

Students with Disabilities



and Educational Equity in Turkey

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Agenda



- ✓ Introduction
- ✓ Focus on Universities
- ✓ Example: METU
- ✓ Photographs

Statistics



- 8.5 million (12.29%)
- 1.1 million
- 500,000

Source: Turkish Daily News; UK Home Office; TURKSTAT; Prime Minister Administration for Disabled People

History of Education for People with Disabilities in Turkey

- 1951, Ministry of National Education
- Schools for the Blind in Ankara (1950s):
 - Goreneller Korler Okulu (Aydinlikevler, Ankara)*
 - Mithat Enc Korler Okulu (Gazi Mahallesi, Ankara)
- 0.74% of disabled children were receiving special education (OECD, 1995); many receiving education in mainstream schools without any support

*mandatory English lessons

Source: <http://kpm.metu.edu.tr/engelsiz/default.asp?page=12>; A Special Interest Group on Disability (2003)
https://kolmogorov.iam.metu.edu.tr/claire/index.php/A_Special_Interest_Group_on_Disability

Legislation related to Students with Disabilities in Turkey

- Turkish Disability Act (July, 2005), Law No. 5378
 - (Article 15), “The right of education of the disabled people cannot be prevented by any reason. The disabled children, youngsters and adults are provided with equal education with the non-disabled people and in inclusive environments by taking the special conditions and differences into consideration.”
- Higher Education Council (YÖK) directive (June, 2006)
 - Universities in Turkey must establish a Disability Coordination Unit, and students with disabilities can now apply for suitable support.

Source: <http://www.ozida.gov.tr/mevzuat/yokozurlukoordinasyon.htm>; <http://www.ozida.gov.tr/english/act/act.htm>

Universities with Disability Support Coordinators

Abant İBÜ	Anadolu U	Akdeniz U
Ankara U	Bahçeşehir U	Başkent Ü
Bilgi U	Bilkent U	Boğaziçi Ü
Bozok Ü	Çankaya U	Çukurova Ü
Dokuz Eylül Ü	Ege Ü	Gazi Ü
Hacettepe Ü	İstanbul Ü	İTÜ
Kırıkkale Ü	Kocaeli Ü	Koç Ü
Mustafa Kemal Ü	Onodokuz Mayıs Ü	ODTÜ
Osman Gazi Ü	Sabancı Ü	Sakarya Ü
Uludağ Ü	Yüzüncü Yıl Ü	METU

Source: <http://kpm.metu.edu.tr/engelsiz/default.asp?page=12>

Example:

Middle East Technical University

- Policies toward Students with Disabilities pre-2004
 - Often exempt from quizzes, but not from exams.
 - Students with a hearing impairment were automatically exempt from listening quizzes, regardless of % of impairment
- Post-2004
 - Disability Special Interest Group at METU (1990s) aims to minimize and eventually exclude exemptions

Source: *Interview with METU Disability Support Coordinator, March 18, 2007*

Example:

Middle East Technical University

- Disability Support Coordinator established 2004 to support students with varying needs
- 1st university to do so
- preceded the legislation

Source:

Example:

Middle East Technical University

- Actions and changes post-2004
 - Taxi policy for students with physical disabilities
 - Series of seminars, workshops
- Future Challenges
 - Expansion of Disability Support staff
 - Issues of Accessibility: Buildings, pathways across campus, etc.

Source: http://www.eot.metu.edu.tr/engelsiz_taksi_hizmeti.html

Photographs -

Page 1



- ✓ New building for the Department of Basic English, METU

Photographs -

Page 2



✓ Completed Winter
2006/2007

Further Information

- ✓ Ataman, Hakan. (2006). Behind Closed Doors. *Human Rights Agenda Association*. <http://rightsagenda.org/main.php?id=44&lg=en>
- ✓ Commission of the European Communities. (2006). *Turkey 2006 Progress Report*. http://www.ecoi.net/file_upload/16_1163066152_turkey-2006.pdf .
- ✓ Engelsiz ODTÜ. <http://kpm.metu.edu.tr/engelsiz/default.asp?page=12> ; alternate site: <http://www.eot.metu.edu.tr/>
- ✓ Organisation for Economic Co-operation and, D. (1995). *Integrating students with special needs into mainstream schools*. Paris; Washington, D.C.: Organisation for Economic Co-Operation and Development ; OECD Publications and Information Centre, distributor].
- ✓ Prime Minister Administration for Disabled People. <http://www.ozida.gov.tr/english/index.htm>
- ✓ Turkish Daily News. (February 17, 2005). *Domestic Newslines: 2005: Year of employment for the disabled*. <http://www.turkishdailynews.com.tr/article.php?enewsid=6139>
- ✓ Turkish National Federation of the Deaf. <http://www.turkdeaf.org/>
- ✓ UK Home Office. (October 2005). Country Report – Turkey. http://www.ecoi.net/file_upload/1329_1200324825_hl954-turkey-091205.pdf
- ✓ YÜKSEKÖĞRETİM KURUMLARI ÖZÜRLÜLER DANIŞMA VE KOORDİNASYON YÖNETMELİĞİ. [Laws regarding Disability Information and Coordination in Higher Education] <http://www.ozida.gov.tr/mevzuat/yokozurlukoordinasyon.htm>