Turkish Perceptions of the European Union

2021
# Participant Demographics

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Gender</th>
<th>Male</th>
<th>52.4%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Female</td>
<td>47.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age Group</td>
<td>18-29</td>
<td>26.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>30-45</td>
<td>29.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>46-87</td>
<td>41.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Settlement</td>
<td>Urban</td>
<td>93.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Rural</td>
<td>6.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Level of Education</td>
<td>Primary Education or Lower</td>
<td>28.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Secondary Education</td>
<td>53.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Higher Education</td>
<td>16.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Employment Status</td>
<td>Employed</td>
<td>49.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Housewife</td>
<td>20.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Retired</td>
<td>10.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Student</td>
<td>4.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Looking for a Job</td>
<td>7.5%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Field research was carried out in March-April 2021 with 2006 participants representing the 18+ population of Turkey, in urban and rural areas of 29 provinces, via face-to-face interviews.

Study’s margin of error has been calculated to be 2 percent, based on the simple random sampling method.

Field research was carried out by the Infakto RW.
Foreign Policy
When you think of international relations in the broadest context, which country do you consider to be the most important partner of Turkey?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Azerbaijan</td>
<td>46.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Russia</td>
<td>18.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Germany</td>
<td>13.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Qatar</td>
<td>9.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pakistan</td>
<td>6.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>USA</td>
<td>6.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>France</td>
<td>4.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>United Kingdom</td>
<td>4.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>China</td>
<td>3.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Turkmenistan</td>
<td>3.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Italy</td>
<td>2.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Iran</td>
<td>2.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus</td>
<td>1.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Syria</td>
<td>1.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>11.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>None</td>
<td>10.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Don't Know/ No Idea</td>
<td>6.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No Answer</td>
<td>2.2%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Biggest Threat to Turkey’s National Interests (2 Responses)

Which country or international community is the biggest threat to the national interests of Turkey according to your opinion?
In general terms, to what extent do you have positive sentiments about the countries I will read to you. “0” being “not positive at all” and “10” being “very positive”?
Opinions about Leaders

To what extent do you have positive opinions about the leaders I will read to you?
Among the countries that I will read to you, with which of them should Turkey cooperate most closely with on international issues?
Trust in the International Institutions – Percentage of Participants Who “Trust”

To what extent do you trust the international institutions that I will read to you?
Perceptions of the European Union
Opinion regarding Turkey’s EU Membership

In general, what do you think about Turkey’s EU membership? Is it good or bad?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>General Public</th>
<th>Ages 18-24</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Don’t know / No answer</td>
<td>1.7%</td>
<td>2.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>It is a bad thing</td>
<td>24.9%</td>
<td>16.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neither a good thing nor a bad thing</td>
<td>17.5%</td>
<td>15.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>It is a good thing</td>
<td>55.9%</td>
<td>66.2%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
A Hypothetical Referendum on Turkey’s EU Membership

If there were a referendum this Sunday on full membership of Turkey to the European Union, how would you vote?

Vote “Yes” => 60.1% & 68.8%
Vote “No” => 29.7% & 21.3%

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Option</th>
<th>General Public</th>
<th>Ages 18-24</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Don’t know / No answer</td>
<td>4.4%</td>
<td>2.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I would not vote</td>
<td>5.8%</td>
<td>7.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I would definitely vote “no”</td>
<td>15.7%</td>
<td>9.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I would probably vote “no”</td>
<td>14.0%</td>
<td>11.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I would probably vote “yes”</td>
<td>25.2%</td>
<td>29.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I would definitely vote “yes”</td>
<td>34.9%</td>
<td>39.3%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
When Will Turkey Become a Full Member of the EU?

When do you think Turkey will become a full member of the European Union?
Do you think you will personally benefit from Turkey’s EU membership?
Level of Knowledge About EU Policies and Institutions

In general, to what extent you feel yourself knowledgeable about European Union policies and institutions?
Attitudes Towards Europeans

All things considered, is your attitude towards Europeans positive or negative?
Formation of Views about Europe and Europeans (First Response)

Which of the following have been or continue to be more effective in forming your own views about Europe and Europeans?

- Your family: 40.1%
- Politicians: 26.7%
- Journalists, columnists: 15.9%
- Religious leaders: 3.7%
- Your teachers: 2.6%
- Other: 2.6%
- None: 6.1%
- Don't know / No answer: 2.3%
Formation of Views about Europe and Europeans (First Response)

Which of the following information sources have been or continue to be more effective in forming your own views about Europe and Europeans?
Which of the following have been or continue to be more effective in forming your own views about Europe and Europeans?
Europe and Experiences with Europeans (Percentage of “Yes” Responses)

- Met a European: 45.7%
- Worked in a European country: 39.6%
- Made friends with Europeans: 37.7%
- Visited a European Union country: 13.5%

Have you ever met a European in your life?
Have you or any of your immediate family worked or continue to work in one of the European countries?
Have you ever made friends with Europeans in your life?
Have you ever visited any European Union country until now?
Aspiring for Child to Get Education in Europe and the Country Preferred for Education

Would you like your child to get education in Europe at any stage of his/her life?

