

EUROPEAN STUDIES IN TURKEY: PRESENT STATE AND PROPOSALS FOR THE FUTURE

European studies in Turkey have gone through intensive development in the last few years, especially after the Helsinki summit. Today about one third of Turkish universities have started a research or teaching activity connected with the European integration process. Most of this work has been done without any help from the European Commission. Actually, among the Commission's programs, in the fields of education and culture only Jean Monnet Action is active in Turkey, and that only since 2001. European studies in Turkish universities are characterized by a double concentration: territorial and sectorial. In order to sustain further development of European studies in Turkey three initiatives in education should be implemented: short courses for the training of the public officers; a networking program among Turkish and member states' universities; and more importantly the establishment of a new institution dedicated to EU studies.

Angelo Santagostino*

* Angelo Santagostino is a Jean Monnet professor of European Economic Integration at the Faculty of Economics at the University of Brescia, Italy. This article is based on a report prepared for the Turkish Ministry of Foreign Affairs with the support of the European Commission. The views expressed are those of the author and can in no way be taken to reflect the views of the European Union or of the Turkish Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

European studies are a field of increasing interest in Turkish universities nowadays. The profile of EU studies in Turkey began to change at the beginning of the 1990s and a major breakthrough, in terms of both research and teaching activity, came in the aftermath of the Helsinki Summit in 1999. In this context, the possibility of a ruling in December 2004 to the effect that Turkey has fulfilled the Copenhagen criteria (leading to the opening of accession negotiations “without delay”) will surely play a role in encouraging diversification and extension of EU studies. Today almost one third of the 76 state and private universities in Turkey have already established EU research centres or offer courses on European studies.

On the other hand, an augmenting number of Jean Monnet Chairs, European modules and permanent courses supported by Jean Monnet Action of the European Commission, reveal the growing interest of Turkish academics in this field. However, we must consider the fact that Turkey has been eligible for Jean Monnet Action since 2001. This fact contrasts sharply with the experience of the former Central and Eastern European Countries (CEEC) who have been eligible for Jean Monnet Action since the beginning of the nineties. Another difference between Turkey and the former CEEC is the fact that this country has not yet had any TEMPUS like programme, with the partial exception of the MEDA Programme which finances the Jean Monnet Scholarship Programme. In fact, in the former CEEC, TEMPUS I and II have played a fundamental role in the enhancement of European studies: faculties (as in Romania), chairs or training courses. The same thing can be said of Tempus III (2000-2006), for which Turkey is eligible only on a co-financing base.

Thus, in general, it is possible to say that the Turks have done, *with their own resources*, the majority of work in the development of European studies within Turkey.

Doctoral, Master and Undergraduate Courses¹

Attention should be drawn to two main centers of excellence in this regard: the University of Marmara and the University of Ankara. The European Community Institute of Marmara University is the first and oldest institution in Turkey providing a PhD program in European Studies. Both institutions have three different MAs on offer. Ankara University is running three Masters programs: “EU Law,” “EU International Relations” and “EU Economics and Finance,” and is launching a new postgraduate program on “International Trade Law and the EC.” Marmara University is offering MA programs in “EU Law,” “EU Economics” and “EU Politics and International Relations,” each of these leading to a corresponding PhD.

Both universities represent the “tradition” regarding European studies in Turkey. However, the prospect of membership and increasing awareness that the future of Turkey is becoming more and more linked to Europe, have led to

¹ The following is a brief description of examples of EU studies in Turkey.

different new initiatives from public and private universities. Thus new MA programs have been created in these last years.

At Galatasaray University, founded in 1992 on the basis of a bilateral agreement between France and Turkey, the Department of International Relations, the Law School and the Department of Economics offer undergraduate and graduate courses on “European Integration,” “EU Economics” and “EU Law.”

The MAs offered at Middle East Technical University-METU (Ankara) and Bogaziçi University (Istanbul) are based on the classic type of MA in European studies based on the four pillars; law, economics, politics and history. Bogaziçi University is developing a nationwide network through its Centre for European Studies and the Student Forum - that is principally aimed at involving Anatolian universities in activities concerning European studies. Among the new initiatives launched in recent years by public universities, Gazi University, which runs two specialized MA programs: one on “EU Law” and the other on “Turkey - EU Relations” is well-worth mentioning.

Among private universities, at the MA level, there are three main new initiatives in European studies that deserve to be mentioned: Yeditepe University, Bilgi University and Dogus University. Yeditepe University offers courses at the undergraduate level, an MA in “EU Law,” and a Summer School that offers courses on EU issues. The MA, with a thesis, is taught in English. The Summer School provides a three-week course on EU issues. Lectures are delivered in English. On the other hand, Bilgi University offers an MA in European Studies in cooperation with Leiden University. While in the first year courses are taught in Istanbul with the participation of visiting professors from Leiden, an option for those students who have completed the first year is to spend a whole semester in Leiden. Bilgi’s MA is oriented towards business and economics, with an emphasis on trade and other economic relations between Turkey and the EU. Dogus University offers an MA in European Union Studies, with thesis and non-thesis options, within the Social Sciences Institute. The MA in EU studies offers specializations in law, economics and European culture.

In Izmir, Dokuz Eylül University offers a PhD in EU Law at the Department of Labor, Economics and Industrial Relations in the Faculty of Economics and Administrative Sciences. The same Department also offers a two-semester MA in European Studies. Courses cover three of the four classical pillars of EU studies: law, economics, and political science. Moreover, at the Izmir University of Economics, the Department of International Relations and the European Union offer a two-year MA program on European Integration and Turkey – EU Relations.

