

IPC | ISTANBUL POLICY CENTER
SABANCI UNIVERSITY
STIFTUNG MERCATOR INITIATIVE

Istanbul Policy Center

2024 ACTIVITY REPORT

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ABOUT

Istanbul Policy Center (IPC) is a global policy research institution that specializes in key social and political issues ranging from democratization to climate change, transatlantic relations to conflict resolution and mediation. IPC organizes and conducts its research under six main clusters:

- The Istanbul Policy Center-Sabancı University-Stiftung Mercator Initiative
- Climate Change
- Democratization and Institutional Reform
- SHURA Energy Transition Center
- Urbanization and Local Governance
- Conflict Resolution, Mediation and Living Together

Since 2001, IPC has provided decision makers, opinion leaders, and other major stakeholders with objective analyses and innovative policy recommendations.

HISTORY

Istanbul Policy Center was established at Sabancı University in November 2001 with the intent to conduct research in multiple policy areas. Since then, IPC has strived to create a bridge between NGOs and academia in both Turkey and the world without losing its focus on applied academic research and public policy. Between 2001 and 2010, IPC accomplished noteworthy projects in the areas of education reform, good governance, conflict resolution, Turkey-EU relations, and globalization. Furthermore, the "Turkey-U.S. Relations" program was introduced as one of the Center's principal research programs during this period. In its early years, IPC's Education Reform Initiative also became one of its key projects and increased the Center's public visibility.

In August 2010, Fuat Keyman, Professor of International Relations at Sabancı University, took over as the Director of IPC. Under Professor Keyman's leadership, IPC generated outstanding programs, publications, and events. Following the transition, Democratization and Institutional Reform as well as Conflict Resolution and Mediation were added to IPC's key research areas. In 2011, IPC partnered with Stiftung Mercator to establish one of the most comprehensive cooperations between a Turkish research institution and a German foundation. In 2012, the Istanbul Policy Center–Sabancı University–Stiftung Mercator Initiative was launched.

In August 2010, Fuat Keyman, Professor of International Relations at Sabancı University, took over as the Director of IPC. Under Professor Keyman's leadership, IPC has generated outstanding programs, publications, and events.

Since then, the Initiative has produced a wide array of research and outreach activities in EU/German-Turkish relations and climate change. Through this collaboration, both institutions seek to strengthen the academic, political, and social ties between Turkey and Germany, as well as between Turkey and Europe.

Since the beginning of the Initiative, 73 visiting researchers and 23 senior fellows have worked at IPC and Sabancı University. From 2012 to 2018, the Initiative, democratization and institutional reform, and conflict resolution and mediation were IPC's three core research clusters.

In 2018, IPC expanded its research into six clusters. On May 9, 2018, the SHURA Energy Transition Center was officially launched to contribute to the debate on energy transformation in Turkey. As climate studies have been one of IPC's most visible research areas for the last thirteen years, Climate Change was added as a main research cluster. Urbanization and Local Governance was added as another research area. IPC's studies in this field focus on economic, social, and democratic change, development, and globalization in important urban centers in Anatolia.

IPC supports the Sabancı University Faculty of Arts and Social Science's academic and student projects, including SU Gender, Cultural Studies, and "Özgür Proje," with financial, technical, and intellectual assistance.

DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE



This section of the activity report was traditionally written by our dear professor and the Honorary Director of IPC, Fuat Keyman. Sadly, we lost Professor Keyman on October 18, 2024. As the IPC family, we would like to take this opportunity to honor his memory.

Professor Keyman was a thinker, a visionary, and an inspiring professor who left a deep mark on the academic world. The valuable contributions he made to IPC will guide us into the future as we carry on his legacy. In order to keep his memory alive, we, as IPC, will continue to work with all our stakeholders and partners, growing by producing together and improving our social impact via our activities and projects.

IPC Family

IPC IN NUMBERS (since 2012)

38 researchers and administrative personnel

13 effective and up-to-date research programs

Nearly **100** Sabancı University student interns and project assistants at IPC

6 research clusters

More than **750** events, such as workshops, conferences, panels, etc.

Nearly **400** publications

Support for more than **21** joint research projects of Sabancı University professors

NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATIONS

Innovative research and successful public policy programs thrive on strong partnerships built over time, across sectors and borders.

Committed entirely to this principle, IPC works with a broad network of think tanks from Turkey, Europe, the United States, and different regions from around the world. IPC's collaboration with these institutions contributes to its multi-vectored, diverse, objective, and expansive policy research and analysis. These strong ties with leading global public policy institutions also play a vital role in improving political, economic, and academic cooperation between Turkey, Europe, the United States, and other strategic actors.

IPC works closely with a diverse community of policymakers, journalists, scholars, and civil society activists. The Center also cooperates with universities, think tanks, foundations, as well as central and local government agencies.

IPC has cooperated with the following institutions:

- Abdullah Gül University Youth Factory (AGU Youth Factory)
- Academic-Activist Co-Produced Knowledge for Environmental Justice (ACKnowl-EJ)
- Açık Radyo
- Agence Française de Développement (AGD)
- Agora Energiewende
- Asociacion Nuestra Europa
- The Aspen Institute
- Atlantic Council of the United States
- Bilkent University
- Blickwechsel: Contemporary Turkey Studies
- BMWi - Renewable Energy Working Group
- Boğaziçi University (BOUN)
- Brookings Institution
- Bruegel
- Business Council for Sustainable Development Turkey (BCSD Turkey)
- Center for American Progress (CAP)
- Center for Applied Turkish Studies (CATS)
- Center for European Policy Studies (CEPS)
- Center for European Security Studies (CESS)
- Chatham House, the Royal Institute of International Affairs
- Climate Action Network (CAN) Europe
- Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit GmbH (GIZ)
- Economic Development Foundation (IKV)
- The Economic Policy Research Foundation of Turkey (TEPAV)
- Ege University
- Elcano Royal Institute
- Electric Power Research Institute (EPRI) Europe (Spain)
- European Bank of Reconstruction and Development (EBRD)
- European Climate Foundation (ECF)
- European Commission (EC)
- European Parliament (EP)
- The Foreign Policy Centre (FPC)
- Foundation for European Progressive Studies (FEPS)
- Foundation for the Protection and Promotion of the Environment and Cultural Heritage (CEKUL)
- Freie Universität Berlin
- Friedrich Ebert Stiftung (FES) Turkey
- German Council on Foreign Relations (DGAP)
- German Marshall Fund of the United States (GMF)

- German-Turkish Chamber of Industry and Commerce (AHK)
- Global and Local Thought Institution (KUYEREL)
- Grantham Institute on Climate Change and the Environment
- Green Europe Foundation (GEF)
- Green Thought Association
- Greenpeace
- Hacettepe University
- Heinrich Böll Stiftung
- Hrant Dink Foundation
- Human Development Foundation (INGEV)
- Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin (HU)
- Ifo Institute at the University of Munich
- The International Council on Clean Transportation (ICCT)
- International Energy Agency (IEA)
- Istanbul Bilgi University
- Istituto Affari Internazionali (IAI)
- Kadir Has University
- Lokomotif Cooperation
- Marmara University Research Center for International Relations (MURCIR)
- Middle East Technical University (METU)
- Ministry of Energy and Natural Resources (MENR)
- National Democratic Institute (NDI)
- National Geographic (NAT GEO)
- The Netherlands Consulate in Turkey
- Newcastle University
- Nilüfer Innovation Center (NLL)
- Nilüfer Youth Assembly
- North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)
- Öğretmen Ağı - ERG
- Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)
- Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research (PIK)
- Raoul Wallenberg Institute of Human Rights and Humanitarian Law (RWI)
- Renewables Academy (RENAC)
- Research Institute for Sustainability (RIFS)
- Republic of Turkey Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC)
- Stiftung Mercator
- Stiftung Wissenschaft und Politik (SWP)
- Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA)
- Syrian Economic Forum (SEF)
- TOBB University of Economics and Technology Department of Political Science and International Relations
- The Turkish Foundation for Combating Soil Erosion, for Reforestation and the Protection of Natural Habitats (TEMA)
- Türk Girişim ve İş Dünyası Konfederasyonu (TURKONFED)
- Türk Sanayicileri ve İş İnsanları Derneği (TUSİAD)
- UK British Consulate
- Universidad Carlos III de Madrid (UC3M)
- Université de Genéve (UNIGE)
- University of Cologne (UoC)
- University of Glasgow
- University of Oxford
- World Bank
- World Wildlife Foundation (WWF)
- YERELİZ Association
- Yıldız Technical University (YTU)
- Youth Organizations Forum (Go-For)

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THE IPC-SABANCI UNIVERSITY-STIFTUNG MERCATOR INITIATIVE

The Istanbul Policy Center-Sabancı University-Stiftung Mercator Initiative aims to strengthen the academic, political, and social ties between Turkey and Germany as well as Turkey and Europe.

The Initiative is based on the premise that the acquisition of knowledge and the exchange of people and ideas are preconditions for meeting the challenges of an increasingly globalized world in the 21st century.

The Initiative focuses on two areas of cooperation that are essential for the future of Turkey and Germany within a larger European and global context.

These areas are:

- EU/German-Turkish relations
- Climate change

The Initiative was launched on July 5, 2011, upon the signing of the “Memorandum of Understanding” by the presidents of Sabancı University and Stiftung Mercator. It officially initiated its activities on January 1, 2012.

MERCATOR-IPC FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM

The Initiative's cornerstone is the Mercator-IPC Fellowship Program, which allows international scholars and civil society activists predominantly, but not exclusively, from Germany to work on academic and practical projects at IPC. Fellows work on projects within the fields of EU/German-Turkish relations and climate change. There are two types of positions available:

Mercator-IPC Fellowships are granted to outstanding young academics, journalists, and professionals who have significant prior work experience. Each year the fellowship program opens a call for applications to select a new cycle of fellows. Selected fellows are invited for interviews conducted by an international jury consisting of eminent experts from the two thematic areas.

Mercator-IPC Senior Fellowships are granted to internationally renowned scholars and highly respected representatives of civil society or politics who have already made a significant contribution to German-Turkish or European-Turkish relations.

LIST OF ACTIVITIES UNDER THE MERCATOR-IPC FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM

Mercator-IPC Alumni Retreat 2024

The Initiative hosted the 6th Alumni Event of the Mercator-IPC Fellowship Program on June 7–9, in Narköy, İzmit.