In which European country would you prefer your child to get education?

Most frequently indicated countries are shown.
In terms of culture and lifestyle, to what extent do you consider people living in these countries close to yourself?
Opinion Regarding Turkey’s EU Membership

- If Turkey accomplishes the tasks as required, it can easily join the European Union. (21.5%)
- Turkey is not ready for the EU membership even if EU is willing to admit Turkey right away. (22.9%)
- European Union does not have the intention of letting Turkey in. It is just trying to delay the accession. (52.1%)
- Don’t know / No answer (3.5%)

From the opinions I will read to you, which one is closer to yours regarding Turkey’s EU membership?
Factors that Could Facilitate Turkey’s Full EU Membership (2 Responses)

- Economy getting better in Turkey: 58.9% (General Public), 65.2% (Ages 18-24)
- Improved human rights in Turkey: 47.2% (General Public), 54.7% (Ages 18-24)
- Realization of required legal reforms in Turkey: 29.8% (General Public), 38.8% (Ages 18-24)
- U.S. support for Turkey’s full EU membership: 17.3% (General Public), 15.9% (Ages 18-24)
- Turkey’s waiver of its citizens’ right to work in the EU countries: 8.6% (General Public), 7.7% (Ages 18-24)
- None, it will never become a member: 6.0% (General Public), 14.0% (Ages 18-24)
- Don’t Know / No Answer: 2.5% (General Public), 1.3% (Ages 18-24)

Which one of the following will facilitate Turkey’s full EU membership?
What will be the most important benefit of Turkey’s EU accession for Turkey?
Most Important Benefit of Turkey’s EU Accession for the European Union

- Opening of Turkey’s market to European countries: 25.1% (General Public), 24.8% (Ages 18-24)
- Ensuring cultural pluralism: 21.1% (General Public), 23.4% (Ages 18-24)
- Inclusion of Turkey’s young population: 20.4% (General Public), 20.0% (Ages 18-24)
- Increasing tolerance for foreigners: 12.2% (General Public), 12.4% (Ages 18-24)
- Improving of regional security in European Union: 6.5% (General Public), 7.0% (Ages 18-24)
- Ensuring peace in Middle East and Caucasia: 6.0% (General Public), 6.4% (Ages 18-24)
- Other: 3.0% (General Public), 1.2% (Ages 18-24)
- Don’t know / No answer: 5.8% (General Public), 4.8% (Ages 18-24)

What will be the most important benefit of Turkey’s EU accession for the European Union?
Willingness of EU Countries to See Turkey as an EU Member and Strongest Supporters of Turkey’s EU Membership (3 Responses)

WILLINGNESS OF EU COUNTRIES TO SEE TURKEY AS AN EU MEMBER

- 4.6% Don’t know / No answer
- 57.8% No, they don’t want
- 29.2% Some of them don’t want but the majority does
- 8.4% Yes, they do

Do you think the countries of the European Union are really willing to see Turkey as a member country of the EU?

STRONGEST SUPPORTERS OF TURKEY’S EU MEMBERSHIP – (3 RESPONSES)

- Germany 23.7%
- France 12.5%
- Azerbaijan 11.5%
- United Kingdom 7.3%
- Italy 7.1%
- Russia 6.5%
- Spain 4.0%
- Sweden 3.2%
- USA 3.2%
- Netherlands 2.6%
- Bulgaria 2.1%
- Hungary 2.0%
- Romania 1.7%
- Denmark 1.2%
- Switzerland 1.1%
- Pakistan 1.1%
- Greece 1.0%
- Other 12.3%
- None 15.9%
- Don’t know / No idea 22.4%
- No answer 5.7%

In your opinion, which country is the strongest supporter of Turkey’s EU membership? Which other countries?
There are some changes that Turkey adopted in order to ensure EU accession. Could you indicate your level of approval for each of these changes on a scale of 1 to 10?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Change</th>
<th>Approve</th>
<th>Neither approve nor disapprove</th>
<th>Not approve</th>
<th>Don't know / No answer</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Establishment of necessary conditions for freedom of thought and freedom of expression</td>
<td>47.0%</td>
<td>37.9%</td>
<td>9.5%</td>
<td>0.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Establishment of conditions necessary for expression of freedom of religion and liberty of conscience so as to cover all religions...</td>
<td>41.7%</td>
<td>41.7%</td>
<td>11.6%</td>
<td>5.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Abolition of laws prohibiting education in native languages of citizens</td>
<td>40.1%</td>
<td>43.3%</td>
<td>12.6%</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Abolition of laws prohibiting radio and television broadcasts in native languages of citizens</td>
<td>39.9%</td>
<td>42.3%</td>
<td>13.3%</td>
<td>6.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Abolition of capital punishment for anyone and any crime</td>
<td>27.9%</td>
<td>43.1%</td>
<td>24.4%</td>
<td>4.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Solution of problems with Greece by means of mutual compromises</td>
<td>20.9%</td>
<td>42.9%</td>
<td>29.0%</td>
<td>7.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Solution of existing problems in Cyprus by means of mutual compromises</td>
<td>19.7%</td>
<td>44.4%</td>
<td>29.0%</td>
<td>6.8%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Opinion Regarding Turkey’s Relations with Europe – Percentage of Participants Who “Agree”

