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

Editorial "FEUTURE-Launch" 1
Detailed Project-Information 2
Past activities 3
FEUTURE Analysis, Opinion, Voices 3
Upcoming events 4
How to register for the FEUTURE Newsletter 4

Newsletter

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Editorial "FEUTURE-Launch"

More than 1.3 million asylum applications were registered in the EU in 2015. Although this came as no surprise to the EU and its Member States, this massive refugee influx put the Schengen area severely under strain. At the same time Euroscepticism and populism are on the rise in EU Member States and while a GREXIT was - for the time being - avoided last-minute, the risk of BREXIT looms. Turkey, on its side, has to accommodate more than 3 million refugees on its territory. The Turkish economy is substantially slowing down and Turkey's relations with Russia have seen an unprecedented negative turn since the Turkish downing of a Russian jet in November 2015. Finally, the authoritarian drift in Turkey's political system continues unabated and Prime Minister of Turkey, Ahmet Davutoğlu, (was encouraged to) resign in May 2016, leaving President Erdoğan as the sole uncontested leader of the country.

These rather gloomy snapshots of the EU and Turkey in recent months highlight mounting challenges for both internally, in relation to one another, and internationally. The inherent paradox is that these challenges resulted in the restart of Turkey's accession negotiations and the visa liberalization procedure with the EU and a strengthening of institutional EU-Turkey relations through biannual EU-Turkey Summits and regular meetings at the highest levels at times when Turkey's reform process in light of the Copenhagen Criteria has seriously backslided. The EU has re-discovered Turkey as a "key strategic partner" and the EU-Turkey Refugee Deal will represent one of the key pillars of this strategic partnership in the months to come.

Against this backdrop, it seems more relevant than ever to assess and analyze future prospects of EU-Turkey relations also in consideration of the neighbourhood that is unraveling to the east and south and a power shift that can be detected at global level. Therefore, we are delighted to announce the launch of the three year research project *"FEUTURE" The Future of EU-Turkey Relations: Mapping Dynamics and Testing Scenarios*, funded by the European Commission's Horizon 2020 Programme. FEUTURE started on 1 April 2016 and will end its research activities on 31 March 2019. Our coordinating institutes, Jean Monnet Chair/CETEUS at the University of Cologne as project coordinator and Internazionali, Rome as scientific coordinator, have long track records in research on the EU and on Turkey as well as in coordinating EU funded multi-disciplinary research projects. They are joined by other 12 equally experienced partner institutes from the EU (CIDOB, CIFE, DIIS, Eliamep, TEPSA), Turkey (EDAM, Bilgi, Koc, METU) and Iraq (MERI), Georgia (CRRC) and Egypt (AUC, planned). This strong consortium is well equipped to implement in-depth research on such a highly topical issue and very well connected to the stakeholder community in order to issue policy recommendations.

We are looking forward to inspiring three years of research on EU-Turkey relations and to sharing our research findings with you in the f(e)uture.

Sincerely,

Funda Tekin (Project Director), Nathalie Tocci (Scientific Coordinator), Wolfgang Wessels (Project Coordinator)



This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No 692976.

Detailed Project-Information

FEUTURE aims to:

(1) map the dynamics of EU-Turkey relations as to underlying narratives and thematic drivers;
(2) substantiate the most likely future scenario(s) and assess its implications;
(3) draw policy recommendations.

FEUTURE provides excellence and pursues an ambitious, inspiring and innovative programme in a three-phased structure of elaboration, exploration and extrapolation. It applies an inter-temporal, interdisciplinary and international approach by analysing drivers within six thematic dimensions across four levels of analysis (EU, Turkey, neighbourhood, global).

The **political dimension** is most closely related with the overall pace of EU-Turkey relations. Research takes into consideration that progress in Turkey's political performance has often been related to and has justified progress in Turkey's European integration and vice versa. At the same time, setbacks in Turkey's democratization have been linked to stagnation in its European integration path.

The **economics dimension** will focus on the economic ties between Turkey and the EU and the way these are conditioned both by the economic performances of the two sides and by relations with the neighbourhood and global markets.