▲ Mercator-IPC Alumni Retreat 2024

Final Evaluation Meeting with 2023/24 Mercator-IPC Fellows

The Initiative held the Final Evaluation Meeting with 2023/24 Mercator-IPC Fellows on September 10, 2024. The event featured the presentation of the fellows' research projects, with the participation of Kerem Öktem (online), Fuat Keyman, and Ümit Şahin. The presentations were followed by the fellows' evaluations of the program in terms of its objectives, impact, and future direction.



▲ Final Evaluation Meeting with 2023/24 Mercator-IPC Fellows

Welcoming of the 2024/25 Mercator-IPC Fellows

The Welcoming of the 2024/25 Mercator-IPC Fellows was held on October 7 at The Seed, Sakıp Sabancı Museum with the Keynote Speech "How Technofeudalism Is Reshaping Societies, Economies and Geopolitics" by 2024 Mercator-IPC Visiting Senior Fellow Yanis Varoufakis. The speech was followed by welcoming remarks from Mercator-IPC Fellowship Program Coordinator Pelin Oğuz, Stiftung Mercator Director for Europe in the World Magdalena Kirchner, and President of Sabancı University Yusuf Leblebici. The event concluded with a movie screening that introduced the 2024/25 Mercator-IPC Fellows Johanna Wietschel, Samuele Abrami, Zeynep Kadirbeyoğlu, Seren Selvin Korkmaz, and Onur Özmen.



▲ Welcoming of the 2024/25 Mercator-IPC Fellows



▲ The Orientation Seminar for the 2024/25 Mercator-IPC Fellows

The Orientation Seminar for the 2024/25 Mercator-IPC Fellows

The Orientation Seminar for the 2024/25 Mercator-IPC Fellows was held on October 18 at IPC Karaköy. The day began with welcoming remarks from Jannes Tessmann, Head of Stiftung Mercator Istanbul Office; Pelin Oğuz, Mercator-IPC Fellowship Program Coordinator; and Meryem Saygıner, IPC Financial Affairs Manager. The 2024/25 Fellows presented their research projects and received feedback.

2024/25 Mercator-IPC Fellows Campus Tour and Class Visit

The orientation tour of Sabancı University campus for the 2024/25 Mercator-IPC Fellows was held on October 31. Sabancı Campus facilities and departments were introduced to fellows. Following the tour, 2024/25 Fellows Johanna Wietschel, Zeynep Kadirbeyoğlu, and Onur Özmen participated in Murat Germen's Interface Design class to present their projects on climate change.

EU/GERMAN-TURKISH RELATIONS

EVENTS

Roundtable Discussion-Migration of the Young Generation

The roundtable discussion titled “Migration of the Young Generation,” organized by the IPC-Sabancı University-Stiftung Mercator Initiative and the Arayüz Campaign within the framework of 2023/24 Mercator-IPC Fellow Demet Lüküslü’s research project, took place on February 16, 2024 at IPC.

New Impetus in Hungary-Turkey Relations since 2013

The Initiative organized the event “New Impetus in Hungary-Turkey Relations since 2013” under the initiative of 2023/24 Mercator-IPC Fellow László Szerencsés on May 22, 2024 at IPC.

Cloud Capital: What It Means for Universities and the Broader Community

A keynote speech by 2024 Mercator-IPC Visiting Senior Fellow Yanis Varoufakis titled “Cloud Capital: What It Means for Universities and the Broader Community” moderated by Cem Güneri, Vice President for Education at Sabancı University, took place on October 8, 2024 at Sabancı University.

Rethinking Belonging, Citizenship and Democracy: The Migration of Highly Skilled Young Adults from Turkey to Germany

The Initiative organized a workshop on “Rethinking Belonging, Citizenship and Democracy: The Migration of Highly Skilled Young Adults from Turkey to Germany,” convened by 2023/24 Mercator-IPC Fellow Demet Lüküslü on November 1, 2024 at IPC Karaköy. The workshop featured a keynote speech by Axel Pohl, titled “Young Adults on the Move and Their Struggles for Recognition.”

Physician Migration from Turkey to Germany

The Initiative organized a workshop on “Physician Migration from Turkey to Germany,” convened by 2023/24 Mercator-IPC Fellow Hande Güzel, which took place on November 5, 2024 at IPC Karaköy. The panel featured a keynote speech by Ahmet İçduygu titled “High-Skilled Migration in Times of Multiple Crises: A Discussion on the Case of Turkey.”

Istanbul Convention: Its Past, Present and Future

The event “Istanbul Convention: Its Past, Present and Future,” organized by the Initiative and SU Gender, was held on November 29, 2024 at IPC Karaköy. The event featured a keynote speech by 2024 Mercator-IPC Visiting Senior Fellow Feride Acar and a panel discussion with the participation of Gökçeçiçek Ayata from Istanbul Bilgi University’s Human Rights Law Research Center, Perihan Meşeli from the Mor Çatı Women’s Shelter Foundation, and Gökçesu Özgül from SU Gender.

PUBLICATIONS



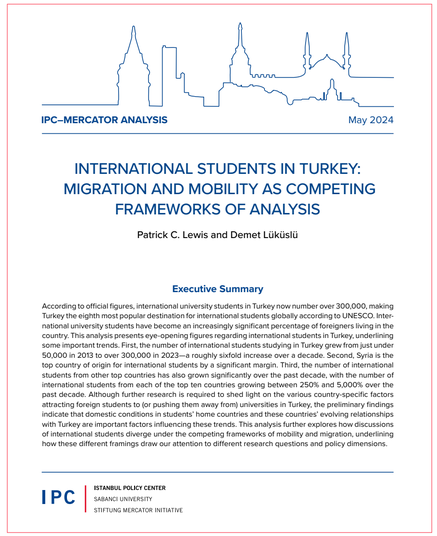
The Migration of Doctors from Turkey to Germany

The IPC-Mercator Analysis “The Migration of Doctors from Turkey to Germany: What the Numbers Tell Us” by 2023/24 Mercator-IPC Fellow Hande Güzel was published in January 2024.



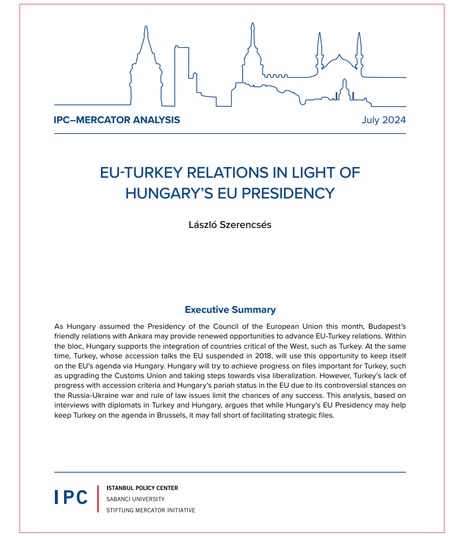
The Desire of Young People in Turkey to Live Abroad

The IPC-Mercator Analysis “The Desire of Young People in Turkey to Live Abroad: An Analysis of Recent Surveys on Youth in Turkey” by 2023/24 Mercator-IPC Fellow Demet Lüküslü was published in March 2024.



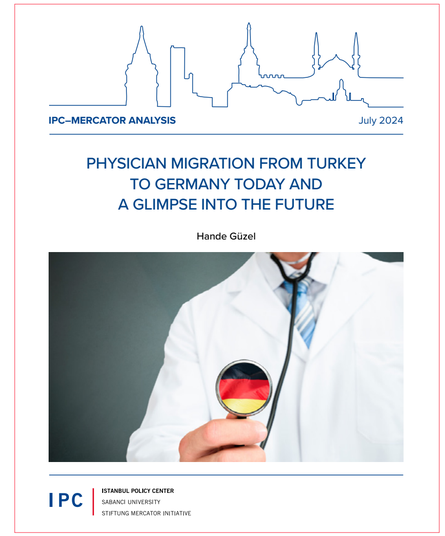
International Students in Turkey: Migration and Mobility as Competing Frameworks of Analysis

The IPC-Mercator Analysis “International Students in Turkey: Migration and Mobility as Competing Frameworks of Analysis” by Postdoctoral Fulbright Fellow Patrick C. Lewis and 2023/24 IPC Mercator Fellow Demet Lüküslü was published in May 2024.



EU-Turkey Relations in Light of Hungary’s EU Presidency

The IPC-Mercator Analysis “EU-Turkey Relations in Light of Hungary’s EU Presidency” by 2023/24 Mercator-IPC Fellow László Szerencsés was published in September 2024.



Physician Migration from Turkey to Germany Today and A Glimpse into the Future

The IPC-Mercator Analysis “Physician Migration from Turkey to Germany Today and A Glimpse into the Future” by 2023/24 Mercator-IPC Fellow Hande Güzel was published in September 2024.

CLIMATE CHANGE

EVENTS

Climate Change Cluster Visit to Berlin

The IPC Climate Change Cluster organized meetings with the Mercator Research Institute on Global Commons and Climate Change, the Centre for Planetary Health Policy, Agora Think Tanks, Ecologic Institute, Research Institute for Sustainability - Helmholtz Centre Potsdam (RIFS Potsdam), Forum New Economy, The Climate Policy Department of DIW BERLIN, and Climate Analytics during their visit to Berlin on March 11–14, 2024.



▲ Climate Change Cluster Visit to Berlin

Potential Impacts and Challenges of Border Carbon Adjustments

The Istanbul Policy Center-Sabancı University-Stiftung Mercator Initiative organized a keynote speech by Prof. Christoph Böhringer, Professor of Economic Policy at the Carl von Ossietzky University in Oldenburg, on “Potential Impacts and Challenges of Border Carbon Adjustments” convened by 2022/23 Mercator-IPC Fellow Ebru Voyvoda on March 15, 2024 at IPC.

Climate Security Perceptions in Türkiye: Toward a Just Securitization of Climate Change

The event titled “Climate Security Perception in Turkey: Toward a Just Securitization of Climate Change,” organized by Başar Baysal, 2023/24 Research Fellow, took place with the participation of Rita Floyd and İbrahim Mazlum on September 23, 2024 at IPC.

