

FEUTURE

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

FEUTURE Events at Middle East Technical University (METU), Ankara, 20 and 21 February 2018

Public Debate / Joint Work Package 2 and 4 meeting / Policy Challenge Sessions

On 20 and 21 February 2018, the Center for European Studies of Middle East Technical University (CES-METU) organized and hosted the joint workshop of the FEUTURE Work Package 2 “*Political Drivers*” and Work Package 4 “*Security Drivers*” in Ankara, Turkey.

The workshop provided detailed analysis on a wide range of issues, promoted effective collaboration, stimulated lively discussions, and prompted an exchange of opinions drawn from more than 50 participants from academia, government, diplomacy, business, and civil society. In this regard, it has generated essential input for the research conducted under the FEUTURE project and valuable content for the audience of the public events.

Public Debate



The workshop started with the welcoming remarks by **Özgehan Şenyuva** (METU) and **Funda Tekin** (CETEUS), which was followed by a keynote speech by **Soli Özel** (Kadir Has University), who provided a critical analysis of global economic, societal, and political trends and expanded on changes and shifts these trends might cause in international affairs with a specific focus on the EU-Turkey relations.

After the keynote address, a public panel and discussion on the present and future of the EU-Turkey relations took place. Chaired by **Asuman Göksel** (METU), the debate mainly focused on the contemporary issues and challenges faced by each actor on different levels as well as their impact for the near future in the light of the FEUTURE’s proposed ideal-type scenarios. At the panel, the work package leaders **Eduard Soler** (WP2) from CIDOB and **Sinan Ülgen** (WP4) from EDAM, and **Jakob Lindgaard** (DIIS), who takes part in both work packages, presented the key findings of their research; elaborated on the existing trends within transnational politics of the wider Europe; and drew attention to the turbulent nature of the current EU-Turkey relations.





The public event, which convened a broad spectrum of participants from academia, public and private institutions, NGOs, and foreign representations in Turkey, concluded with **Atila Eralp's** (METU) closing remarks and a Q&A session.

Joint Work Package 2 & 4 meeting: Politics and Security Dimensions of EU-Turkey Relations

The discussion on both finished and ongoing research continued during the roundtable meeting in the afternoon with a deeper and detailed assessment carried out by researchers from both work packages. FEUTURE researchers discussed their findings on drivers of the EU-Turkish relationship within the politics and security dimension.

The final session of the workshop, which was titled "*War and Peace in the Middle East*", benefited from presentations delivered by **Özlem Tür**, **Haldun Yalçınkaya**, and **İlhan Uzgel**, who brought in additional perspectives on political and security-related drivers and ensured the broader relevance of the FEUTURE's research. At the session, the speakers examined the structural transformations in the Middle East and specific aspects of the relations with a multidimensional approach. They elaborated on crucial topics such as regional conflicts, security threats, humanitarian crises, extremism and nationalism, water, energy, role of leadership, and the Kurdish issue. After the speakers shared their main remarks on potential future developments, the session closed with the discussion with the audience.





Policy Challenge Sessions

On the second day of the workshop, METU hosted H.E. Ambassador Christian Berger, the Head of European Union Delegation to Turkey, and H.E. Ambassador Selim Yenel, the Undersecretary of the Ministry for EU Affairs.



Both roundtable sessions were held under the Chatham House Rule and divided into a speech given by the Ambassadors and discussion attended only by the project researchers. The



Ambassadors addressed and provided insights into topical issues related to the current status of the EU-Turkey relations and conveyed messages on the need for further cooperation between actors in the light of growing regional and global challenges, including unsolved conflicts in the Euro-Mediterranean region, radicalism and populism, terrorism, as well as socio-economic and socio-political instability.