Europe has assisted strengthening of separationist organizations such as PKK in Turkey

European countries are willing to divide and disintegrate Turkey just like they did to the Ottoman Empire in the past

What is behind the European attitudes against Turkey is the crusader spirit

Westernization efforts in Turkey could not go beyond Western mimicry

The reforms conducted for EU accession are no different than the capitulations

The reforms demanded from Turkey by EU are similar to the ones mentioned in the Sevres Treaty in the past

Now, I will read to you some of the views with regard to Turkey’s relations with Europe. Could you indicate whether you “totally agree”, “agree”, “not agree” or “totally disagree” with these views?
Has Turkey Benefited from the Customs Union?

As you know, Turkey and the European Union signed a Customs Union agreement in 1995. Do you think this cooperation has benefited Turkey’s economy or not?
Major Benefit and Harm of the Customs Union to Turkey

**Major Harm of the Customs Union**

- Economic harm (general): 26.4%
- Taxes increased: 14.7%
- The value of our products decreased: 8.7%
- Poor quality products were left to us: 7.7%
- Setting quotas: 5.3%
- External dependence increased: 3.0%
- Other: 21.1%
- Don’t know / No answer: 13.1%

**Major Benefit of the Customs Union**

- Economic benefit (general): 27.4%
- Import and export increased: 19.2%
- Trade has increased: 13.6%
- Convenience in customs: 6.0%
- Tax advantage: 3.3%
- Quality products increased: 3.2%
- Shopping became easier: 2.9%
- Quota limit is removed: 1.5%
- Smuggling is prevented: 1.2%
- Production increased: 1.2%
- Variety of products increased: 1.0%
- Bureaucracy is reduced: 0.8%
- Other: 8.5%
- Don’t know / No answer: 10.3%

**Base: 224**

What is the major harm caused by the Customs Union?

**Base: 669**

What is the major benefit of the Customs Union?
Opinion Regarding Mutual Inclusion of Services, Public Procurement, and Agriculture Sectors in Customs Union

Within the framework of updating the Customs Union between Turkey and European Union, would you support or oppose mutual inclusion of services, public procurement and agriculture sectors within the Customs Union?
Now, I will read to you some foreign policy issues that Turkey is faced with. Do you think Turkey has common or contradicting interests with Europe on these issues?
Actions to Improve Relations between Turkey and the EU (3 Responses)

Now, I will read to you some actions that might improve the relations between Turkey and the European Union. Which of these actions do you think would make the most positive contribution to the relationship? What about the second? Third?
Support for the Criteria Turkey has to Fulfill for Visa Liberalization

- Ensuring effective judicial cooperation with all EU member states on criminal matters: 52.7% support, 36.7% oppose, 10.6% don't know/no answer.
- Review of legislation and practices on terrorism in light of European standards: 51.8% support, 38.3% oppose, 9.9% don't know/no answer.
- Harmonization of the legislation on the protection of personal data with EU standards: 50.9% support, 37.1% oppose, 12.1% don't know/no answer.
- Adopting the measure for the prevention of corruption stipulated in the Road Map, ensuring effective follow-up of the…: 50.5% support, 35.9% oppose, 13.6% don't know/no answer.
- Conclusion of an operational cooperation agreement between Turkey and Europol (European Police Organization): 48.4% support, 37.5% oppose, 14.1% don't know/no answer.
- The full implementation of the EU-Turkey Readmission Agreement: 48.0% support, 37.8% oppose, 14.2% don't know/no answer.

Turkey has to fulfill remaining 6 criteria in order to conclude a visa liberalization agreement with the European Union. Now, I will read to you these criteria one by one. Do you support or oppose to fulfillment of these criteria?
Considering the topics that I will read to you, could you please rate European Union’s level of success?
Environment and Climate Change
Environmental protection should be prioritized, even if it causes slow economic growth and job losses.

Even if the environment is harmed, creating economic growth and job opportunities should be a priority

There are two different views about economic growth and environment. Which one of these is closer to your view?
Level of Information about the Content of the Paris Climate Agreement

How much do you know about the content of the Paris Climate Agreement?

- Informed: 17.0% & 22.4%
- Not Informed: 73.9% & 70.3%
Should the Turkish Parliament Ratify the Paris Climate Agreement

Do you think the Turkish Grand National Assembly should ratify the Paris Climate Agreement?

Base: 855
Opinion Regarding Turkey Joining the EU Green Deal

The Green Deal is the new growth strategy of the European Union, which includes zeroing net greenhouse gas emissions until 2050, ending the dependence of economic growth on resource use. Do you think Turkey should join the EU Green Deal?

Join => 51.1% & 56.5%
Not join => 20.9% & 18.5%

Don’t know / No answer: General Public 28.1% & 25.0%
Definitely not join: General Public 8.3% & 7.0%
Not join: General Public 12.6% & 11.4%
Join: General Public 30.8% & 32.2%
Definitely join: General Public 20.3% & 24.4%