



## MONTEUS Public Lecture

### **“Narratives and Perceptions on EU-Turkey Relations – A Differentiated Future?”**

#### **INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOP**

Thursday, 8 June 2017

*Alter Senatssaal, University of Cologne*

On June 8th, Funda Tekin (CETEUS) opened the International Workshop. At the first panel, chaired by Johannes Müller-Gomez (CETEUS) and titled “History of EU-Turkey Relations – What kind of Master Narrative?”, the speakers, Atila Eralp (METU), Wolf-Ruthart Born (former State Secretary), Dicle Korkmaz (METU) and Wolfgang Wessels (CETEUS), discussed the changing narratives during the long-lasting EU-Turkey relations. The cyclical character of Turkish and European perceptions of their relationship was elaborated, emphasizing that narratives on both sides had been contested during the last decades. Furthermore, the discussion focused on the EU’s lack of political conditionality towards Turkey due to an ‘empty promise’ of membership. In the second panel chaired by Ebru Ece Özbey (METU) and titled “National Perceptions of EUTurkey Relations Today – EU Member States as Potential Veto Points?”, Aras Lindh (Swedish Institute of International Affairs, Stockholm), Bianca Benvenuti (Istituto Affari Internazionali, Rome) and Senada Šelo Šabić (Institute for Development and International Relations, Zagreb) presented and discussed self-penned country reports on the national debates on EU-Turkey relations in their home countries. These reports had been prepared within a Horizon 2020 project on the Future of EU-Turkey relations (FEUTURE, [www.feuture.eu](http://www.feuture.eu)). The speakers agreed that each of the respective countries would be critical of current developments, albeit each country would address the issue with individual intensity. Further, economic considerations would have priority, especially for Italy and Sweden, over political concerns. Despite the contemporary setbacks, following the speakers’ historic perspective, all countries would have displayed a general positive outlook on Turkey's EU membership bid. The third and final panel chaired by Mirja Schröder (CETEUS) and titled “A Differentiated Future for EU-Turkey Relations?” consisted of Elina Brutschin (Webster University, Vienna), Funda Tekin (CETEUS), and Ebru Turhan, (Türk-Alman Üniversitesi, Istanbul). The speakers discussed whether there would be a differentiated future for EU-Turkey relations. The three contributions concluded that external differentiated integration would be gradually enhanced between the EU and Turkey. Thus, new formats of partnership might substitute the concept of full membership in the long run. However, there still remained open questions, for



Co-funded by the  
Erasmus+ Programme  
of the European Union

The European Commission support for the production of this publication does not constitute an endorsement of the contents which reflects the views only of the authors, and the Commission cannot be held responsible for any use which may be made of the information contained therein.



example: (1) What are the policy fields in which the EU and Turkey could integrate? (2) How can one structure the institutional design of EU-Turkey relations? (3) Which actors will push and shape new formats of EU-Turkey relations?



Co-funded by the  
Erasmus+ Programme  
of the European Union

The European Commission support for the production of this publication does not constitute an endorsement of the contents which reflects the views only of the authors, and the Commission cannot be held responsible for any use which may be made of the information contained therein.