

Emin ATASOY* - A. Kadir ÇÜÇEN**

A Comparative Analysis of the Demographic and Social Characteristics of the European Union Countries and Turkey***

Abstract

In this article, it was put forward that the EU, which seems to be unified and integrated in terms of geographical, cultural, economic and political aspects, is not homogenous at all regarding demographic characteristics, and also the fact that the Union is multidimensional, multicolored and there are differences between countries was put under discussion considering the social and demographic dimensions. In the article, the demographic potential of Turkey, the EU nominee, was examined in both qualitative and quantitative aspects, and also an effort was made to determine the similar and dissimilar social and demographic aspects the EU countries and Turkey have. To reach this aim, an effort was spent on the comparative analysis of Turkey and the EU countries in terms of various human characteristics such as population size, population growth, birthrates and death rates, average lifespan, literacy rate, median age average, human development index and urbanization.

Key Terms

Demography, European Union, Turkey.

Avrupa Birliği ve Türkiye'nin Demografik ve Sosyal Özelliklerinin Karşılaştırmalı Analizi

Özet

Bu makalede coğrafi, kültürel, ekonomik ve politik açıdan birlik ve bütünlük içinde görünen AB'nin nüfus özellikleri bakımından hiç de türdeş olmadığı ortaya konulmuş, ayrıca birliğin çok boyutluluğu, çok renkliliği ve ülkeler arasındaki farklılaşmaları sosyal ve demografik boyutları ile tartışılmıştır. Makalede AB adayı Türkiye'nin nüfus potansiyeli hem nitel hem de nicel özellikler açısından irdelenmiş, ayrıca AB ülkeleri ile Türkiye'nin benzer ve benzer olmayan sosyal ve demografik yönleri tespit edilmeye çalışılmıştır. Böylece Türkiye ile AB ülkeleri

* Dr.: Uludağ University, Education Faculty, Department of Elementary Education.

** Prof. Dr.: Uludağ University, Faculty of Arts and Sciences, Department of Philosophy.

*** This paper presented at the International Scientific Conference "Global Changes and Regional Challenges" St. Kliment Ohridski University of Sofia, 28-29 April 2006, Sofia, Bulgaria.

nüfus sayısı, nüfus artışı, doğum ve ölüm oranları, ortalama yaşam süresi, okuma yazma oranı, medyan yaş ortalaması, insan gelişim endeksi ve kentleşme gibi farklı beşeri özellikler bakımından karşılaştırmalı olarak analiz edilmeye çalışılmıştır.

Anahtar Terimler

Demografi, Avrupa Birliği, Türkiye.

1. The Integrated Heterogeneous Europe

With the membership of Bulgaria and Rumania by the year 2007, the total area the EU countries cover will exceed 4,3 million km². Thus, the area the EU countries cover will constitute approximately 2,8 % of the total world area. With the EU membership of Turkey, the area of the Union will reach 5,1 million km², and the population will swell up to 560 million.

The EU countries show great differences among themselves in terms of land area size. There are only three countries that have a land area larger than 400,000 km² and we can call them "large area EU countries": France, Spain and Sweden. The number of the countries that have a land area between 200,000 and 400,000 km² and we can call them "middle area EU countries" is six. There are nine countries that have a land area between 50,000 and 200,000 km² and we can call them "small area EU countries". There are seven countries that have a land area between 5,000 and 50,000 km² and we can call them "very small area EU countries". There are only two EU countries that have a land area smaller than 5,000 km²: these are Luxemburg and Malta. These two smallest member countries of the EU's can be called "micro EU countries".

Today the total number of the countries in the world has reached 231. Of these countries, 194 are independent and 37 are not independent (Atasoy 2003). Turkey places the 36th among the largest ones of the total 231 countries with a land area of 779,452 km². Turkey, which covers 0,65 % of the world land area, is the country having the largest area in Europe, excluding Russia (Juravlev 2005). The land area of Turkey is bigger than the total land areas of Great Britain, Italy, Greece, Belgium and Holland. With the membership of Turkey in the future years, both the borders of the Union will expand to the southeast a great deal and the EU countries will border the Caucasia, the Middle-East and the Arabian World. Thus, while Turkey, bridging the Balkans and the Middle-East, the Black Sea and the Mediterranean, and Europe and Asia, will add power in geopolitical aspect to the geography of EU, it will bring the EU countries face to face the risky geography of the Caucasia and the Middle East whose political conflicts have not been over as well.

The EU countries show important differences among themselves in terms of both ethnic and religious demographic characteristics and population growth rates, population densities and urbanization characteristics. In brief, the EU, with its socio-cultural and demographic characteristics, exhibits a heterogeneous appearance reflecting diversity and variety rather than being integrated and homogeneous. This finding can be reached through some examples.