The University of Bahçesehir (Istanbul) and the Izmir University of Economics offer EU studies at the undergraduate level. The Faculty of Business Administration at Bahçesehir University offers a 4-year, 8-semester undergraduate EU studies course. It is taught in English and focuses on economics. The Izmir University of Economics runs a 4-year, 8-semester

undergraduate program in International Relations and the European Union. In Antalya, Akdeniz University has, at the undergraduate level, a permanent course titled “European Union: Policies Affecting the Tourism Sector” in the School of Tourism and Hotel Management, and a Jean Monnet module on “EU Economy,” at the Faculty of Economics and Administrative Science. At Konya’s Selçuk University, there are European Union courses with different names among the compulsory and elective courses within the curriculum of the Faculty of Economics and Administrative Sciences. In the MA program of International Relations, “Turkish-EU Relations in the Full Membership Process” and a course titled “The Enlargement Process of the EU” are taught.

Training and Certificate Programs

The European Union Research Centre of Ankara University (ATAUM) and METU offer training programs for BA graduates, for public administration officers, especially for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA) and for the business community. ATAUM certificate programs deal with International Relations, EU Law, EU Social Policy, the Common Agricultural Policy and EU Industrial Policy. METU’s courses are taught both by resident professors and visiting professors from other Turkish universities such as Bogaziçi and Sabanci Universities, and also those from EU member states like the Autonomous University of Madrid or Sussex European Institute. It is important to underline the role that these activities could have in the coming years for the training of the negotiating teams within the public administration. The urgency of this training is clearly felt in different milieus: central administration, public and private universities, foundations and associations. There is a strong consciousness in the country that the lack of officers trained in negotiation techniques and with a specific knowledge of the various chapters of the negotiation process could represent a serious constraint when this process starts.

Considerations Regarding the State of EU Studies

In comparison with other European countries, the performance of Turkey in terms of the development of EU study programs is outstanding. As it is correct from a methodological point of view, we establish a comparison “weighted” for lengths of the participation period of each country in Jean Monnet Action. We have seen that Turkey has been an eligible country since 2001. Calculating the average number of Jean Monnet projects per year of participation of each country in the Jean Monnet Action, it is found that the top four countries, with an average number of projects equal to or higher than 16 are Poland, Turkey, United Kingdom and Italy, followed by Romania, Spain and France. In this context Turkish universities appear quite dynamic. However this dynamism has also produced some distortions.

A specific feature of the growth of European Studies in Turkey is that of the double concentration. The first is the territorial concentration; the second is the sectorial one. European studies, (in the form of undergraduate programs, MAs, PhDs, research centers, European documentation centers and

autonomous institutes) are present in 29 institutions of higher education out of a total of 76. One third of Turkish universities are thus involved, although to different extents, with European studies. However the territorial concentration is huge; of these 29 universities 18 are located in Istanbul and Ankara. Furthermore out of 17 EU studies programs (undergraduate, MA and PhD) 13 are located in Istanbul or Ankara, while the remaining 4 are in Izmir. From a sectorial point of view, MA and PhD studies are essentially concentrated in social science faculties (where they can be divided into the classic-type MA in European studies and MAs specializing in law, economics-business and international relations), while in technical faculties there are no programs at all.

Another characteristic of EU studies is the low level of cooperation and interaction among the university centers dedicated to European studies. The main reasons for this can be indicated as follows: financial constraints, the lack of a clear perception of the potential benefits of cooperation and the lack of specific programs for the formation of networks.

Three Proposals for the Development of EU Studies

As we have seen in the previous section the state of European studies can be considered as satisfactory in Turkey, both in quality and in quantity. However this assessment, at least as quantity is concerned, is strictly limited to the present state of Turkey as a non-negotiating candidate country. When, presumably in 2005, Turkey becomes a negotiating candidate country, the necessities will dramatically increase and diversify. To cope with this new situation, new and more effective tools will be needed. In this light, three propositions are presented here.

- Short courses for the training of the public officers participating in the implementation and negotiation process;
- A Tempus like networking program among Turkish and Member States' universities for reinforcing EU studies in the universities where they already exist and to extend EU studies to all Turkish universities;
- A new institution dedicated to EU studies, but with a broader approach. This new institution would have to be the outcome of a convention among the Turkish government and those EU Member States and Candidate States' governments who would be interested in participating. This new institution's activity would be concentrated on teaching and research. Teaching would have to be at postgraduate level, leading to a doctoral degree in the four fundamental pillars of European studies, economics, law, politics and history, but with an emphasis on relations among cultures and civilizations. This new institution also needs to be independent from the Turkish university system.

The instruments for energizing European studies have to cope with different needs. First, there is an urgent need to train, in the shortest possible period, those who are and will be engaged in the process of implementation and negotiation of the "acquis." Second, there is a need to reinforce and extend EU studies in Turkey, so that by around 2010 the Turkish university system can offer wider variety and more qualified courses and programs in this field. For

this reason, it is necessary to enhance the number and to raise the scientific level of scholars in EU studies. Third, the new institution would, in our opinion, be a powerful instrument for the creation of the “cultural acquis” which is fundamental to the peaceful development of the relations between Europe and neighboring countries.