

## The State of English in Higher Education in Turkey A Baseline Study

The British Council will officially launch its new publication entitled '**The state of English in Higher Education in Turkey – A Baseline Study**' in Ankara, on 25 November 2015.

The baseline study is the largest of its kind in Turkey with 38 universities in 15 cities all across Turkey taking part in the study. With over 400 teachers and 4,300 student surveys, 65 observed lessons, over 350 teachers taking part in focus groups and over 72 interviews with senior managers, the report presents many questions and explores the strengths of and the challenges faced by teachers and learners of English in higher education institutions in Turkey. It also identifies numerous good initiatives in Turkish universities which clearly indicate their commitment to improving the quality of English Language Teaching at tertiary level.

We hope the presentations and the panels on the launch day will provide an opportunity to explore the recommendations presented in the report at an international, national and institutional level.

### Why is the report important?

The report, which is one of the largest studies conducted into English language provision in tertiary-level English language teaching in a country, identifies some of the underlying systemic issues in the Turkish education system but also identifies numerous good initiatives in Turkish Universities which clearly indicate the commitment to improving the quality of English Language Teaching at tertiary level.

We hope that this report provides valuable contextual data on the areas of strength and challenges faced by teachers and learners of English at tertiary level.

### Participants

This event brings together senior policy makers and experts in Higher Education to discuss the key recommendations raised in the baseline study.

During this event we will not only present our findings and our recommendations but also aim to share relevant UK expertise related to quality assurance with an audience of educational policy leaders in Turkey such as Rectors, Vice Rectors, Deans of Faculties, Directors of School of Foreign Languages and local accreditation committees.

We also aim to explore the implications of the recommendations through two panels and question and answer sessions.

### Background

In November 2013, the British Council and TEPAV carried out large-scale research into the teaching of English in state schools in Turkey. The report examined the economic importance of English to Turkey and carried out detailed research into the classroom teaching of English. 78 observations were made in 48 schools in 12 cities as well as semi structured interviews with 87 teachers in addition to surveys of 21000 teachers, students and parents. It concluded that Turkey is

underperforming in the area of English language teaching and that this 'deficit' is the result of inadequate teaching in primary and secondary schools.

Following the publication of the Turkey National Needs Assessment of State School English Language Teaching Report, it was proposed that there should be a similar study of English language teaching (ELT) in Turkish universities.

The British Council funded and conducted this baseline study in partnership with the Economic Policy Research Foundation (TEPAV). Together we visited 38 universities in 15 cities to explore the views of leadership teams, academic staff and students in Turkish universities.

### Date and Venue

The launch will take place on 25 November 2015 at the Wyndham Hotel in Ankara.

#### Venue Details:

Yaşam Caddesi 4. Sokak No.4 Söğütözü Ankara

Tel: +90 312 219 0303

Web: <http://wyndhamankara.com/en>

## Programme

|               |  |
|---------------|--|
| 09:00 – 10:00 | <b>Registration</b>  |
| 10:00 – 10:30 | <b>Welcome and opening speeches</b><br>Her Majesty's Ambassador to the Republic of Turkey, Richard Moore<br>Prof. Dr. M. A. Yekta Saraç, Head, Council of Higher Education<br>Andy Williams, British Council Regional Director, Wider Europe   |
| 10:30 – 11:15 | <b>Presentation of the report:</b><br><b>Part 1: International and national context</b><br>Richard West, British Council   |
| 11:15 – 11:25 | <b>Questions and Answers</b>   |
| 11:25 – 11:45 | <b>Coffee Break</b>  |
| 11:45 – 12:30 | <b>Part 2: Institutional and departmental context</b><br>Richard West, British Council   |
| 12:30 – 12:45 | <b>Questions and Answers</b>   |
| 12:45 – 12:50 | <b>Closure of morning sessions</b><br>Andy Williams, British Council Regional Director, Wider Europe   |
| 12:50 – 13:50 | <b>LUNCH</b>   |
| 13:50 – 14:15 | <b>Presentation: Inspection or review – on building a more inclusive, collegiate and developmental approach when ensuring quality</b><br>Dr. David Gwynne Harries, Director of the Leicester Language Academy  |
| 14:15 – 15:15 | <b>Panel 1: Quality assurance:</b><br><b>Exploring implications for the national context</b><br>Moderator: Andy Williams<br>Prof. Dr. Hasan Mandal, Council of Higher Education, Executive Board Member<br>Dr. David Gwynne Harries; Director of the Leicester Language Academy<br>Prof. Dr. Sermin Örnektekin FEDEK representative, Vice Rector, Kültür University<br>Prof. Dr. Timur Doğu, MÜDEK representative  |
| 15:15 – 15:45 | <b>Coffee Break</b>  |
| 15:45 – 16:10 | <b>Presentation: The present and future of quality assurance in ELT</b><br>George Pickering, Accreditation UK  |
| 16:10 – 17:10 | <b>Panel 2: Quality assurance</b><br><b>Exploring implications for the institutional context – universities and Schools of Foreign Languages</b><br>Moderator: George Pickering<br>Assoc. Prof. Dr. Belgin Aydın, Director School of Foreign Languages, Anadolu University<br>Asst. Prof. Dr. Tijen Akşit, Director, School of English Language, Bilkent University<br>Asst. Prof. Dr. Evrim Üstünlüoğlu, Director, School of Foreign Languages, İzmir University of Economics<br>Prof. Dr. Abdulvahit Çakır, Director School of Foreign Languages Gazi University |
| 17:10 – 17:30 | <b>Closing session</b><br>Facilitator: George Pickering  |
| 17:30 – 18:30 | <b>Reception</b>   |

