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COP31 has not even started. Inequality already has.

Affordable accommodation in Antalya is shrinking, while staying close to the conference venue is getting more expensive. New research by SICI for COP31Radar shows that unequal conditions for participation are deepening before the summit even begins. For civil society groups, journalists and smaller delegations, getting to COP31 is becoming harder.

COP31, the United Nations Climate Change Conference, will take place in Antalya from 9 to 20 November. Governments, companies, civil society organisations, researchers and journalists from around the world are expected to attend. But COP meetings are also shaped by a basic question: who can actually afford to be there? Beyond accreditation, the costs of accommodation, transport and daily life can create a hidden barrier for people and organisations with smaller budgets. Social Institute of Change and Impact (SICI) is tracking these hidden costs through COP31Radar.

With about a month to go before COP31, official accommodation data in Antalya already show that these unequal conditions are becoming visible. Affordable options are disappearing, while staying close to the conference venue is becoming more expensive. This makes participation harder for smaller civil society organisations, independent journalists, researchers and small delegations.

Research by SICI for COP31Radar compared accommodation listed on the official COP31 platform on 22 September and 6 October. The two-week change shows that lower-cost options are narrowing quickly, especially for people trying to attend on a limited budget.

The number of properties offering COP-period accommodation for under €1,000 was already small. In just two weeks, it fell from 28 to 19. In other words, about one third of the lowest-cost options moved out of this price band.

The closer participants stay to the venue, the more difficult the picture becomes. The number of bookable properties within 30 kilometres of COP31 fell from 113 to 94, while the median starting cost in this area rose above €3,500. As of 6 October, only 7 of the 19 properties still below €1,000 were within 30 kilometres of the conference venue.

The research shows that finding accommodation that is both close to COP31 and relatively affordable has become extremely limited. The total number of lower-cost options is also falling quickly. For lower-budget participants, this can mean a choice between paying more for accommodation or staying farther away and taking on extra daily travel, time and cost.

One of COP31's hidden barriers: accommodation

Attending COP31 is not only about getting accredited. Participants need to stay in Antalya for almost two weeks and travel to the conference venue every day. As accommodation becomes more

expensive or moves farther away, the burden grows most for smaller organisations and independent participants with limited budgets.

Ersin Tek, Director of SICI, said:

“Equal participation at COP31 cannot be judged only by who gets accredited. Being able to reach Antalya, stay here and get to the venue every day is also part of access. The pattern we see is clear: cheaper options are disappearing and staying close to the venue is becoming more expensive. A cost that may be manageable for a large delegation can become a direct ‘Can we afford to come?’ question for a small civil society organisation, an independent journalist or a delegation with a limited budget.”

“COP31 will discuss climate justice, finance and a just transition. But who is physically able to take part in those discussions also matters. We want to make this gap visible before the summit begins.”

What the research shows

SICI examined bookable properties on Coral Travel, the official COP31 accommodation platform, on two different dates.

The first snapshot was taken on 22 September 2026 and the second on 6 October 2026. Both cover the COP31 period of 9-20 November 2026.

On 22 September, 208 bookable properties were visible on the platform. By 6 October, that number had fallen to 181. Properties with a Starting Cost of €1,000 or less fell from 28 to 19. Options at €1,500 or less fell from 72 to 55.

The number of bookable properties within 30 kilometres of the conference venue fell from 113 to 94. Their median Starting Cost rose from €3,300 to €3,586.

The overall median Starting Cost changed much less, from €2,381.72 to €2,420. The main finding is therefore not a broad price surge across all accommodation, but a shrinking pool of lower-cost options and properties close to the conference venue.

In the research, “Starting Cost” means the 11-night equivalent of the nightly “Price From” rate displayed for each property on the official platform for the COP31 period. It does not represent every room type or the highest possible price at a property.

Of the 208 properties visible on 22 September, 27 no longer appeared in the bookable results on 6 October. The research does not assume why they were absent. Their absence alone does not mean they were sold out or removed from the platform.

About SICI

Social Institute of Change and Impact (SICI) is an independent organisation working on public-interest and institutional change. SICI develops strategy, research and systems to help organisations turn complex problems into clearer decisions, practical systems and credible action. Its work includes organisational strategy and change, funding systems, campaigns and public engagement, digital systems and AI, and research and intelligence.

sici.uk

About COP31Radar

COP31Radar is an independent research and information platform created by SICI to follow COP31 from Antalya. It tracks preparations, negotiations, participation and access, implementation issues and developments in the host city. COP31Radar publishes original research, data analysis and the weekly COP31Radar Weekly newsletter. It is not part of the official COP31, UNFCCC or host-country institutions.

cop31radar.com

About Ersin Tek

Ersin Tek is Director of SICI. He previously served as Director of Greenpeace Mediterranean and has worked for more than two decades across civil society, campaigns, organisational strategy and public engagement.

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