Just Transition: Insights from Various Phases of the Coal Transition

The workshop “Just Transition: Insights from Various Phases of the Coal Transition,” organized by 2023/24 Mercator-IPC Fellow Sinem Ayhan, took place with the participation of Jan Steckel, Jannis Beutel, Andrea Furnaro, and Corinna Zierold on October 23, 2024 at IPC Karaköy. The workshop featured a keynote speech by Jan Steckel, titled “Just, Acceptable and Politically Feasible: On the Multiple Dimensions of Just Energy Transitions.”

Reflections on COP29

The Initiative hosted a panel titled “Reflections on COP29” on November 28, 2024 at IPC Karaköy. The panel was moderated by IPC Climate Change Cluster Coordinator Ümit Şahin and featured IPC Project Coordinator Dursun Baş, IPC Project Coordinator Onur Akgül, Marmara University Political Science Faculty Member Semra Cerit Mazlum, and CAN Europe Climate and Energy Policy Coordinator Özlem Katısöz as panelists.

Political Ecology

The Initiative introduced a new seminar series called “Political Ecology,” initiated by 2024/25 Mercator-IPC Fellow Zeynep Kadirbeyoğlu and 2021/22 Mercator-IPC Senior Fellow Fikret Adaman. With these monthly seminars, both theoretical developments and ongoing ecological issues, conflicts, and current policies in Turkey and around the world was evaluated from an interdisciplinary political ecology perspective.

Rainwater Harvesting in Cities: The Cases of Istanbul and Kadıköy

The first meeting of the Political Ecology seminar series, featuring a presentation by 2019/20 Mercator-IPC Fellow Akgün İlhan on “Rainwater Harvesting in Cities: The Cases of Istanbul and Kadıköy,” was held on November 20, 2024 at IPC Karaköy.

Environment Between Law and Justice: Legal Consciousness of Environmental Movements in Turkey

The second meeting of the Political Ecology seminar series, featuring a talk by Dr. Rüya Yüksel on “Environment Between Law and Justice: Legal Consciousness of Environmental Movements in Turkey” was held on December 11, 2024 at IPC Karaköy.

CLIMATE CAFÉ TALKS

Climate Change Cluster Coordinator Ümit Şahin convened bimonthly gatherings where researchers and academics working on various subjects related to climate change—from environmental sciences to politics, economy to psychology—came together in an interdisciplinary setting.

- Climate Cafe Talks 26 – "The Existential Crisis of Capitalism: Climate Destruction, Technological Transformation and Inequalities [Kapitalizmin Varoluşsal Krizi: İklim Yıkımı, Teknolojik Dönüşüm ve Eşitsizlikler]", Haluk Levent, January 23, 2024.
- Climate Café Talks 27 – "Climate Crisis in the Age of Multidimensional Inequalities: What Do Turkey's Household Emissions Tell Us? [Çok Boyutlu Eşitsizlikler Çağında İklim Krizi: Türkiye Hanehalkı Emisyonları Ne Söylüyor?]", Ebru Voyvoda, March 26, 2024.
- Climate Café Talks 28 – "Combating the Upcoming Crisis: Groundwater Management in the Konya Closed Basin [Yaklaşan Krizle Mücadele: Konya Kapalı Havzası'nda Yeraltı Suyu Yönetimi]", Dr. İrem Daloğlu Çetinkaya, June 4, 2024.

PUBLICATIONS

A Preliminary Analysis of the Turkish Emissions Trading System

The IPC-Mercator Analysis "A Preliminary Analysis of the Turkish Emissions Trading System" by 2020/21 Mercator-IPC Fellow Ahmet Atıl Aşıcı was published in February 2024.

Strengthening Türkiye's Climate Change Legislation

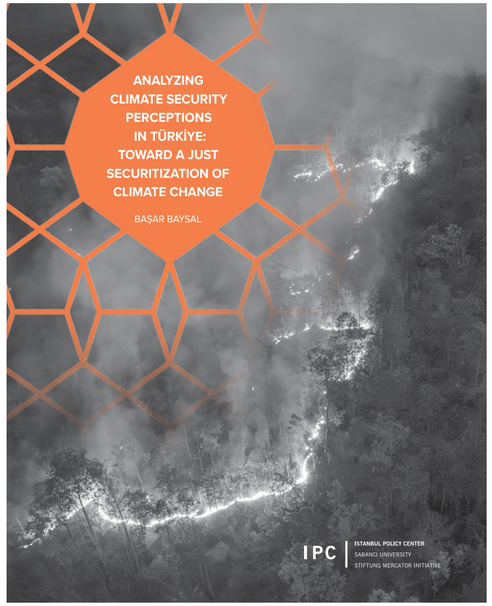
The IPC-Mercator Analysis "Strengthening Türkiye's Climate Change Legislation: A Comparative Examination with Germany's Federal Climate Change Act" by IPC Intern Selin Levi, 2023/24 Mercator-IPC Fellow Sinem Ayhan, and 2023/24 Mercator-IPC Fellow Başar Baysal was published in March 2024.

Unveiling the Just Transition: Policy Implications and Descriptive Data Insights for Coal Miners in Turkey

The IPC-Mercator Analysis "Unveiling the Just Transition: Policy Implications and Descriptive Data Insights for Coal Miners in Turkey" by 2023/24 IPC-Mercator Fellow Sinem Ayhan and Coşku Çelik, Assistant Professor at Kadir Has University, was published in May 2024.

Analyzing Climate Security Perceptions in Türkiye: Toward a Just Securitization of Climate Change

The IPC-Mercator Report *Analyzing Climate Security Perceptions in Türkiye: Toward a Just Securitization of Climate Change* by 2023/24 Mercator-IPC Fellow Başar Baysal was published in December 2024.



BROWN BAG SEMINARS

The Initiative restarted its monthly Brown Bag Seminars where IPC staff and fellows present their research and have fruitful discussions.

Distributional Effects of the EU's CBAM on Turkish Households

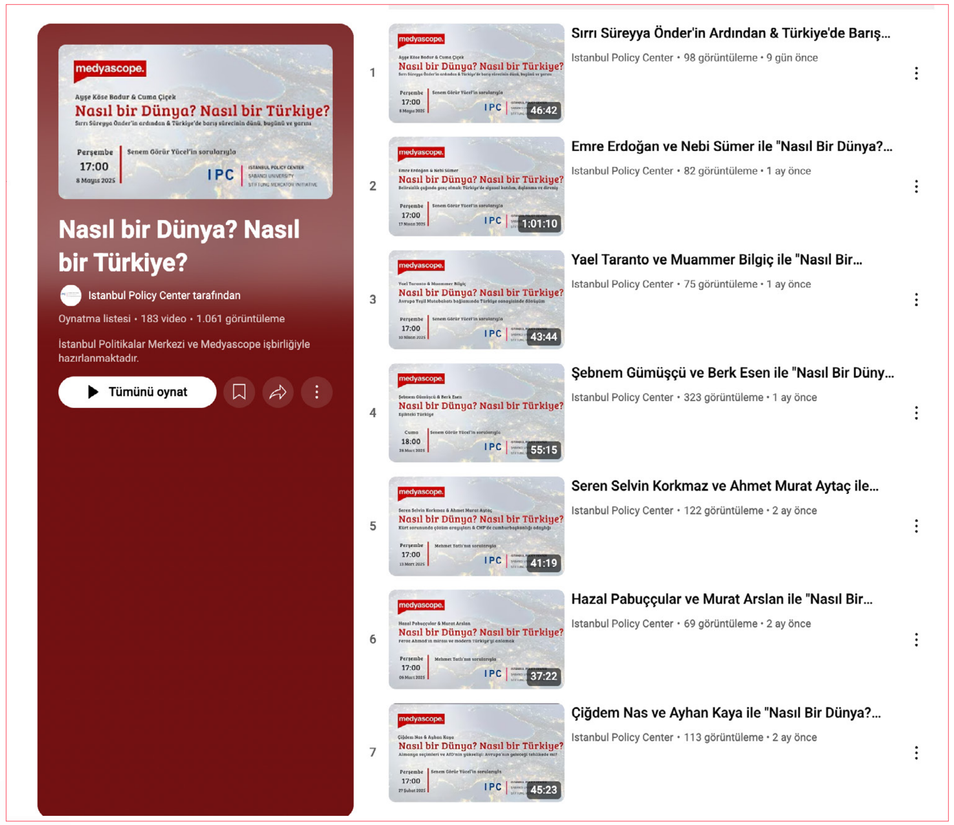
The kick-off meeting of the Brown Bag Seminars, organized by the Initiative, featured a presentation by 2024 Mercator-IPC Short-Term Visiting Fellow Johannes Gallé on "Distributional Effects of the EU's CBAM on Turkish Households" and took place on November 4, 2024 at IPC Karaköy.

Trump Reloaded: What Does It Mean for Europe?

The second meeting of the Brown Bag Seminars, organized by the Initiative, featured a talk by 2024/25 Mercator-IPC Senior Fellow Heinrich Kreft on "Trump Reloaded: What Does It Mean for Europe?" and took place on December 5, 2024 at IPC Karaköy.

PROJECTS SUPPORTED BY THE INITIATIVE

MEDYASCOPE: “NASIL BİR DÜNYA? NASIL BİR TÜRKİYE?”



The IPC-Sabancı University-Stiftung Mercator Initiative’s Medyascope program, “Nasıl bir Dünya? Nasıl bir Türkiye?” was broadcast every Thursday at 17:00.

The program featured Mercator-IPC Fellows, IPC Scholars, and experts from diverse fields. Various topics were covered under the program, ranging from democratization to urbanization, climate crisis to international relations, economy to public health, as well as society and culture, through discussions of popular movies and books. The program became a platform for researchers and experts to discuss current issues in Turkey and worldwide with the public.