## Presentations related to quality assurance from the UK

### 1. Inspection or review – on building a more inclusive, collegiate and developmental approach when ensuring quality – Dr. David Gwynne Harries

The presentation will look briefly at the rationale behind ‘objective’ processes of professional review as opposed to inspection and how these outcomes can be used developmentally as a model for inclusivity when promoting high standards in all aspects of education.

It will continue by describing in outline, one model of HE review that has been used in recent years in the UK to consider aspects of the institution’s management of academic standards, the institutions use of external reference points, the quality of learning opportunities provided and how judgements are made as to outcomes in terms of the student experience and standards of Teaching and Learning. It will highlight the element of ‘risk’ involved in terms of outcomes but also how such outcomes can be used to promote a positive experience for all involved and for a wider public audience.

### 2. The present and future of quality assurance in ELT – George Pickering

English language students and other stakeholders have become increasingly demanding when it comes to the quality of the courses and the teaching that they receive. At the same time information about the comparative quality standards of ELT departments and institutions is becoming more publicly available through league tables, accreditation bodies, research, websites and social media.

This talk will explore some of the ways in which quality assurance mechanisms can improve the quality of the services and learning opportunities that staff and students are offered. Some of the aspects of quality assurance referred to will include: organisational mission, teaching qualifications, the continuing professional development of all staff, customer service and the student journey, observations, staff and student feedback and measuring student progress and achievement. In this talk we will also review the roles of self-evaluation, monitoring and course reviews and accreditation schemes in raising quality standards in ELT institutions.

## Panels

There will be two panels at the event to discuss the implications of the report with senior representatives from the Turkish and UK Higher Education context.

Each panel will explore some of the key recommendations of the baseline study with senior policy makers, experts in Higher Education.

Panel one will explore the implications of the report from a national and international perspective.

Panel two will explore the implications from an institutional perspective.

### What will happen after the event?

The outcome of this event will be a shared understanding of the contribution of English language teaching to improving the quality of tertiary education in Turkey.

We are planning to have face to face events with universities in Turkey to discuss the recommendations of the report further with other stakeholders as well.

### How can you access the report online?

The report can be downloaded from our website <http://www.britishcouncil.org.tr/en/teach/elt-publications/he-research> from 26 November onwards.

### Follow the conversation



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[#HEEnglishTR](https://twitter.com/HEEnglishTR)

## Presenters and panellists

### **Prof. Dr. Abdulvahit akır**

Prof. Dr. Abdulvahit akır is the head of the ELT Department and the Director of the School of Foreign Languages at Gazi University. Some of the courses he has been teaching at the undergraduate and graduate levels are Applied Linguistics, Media English and Language Teaching Policies. Among his interests are curriculum development, course design, testing and evaluation, teacher training and teaching Turkish as a foreign language. He served as a member in the Ministry of Education commissions in the preparation of national programs, central examinations and English textbooks.

He coordinated intensive English courses for university graduates who are sent abroad by the Ministry of National Education or by the Higher Education Council to get graduate university degrees.