Bulgaria and Greece where the Orthodox constitute majority; Poland, Italy, Slovenia, France, and Spain where the Catholic are dominant; Sweden, Finland and Denmark where the Protestant are the majority; Latvia, Estonia, Germany and Holland where both the Protestant and the Catholic and the Orthodox constitute a colorful religious mosaic all reflect the rich culture mosaic and the diversity of the EU in terms of religious characteristics. In Hungary, Estonia, Lithuania, Latvia and Rumania, while the proportion of the Muslim population within the total population of the country is below 1 %, it is above 3 % in France and Belgium. But in Bulgaria, which has the highest Muslim population ratio among the EU countries, this proportion exceeds 12 % (Lukanov et. al. 2005). Moreover, Bulgaria is the country having the lowest Christian population ratio (87 %) among the EU countries, and Poland is the country having the highest Christian population ratio (99,5). Getting the full membership to the EU, Turkey, with the Muslim population ratio exceeding 98 % and the Muslim population mass approaching 70 million, has a human potential to be able to modify the socio-cultural structure of the Christian Europe sea rather than being an isolated island in that sea.

There also appear to be some differences among the EU countries in terms of not only religious population characteristics but also ethnic population characteristics. While some EU countries exhibit a homogeneous structure regarding ethnic structure, some others reflect a heterogeneous characteristic with their very different ethnic structures. When we examine the proportional distribution of the ethnic minorities within the country total population, this fact comes out very clearly. The most homogeneous countries regarding the ethnic structure, that is, having the lowest minority ratios, among the EU countries, are Portugal, Poland and Greece. Only three of the total 27 EU member countries have a minority ratio below 5 %. In these countries, the proportions of the minorities within the total country population are 0,5 % in Portugal, 1,7 % in Poland and 4,4 % in Greece. While the proportion of the minorities in such countries as Austria, Slovenia, Hungary and Germany ranges from 5 % to 10 %, this proportion ranges from 10 % to 20 % in such countries as Rumania, Bulgaria, France and Latvia. The EU countries having the highest minority proportions are Latvia, Spain and Great Britain with the proportions of 45,8 %, 29,4 % and 22,7 % respectively (Lukanov et. al. 2005).

Regarding the urbanization and population density, the differences among the EU countries attract attention as well. While the urbanization rate is only 49 % in Slovenia and only 55 % in Rumania, this rate reaches 92 % in Luxembourg and 97 % in Belgium. The similar picture present among the EU countries shows itself in the population density. For example, while the number of people per kilometer square is only 16 in Finland and 29 in Estonia, this number gets to 340 in Belgium, 386 in Holland, and even 1,247 in Malta. Regarding the geographical and demographic characteristics, many examples similar to those mentioned above, concerning the differences among the EU countries, can be given. The following lines try to provide comparative analyses under different subtitles regarding the population numbers, population rates, urbanization rates and human development indexes of Turkey and the EU countries.

2. Comparing Turkey and the EU Countries Regarding Population Number

The total population of the EU countries was 485 million in 2003 and this number constituted 7,6 % of the world population. Like in the land area size, there are also great differences among the EU countries regarding the population size and these were gathered under four groups in this study.

Since the populations of Germany, France, Spain, Italy and Great Britain each exceeded 40 million, they are the most crowded EU countries and they have the greatest human power. Since the total populations of Poland and Rumania, which are in the second group, range from 20 to 40 million, these two countries constitute the mid-populated states of the EU. Since the third group, which is called small-sized countries due to having populations ranging from 5 to 20 million, cover 12 countries, they form the most crowded group. The number of the countries within the EU, having populations smaller than 5 million, is 8 and these countries can be called "mini demos", that is the smallest ones regarding population number. As seen, the most crowded five countries in the first group with their total population of 300 million constitute approximately 62 % of the EU population. However, the countries in the third group and in the fourth group, which are more in number (total 20 countries) together, constitute only 26 % of the EU population.

Turkey, having the youngest and most dynamic population among the European countries, and growing 900,000 people each passing year, constitutes the fastest growing country of the Europe at both absolute and proportional population growth. Turkey, forming 1,1 % of the total world population with its population of 73,5 million in the year 2005, places the 17th among the most crowded countries of the world. Although Turkey is expected to be 89 million by the year 2025, its place in the world order is expected to fall to 18th. However, the population of Germany is expected to become 82 million by the year 2025 (Juravlev, 2005). Thus, Turkey, overtaking Germany, which is today the most crowded country of Europe, will become the biggest country of Europe regarding population as well. As a conclusion, by the year 2025, the biggest country of Europe will become Turkey, excluding Russia, in terms of both land area and population size. Moreover, we must not forget about the Turkish citizens, exceeding 4,5 million in number, living outside Turkey as well. There are 3,8 million Turkish citizens living only in the EU countries and 2,6 million of whom are residing in Germany. As seen in Table 2, after Germany, housing most Turkish citizens come France, Holland, Austria and Belgium. In these four countries, approximately 1 million Turks are living. In countries like Denmark, Sweden, Great Britain, the number of Turks falls below 100,000. (Şen 2005). Today the number of Turks becoming the EU citizens has reached 1,5 million. Until the year 2020, the number is expected to exceed 2 million. Thus, Turkey, before becoming a member of the EU, has already proved to become a part of Europe with its human and cultural existence in the European countries.