- January 4, 2024, Berk Esen & Hakan Yavuzyılmaz, “Is Competitive Authoritarianism the Last Stop for Türkiye?”
- January 11, 2024, Senem Aydın-Düzgit, Galip Dalay, Hatem Ete & Fuat Keyman, “Turkey at the Crossroads”
- January 18, 2024, Alkım Bağ Güllü & Ebru Voyvoda, “Turkey’s Energy Transformation Report Card in All Aspects”
- January 25, 2024, Emre Erdoğan & Edgar Şar, “Local Elections, Candidates, City and Disaster Management”
- February 1, 2024, Fuat Keyman & Nebi Sümer, “Kızıl Goncalar, Kızılcık Şerbeti and Ömer, How Do They Describe Turkey?”
- February 8, 2024, Esra Durceylan Kaygusuz & Kamil Yılmaz, “The Future of Growth and Sustainability”
- February 15, 2024, Senem Aydın-Düzgit, Galip Dalay & Hatem Ete, “Turkey at the Crossroads”
- February 22, 2024, Cömert Uygar Erdem & Ümit Şahin, “İliç Disaster and Turkey’s Environmental Policies”
- February 29, 2024, Cana Tülüş Türk & Osman Kocaaga, “Local Elections and Democracy Perception in Turkey”
- March 7, 2024, Nurbahar Usta & İsmail Bekar, “Forests, Forest Fires and Climate Change”
- March 15, 2024, Feride Acar & Elif Çiğdem Artan, “Istanbul Convention: Geography is not Destiny”

- March 21, 2024, Senem Aydın-Düzgit, Galip Dalay, Hatem Ete & Fuat Keyman, "Turkey at the Crossroads‘"
- March 28, 2024, Fuat Keyman & Emre Erdoğan, "The Last Bend Towards Local Elections: Who's Ahead?"
- April 4, 2024, Cana Tülüş Türk & Hakan Yavuzyılmaz, "After the Local Elections"
- April 18, 2024, Senem Aydın-Düzgit, Galip Dalay, Hatem Ete & Fuat Keyman, "Turkey at the Crossroads"
- April 25, 2024, Çiğdem Nas & Ayşe Yürekli, "Turkey-EU Relations: Challenges and Opportunities"
- May 2, 2024, Abdullah Esin & Nebi Sümer, "Kızıl Goncalar, New Modernity and the Rise of Yeniden Refah"
- May 9, 2024, Fuat Keyman & Mustafa Kutlay, "Turkish Foreign Policy's Preference for Strategic Autonomy"
- May 16, 2024, Senem Aydın-Düzgit, Galip Dalay & Hatem Ete, "Turkey at the Crossroads"
- May 23, 2024, Berk Esen & Şebnem Gümüşçü, "Normalization in Politics and the New Constitution Debates"
- May 30, 2024, Demet Lüküslü & Nebi Sümer, "Being Young in Turkey"
- June 6, 2024, Ebru Turhan & Çiğdem Nas, "EU Parliamentary Elections and the Future of Europe"
- June 13, 2024, Hatem Ete, Galip Dalay & Fuat Keyman, "Turkey at the Crossroads‘"
- June 27, 2024, Bengisu Özenç & Onur Akgül, "Decarbonization and Just Transition in Turkey"
- October 17, 2024, Özlem Katısöz & Ümit Şahin, "Turkey and the World in the Grip of the Climate Crisis‘"
- October 24, 2024, Zeynep Gülru Göker & Mehmet Kuru, "The Republic and Its Achievements"
- October 31, 2024, Şebnem Gümüşçü & Berk Esen, "As the USA Heads to Elections"
- November 7, 2024, Gönül Tol & Özgür Ünlühisarcıklı, "Aftermath of the Elections in the USA"
- November 14, 2024, Banu Turnaoğlu & Cana Tülüş Türk, "Commemorating Atatürk: His Leadership and Legacy"
- November 21, 2024, Devin Bahçeci & Ümit Şahin, "What Is Happening at the Baku Climate Summit?"
- November 28, 2024, Sevgi Uçan Çubukçu & Gökçesu Özgül, "The Struggle in Women's Rights in Turkey: Gains, Pursuits and the Future"
- December 5, 2024, Akgün İlhan & Ender Peker, "Rainwater Harvesting in Cities: The Future of Sustainable Water Governance"
- December 12, 2024, Sezen Kaya & Başar Baysal, "Perception of Climate Change and Climate Security in Turkey"
- December 19, 2024, İlkim Büke Okyar & Behlül Özkan, "New Era in Syria: Assad's Fall and the Search for Reconstruction"
- December 26, 2024, Çiğdem Nas & Galip Dalay, "Turkey in the Grip of Europe and the Middle East"

CLIMATE CHANGE

22 DECARBONIZATION OF THE TURKISH STEEL SECTOR

24 RAISING AMBITION

24 DECARBONIZATION PATHWAYS FOR TURKEY

25 PROMOTING JUST TRANSITION IN TURKEY PROJECT

The climate change program has been one of IPC's main research priorities since 2013. IPC's Climate Change Program publishes policy papers and reports on the energy transition, green economy, mitigation and adaptation policies, and the economic impacts of climate change.

IPC's Climate Change Program acts as a key platform to bring together stakeholders involved in climate action by providing opportunities for collaboration and dialogue with experts, academics, the public, civil society, and the private sector to increase the impact of actions on climate change. IPC represents Turkey in the Climate Transparency Network and the Mediterranean Alliance of Think Tanks on Climate Change (MATTCCh).

The Climate Change Program's primary research focus includes promoting low-carbon development, spearheading decarbonization initiatives with a special emphasis on the steel industry, and contributing to the energy transition agenda by advocating for the phasing out of coal. It also promotes a just transition to ensure that no one is left behind in the transition to a sustainable future. Through strategic partnerships with institutions such as Istanbul University – Cerrahpaşa, Boğaziçi University, and the National Institute of Public Health of Quebec (INSPQ), IPC has made significant contributions to understanding the health impacts of climate change.

TTGV Mehmet Şuhubi Pioneer Civil Initiative Award

Istanbul Policy Center won the Technology Development Foundation of Turkey (TTGV) 2024 Mehmet Şuhubi Pioneer Civil Initiative Award for its work on climate policies. Climate Studies Coordinator Dr Ümit Şahin received the award on behalf of IPC at the TTGV Day award ceremony held on October 23 at Ankara Bilkent Hotel. Ümit Şahin also moderated the panel on climate technologies held before the award ceremony with the participation of Prof. Dr. Ebru Voyvoda, Faculty Member of METU Faculty of Economics and Administrative Sciences and Mercator-IPC Advisory Council Member, and Cevdet Alemdar, President of TÜSİAD Round Table on Environment and Climate Change.

DECARBONIZATION OF THE TURKISH STEEL SECTOR

The “Decarbonization of the Turkish Steel Sector Project,” which is supported by the European Climate Foundation (ECF), serves to better define the decarbonization needs of the iron and steel sector, which is considered a strategic sector for the Turkish economy and industry. The project was launched in June 2022.

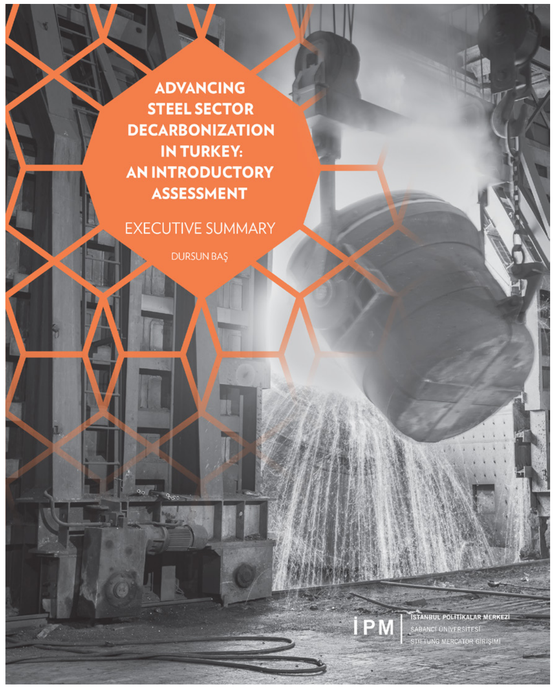
The aim of the activities carried out within the scope of the project is to provide analytical data and assessments for the decarbonization efforts of the steel sector in line with the net-zero emissions targets. The project is expected to be implemented in four phases.

- Project Phase I: June 2022–March 2023
- Project Phase II: April 2023–May 2024
- Project Phase III: June 2024–January 2025
- Project Phase IV: March 2025–December 2025

PUBLICATIONS:

- Advancing Steel Sector Decarbonization in Turkey: An Introductory Assessment (Full Report (Turkish))
- Advancing Steel Sector Decarbonization in Turkey: An Introductory Assessment (Executive Summary (English))





PROJECT EVENTS

- Interviews and site visits to steel plants in Hatay, Osmaniye, and Zonguldak (2024)
- Site visit and project dissemination events in Italy, Germany, and Belgium, February 2024
- Participation in METAL EXPO 2024, International Steel Rolling Symposium-ISRS 2024, International Iron and Steel Symposium 2024, ESTEP Digital 4 Environment Workshop (2024)
- Steel Decarbonization Consultation Workshop, IPC, Karaköy, May 8, 2024
- ECF Global Steel Convening, May 2024, Istanbul (co-organizer)
- COP 29 Side Event on Steel, Turkish Pavilion, November 14, 2024
- Green Transition in Steel Industry, June 26, 2024, NBE, Green Transition Conversations Program

Participation in other events to disseminate the project results:

- MENA Green Steel Summit 2024, September 10–11, Dubai, UAE (virtual event)
- Ship Recycling Lab, October 9–10, 2024, Lisbon, Portugal
- Turkey between Two Worlds: How Ankara Perceives China's Rise and the Western Response in 21st-Century Geopolitics, Technology, Renewable Energy, November 11, 2023



▲ Steel Decarbonization Consultation Workshop, IPC, Karaköy, May 8, 2024



▼ COP 29 Side Event on Steel, Turkish Pavilion, November 14, 2024



▼ Green Transition in Steel Industry, June 26, 2024, NBE, Green Transition Conversations Program

RAISING AMBITION

The Raising Ambition Project is an initiative aimed at guiding major emerging economies in developing effective decarbonization strategies. The project has been ongoing with the Climate Policy Lab of TUFTS University since September 2023. The Climate Policy Lab has already had success with the Policy Gap Analysis (PGA) methodology in China and India. The work for China was published in *Nature Communications* and for India, *CPL Policy Brief*.

Following the studies on China and India, Turkey and IPC joined the project, along with five other emerging economies: Mexico, Brazil, Indonesia, South Africa, and Vietnam. Additionally, CPL has been engaging with the governments of Ethiopia and Colombia as potential regional role models.