In the **security dimension**, Turkey's membership of NATO (as the second largest armed force in the Alliance) critically shapes EU-Turkey relations (as well as EU-NATO relations). Likewise, Turkish ambitions to become an independent regional power affect security ties with the EU. At the same time, Turkey's relations with the EU condition both the EU and Turkey's relations with the neighbourhood as well as with key global actors such as Russia and the United States.

In light of Turkey's growing importance for the EU's quest for energy security through the diversification of energy sources and routes, the **energy dimension** will focus on whether Turkey will end up representing an energy hub for Europe at the heart of the Southern Corridor and thus contribute to the EU's energy security.

Concerning the **migration dimension**, the research will analyze the flows of skilled migrants between Turkey and the EU, the transit of irregular migrants from Turkey into the EU, the evolution of Turkish and EU asylum policies, and the way these have affected the broader scope of the EU-Turkey relationship.

The **identity dimension** will focus on the diverse perception of identity of both Turkey and Europe by Turkish and EU actors.

In the concluding extrapolation phase FEUTURE integrates new knowledge and tests the implications of three ideal-type future scenarios for EU-Turkey relations: conflict, cooperation and convergence.

FEUTURE engages in a transdisciplinary exchange within an elite survey and with the knowledge-user community from the four levels of analysis exploiting the full range of virtual and social media as well as traditional means.

FEUTURE aims to achieve academic, practical and structural impact beyond the project.

13 renowned universities or think tanks from the EU, Turkey and neighbourhood constitute the FEUTURE consortium:

Partners	Lead Contact
University of Cologne (Project Coordination)	Wolfgang Wessels; Funda Tekin
Istituto Affari Internazionali (IAI) (Scientific Coordination)	Nathalie Tocci
Istanbul Bilgi University	Senem Aydin-Düzgit
Barcelona Centre for International Affairs (CIDOB)	Eduard Soler
Centre International de Formation Européenne (CIFE)	Funda Tekin
Caucasus Research Resource Centre Georgia (CRRC)	Koba Turmanidze
Danish Institute for International Studies (DIIS)	Fabrizio Tassinari
Centre for Economics and Foreign Policy Studies (EDAM)	Sinan Ülgen
Hellenic Foundation for European and Foreign Policy (ELIAMEP)	Angeliki Dimitriadi
Koc University	Bahar Rumelili
Middle East Research Institute (MERI)	Athanasios Manis
Middle East Technical University (METU)	Erkan Erdil, Atila Eralp
Trans European Policy Studies Association (TEPSA)	Mirte van den Berge

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Past activities

EU-Turkey Relations: Scenarios for the F(e)uture

First FEUTURE-Panel at Symposium of Turkish-German-University, Istanbul, 5-6 May 2016



"New challenges for Germany, Turkey and the EU" was the topic of the third annual symposium of the Turkish German University in Istanbul (TAU) on 5 and 6 May 2016. In light of the recent developments in EU-Turkey relations, debates focused on highly topical issues such as Syria and the Refugee Challenge for Germany, Turkey and the EU, transnational politics between Turkey and Germany and future prospects of EU-Turkey relations. This provided an optimal framework for organizing the first "FEUTURE-Panel" in order to promote FEUTURE's academic objectives. On 6 May 2016, researchers from the consortium engaged in a panel discussion with other researchers involved in studies on EU-Turkey relations and discussed "EU-Turkey Relations: Scenarios for the F(e)uture" with an audience of academics including young researchers and students.

Dr. Funda Tekin, Project Director of FEUTURE, underlined the relevance of the research project that is funded by the European Commission's Horizon 2020 Programme and started its activities on 1 April 2016. She briefly presented FEUTURE's research design and linked it to the rationale of differentiated integration in the EU.

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Bahar Rumelili (Koc University, Leader of Work Package 7 "Identity and Culture Drivers" outlined the identity and culture dimension of EU-Turkey relations and highlighted among others how the cyclical trajectory of dissonance and convergence in the history of European and Turkish identity has impacted EU-Turkey relations.

Dr. Magdalena Kirchner (SWP) elaborated on the potentials of FEUTURE's ideal-type scenarios of conflict, cooperation and coherence in light of the concrete example of the coalition against ISIL. She identified common aims but a lack of common action of the so-called coalition of the willing. Furthermore, she detected tendencies of tailor-made coalitions and policies and ad hoc cooperation within multi-lateral cooperation and organisations.

