



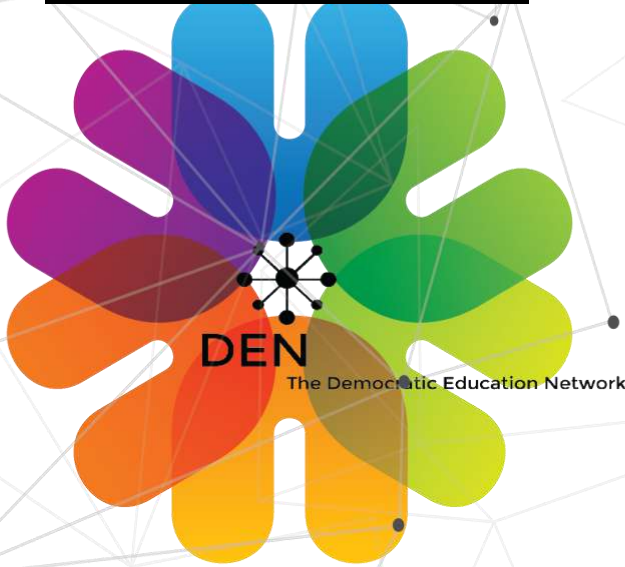
ECIT 2025



Engaging with Contemporary Issues in Turkey

13 - 16 November 2025, İstanbul / Turkey

PROGRAMME



Economics Politics & the SDG Agenda



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**İstanbul Kültür University,
Küçükçekmece Yerleşkesi, İstanbul / Türkiye**

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| DATES & VENUE |

Date 13 – 16 November 2025
Venue İstanbul Kültür University
Bahçelievler Yerleşkesi
Hürriyet Mah., Dumlupınar Cad., No:22A,
Bahçelievler, İstanbul, Türkiye

| PROGRAMME |

| DAY 1. |
Thursday, 13th November 2025

Journey to Istanbul

- 10:00** Meet at London Stansted (group check-in).
- Arrive Istanbul – Sabiha Gökçen (SAW).
 - Transfer to Kadıköy: Metro M4; short walk to the hotel.
 - Check-in: Sidonya Hotel — shared rooms (2–3)
Hotel: <https://www.sidonyahotel.com.tr/en/home>
 - Evening orientation: short neighbourhood walk;
safety/communications briefing.
- 20:00** Evening meal at a restaurant Çiya Sofrası
Cafırağa, Güneşli Bahçe Sok, 34710 Kadıköy/İstanbul, Türkiye
<https://www.ciya.com.tr/>

| DAY 2. |
Friday, 14th November 2025
ONE DAY WORKSHOP

F1.EN:
Welcome Speeches

10:30-11:00
Main Room
Saturday, 16 November 2024

Prof. Dr. Nebile Korucu Gümüőođlu

*(Co-Organizer, Dean, Faculty of Economics and Administrative Sciences,
İstanbul Kültür University)*

Prof. Dr. Farhang Morady

(DEN Coordinator, University of Westminster)

Prof. Dr. Deniz Dilara Dereli

*(Co-Organizer, Chair, Department of Economics,
İstanbul Kültür University)*

Prof. Dr. Wing Commander, Ngamlamai Piolueang

(Co-Organizer, Dean, Kasetsart University)

Assoc. Prof. Derya Demirdizen Çevik

(Co-Organizer, Kocaeli University)

Convenor: Prof. Dr. İsmail Şiriner
(Batman University & IJOPEC Publication)

F2.EN: Session I Labor Markets and Women in Turkey	
11:00-12:00 Friday, 14 Nov. 2025	<i>The Employment Situation and Current Issues Facing Women in Turkey</i> Assoc. Prof. Derya Demridizen Çevik, Eslem Seymen (Kocaeli University)
	Convenor: Prof. Dr. Nesibe Korucu Gümüşoğlu (İstanbul Kültür University)

F3.EN: Session II Economics and Politics in Comparative Perspective	
13:00 – 14:30 Friday, 14 Nov. 2025	<i>The General Economic Outlook of Turkey</i> Dr. Şerif Yüksel (İstanbul Kültür University, Türkiye)
	<i>Current Trends and Issues in Turkey-EU/US Relations</i> Dr. Ahmet Cemal Ertürk (İstanbul Kültür University, Türkiye)
	Convenor: Prof. Dr. Deniz Dilara Dereli (İstanbul Kültür University)



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F4.EN: Session III Politics & Sustainable Development in Turkey and Beyond	
15:00 – 16:00 Friday, 14 Nov. 2025	<i>Turkey in a Global Context</i> Dr. A. Chaiyapumee (Kasetsart University, Thailand) Q&A: Prof. Dr. Wing Commander, Dr. Ngamlamai Piolueang, (Kasetsart University, Thailand) Questioner: Prof. Dr. Farhang Morady (University of Westminster, UK) <i>Convenor: Prof. Dr. Deniz Dilara Dereli (İstanbul Kültür University, Türkiye)</i>