It is expected that the biggest countries of the EU, Germany, French and Great Britain will enter the period of population shrinking during the following years and as a result of this by the year 2050 the population of Germany will decrease to 73 million, that of French to 61 million, that of Italy to 50 million and that of Great Britain to 48 million. For example, if we consider the fact that the total population of the total 25 EU

countries plus Bulgaria and Rumania, that is 27 member countries, was around 484 million in the year 2003 and the fact that the population of Turkey, on its own, was 71,3 million, it appears that Turkey, on its own, constitutes approximately 15 % of the EU population. In future years, assuming that the decline in the total populations of the EU countries will continue while the population of Turkey will increase, it can easily be estimated that this 15 % of portion will increase more. Briefly, despite the fact that the EU will continue its expanding policies and geographical extension in future years, great changes are likely to appear in both the EU's population's qualitative and quantitative characteristics and socio-cultural structure together with Turkey's EU membership.

Today there are clear differences, which continue to exist between the EU countries in both demographic and socio-cultural characteristics. These differences are unavoidable in such a large geography. With the membership of Turkey, these socio-cultural and demographic differences will become more evident.

3. Comparing Turkey and the EU Countries Regarding Population Growth and Population Age Distribution

The population of Turkey, which was 13,6 million in the year 1927, reached 67,8 million in the last census in the year 2000, increased 54 million, that is, the number was multiplied by five within a period of approximately 70 years. Such an increase was not observed in any European country during the same period. The principal reasons for the high population growth rate in Turkey are high birthrate, rapid decline in baby and child death rates, nutrition and increase in average lifespan parallel to improving health conditions and immigration from foreign countries. Naturally, high population growth seen in Turkey has led to the increase in in-country immigration and unemployment, the insufficiency of houses, hospitals and schools, the use of agricultural areas with non-agricultural purposes, the environmental problems, the growth of human pressure on the natural resources, the rapid but unplanned urbanization and particularly the restraining of economic growth.

The population mass immigrated from foreign countries and settled in Turkey during the Republic period has reached 2,5 million and the countries having the biggest portions in this are Bulgaria, sending 962,000 immigrants, and ex-Yugoslavian republics, sending 562,000 immigrants (Şahin et. al. 2005).

Despite some positive population changes in Turkey within the last 20 years, both the fertility rate and the population growth rate of the country are higher than those of the EU countries. For example, while the average fertility rates of Turkey are around 0,21 %, these rates are around 0,11 % in such countries as Sweden, Portugal, Great Britain and Belgium, and below 0,09 % in Bulgaria, Slovenia, Austria, Germany, Italy, Hungary and the Baltic Republics.

As known, by the year 2007 the number of the member countries will have reached 27 following the EU memberships of Bulgaria and Rumania. When we compare the EU countries regarding the population growth rate, a negative population growth is observed in 12 of the 27 countries, that is population decrease, and the population growth rate is below 0,50 % in 10 countries, the stable population growth period is approx

ing. Briefly, in 22 EU countries, the population is either decreasing or increasing slightly. The annual population growth rate is above 0,50 % in only Ireland, Cyprus and Malta.

The demographic future for the EU is full of pessimism. Among the most populated 20 countries of the world by the year 2025 will place only Turkey (89 million) and Germany (82 million). According to the calculations by "The Economist", eight of the first fifteen countries having the lowest annual population growth rate during the period of 2020 – 2025 will be from among the EU member countries. Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Bulgaria, Hungary, Italy, Rumania and Slovenia are the leading countries having an average annual population growth rate ranging from – 1,4 % to – 0,40 %, losing their human powers with passing years, and having nations decreasing in number (Juravlev 2005). The most important reason for this serious decline in the population growth rate is the decrease in the birthrates in these countries. According to the data from "The Economist", the number of children per woman ranges from 1,00 to 1,25 in such EU countries as Bulgaria, Latvia, Slovenia, Spain, Estonia, Czech Republic, Hungary and Italy during the period of 2000–2005 (Juravlev 2005). Briefly, in great majority of the EU countries, even two children fall per woman.

With the problem of the population decline, the young population rates have been in decline and the aged population rates have been increasing in the EU countries. In 25 of the 27 EU member countries, the proportion of the 0–15 aged group within the total population is below 20 % and only in Ireland and Lithuania; it is a bit above 20 %. While this proportion is 31,7 % in Turkey, having the youngest and most dynamic population in Europe, it is around 15 % in Italy and Spain, and around 16 % in Bulgaria, Slovenia and Germany. It has been observed that the population of the young aged 0–15 in Turkey constituted a greater population than the total populations of Portugal and Belgium, exceeding 21 million. Thus, while the EU countries have been searching for the ways of increasing the fertility and solving the problem of aged population, Turkey has been searching for the ways of both meeting the basic needs, such as health, education, sport, culture and employment, of the child and student populations which are great in number and lengthening the average lifespan.

4. The Comparison between Turkey and the European Union Countries in Terms of Human Development Indexes

While the average per capita income reflects how developed and rich a country is, it is not enough to reflect the welfare of citizens. Therefore, UN has been carrying out Human Development Index measurements in order to measure the prosperity levels of different countries. Taking some particular coefficients in consideration, the Index is designed to measure the life expectancy, baby death rate, average per capita income and literacy in a country. In that way, different human development indexes are constructed and they are published in numerical values between 0 and 1. The countries with an index higher than 0,80 are accepted as well-developed, the ones having an index between 0,50 and 0,79 are accepted as partially developed and the countries with an index lower than 0,50 are considered underdeveloped (Juravlev 2005).

