

FEUTURE

THE FUTURE OF EU-TURKEY RELATIONS:
MAPPING DYNAMICS AND TESTING SCENARIOS

NEWSLETTER

No. 10 | October 2018

Dear FEUTURE Friends,

We would like to present you a brand new FEUTURE Newsletter.

We sincerely hope you will find this issue interesting and beneficial! In this Newsletter you will find:

- [EDITORIAL: WHAT DO TURKEY-EU RELATIONS MEAN IN THE EASTERN NEIGHBOURHOOD?](#)
- [PRESENTATION OF WORK PACKAGE 8: SYNTHESIS OF RESEARCH FINDINGS AND POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS](#)
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Best regards,
The FEUTURE Team



EDITORIAL:

WHAT DO TURKEY-EU RELATIONS MEAN IN THE EASTERN NEIGHBOURHOOD?

One of the aims of the FEUTURE project is to identify key drivers in EU-Turkey relations in **a number of dimensions** (politics; economy; security; energy and climate; migration; identity and culture) and **at multiple levels**: Turkey, the EU, their shared Neighbourhood and globally. In the framework of the research carried out within the FEUTURE Work Package 2 - "Political Drivers", in a recent [FEUTURE Online Paper](#) Justine Louis, Bennet Clifford and I

During Russia's annexation of Crimea, Turkey expressed concern for the treatment of Turkey's ethnic kin on the peninsula, the Crimean Tatars. These incidents tell us two things about Turkey's security policy in the region. First, Turkey's engagement will focus on protecting its interests (surprise!). Second, they won't prevent the conflict from taking place. However, their projection of force on the whole has been to the benefit of the region

The paper argues that most drivers from the Eastern Neighbourhood were unlikely to have much impact on Turkey-EU relations. But what are the implications of the Turkey-EU relationship for the Eastern Neighbourhood? Like the drivers from the Eastern Neighbourhood's impact on the Turkey-EU relationship, the impact on the neighborhood is likely to be indirect. Where it does matter is when it comes to **relations between Turkey, Russia, and the EU**.

Relations with Turkey in the Eastern Neighborhood matter. For example, Turkey is one of Georgia's **largest trade partners**. More recently, the suppression of Gulen-associated schools has become a policy imperative for the governments in the region, at the Turkish government's behest.

Relations with the European Union also matter for many countries. The aid the EU provides Ukraine, Georgia, and Moldova is critical for development. In Georgia, the main political issue (or at least one of them) is alignment with the West (and EU) versus alignment with Russia or the stocking horse of neutrality. Ukraine and Moldova among others in the region have similar political dynamics.

Though Turkey and the EU matter, the relationship that foreign policy revolves around is **Russia**. What that means for countries in the region is that Turkey and Russia's relationship is the key to their relationship with Turkey. For countries that are conflicting with Russia, Turkey provides an alternative to the politically fraught Russian market. For countries that are converging with Russia, the relationship's stability matters if they want to pursue their own interests in Turkey. And for those cooperating with Russia, things are more complicated, as are most relationships that do not resemble the convergence and conflict ideal types.

Among the issues surrounding Russia of greatest concern is **security**. Russia occupies parts of Georgia and Ukraine; supports separatists in Moldova; fuels the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict through supporting military build-up on both sides; and uses an implicit threat of force when speaking with neighbours.

Turkey's interaction with Russia-related security concerns in the Eastern Neighborhood had until recently been protective to a certain extent, as it generally aligned with Turkey's interests. During the 2008 August War between Georgia and Russia, Turkey told Russia they would not take kindly to damage of infrastructure in Adjara, the region on the Turkish-Georgian border which has significant Turkish investment and a sizeable Turkish migrant population.

Since Turkey has generally been positive for security in the neighborhood, the recent sale of a Russian defence system to Turkey is a negative sign. It was, if not a step back from NATO, at least a threat. Moreover, if Turkey eschews projecting force against Russia in the region in favor of developing their security relationship further, the security of those looking west as well as Turkey's ethnic kin in Central Asia, on the whole, is likely to suffer.

Few, Russia aside, want this outcome. Even those countries with the closest ties to Russia such as Belarus have stepped up efforts to assert independence in recent years. However, if Turkey's relationship with the EU continues to decline while its relationship with Russia continues to improve, this is likely to push Turkey **further away from the West and towards Russia**. As a result, it would be reasonable to expect Turkey to view Russian interventions in the region with less of a critical eye, a net loss of security for many in the neighbourhood.