By employing the PGA methodology, the project evaluates the efficacy of current policies and explores innovative approaches for deep decarbonization. This collaborative endeavor brings together local and international stakeholders in a six-step process:

- Create a detailed, open access climate policy inventory (economy-wide, sector-by-sector, ministry-by-ministry).
- Survey in-country and international experts and officials to determine which policies are, or could be, most important to achieve near-term emissions reductions.
- Gather country-specific data to customize the Energy Policy Simulator system dynamics model and use this model to showcase the different outcomes of existing policies with potential new policy scenarios. The aim is to simultaneously stimulate economic growth and job creation while transitioning to a low-carbon economy. This effort is conducted in close partnership with Energy Innovation and one or more local partners, facilitating further research and engaging with governments to enhance policy effectiveness.
- Inform governments and in-country partners about the results, get their input, and iteratively run new scenarios.
- Assist governments with designing more ambitious NDCs and mid-century deep decarbonization strategies.
- Conduct capacity building and training on the policy gap analysis, the modeling, and the insights for both government officials as well as in-country experts.

An inventory of Turkey's climate adaptation and mitigation policies is being developed, with preparations starting in 2023. The other step of the project, a survey to measure the impact of Turkey's climate adaptation and mitigation policies with experts, is being prepared.

DECARBONIZATION PATHWAYS FOR TURKEY

The Decarbonization Pathways for Turkey project aims to provide a blueprint for the long-term decarbonization of the Turkish economy, particularly in the energy sector. The project started in 2020 in partnership with the European Climate Foundation. The relevant decarbonization pathway aims to contribute to global emissions reduction efforts according to the 1.5–2°C global carbon budget set out in the Paris Agreement, based on the principles of equity and adaptation.

The new phase of the project started in 2024 to update the modelling study of Turkey's decarbonization pathways between 2023 and 2053, when Turkey announced its net-zero target. The study is ongoing and aims to inform Turkey's new Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC), which is expected to be submitted to the UNFCCC in late 2025.

PROMOTING JUST TRANSITION IN TURKEY

As part of the EU Climate Dialogues Programme (EUCD) funded by the European Union (EU) and implemented by Sabancı University, the Promoting Just Transition in Turkey Project began in October 2023 and lasted for nine months.

The aim of the project is to increase the level of knowledge on the subject by producing analytical information that will contribute to the planning of the long-term net-zero emissions target in line with the Paris Agreement, specifically the decarbonization of the energy sector (renewable energy investments, reduction in the share of fossil fuels, especially coal-fired power plants, and the exit from the system, etc.), taking into account economic and social considerations, and to improve participation in energy transition planning by creating dialogue among relevant actors.

Project activities included research on the current situation regarding the just transition, a literature review, stakeholder interviews at the national and local levels, case study reports in selected regions (Muğla and Çanakkale), study visits, and workshops.

Workshops in the Muğla-Yatağan and Çanakkale-Çan regions were held on March 22 and April 25, respectively. The third workshop was conducted in Istanbul on June 11–12, in which the findings of the project's national-scale research were shared with participants from a variety of stakeholder groups.

The EU Climate Dialogues Programme (EUCD—Support to EU Bilateral Relations with Strategic Partners on Climate-related Policies and Investments FPI/2021/EA-RP/0004) funded by the European Union (EU) was implemented in 21 partner countries, including Turkey. The EUCD program aims to facilitate the exchange of ideas on climate policy options in partner countries involved in the project, advance bilateral relations, contribute to trade, investment, and innovation, and contribute to public awareness of the challenges and opportunities related to the implementation of the Paris Agreement.

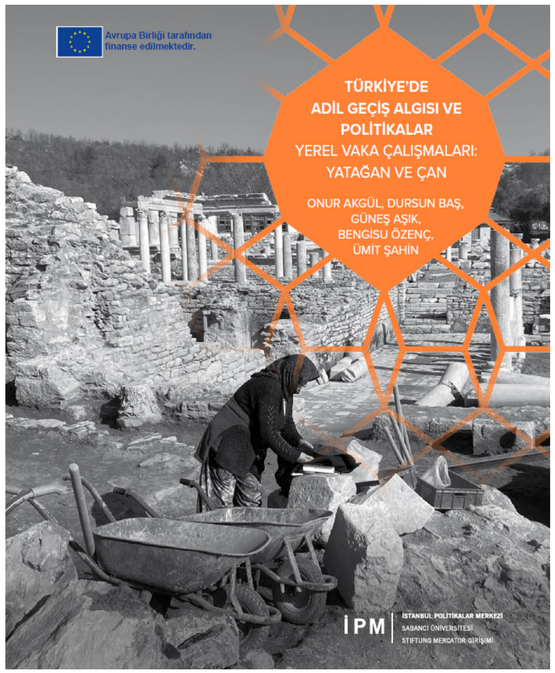
PUBLICATIONS

Perception of Just Transition and Policies in Turkey – Local Case Studies: Yatağan and Çan

The report *Perceptions and Policies of Just Transition in Turkey – Local Case Studies: Yatağan and Çan* was published on December 27. The report includes the findings of research conducted as part of the "Promoting Just Transition in Turkey Project," carried out at Istanbul Policy Center with the support of the European Union Climate Dialogues (EUCD) framework program.

Coal Phase-Out and Just Transition in Türkiye

The press conference titled "Coal Phase-Out and Just Transition in Türkiye," organized by IPC as part of COP29, took place on November 15, 2024. At the event, the findings of the project "Promoting Just Transition in Türkiye," were



shared with the public. Speakers included Ümit Şahin, IPC Coordinator of Climate Change Studies; Onur Akgül, Project Coordinator and Researcher at IPC; and Anabella Rosemberg, Senior Strategist on Just Transition and Climate Justice at Climate Action Network.



▲ Muğla – Yatağan Workshop

EVENTS:

- Muğla – Yatağan Workshop – March 22, 2024
- Çanakkale – Çan Workshop – April 25, 2024
- Just Transition in the Energy Sector: Good Practices and Experience-Sharing Workshop, June 11–12, 2024, Istanbul (Hybrid event)
- Just Transition Study Visit to Spain (May 27–June 1, 2024)



▲ Just Transition in the Energy Sector in Turkey: Practices, Approaches and Perceptions



▲ Just Transition visit to Spain

SHURA ENERGY TRANSITION CENTER

28 SELECT WORKS / PUBLICATIONS

32 EVENTS

SHURA Energy Transition Center contributes to the decarbonization of Turkey's energy sector via an innovative energy transition platform.

It caters to the need for a sustainable and broadly recognized platform for discussions on policy, technological, and economic aspects of Turkey's energy sector. Founded by European Climate Foundation (ECF), Agora Energiewende, and IPC, SHURA's mission is to support the debate on Turkey's transition to a low-carbon energy system through energy efficiency and renewable energy, fact-based analysis, and the best available data.

In 2024, SHURA:

- Published six reports, four issues of SHURASTAT, four quarterly newsletters, two infographics, over 9,500 data points at SHURA Database, and a new scenario at the Power Flow Simulator
- Organized five report launch events, two press roundtables, eight stakeholder meetings, and participated in 24 external events, including presentations, keynote speeches, panels, workshops, and webinars at the national and international levels
- Distributed six press releases, held 30 interviews with sectoral and national media including dailies, magazines, TV and radio channels, and online outlets
- SHURA's reports and comments were covered by over 1,000 publications
- SHURA's website had over 72,000 unique visitors
- SHURA's posts, reels, and videos shared via its social media accounts achieved 1.5 million views

SELECT WORKS / PUBLICATIONS

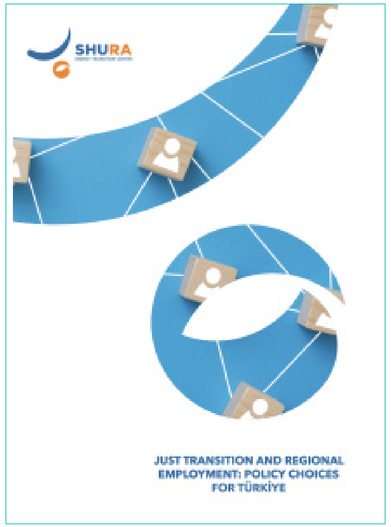
Industrial Policy Alternatives for Türkiye Within the Scope of the Just Transition

Announced on January 24, the report addresses decarbonization from a development perspective and presents policy recommendations regarding the impact of the transition to a low-carbon economy on priority industrial sectors.



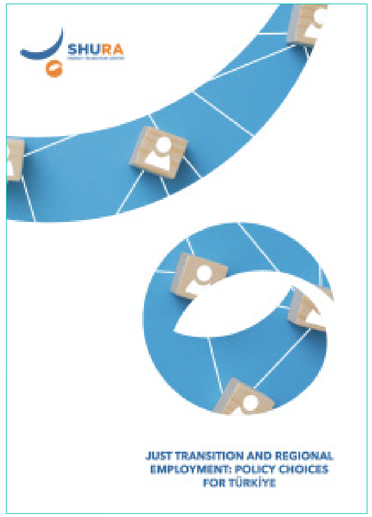
Türkiye Energy Transition Outlook 2023

Published on April 22, the report analyzes Turkey's energy transition based on current policies and strategies as well as data on renewable energy, energy efficiency, electrification, and new technologies focusing on the year 2023. The report aims to comprehensively evaluate Turkey's energy transition and outline a forward-looking vision. An infographic with the summary results of the report was also published.



Just Transition and Regional Employment: Policy Choices for Türkiye

The report, announced on June 27, aims to measure the regional risks that the green transition will create for employment in the coal mining sector (including electricity generation) and other industries affected by the Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM) in order to develop relevant policy recommendations.



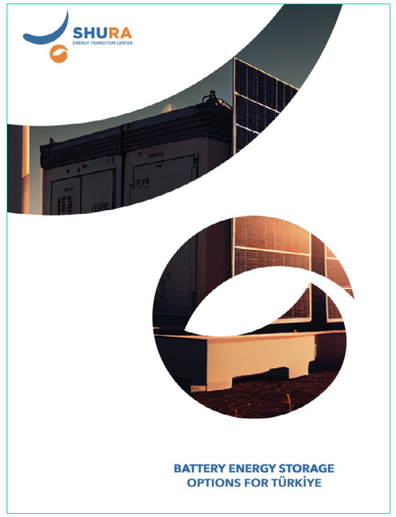
Transportation Sector Transformation: Integrating Electric Vehicles into Türkiye's Distribution Grids

The report, shared on July 10, examines the impacts of electric vehicles on Turkey's electricity distribution grids. Based on analyses of two major electricity distribution grids, the study investigates the additional investment requirements arising from e-mobility, highlights countermeasures such as smart charging mechanisms to facilitate EV integration, and proposes policy recommendations for the smooth integration of e-mobility loads into the Turkish power system.