### **Assoc. Prof. Dr. Belgin Aydın**

Belgin Aydın is an Associate Professor in the ELT Department at Anadolu University, Eskisehir, Turkey. She has been working as the Director of School of Foreign Languages for two years. She conducts research in teacher training, distance learning, virtual classroom and individual differences. Her research interests also focus on language anxiety, teaching reading and individual differences. She has been teaching various courses including English language teaching methodology to adult and young learners, critical reading and individual differences in language learning and digital material development in ELT. She has been involved in various research projects both as a manager and a researcher focusing on different aspects of language learning, teaching and professional development. "Developing Computer Assisted Language Testing", "Developing an In-service Teacher Training Program to Improve Teachers' Techno-pedagogical Content Knowledge" "Using Twitter to Improve Language Learners' Creative Writing" can be given as examples to recent research projects she has been involved in.

### **Dr. David Gwynne Harries**

Dr. Harries has worked in education for 35 years in both the public and private sector. The last twenty have been as the senior lead professional in three large organizations working to quality standards using skills in performance management, self-evaluation, strategic review, project management and financial and budgetary control. He has worked with and supported numerous colleagues across the sectors. As a former School Principal and Head of the University of Leicester International Study Centre, he has worked for national charities, government bodies both at home and abroad. A former senior external examiner in Higher Education he is currently Director of an International Education Consultancy and Principal of an English Language Academy in the UK. He undertakes work as, a reviewer with the Quality Assurance Agency, as a senior reviewer with an Ofqual awarding body and was until recently an Ofsted team reviewer. He has had a number of commentaries of popular criticism on education in the UK published under a pen name.

**Asst. Prof. Dr. Evrim Üstünlüoğlu**

Asst. Prof. Dr. Evrim Üstünlüoğlu has been working as a director and a lecturer at the school of foreign languages, İzmir University of Economics since 2004. She has taught several courses on educational sciences and English language for over thirty years. She has many publications in national and international journals on language teaching, performance evaluation system, curriculum development, student evaluation of teaching / teachers and pedagogical competencies of lecturers in higher education. She has given presentations in many national / international conferences. She has been to the USA and Slovakia as a guest lecturer and researcher.

**George Pickering**

George Pickering is an educational coach, trainer and consultant, who has delivered talks and consultancies in over 60 different countries for the British Council and other organisations. He is an inspector of language schools for the British Council in the UK (Accreditation UK) and in the past was an EAQUALS inspector and an ISO 9000 assessor. George is the academic director of the English UK Diploma in English Language Teaching Management and a tutor on the Cambridge English validated International Diploma in Language Teaching Management. He worked for a number of years for the University of Sheffield on their MEd programmes in Dubai, Hong Kong and Singapore. He has delivered training and workshops on quality assurance in a number of countries including Turkey and the UK. He has conducted research on quality assurance schemes in ELT throughout the world and delivered numerous workshops to educational managers in Turkey. George was the lead academic consultant for the British Council's TEC15 Conference held in Hyderabad, India on *Ensuring Quality in English Language Teacher Education* and is currently editing the selected papers from it. He was the co-ordinator of the IATEFL Leadership & Management Special Interest Group for many years and is currently on the IATEFL Board of Directors. He has degrees in Philosophy & Politics and Psychology & Anthropology, a PGCE and a Masters in Second Language Learning & Teaching.

**Prof. Dr. Hasan Mandal (CoHE, Executive Board Member)**

Prof. Dr. Hasan Mandal is currently serving as Executive Board Member of Council of Higher Education (CoHE), BFUG Member for Turkey, EUA Representative for CoHE, Coordinator of University-Industry Collaboration Commission of CoHE.

Prof. Dr. Hasan Mandal received his BSc from Middle East Technical University (Turkey) in 1987 and PhD from University of Newcastle (UK) in 1992. In the period of 2007-2008, Prof. Dr. Hasan Mandal was at Karlsruhe University as Alexander von Humboldt Fellow.

In 1996, he joined the Department of Ceramic Engineering at Anadolu University. Prof. Dr. Hasan Mandal became the Head of Department (1999), Dean of the Faculty of Engineering (2004), Chairperson of Turkish Engineering Deans Council (2006), Vice Rector of Anadolu University (2010), Chairperson of Global Engineering Deans Council (2009), The First Vice President of the International Federation of Engineering Education Societies (2009-2011), Vice President and Director of Research and Graduate Policies at Sabancı University/Istanbul (2011-2015).

