

IPC | ISTANBUL POLICY CENTER
SABANCI UNIVERSITY
STIFTUNG MERCATOR INITIATIVE

Istanbul Policy Center

2025 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 democracy 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
- Democracy, Conflict Resolution, Global Affairs
- SHURA Energy Transition Center
- Sustainability
- Digital Society

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.

Since then, the Initiative has produced a wide array of research and outreach activities on 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, 84 visiting researchers and 26 senior fellows have worked at IPC and Sabancı University.

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 fifteen 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.

At the start of 2025, Professor Senem Aydın-Düzgit assumed the role of Director at IPC. Since her tenure, IPC’s six focus areas have been revised. The institute has welcomed new researchers, and its scope has broadened to encompass Democracy, Conflict Resolution, Global Affairs; Sustainability; and Digital Society.

IPC, additionally, 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



As we look back on 2025, I am pleased to see a year characterized by determination, creativity, and a renewed spirit of collaboration at IPC despite global and regional challenges. Throughout our programs and activities, we continued to uphold the center's longstanding commitment to producing rigorous, independent, and policy-relevant research while expanding our intellectual community and strengthening our international partnerships.

This past year was a time of renewal and strategic changes for IPC. We updated our research clusters to better match the changing policy environment and the strengths of our growing team. Our work now covers six main areas: the IPC–Sabancı University–Stiftung Mercator Initiative; Climate Change; Democracy, Conflict Resolution, Global Affairs; SHURA Energy Transition Center; Sustainability; and Digital Society. These groups enable us to respond more effectively to complex, interconnected issues—from democratic resilience and peacebuilding to climate adaptation, energy transition, and the societal impacts of digital technologies.

Throughout 2025, we welcomed new researchers, launched new collaborations, and continued to serve as a platform for open and constructive dialogue. We organized a wide range of events—panels, workshops, conferences, and public talks—and published analyses, policy briefs, and reports that reached diverse audiences in Turkey and beyond. We also maintained our strong support for Sabancı University's academic community.

I extend my sincere thanks to our researchers, administrative team, fellows, partners, and supporters for their dedication and trust. It is your collective effort that enables IPC to remain a leading voice in policy research and public debate.

As the IPC team, we would like to express our warmest gratitude to Professor Fuat Keyman, whose visionary leadership over the past fifteen years shaped IPC into a respected, globally connected, and intellectually vibrant institution. His contributions continue to guide our work and inspire our mission.

I invite you to explore this 2025 Activity Report, which highlights our programs, projects, events, and publications from the past year. It is a reflection of IPC's dedication to excellence, inclusion, and making a meaningful impact on our world today.

Senem Aydın-Düzgit

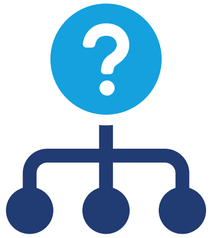
IPC IN 2025



38 researchers and administrative personnel



13 research programs



6 research clusters



86 events, such as workshops, conferences, panels, etc.



26 publications



60 interns and young research assistants from a diverse group of international and national universities, including Sabancı University

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 cooperation 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 in the last five years:

- Açık Radyo
- Agora Energiewende
- BMWi - Renewable Energy Working Group
- Chamber of Electrical Engineers, Union of Chambers of Turkish Engineers and Architects (TMMOB EMO)
- Union of Chambers of Turkish Engineers and Architects - Chamber of Chemical Engineers (TMMOB KMO)
- Chatham House, the Royal Institute of International Affairs
- Climate Action Network (CAN) Europe
- Climate Policy Lab
- Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit GmbH (GIZ)
- Economic Development Foundation (IKV)
- The Economic Policy Research Foundation of Turkey (TEPAV)
- Electric Power Research Institute (EPRI) Europe (Spain)
- European Climate Foundation (ECF)
- European Think Tanks Group (ETTG)
- European University Institute
- Friedrich Naumann Stiftung (FNS)
- German Institute of Development and Sustainability (IDOS)
- German-Turkish Chamber of Industry and Commerce (AHK)
- Hacettepe University
- Hrant Dink Foundation
- Human Development Foundation (INGEV)
- Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin (HU)
- International Network of Energy Transition Think Tanks (INETTT)
- The International Council on Clean Transportation (ICCT)
- Istanbul Bilgi University
- Izmir Development Agency
- MEXT
- Middle East Technical University (METU)
- Ministry of Energy and Natural Resources (MENR)
- NATO
- Öğretmen Ağı - ERG
- Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research (PIK)
- Regulatory Assistance Project (RAP)
- Republic of Turkey Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- Research Institute for Sustainability (RIFS)
- Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC)
- Stiftung Mercator
- The Fletcher School at Tufts University
- Turkish Energy, Nuclear and Mining Research Authority (TENMAK)
- University College Cork
- University of Glasgow
- University of Oxford
- World Wildlife Foundation (WWF)

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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 2025

The Istanbul Policy Center-Sabancı University-Stiftung Mercator Initiative hosted the 7th Alumni event of the Mercator-IPC Fellowship Program on May 23-25, 2025, at Selçuk, İzmir.





▲ Mercator-IPC Alumni Retreat 2025

▼ Final Evaluation Meeting with the 2024/25 Mercator-IPC Fellows



Final Evaluation Meeting with 2024/25 Mercator-IPC Fellows

The Initiative held the Final Evaluation Meeting with the 2024/25 Mercator-IPC Fellows on September 26, 2025, at IPC Karaköy. During the event, fellows presented their project results. The presentations were followed by the fellows' evaluations of the program in terms of its objectives, impact, and future direction. A farewell dinner marked the conclusion of the 2024/25 fellowship cohort.

The Orientation Seminar for the 2025/26 Mercator-IPC Fellows

The Orientation Seminar for the 2025/26 Mercator-IPC Fellows was held on October 9, 2025, at IPC Karaköy.





▲ The Orientation Seminar for the 2025/26 Mercator-IPC Fellows

The Return of the Future and the Last Man: Politics of Demographic Imagination

2025 Mercator-IPC Visiting Senior Fellow Ivan Krastev was hosted by the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences at Sabancı University and gave a seminar titled “The Return of the Future and the Last Man: The Politics of Demographic Imagination,” moderated by Meltem Müftüler-Baç, Dean of the FASS at Sabancı University, on October 14, 2025.



▲ Ivan Krastev at Sabancı University

▼ Welcoming of the 2025/26 Mercator-IPC Fellows





Welcoming of the 2025/26 Mercator-IPC Fellows

The Welcoming event for the 2025/26 Mercator-IPC Fellows was held on October 15, 2025, at Sakıp Sabancı Museum with the Keynote Speech “Why So Easy? Reflections on the Crisis of Liberalism” by 2025 Mercator-IPC Visiting Senior Fellow Ivan Krastev.

The speech was followed by welcoming remarks from IPC Director Senem Aydın-Düzgit, Stiftung Mercator Executive Director Wolfgang Rohe, and Vice President of Sabancı University Mehmet Yıldız.

The event concluded with a movie screening that introduced 2025/26 Mercator-IPC Fellows Ali Baydarol, Burcu Karakaş, Damla Bayraktar Aksel, Moritz Zackariat, Francesco Pasta, Sedat Gündoğdu, and Jacopo Franceschini.



EU/GERMAN-TURKISH RELATIONS

EVENTS

German Elections: The Day After

The Initiative organized the panel discussion "German Elections: The Day After" on February 24, 2025, at IPC Karaköy and live streamed on IPC's YouTube Channel. The event featured 2024/25 Mercator-IPC Senior Fellow Heinrich Kreft, Secretary General of IKV Çiğdem Nas, Turkish-German University Faculty Member Ebru Turhan, and 2024/25 Mercator-IPC Fellow Johanna Wietschel as speakers, with IPC Director Senem Aydın-Düzgit as moderator.

The Realities of Life and Feminist Solidarity in the Post-Earthquake Region: Hatay and Adıyaman

The Initiative organized the event "The Realities of Life and Feminist Solidarity in the Post-Earthquake Region: Hatay and Adıyaman," convened by 2025 Mercator-IPC Short-Term Visiting Fellow Simone Kamhuber and held on March 25, 2025, at IPC Karaköy.

Europe and the Emerging New Global Order: Rethinking Europe's Security Framework

The book talk "Europe and the Emerging New Global Order: Rethinking Europe's Security Framework," convened by 2025 Mercator-IPC Senior Fellow Heinrich Kreft and moderated by IPC Managing Editor and Researcher Megan Gisclon, took place on April 7, 2025, at IPC Karaköy.

New Directions in Development: A Comparison of Turkey, the EU, and China's Relations with the Global South

The event titled "New Directions in Development: A Comparison of Turkey, the EU, and China's Relations with the Global South," jointly organized by ETTG, Stiftung Mercator, IDOS, and IPC, took place on September 15–16, 2025, at IPC Karaköy.

Protecting Civil Society: Addressing the Shrinking Space for EU Democracy Promotion

The Initiative organized the event "Protecting Civil Society: Addressing Shrinking Spaces for EU Democracy Promotion," which was convened by 2020/21 Mercator-IPC Fellow Elena Dück on September 22, 2025, at IPC Karaköy.

Metropolitan Bridges: Cities, Democracy, and Turkey-Europe Relations

The Initiative held a closed roundtable discussion titled "Metropolitan Bridges: Cities, Democracy, and Turkey-Europe Relations" convened by 2024/25 Mercator-IPC Fellow Seren Selvin Korkmaz on November 6, 2025, at IPC Karaköy. Gülseren Onanç, Laura Batalla Adam, Marine Karcher, Nazlı Akyüz, and Özge Mumcu Aybars participated as speakers.

PUBLICATIONS



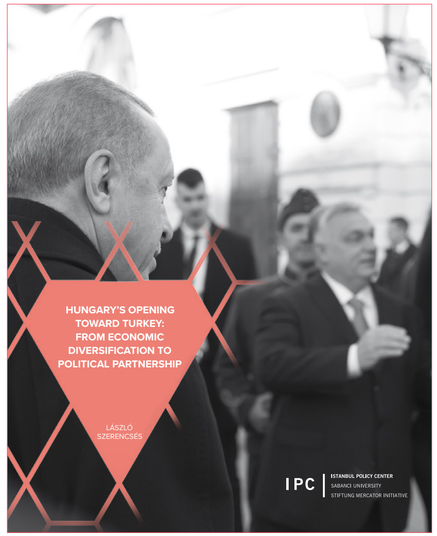
What's Up with U.S.-Turkey Relations? Between International Turmoil and Trump 2.0

The IPC-Mercator Analysis "What's Up with U.S.-Turkey Relations? Between International Turmoil and Trump 2.0" by 2024/25 Mercator-IPC Fellow Samuele Abrami was published in January 2025.