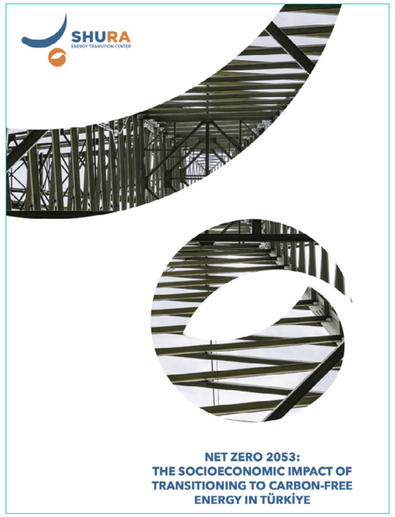
Battery Energy Storage Options for Türkiye

Efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions have led to a significant shift in energy policies. This transition, driven by energy efficiency, electrification, and renewable energy, is crucial for achieving climate goals and ensuring energy security. Governments and international organizations prioritize sustainable energy systems, which require flexibility in balancing electricity supply and demand. Battery energy storage systems play a key role in this process. Published on August 1, the study focuses on analyzing the spatial distribution of battery technologies in Turkey, identifying the services that benefit from them, and evaluating their impact on the transmission grid.



Net Zero 2053: The Socioeconomic Impact of Transitioning to Carbon-Free Energy in Türkiye

The impacts of transitioning to carbon-free energy on national income, industry, and employment are assessed in the report. Published on October 1, the study aims to quantify the impact of the net-zero power system transition on national income, employment, and industrial sectors in order to guide the necessary policy actions to maximize the benefits of the transition while minimizing or eliminating potential risks. It is intended as a tool for a more in-depth policy discussion of the relevant socioeconomic issues in order to enable a just transition.

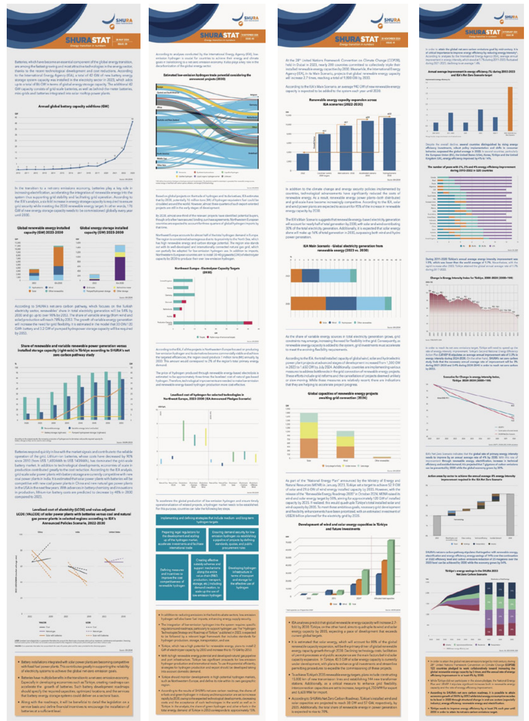


SHURASTAT

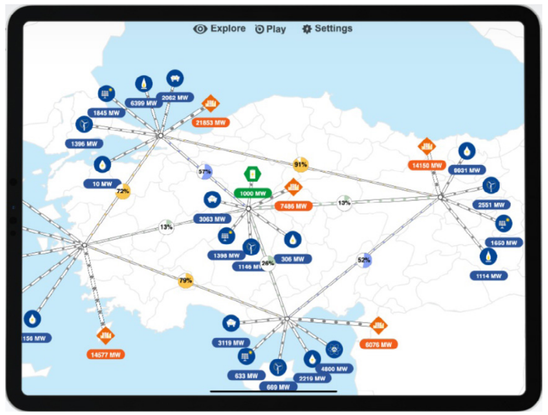
Published on a regular basis, SHURASTAT aims to draw attention to issues related to the energy transition with figures and data selected from nationally and internationally recognized sources. SHURASTAT allows for comparisons between Turkey and the world, providing brief comments and information in order to arouse curiosity and motivate its readers for further research and discussion.

In 2024, four issues of SHURASTAT, from Issue 38 to 41, were published:

- Published on February 29, SHURASTAT Issue 38 deals with the role of energy efficiency in the world and in Turkey in relation to the net-zero carbon target.
- Published on May 28, SHURASTAT Issue 39 covers the global development of battery energy storage system installations and the projections for the storage capacity needed in the electricity sector.
- Released on September 10, SHURASTAT Issue 40 analyses low-emission hydrogen targets and major strategies to develop a hydrogen market in Northwestern Europe.
- Published on November 28, SHURASTAT Issue 41 offers an in-depth analysis of renewable energy capacity expansion forecasts globally and in Turkey. This issue sheds light on key global commitments and Turkey's progress toward a sustainable energy future.



▼ SHURA Power Flow Simulator



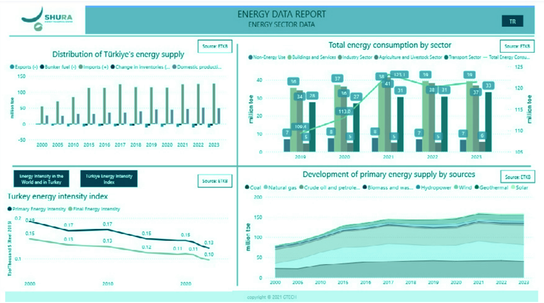
SHURA Power Flow Simulator

In 2023, SHURA implemented a simplified, web-based simulation of the Turkish electricity system that can be used interactively by all stakeholders. The purpose of this simulation is to let users experience how a simplified electrical system works instantly via the use of an innovative and entertaining application. On February 15, SHURA updated the Power Flow Simulator with an additional scenario. The new scenario enables website visitors to test the storage of excess electricity generated from renewable energy sources through batteries and the delivery of the stored electricity to the grid from batteries when there is a need for supply.

SHURA Database

SHURA updated its database with 2023 data on Turkey's greenhouse gas emissions.

With the Database, SHURA presents up-to-date data on the energy sector in a single digital address. Graphical representations of the data provide a visual context and make possible a quick and practical analysis of how the energy sector has developed over the years.



▲ SHURA Database

SHURA YouTube Program & Podcast Series: “Energy Transition Agenda”

SHURA launched its new program series, “Energy Transition Agenda,” which delves into all facets of the energy transition, on June 7. Available on SHURA’s YouTube channel, Spotify Podcasts, and Apple Podcasts, “Energy Transition Agenda” is hosted by Economy Newspaper Coordinator Didem Eryar Ünlü.

The program, consisting of 12 episodes in 2024, comprehensively covers key topics of the energy transition, from renewable energy and energy efficiency to green hydrogen and Türkiye’s net-zero target, along with discussions on just transition, featuring expert guests in each episode:



1. EÜD President Cem Aşık on “Energy Transition of Türkiye”
2. Solar3GW Chairman Yusuf Bahadır Turhan and TWEA President İbrahim Erden on “Turkey’s Renewable Energy Potential”
3. TEHAD President Berkan Bayram on “Energy Transition in the Turkish Transportation Sector”
4. TDinamik Director Doç Dr. Muhsin Mazman on “Battery Energy Storage”
5. EYODER President Onur Ünlü on “Energy Efficiency”
6. Independent Board Advisor Canan Özsoy on “Energy Transition in the Industry”
7. SEFiA Director Bengisu Özenç on “Just Transition”
8. SmartPulse CEO Önder Akar on “Energy Transition and Digitalization”
9. SKD Türkiye Chairman of the High Advisory Board Ebru Dildar Edin on “Financing of the Energy Transition”
10. Istanbul Policy Center Climate Change Cluster Coordinator Ümit Şahin and SHURA Steering Committee Chair Selahattin Hakman on “Türkiye’s Net-Zero Progress”
11. Prof. Dr. Can Erkey, Koç University on “Turkey’s Green Hydrogen Potential”
12. VAT Energy General Manager Altuğ Karataş on “Decarbonizing the Buildings”

EVENTS

“Net Zero 2053: Energy Sector Policies” Webinar

The report’s findings were presented via a webinar on January 4. Following the opening speech by SHURA Director Alkım Bağ Güllü, SHURA’s Senior Energy Analyst Sena Serhadlıoğlu provided a detailed overview of the report. A panel discussion was also held on the topic “The Role of Net Zero Policies: Accelerating Transformation,” moderated by Hasan Aksoy, SHURA Head of Research. The panel featured the participation of Canan Özsoy, Independent Board Member and Advisor, Özge Özeke, Secretary General at Solar 3GW, and Ozan Korkmaz, Founding Partner at APlus Enerji.

“Industrial Policy Alternatives for Türkiye Within the Framework of a Just Transition” Stakeholder Meetings

SHURA convened two stakeholder meetings to discuss the report. The first meeting took place on January 12, with attendance from 50 representatives from key industry associations including the Turkish Industry & Business Association (TÜSİAD), Turkish Enterprise and Business Confederation (TÜRKONFED), and the Turkish Metal Industrialists’ Union (MESS). The second stakeholder meeting, conducted online on February 9, brought together approximately 40 representatives from public and industry authorities, including representatives from key ministries such as the Ministry of Industry and Technology, Ministry of Energy and Natural Resources, Ministry of Treasury and Finance, Presidency of Strategy and Budget, Ministry of Environment - Directorate of Climate Change, as well as international organizations such as The World Bank, UNDP, GEFF Türkiye, and the Industrial Development Bank of Türkiye (TSKB), alongside various industrial sectoral organizations.

“Battery Energy Storage Options for Türkiye” & “Transportation Sector Transformation: Integrating Electric Vehicles Into Türkiye’s Distribution Grids” Stakeholder Meetings

The initial findings of the SHURA reports were presented to the TSO (Departments of R&D, Planning & Investments, O&M and Load Distribution) and EMRA (Presidency of Energy Transition R&D with Departments of Innovation, Digital Transition, Charging Services and Complementary Markets & Alternative Fuels) in addition to meetings with expert groups from the private sector, academia, sector associations, and civil society.