The data in Table 1 shows that the indexes are either 0,90 or higher in such countries as Luxembourg, Germany, France, Spain, Portugal, UK, Belgium, Netherlands, Ireland, Italy, Denmark, Sweden, Finland and Austria, and this shows that the EU consists of developed and prosperous countries. While the indexes vary between 0,80 and 0,90 in such formerly socialist countries as Hungary, Latvia, Slovenia and Poland, the indexes lower than 0,80 are met only in Bulgaria, Turkey and Romania.

As it is seen in the table, Bulgaria and Romania, which are going to be the new members of the EU, have the lowest indexes among the European countries. The political and economic destabilization during the post-socialist period has caused some serious social and demographic problems in those countries and kept them from reaching higher levels of prosperity. Besides these, while the Mediterranean countries such as Cyprus, Malta, Portugal and Greece and such new EU members as Poland, Hungary and Slovakia have lower indexes; Sweden, Finland and Denmark in the Northern Europe and Belgium, Netherlands and Luxembourg as the Benelux have high indexes. Therefore, the socioeconomic and demographic differences among the European countries are reflected in the human development index data.

In the world rankings based on the Index, Turkey was the 74th country in 1997, and fell down to the 86th position in 2000 and then to 96th in 2002 (Öymen, 2003). Despite being close to Romania in terms of the measurements, Turkey is still at the bottom among the European countries, and it shows that the country has to push through comprehensive reforms in many fields such as education, health, nutrition, professional life and standards of living. As some positive signs during the last 25 years, the birth rate has decreased, the population growth has slowed down, baby and children death rates have decreased, life expectancy has become longer and average per capita income has decreased. These signs indicate that Turkey is walking on a right way and it might get higher positions in the Index in the following years. Some illustrative examples of the development could be given here. In 1960, while 7,5% of the population was working in the industrial sector, the rate for the service sector was 17,6%. In 2002, the rates in question were 24% and 43% respectively. While the urban population formed the 25% of the general population in 1950, the rate in 2000 was 65%. The population growth, which was 28,5 per 1000 in 1960, was reduced down to 14,0 per 1000 in 2004 (Atalay 2004). Life expectancy was 66 years in 1990; but in 2005, it increased to 72 years. In 1990, the death rate of the children between the ages of 0-5 was 78 per 1000. In 2003, the rate was 39 out of every 1000 (Bulatov, 2005). It is an undoubted fact that Turkey has to increase such positive examples in number to be a prominent member of the European Union.

When the EU countries and Turkey are compared in terms of life expectancy, child death rates and literacy, some interesting results can be obtained. The EU countries do not show sharp differences among themselves in terms of life expectancy. While the life expectancies for men in Germany, France, Spain, Italy, Benelux and Scandinavian countries vary between 75 and 77 years, the female life expectancies are between 80 and 83 years of age. Thus, these countries have the nations with the longest life spans. In the former Soviet republics such as Latvia, Lithuania and Estonia, and in Bulgaria and Romania, life expectancies are lower than the average of the Union. In Romania, the male life expectancy is 67 years, the female life expectancy is 75 years; and the

country is home to the lowest life expectancy within the EU. In Turkey, the values are 74 years for women and 69 years for men. It can be seen that there is a close similarity between Turkey and Romania in terms of life expectancy, and the demographic data in both the countries are much lower than the average of the EU countries. In France, Spain and Italy, the average female life expectancy is 8 or 9 years longer than it is in Turkey. This shows that Turkey has not reached yet the level of the EU in terms of health services, nutrition, standards of living and conditions of employment.

In the prosperous EU countries, life expectancy is high and the proportion of the older people is much higher than it is in the other parts of the world. For instance, while the proportion of the people over 60 years old is 8% of the population in Turkey, 24% of the total population in Italy are older than 60. In 14 of the 27 EU countries, the proportions of the people over 60 exceed 20% of the total populations and up until 2025; it is expected to exceed 25%. Thus, it is expected in most of the EU countries that up until 2025, the people over 60 will be 25% of the total populations while the increase in Turkey is expected to be from 8% to 11%. In short, while the increase in the older population is a serious problem in the EU countries, the problem in Turkey is having a large young population and a life expectancy lower than it is in the EU. Therefore, Turkey seems to have the potential to be a source of employment for the EU countries in some specific professions.

The prosperous EU countries have the highest average median ages in the world. 18 of the 20 countries having the highest median ages in the world in 2001 were EU countries and the average median ages in those countries were varying between 37,5 and 40,2. During the same year, the average median age in Turkey was 25. In Finland, Belgium, Bulgaria, Greece, Sweden, Germany and Italy, the average median ages are between 39 and 40. They are comparatively lower in Great Britain, Czech Republic, France, Netherlands, Hungary, Austria, Slovenia, Latvia and Spain and between 37 and 38 (Juravlev 2005). It is a fact that in almost all the EU countries, the averages median ages are much higher than the world average because of the low birth rates and large older populations.

As the population growth has slowed and life expectancy has become higher in Turkey during the last 25 years, the average median age keeps increasing. While it was 19 in 1970, it exceeded 26 in 2005.

