



# TURKEY-EU THOUGHT ECOSYSTEM NETWORK PROGRAM

“New World,  
New Europe  
and Turkey”

**TASAM**

TÜRK ASYA STRATEJİK ARAŞTIRMALAR MERKEZİ  
TURKISH ASIAN CENTER FOR STRATEGIC STUDIES



# TURKEY-EU THOUGHT ECOSYSTEM NETWORK PROGRAM

VISION DOCUMENT (DRAFT)

## TURKEY - EU THOUGHT ECOSYSTEM NETWORK PROGRAM “New World, New Europe and Turkey” ( 2021-2023, Turkey and EU Countries )

### THE NATURE OF THE STATE AND LIFE; NEW ECOSYSTEM

When the fundamental trends in the world are examined, global competition is in progress over “micro-nationalism”, “integration” and “unpredictability” in the new economic age which is based on “knowledge and knowledge-based products” following “land and machine”. The challenges that determine the new nature of the state and life; the unsustainability of “the resource and sharing crisis”, “production-consumption-growth” formulas, “demobilization of middle class” with Chinese financial leverage, “energy, water and food insecurity”, “transition to 4<sup>th</sup> dimension” in every sphere of life, “demobilization of human resource in workforce” are the basic references for changing nature of the state and the expectation management through a “shift from hard power to soft power”.

Within all these basic parameters, the transformations in technology; artificial intelligence advance virtual/increased reality are candidate for changing whole human life and nature by developing mobility-based. “Industry 4.0” and “Society 5.0” are explicitly crucial titles in order to manage the transformation of the world.

Another factor is the turbulence that has been created by China with the day by day increasing effectiveness in world stage. New Silk Road project “Belt and Road Initiative”; which is a global integration project involving 64 countries -both from land and sea- permanently change the distribution of the economic pie.

Along with all these developments, “The Ecosystem of Security” is changing with its law. Hereafter, Security-Democracy contradiction will happen more frequent. Because sustention of democracy is very difficult in some countries, whose middle-class was almost extinct and security axis were slipped into sophisticated ground. Therefore, the question of the fact that “Will security bring us more authoritarian regimes?” must be argued more. Authoritarian regimes or chaos must be seen as two options that stands in front of us in the countries which do not have a middle-class.

Another possible question to discuss about may be that how the regional and global cooperation for security will be and how costs will be shared among states. The improvement of new alliances over security is perceptible from the taken risks and initiatives of notably Turkey and other countries.



## TURKEY-EU THOUGHT ECOSYSTEM NETWORK PROGRAM

The quality of property and power terms have changed historically. Future of the European Union which has been facing “Failure Syndrome in Accomplishment” will be determined by the results of renascent polarization in the West after Brexit. New global power candidate Russia’s latest armament declaration and China’s petroleum trade with gold guaranteed Yuan have been milestones for security ecosystem and reserve money. For these reasons, Brexit’s significance and its impact on balance have fallen behind in line with these developments.

### EUROPE, EU AND TURKEY

In terms of language, which has been developed under the frame of European Union, “Europeanism”; has been containing all the geographical, historical and cultural factors. So, also the concept of “**European State**”, which has been organizing the enlargement in the Article 49 of Maastricht Treaty, has been containing the issues related with the “**European Identity**” beyond the geographical limitations of EU. The European Identity is a product of the effort of ending the discussions about “being European”. The discussion that have a highly dynamic structuring process has been pointing out the existence of the common values system, which has been basically shared among the member countries of European Union.

It is obvious that **the recent wave of enlargement**, which was completed with the inclusion of Bulgaria and Romania in January 2007 and Croatia in 2013 to the Union, **has considerably changed the balances inside of the Union**. However, it is not possible to say that EU has smoothly and uniformly succeeded its “**deepening**” experiences, which have been actualized until the recent view of enlargement. So, “**deepening**” is already a painful process and it is natural that this difficulty exponentially increases paralleled with the increase of the member number; but, it is not right to understand the end of the “**deepening**” efforts of EU from the presence of this difficulty.