This is where **Turkey-EU relations** start to matter. If they deteriorate, this is likely to further push Turkey towards Russia. That is unlikely to be positive for security in the region.

The Turkey-EU relationship is not critical for the Eastern Neighbourhood just as the Eastern Neighbourhood is not critical to the Turkey-EU relationship. That said, **it does matter indirectly**, and what's bad for the Turkey-EU relationship is likely to be bad for the neighbourhood, at least when it comes to security for everyone besides Russia.



*Dustin Gilbreath,
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of Caucasus Research
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The views presented in this op-ed do not represent the views of CRRC-Georgia, any donor organization, or other affiliated entity.

PRESENTATION OF WORK PACKAGE 8:**SYNTHESIS OF RESEARCH FINDINGS AND POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS**

The objectives of WP8 "Synthesis of Research Finding and Policy Recommendations", which is led by IAI and EDAM, are threefold:

1. Rank the drivers across the thematic WPs and synthesize the likely scenarios across all thematic dimensions;
2. Assess the consequences of the three ideal type scenarios, and in particular of the empirically most likely scenario of EU-Turkey relations for the EU, Turkey, as well as for their relations with the neighbourhood (including on protected regional conflicts, migratory patterns, trade and investment flows, energy dynamics and identity politics) and with global power (US, Russia and emerging countries);
3. Extrapolate evidence-based policy recommendations for the EU and for Turkey.

[Read more](#)

PAST ACTIVITIES

FEUTURE Expert Workshop, Bodrum, 15 October 2018



On 15 October 2018, Istituto Affari Internazionali (IAI, Italy) and the Centre for Economic and Foreign Policy Studies (EDAM, Turkey), who lead Work

Package 8 "Synthesis of Research Findings and Policy Recommendations", organized a FEUTURE Expert Workshop in Bodrum, Turkey. The workshop brought together a group of 35-40 experts for a strategic dialogue on the future of the EU's relations with Turkey in a changing political environment. In particular, the workshop offered the FEUTURE consortium the possibility to test the project's research findings with a wide range of external stakeholders, including academics, think tankers, policy makers,

Bilgi University Seminar: "How Diplomacy Makes and Unmakes Peace", Istanbul, 8 October 2018



Prof. Markus Kornprobst gave a seminar to a large group of people from both Bilgi and outside about the ways in which diplomacy makes and unmakes peace. Based on theoretical premises Prof. Kornprobst gave various examples of diplomacy in contemporary history.

[Read more](#)

Bilgi University Student Paper Competition: "Gender Equality in the Labour Market in Europe and Turkey", Istanbul, June 2018

[Read more](#)

FEUTURE Stakeholder Meeting, Brussels, 27 September 2018



On 27 September 2018, FEUTURE's coordinators and Work Package leaders gathered in Brussels to meet with stakeholders from the European Commission, the Council of the European Union and the European External Action Service (EEAS). More than two years into the project's work, FEUTURE researchers had the chance to discuss with them major outcomes of the research and conclusions on possible f(e)utures of the EU-Turkey relationship in a closed-door meeting under the title "different scenarios & different f(e)utures".

[Read more](#)

FEUTURE PhD workshop & Policy Challenge Session & Conference with EUNIC: "Between Rapprochement and Rejection: Identity and Culture Drivers in the Europe-Turkey Relations", Istanbul, 14-15 September 2018



FEUTURE Work Package 7 researchers from Koc and Sabanci Universities organised a joint dissemination event in cooperation with EUNIC (EU National Institutes of Culture) on 14-15 September 2018 in Istanbul. The event provided a unique forum of specialised exchange between academics and policymakers working on identity and cultural dimension of Europe-Turkey relations. The first day included a public presentation of the FEUTURE WP7 findings, a policy challenge session featuring practitioners of European cultural policy in Turkey, and an expert session featuring five academics focusing on the identity and cultural aspects of Europe-Turkey relations. The second day featured a PhD workshop with nine junior researchers from Turkey and Europe.

[Read more](#)



Bilgi University organised this competition in order to encourage all Bilgi students to reflect and research on the comparative situations of women in the respective labour markets in Europe and Turkey. This challenging subject could be analysed from many different aspects such as the state of gender equality regarding work, the legal framework/policies (including benefits, equal pay, maternity, measures in favour of work/life balance), encouraging women's participation in the labour market, cultural differences per country/region, entrepreneurship, historical progress, the situation in public and private sectors, blue/white collar jobs and many others.

