

F|EU|TU|RE

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

NEWSLETTER

No. 9 | July 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 TURKEY AND EUROPE: CONTESTED IDENTITIES AND CHANGE](#)
- [PRESENTATION OF WORK PACKAGE 7: IDENTITY AND CULTURE DRIVERS](#)
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EDITORIAL

TURKEY AND EUROPE: CONTESTED IDENTITIES AND CHANGE

Relations between Turkey and the European Union are currently facing an impasse. After a long period of stagnation, accession negotiations which began in 2005 are now de facto frozen. Following a decade of heightened expectations and progress, since the early 2010s we have come to witness a rapid deterioration and backsliding in the Europeanization of Turkish politics. In both Europe and Turkey, identity discourses play a pivotal role in bringing about and maintaining this impasse. These discourses are characterized by *reciprocal* representations of the Other as **homogenous, inherently and antithetically different, socially distant, and threatening to Self**.

Recent public opinion polls in Europe record an all-

However, the historical analysis we have conducted in the context of Work Package 7 of the FEUTURE project attests to the fluidity and frequent ruptures in identity representations on both sides and underlines the need to be wary of such generalizations. At times, dominant identity discourses in Europe and Turkey have entailed the reciprocal representations of the Other as **heterogenous, non-threateningly different** in a way that allows for **co-existence and mutual recognition and drives cooperation**. During certain periods, identity discourses have entailed the reciprocal representations of the Other as **(already or on the path to becoming) part of a common/shared identity, and validating of Self and driven convergence**.

have long dropped the discourse on Turkish accession in favour of a “strategic partnership” with Turkey. These negative attitudes are supported by representations of Turkey as inherently unfit to adopt Europe’s political values and become European due to its cultural and religious difference. These representations, previously on the fringes of European identity discourse, have become dominant in the context of the deepening existentialist crisis within the EU concerning the future of the Eurozone and European security as well as the rise of populism across different EU member states.

Similarly, in Turkey, the deviations from European norms and standards and dismissal of European criticisms are supported with the growing dominance of Eurosceptic/Europhobic political discourse, which posits the incompatibility of Turkish identity with Europe, inherent European animosity towards Islam, and a hidden European agenda of weakening and dismembering Turkey. These representations find widespread resonance in Turkish society, which is becoming growingly nationalistic in the context of geopolitical uncertainties, and fuel the authoritarian trend in Turkish politics.

In the current context of EU-Turkey relations, it is tempting to resort to reductionist interpretations which read the identity relationship between Turkey and Europe as one of continuous differentiation and exclusion, mainly on cultural and religious grounds, and to consider identity and culture as drivers of conflict.

static state of affairs where a given set of representations dominates for long periods. Radical and dialectical transitions between these three sets of representations (from the conflict set to cooperation or convergence sets and vice versa) have occurred multiple times in response to different political and cultural drivers. These dialectical transitions are facilitated by the ongoing contestation over identity representations in both Turkey and Europe. While one set of representations is dominant, others continue to remain dormant in the cultural repertoire, and ready to be activated when conditions are ripe. This leads us to conclude that even though contemporary identity drivers point towards a conflict scenario for 2023, we expect contestations over identity to ultimately create openings for the alternative scenarios to emerge in the future of the EU-Turkey relationship.



*Bahar Rumelili,
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Package 7 "Identity and
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PRESENTATION OF WORK PACKAGE 7: IDENTITY AND CULTURE DRIVERS

This Work Package aims to identify historical and present drivers of EU-Turkey relations from an identity and culture perspective. Taking into account the long-term view necessary for understanding identity constructions and cultural contexts, this WP adopts an encompassing approach and starts its analysis in the late Ottoman modernisation period. As a historical driver, it understands significant historical milestones that have influenced the EU-Turkey relationship and have shaped the mutual...

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IAI event: "PESCO and security cooperation between EU and Turkey", Berlin, 14 May 2018



The second workshop of the 5th cycle of the "Global Turkey in Europe" project focused on the security relations between

Ankara and Brussels, discussing the possibility of cooperation between the two sides within the framework of the Permanent Structured Cooperation (PESCO).

[Read more](#)

Sabancı University-METU-Koc University panel: "Turkey's Foreign Policy II: Past and Future of the Turkey-EU Relations", Side, 3-6 May 2018



Three FEUTURE partners organised a panel at the 8th International Relations Studies and Education Congress of the International Relations

Council, where the preliminary findings from different FEUTURE Work Packages were presented.

