

TURKEY
TÜRKİYE

Presentation for
Spring Workshop in Washington D.C. 02-06 April, 2008

TURKISH FLAG



Turkey's location in the world



MAP OF TURKEY



OVERVIEW

- Modern Turkey was founded in 1923 from the Anatolian remnants of the defeated Ottoman Empire by national hero Mustafa KEMAL, who was later honored with the title Ataturk, or "Father of the Turks."
- Under his leadership, the country adopted wide-ranging social, legal, and political reforms.
- Turkey joined the UN in 1945 and in 1952 it became a member of NATO.
- In 1964, Turkey became an associate member of the European Community; over the past decade, it has undertaken many reforms to strengthen its democracy and economy, enabling it to begin accession membership talks with the European Union.

OVERVIEW

- **Location:** Southeastern Europe and Southwestern Asia (that portion of Turkey west of the Bosphorus is geographically part of Europe), bordering the Black Sea, between Bulgaria and Georgia, and bordering the Aegean Sea and the Mediterranean Sea, between Greece and Syria.
- **Climate:** temperate; hot, dry summers with mild, wet winters; harsher in interior. Mediterranean climate with soft winds.
- **Population:** 70,413,958 (July 2006 est.)
- **Religions:** Muslim 99.8% (mostly Sunni), other 0.2% (mostly Christians(Armenian Catholics and Orthodox, Greek Orthodox and Jews)

OVERVIEW

- **Capital:** Ankara
- **Government Type:** Republican Parliamentary Democracy
- **Legal System:** Civil law code derived from various European continental legal systems; note - member of the European Court of Human Rights (ECHR)
- **Economy:** Turkey's dynamic economy is a complex mix of modern industry and commerce along with a traditional agriculture sector that still accounts for more than 25% of employment. It has a strong and rapidly growing private sector, yet the state is getting privatising and it is self-owned basic industries i.e. banking, transport, and communication. The largest industrial sector is automotives then textiles and clothing. Tourism is also one of the leading sector in Turkey.

TURKISH SOCIETY

- Turkish society is family oriented.
- Funerals, weddings and births are important occasions for all the family members and they get together and support each other during those times.
- Turkish people are well known by their hospitalities. They like to host guests and feel obliged to make them feel comfortable.
- Turkish people watch a lot of TV at home.
- Families mostly on weekends go out with neighbours and friends.

TURKISH FAMILIES

- Turkey has a population of about 75 million. Culture shows varieties from region to region and accordingly so does the traditions.
- Divorce rate is not very high but recently there is an increase on divorces in big cities like Istanbul and Ankara.
- Parents are usually very much focused on their children.
- Decisions are usually taken by parents.
- Children are usually not expected to participate in house chores.
- Turkish families are close-knit families.
- Young people are expected to respect elders.

TURKISH TEENAGERS

- Young people are respectful to elders and teachers.
- Students are school oriented.
- Young people are usually independent with some limitations set by parents.
- Dating is not very unusual.
- Smoking, drinking and drugs are considered very bad habits.

FOOD

- Turkish cuisine has a great variety of meat, fish and vegetable dishes.
- People do not eat pork due to religious reasons.
- Normally a Turkish lunch or dinner is composed of a soup, a meat and vegetable dish and a dessert or fruit and followed by a cup of Turkish coffee afterwards.
- Generally dinners are important and all family members are expected to gather around the dinner table.
- Turkish people are great tea drinkers.

SUPPORT ISSUES

- RELIGION

- Compared to other Muslim Countries, Turkey being a secular country, people are not very much focused on religious issues. Religion in Turkey is considered a private and personal matter. Therefore people don't discuss religion. Young people in Turkey mostly do not attend religious services very strictly. Mostly they are expected to take place in funeral services, and in religious holiday celebrations.
- During Ramadan students are free to fast; although most of them might not prefer fasting.
- Students can participate in religious service of host family but they don't like to be forced to attend church regularly.

SUPPORT ISSUES

- Gender Roles
 - Turkish students are usually respectful to elders. They are respectful to their parents.
 - Our exchange students should be openly told about the roles of family members and what is expected from them.

SUPPORT ISSUES

- **Communication Styles**

- Turkish students are used to direct communication styles. But hostfamilies must make sure if they are understood correctly by asking questions. Students might feel shy to admit that they didn't understand what they have been told.