Prof. Dr. Hasan Mandal was also served as the Coordinator of European Higher Education Area (EHEA) Advisory Board, the Board Member in Gebze Technopark, Inovent, Vice President of University-Industry Collaboration Centers Platform (USIMP), Board Member of TUBITAK - TTO Group. Prof. Dr. Hasan Mandal is currently member of World Academy of Ceramics.

Prof. Dr. Hasan Mandal has co-authored over a hundred publications and three patents. Because of these achievements, Prof. Dr. Hasan Mandal was honored by twenty awards including TUBITAK

Science Award and European Ceramic Society, Stuijts Award.

**Prof. Dr. Sermin Örnektekin FEDEK representative, Vice Rector Kültür University**

Currently holds the positions of Vice Rector and Director of European and International Center at Istanbul Kültür University where she is also responsible for Quality Assurance. She was founding member of Mustafa Kemal University where she held the position of Vice Rector and Dean of Science and Letters Faculty.

Prof. Örnektekin is also founding member and President of the Science and Letters Programs Accreditation Association (FEDEK) and a member of AFS Student Selection and Evaluation Board, Turkish Chemistry Association and Air Pollution Research and Control Turkish National Committee

Prof Sermin Örnektekin graduated from Bursa Atatürk High School and went on an exchange in the United States of America through AFS at Robert E. Lee High School. She was awarded a BA, MSc and PhD at Istanbul University and has worked as Professor in the field of Chemical Engineering and Environmental Technology at state and foundation universities in Turkey for 30 years.

She took part in the technical curriculum development project with the Turkish Higher Education Council and World Bank Project and was a Bologna Promoter in the Bologna Process and Application project and member in National and International Environmental Education and Quality projects.

Prof Örnektekin is a senior scholar of British Council at Cardiff University, and Fulbright Senior Scholar for the National Institute of Health USA. She has more than 70 published articles/papers, 120+ citations and 6 books/chapters.

**Asst. Prof. Dr. Tijen Akşit, Acting Director Bilkent School of English Language**

Assoc. Dr Tijen Akşit is currently Acting Director of BUSEL (Bilkent University School of English Language) and Director of the Faculty Academic English (FAE) Program. She has also been a faculty member of the Graduate School of Education since 2011. Over the years she has taught tertiary level intensive English preparatory program classes, English for Academic and Specific purposes classes to undergraduate students, and post-graduate classes both in pre and in-service teacher education programs.

Her publications and paper presentations focus on topics such as school effectiveness and improvement, teacher appraisal systems, teacher action research, and teaching English for academic purposes. She is the author of the book titled Characteristics of Effective Schools. Her other research interests include educational leadership, English language teacher development, and content based English for Academic Purposes instruction.

**Prof. Dr. Timur Doğu, MÜDEK representative, Middle East Technical University**

Professor Timur Doğu is the former chair of “Engineering Programs Accreditation Board” (MAK) of MÜDEK, which is an independent association, established for the evaluation and accreditation of engineering programs in Turkey. He is also a member of Label Committee of ENAEE (European Network for Accreditation of Engineering Education), representing MÜDEK. Timur Dogu has been the evaluator/team chair in number of MÜDEK accreditation visits and also participated in ENAEE evaluations. He got BS, MS and PhD degrees from the Chemical Engineering Departments of Middle East Technical University, Stanford and University of California, respectively. He is the former chair of the Chemical Engineering Department of METU and Dean of Faculty of Sciences of Ankara University. Presently, he is an emeritus professor in the Chemical Engineering Department of METU. He is also an honorary member of Turkish Academy of Sciences and recipient of TÜBİTAK Science Award.



## Opening remarks

### **HMA Richard Moore**

British Ambassador to Turkey since January 2014. Before coming to Turkey, he was Director for Europe, Latin America and Globalisation (2010-2012) and Director for Programmes and Change (2008-2010). He has had postings in Vietnam, Turkey (1990-1992), Pakistan and Malaysia.

Richard Moore was born in Libya. He has a BA in Philosophy, Politics and Economics (PPE) from Oxford University and, on leaving Oxford, won a Kennedy Scholarship for post-graduate study at the Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University. In 2007, he attended the Stanford Executive Programme. Married to Maggie, with two children (one of whom was born in Turkey), Richard speaks reasonably proficient Turkish. Interests include golf, hiking, scuba-diving, Turkish carpets and porcelain, and visiting historical sites.

