



Expression of interest

Contact details

Country	Turkey
Name of the organisation	Sabancı University
Name of the contact	Eda Acara
Phone	+905367423453
Email	eda.acara@sabanciuniv.edu

Short description of the organisation

ABOUT SABANCI UNIVERSITY (SU)

Established in 1996, Sabancı University (SU) is internationally recognized as one of the most innovative and research-oriented universities in Turkey. At SU, academic activities are performed within the framework of three faculties composed of non-departmental and interdisciplinary programs: the Faculty of Engineering and Natural Sciences, the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences and the School of Management. As of 2023 SU has been running, 11 undergraduate, 52 graduate and 17 PhD programs. Within the scope of these programs University offers a highly interdisciplinary education to approximately 4405 undergraduate and 989 graduate students. SU currently has 289 full-time and 148 part-time faculty members in its three faculties.

SU has been ranked among top 500 universities in the world and 1st in Turkey according to The World University Rankings 2023. SU has been ranked 108th in The Young University Rankings 2022 (3rd in Turkey), 44th in The Emerging Economies University Rankings 2022 (1st in Turkey), and 78th in The Asia University Rankings 2022 (3rd in Turkey) in the same year. According to the results of the World University Rankings 2023 by subject, SU was ranked among top 200 universities in the world (1st in Turkey) in Social Sciences, among top 300 universities in the world (2nd in Turkey) in Engineering & Technology, among 400 universities in the world (3rd in Turkey) in Business and Economics, among top 600 universities in the world (5th in Turkey) in Computer Science, among top 800 universities in the world (6th in Turkey) in Physical Sciences.

The development of the projects initiated by Sabancı University with national and international institutions is an important indicator for the systematic management of the research process. As of September 2022, the active research funding size is nearly €35 M with 288 projects, with 47% of the projects being generated from national foundation sources, %32 from TÜBİTAK, 15% from private sector, 19% from non-profit organizations and universities, and 34% from European Commission programmes, of which:

- SU has 16 EC FP6 projects (Total Budget: €3.5M); 47 EC FP7 projects; 31 Marie Curie Grants (17 IRG, 9 CIG, 3 ITN, 1 IOF, 1 IRSES), 10 Cooperation Projects, 3 Capacities Projects, 3 FET Flagship Projects (Total Budget: € 6.4M).
- Under Horizon 2020 innovation and research framework program, a total of 39 projects have been funded: 6 CSA, 1 ECSEL RIA, 2 ERC, 2 EuroHPC RIA, 1 IA, 10 MSCA and 17 RIA
- In Horizon EUROPE, SU has recently been funded 3 projects of which 1 as Coordinator.
- Besides the Framework Program SU has also 26 other EU funded projects: 12 Jean Monnet Projects. 2 ERASMUS+, 9 EEN (COSME), 1 IPA and 2 EIT Urban Mobility

Since 2000, SU faculty and researchers have made more than 7250 scientific and technical publications. Publications per full-time faculty was 3.1 and publications in Q1 journals was 66,7% in 2022 (Scopus/All publication types). Sabancı University filed 30 patent applications and have 24



granted patents in 2022. As of May 2022, Inovent has 11 active companies started by Sabancı University faculty and students in its portfolio, for which Inovent provides establishment and acceleration support.

Short description of the research group

Istanbul Policy Center (IPC) at Sabancı University is a global policy research institution specializing in key social and political issues ranging from democratization to climate change and transatlantic relations to conflict resolution and mediation. IPC organizes and conducts its research under six main clusters:

- The Istanbul Policy Center-Sabancı University-Stiftung Mercator Initiative
- Climate Change
- Democratization and Institutional Reform
- SHURA Energy Transition Center
- Urbanization and Local Governance
- Conflict Resolution, Mediation and Living Together

Since 2001, IPC has provided decision-makers, opinion leaders, and other major stakeholders with objective analyses and innovative policy recommendations.