[Read more \(in Turkish\)](#)

MERI Forum 2018: Visions for Stabilising the Middle East, Erbil, 22-24 October 2018



The 2018 annual MERI Forum followed on from the success of the previous Fora, which brought together decision-makers, academics and opinion-leaders to discuss a range of social, economic, and political issues.

[Read more](#)

Bilgi University "Spring Talks", Istanbul, May 2018



These open air talks were held at the Santral Istanbul Campus of Istanbul Bilgi University where professors communicated with students in an informal setting to talk about EU-Turkey relations with regard to the modernization process, Syrian refugees, and Brand Turkey. The talks were delivered in Turkish and very well attended. This year's talks focused on "Westernization and European Relations from Ottoman to Republic" (11 May), "Current Situation in Syria" (18 May) and "Public Diplomacy and Formulation of Brand Turkey for EU Public" (25 May). Similar talks will be repeated in 2019 Spring with the support of other scholars.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Save the date! FEUTURE Final Conference, 28 February-1 March 2019



The FEUTURE Final Conference will take place in Brussels on 28 February-1 March 2019. The event will be co-organised by the Centre for Turkey-EU Studies (CETEUS, University of Cologne), Istituto Affari Internazionali (IAI) and the Trans European Policy Studies Association (TEPSA). Stay tuned for more information coming soon on the [FUTURE website](#).

Sabanci University event: 2nd VIADUCT Week, Istanbul, 18-22 March 2019



This event is organised in the framework of the project "VIADUCT - Enhancing Visibility of the Academic Dialogue on EU-Turkey Cooperation". It will include a PhD workshop and VIADUCT's mid-term conference. More information will soon be available on the [VIADUCT website](#).

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FEUTURE ANALYSIS, OPINION, VOICES

[FEUTURE publications:](#)

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Online Paper No. 26: [Turkish Public Opinion and the EU Membership: between Support and Mistrust](#), by Özgehan Şenyuva, October 2018

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Online Paper No. 25: [EU Public Opinion on Turkish EU Membership: Trends and Drivers](#), by Jakob Lindgaard, October 2018

[Partners' publications](#)

Ayhan Kaya (2018), "Mainstreaming of Right-Wing Populism in Europe," in Dragicevic, M. and Vickery, J. (eds.), *Cultural Policy Yearbook 2017-2018: Cultural Policy and Populism*, Istanbul: İletişim Yayınları

Ayhan Kaya (2018), ["Right-Wing Populism and Islamophobia in Europe and their Impact on Turkey-EU Relations"](#), *Turkish Studies*

Kamran M. Palani (2018 forthcoming), *Towards a Conflict Sensitive EU Crisis Response: Evidence from Iraq*, EUNPACK

S. Duygu Sever (2018), ["Turkey's nuclear energy policy in the context of environment: a case of](#)

S. Duygu Sever, Tok M.L., D'Alessandro C. (2019 forthcoming), [Global Environmental Governance and the GCC: Setting the Agenda for Climate Change and Energy Security](#), in Pal, L., Tok, M. (eds.), *Global Governance and Muslim Organizations*, Palgrave Macmillan

[FEUTURE researchers' announcements, presentations and other activities:](#)

[Prof. Ayhan Kaya](#) (Bilgi University) has been [awarded an "Advanced Grant"](#) by the European Research Council (ERC).

[Elena Sánchez-Montijano](#) (CIDOB) presented a paper on "Building refugees' fortified buffer zones: The Western Balkans route" on 27 October 2018 at the [International Symposium](#) "Border/Boundary Control in the Age of Transnationalization: Comparing Experiences in North America, E.U., & Japan".

[Prof. Erkan Erdil](#) (METU) presented a paper on "G20: A Room for Global Club Governance: Towards a Global Innovation System?" at the conference ["The G20 @ 10: Benefits, limitations and the future of global club governance in turbulent times"](#), organised by the German Development Institute in Bonn on 23-24 October 2018.



FEUTURE video: Doruk Ergun (EDAM) presents the [FEUTURE Online Paper No. 20](#) on "The Role of the Middle East in the EU-Turkey Security Relationship: Key Drivers and Future Scenarios"

[Find many more FEUTURE videos here!](#)

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