

GLOBAL TURKEY  IN EUROPE

**Istituito Affari Internazionali (IAI), Istanbul Policy Center (IPC)
and Stiftung Mercator cordially invite you to a workshop on**

ENGAGING CIVIL SOCIETIES IN TURKEY AND THE EU: CAN THEY BREAK THROUGH THE DEADLOCK?

ISTANBUL POLICY CENTER
BANKALAR CAD. NO:2 MINERVA HAN, KARAKÖY, İSTANBUL
1 FEBRUARY 2019, 10:00 – 17:00

At a time when Turkey's political connections to the European Union have been frayed and official channels of communications have effectively been blocked, civil society offers an important avenue of interaction. Through various activities and operations, civil society actors and organisations in Turkey have championed Ankara's bid for EU-membership over the years, and continue to raise awareness on the importance of maintaining closer bilateral relations. Accordingly, this workshop will look at how Turkish civil society have supported the accession process in the past, and now that the accession process is at stand-still, will discuss how it could influence public opinion in both Turkey and across the EU in favour of closer cooperation. The workshop will also address how Turkish and EU-citizens could in return support their respective civil societies in achieving this goal.

PROGRAMME

10:00 Welcome and Introduction

NONA MIKHELIDZE Head of the Eastern Europe and Eurasia Programme, Istituto Affari Internazionali

PELIN OĞUZ Mercator-IPC Fellowship Coordinator, Istanbul Policy Center

JAMES RIZZO Head of Istanbul Office, Stiftung Mercator

10:15 I Panel – Engaging civil societies in Turkey and the EU

Speakers:

TEZCAN ERALP ABAY Coordinator, Civil Society Development Center (STGM)

“The role and activities of STGM in the past 15 years in Turkey and EU relations from a civil society perspective”

SEZİN DEREÇİ Project Coordinator, Third Sector Foundation of Turkey (TÜSEV)

“Promoting an enabling environment for CSOs in Turkey: opportunities and challenges”

ÇİSEL İLERİ Research Director, Economic Development Foundation (IKV)

“The Participation of Civil Society in Turkey’s EU Accession Process”

11:00 Open debate

12:00 Lunch

13:00 II Panel - Engaging civil societies in Turkey and the EU: Can they break through the deadlock?

Paper giver:

ÖZGE ZİHNİOĞLU Associate Professor, Department of Political Science and International Relations, Bahcesehir University

Workshop moderated by:

MIA FORBES PIRIE The Policy Partners

17:00 End of workshop