The Center's value-added contribution to academia and the public policy sector stems from its ability to track these developments closely and offer insightful evaluations of their meaning for Türkiye's global aspirations in a rapidly integrating world. Furthermore, IPC stands out from many of its peers with its exceptional access to intellectual capital and vast reserves of scientific knowledge at Sabancı University. IPC thus offers policymakers, academics, and young researchers a unique platform where sound academic research in social sciences shapes hands-on policy work.

Specific skills and proposed activities related to the topic

Indicate the specific skills and competence in relation with «HORIZON-CL5-2024-D1-01-05: Next generation low-emission, climate-resilient pathways and NDCs for a future aligned with the Paris Agreement»

Türkiye is eligible to participate in Horizon Europe and can engage as a coordinator or partner as a Widening country.

The Call aligns with the Center's research focus and projects, both ongoing and finalized. Acknowledging the complexities of democratization, climate change, security issues, and polarization, the IPC has consolidated its efforts to craft high-quality, evidence-based, and independent policy recommendations. Since 2011, with a team of 41 researchers and six research clusters, the IPC has developed a portfolio of 119 research initiatives, becoming a hub for scientific dialogue. This is evidenced by organizing nearly 700 events and publishing over 300 reports, policy briefs, and op-eds, circulated among key stakeholders globally.

The IPC's adaptation to the digital era has notably broadened its outreach, especially for those beyond Istanbul. The transition to online platforms has increased access to our work. Weekly online webinars and programs have allowed us to reach more viewers, particularly those outside of Istanbul and Türkiye who were unable to attend our events in person before the pandemic. In addition to the Climate Café Talks, Nature and Climate, and Istanbul Perspectives event series, we broadcast the Salgın ve Toplum and Gıdanın Politik Ekolojisi webinar series. We continue broadcasting the Nasıl Bir Dünya? Nasıl Bir Türkiye? program in partnership with Medyascope, complementing the IPC's commitment to climate governance and fostering a rights-based discourse on climate action.



The IPC's Democratization and Institutional Reform cluster, supported by the Checks and Balances Network (CBN), has united nearly 300 NGOs and tens of thousands of supporters to strengthen Turkey's democratic framework through monitoring, policymaking, and advocacy. Since its inception in 2011 during the drafting of a new constitution, the CBN, led by the IPC, has worked to reinforce the system of checks and balances in Turkey, critical for the country's democratization. The CBN functions through "reform groups" in seven areas where reforms are essential for an effective system of checks and balances, addressing the constitution, legislative, executive, judiciary, media, local governments, and civil society.

Focusing on good governance in an increasingly urbanized Türkiye and the world, we have continued to engage key stakeholders and develop projects to discuss rights, freedoms, inequalities, and access to basic needs in cities within our Urbanization and Local Governance research field. Over the past four years, we have also explored participation in urban life, citizen-focused applications, and city development in light of quality of life and climate crisis concerns.

The Conflict Resolution, Mediation, and Living Together cluster continues to foster dialogue on contentious issues such as migration, the Kurdish Question, and women's roles in peace processes.

Working to strengthen ties between Türkiye and the EU, in 2023, the IPC–Sabancı University–Stiftung Mercator Initiative marked its twelfth year. The Initiative has continued to enhance relations between Germany and Türkiye. Over the past decade, we have welcomed 70 Mercator-IPC Fellows and 26 Senior Fellows and have collaborated with 30 national and international institutions.