The Congress brought together more than 100 academics working in the disciplines of International Relations and Political Sciences of universities all around Turkey.

[Read more](#)

CETEUS-TEPSA event: VIADUCT First Annual Conference, Brussels, 26-27 April 2018



The report of the VIADUCT First Annual Conference on "Enhancing visibility of the academic dialogue on EU-Turkey cooperation",

co-organized in Brussels by CETEUS and TEPSA, is now available [here](#).

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UPCOMING EVENTS

FEUTURE PhD workshop: "Between rapprochement and rejection: identity and culture drivers in the Europe-Turkey Relations", Istanbul, 14-15 September 2018



On 14-15 September 2018, Koç University will organize a conference

and PhD workshop that will give young researchers the possibility to reflect on the cultural dimension of relations between Europe and Turkey.

[Read more](#)

IAI event: "EU, Turkey, and managing migration beyond the 'Deal': How to make cooperation more sustainable and predictable", Kos, October 2018



The third workshop of the "Global Turkey in Europe" project aims to discuss how to go beyond the "Deal" and beyond 2020

as regards EU-Turkey cooperation on migration management so as to respond to the structural and long term nature of the challenges ahead, while making the cooperation itself more predictable.

FEUTURE ANALYSIS, OPINION, VOICES

[FEUTURE publications:](#)

- F|EU|TU|RE Online Paper No. 24: [The Impact of Global Drivers on the Future of EU-Turkey Security Relations](#), by Jakob Lindgaard, Andrea Dessì, Fabrizio Tassinari and Soli Özel, July 2018
- F|EU|TU|RE Online Paper No. 23: [EU-Turkey Relations: Security Drivers from the Eastern Neighbourhood](#), by Taylor Braun-Dorrell, Annika Kastetter, Panagiota Manoli and Nicolás de Pedro, May 2018
- F|EU|TU|RE Online Paper No. 22: [Gas Developments in the Eastern Mediterranean: Trigger or Obstacle for EU-Turkey Cooperation?](#), by Theodorus Tsakiris, Sinan Ulgen, Ahmet K. Han, May 2018
- F|EU|TU|RE Online Paper No. 21: [Highly Skilled Migration between the EU and Turkey: Drivers and Scenarios](#), by Elena Sánchez-Montijano, Ayhan Kaya, Melike Janine Sökmen, April 2018
- F|EU|TU|RE Online Paper No. 20: [The Role of the Middle East in the EU-Turkey Security Relationship: Key Drivers and Future Scenarios](#), by Doruk Ergun, Andrea Dessì, Jakob Lindgaard, Dlawer Ala'Aldeen, Kamaran Palani, May 2018
- F|EU|TU|RE Voice No. 5: [After the Elections: Ten Takeaways on Turkey's European Future](#), by Eduard Soler i Lecha, July 2018

[Partners' publications](#)

Ayhan Kaya (2018), [Turkish Origin Migrants and their Descendants: Hyphenated Identities in Transnational Space](#), London: Palgrave

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

As of 1 July 2018, FEUTURE Project Director [Dr Funda Tekin](#) has been appointed Director of Institut für Europäische Politik in Berlin and she has left the Centre international de formation européenne (CIFE). In her function as Project Director, Funda Tekin is going to continue coordinating the project together with Nathalie Tocci (IAI) and Wolfgang Wessels, as well as Hanna-Lisa Hauge at CETEUS (University of Cologne).

[Prof Dr Matthias Waechter](#) (CIFE Director General) has taken over the co-leadership of Work Package 9 "Dissemination and Outreach" on behalf of CIFE and will represent CIFE in the project's management bodies. On behalf of all FEUTURE partners, we would like to welcome Prof Dr Waechter to the project.

The FEUTURE Consortium also welcomes Aline Palige and Kristina Petersen (Project Managers and Heads of the communication department at CIFE), who will be responsible for the implementation of Work Package 9 activities.

[Bahar Rumelili](#) and [Suhnaz Yilmaz](#) (Koç University) were promoted to full Professorship on 22 June 2018.

[Dlawer Ala'Aldeen](#) (MERI) participated as a speaker in the conference ["Towards New Security Arrangements For The MENA Region"](#) organized by Al Sharq Forum in Istanbul on 6 May 2018. He gave a presentation on



FEUTURE video: Eduard Soler i Lecha (CIDOB) presents the [FEUTURE Online Paper No. 17](#) on "It takes two to tango: political changes in Europe and their impact on Turkey's EU bid"

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

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*The FEUTURE consortium wishes you all a nice
and relaxing summer break!*



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