Joint Event With TWEA: “Offshore Wind Energy Tenders: Global Trends and Recommendations for Türkiye”

Aiming to provide insights to shape an effective tender system for Turkey’s offshore wind energy YEKA mechanism by leveraging international best practices, the report was prepared by SHURA in collaboration with the Turkish Wind Energy Association (TWEA) and initially published on October 23, 2023. On February 9, a hybrid event was hosted by SHURA and TWEA. The event commenced with opening speeches delivered by SHURA Director Alkım Bağ Güllü and TWEA President İbrahim Erden. SHURA Energy Analyst Ahmet Acar presented the report, followed by a panel session moderated by Ufuk Yaman, Vice Chairman of Offshore at TWEA, that featured panelists including Pierre Tardieu, Chief Policy Officer at Wind Europe; Hülya Ulusoy, Investment Support Office Coordinator at Izmir Development Agency; and Ferhat Bingöl, Assoc. Prof. at Izmir Institute for Technology.

“Transportation Sector Transformation: Integrating Electric Vehicles into Türkiye’s Distribution Grids” Report Webinar

SHURA report was announced on July 10 with an online launch event. The event was opened with a speech by SHURA Director Alkım Bağ Güllü, followed by SHURA Head of Research Hasan Aksoy, who presented a summary of the report. A panel discussion was held to discuss the report’s findings and the components of the transformation in the transportation sector. The panel, moderated by SHURA Director Alkım Bağ Güllü, featured Dr. Julia Hildermeier, Senior Expert at RAP EU Program; Dr. Oğuzcan Samsun, Director of Strategy, Business Development, M&A, and Innovation at Enerjisa; Berkay Somalı, General Manager of Voltrun and Board Member of E-MOD; and Dr. Saeed Teimourzadeh, Director of R&D at EPRA Energy.

“Battery Energy Storage Options for Türkiye” Report Webinar

On August 1, SHURA announced the report through an online launch event. The event featured a welcome address by SHURA Director Alkım Bağ Güllü and continued with a report presentation by SHURA Senior Energy Analyst Dr. Sena Serhadlıoğlu. The presentation was succeeded by a panel session, moderated by SHURA Head of Research Hasan Aksoy. The panel speakers included Prof. Dr. Kamil Çağatay Bayındır, President of the Energy Storage Systems Association (EDSİS); Dr. Alper Terciyanlı, Partner and CEO at EGS; Can Tokcan, Chairman of the Board of the Energy Storage Industries Association; Haluk Özgün, General Manager at SOLEX; and Mevlüt Akdeniz, Power Systems Engineer at MRC Türkiye. The discussion focused on Turkey’s potential for battery energy storage, investment opportunities, and strategic insights for developing this crucial sector.

“Net Zero 2053: The Socioeconomic Impact of Transitioning to Carbon-Free Energy in Türkiye” Report Webinar

SHURA’s report was announced on October 1 with an online launch event. At the event, SHURA Director Alkım Bağ Güllü gave the opening speech, and SHURA Senior Energy Analyst Yael Taranto presented a summary of the report. The panel featured Xavier Garcia Casals from IRENA, Etkin Özen from the World Bank Turkey, and Prof. Dr. Sevil Acar from Boğaziçi University as speakers.

We were honored to host Can Tokcan at our panel, where he shared his visionary approach that left a lasting mark on Turkey’s energy storage sector. We are deeply saddened by his passing, along with his family members, in the tragic hotel fire in Bolu. Our heartfelt condolences go out to his loved ones, and we wish strength to all who mourn his loss.

Annual Press Roundtables

SHURA held two press conferences in 2024, one in January and the second in December, bringing together representatives from national and sectoral media to review Turkey’s energy transition developments in the previous year and share projections for the year ahead. During the two conferences, SHURA Steering Committee Chair Selahattin Hakman and SHURA Director Alkım Bağ Güllü provided insights into Turkey’s progress in energy transition and highlighted SHURA’s ongoing work in this field.

URBANIZATION AND LOCAL GOVERNANCE

36 EVENTS

The Urbanization and Local Governance cluster of Istanbul Policy Center aims to address the economic, social, and environmental governance transformations that Turkey's cities have undergone throughout the process of globalization.

Studies on this issue have been ongoing since 2015. As we are now living in a new "urban age," as announced by the United Nations (UN), IPC has decided to incorporate urbanization studies into its research. Anatolian cities, on which IPC focuses, underwent an economic, social, and urban transformation coinciding with various processes of globalization after 1980 and have thus shifted the focus on local governance. Anatolian cities also encounter phenomena such as immigration or socio-economic inequality as a consequence of national, regional, and global developments, according to their location. The move of the center of social life to cities has brought about a different urbanization process than in the past. In this framework, IPC's urban studies cluster aims to conduct in-depth research assessing the political, economic, and societal impacts of globalization on Anatolian cities on a comparative basis, which would give every city the chance to tell its own story.

Under this cluster, IPC has collaborated with many non-governmental organizations, especially with TURKONFED, to closely examine Anatolian cities with different historical backgrounds within the context of the city-region, publishing multiple reports. In this context, our first report, *City-Region: New Dynamics in Local Development – From Turkey's Cities to Cities' Turkey*, was published in April 2017. This report, which covers 12 cities, was deepened in a second study, and a new report was prepared focusing on four cities. *City-Region: New Dynamics in Local Government Report* was shared with academicians, local governments, and decision makers working in this field in May 2019. In 2017, the study "Analysis of the Effects of the Events in Sur on the City's Economy" investigated the impacts of conflict processes on urban life and the urban economy.

In 2018, in line with TUBITAK 1003 Program of Supporting the R&D Projects for Priority Areas, IPC's "Sustainable Urban Policies: Quality of Life in Terms of City-regions in Turkey" project was supported under the program subtheme "Living Environment and Intramural Affairs."

Under this cluster IPC conducts "Istanbul Perspectives," a panel series on Istanbul that examines urbanization and cultural change in the city, which is one of the largest metropolises not only in Turkey but in the world. We initiated this monthly event series in October 2018, and in 2019/20, we continue to conduct interviews with researchers investigating the transformation of Istanbul's urban space.

With its studies in urbanization and local governance, IPC aims to contribute to the academic literature and aid local governance actors through sharing scientific research and proposals with decision makers, central/local governments, and local actors.

EVENTS

ActHuman VI – "Barriers & Opportunities in Women's Employment and the Workforce: A Guide to Moving Forward" Report Launch

IPC and INGEV's ActHuman VI project report focused on identifying barriers and opportunities to women's participation in the workforce and providing policy recommendations to support women's participation and retention in the workforce and their advancement in the workplace. The report was launched on September 12.











Minerva Talks

Various facets of Istanbul are explored in the monthly "Minerva Talks" series, a collaboration between IPC and Tarih Vakfı. The series is moderated by Ayşe Köse Badur and Ayşe Özil.

- Minerva Talks 10 – Istanbul in History: Property and the Commons: A Look at Istanbul, Begüm Özden Fırat and Fırat Genç, February 29, 2024
- Minerva Talks 11 – Istanbul in History: Feeding Istanbul: The Political Economy of Food Supply, Candan Türkkan, March 14, 2024
- Minerva Talks 12 – Istanbul in History: Galata Fountain Square in the Footsteps of Workers, Nurşen Gürboğa, April 18, 2024
- Minerva Talks 13 – Istanbul in History: Global Tophane Quay from Galataford to Galataport, Aslı Odman, May 23, 2024
- Minerva Talks 14 – Istanbul in History: Electric Life in Istanbul from the Ottoman Empire to the Republic, Nurçin İleri, Gül Köksal and Sırı Emrah, October 8, 2024
- Minerva Talks 15 – Istanbul in History: Vedad Tek's İstanbul, From the Constitutional Period to the Republic, Dila Gümüş, November 21, 2024
- Minerva Talks 16 – Istanbul in History: Ottoman Painting in the 18th and 19th Centuries, Tarkan Okçuoğlu, December 12, 2024















Reading Istanbul in Literature

In this monthly talk series, we discuss how Istanbul is construed as a city through text in the works of authors of different periods. The series is moderated by Seval Şahin.

- Reading Istanbul in Literature 9: Istanbul that Refik Halid Reunites, After a Long Longing, Tuncay Birkan, January 15, 2024
- Reading Istanbul in Literature 10: Kemal Tahir's Istanbul as a Material of Historiography, Elçin Arabacı, February 26, 2024
- Reading Istanbul in Literature 11: Suat Derviş's Istanbul Landscapes: The Streets of Istanbul Paved with Gold, Didem Ardalı Büyükarman, March 18, 2024
- Reading Istanbul in Literature 12: Reading Istanbul in Literature: Lamartine's Istanbul: Nineteenth-Century Orientalism, Nedret Öztokat, April 30, 2024
- Reading Istanbul in Literature 13: A Glorious and Sad City: Pierre Loti's Istanbul, Selin Gürses, May 20, 2024
- Reading Istanbul in Literature 14: The Poor, Deprivation and Place, Latife Tekin, October 8, 2024
- Reading Istanbul in Literature 15: Place as the Political Memory of Loss and Disappearance, Ayşegül Devecioğlu, December 23, 2024

What Kind of City? Local Democracy and Inclusion

In this talk series moderated by Murad Tiryakioğlu, we explore how urban life can be built around more democratic, inclusive, and commons-based values, engaging with different perspectives such as art, history, and society.

- What Kind of City? - Local Democracy and Inclusion, Fuat Keyman, Pınar Uyan Semerci and Koray Velibeyoğlu, January 30, 2024
- What Kind of City? - Commons ad Coexistence, Fikret Adaman, Begüm Özden Fırat and Ferhat Kentel, February 20, 2024
- What Kind of City? - Art, History and Society, Murat Germen, Zafer Yenal and Cenk Özbağ, March 12, 2024

OTHER ACTIVITIES

39 EVENTS

43 PUBLICATIONS

EVENTS

U.S. Visit: International Realignment

IPC Director Fuat Keyman, Research and Academic Affairs Coordinator Senem Aydın-Düzgit, and Member of the International Advisory Council of the Initiative Atila Eralp visited the United States for a series of panel discussions reinforcing the Initiative's focus on international realignment. The panels include: "Post-Election Turkey in a Changing Global World" at The World Bank and IMF Turkish Staff Association (WITSA) on January 18; "Turkey and the West: Autonomy and Contestation in a Changing Global Order" at Minda de Gunzburg Center for European Studies at Harvard University on January 22; and "Autonomy and Contestation: Turkey, Russia, and the West" at the Fletcher School on January 23, 2024.