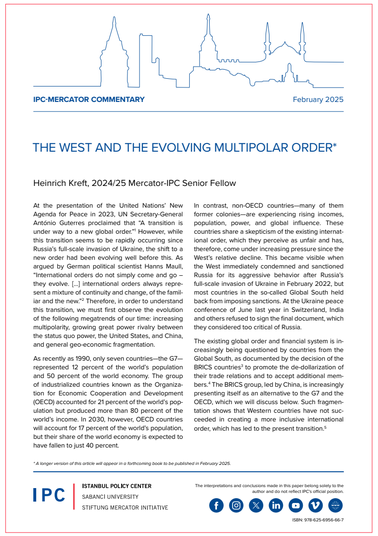
Refugee Inclusion and the Role of Arts Education in Turkish Primary Schools

The IPC-Mercator Report *Refugee Inclusion and the Role of Arts Education in Turkish Primary Schools* by 2018/19 Mercator-IPC Fellow Joanna Krzemińska was published in January 2025.



Hungary's Opening Toward Turkey: From Economic Diversification to Political Partnership

The IPC-Mercator Report *Hungary's Opening Toward Turkey: From Economic Diversification to Political Partnership* by 2023/24 Mercator-IPC Fellow László Szerencsés was published in February 2025.



The West and the Evolving Multipolar Order

The IPC-Mercator Commentary "The West and the Evolving Multipolar Order" by 2024/25 Mercator-IPC Senior Fellow Heinrich Kreft was published in February 2025.

German Elections: Implications for German Politics, Climate Policy, Foreign Policy, and Germany's Relations with the EU and Turkey

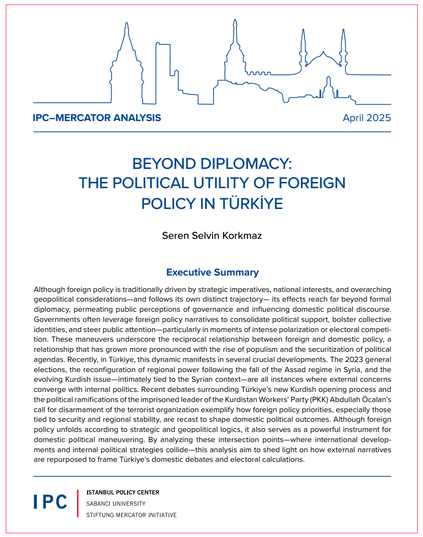
The IPC-Mercator Analysis "German Elections: Implications for German Politics, Climate Policy, Foreign Policy, and Germany's Relations with the EU and Turkey" by 2024/25 Mercator-IPC Senior Fellow Heinrich Kreft, Secretary General of IKV Çiğdem Nas, Turkish-German University Faculty Member Ebru Turhan, and 2024/25 Mercator-IPC Fellow Johanna Wietschel was published in March 2025.





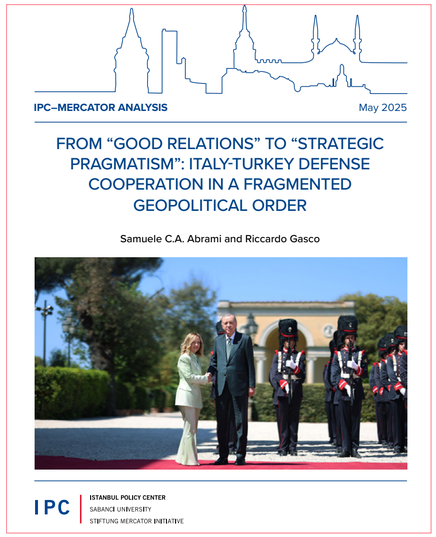
Europe's Defense Awakening and Its Strategic Partners: Any Place for Turkey?

The IPC-Mercator Commentary "Europe's Defense Awakening and Its Strategic Partners: Any Place for Turkey?" by 2024/25 Mercator-IPC Fellow Samuele C.A. Abrami and IPC Visiting Researcher Riccardo Gasco was published in March 2025.



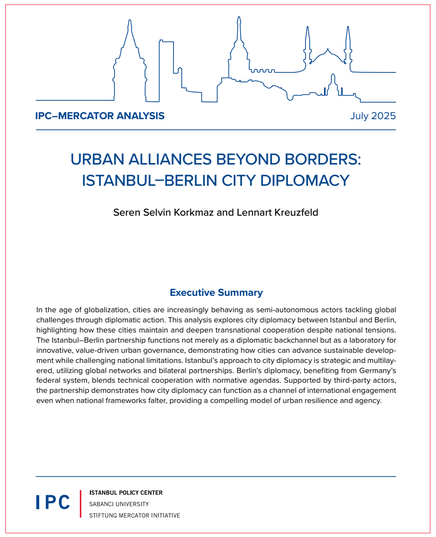
Beyond Diplomacy: The Political Utility of Foreign Policy in Türkiye

The IPC-Mercator Analysis "Beyond Diplomacy: The Political Utility of Foreign Policy in Türkiye" by 2024/25 Mercator-IPC Fellow Seren Selvin Korkmaz was published in April 2025.



From "Good Relations" to "Strategic Pragmatism": Italy-Turkey Defense Cooperation in a Fragmented Geopolitical Order

The IPC-Mercator Analysis "From 'Good Relations' to 'Strategic Pragmatism': Italy-Turkey Defense Cooperation in a Fragmented Geopolitical Order" by 2024/25 Mercator-IPC Fellow Samuele C.A. Abrami and IPC Visiting Researcher Riccardo Gasco was published in May 2025.



Urban Alliances Beyond Borders: Istanbul-Berlin City Diplomacy

The IPC-Mercator Analysis "Urban Alliances Beyond Borders: Istanbul-Berlin City Diplomacy" by 2024/25 Mercator-IPC Fellow Seren Selvin Korkmaz and IPC Intern Lennart Kreuzfeld was published in July 2025.



From Symbolism to Substance? Navigating Europe Through Crisis After the European Political Community and European Council Summits in Copenhagen

The IPC-Mercator Analysis "From Symbolism to Substance? Navigating Europe Through Crisis After the European Political Community and European Council Summits in Copenhagen" by 2013/14 Mercator-IPC Fellow Ebru Turhan was published in October 2025.

CLIMATE CHANGE

EVENTS

Türkiye and the EU Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism

The international workshop titled "Türkiye and the EU Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism," convened by 2025 Mercator-IPC Short-Term Fellows Johannes Gallé and Timothé Beaufils took place on April 8, 2025, at IPC Karaköy.



▲ April 8, 2025 - Türkiye and the EU Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism

Urban Sustainability Transitions: Building Bridges Across Cities

The Initiative organized the roundtable discussion "Urban Sustainability Transitions: Building Bridges Across Cities," initiated by 2024/25 Mercator-IPC Fellow Zeynep Kadirbeyoğlu, on June 12, 2025, at IPC Karaköy. The event featured speakers Mustafa Karakuş, Erdal Onur Diktaş, Johanna Fink, and Hasan Hüseyin Aysa.

Turkish-German Dialogue on Socially Just Transportation

The Initiative organized the event "Turkish-German Dialogue on a Socially Just Transportation" convened by 2024/25 Mercator-IPC Fellow Johanna Wietschel with the participation of Murat Şenzeybek, Matthias Runkel, and Gürkan Günay on September 25, 2025, at IPC Karaköy.

Press Conference: From Today to 2053: How Can Türkiye Achieve Net-Zero Emissions?

At COP30, IPC hosted a press conference titled "From Today to 2053: How Can Türkiye Achieve Net-Zero Emissions? (Bugünden 2053'e: Türkiye Net Sıfır Emisyona Nasıl Ulaşabilir?)," where the key findings from IPC's new report Türkiye's Decarbonization Roadmap Toward Net Zero by 2053 and Türkiye's updated Nationally Determined Contributions were discussed. Moderated by Ceren Ayas, the session featured presentations by Ümit Şahin and Tanyeli Behiç Sabuncu (WWF Türkiye). Held on November 13, 2025, at Press Conference Room 2-Blue Zone Area D, the event brought together COP30 participants and online viewers for a timely discussion on Türkiye's short-, medium-, and long-term decarbonization pathways.

Reflections on COP30

The Initiative hosted a panel discussion "Reflections on COP30 (COP30'dan İzlenimler)," on November 27, 2025, at IPC Karaköy. The panel was moderated by Climate Change Program Coordinator Ümit Şahin and featured Ayşe Ceren Sarı, Çiğdem Özbaş, Değer Saygın, Devin Bahçeci, Nuri Özbağdatlı, and Tanyeli Behiç Sabuncu as panelists.



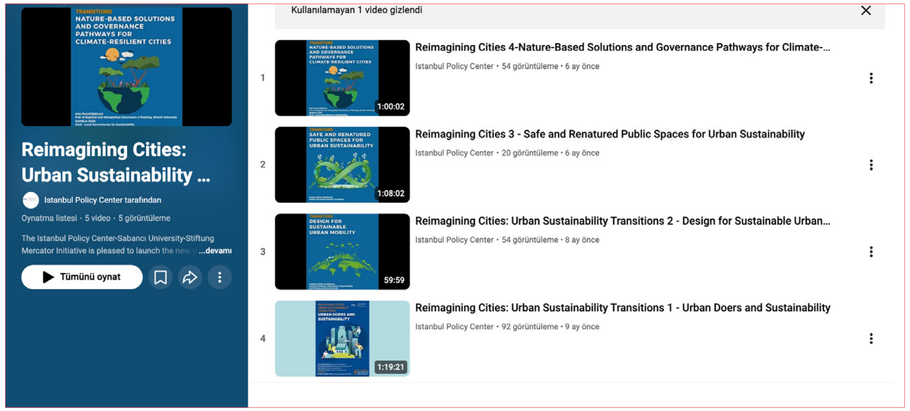
Synthetic Fashion and Beyond: Fast Fashion, Climate, Plastic, and the Future of Textiles

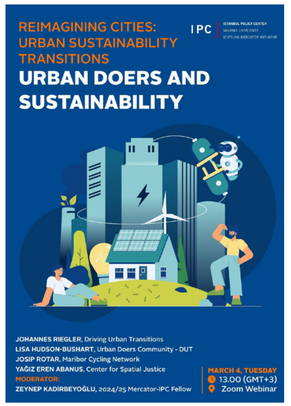
The Initiative organized the event "Fast Fashion, Climate, Plastic, and the Future of Textiles" convened by the 2025/26 Mercator-IPC Fellow Sedat Gündoğdu with the participation of Selin Uğurtaş, Urska Trunk, İlkan Özkan, Cansu Sipahi, Beysu İnal Şenermen, Aslı Odman, İpek Yalçın Enis, and İlkşen Dedeoğlu Demiray on December 10, 2025 at IPC Karaköy.