Europe is called "the old-continent" because of having the lowest birth rate, the longest life expectancy, the smallest young population and the largest older population. Within that old-continent, the oldest countries are the EU countries. According to the data in "The Economist Newspaper", 11 EU countries are among the 20 countries in the world that have the most 80 years old or older people in their total populations. For instance, the proportion of the 80 years old and older people was 5,1% in the total population in Sweden in 2000, and it was 4,0% in Denmark and 3,9% in Italy. (Juravlev 2005). In Italy, Greece, Germany, Bulgaria, Sweden and Belgium, the proportions of the people over 60 in total populations vary between 21% and 25% rises in these proportions up until 2050 is considered irrevocable.

In today's Turkey, more than a half of the total population consists of the citizens younger than 30 and the older population in the country is much lower than it is in the

European countries. In 2003, the proportion of the people between the ages of 0 and 15 was 32% while that of the people over 60 was hardly 9%. Nonetheless, even though Turkey has a different position among the European countries with its younger population, it is not isolated from the "older population" problem. In fact, the problem is an immediate one but it is not emphasized as one of the national problems as the proportion of the older people is still relatively low in the total population. It is thought that the traditional moral values and family structures in Turkey protect the elderly people and old age is a problem for only the isolated ones who have no family or friends (TUSİAD 2006).

Having resolved most of their educational problems, the EU countries do not have great differences among themselves in terms of literacy rates. The rates in 24 of the member countries vary between 98% and 100% and only 3 members have rates lower than 98%. Those countries are Cyprus (97%), Malta (93%) and Portugal (93%) and have the lowest literacy rates within the Union. Having a literacy rate of 87%, Turkey is at the bottom among the EU countries just as it is in terms of life expectancy. The urgent amendments and reforms needed to be adopted in the Turkish education system are the raise in the funds allocated for education, providing longer years of schooling for especially girls and decreasing the number of the illiterate citizens.

While the literacy rate was only 19,25% in Turkey in 1930, it reached 32,37% in 1950, 56,21% in 1970, and 80,46% in 1990. It is expected to have reached 88% in 2005 (Karabağ & Şahin 2003). However, despite the increase in the rates, it is a fact that Turkey is still far from the EU countries in terms of literacy and schooling. As the families do not usually let girls go to school in the Eastern and South-Eastern parts of Turkey, the general literacy rate decrease and the balance between boys and girls in terms of schooling shifts to the disadvantage of girls. The socioeconomic imbalances between the regions of the country are still dominant, and correcting them would contribute much to solving such problems as the migrations within the country, urbanization, the differences between the incomes and as well as the ones about education and schooling.

Together with life expectancy and literacy rates, child death rates are one of the criteria that determine the development indexes. Just as there are in life expectancy and literacy rates, there are big differences between Turkey and the EU countries in the child death rates. The rate in Turkey varies between 39 and 40 per thousand and it is ten times bigger than it is in such countries as Sweden and Finland. In general, the child death rates in the EU countries are lower than 10 in every thousand children. There are rates higher than that only in 5 countries. Romania with a rate of 22 per thousand and Bulgaria with 17 children in every thousand are the countries that have the highest child death rates. It is expected that those rates will go down in the two Balkan countries during the process of adaptation to the EU and ensuring the citizens' well-being. Having a child death rate that is two times bigger than the ones in Bulgaria and Romania, Turkey has to keep dealing with the quality of health services and standards of living.

5. The Comparison of Turkey and EU Countries According to Their Urbanization Features

Beginning from 1950s, Turkey has been experiencing a rapid urbanization process. While in 1927 urban population rate was 24%, in 2000 it raised to 65%. In the same

period urban population raised from 3.3 million to 44 million, which in other words means that it rose 13 times (Özer 2004). Beginning from 1940, urban population growth speed has passed the general population growth speed. The rapid urban population growth tempo in Turkey can be presented in numerical examples. For example, while in 1955 the general population growth speed in the country was 27,75 per thousand, the urban population growth speed was 55,67 per thousand. Again, while in 1990 the general population growth speed in the country was 21,71 per thousand, the urban population growth speed was 43,10 per thousand (Özer 2004). Factors that determined the rapid urbanization in Turkey have demographic, economic, social, psychological, law and political sources.

The fast but unplanned urbanization has brought many problems. Unhealthy and unplanned growing cities, illegal buildings surrounding the cities, infrastructure, environment and traffic problems are the most significant ones. The loose of population in the villages and in rural areas, the fast but unplanned growth of metropolitan cities, the loose of population in small cities and towns, and also as a result of interior migrations, the increase between the imbalance of population between regions and areas can be showed as other negative effects of the urbanization in Turkey. Today, in most of the EU states, the urban population proportion goes beyond 75%, moreover, in Britain, Belgium, Netherlands, Malta, and Luxemburg it goes beyond 90%. In the EU there are only seven countries, which have less urbanization rate than Turkey: Romania, Bulgaria, Latvia, Poland, Hungary, Slovenia, and Slovakia. Although the growing speed will decrease in the following years, the urbanization proportions will continue to increase. In this sense, it seems like Turkey will reinforce its place in the mid-rank.

When compared with the EU states, Turkey both remains below the urbanization rate and attracts attention with its crowded rural areas. Also, significantly differs from the EU states in urbanization dynamics, urbanization causes, development and results. While the attempts and progress in industrialization and service sector has made the cities in the EU attractive centres, and given lead to urbanization, in Turkey the economic, employment, education, and health problems of the villages have been the pushing force in determining the urbanization factors. The urbanization in Turkey has been caused more by the repulsiveness of the rural areas rather than the attractiveness of the cities, and as a result, uncontrolled migration and crooked urbanization has caused big metropolitans to be "suburbanized", which resulted in an unparallel development between urbanization and becoming a citizen of an urban.