New Prospects for Black Sea Security in 2024

IPC organized the panel discussion "New Prospects for Black Sea Security in 2024" in partnership with the Consulate General of Ukraine in Istanbul, on February 20, 2024 at IPC.

▼ Turkey's Quest for Strategic Autonomy: Perspectives from the Middle East and the Black Sea Region



Turkey's Quest for Strategic Autonomy: Perspectives from the Middle East and the Black Sea Region

IPC organized the panel discussion "Turkey's Quest for Strategic Autonomy: Perspectives from the Middle East and the Black Sea Region" with the participation of Fuat Keyman, Amnon Aran, and Mustafa Kutlay as speakers and Pelin Oğuz as the moderator on March 1, 2024 at IPC.

Managing the Neighborhood: State-Society Relations in Turkey through Mukhtars

The launch event of Elise Massicard's book titled *Managing the Neighborhood: State-Society Relations in Turkey through Mukhtars*, moderated by Cana Tülüş Türk, took place on March 26, 2024 at IPC.

A Conversation with Jeremy Rifkin: The Age of Resilience

The discussion "The Age of Resilience," featuring Jeremy Rifkin as speaker, took place on March 28, 2024 at IPC.

The Church Militant and The Orthodox Mobilization of Russian Society

The public lecture "The Church Militant and The Orthodox Mobilization of Russian Society" by Prof. Dr. Valentina Izmirlieva, Director of the Harriman Institute at Columbia University, took place on May 22, 2024 at IPC.



▲ The Church Militant and The Orthodox Mobilization of Russian Society

▼ Changes in Istanbul's Electoral Geography between May 14 and March 31



Changes in Istanbul's Electoral Geography between May 14 and March 31

IPC organized the event "Changes in Istanbul's Electoral Geography Between May 14 and March 31" with the participation of Murat Güvenç on May 7, 2024 at IPC.

Democracy in the Post-Anthropocene: A Conversation with Ayşem Mert

The event "Democracy in the Post-Anthropocene: A Conversation with Ayşem Mert" took place on May 24, 2024 at IPC.

▼ Kemal Derviş Memorial Event



Book Talk on Pop Culture as Political Battleground in Turkey

IPC hosted a book talk on *Fight Scenes: Pop Culture as Political Battleground in Autocratizing Turkey* by Lisel Hintz on June 24, 2024 at IPC.

Kemal Derviş Memorial Event

Kemal Derviş, former Senior Advisor at Istanbul Policy Center, Executive Board Member of the IPC-Sabancı University-Stiftung Mercator Initiative, and Member of the Sabancı University International Advisory Board, was commemorated with an event organized by Sabancı University and Istanbul Policy Center on the first anniversary of his passing on June 25, 2024.

Book Talk on Competitive Authoritarianism in Turkey

IPC hosted a book talk on *Turkey's New Regime: Competitive Authoritarianism* by Berk Esen, with the participation of Şebnem Gümüşçü and Hakan Yavuzyılmaz, on June 28, 2024 at IPC.

Working Space of Civil Society Organizations: Minerva Han

Within the scope of the European Heritage Days 2024 activities of Beyoğlu Municipality, the "Working Space of Civil Society Organizations: Minerva Han" event took place on September 10, 2024 at IPC. During the event, academics and representatives of non-governmental organizations who have passed through Minerva Han talked about the history of the building and how it plays a role in their work.



▲ Working Space of Civil Society Organizations: Minerva Han

Pathways from Disorder to Order, Thinking about the Disorder of Our Times

IPC organized a panel titled "Pathways from Disorder to Order, Thinking about the Disorder of Our Times," featuring Michael N. Barnett, Andrew Phillips, and Ayşe Zarakol, and moderated by Meltem Müftüler-Baç on October 7, 2024 at IPC Karaköy.

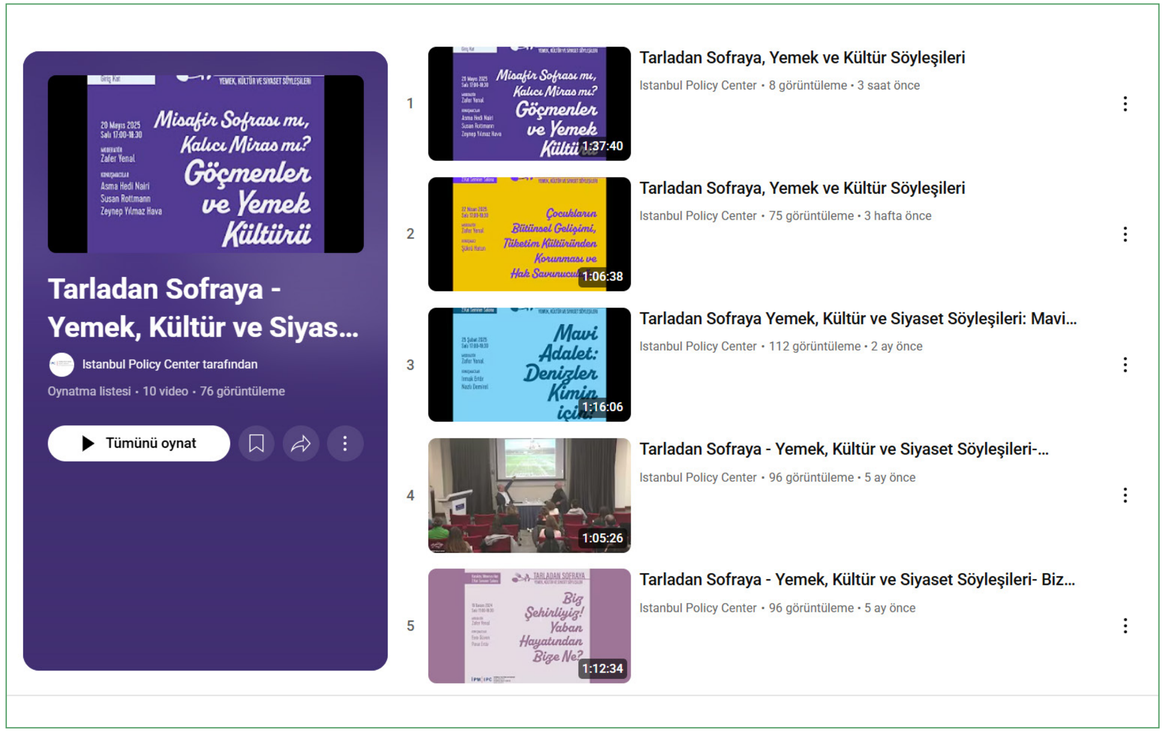
From Article 5 to 360 Degrees: Expanding NATO's Definition of Security over 75 Years

Istanbul Policy Center's event, "From Article 5 to 360 Degrees: Expanding NATO's Definition of Security over 75 Years," sponsored by NATO's Public Diplomacy Division, took place on November 7, 2024, at IPC Karaköy.

From Farm to Table: Food, Culture and Politics Talks

In this series moderated by Zafer Yenal, we explore the complex relationships between agriculture, food, culture, and politics through a range of topics and expert guests. Together, we delve into the social, cultural, and political dynamics behind the foods that arrive on our tables.

- From Farm to Table: Food, Culture and Politics Talks - Farm in the City, Avocado on Toasts, Baran Karsak, Bediz Yılmaz, and Fatih Tatari, February 13, 2024.
- From Farm to Table: Food, Culture and Politics Talks - Localizing Cuisines, Globalizing Tastes, Derya Nizam, Mansur Aşkar and Tangör Tan, March 5, 2024.
- From Farm to Table: Food, Culture and Politics Talks - From Baklava to Liqueur: Places, Migrations, Cuisines, Anna Maria Beylunioğlu, Burak Onaran and Silva Özyerli, April 16, 2024.
- From Farm to Table: Food, Culture and Politics Talks - Meals Told, Flavors Mailed, Levon Bağış, Paul Benjamin Osterlund, and Reyhan Ülker, May 14, 2024.
- From Farm to Table: Food, Culture and Politics Talks - Are They Full? What About Their Backs? Children and Our Future, Bülent Şık and Ertan Karabıyık, October 22, 2024.
- From Farm to Table: Food, Culture and Politics Talks - We Are City People! What Do We Care About Wildlife?, Esra Güven and Pınar Ertör, November 19, 2024.
- From Farm to Table: Food, Culture and Politics Talks - Nutrition-Oriented Agriculture and Food Sovereignty, İsmail Çakmak, December 17, 2024.



PUBLICATIONS

Turkey's Quest for Strategic Autonomy in an Era of Multipolarity

The IPC Policy Brief "Turkey's Quest for Strategic Autonomy in an Era of Multipolarity" by Prof. Dr. Amnon Aran, International Politics at City University of London, and Dr. Mustafa Kutlay, International Politics at City University of London, was published in March 2024.

Zappa Zamanlar IPC Special Series

In this series, which will be published once a month on Aposto, we present the selected works of IPC and our reflections on them.

- The first issue from November 17, 2024 includes Fuat Keyman's latest article on civil society, research on Turkey's integration into the EU emissions trading system and physician migration from Turkey to Germany.
- In the second issue of Zappa Zamanlar IPC Special on December 22, 2024, we focused on IPC's climate change studies. In this issue, you will find details on what remains from this year's COP29, where Turkey ranked at the top in terms of participation behind Azerbaijan and Brazil with nearly 2,000 registered participants, heat waves, and the perception of climate security in Turkey.





From Article 5 to 360 Degrees: Expanding NATO's Definition of Security over 75 Years

The IPC report *From Article 5 to 360 Degrees: Expanding NATO's Definition of Security over 75 Years* by IPC Managing Editor and Researcher Megan Gisclon was published in December 2024. The report was sponsored by NATO's Public Diplomacy Division within the scope of the project "From Article 5 to 360 Degrees: Expanding NATO's Definition of Security over 75 Years."

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