



EU-Turkey Bridge – A Standing Group on EU-Turkey Relations

Context

Relations between the European Union and Turkey remain crucially relevant. At the same time, they are highly complex and have become increasingly conflictual. In past years, the relationship has been on the verge of reaching the tipping point from a scenario of conflictual cooperation towards conflicts among increasingly distant neighbours.

Hence, there is the continued need to **analyse** the moving target “EU-Turkey relations”, **assess** the nature of the relationship elaborating its drivers and challenges, **advise** on how to avoid a full break-up and how to frame relations in the future and **advocate** for a post-crisis narrative and relationship.

This Standing Group on EU-Turkey Relations aims to meet the demand for **bridge-building exercises** in EU-Turkey relations.

Aim:

- B** - uilding an academic, think tank and stakeholder community on EU-Turkey relations in the EU, Turkey and the neighbourhood.
- R** - esearching EU-Turkey relations based on an interdisciplinary approach (history, political, legal, economic and social sciences): with the aim to identify crucial questions and issues for analysis, assessment and advice.
- I** - nforming each other as well as the relevant academic, think tank and stakeholder community about historical and recent developments, fundamental and concrete challenges and short- and long-term opportunities in EU-Turkey relations.
- D** - ebating EU-Turkey relations with the aim to promote (counter-)narratives for framing the relationship in times of crises and beyond.
- G** - enerating a multidisciplinary and multigenerational platform for (regional) promoters of EU-Turkey relations.
- E** - xplaining and evaluating empirical evidence for assessment and advice to relevant stakeholders.

Activities

Four dimensions structure the activities of the EU-Turkey Bridge:

1. Face-to-face meetings in virtual and actual space related to specific events (2-4 per year): Targeted outcome is network-building by bridging research and teaching as well as academia and practitioners, allowing for mutual enhancement of good practices.
2. Online Exchange and Dissemination Platforms: internal exchange within mailing lists and groups; dissemination through social media activities and mentioning of EU-Turkey Bridge membership on individual websites with interlinkage to the EU-Turkey Bridge website.

3. Publications: drawing up academic evidence of European added value through individual publications on EU-Turkey relations linked to the EU-Turkey Bridge profile and eventually a paper series or a blog of its own.
Targeted outcome is the exploitation and enhancement of existing research networks and policy dialogue.
4. Multiplication: Guest Lectures, Public Debates involving multipliers as well as closed door meetings for exchange with stakeholders.

Structure, Members and Partners

EU-Turkey Bridge Board consisting of its founding members:

Senem Aydin-Düzgit, Istanbul Policy Centre (Co-Chairwoman)	Funda Tekin, Institut für Europäische Politik (Co-Chairwoman)
Nilgün Arisan-Eralp, Economic Policy Research Institute	Eduard Soler i Lecha, Barcelona Centre for International Affairs
Jim Cloos, Trans European Policy Studies Association	Ebru Turhan, German-Turkish University
Atila Eralp, Istanbul Policy Center	Ilke Toygür, Centre for Applied Turkish Studies
Fuat Keyman, Istanbul Policy Center	Wolfgang Wessels, Centre for Turkey and EU Studies
Özgehan Senyuva, Middle East Technical University	

The EU-Turkey Bridge will continuously enlarge its community. The board will invite additional members.

Activity and visibility of the EU-Turkey Bridge build on three-pillars-structure:

People: The EU-Turkey Bridge will be chaired by Funda Tekin (IEP) and Senem Aydin-Düzgit (IPC). Each member of the standing group is strongly encouraged to actively share their latest research, insights and activities in the field of EU-TR relations.

Administrative body: IEP and CETEUS will jointly build-up organisational and administrative structures for the coordination of contact management, network activities, social media activities and application procedures for funding opportunities.

Strong networking partner: In cooperation with TEPSA the EU-Turkey Bridge will establish a newsletter and enhance networking activities building on TEPSA's strong network of member institutes.