F5.EN: Session IV: Questions & Answers Contemporary Politics & Development in Turkey	
16:00 – 17:00 Friday, 14 Nov. 2025	<i>All Discussions on Engaging with Contemporary Issues in Turkey</i> Prof. Dr. Farhang Morady (University of Westminster, UK) Prof. Dr. Deniz Dilara Dereli (İstanbul Kültür University, Türkiye) Assoc. Prof. Derya Demridizen Çevik (Kocaeli University, Türkiye) Prof. Dr. Wing Commander (Kasetsart University, Thailand) Dr. Ahmet Cemal Ertürk (İstanbul Kültür University, Türkiye) Dr. Şerif Yüksel (İstanbul Kültür University, Türkiye) <i>Convenor: Prof. Dr. Nesibe Korucu Gümüşoğlu (İstanbul Kültür University)</i>

| DAY 3. |

Saturday, 15th November 2025

S1.EN İstanbul Field Trip

10: 00 – 21:00
Saturday, 15 November 2025

Morning: Historic urbanism & religion/state relations (Fatih).

Afternoon: Republic symbolism, protests, policing & cultural policy (Taksim/Gezi, AKM).

Reflection huddle: map observations to SDGs & course theories; draft Evidence Cards for blogs/presentations.

SDG focus: 11 sustainable cities, 16 peace/justice, 13 climate-friendly mobility, 17 partnerships.

Old Town or City Centre

Istanbul is not the capital but the cultural and economic heartbeat of Turkey, and it is seen as a bridge between East and West, Asia and Europe. Istanbul is a developed city with a great combination of past and present, traditional and modern, fantastic architecture covering thousands of years of history, million-dollar buildings, and shopping malls. It has a population of over 15 million, the highest density in Europe, covering an area of over 1,800 square kilometres.

Istanbul was founded in the 7th C by Byzas the Megarian and was a trading Centre for the next thousand years. Istanbul, or Byzantium, became the capital of the Roman Empire under Emperor Constantine I and was renamed Nova Roma, becoming Constantino polis in the later eras. In 1261, Byzantium took over the control of the city, but they were conquered by Turks in 1453. The Ottoman Emperor Sultan Mehmed II made it the new capital of the Ottoman Empire and turned the city into a cosmopolitan society where Muslims, Christians and Jews had religious freedom and equal rights. He developed the Grand Bazaar and revived economic activity and architectural monuments such as the Topkapi Palace.

Catch a boat from Kadıköy to Eminonu Ferry Dock station; walk to: Sultanahmet an Old Town with historical buildings and great architecture. We will visit Süleymaniye and Sultan Ahmet (also known as the Blue Mosque), which are impressive creations of Turkish and Islamic cultures.

Visit Hagia Sophia (Ayasofya), built as an Orthodox Christian church in the 6th century. In 1453, when the Ottomans conquered the city, it was converted to a mosque.

Topkapi Palace: *one of the world's largest, oldest palaces and the official residence for Ottoman Sultans for about 400 years. It has a famous harem and fantastic courtyards.*

After lunch

Grand Bazaar: *the world's largest and oldest - an endless market. It is so huge that if you are not careful, you can easily lose your way in a matter of minutes!
The shopkeepers will try and charm you into their shops, encouraging you to buy their goods by offering free tea – be careful!!*

Evening Meal: *You're free to eat wherever you'd like*

Guide: Günay Karakaş

| DAY 4. |
Sunday, 16th November 2025

FREE DAY IN İSTANBUL

You are advised to explore the city independently, and here are the places you may visit. Kadıköy, Fatih & Taksim Square

Self-guided study (small groups): museums, neighbourhoods, markets, ferry networks.

Log three field notes (place, observation, SDG link, 1 photo).

Explore Kadıköy City Centre

Kadıköy, a district located on the Asian side of Istanbul, boasts a rich history and diverse population. This ancient area, situated in a bustling cosmopolitan district beside the beautiful Marmara Sea, is a commercial hub featuring a variety of bars, hamams, cinemas, and bookshops. This area has long been a melting pot of different ethnic and religious groups from various parts of Turkey, including Christians, Jews, and Muslims. Originally founded as an ancient Greek colony in 685 BC, Kadıköy is strategically located on the eastern (Asian) side of the Bosphorus Sea, which has historically played a critical role in linking east (Asia) and west (Europe). Over the years, Kadıköy has been influenced by various cultures, including Greek, Persian (Iranian), Roman, and eventually Byzantine rule. It became a part of the Ottoman Empire in 1353 and fell under the jurisdiction of the Istanbul Courts. The name of the area, "Kadı Köy", translates to "the village of the Qadi", referring to a religious judge who rules in accordance with the Shariat (Islamic religious law). During the Ottoman era, Kadıköy served as a central agricultural market and became one of the most important districts in the Ottoman capital. Even after the collapse of the Empire and the establishment of the Turkish Republic, it remained a vital district in Istanbul.