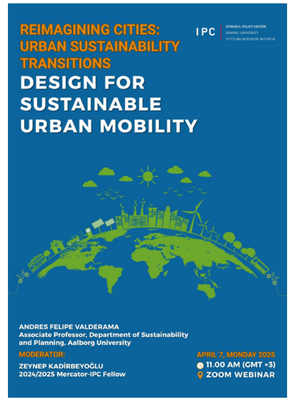
Defense and Technology Cooperation amid Geopolitical Turmoil: Challenges and Opportunities for Turkey and Europe

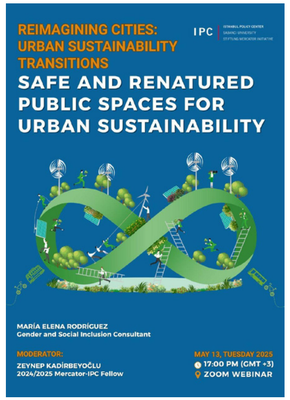
The Initiative hosted the panel discussion "Defense and Technology Cooperation amid Geopolitical Turmoil: Challenges and Opportunities for Turkey and Europe" on December 19, 2025, at the IPC Karaköy. The event was convened by 2024/25 Mercator-IPC Fellow Samuele Abrami and 2025/26 Mercator-IPC Fellow Jacopo Franceschini.

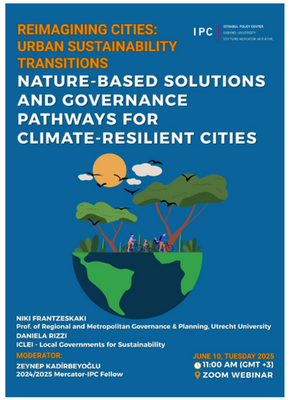
REIMAGINING CITIES: URBAN SUSTAINABILITY TRANSITIONS WEBINAR SERIES











The Initiative launched a new webinar series “Reimagining Cities: Urban Sustainability Transitions,” led by 2024/25 Mercator-IPC Fellow Zeynep Kadirbeyoğlu.

The “Reimagining Cities: Urban Sustainability Transitions” webinar series explored urban sustainability and the role of cities in addressing climate change. With urban areas generating 70% of global greenhouse gas emissions, municipalities worldwide are implementing innovative solutions such as 15-minute cities, pedestrianization projects, urban ecological corridors, and green transportation initiatives. This webinar series aimed to bridge IPC’s focus on urbanization, local governance, and climate change by examining how municipalities initiate, develop, and scale sustainability projects, sometimes in collaboration, sometimes in conflict with civil society actors. Through global examples, the discussions offered insights for local authorities and civil society organizations in Turkey, fostering more sustainable and just urban futures.

- Episode 1 – Urban Doers and Sustainability – March 4, 2025
- Episode 2 – Design for Sustainable Urban Mobility – April 7, 2025
- Episode 3 – Safe and Renatured Public Spaces for Urban Sustainability – May 13, 2025
- Episode 4 – Nature-Based Solutions and Governance Pathways for Climate-Resilient Cities, June 10, 2025

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 are evaluated from an interdisciplinary political ecology perspective.



Political Ecology 3 - Ecological Feminisms

This session featured a presentation by Özlem Aslan on “Ecological Feminisms” and was held online and in-person on February 12, 2025, at IPC Karaköy.



Political Ecology 4 - An Analysis through Project Localities and in the Context of Neoliberal Policies: Transformation of the Anti-Nuclear Movement

This session featured a presentation by Pınar Demircan on “An Analysis through Project Localities and in the Context of Neoliberal Policies: Transformation of the Anti-Nuclear Movement” and was held on March 26, 2025, at IPC Karaköy.

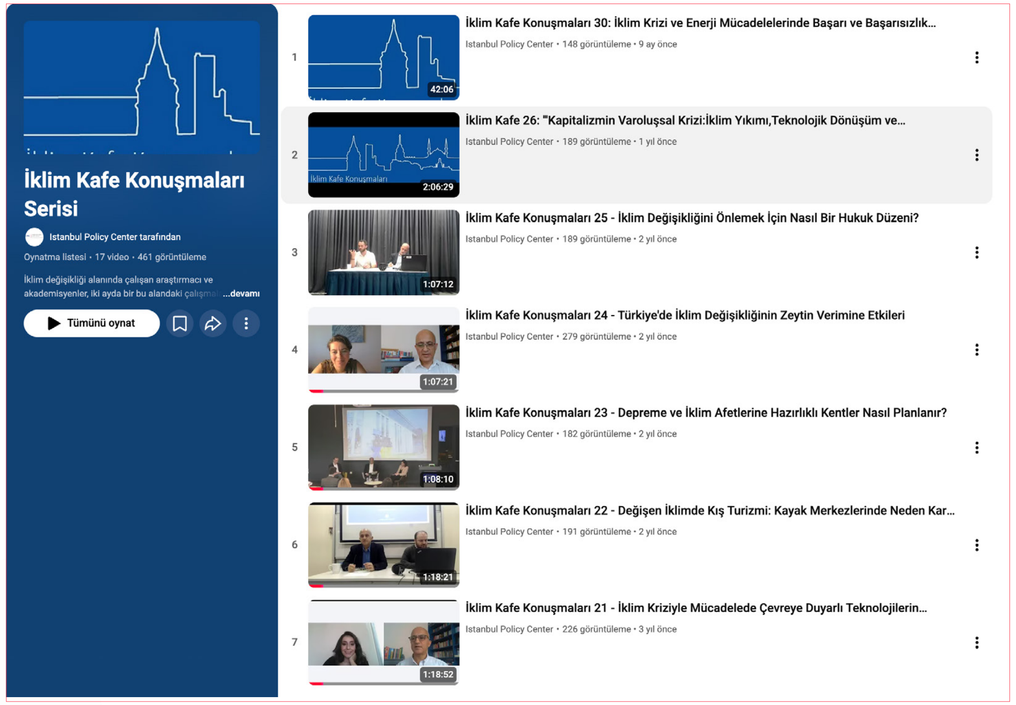


Political Ecology 5 - A Post-Capitalist Journey in Tackling Ecological Problems

This session featured a presentation by Pat Devine, Honorary Research Fellow at Manchester University, on “A Post-Capitalist Journey in Tackling Ecological Problems” on November 21, 2025, at IPC Karaköy.

CLIMATE CAFÉ TALKS

Climate Change Program 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 Café Talks 29: Climate Negotiations at the International Court of Justice

The twenty-ninth edition of the Climate Café Talks, organized by the Initiative to bring together researchers and academics working in the field of climate change, continued with "Climate Negotiations at the International Court of Justice *(Uluslararası Adalet Divanı'nda* İklim *Görüşmeleri: Uluslararası Hukukta* İklim *Krizi)*," which was held on January 8, 2025, at IPC Karaköy with the participation of Dr. Nilüfer Oral and moderated by Ümit Şahin.

Climate Café Talks 30: Dynamics of Success and Failure in the Climate Crisis and Energy Struggles

The thirtieth meeting of the Climate Café Talks series took place with Beyza Sarıkoç Yıldırım's talk on "Dynamics of Success and Failure in the Climate Crisis and Energy Struggles *(İklim Krizi ve Enerji Mücadelelerinde Başarı ve Başarısızlık Dinamikleri)*," moderated by Eda Acara, on March 12, 2025, at IPC Karaköy.

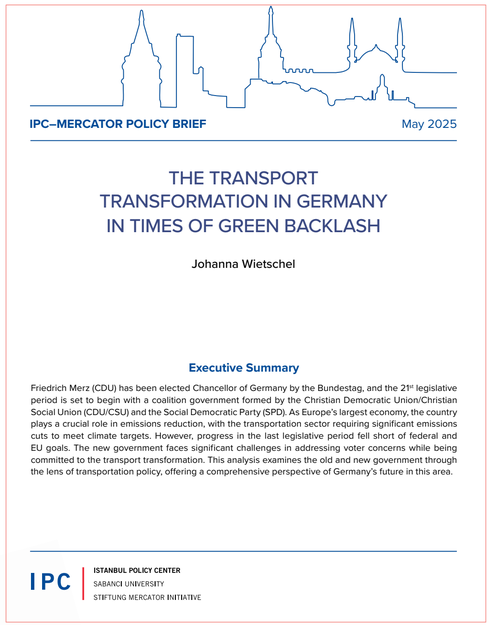
Climate Café Talks 31: A Critical Realist Philosophical Perspective on Climate Change

The thirty-first of the Climate Café Talks series took place with 2024/25 Mercator-IPC Fellow Onur Özmen's talk on "A Critical Realist Philosophical Perspective on Climate Change *(İklim Değişikliğine Eleştirel Gerçekçi Felsefe Perspektifinden Bir Bakış)*" on September 10, 2025, at IPC Karaköy.

PUBLICATIONS

The Transport Transformation in Germany in Times of Green Backlash

The IPC-Mercator Policy Brief "The Transport Transformation in Germany in Times of Green Backlash" by 2024/25 Mercator-IPC Fellow Johanna Wietschel was published in May 2025.