SUPPORT ISSUES

- Household Rules and Family Life
 - Students are used to getting direct guidance from their parents. Host families, especially in the beginning, might have to remind them about “do’s and dont’s”.
 - Spending more time with family members and to take them to other families where behaviour patterns can be observed might be helpful.

SUPPORT ISSUES

- Time and Space

- Some Turkish students are not very strict with the timing issues and they might need a little pushing.
- Turkish people might prefer to stand closer to other people during conversations so they will need to be told about it.

SUPPORT ISSUES

- School

- Turkish students are school oriented but in order to facilitate adaptation to the new system, they would need to be told directly and openly what to do, when to do, and how to do. The guidance from the school environment that she/he will attend to is very vital and beneficial.

SCHOOL SYSTEM

- Primary school: 1st through 8th grade.
- Secondary School: Preparatory Class + 3 Years or 4 Years
- College Education: Normally 4 years. The college entrance exam is highly competitive; therefore students spend their last 2 years in the HS for getting prepared.

GRADING SYSTEM

- 85-100 → 5 (Very Good)
- 70-85 → 4 (Good)
- 55-70 → 3 (Average)
- 45-55 → 2 (Poor)
- Under 45 → 1 (Fail)

MISCELLANEOUS

- Primary education is obligatory in Turkey. There are public primary schools and private primary schools.
- There are also private high schools and public high schools.
- In all High Schools a second language is taught. (mostly English; 2 to 4 hours per-week)
- For YES selections TKV / AFS TURKEY targets public HS and full scholarship students from private HS.

MISCELLANEOUS

- Schools have weekly schedules. Students mainly stay in the same classroom and teachers change the classroom according to their schedule.
- A school uniform is obligatory.
- Schools are stricter than most countries and students are expected to respect teachers.
- High quality education is the priority of families.
- Extra curricular activities are rather poor in public schools

REALITIES ABOUT THE LIFE OF TURKISH STUDENTS

- The high school students must devote the last two school years of high school completely to study. University entrance examinations are very tough and only 20% of the applicants have a chance to be successful. Therefore they are under great pressure all through this time.
- University education of their children is also very important for families and they support their children a lot.
- During this period, students have almost no time left for other things. Therefore the reality of their lives is getting prepared for university.

YES SELECTION PROCESS

(preparation)

- We mailed YES (translated) brochures and the announcement of the YES program selection process to all high schools with English curriculum based on the authorization of Ministry of Education.
- We educated our volunteers about YES Program so that they would help with the "word of mouth".
- We participated in education fairs in cooperation with the US Consulate in Istanbul.
- TKV and US Embassy in Ankara gave grant to our volunteers regarding YES program school visit project in 3 regions of Turkey. They visited cities like Adana, Mersin, Izmir, Aydin, Denizli and Zonguldak in the early days of October 2007.

YES SELECTION PROCESS

- The total number of students who have applied for the YES exam is 285.
- We have had a diversified application profile from 30 cities, since we announced the exam across the country with the approval of Ministry of Education.
- The selection process have been committed on Nov 03rd, 2007 in 3 regions (Istanbul, Ankara and Izmir)
- 97 candidates from 15 cities have been selected by the support of our volunteers.
- Following the family visits and sleep test results 42 students plus alternates have been determined.
- Gender- 67% girls, 33% boys

YES SELECTION PROCESS

- English test in the morning session
- The students who pass this test take the oral interview in the afternoon.
- The selected students take the “slep test”.
- Family visits are carried out by volunteers whose attended to the oral interview.

YES SELECTION PROCESS

- The selection process has been committed on merit and need basis; so our target is selecting students with:
 - minimum intermediary level of English
 - good intercultural adaptation skills and academic level
 - limited financial opportunities.

TURKISH YES ALUMNI

- YES alumni takes part in the selection process
- They often help the staff with the office work
- They attend to the feedback meetings with the board members and guests from the US State Department or the US Consulate
- They publish a newsletter (sponsored by US consulate)
- They participate in AFS training programs
- They take responsibility in fairs and school contacts for the visibility of the program

AFS TURKEY – since 1952



- Represented by Turkish Cultural Foundation since 1974
- Staff #10
- More than 200 active volunteers
- 5 chapters; namely, Istanbul (HQ), Ankara, İzmir, Bursa, and Adana.
- Sending approx. 225 stus on Year Program (including 40 YES stus)
- Hosting approx. 30-40 stus
- Has almost doubled sending and hosting volumes since 2005.



Thank You !



QUESTIONS ? ? ? ☺