Through the Climate Change Program, the IPC has facilitated stakeholder capacity building and policy development, contributing to the low-carbon transition of the energy sector. This effort is highlighted by the creation of the SHURA Energy Transition Center, positioning the IPC as a leader in innovative energy strategies. Within the climate change program, we currently manage three ongoing projects. In the 'Promoting Just Transition in Türkiye (TUR02 Activity)', we evaluate coal phase-down/out scenarios in Çanakkale and Muğla, analyzing the social and economic impacts and the potential for new livelihoods in coal regions. This builds on previous studies of cost-benefit analyses under low or zero-emission scenarios, including a comprehensive decarbonization scenario for Türkiye. In the 'Raising Ambition' Project, we are developing an Energy Policy Simulator (EPS, <https://energypolicy.solutions/>) and conducting policy gap analyses to devise ambitious policy tools and scenarios for Türkiye in close collaboration with the Climate Policy Lab at Tufts University. Lastly, the 'Steel Sector Decarbonization-Introductory Work in Turkey (funded by the ECF)' project provides a detailed analysis of what decarbonization entails for the steel sector, focusing on a review of available and emerging technological options and an understanding of stakeholders' positions concerning decarbonization prospects in the sector.

Expected outcomes

Projects should contribute to all of the following expected outcomes:

Requirements

How we will address them

Methodologies and approaches to promote With Turkey's upcoming Nationally Determined



improved transparency, consistency, and clarity of Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emission reduction commitments.

Contributions (NDC), the Istanbul Policy Center Climate Cluster can make NDC modeling and possible energy transition scenario building more participatory, involving various production sectors, NGOs, think tanks, and universities. In the project, IPC can develop methodologies to assess the impacts of net-zero transitions in collaboration with stakeholders using digital tools. These tools include serious planning games and online smart indices for scenario building to co-produce: 1) alternative economic mitigation scenarios, 2) community capacity for an equitable energy transition, and 3) stakeholder understanding across various governance scales. This process will highlight areas of conflict and potential cooperation."

The following are the selected and relevant projects by the IPC:

- The Istanbul Policy Center Climate Cluster has published three reports focusing on modelling decarbonization pathways for the steel and electricity sectors. These reports aim to present future models for a feasible, realistic, and ambitious climate agenda for Turkey. Here are links to reports: <https://ipc.sabanciuniv.edu/en/publications-94a0d953>
- IPC's continuous work on modelling decarbonization pathways for Turkey can serve as a baseline for designing a complex and comprehensive policy architecture. Latest report, "Turkey's Decarbonization Roadmap: The Timeline and Geography of Transformation (2020-2050)" illustrates the timeline and geographies of potential renewable energy transition until 2050.
- In Raising Ambition Project, we are building an Energy policy simulator (EPS, <https://energypolicy.solutions/>) and conduct policy gap analysis to develop ambitious policy tools and scenarios for Turkey, in close collaboration with Climate Policy Lab at Tufts University.
- In 'COBENEFITS - Mobilizing the Co-Benefits of Climate Change Mitigation through Capacity Building among Public Policy Institutions' in cooperation with the Institute for Advanced Sustainability Studies (IASS) funded by the



	<p>International Climate Initiative of the Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety of Germany, we assessed cobenefits in accordance with energy transition scenarios.</p>
<p>Production of more diversified, granular, and customised state-of-the-art pathways consistent with the objectives of the Paris Agreement at global, national and sectoral levels in a diverse selection of countries, better reflecting different national circumstances and constraints and promoting synergies between climate action and other policy objectives.</p>	<p>With Turkey's upcoming Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC), the Istanbul Policy Center Climate Cluster aims to make NDC modeling and discussion more participatory, involving various production sectors, NGOs, think tanks, and universities.</p> <p>The Istanbul Policy Center Climate Cluster has published three reports focusing on modelling decarbonization pathways for the steel and electricity sectors. These reports aim to present future models for a feasible, realistic, and ambitious climate agenda for Turkey. Here are links to reports: https://ipc.sabanciuniv.edu/en/publications-94a0d953</p>
<p>Science-based evaluation of selected existing pathways, policies, and measures to implement NDCs and Long-Term Strategies to achieve the goals of the Paris Agreement.</p>	<p>With Turkey's upcoming Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC), the Istanbul Policy Center Climate Cluster aims to make NDC modeling and discussion more participatory, involving various production sectors, NGOs, think tanks, and universities.</p> <p>The Istanbul Policy Center Climate Cluster has published three reports focusing on modelling decarbonization pathways for the steel and electricity sectors. These reports aim to present future models for a feasible, realistic, and ambitious climate agenda for Turkey. Here are links to reports: https://ipc.sabanciuniv.edu/en/publications-94a0d953</p>
<p>Extended use of modelling, climate change scenarios and mitigation pathways based on provision of tailor-made tools, trainings, and services to end-users.</p>	<p>In the project IPC can assist in developing digital tools and trainings for relevant actors to effectively communicate model results to citizens, and other sector stakeholders.</p> <p>IPC Climate Cluster members possess extensive experience in teaching and training within civil society, underscored by strong ties with the climate community in Turkey. This positions us as a valuable ally in international projects, particularly as a local partner.</p> <p>The following are the selected and relevant projects by the IPC:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In Raising Ambition Project, we are building a Energy policy simulator (EPS,

