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The Oxford – Ankara Academic partnership

Patrons

Dr Ural Akbulut, Rector of METU

Rifat Hisarcıklođlu, President of the Administrative Board of ETU and TOBB

Lord Patten of Barnes, Chancellor of the University of Oxford

Press Release:

A delegation of the University of Oxford including its Chancellor, Lord Patten of Barnes and Professor Kalypso Nicolaidis, Director of the European Studies Centre will be visiting Ankara and Istanbul between May 29 and June 1. In Ankara, they will take part in the launching of the Oxford – Ankara Academic partnership. A Memorandum of Understanding will be signed by the representatives of the three cooperating universities and patrons of the partnership: alongside Lord Patten, Dr Ural Akbulut (Rector of METU) and Mr Rifat Hisarcıklođlu (President of the Administrative Board of ETU and TOBB). Following the signing ceremony, Lord Patten will deliver a keynote lecture at METU on the future of Turkey – EU relations. In Istanbul, Lord Patten and Professor Nicolaidis will take part in a panel hosted by Sabancı University at the Sabancı Museum. On these occasions, the members of the delegation will reiterate their commitment to Turkey’s European future. The visit is organised by the British Embassy in Turkey in collaboration with the British Council.



Horizon 2023: The Oxford-Ankara Academic partnership

Fact-sheet on the occasion of the signing event at the Middle East Technical University, Ankara, 30th May 2007

The academic cooperation between Turkish and British universities has a long and distinguished track record. In the challenging context of Turkey's European Union engagement, the following three leading institutions have undertaken to further this shared goal of academic collaboration by signing a *Memorandum of Understanding* to express their commitment to common projects in teaching and research, which may be extended to include other universities and institutions in both countries:

- The University of Oxford, with its European Studies Centre at St Antony's College and its Programme on South East European Studies at Oxford (SEESOX),
- The Economics and Technology University (ETU) of the Union of Chambers and Commodity Exchanges of Turkey (TOBB) and its Economic Policy Research Foundation of Turkey (TEPAV),
- The Middle East Technical University (METU), Ankara with its Graduate School of Social Sciences (GSSS) and the Centre for European Studies (CES).

The aim of this strategic collaboration is to strengthen existing synergies between the respective academic communities of these institutions and, beyond, to serve as an interface between Turkish and EU publics as well as business and political communities, with Oxford University serving as a hub for other EU countries, including France and Germany. This in turn, will hopefully contribute to better informed debates on the EU in Turkey, and on Turkey in the EU.

The partnership is based on the synergies between two complementary tracks, namely 'Education, Training and Exchange' and 'Action-research'.

- The **Education, Training and Exchange track** includes a range of certificate and exchange programmes for students of ETU (Oxford Certificate, Summer school) as well as decision-makers, diplomats and members of the Turkish business community (Oxford Executive Workshops and Programmes). Special programmes will be developed for senior civil servants, including those from the Turkish Ministry of Foreign Affairs, in collaboration with METU. Exchanges and visits of faculty and doctoral students that have existed in the past will be intensified, including visits of Oxford academics to Ankara.
- This track seeks to increase the visibility of Turkish institutions such as TOBB and METU in Britain and Europe and provide students and trainees with opportunities to being exposed to a wide range of analysis on the legal, economic institutional and political processes of transformation in the EU, its so-called neighbourhood as well as its engagement on the global scene.
- The **Action-research track** includes both in-depth scholarship and policy research to foster a well-informed debate on Turkey-EU relations in EU member states and in Turkey, hopefully providing fresh approaches to constructively link politics and publics in the context of accession debates. The umbrella project for Turkey and EU-related action research at Oxford is called '**Horizon 2023**' with reference to the link between Turkey's aspiration of EU membership and the hundredth anniversary of the Turkish Republic. More broadly, the research track will cover a range of issues relevant to the three institutions, such as administrative reform, multi-level domestic governance, energy policy, European and global political economy, and EU and Turkish overlapping neighbourhoods.
- The outcomes of these cooperative research schemes will be posted on a **new website** linking the relevant research communities across Europe as well as these communities with a much wider network of opinion makers, professionals, former trans-European and Chevening students from Turkey and elsewhere. The website will conduct high profile information and analysis campaigns. Outcomes will also include more traditional items, such as a series of 'Oxford – Ankara' Papers and conferences.

There are obvious *synergies* between the two tracks. The findings of the research projects will be used in the teaching of the certificate programmes. At the same time, for instance, the executive workshops will raise issues of immediate relevancy for members of the broader Turkish business or diplomatic communities and hence shape some of the research projects carried out by the partnership.

The consortium will be supervised by a Steering Committee and ran by an Executive Committee.

Consortium Partners

Main consortium partner	Affiliated Institutions
Union of Chambers and Commodity Exchanges of Turkey (TOBB) The University of Economics and Technology (ETU)	The University of Economics and Technology, Faculty of Economic and Administrative Sciences (ETU)
	The University of Economics and Technology, Department of International Relations (ETU)
	Economic Policy Research Foundation of Turkey (TEPAV)
Middle East Technical University (METU)	Centre for European Studies (CES)
	Graduate School of Social Sciences (GSSS)
	Faculty Training Program (FTP)
	Center for Black Sea and Central Asian Countries (KORA)
University of Oxford	St Antony's College
	European Studies Centre South East European Studies at Oxford (SEESOX) together with its Programme on Contemporary Turkey (PCT)
	Department of Politics and International Relations (DPIR)
	Middle East Centre and Russian and Eurasian Studies Centre
	School of Interdisciplinary Area Studies (SIAS)
	Reuters Institute for the Study of Journalism