IPC–MERCATOR POLICY BRIEF May 2025

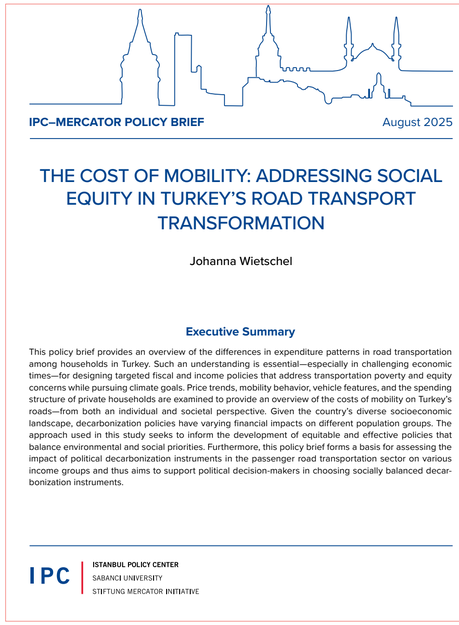
THE TRANSPORT TRANSFORMATION IN GERMANY IN TIMES OF GREEN BACKLASH

Johanna Wietschel

Executive Summary

Friedrich Merz (CDU) has been elected Chancellor of Germany by the Bundestag, and the 21st legislative period is set to begin with a coalition government formed by the Christian Democratic Union/Christian Social Union (CDU/CSU) and the Social Democratic Party (SPD). As Europe's largest economy, the country plays a crucial role in emissions reduction, with the transportation sector requiring significant emissions cuts to meet climate targets. However, progress in the last legislative period fell short of federal and EU goals. The new government faces significant challenges in addressing voter concerns while being committed to the transport transformation. This analysis examines the old and new government through the lens of transportation policy, offering a comprehensive perspective of Germany's future in this area.

IPC | ISTANBUL POLICY CENTER SABANCI UNIVERSITY STIFTUNG MERCATOR INITIATIVE


IPC–MERCATOR POLICY BRIEF August 2025

THE COST OF MOBILITY: ADDRESSING SOCIAL EQUITY IN TURKEY'S ROAD TRANSPORT TRANSFORMATION

Johanna Wietschel

Executive Summary

This policy brief provides an overview of the differences in expenditure patterns in road transportation among households in Turkey. Such an understanding is essential—especially in challenging economic times—for designing targeted fiscal and income policies that address transportation poverty and equity concerns while pursuing climate goals. Price trends, mobility behavior, vehicle features, and the spending structure of private households are examined to provide an overview of the costs of mobility on Turkey's roads—from both an individual and societal perspective. Given the country's diverse socioeconomic landscape, decarbonization policies have varying financial impacts on different population groups. The approach used in this study seeks to inform the development of equitable and effective policies that balance environmental and social priorities. Furthermore, this policy brief forms a basis for assessing the impact of political decarbonization instruments in the passenger road transportation sector on various income groups and thus aims to support political decision-makers in choosing socially balanced decarbonization instruments.

IPC | ISTANBUL POLICY CENTER SABANCI UNIVERSITY STIFTUNG MERCATOR INITIATIVE

The Cost of Mobility: Addressing Social Equity in Turkey's Road Transport Transformation

The IPC-Mercator Policy Brief "The Cost of Mobility: Addressing Social Equity in Turkey's Road Transport Transformation" by 2024/25 Mercator-IPC Fellow Johanna Wietschel was published in September 2025.

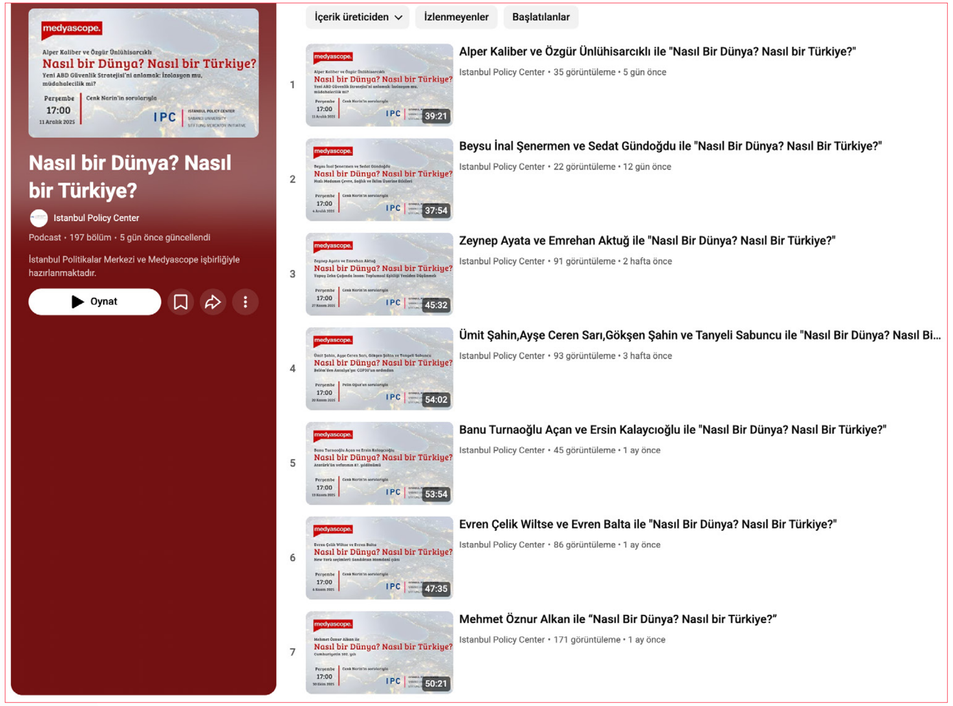
BROWN BAG SEMINARS

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

- **Turkey's Role in Post-Assad Syria: A Vision from Ankara, Brussels, and Washington**
  The third meeting of the Brown Bag Seminar Sessions, organized by the Initiative, featured a discussion by 2024/25 Mercator-IPC Fellow Samuele Abrami on "Turkey's Role in Post-Assad Syria: A Vision from Ankara, Brussels, and Washington," which took place on January 16, 2025, at IPC Karaköy.
- **New Government, Old Challenges: What Germany's Election Means for Climate Protection in the Transport Sector and Beyond**
  The fourth meeting of the Brown Bag Seminar Sessions, organized by the Initiative, featured a discussion by 2024/25 Mercator-IPC Fellow Johanna Wietschel on "New Government, Old Challenges: What Germany's Election Means for Climate Protection in the Transport Sector and Beyond," which took place on March 5, 2025, at IPC Karaköy.
- **Contours of Change: Domestic Political Shifts and Risk Trajectories in Turkey**
  The fifth meeting of the Brown Bag Seminar Sessions, organized by the Initiative, featured a discussion by 2024/25 Mercator-IPC Fellow Seren Selvin Korkmaz on "Contours of Change: Domestic Political Shifts and Risk Trajectories in Turkey," which took place on June 17, 2025, at IPC Karaköy.
- **What Does a Garden Without Weeds Look Like?**
  The sixth meeting of the Brown Bag Seminar Sessions, organized by the Initiative, featured a discussion by artist and academic Işıl Eğrikavuk, faculty member at the Berlin University of Arts, on "What Does a Garden Without Weeds Look Like?" which took place on October 22, 2025, at IPC Karaköy.
- **A New Way for Strategic Partnerships? Italy-Turkey Relations and the EU's Security Architecture**
  The seventh meeting of the Brown Bag Seminar Sessions, organized by the Initiative, featured a discussion by 2024/25 Mercator-IPC Fellow Samuele Abrami, on "A New Way for Strategic Partnerships? Italy-Turkey Relations and the EU's Security Architecture" which took place on December 16, 2025, 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 broadcasted 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 9, Senem Aydın-Düzgit & Ümit Şahin, “Global Politics and Climate Change in 2025”
- January 16, Tuğçe Erçetin & Cana Tülüş Türk, “Elections Around the World and Democracy Report Card”
- January 23, Güneş Aşık & Onur Akgül, “Just Transition Perception and Policies”
- January 30, Ethemcan Turhan & Sinan Erensü, “Adding Fuel to the Flames: Trump 2.0 and the Future of Climate Policy”
- February 6, Nesrin Burç Deli, Derya Gümüş Türkoğlu & Ceyla Altındiş, “After February: Solidarity and Reconstruction in Hatay”
- February 13, Nebi Sümer & Emre Erdoğan, “Psychological Wellbeing in Turkey: What Does the Recent Research Show?’’
- February 20, Sinem Ünaldılar & Mitat Çelikpala, “Shifting Balances and New Directions in North Atlantic Security”

MEDYASCOPE: "NASIL BİR DÜNYA? NASIL BİR TÜRKİYE?"

- February 27, Ayhan Kaya & Çiğdem Nas, "German Elections and the Rise of AfD: Is the Future of Europe in Danger?"
- March 6, Hazal Pabuççular & Murat Arslan, "Feroz Ahmad's Legacy and Understanding Modern Turkey"
- March 13, Seren Selvin Korkmaz & Ahmet Murat Aykaç, "The Search for a Solution to the Kurdish Question and Presidential Candidacy within the CHP"
- March 28, Şebnem Gümüşçü & Berk Esen, "Eşikteki Türkiye"
- April 10, Yael Taranto & Muammer Bilgiç, "The Transformation of Turkish Industry in the Context of the European Green Deal"
- April 17, Emre Erdoğan & Nebi Sümer, "Being Young in an Age of Uncertainty: Political Participation, Exclusion and Resistance in Turkey"
- April 24, Özlem Katısöz & Ümit Şahin, "What Is Climate Law, What Is It Not, Why Is It Necessary?"
- May 8, Ayşe Köse Badur & Cuma Çiçek, "After Sırrı Süreyya Önder & The Past, Present and Future of the Peace Process in Turkey"
- May 22, Nebi Sümer & Zafer Yenal, "Social Psychological Wellbeing in Turkey"
- May 29, Cana Tülüş Türk & Hakan Yavuzyılmaz, "The Problematic of Democracy in Turkey and the World"
- June 12, Berk Esen & Sezin Öney, "In Which Direction Is Turkish Politics Evolving?"
- June 19, Ezgi Uzun & Resul Serdar Ataş, "War Between Israel and Iran in All Aspects and What Awaits the Middle East"
- June 26, Hasan Deniz Pekşen, "The Israel-Iran War Lasted 12 Days: Who Won What?"
- October 16, Senem Aydın-Düzgit & Ümit Şahin, "Climate Change and EU-Turkey Relations Studies at IPC in the 2025/26 Term"
- October 24, Nilgün Arısan-Eralp & Ebru Turhan, "The Copenhagen Summits and the Cyprus Elections"
- October 30, Mehmet Öznur Alkan, "The 102nd Year of the Republic"
- November 6, Evren Çelik Wiltse & Evren Balta, "New York Elections: Mamdani Wins"
- November 13, Banu Turnaoğlu Açan & Ersin Kalaycıoğlu, "87 Years in Memory of Atatürk"
- November 20, Ümit Şahin, Ayşe Ceren Sarı, Gökşen Şahin & Tanyeli Behiç Sabuncu, "From Belém to Antalya: After COP30"
- November 27, Zeynep Ayata & Emrehan Aktuğ, "Humans in the Age of Artificial Intelligence: Rethinking Social Equity"
- December 4, Beysu İnal Şenermen & Sedat Gündoğdu, "The Impact of Fast Fashion on the Environment, Health, and Climate"
- December 11, Alper Kaliber & Özgür Ünlühisarcıklı, "Understanding the New U.S. Security Strategy: Isolationism or Interventionism?"
- December 18, Ümit Şahin, "The Paris Agreement in Its Tenth Year: COP31 Turkey"
- December 25, Ümit Şahin, Zafer Yenal, Nebi Sümer, Zeynep Ayata, Alper Kaliber, Altay Atlı, Ersin Kalaycıoğlu, Senem Aydın-Düzgit, "A 2025 Assessment with the Contributions of IPC"

CLIMATE CHANGE

25 PARIS +10

26 DECARBONIZATION OF THE TURKISH STEEL SECTOR

29 RAISING AMBITION PROJECT

30 DECARBONIZATION PATHWAYS FOR TURKEY

30 PROMOTING JUST TRANSITION IN TURKEY

CLIMATE CHANGE

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.