	<p>https://energypolicy.solutions/) and conduct policy gap analysis to develop ambitious policy tools and scenarios for Türkiye, in close collaboration with Climate Policy Lab at Tufts University.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In 'Promoting Just Transition in Türkiye (TUR02 Activity)', we evaluate coal phase-down/out scenarios in Çanakkale and Muğla, analyzing social and economic impacts and prospects for new livelihoods in coal regions. This builds on previous studies of cost-benefit analyses under low or zero emission scenarios, including a comprehensive decarbonization scenario for Türkiye. • 'Steel Sector Decarbonization-Introductory Work in Turkey (funded by the ECF)' provide a detailed analysis of what decarbonization means for the steel sector, with a particular focus on a review of the available and emerging technological options but also an understanding of stakeholders' positions vis-à-vis decarbonization prospects in the sector.
<p>Enhanced international cooperation on identification and implementation of effective mitigation strategies that are aligned with the objectives of the Paris Agreement.</p>	<p>In the project, IPC can disseminate information and offer critical support for policy development and training by providing evidence-based insights. We have been conducting rigorous impact assessments to inform EU Missions and guide strategic decisions.</p> <p>With further development of digital tools, engaging the public through outreach programs.</p>
<p>Improved knowledge base to inform the UNFCCC processes, including the design and revision of post-2030 NDCs and the Global Stocktake in 2028, as well as major international scientific assessments such as the IPCC and IPBES reports.</p>	<p>In the project, IPC can disseminate information and offer critical support for policy development and training by providing evidence-based insights. We have been conducting rigorous impact assessments to inform EU Missions and guide strategic decisions.</p> <p>With further development of digital tools, engaging the public through outreach programs.</p> <p>The following are the selected and relevant projects by the IPC:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In Raising Ambition Project, we are building a Energy policy simulator (EPS, https://energypolicy.solutions/) and conduct policy gap analysis to develop ambitious policy tools and scenarios for Türkiye, in close collaboration with



	<p>Climate Policy Lab at Tufts University.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• In 'Promoting Just Transition in Türkiye (TUR02 Activity)', we evaluate coal phase-down/out scenarios in Çanakkale and Muğla, analyzing social and economic impacts and prospects for new livelihoods in coal regions. This builds on previous studies of cost-benefit analyses under low or zero emission scenarios, including a comprehensive decarbonization scenario for Türkiye.• 'Steel Sector Decarbonization-Introductory Work in Turkey (funded by the ECF)' provide a detailed analysis of what decarbonization means for the steel sector, with a particular focus on a review of the available and emerging technological options but also an understanding of stakeholders' positions vis-à-vis decarbonization prospects in the sector.
--	---