It is possible to say that there are **lots of reasons of the economic crisis** in which the Euro region is involved. At the top of these reasons, there are two examples: the global crisis has reached to EU member countries and in the end of search of finding a solution of EU member countries on themselves to that crisis; **it has already totally been gone beyond the determined criteria** in the **Maastricht** convergence criteria (Conditions of participation to Economic and Monetary Union). Besides, the Euro region **endeavored to keep monetary values of the USA and China low by its own domestic dynamics**; and it is possible to say that this has been an influential point in the existence of this Euro crisis.

It is important that **Turkey is a country, which is appropriate to the Maastricht convergence criteria** in the process that EU has been in the search of solution to the economic crisis in the Euro region (Even though it has been out of the Euro region). However, the main importance for Turkey here is the question of the fact that **how the future of EU will be shaped in the end of these searches for the solution**.



## TURKEY-EU THOUGHT ECOSYSTEM NETWORK PROGRAM

There are **certain obstacles in front of the EU membership of Turkey**. First of them is the obstacles **which can be more formally qualified** in the frame of Copenhagen criteria (other subjects as domestic, politic and economic factors, Cyprus etc.), the second is the obstacles which are voiced but **are not formally qualified** as much as Copenhagen criteria (geography, demography etc.) and the third is **the highly important religious and cultural obstacles which are not highly voiced**. So, Turkey - EU relations have been discussing around these subjects.

In addition to the fact that there is a serious **uncertainty** in Turkey - EU relations in the present situation; there is **a serious decrease on the interest** to each other in the publics of Turkey and EU countries. Primarily, it is necessary that we **should normalize** the present situation.

On the other hand, **how** the full membership of Turkey will **affect the future of EU**, has been closely interested with **what kind of EU will be met** by Turkey. So, the main importance here is not right after the full membership but is the fact that Turkey can create **a participation ground and mechanism** to the process of shaping the future of EU, as a country keeping on the participation negotiations.

As it is known, **many of 35 titles** in the Turkey - EU negotiations were vetoed. In accordance with the Additional Protocol, including the Greek Cyprus of the Customs Union, the enlargement of each of all titles - except the vetoed titles for reopening - have been the closing criteria. So on the contrary of political obstacles and the definition in the negotiation frame document; **the criteria**, which were put for the opening and closing of the titles and **whose majority was not technical, have blocked the negotiation process**.

In this case, first thing that should be done get over the political obstacle, which is directly related with the political wills of the related countries. For now, it is impossible to say anything about a positively taken step on this subject.

Turkish society was in **a mood of disappointment, distrust, loss of belief and motivation, exhaustion, boredom and impassivity** about the relations with EU. There are **lots of historical and periodical reasons** to be in the present situation.

**Being open-ended in the relations and destroying factors of trust**, which is perceived on the opposite side according to the future perspectives of both sides are among these reasons, but the most important one is the fact that **“emotional investment” of Turkish society, which has been made on the Turkey - EU relations for years, cannot get any return**. So, Turkish society is the most important key to open the first door in the way of gaining reacceleration of Turkey - EU relations. The related sides should make an effort for providing primarily Turkish society to include this process again about the subjects such as visa exemption and so on.



## TURKEY-EU THOUGHT ECOSYSTEM NETWORK PROGRAM

**The relations with EU is important for Turkey.** Moreover, **EU is out of being a foreign policy space** and placed in a specific plane **for Turkey** as a country, which has newly begun to negotiations.

In general, countries choose to use the channels of **civil diplomacy** ( second-track diplomacy ) for the recover the decrease of effect and efficiency based on the fact that traditional official diplomacy cannot go beyond the certain behavior patterns and legal limitations. One of the most important part of civil diplomacy is the interaction among the business fields, when its other important part is the activities held by academic fields and think-tanks.

So, the sides can be in the exchange of views, can develop perspectives, can suggest necessary decision options for politics in a broader scope without feeling themselves under pressure of hard rules of diplomacy.