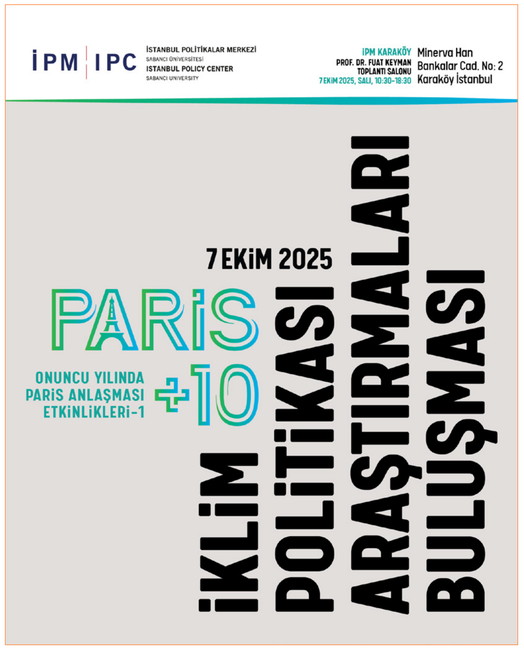
IPC's Climate Change Program acts as a key platform to bring together stakeholders involved in climate action by providing opportunities for collaboration and dialogue with experts, academics, the public, civil society, and the private sector to increase the impact of actions on climate change. IPC represents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

The Climate Change Program's main research focus is to promote low-carbon development, lead industrial decarbonization efforts—particularly in the steel sector—and contribute to the energy transition agenda by advocating for the gradual phase-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.

PARIS +10

PARIS +10 – EVENT 1: CLIMATE POLICY RESEARCH MEETING

IPC organized the first event in the series Paris +10 to mark the tenth anniversary of the Paris Agreement. The first event of the series "Climate Policy Research Meeting" was held on October 7, 2025, at IPC Karaköy. At the event, a selection of research on climate change in Türkiye conducted by institutions that IPC has worked with in the ten-year period following the Paris Agreement was presented under the themes of "Decarbonization and Energy Transition," "Just Transition: Problems and Opportunities," and "Economic, Social, and Health Impacts of the Transition."



▲ PARIS +10 – Event 1: Climate Policy Research Meeting

PARIS +10 – EVENT 2: THE PARIS AGREEMENT IN ITS TENTH YEAR AND BEYOND

IPC organized the second event of the Paris +10 series, titled "On the Tenth Anniversary of the Paris Agreement and Beyond," on December 16, 2025, at IPC Karaköy. The event brought together leading scholars and practitioners to reflect on the past decade of the Paris Agreement and to discuss future challenges for global and national climate governance. The program included opening remarks by Ümit Şahin on the significance of the tenth anniversary, followed by Ömer Madra's talk "Is the Worst Nightmare Becoming Reality? Paris of Troy in Mythology," which offered a symbolic reflection on the climate crisis, and a presentation by Semra Cerit Mazlum titled "Before and After the Paris Agreement," analyzing developments in climate policy since the adoption of the Agreement. The event concluded with an interactive discussion session, enabling in-depth exchange among speakers and participants on the prospects for climate action in Türkiye and beyond.



▲ PARIS +10 – Event 2: The Paris Agreement in Its Tenth Year and Beyond

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.

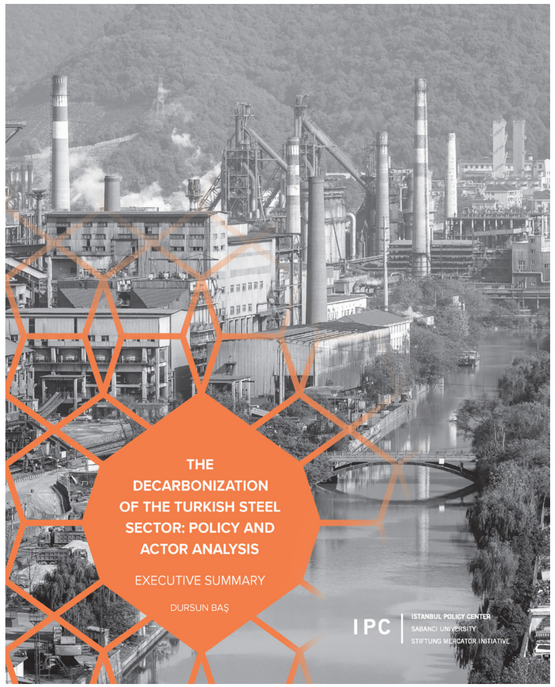
The aim of the activities carried out within the scope of the project is to provide analytical data and assessments for the decarbonization efforts of the steel sector in line with the net-zero emissions targets. The project has been implemented through four distinct phases, with a fifth phase scheduled to be carried out in 2026.

- Project Phase I: June 2022–March 2023
- Project Phase II: April 2023–May 2024
- Project Phase III: June 2024–February 2025
- Project Phase IV: March 2025–February 2026

PUBLICATIONS

- Decarbonization Options in the Steel Sector (*Çelik Sektöründe Karbonsuzlaşma Seçenekleri*)
- Policy and Actor Analysis of Decarbonization in Turkey's Steel Sector (*Türkiye Çelik Sektörünün Karbonsuzlaşması: Politika ve Aktör Analizi*)
- Turkish Steel Sector Network newsletters





PROJECT EVENTS

- **Workshop on Information and the Exchange of Ideas with Turkish NGOs**
  As part of the Decarbonization of the Turkish Steel Sector Project, the "Workshop on Information and the Exchange of Ideas with Turkish NGOs" was held on January 28, 2025, at IPC Karaköy and online.
- **The Steel User Sectors Workshop**
  The "The Steel User Sectors Workshop" was held online on January 30, 2025, as part of the Decarbonization of Turkey's Steel Sector project.
- **Policy and Actor Analysis Report Launch in Istanbul**
  The event "Decarbonization of the Turkish Steel Sector: Policy and Actor Analysis Report - Istanbul Launch and Steel Sector Network Presentation" was held on April 24, 2025, at IPC Karaköy.
- **Policy and Actor Analysis Report Launch in Ankara**
  The event "Decarbonization of the Turkish Steel Sector: Policy and Actor Analysis Report – Ankara Launch" was held on April 29, 2025.



▲ April 24, 2025 - Decarbonization of the Turkish Steel Sector: Policy and Actor Analysis Report - Istanbul Launch and Steel Sector Network Presentation



▲ January 28, 2025 - The Decarbonization of the Turkish Steel Sector: Workshop on Information and the Exchange of Ideas with NGOs



▲ April 29, 2025 - Decarbonization of the Turkish Steel Sector: Policy and Actor Analysis Report Launch

▼ September 11, 2025 -The Decarbonization of the Turkish Steel Sector Project





▲ October 17, 2025 - The Steel Sector and Decarbonization Financing

- **The Low-Carbon Steel Standards Workshop**
  The Decarbonization of the Turkish Steel Sector Project, led by IPC, entered its fourth phase in 2025, focusing on knowledge-sharing through the newly established Turkish Steel Sector Network. The first event was held on September 11, 2025, opened by Ümit Şahin, with around 30 participants attending onsite and online. Key presentations were delivered by representatives from Worldsteel, the Global Steel Climate Council, and ResponsibleSteel, followed by an open discussion and closing remarks by Project Coordinator Dursun Baş.
- **The Steel Sector and Decarbonization Financing Workshop**
  Within the scope of the Decarbonization of the Turkish Steel Sector Project, IPC carried out the IPC Turkish Steel Sector Network workshop titled “The Steel Sector and Decarbonization Financing” on October 17, 2025.
- **The Steel Sector and Demand Side Workshop with Turkish NGOs**
  Within the scope of the Decarbonization of the Turkish Steel Sector Project, IPC carried out the IPC Turkish Steel Sector Network workshop titled “The Steel Sector and Demand Side Workshop with Turkish NGOs” on November 27, 2025.

The project team contributed to the following global and regional steel network events:

- 4th Global CSO Steel Strategy Meeting | May 19–23, 2025, Milan, Italy
- The European Fossil Free Steel Network (EFFSN) | October 7–9, 2025, Berlin, Germany
- The Turkish Metal Industrialists Union (MESS) - GreenSync Ecosystem Project – Forum on Sustainability Policies in Industry Meetings
- Steelmaker Transformation Tracker development (SteelWatch)

RAISING AMBITION PROJECT

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 The Fletcher School at 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 was submitted to the UNFCCC in late 2025.



▲ September 2, 2025 - Turkey's Decarbonization Roadmap Toward Net Zero by 2053 (Executive Summary) Report Launch

EVENTS

- **Turkey's Decarbonization Roadmap Toward Net Zero by 2053 (Executive Summary) Report Launch**
  IPC organized the event "Turkey's Decarbonization Roadmap Toward Net Zero by 2053 (Executive Summary) Report Launch" on September 2, 2025, at IPC Karaköy. The report was prepared by a broad team comprising some of Turkey's most experienced scientists and modelers in the field.

PUBLICATIONS

Turkey's Decarbonization Roadmap Toward Net Zero by 2053 (Executive Summary) (*Türkiye'nin Karbonsuzlaşma Yol Haritası 2053 Net Sıfıra Doğru (Yönetici Özeti)*)

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 next phase of the project (18 months) started in December 2025.

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, 2024, respectively. The third workshop was conducted in Istanbul on June 11–12, 2024, 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.

