EDUCATION. Wide range of subjects from conservation idea to application of materials in micro scale are included.
Within the framework of this education model, it’s aimed to integrate the ‘knowledge’ with ‘implementation’ in restoration and conservation field and create an opportunity for young people to be involved in the sector, to help the cultural continuity via the traditional crafts and to protect the architectural heritage and historical environment.

Aims and expected short and long term effects of the EDUCATION MODEL are:
- to train young people about preservation and sustainability of heritage,
- to integrate ‘theoretical’ education with ‘practical’ experience on site,
- to create an opportunity for young people to be involved in the sector,
- to develop the number, quality and skills of young restorers,
- to share the experiences with professionals in different fields related to conservation,
- to supply the continuity and sustainability of traditional construction techniques,
- to help traditional arts and crafts be passed to future,
- to generate an integrated approach for conservation,
- to increase the quality of life in historical areas,
- to improve the life conditions of old buildings,
- to focus on unique architectural features of cultural properties,
- to draw attention to values of World Heritage Site,
- to enhance the role of architectural heritage.

Outputs and benefits of all educational activities are published and shared via the books or proceedings. Approximately 4000 copies of each publication are printed and delivered all over the country and some institutions abroad.