6. Result

As seen in the numerical data provided in the article, and as it was seen in the discussion related to these, the states of EU do not form a unity in the sense of their demographic and social features. Very sharp and big differences are seen regarding both geographic and cultural, and also population features of these countries. Considering the probable membership of Turkey, very serious changes will be seen in the geography, geopolitics, economy, and culture of EU, as well as, in its social and demographic features. Undoubtedly, time will show which of these changes will help and which will hinder the unity, cooperation, and future of the EU. However, it is a fact that both EU

states and Turkey have to overcome some difficulties, and solve many problems. In the lines below, these problems have been briefly summarized.

Within the last quarter century, besides the politic, economic, and cultural problems, EU states have faced demographic problems, which have been considered as important and prior as others. The main social and demographic problems that the states of EU should solve can be stated as follows:

- Decrease in the national population parallel with the decrease in fertility problem,
- Decrease in proportions of youth population, and increase in proportions of old population, which means that societies are getting older problem,
- Increase in abortion, and illegitimate birth problem,
- Ascent in the age of first marriage and first birth problem,
- Spreading of family life without marriage, and increase in divorcement problem,
- Degeneration of the family, and loosing its importance problem,
- Decrease in the active population quantity, and manpower problem,
- Unavoidable refugee, and external migration problem,
- Ethnic-religious conflicts and minorities' problem.

Turkey, which is the only democratic and secular Muslim country governed by a republican system, is occupying a place in which Slavic, Arabic, Mediterranean, and Caucasian cultures meet, in a geocultural melting pot where different civilizations embrace. Turkey, which is the island of peace in the slippery and dangerous geography of Middle-East that is always in the spotlight because of economic and politic crisis, wars and conflicts, on one side, is a neighbor to Middle-East and Caspian countries, which have rich energy resources, on the other side, is a neighbor to Middle-East Republics that have a promising future, and to Orthodox states of NATO and EU. While this favorable geopolitical location provides Turkey with many advantages, it also brings some significant risks. Undoubtedly, Turkey will bring these advantages and political risks when it becomes a member of EU. Among these advantages and disadvantages population matter is attention catching.

When compared to the states of EU, Turkey is in the first place without a question regarding both birth proportions and population growth speed. The high population growth not only negatively affects different sectors like economy, health, education, employment, but also hinders the national development. However, negative characteristics like the concern taking population decrease in the states of EU, abortion, the high rate of divorcement, illegitimate birth, family life without marriage, the ageing of society cannot be a demonstrating demographic model for Turkey. On the contrary, Turkey should prevent these damaging socio-demographic developments of EU from flourishing in its society, and avoid the demographic crisis that the states of EU have experienced.

Turkey is the European country in which baby and child death rate is the highest. Additionally, considering the average per capita income and average life length, it is

below the medium of the EU. Yet, among the European states, the youth rate is the highest and old population rate is the lowest in Turkey. Today, population growth speed has fallen by 14 per thousand, and is expected to decrease up to 8 per thousand in the following 10-15 years.

Turkey, which has the 17th biggest population and 36th largest area in the world, is among the first 50 countries regarding human development index. Among the main reasons of this are the low rate of schools, and the high rate of illiterate people. The problem of education is one of the most significant problems that Turkey should solve. Briefly, Turkey is to show effort and sacrifice in meeting the education expenses that will rise because of population growth, and in increasing the rate of schools and the quality of education.

In the base of the internal migrations in Turkey, unplanned urbanization, spreading of slums, infrastructure problem, employment, education, and health problems, is the existence of imbalanced development and economy difference between the areas and regions. On one hand migration and settlement problems, on the other hand socio-demographic problems will continue to exist as long as these economic imbalances are not eliminated.

The changes in population that are going to be observed in Turkey within the following 20-30 years will make it more similar to European countries rather than Middle-Eastern countries. We can line up the population tendencies items, which show that Turkey is becoming more and more European, and is nearing the similar social and demographic characteristics with the states of the EU, as follows:

- Decrease in the rate of fertility and speed of population growth,
- Ascent in the age of first marriage and first birth,
- Increase in divorcements, and nuclear families with one child,
- Increase in the rates of urbanization and average per capita income,
- Increase in life expectancy, while baby and child death rates fall,
- Increase in population rate working in the industry and service sectors, while the population working in agriculture decreases,
- Increase in the number of universities and university graduates,
- Decrease in young population rate, while old population rate increases.

The examples above can be varied. However, the hard questions to answer are these. Will decrease in economic, social, and demographic differences between Turkey and the states of EU bring partnership in scientific, intellectual, cultural, and politic fields? As a result of these, can the image of Turkey in the eye of European, and the image of Europe in the eye of Turkish change, and will Turkish be accepted and welcomed by the other members of the old continent? Will the role of demographic features of EU and Turkey be consolidative or disjunctive in the membership of EU? It seems that all these questions can be replied within the following 10 years depending on Turkey's membership in the EU.