From Turkey perspective, it is possible to claim that the related parts with official diplomacy of Turkey - EU relations, which has the past more than a half century, has been highly well maintaining. The depth of the diplomatic relations of Turkey with Europe and experienced Turkish diplomacy have a very significant role here. However, it is obvious that the relations with EU, which has been a highly detailed project in political, economic and cultural manners, cannot bring the aimed level with the activities held only in the lane of official diplomacy.

In this deficiency, there is a great share of two issues; the mentality of civil society has not been developed enough and civil culture could only begin to develop since 1990s in Turkey. Active civil think-tanks institutionally appeared in the first time in that period, so it highlights this fact.

There is another reason to the belatedness that outreaching of Turkish economy has begun since 1980s. Because of that and similar reasons, **Turkey felt the heaviness of obligation to stay inside of official diplomatic frame on a large scale while it was developing its relations with EU; and most of times, it had great difficulties to get over some problems.**

In the forthcoming process, **it is highly important to analyze Turkey - EU relations in the level of think-tanks from both sides**, for getting over the difficulties in an easier way and increasing the decision options. In this regard, produced thoughts and developed suggestions will provide an important contribution to Turkey for **displaying an active stance in front of EU.**



# TURKEY-EU THOUGHT ECOSYSTEM NETWORK PROGRAM

From the historical and geopolitical point of view, both European countries and Turkey are actors who produce values when they act together according to their economic, politic and cultural futures; and who have a high potential to damage each other when their acts become different in the globalizing world.

In the regard of the cooperation opportunities, e.g. Turkey and specifically EU generally all European countries will be able to develop **the multilateral regional** (Africa, Balkans, Black Sea, Caucasians, the Middle East, the Middle Asia) **policies** and to maintain **the joint projects** together.

As TASAM, we have been planning to create a network, which brings the think-tanks and opinion leaders together under the main theme of “New World, New Europe and Turkey” with the name of **Turkey - EU Thought Ecosystem**. Besides, within this framework, we have been suggesting to actualize **a series of** bilateral and multilateral **activities** regularly in Turkey and some European countries and to form a platform.

## Main Theme

**New World , New Europe and Turkey**

## Sub-Themes

**Turkey - EU Countries Dual and Triple Projects / Activities**

( With locomotive countries as Germany, France, Holland, UK, Italy, Poland )

**Turkey - EU Bilateral Projects / Activities**

( Prior subjects that will be analyzed in the perspective of Turkey – EU and the future of EU )

**Turkey - EU Multilateral Projects / Activities**

( Africa, Balkans, Black Sea, Caucasians, the Middle East, the Middle Asia, Latin America )



# TURKEY-EU THOUGHT ECOSYSTEM NETWORK PROGRAM

## ACTIVITIES

### Method

Deduction, Participation and Specialization

### Preparation Workshop ( General )

With Related Institutions and People

### Development of Network

“New World, New Europe and Turkey”

### Bilateral and Multilateral International Network Workshops

It has been forecasted to turn into an alternately shape continued in the project. Germany, France, Holland, UK, Italy, Poland have been evaluated as prior countries.

### Network Wise People Board Meetings

It has been forecasted to maintain regularly also continued in the project under the roof of Institutionalizing Network.

### Briefing Meetings for Decision-Makers

Course and results of studies will be presented as briefing to the official authorities.

### Research Projects and Preparation of Rapports

That will be prepared in different fields which will be determined in the Network Wise People Board Meetings.

### Other Academic Studies

Academic studies such as Rapports, Books, Essays, Thesis; and TV Programs, Media Conferences.

### Event Page

Event details and the vision document can be reached via the link below:

<https://tasam.org/en/Etkinlik/15161/turkey - eu thought ecosystem network program>



## Head Office

Eski Ali Paşa Cd, Nu.20, Fatih, İstanbul 34091, TR

**T** +90 (212) 635 6151 | **F** +90 (212) 532 5882

[istanbul@tasam.org](mailto:istanbul@tasam.org)

## Ankara Office

Uğur Mumcu Sokak, Nu.49, Gaziosmanpaşa, Ankara 06700, TR

**T** +90 (312) 447 3127 | **F** +90 (312) 447 3106

[ankara@tasam.org](mailto:ankara@tasam.org)

[www.tasam.org](http://www.tasam.org)