The Economic Policy Research Foundation of Turkey

Contextualizing Syrian Refugees in Turkey

Güven SAK February 2016

Framework

- Can Turkey save liberal Europe?
 - → Brexit; Merkel vs. Orban
 - It's all about who calls the shots in the old continent
- Can Turkey do it?
 - → Growth slowdown, unemployment etc.
 - → Social cohesion issues
- How can Syrians become a positive engagement tool between EU and Turkey?

Who calls the shots?

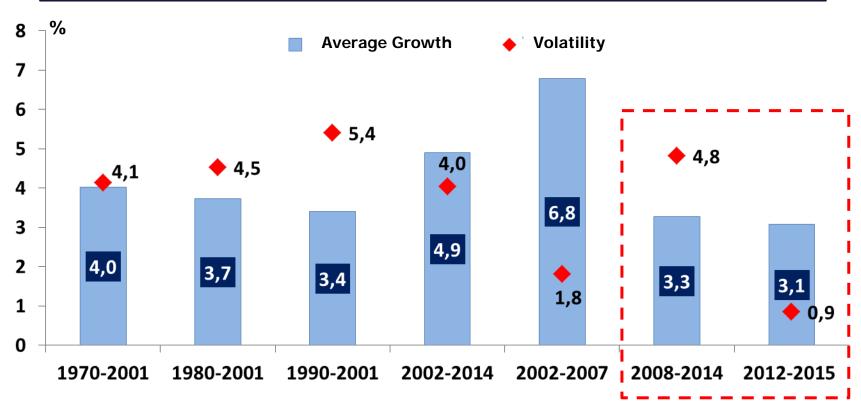
EU refugee relocation as of mid-Feb 2016, 4500 out of 160,000

	Places Made Available	Relocated from Italy	Relocated from Greece	Places pledged to be made further available
1. Bulgaria	1,302	0	2	1,300
2. France	1,100	41	94	19,622
3. Latvia	481	0	6	475
4. Romania	315	0	0	4,180
S. Sweden	300	39	0	3,727
6. Finland	220	96	44	1,958
7. Malta	131	0	0	131
8. Portugal	130	10	20	2,921
9. Netherlands	100	50	4B	5,849
10. Lithuania	100	0	4	667
11. Poland	100	0	0	6,182
12. Luxembourg	90	0	30	527
13. Spain	50	18	0	9,305
14. Germany	40	20	31	27,485
15. Belgium	30	14	0	3,798
16. Cyprus	30	0	6	314
17. Czech Rep.	30	0	0	2,691
18. Estonia	16	0	0	329
19. Austria, Hungary, Croatia, Slovakia,	0	0	0	5,684

Can Turkey do it?

Settling into a new normal of consistently low growth?

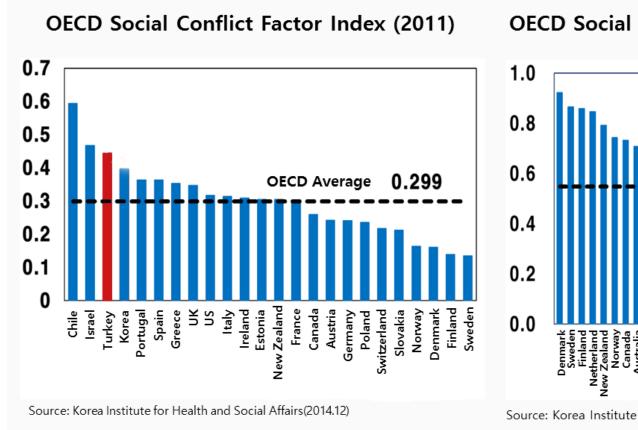


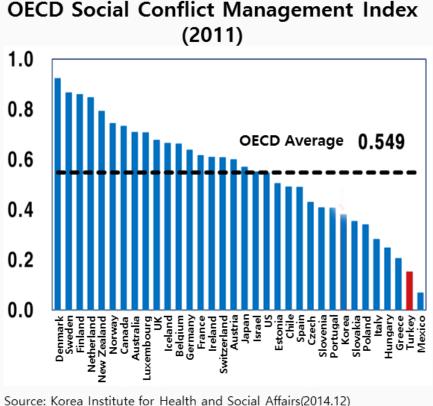


Source: IMF, TEPAV

Can Turkey do it?

High social conflict, low conflict management capacity



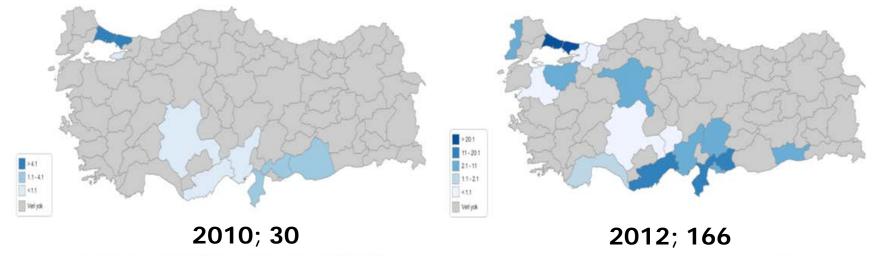


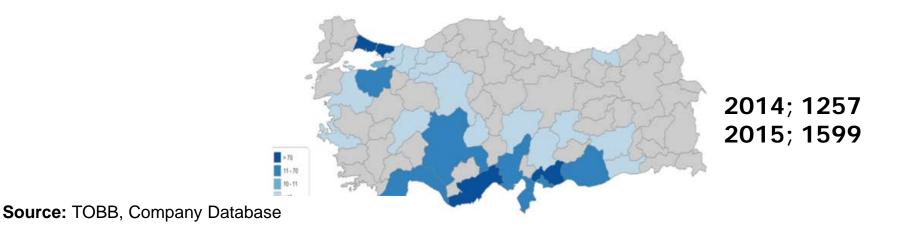
How can Syrians become a positive engagement tool between EU and Turkey?

- Turkey has entered the age of globalization with the Syrian refugees
 - → Until now globalization was only about sending goods to the world for us.
- Integrating Syrians could well be a positive step in Turkish transformation
 - → Definition of the "other" is changing in Turkey
 - Kurds are not alone; Islamists already integrated by our great transformation machine: Ankara.
- Integrating Syrians needs new creative constructs
 - → Integration through interaction:
 - See the new companies set up by Syrians
 - → Integration by design:
 - 'Made in Turkey by Syrians' zones to be added to US/IL FTA?

Number of companies established with Syrian partner(s)

%3 of the population; %3 of new companies





How to integrate Syrians to the economy? Made in Turkey by Syrians Programme

- How to integrate the Syrians without displacing the Turkish labor force?
 - → Need to create new opportunities, access new markets.
- Nearly 3 million Syrians by now
 - →Less than 10.000 granted a work permit so far.
 - → This will change with the new regulation.
- Made in Turkey by Syrians Programme
 - → Create a unique certificate of origin; branding
 - → Secure bulk orders from large retailers; IKEA? Walmart?
 - → Access US market by tapping into the IL/US FTA