Asst. Prof. Dr. Ebru Turhan (TAU) presented her assessment of to what extent the refugee crises might represent an opportunity to substantiate the rather empty term of a "privileged partnership" for Turkey. In the following lively debate both future prospects of EU-Turkey relations as well as potentials of and expectations for FEUTURE's research activities were discussed and commented.

Setting up project structures

First meeting of the FEUTURE Steering Group, 21 April 2016, IAI, Rome



During the first weeks of the project's lifetime, the FEUTURE coordinators and partners set up the structures for implementing the project's research and activities. The Steering Group composed of the leaders of the ten work packages met at Istituto Affari Internazionali (Rome) on 21 April 2016 in order to revisit the project's (research) design in light of the developments in EU-Turkey relations since early summer of 2015 when the project proposal was submitted.

The Steering Group also prepared the FEUTURE Kick-Off Conference and the General Assembly that will take place on 26 and 27 May 2016 in Istanbul. The Steering Group will meet regularly throughout the project's lifetime.

For further information on the project's coordination and management please contact the FEUTURE Coordination Office at University of Cologne (Funda Tekin, Project Director funda.tekin@uni-koeln.de; Hanna-Lisa Hauge, Project and Financial Manager hanna-lisa.hauge@uni-koeln.de).

FEUTURE Analysis, Opinion, Voices

Senem Aydın-Düzgit / Nathalie Tocci, *Turkey and the European Union*, London: Palgrave Macmillan, 2015.

Angeliki Dimitriadi, *Deals without borders: Europe's foreign policy on migration*, ECFR Policy Brief/165, April 2016.

Hanna-Lisa Hauge / Wolfgang Wessels, *"EU-Turkey Relations and the German Perspective"*, in Nuroglu, Elif et.al. (eds): Turkish German Affairs from an Interdisciplinary Perspective, Frankfurt 2015, pp. 19-39.

Basak Kale, *The EU-Turkey Action Plan is Imperfect, But Also Pragmatic*

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and Maybe Even Strategic, On Turkey Series, German Marshall Fund of the United States, February 2016.

Athanasios Manis, *Turkey and its Kurdish Issue: The European Union Factor*, MERI Blog-Post, March 2016.

Bahar Rumelili, *Who Are the European? What Is Europe?: The Identity Challenges of an Evolving Policy*, Open Society Institute 2015.

Eduard Soler, *Three Questions Raised by Davutoğlu's Departure*, opinion 412, 2016, May 2016.

Sinan Ülgen, *Vulnerable to the Kurds, the Islamic State, and Refugees*, Cipher Brief, April 2016.

Upcoming events

FEUTURE Kick-Off Conference, 26-27 May 2016, Bilgi University, Istanbul



On 26 and 27 May 2016 the FEUTURE Kick-Off Conference in Istanbul will officially launch the project's activities including a keynote address by H.E. Ambassador Rauf Engin Soysal, Undersecretary of the Ministry for EU Affairs of Turkey.

The conference is hosted by Istanbul Bilgi University. On Thursday 26 May 2016 more than 50 researchers from the FEUTURE consortium will debate with external researchers, students and stakeholders FEUTURE's three ideal-type scenarios as well as narratives of EU-Turkey relations. The members of the FEUTURE Scientific and Policy Advisory Board will provide their expertise to the debate.

The second day of the conference, Friday 27 May 2016, aims for in-depth discussions among the consortium members on research within individual work packages. The conference concludes with the first meeting of the FEUTURE General Assembly.

For further information see www.feuture.eu. For registration please contact the FEUTURE Project and Financial Manager Hanna-Lisa Hauge (hanna-lisa.hauge@uni-koeln.de).

How to register for the FEUTURE Newsletter

Via email: send an email to feuture@tepsa.eu providing your name, affiliation and email address.

Online: visit the registration section on www.feuture.eu.

Follow the FEUTURE project on Facebook and Twitter!

Facebook:
www.facebook.com/feuture.eu

Twitter:
@FEUTURE_EU

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