### **Prof. Dr. M. A. Yekta Saraç, Head, Council of Higher Education**

Prof. Dr. Yetka Saraç was born in Istanbul on 21.03.1963. He went to primary and secondary school in Istanbul and obtained his undergraduate degree from Turkish Language and Literature Department of Istanbul University Faculty of Literature in 1985. He started his academic career in Old Turkish Literature Department as Research Assistant.

Prof. Dr. Yetka Saraç pursued his doctoral education between 1987 and 1991 in the same university before he was named Assistant Professor in 1992 and Associate Professor in 1994. He became professor in 2000 and worked in Eastern Mediterranean University of Northern Cyprus.

In 2005, he became Member of General Assembly of YÖK (Council of Higher Education) as part of the Council of Ministers quota. He was renamed member of YÖK in 2010. He later served as Executive Council Member of YÖK as of 2008 and as Deputy President of YÖK as of 2010. He was appointed Head of Council of Higher Education on November 11, 2014.

Prof. Dr. M. A. Yekta Saraç specializes in Old Turkish Literature, hermeneutics and rhetoric.

### **Andy Williams, Regional Director British Council, Wider Europe**

Andy started in his new role as Regional Director, Wider Europe for the British Council on 1st September 2015. His main role is to provide strategic direction for the region which involves countries such as Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Georgia, Israel, Kazakhstan, Kosovo, Macedonia, Montenegro, Russia, Serbia, Turkey, Ukraine, Uzbekistan.

His other leadership roles for the British Council have included two stints as Country Director in Poland (2011-2015) and Azerbaijan (2004-2008), operational management of large teaching businesses in Syria and Thailand and global responsibility for the business development of the world's leading English Language test, IELTS.

Andy received his degree in Strategic Management from the Cranfield School of Management in 2005. He has a Post Graduate Diploma in English Language Teaching Management, 2001 from the University of Surrey and holds a BA (HONS) in Drama from University of Winchester.

Andy has extensive experience in management. His major expertise is in Strategy, Leadership, Management, Strategic Planning, Change Management, Business Development, Entrepreneurship, Marketing Communications, Strategic Partnerships, Fundraising, Social Media.

## British Council Project Team

### **Richard West, Consultant**

After teaching English for Specific Purposes in Africa and the UK, Richard West spent 20 years in teacher training at the University of Manchester, as well as working on projects for the British Council and examinations providers such as Cambridge Assessment, where he was lead consultant for the development of the Certificate of Advanced English (CAE). In 2005 he established ABC Language Consultants, which provides consultancy services in evaluation to the British Council and other major companies and institutions. As well as his work in Turkey, he has recently completed baseline studies on English in the universities of Russia and Ukraine.

### **Ayşen Güven, Head of English**

Ayşen is working at the British Council as the Head of the English Department in Turkey. She joined the British Council as Business Development and Project Manager in June 2014. Before joining the British Council, Ayşen worked at Bilkent University for 20 years both at the Preparatory Program and the Faculty Academic English Program as a Head of Teaching Unit, teacher trainer and designer and coordinator of the in-house EAP training program.

Her expertise is in Teacher Education, Reflective Practice, EAP curriculum design and implementation, Content Based Instruction, Critical Thinking, and Leadership in Education.

Since 2013, Ayşen is the Joint Coordinator of the Special Interest Group for English for Specific Purposes at the *International Association of Teachers of English as a Foreign Language* (IATEFL). Ayşen holds a MA in Management in Education from Bilkent University, a BA from Middle East Technical University, and a Cambridge DTEFLA.

### **Julian Parry, Director English and Education**

Julian has been Director English, Turkey since June 2014, leading on all our English and Examinations work in the country. He took over responsibility for the Education portfolio in August 2015. He is also Representative Director of British Council Eğitim Hizmetleri Ltd. Julian joined the British Council in 2000 as a teacher in Istanbul. Since then he has been ICT Manager, Korea, Head Teaching Partnerships, India, and Deputy Director, Morocco, Julian graduated with a BSc Zoology and Genetics before training as a secondary science teacher. He has a Cambridge DELTA and holds the CIM Professional Diploma in Marketing.