



Changing Horizons in Geography Education  
Herodot/Eurogeo Conference 2005  
Toruń, Poland 2<sup>nd</sup> - 5<sup>th</sup> September 2005

# *An evaluation of geography and geography education in Turkey*

**Dr. Salih Şahin**

**University of Gazi, Gazi Faculty of Education, Department of Geography**  
[ssahin@gazi.edu.tr](mailto:ssahin@gazi.edu.tr)

**Dr. Servet KARABAĞ**

**University of Gazi, Gazi Faculty of Education, Department of Geography**  
[skarabag@gazi.edu.tr](mailto:skarabag@gazi.edu.tr)

**Ankara-TURKEY/2005**

This research has evaluated these topics:

- Historical development of geography in Turkey,
- Publications and research related with geography,
- The problems of geography and geography education in Turkey,
- Geography education with regards to university, primary and secondary schools,

# Turkey is a wonderful laboratory for geography in respect to its natural and human elements.



## Historical development of geography in Turkey,

- *Before 1933*
- *Between 1933-1941*
- *Between 1941-1981*
- *Since 1981*

## **Publications and research related with geography**

- *Related to physical geography publications*
- *Related to human geography publications*
- *Related to Turkey's geographical features*
- *Journals of Geography in Turkey*

## **The problems of geography and geography education in Turkey**

- *Financial and social problems*
- *Problems related to curriculum*
- *Related to teacher candidate problems*
- *Related to school book problems*
- *Inadequacy of practice*
- *Related to lack of training services*
- *Being not able to benefit from the education technologies*

## Geography education with regards to university, primary and secondary schools

- In primary and secondary school education. Geography is taught in social studies (stage 4-8 please say the age of the pupils) lessons in primary school,
- There are geography lessons in secondary school (stage of 9-12 please say the age of the pupils),
- In Turkey, there are currently 19 geography departments in differently university,

Table 1- The institutes of geography in Turkey

	<b>University</b>	<b>Faculty</b>
<b>1</b>	University of Afyon Kocatepe	Usak Faculty of Science and Literature
<b>2</b>	University of Afyon Kocatepe	Faculty of Science and Literature
<b>3</b>	University of Ankara	Faculty of Language history and geography
<b>4</b>	University of Atatürk	Faculty of Science and Literature
<b>5</b>	University of Atatürk	Faculty of Education
<b>6</b>	University of Balıkesir	Faculty of Science and Literature
<b>7</b>	University of Canakkale 18 Mart	Faculty of Science and Literature
<b>8</b>	University of Canakkale 18 Mart	Faculty of Education
<b>9</b>	University of Dicle	Faculty of Education
<b>10</b>	University of Dokuz Eylül	Faculty of Education
<b>11</b>	University of Ege	Faculty of Science and Literature
<b>12</b>	University of Fırat	Faculty of Science and Literature
<b>13</b>	University of Gazi	Faculty of Education
<b>14</b>	University of İstanbul	Faculty of Science and Literature
<b>15</b>	University of Sutcu Imam	Faculty of Science and Literature
<b>16</b>	University of Marmara	Faculty of Education
<b>17</b>	University of 19 Mayıs	Faculty of Science and Literature
<b>18</b>	University of Selcuk	Faculty of Education
<b>19</b>	University of 100. Yıl	Faculty of Science and Literature
	Total	12 science and literature
		7 education faculty

## ***Conclusion***

As result, considerable developments have been gained in the area of the geography education in Turkey. In order to continuity of these developments and to increase the international competitiveness, as specified in the Bologna process, convergence has been created in terms of criteria and methodologies. Additionally, the ways of transnational education, accreditation, credit systems and quality assurance have been opened so that the intergovernmental cooperation can be achieved.

It is therefore clear that the higher education institutions in Turkey have a unique opportunity to shape their own European future and to play a crucial role in the development and implementation of the Bologna process.

## References

Erinç, S., 1973, Cumhuriyetin 50. Yılında Türkiye'de Coğrafya Başbakanlık Kültür Müsteşarlığı, Cumhuriyetin 50. Yıldönümü Yayınları: 11, Ankara.

İzbrak, R., 1976 Türkiye'de Son Yarım İçinde Coğrafya Alanında Gelişmeler , A.Ü. Dil ve Tarih Coğrafya Fakültesi, yay. No: 257, Ankara.

Koçman, A., 1999, Cumhuriyet Döneminde Yüksek Öğretim Kurumlarında Coğrafya Öğretimi ve Sorunları, Ege Coğrafya Dergisi, sayı: 10, İzmir.

Kayan, İ., 2000, Türkiye Üniversitelerinde Coğrafya Eğitimi, Ege Coğrafya Dergisi, sayı: 11, İzmir.

Özey, R., 1998, Türkiye Üniversitelerinde Coğrafya Eğitimi ve Öğretimi. Özeğitim Yayınları No.33 , İstanbul.