REFERENCES

- BULATOV, A. S. (2005) (Kolektiv Avtorov), Strani i Regioni Mira: Ekonomiko- Politiceskiy Spravochnik (Countries and Regions of the World: The Manual of Politics), İzdatelstvo Prospekt, Moskva.
- ALISOV, N. V. & HOREV, B. S. (2001) Ekonomicheskaya i Sotsialnaya Geografiya Mira (Economic and Social Geography of the World), İzdatelstvo Gardariki, Moskva.
- LUKANOV, A., Bojinov, N. & Dimitrov, S. (2005) Stranite v Sveta 2005-2006, Spravochnik (The World Countries 2005-2006), İzdatelstvo Gloriya Palas, Sofiya.
- ŞAHİN, C., DOĞANAY, H. & ÖZCAN, N. A. (2005) *Türkiye Coğrafyası (Geography of Turkey)*, Ankara.
- JURAVLEV, D. (2005) Mir v Tsifrah 2005 Karmanniy Spravochnik, (The World with Numbers) İzdatelstvo ZAO "Olimp-Biznes", Moskva.
- ATASOY, E. (2003) *Kıtalar ve Ülkeler Coğrafyası (Geography of Continents and Countries)*, Bursa: Ezgi Yayınevi.
- DOĞAN, E. E. (2005) *Avrupa'yla Dansımız (Our Dance with Europe)*, İstanbul: Emre Yayınevi.
- ŞEN, F. (2005) *Türkiye AB İlişkilerinde Dış Etkiler (External Effects in Turkey- EU Relations)*, Ankara: Ümit Yayınevi.
- CAN, H. & ÖZEN, Ç. (2005) *Türkiye-Avrupa Topluluğu Ortaklık Hukuku (Turkey- EU Partnership Law)*, Ankara: Gazi Kitabevi.
- TÜSİAD (2006) retrieved <http://www.tusiad.org/tr/turkish/rapor/demografik/html/sec6.html>
- LAVROV, S. B. & KALEDİN, N. V. (2003) Ekonomicheskaya, Sotsialnaya i Politiceskaya Geografiya Mira. Regioni i Strani, (Economic, Social and Political Geography of the World) İzdatelstvo Gardariki, Moskva.
- ATALAY, İ. (2005) *Genel Beşeri ve Ekonomik Coğrafya (General Human and Economic Geography)*, İzmir: META Yayınevi.
- ATALAY, İ. (2004) *Türkiye Coğrafyası ve Jeopolitiği (Geography and Geopolitics of Turkey)*, İzmir: META Yayınevi.
- GÜNER, İ. & ERTÜRK, M. (2005) *Kıtalar ve Ülkeler Coğrafyası (Geography of Continents and Countries)*, Ankara: Nobel Yayınları.
- ÖZER, İ. (2004) *Kentleşme ve Kentlileşme (Urbanization and City-Dweller)*, Bursa: Ekin Yayınevi.
- ÜLGER, İ. K. (2005) *Avrupa Birliğinin ABC'si (ABC of EU)*, Ankara: Sinemis Yayınevi.
- DEVEDCIEV, M. (1998) *Obshta Geodemografiya (General Geodemography)*, İzdatelstvo Abagar, Veliko Tarnovo.
- BAÇ, M. M. (2001) *Türkiye ve Avrupa: Soğuk Savaş Sonrası İlişkiler (Turkey and Europe: Relations After Cold War)*, İstanbul: Alfa Yayınları.
- MINKOV, M. (1999) *Demografiya (Geodemography)*, İzdatelstvo Albatros, Sofiya.
- KAR, M & ARIKAN, H. (2003) *Avrupa Birliği Ortak Politikalar ve Türkiye (EU Common Policies and Turkey)*, İstanbul: Beta Yayınevi.
- MOUSSIS, N. (2004) *Avrupa Birliği Politikalarına Giriş Rehberi (The Manual of Introduction to EU Politic)*, İstanbul: Mega Yayınevi.
- ÖYMEN, O. (2003) *Türkiye'nin Gücü (Power of Turkey)*, İstanbul: Remzi Kitabevi.
- ÖYMEN, O. (2005) *Ulusal Çıkarlar (National Interests)*, İstanbul: Remzi Kitabevi.
- SLAVEYKOV, P. & Zlatunova, D. (2005) *Geografiya na Balgariya (Geography of Bulgaria)*, İzdatelstvo Paradigma, Sofiya.
- KARABAĞ, S. & ŞAHİN, S. (2003) *Türkiye Beşeri ve Ekonomik Coğrafyası (Turkey Human and Economic Geography)*, Ankara: Gündüz Yayınevi.

ÇALIŞ, Ş. H. (2006) *Türkiye-Avrupa Birliği İlişkileri (Turkey-EU Relations)*, Ankara: Nobel Yayınevi.

