

International Study Excursion of the European and International Affairs Master's Program at the Turkish- German University

Turkish-German University (TGU/TDU)

University of Cologne (UoC)

Brussels and Berlin

May 30, 2022 – June 12, 2022

Report

After two consecutive years of online lectures and meetings only, the joint summer excursion of the Turkish-German University and the University of Cologne 2022 could finally be held present again. 12 students of the European and International Affairs Master's Program of TDU had the opportunity to visit Brussels and Berlin to deepen their knowledge and to get first-hand insights of practitioners from political institutions.

During their stay in Brussels, 12 students of TDU together with 16 students of the law and political department of the UoC participated in a simulation game in the framework of the interdisciplinary and international seminar PROTEUS (for further information see the report on the PROEUS-Seminar 2022).

The interdisciplinary and international seminar PROTEUS, funded by the *Kölner Gymnasial- und Stiftungsfond*, was held in the summer semester of 2022. The seminar, which concerns the law and politics of the European Union, introduced the students to current European Affairs and was finalized with an excursion to Brussels, where students not only experienced the key institutions of the European Union (EU) but also simulated a summit of the European Council (EUCO). Throughout the program, all students showed high interest in the wide working field of political experts and were fascinated by the broad variety of possible job opportunities. The excursion's first week took place in Brussels where students focused on seeing how the European institutions work. In order to have a better understanding, the visits to European External Action Service, European Parliament, and European Council were helpful. Also, the Permanent Delegation of Turkey to the EU was visited which allowed the students to ask questions about Turkey's EU perspective and its relations with the EU to the ambassador.

One of the students at TDU, H. Şüheda Solmaz describes her experience as unique and productive:

'Four years of grad education combining law and IR in one of the best universities in Turkey with full scholarship, just to see that two weeks of excursion would have taught

me better. I have just understood that they have been teaching me and a better understanding of theory. It really helped to see the work in action both to detect pros and cons. I now have a better vision of what to expect from my career and how to develop it accordingly.’

One of the other participants of the excursion, İ. Maya Saygın emphasizes how rich the excursion schedule was. According to her, it was important to meet experts, and civil servants and try to understand how international and bilateral relations are shaping especially now, at a time when the European Union and Turkey do not spend their honeymoon in their relations.

The second part of our excursion took place in Berlin where our students met with German and Turkish civil servants working in the federal ministries and embassy of the Turkish Republic in Germany. Also, they visited the German Bundestag and Deutscher Dom at Gendarmenmarkt where the students visited an exhibition on Germany’s parliamentary history.

The visits in Berlin allowed the students to think about current challenges in bilateral relations between Turkey and Germany. The excursion program’s focus was not only to have a better understanding of the institutions of the European Union but also to observe the assessments of the German side in terms of relations with Turkey. Especially, it was important to see how the Federal Government distributes administrative tasks to the ministers in the framework of bilateral relations.

The excursion had been organized by the Centre of Turkey and European Union Studies (‘CETEUS’) at the UoC and was accompanied by the Head of European and International Relations Master’s Program Dr. Phillip Decker and Research Assistant Emre Midilli of the TDU.

Program

Brussels International Summer School

Tuesday, 31 May

09:30 – 11:00	European External Action Service (EEAS) EU – Turkey relations
14:00 – 15:30	Permanent Delegation of Turkey to the EU Ambassador Mehmet Kemal Bozay, Permanent Delegate of Turkey to the EU
16:00 – 17:00	Get together with the students from the University of Cologne Representation of the State of North Rhine-Westphalia to the European Union

Wednesday, 1 June

09:30 – 11:00	Visit to the European Parliament
16:30 – 17:30	Presentation about “the Conference on the Future of Europe” by Frederic Van Zinnicq Bergmann (European Commission)

Thursday, 2 June

09:00 – 09:30	Welcome and introduction into the proceedings of the summer school Representation of the State of North Rhine-Westphalia to the European Union
09:30 – 13:00	European Council Simulation Game
14:00 – 17:00	European Council Simulation Game

Friday, 3 June

09:00 – 11:30	European Council Simulation Game
11:30 – 12:00	Adaptation of the conclusions
13:00 – 14:00	Evaluation and ‘tour de table’
15:00 – 16:30	Visit to the European Council

Berlin International Summer School

Monday, 6 June

10:00 – 12:00	A guided walk through Germany's capital: The Political Message of Urban and Architectural Structures and Buildings in Berlin Prof. Dr. Hartmut Marhold
---------------	--

Tuesday, 7 June

08:45 – 09:45	Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Climate Action Division South East Europe, EU enlargement, Turkey Head of Division: Dr. Sonja Eisenberg
10:15 – 11:45	German Bundestag
11:45 – 12:30	Visit of the "Kuppel" of the Reichstag Building Audio Guides in English and Turkish available
16:00-17:00	Institute for European Politics (IEP) Co-Director: Dr. Funda Tekin

Wednesday, 8 June

11:00 – 12:00	Embassy of Turkey
---------------	--------------------------

Thursday, 9 June

10:30 – 12:00	Federal foreign Office Head of Division 208 Turkey: Mr. Arno Kirchhof
15:30 – 17:00	German Institute for International and Security Affairs, SWP Centre for Applied Turkey Studies (CATS) Research Associate: Dr. Salim Çevik

Friday, 10 June

10:00 – 11:30	The German Bundestag's exhibition on parliamentary history
---------------	---







Sources: CETEUS, University of Cologne.

Contact:

Prof. Dr. Wolfgang Wessels

Institut für Politische Wissenschaft und Europäische Fragen

Centrum für Türkei- und EU-Studien (CETEUS)

Jean-Monnet-Lehrstuhl

Gottfried-Keller-Str. 1

50931 Köln

Research Associate: *Betül Türkeri, M.A.*

b.tuerkeri@uni-koeln.de | Tel.: +49 (0) 221-470-8618

Research Assistant: *Ipek Maya Saygin, LL.B.*

saygin@wiso.uni-koeln.de | Tel.: +49 (0) 221-470-1493