DEMOCRACY, CONFLICT RESOLUTION, GLOBAL AFFAIRS

32 EVENTS

34 PUBLICATIONS

EVENTS

IPC takes a broad approach to democracy studies, covering party politics, electoral processes, institutional resilience, democratic innovation, and inclusive governance.
IPC's work in the field of conflict resolution concentrates on peacebuilding, mediation, reconciliation, migration, and social cohesion, building on IPC's extensive experience with the political and social aspects of conflict.
The global affairs component of this cluster includes Turkey's international stance, regional security issues, and the effects of global geopolitical changes on both domestic and international governance. Through research, public events, and strategic partnerships with academics, policymakers, civil society, and international organizations, IPC's work in this area aims to enhance democratic governance, support peaceful conflict resolution, and promote informed and principled foreign policy decision-making.

The Third Anniversary of the Russian Invasion of Ukraine: Regional and Global Implications

The panel "The Third Anniversary of the Russian Invasion of Ukraine: Regional and Global Implications" was held in partnership with the Consulate General of Ukraine in Istanbul on February 27, 2025, at IPC Karaköy.

Europe and Türkiye in an Increasingly Transactional World: New Challenges and Prospects

The panel "Europe and Türkiye in an Increasingly Transactional World: New Challenges and Prospects," organized in partnership with Sabancı University's Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, took place on March 14, 2025, at IPC Karaköy.



▲ Book Talk: The United States and the Future of Europe



▲ Europe and Türkiye in an Increasingly Transactional World: New Challenges and Prospects

Book Talk: The United States and the Future of Europe

A book talk of the edited volume *The United States and the Future of Europe* took place on May 28, 2025, at IPC Karaköy, with the participation of Paul Schmidt, Funda Tekin, and Megan Gisclon and was moderated by Senem Aydın-Düzgit.

The Unraveling International Order: The Brazilian Perspective

The event titled "The Unraveling International Order: The Brazilian Perspective," organized by IPC and featuring Dawisson Belém Lopes as a speaker, took place on June 16, 2025, at IPC Karaköy.



▲ The Unraveling International Order: The Brazilian Perspective

Book Talk: Contesting Pluralism(s): Islamism, Liberalism and Nationalism in Turkey and Beyond

The book launch for *Contesting Pluralism(s): Islamism, Liberalism and Nationalism in Turkey and Beyond*, organized by IPC and featuring Nora Fisher-Onar as a speaker, took place on June 27, 2025, at IPC Karaköy.



▲ Book Talk: Contesting Pluralism(s): Islamism, Liberalism and Nationalism in Turkey and Beyond

EU Values Conference

The EU-VALUES Conference took place at IPC Karaköy between June 30 and July 2, 2025. Organized under the coordination of KU Leuven and IBEI as part of the EU-VALUES project funded by the European Union, the conference was attended by nearly 70 academics, experts, and students.



▲ EU Values Conference

The State of Affairs in the Middle East: Paul Salem in Conversation with Soli Özel

The event “The State of Affairs in the Middle East: Paul Salem in Conversation with Soli Özel,” organized by IPC, took place on July 4, 2025, at IPC Karaköy.



▲ The State of Affairs in the Middle East: Paul Salem in Conversation with Soli Özel

Making Turkey Great Again: Findings from a Dataset on the AKP’s Audiovisual Strategies

The event “Making Turkey Great Again: Findings from a Dataset on the AKP’s Audiovisual Strategies,” organized by IPC, took place on July 10, 2025, at IPC Karaköy with the participation of Lisel Hintz.



▲ Making Turkey Great Again: Findings from a Dataset on the AKP’s Audiovisual Strategies

▼ A Look at the First Century of the Republic of Turkey from a Security Perspective TÜBİTAK 1001 Project Presentation and Initial Findings



A Look at the First Century of the Republic of Turkey from a Security Perspective TÜBİTAK 1001 Project Presentation and Initial Findings

The event "A Look at the First Century of the Republic of Turkey from a Security Perspective: TÜBİTAK 1001 Project Presentation and Initial Findings," organized by IPC, took place on September 26, 2025, at IPC Karaköy, with the participation of Pınar Bilgin and Zeynep Gülşah Çapan and was moderated by Senem Aydın-Düzgit.

International Foreign Policy, Defense, and Security School

IPC organized the "International Foreign Policy, Defense, and Security School," held from October 20-28, 2025, at IPC Karaköy. The program, directed by IPC Senior Scholar Alper Kaliber, was designed for graduate students and researchers wishing to deepen their knowledge in the field of international security.

Turkey-European Union Relations on the 20th Anniversary of the Accession Negotiations

IPC, the Economic Development Foundation (IKV), the Economic Policy Research Foundation of Türkiye (TEPAV), and the Turkish-European Union Association (TURABDER) convened the panel discussion on "Turkey-European Union Relations on the 20th Anniversary of the Accession Negotiations (*Müzakerelerin 20. Yılında Türkiye-Avrupa Birliği İlişkileri*)," on November 27, 2025, at IPC Karaköy. The event marked the 20th anniversary of Turkey's launch of full membership negotiations with the European Union.



▲ International Foreign Policy, Defense, and Security School

PUBLICATIONS

Migration and Syrians in Light of Recent Developments

The IPC report *Migration and Syrians in Light of Recent Developments* (*Son Gelişmeler Işığında Göç ve Suriyeliler*) by Istanbul Policy Center Honorary Director Fuat Keyman and Gaziantep University Faculty Member Mehmet Nuri Güntekin was published in March 2025.

Forum: The International, Responses to Gaza, and the Question of the Palestinians



The IPC report *Forum: The International, Responses to Gaza, and the Question of the Palestinians* by Bilkent University Professor Pınar Bilgin, Pontifical Catholic University of Rio de Janeiro Professor Monica Herz, King's College London Professor Vivienne Jabri, and Al Akhawayn University Professor Nizar Messari was published in August 2025.

Political Engineering Through Law: Hungary and Beyond

The IPC Working Paper "Political Engineering Through Law: Hungary and Beyond" by IPC Senior Scholar Alper Kaliber was published in September 2025.

Dispatch from Warsaw: A View into the Emerging European Security Order

The IPC Commentary "Dispatch from Warsaw: A View into the Emerging European Security Order" by IPC Managing Editor and Researcher Megan Gisclon was published in October 2025.





SHURA ENERGY TRANSITION CENTER

36 SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

40 EVENTS

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

SHURA was established to meet the need for a sustainable and widely accepted common ground where studies on the political, technological, and economic aspects of Türkiye's energy sector can be discussed. Founded by the European Climate Foundation (ECF), Agora Energiewende, and IPC, SHURA's mission is to support discussions on Türkiye's transition to a low-carbon energy system through data-based analyses, the best available data, energy efficiency, and sustainable energy.

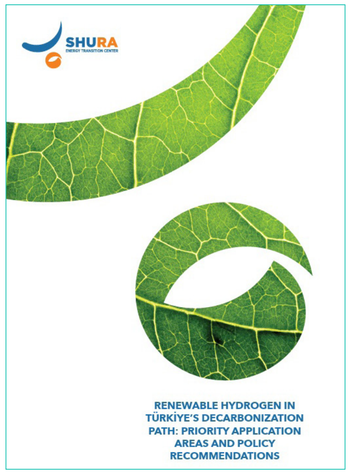
In 2025, SHURA:

- Published four reports, four SHURASTAT issues, four SHURA Newsletters, and one infographic.
- Launched a new summary report format titled SHURA AGENDA and published 12 issues.
- Released 12 new episodes of the "Energy Transition Agenda" series on YouTube, Spotify, and Apple Podcasts.
- Updated the SHURA Database.
- Held three report launch events.
- Participated in 32 external events (presentations, panels, workshops, and webinars) at national and international levels.
- Distributed four press releases and conducted 20 media interviews.

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

Renewable Hydrogen in Türkiye's Decarbonization Path: Priority Application Areas and Policy Recommendations

Announced on February 4, 2025, the report focuses on the role of green hydrogen in Türkiye's energy transition, the technologies used, and its application areas, aiming to identify the priority uses for renewable hydrogen and its derivatives in Türkiye.



CBAM and Türkiye: Sectoral Interactions, Benefits and Costs

Published on February 27, 2025, the report assesses the economic and sectoral impacts of the Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM) on Türkiye. Focusing on the iron–steel, cement, aluminum, and fertilizer sectors, which are included in the first phase, it also evaluates other related sectors within their interaction network and presents findings and recommendations for the critical period ahead in Türkiye's adaptation to CBAM.



Türkiye's Energy Transition Outlook 2024

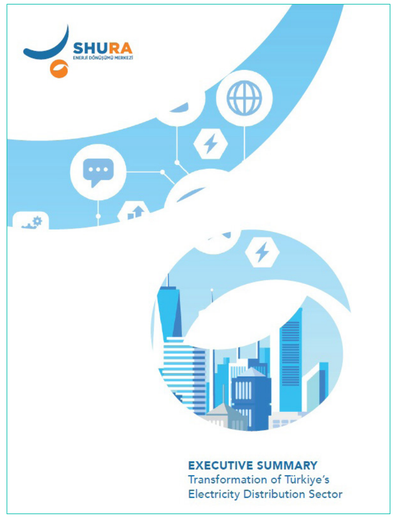
Prepared annually by SHURA, the report offers a comprehensive assessment of Türkiye's energy transition. Focusing on the year 2024, the report analyzes trends from past years to the present. Published on April 16, 2025, the report aims to assess Türkiye's energy transition comprehensively within the framework of energy production and consumption, emissions, supply security, costs, and policy landscape, and to present a forward-looking vision.

Facilitating Renewable Power Purchase Agreements in Türkiye

Published on July 8, 2025, the report analyzes market conditions and challenges in the effective use of renewable power purchase agreements (PPAs) as a new financing tool to accelerate renewable energy capacity growth in Türkiye's electricity sector. The report also provides policy recommendations to support the wider adoption of renewable PPAs in Türkiye.

The Transformation of Türkiye's Electricity Distribution Sector

In this report published on November 6, 2025, the necessary steps for the modernization, digitalization, and expansion of distribution systems, as well as the new roles to be undertaken by distribution system operators, are evaluated in detail, while the transformation process is addressed considering different phases.



SHURASTAT

Published regularly, SHURASTAT highlights key topics related to the energy transition using selected figures and data from reputable national and international sources. SHURASTAT aims to encourage further research and discussion and spark curiosity by presenting comparisons between Türkiye and the world alongside short insights and information.