Fatih

This traditional area was once a medieval city and home to important Orthodox religious buildings, which were then replaced with Islamic seminaries. The cultural contrasts between Kadıköy and Fatih are fascinating.

Taksim Square

Taksim Square is a popular hub in Istanbul, Turkey, with restaurants, shops, hotels, and the Istanbul Metro central station. The Republic Monument commemorates the 5th anniversary of the

Republic of Turkey's foundation. The square is surrounded by the Marmara Hotel, Atatürk Cultural Centre, Gezi Park, and Taksim Mosque

| DAY 5. |
Monday, 17th November 2025

Journey to London

10:00 Leave the Hotel **12:00 Morning:** wrap-up briefing; evidence check; assessment mapping.

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12:00. Midday: group transfer to SAW and return flight to London. (Exact flight details to be confirmed with the group lead.)

14:00 Departure from Sabiha Gokcen International Airport (SAW),

Arrive to London

BLOGS

Blog 1 — Pre-departure (400–500 words)

Write about your current views and expectations **before we depart**. Use the prompts below:

- What is your perception of Turkey in general, and of **Istanbul** in particular?
- What do you expect to discover that could deepen your understanding of the country and its links to **sustainability**?
- What do you hope to achieve while you are there?

Must include: a clear title; 1–2 **SDG** tags guiding your focus; how you plan to gather evidence (notes, photos, conversations).

Due: 48 hours before departure. 11/11/2025

Blog 2 — Post-trip reflection (400–500 words)

Reflect on what you learned **after the field trip**. Use the prompts below:

- What challenged your **preconceptions** during the trip?
- How do you now consider Turkey and Istanbul?
- Did your observations help you **understand sustainable development** differently? How?

Must include: at least two concrete observations (places, people, data); link your points to specific **SDGs**; a short “so what” takeaway for your studies.

Due: 20/11/2025

Suggested SDG mapping

- **SDG 4.7** citizenship/global competence via comparative field learning.
- **SDG 7 & 13** energy/climate via discussions on transitions and mobility.
- **SDG 10 & 16** inequality/institutions via labour, gender, governance sessions.
- **SDG 11** sustainable cities via study walks and transport.
- **SDG 17** partnerships via university collaboration and workshop.

Conduct, safety & practical notes

- Be respectful and punctual; rooms are shared—be considerate.
- Keep valuables secure; use the hotel safe for passports/valuables.
- Have a working SIM/data plan; UK contactless cards work on **bus/ferry/metro**.
- Some meals covered; others self-funded. Bring warm layers (raincoat/jumper).
- Food is generally safe - **avoid street fish** if unsure; bring any required medications.

Accommodation & useful links

- **Sidonya Hotel (Kadıköy):** <https://www.sidonyahotel.com.tr/en/home>
- **Çiya Sofrası:** <https://www.ciya.com.tr/>
- **Viktor Levi Wine House:** <https://www.viktorlevimoda.com/>

NOTES

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IMPORTANT

The theme of the trip to Istanbul is Contemporary Politics and Development in Turkey. We aim to examine various questions in history, economics, politics, society, culture, and development through observations and discussions among staff and students.

We hope this will be a pleasant one where you can add to your knowledge and skills, advancing your academic work.

We have prepared various activities, including visits to historical places in Istanbul, see below, but we also hope you will do some general reading to enhance your understanding.

The field trip has been very successful in the past, and we hope to build on this, but this depends greatly on all of us:

- We must respect the staff and colleagues in Istanbul. As we share rooms, we must care for each other.
- We must follow a program which requires some discipline, such as waking up early and returning to the hotel on time.
- We must work collaboratively and ensure that the trip is pleasant for all of us.
- Having a working SIM card with you is advisable for easy communication.
- In Istanbul, you can use your UK bank card to pay for things such as transportation via bus and ferry.
- Although the University covers some food expenses, you may need to purchase additional food.
- It is recommended to bring warm clothing like jumpers and a raincoat since Istanbul can be relatively cold.
- It is important to avoid wearing expensive jewellery or carrying valuable items.
- The hotel provides a safe box where you can store your passport and other valuables. While food in Istanbul is generally safe, it is best to avoid street food, especially fish. Lastly, it is important to remember to bring any necessary medications with you.