APPENDIX

Table 1. Some Characteristics EU Member and Candidate Countries

Countries	Area (km ²)	Population (1 000)	Population Density (person/km ²)	Urbanization (%)	Population Growth (%)	Human Development Indexes
1. Germany	357 031	82 476	231	88	-0,17	0,921
2. France	549 087	60 144	111	76	0,35	0,925
3. Spain	505 124	41 060	81	78	0,06	0,918
4. Portugal	91 916	10 062	109	66	0,12	0,896
5. Great Britain	244 101	59 251	143	90	0,08	0,930
6. Belgium	30 538	10 318	340	97	0,04	0,937
7. Netherlands	35 518	16 149	389	90	0,27	0,938
8. Luxembourg	2 586	453	175	92	0,31	0,930
9. Ireland	70 295	3 956	56	59	0,67	0,930
10. Italy	301 338	57 423	190	67	-0,09	0,916
11. Greece	131 957	10 976	83	68	-0,01	0,892
12. Denmark	43 094	5 364	125	85	0,08	0,930
13. Czech Republic	78 866	10 236	130	75	-0,17	0,861
14. Hungary	93 030	9 887	106	65	-0,37	0,837
15. Poland	312 685	38 587	123	63	0,05	0,841
16. Malta	316	394	1 247	91	0,50	0,856
17. Sweden	449 974	8 876	20	83	0,07	0,941
18. Finland	338 150	5 207	16	59	0,07	0,930
19. Slovakia	49 035	5 402	110	58	0,10	0,836
20. Lithuania	65 300	3 444	53	69	-0,24	0,824
21. Latvia	64 589	2 307	76	60	-0,62	0,811
22. Estonia	45 227	1 323	29	69	-0,42	0,833
23. Cyprus	5 869	622	106	70	0,51	0,891
24. Austria	83 858	8 116	97	67	-0,03	0,929
25. Slovenia	20 273	1 984	98	49	-0,09	0,881
26. Bulgaria	110 910	7 890	70	58	-0,63	0,795
27. Romania	238 391	22 334	94	55	-0,15	0,773
28. Turkey	779 452	71 325	92	66	1,2	0,734

Table 2: Turks Population in EU Countries (2002)

Countries	Turks Origin		Turks (EU Citizens)	
	Total Population	Turkey Citizens	Residence Country Citizens	Rate EU Citizens
Belgium	110 000	67 000	43 000	39,1
Denmark	53 000	39 000	14 000	26,4
Germany	2 642 000	1 912 000	730 000	27,6
France	370 000	196 000	174 000	47,0
Netherlands	270 000	96 000	174 000	64,4
Austria	200 000	120 000	80 000	40,0
Sweden	37 000	14 000	23 000	62,2
Great Britain	70 000	37 000	33 000	47,1
Other EU Countries	20 000	19 000	1 000	5,0
EU – Total	3 772 000	2 500 000	1 272 000	33,7

Table 3: Some Demographic and Social Characteristics EU Member and Candidate Countries (2002)

Countries	Average Life (Year)*	Literacy (%)	Birth/ Died (per thousand)	Died (per thousand)	Child Died (per thousand)	Populaton (Age)	
						0-15 Age	60 + Age
1. Germany	E-76, K-82	100	8,7	10,6	5	15,6	23,2
2. France	E-76, K-83	99	12,8	9,3	6	18,8	20,5
3. Spain	E-76, K-83	98	9,3	9,1	5	14,6	21,2
4. Portugal	E-73, K-80	93	11,0	10,8	6	16,7	20,8
5. Great Britain	E-76, K-81	99	11,0	10,4	5	19,1	20,7
6. Belgium	E-75, K-82	98	10,8	10,0	6	17,4	22,1
7. Netherlands	E-76, K-82	99	12,1	8,9	6	18,5	18,2
8. Luxembourg	E-74, K-81	100	12,5	11,4	6	-	-
9. Ireland	E-75, K-80	100	14,4	8,3	7	21,5	15,2
10. Italy	E-77, K-83	99	8,8	10,9	6	14,3	24,1
11. Greece	E-76, K-82	98	9,1	10,5	6	15,1	23,4
12. Denmark	E-75, K-80	100	11,8	11,3	6	18,3	20,0
13. Czech Republic	E-72, K-79	100	8,8	10,8	5	16,4	18,3
14. Hungary	E-68, K-77	99	8,8	13,5	7	17,0	19,7
15. Poland	E-70, K-78	100	9,6	10,0	9	19,2	16,6
16. Malta	E-76, K-81	93	11,2	7,3	8	-	-
17. Sweden	E-77, K-83	100	10,3	10,6	4	18,3	22,3
18. Finland	E-74, K-82	100	10,8	9,8	4	18,1	19,9
19. Slovakia	E-70, K-79	100	10,2	9,8	9	19,5	15,4
20. Lithuania	E-64, K-76	100	8,8	11,6	12	20,1	19,3
21. Latvia	E-64, K-76	100	7,8	13,6	13	18,0	21,2
22. Estonia	E-64, K-77	100	8,7	13,6	11	18,0	21,2
23. Cyprus	E-74, K-79	97	19,0	9,1	7	-	-
24. Austria	E-75, K-82	98	8,6	9,9	6	16,7	20,7
25. Slovenia	E-72, K-80	100	8,3	9,8	5	15,9	19,2
26. Bulgaria	E-71, K-78	99	7,9	15,1	17	15,8	21,7
27. Romania	E-67, K-75	98	10,4	12,5	22	18,2	18,9
28. Turkey	E-69, K-74	87	20,9	6,0	39 [†]	31,7	8,0

* E – Average Life- Male K – Average Life- Female.