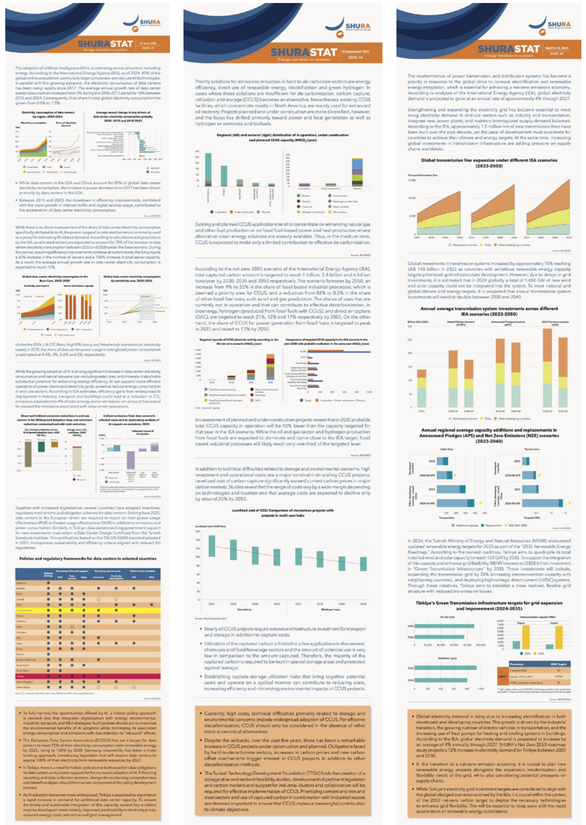
This year's SHURASTAT issues covered the following topics:

Issue 42: Transmission Grid Developments in the Transition to a Net-Zero Economy

Issue 43: The Relationship Between Artificial Intelligence and Energy Consumption

Issue 44: Carbon Capture, Utilization and Storage (CCUS) Technologies

Issue 45: Resilience of Electricity Infrastructure Against Extreme Weather Events



SHURA Agenda

Launched this year, SHURA AGENDA is a bulletin addressing current topics related to the energy transition. Its content is based on SHURA's data, analysis, and policy recommendations. The bulletin aims to raise awareness among the media and stakeholders and contribute to analyses and debates on the energy transition. Published in Turkish and English, it is disseminated to national, sectoral, and local media through an expert media database.

This year's issues covered the following topics:

Issue 1: Heat Pumps

Issue 2: Renewable (Green) Hydrogen

Issue 3: Battery Energy Storage Systems

Issue 4: Industrial Transformation

Issue 5: Electric Vehicles

Issue 6: Climate Bonds

Issue 7: Iberian Peninsula Blackout

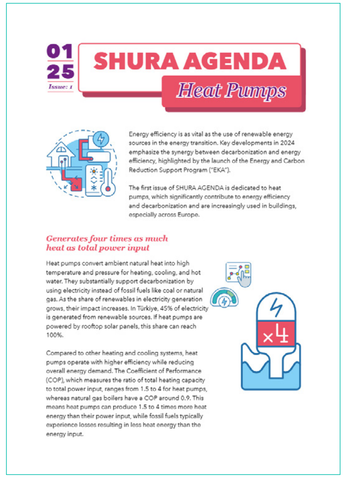
Issue 8: Just Transition for Coal Regions

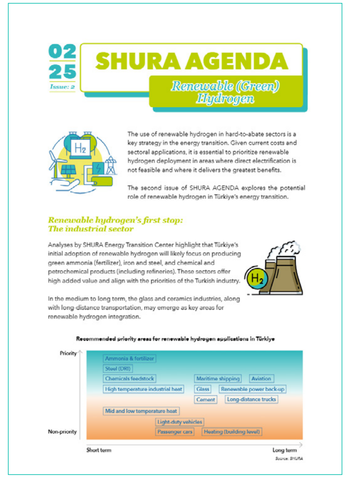
Issue 9: CBAM and Türkiye

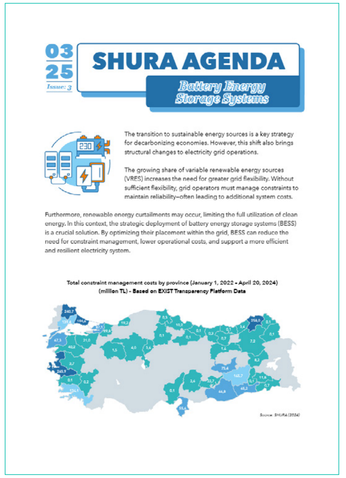
Issue 10: Socioeconomic Impacts of the Energy Transition

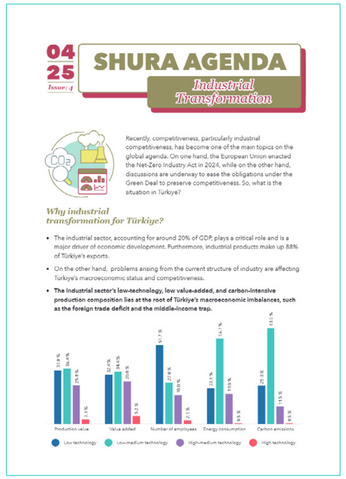
Issue 11: Renewable Energy Power Purchase Agreements (Renewable PPAs)

Issue 12: Climate Bank

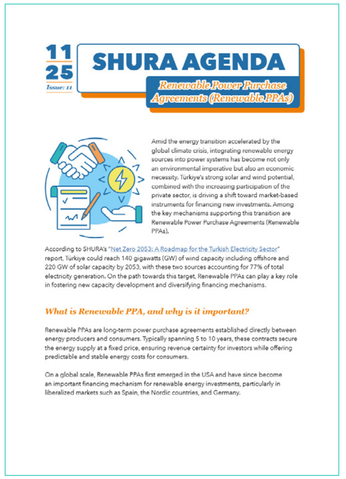












SHURA Database

The SHURA Database, which provides up-to-date energy sector data in a single digital platform, was updated in April 2025 with Türkiye's 2023 greenhouse gas emissions data.

Some of the datasets available in the database include:

- Energy import/export volumes
- Total energy consumption by sector
- Energy intensity index
- Energy sector & total greenhouse gas emissions (CO_2 equivalent)
- Installed electricity generation capacity
- Total electricity generation
- Gross electricity demand
- Market clearing price
- Number of power plants
- Instantaneous peak load values
- Auctioned & commissioned renewable energy capacities
- Status of capacity allocations in wind energy auctions (2011–2019)

SHURA Power Flow Simulator

Designed for interactive use by all SHURA stakeholders, the web-based, simplified simulation of Türkiye's electricity system enables users to experience how a simplified electricity system functions in real time through an innovative and engaging interface.

"Energy Transition Agenda"

In 2025, SHURA continued its new program series "Energy Transition Agenda," which addresses all dimensions of the energy transition, with 12 new episodes. Hosted by Didem Eryar Ünlü, Coordinator at Ekonomi Gazetesi, the program is available on SHURA's YouTube, Spotify, and Apple Podcasts channels.

This year's episodes featured the following topics and guests:

- "Review of 2024 in the Transition" with Alkım Bağ, Director of SHURA
- "Energy Poverty" with Energy Expert Arif Künar
- "New Business Models" with Erdem Sezer, Director of Sectoral Research at Development and Investment Bank of Turkey
- "Electric Transmission and Distribution Grids" with Hasan Aksoy, Research Coordinator at SHURA
- "Artificial Intelligence in the Energy Transition" with Elif Düşmez Tek, President of EDİDER
- "Climate Law" with Ümit Şahin, Climate Change Studies Coordinator at IPC
- "Climate and Energy Journalism" with Barış Doğru, Editor-in-Chief of EkoIQ & İklim Haber
- "Türkiye's Industrial Transformation" with Yael Taranto, Senior Energy Analyst at SHURA
- "Iberian Peninsula Blackout" with Assoc. Prof. Osman Bülent Tör
- "Energy Cooperatives" with Dr. Uygar Özesmi, President of the Good4Trust/Türetim Economy Association
- "Financing Energy Efficiency" with Özlem Yakut, GEFF Senior Finance Advisor
- "Climate Technologies" with Dr. Serdar Gökpınar, Innovation Technology Programs Director at TTGV













EVENTS

"Renewable Hydrogen in Türkiye's Decarbonization Process" Report Launch

Held on February 4, 2025, by the SHURA Energy Transition Center and İzmir Development Agency, the event began with opening remarks by SHURA Director Alkım Bağ and İzmir Development Agency Investment Support Office Coordinator (Acting) & Head of Innovation and Entrepreneurship Policies Unit Dr. M. Sencer Özen, followed by a summary presentation of the report by Dr. Sena Serhadlıoğlu, Senior Energy Analyst at SHURA.

Moderated by SHURA Research Coordinator Hasan Aksoy, the panel session titled "The Future of Renewable Hydrogen in Türkiye" featured Prof. Dr. Selmiye Alkan Gürsel (Sabancı University, Faculty of Engineering and Natural Sciences), Kerem Öner (Head of Department, South Marmara Development Agency), Alper Kalaycı (Chairperson, ENSİA), and Çağatay Ölken (Group Director of Strategy and Sustainability, Tüpraş). The panel discussed the decarbonization of energy-intensive end-use sectors, the role of renewable hydrogen in this transition, and the contributions of national energy policies.

"CBAM and Türkiye: Sectoral Interactions, Benefits and Costs" Report Launch

The launch event for the report *CBAM and Türkiye: Sectoral Interactions, Benefits and Costs* was held on February 27, 2025. The program began with opening remarks by SHURA Director Alkım Bağ, followed by a presentation summarizing the report's key findings delivered by Yael Taranto, Senior Energy Analyst at SHURA. After the presentation, the panel session titled "Competitiveness in Industry and CBAM" brought together Eleanor Batilliet, Project Manager for Climate Neutral Industry at Agora Industry, Gülay Dinçel, Economist and Senior Consultant, Gülizar Yavaş, Head of EU Single Market and Green Deal Department at Ministry of Trade of Türkiye, Muammer Bilgiç, Board Member at Bilecik Demir Çelik, and Rosana Dos Santos, Managing Director of E+ Energy Transition as speakers. The panel explored how CBAM may influence industrial competitiveness in Türkiye and discussed potential challenges, costs, and opportunities for key sectors.

"The Transformation of Türkiye's Electricity Distribution Sector" Report Launch

The online launch of the report *The Transformation of Türkiye's Electricity Distribution Sector* was held on November 6, 2025, to share findings and facilitate a discussion among experts on the future of electricity distribution policies. The opening remarks were delivered by SHURA Director Alkım Bağ, followed by a presentation of the report's key findings by Dr. Sena Serhadlıoğlu, Senior Energy Analyst at SHURA.

The panel session "The Future of the Electricity Distribution Sector," moderated by SHURA Research Coordinator Hasan Aksoy, featured Dr. Oğuzcan Samsun (Director of Strategy, Business Development and M&A, Enerjisa), Mert Bayer (System Operations Manager, MEDAŞ), and Mevlüt Akdeniz (Power Systems Engineer, MRC Turkey).

SUSTAINABILITY

43 EVENTS

45 PUBLICATIONS

SUSTAINABILITY

The Sustainability cluster extends from IPC's Urbanization and Local Governance program, broadening IPC's focus on urban transformation to include the environmental, social, cultural, and economic aspects of sustainable development.

Based on nearly a decade of research on Turkey's urban dynamics, local governance, migration, socioeconomic inequality, and the effects of globalization, IPC's research now takes a wider, future-focused approach to the challenges and opportunities of sustainable living in an age marked by rapid urbanization and planetary pressures.

Within this cluster, IPC explores the changing relationship between people, cities, and the environment, with a special focus on climate resilience, sustainable food systems, cultural heritage, urban governance, demographic shifts, and social inclusion. It examines how local and regional contexts—particularly in Anatolian cities—are influenced by global trends, and how these contexts, in turn, shape policy decisions, community experiences, and quality of life.

Through public programs like Minerva Talks, Reading Istanbul in Literature, and From Farm to Table: Food, Culture and Politics, along with collaborative events such as The Urban Future of Humanity, IPC views sustainability not just as a technical or policy issue but as a cultural, social, and ecological experience. These activities showcase the connection between urban history, current urban life, food and agriculture, migration, cultural production, and environmental change.

Additionally, IPC contributes to the public discourse in this area through publications such as Zappa Zamanlar: IPC Special Series, published monthly in Aposto and on our website, which links sustainability themes with broader political, economic, and global developments. By combining research, public engagement, and interdisciplinary dialogue, IPC's work on Sustainability aims to provide actionable insights for policymakers, local governments, civil society, and communities, helping create a more livable, resilient, and just future.

EVENTS

The Urban Future of Humanity: Imagining, Knowing, Doing

The panel titled “The Urban Future of Humanity: Imagining, Knowing, Doing,” organized by IPC in cooperation with Columbia Global Centers Istanbul, took place on September 26, 2025, at IPC Karaköy.

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 17 – Istanbul in History: Films, Screenings and Impressions in Ottoman Istanbul, Özde Çeliktemel, January 16, 2025
- Minerva Talks 18 – Istanbul in History: Collecting Istanbul: Postcards, Photographs, Seyhun Binzet and Cengiz Kahraman, February 27, 2025
- Minerva Talks 19 – Istanbul in History: Human Portraits from Occupied Istanbul, Ayşe Köse Badur, March 13, 2025



- Minerva Talks 20 – Istanbul in History: Cultural Heritage and Art in Occupied Istanbul, 1918-1923, Gizem Tongo, Nilay Özlü and Ceren Abi, May 8, 2025
- Minerva Talks 21 – Istanbul in History: Migration and Belonging in 17th-Century Galata, Tommaso Stefini, May 21, 2025
- Minerva Talks 22 – Istanbul in History: Education in Istanbul, Robert College History, Önder Kaya, October 16, 2025



- Minerva Talks 23 – Istanbul in History: Agriculture and Urban Development from the Ottoman Empire to the Turkish Republic, Ayşe Nur Akdal, November 20, 2025
- Minerva Talks 24 – Istanbul in History: Kandilli Rasathanesi: Science, Nature, and Institutions from the Ottoman Era to the Present Day, Mustafa Aktar, December 18, 2025

Reading Istanbul in Literature

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

- Reading Istanbul in Literature 16: The Extraordinary Cartographer of Reality, Murathan Mungan, March 24, 2025
- Reading Istanbul in Literature Book Presentation, Alara Çakmakçı, Hasan Turgut, Nedret Öztokat Kılıçeri, Seda Yücekurt Ünlü, Selin Gürses Şenbay, Stefo Benlisoy, and Şehnaz Şişmanoğlu Şimşek, October 2, 2025
- Reading Istanbul in Literature 18: Encompassing the World: Portraits of Halide Edib in the Archives, Şerif Eskin, November 19, 2025
- Reading Istanbul in Literature 19: The Gypsies of Istanbul and the Discipline of the Other: Halide Edib Adıvar's Gypsy Girl, İmren Gece Özbey, December 9, 2025















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 – Blue Justice: For Whom Are the Seas? Irmak Ertör ve Nazlı Demirel, February 25, 2025
- From Farm to Table: Food, Culture and Politics Talks – Children's Holistic Development, Protection from Consumption Culture and Rights Advocacy, Şükrü Hatun, April 22, 2025
- From Farm to Table: Food, Culture and Politics Talks – Guest Table or Lasting Legacy? Immigrant and Food Culture, Susan Rottmann, Zeynep Yılmaz Hava, and Asma Hedi Nairi, May 20, 2025
- From Farm to Table: Food, Culture and Politics Talks – Labor, Design and Technology in the Kitchen, Defne Karaosmanoğlu, Leyla Bektaş Ata, and Bahar Emgin, October 6, 2025
- From Farm to Table: Food, Culture and Politics Talks – Quantum Table: On Science, Taste and Curiosity, Zafer Gedik, November 25, 2025
- From Farm to Table: Food, Culture and Politics Talks – Changing Taste Maps from California to Istanbul, Levent Soysal, December 16, 2025

PUBLICATIONS

Zappa Zamanlar IPC Special Series

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

- The third bulletin in the series started with the question of how much the 2024 election year served democracy. First, with the participation of Tuğçe Erçetin and Cana Tülüş Türk, the program "Nasıl Bir Dünya? Nasıl Bir Türkiye?" was discussed, followed by a brief evaluation of the first days of Trump 2.0. Afterwards, possible developments in U.S.-Turkey relations were questioned. This section draws on Mercator-IPC Fellow Samuele Carlo Ayrton Abrami's IPC-Mercator Analysis "Between International Turmoil and Trump 2.0, What's Happening in U.S.-Turkey Relations?" and Senem Aydın-Düzgit, Mustafa Kutlay, and Fuat Keyman's articles discussing the concept of strategic autonomy in Turkish foreign policy in the multipolar era.
- The fourth bulletin, prepared with current research and evaluations from IPC, focuses on the limits of the multipolar international order and the election results in Germany. How will the increasingly pronounced multipolar world order and the early general elections in Germany affect the political balances of the coming period? What do the rise of the far right, the ruptures in global governance mechanisms, and the crisis of democracy tell us?
- In the fifth issue of Zappa Zamanlar IPC Special, we asked the question "Why did young people take to the streets?" and wrote about the loneliness and the uncertainty of the future, especially among young people, based on IPC's program "Nasıl Bir Dünya? Nasıl Bir Türkiye?" with the participation of Emre Erdoğan and Nebi Sümer on April 17, 2025.

DIGITAL SOCIETY

47 EVENTS

Inclusive and resilient digital ecosystems enable individuals, communities, and governments to participate effectively in the digital economy and to access essential services equitably. The Digital Society research cluster aims to explore the social impacts of various components of digital transformation—such as artificial intelligence, digital services, and digital democracy—and to contribute to the development of ethical, inclusive, and accessible digital policies.
In this context, it seeks to open new and original spaces for dialogue and to develop policy recommendations in collaboration with public actors, civil society, the private sector, and international organizations that strengthen the contribution of the digital transformation to social benefits and societal well-being.

EVENTS

ActHuman VII: Empowering Vulnerable Groups with Artificial Intelligence: Risks, Opportunities and Policy Recommendations

In the seventh year of the ActHuman Social Inclusion Initiative, carried out in collaboration with İNGEV, the program focused on "Empowering Vulnerable Groups with Artificial Intelligence: Risks, Opportunities and Policy Recommendations," with Emrehan Aktuğ, Assistant Professor at Sabancı University, acting as rapporteur. The ActHuman VII Advisory Board meeting and workshop were held online on September 11, 2025.

ActHuman VII Report Launch: "Humans in the Age of Artificial Intelligence: Rethinking Social Equity"

Under the seventh round of the ActHuman Social Inclusion Initiative, IPC and INGEV organized a launch event for the report "Humans in the Age of Artificial Intelligence: Rethinking Social Equity (*Yapay Zeka Çağında İnsan: Toplumsal Eşitliği Yeniden Düşünmek*)," written by Emrehan Aktuğ, project rapporteur and Assistant Professor at Sabancı University, on November 20, 2025, at IPC Karaköy.



▲ November 20, 2025, Humans in the Age of Artificial Intelligence

OTHER ACTIVITIES

49 NEWS

49 OTHER EVENTS

NEWS

Fuat Keyman Chair

Following the passing of Prof. Dr. Fuat Keyman on October 18, 2024, the Fuat Keyman Chair was established at Sabancı University to honor his memory and to support and advance academic work in the fields of international relations, Turkish politics, and civil society.

Science Academy Young Scientists Award Program (BAGEP) Social Sciences Award in Memory of Fuat Keyman

The first “BAGEP Social Sciences Award in Memory of Fuat Keyman” was presented by the Academy of Science this year to Ezgi Elçi from Özyeğin University at the Science Day held on April 26, 2025.



▲ The Poison of Nostalgia: A Historian’s View

OTHER EVENTS

The Poison of Nostalgia: A Historian’s View

The event “The Poison of Nostalgia: A Historian’s View” featuring Erik Jan Zürcher, Professor Emeritus of Turkish Studies at Leiden University, was organized within the scope of Sabancı University’s Foundations Development Directorate (FDD) “University Courses Talks” and took place on May 7, 2025, at IPC Karaköy.

Commemorating Prof. Dr. Fuat Keyman: “A Life in Pursuit of Knowledge”

Prof. Dr. Fuat Keyman, Honorary Director of IPC and a respected figure in academic and public life, was commemorated with a special event titled “A Life in Pursuit of Knowledge” held on May 15–16, 2025, at IPC Karaköy.



▲ May 15–16, 2025 - Commemorating Prof. Dr. Fuat Keyman: “A Life in Pursuit of Knowledge”

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