References

Previous research projects on the national/international level

Related articles

Project acronym / starting date / Programme (H2020, national etc.)	Main objectives	Main activities	Role in the project
FPI/2021/EA-RP/0004 Project processing number: 71.3048.7-001.00 Support to the EU's Bilateral Relations with Strategic Partners on Climate-related Policies and Investments; European Commission 2023-2024	The overall objective of TUR02 Activity is to investigate potential coal phase-down/out scenarios focusing on its social and economic gains and losses and possibilities for alternative livelihoods in selected coal areas, building on earlier studies that focused on cost-benefit analysis in case of low emission or zero emission scenarios, including a major decarbonization scenario in Türkiye	Field work in two locations along with assessment of policy gaps and alternative employment scenarios.	IPC coordinates the "Promoting Just Transition in Türkiye (TUR02 Activity)" component of the larger EUCDs project.



<p>Climate Change and Policy Building for Turkey - IV) - Grant ref no: 1448413; Stiftung Mercator</p> <p>2022-2023</p>	<p>This project aims to coordinate different policy-relevant works under IPC's climate change cluster, as well as to continue advancing 3 key areas: climate governance, climate-related energy policies, and international negotiations (including reflections on EU/Germany).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 	<p>IPC as the coordinator</p>
<p>Decarbonization2_Cross-Cutting_Grant on Long-term Decarbonization of the Turkish Economy (Grant ref no: G-2208-64559; European Climate Foundation)</p> <p>2022-2023</p>	<p>This grant is in the Cross-Cutting sector and is designated to undertake outreach, advocacy and communications work for the report on the medium-term (until 2030) investment needs required for the long-term decarbonization of the Turkish economy, with a particular focus on the power sector.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policy modelling while assessing future renewable energy scenarios and roadmaps with regional implications. 	<p>IPC as coordinator</p>
<p>Pool Fund for International Energy (PIE); European Climate Foundation</p> <p>2022-2023</p>	<p>STEEL SECTOR DECARBONIZATION – Introductory Work in Turkey: The objective of this grant is to provide a detailed analysis of what decarbonization means for the steel sector, with a particular focus on a review of the available and emerging technological options but also an understanding of stakeholders' positions vis-à-vis decarbonization prospects in the sector.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Field work with relevant stakeholders to assess potential roadmaps for decarbonization in the steel sector of Turkey. 	<p>IPC as coordinator</p>
<p>Independent Institute for Environmental Issues (UfU) e.V</p> <p>2020-2022</p>	<p>COBENEFITS - Mobilizing the Co-Benefits of Climate Change Mitigation through CapacityBuilding among Public Policy Institutions in cooperation with the Institute for Advanced Sustainability Studies (IASS) funded by the International Climate Initiative of the Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety of Germany.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Co-benefit scenario building and policy gap analysis 	<p>IPC as coordinator</p>



<p>Long-term Decarbonisation trajectories for the Turkish economy; European Climate Foundation 2020-2022</p>	<p>This grant is in the Power sector and is designated to identify and mainstream long-term decarbonisation trajectories for the Turkish economy, with particular focus on coal and fossil fuel phase-out in the electricity sector.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policy modelling while assessing future renewable energy scenarios and roadmaps. 	<p>IPC as coordinator</p>
<p>Climate Change and Policy Building for Turkey – I , II, III Stiftung Mercator 2016-2022</p>	<p>The overarching goal of the project , named Climate Change and Policy Building for Turkey – I & II is to enhance communication among various stakeholders involved in climate policy within Turkey. By leveraging its resources, the project aspires to develop practical and dedicated climate policies for Turkey in anticipation of the first facilitative dialogue at COP 24 in 2018 under the Paris Agreement, with a forward-looking approach to COP 26 in 2020, which may be hosted by Turkey. In Climate Change and Policy Building for Turkey – III, initiative prioritizes the progression of Turkey's climate change policies and the elevation of public awareness, ultimately striving to shift the nation's stance from a position of 'no commitment' to one of 'climate responsibility'.</p>	<p>Stakeholder engagement, advocacy and multilevel communication</p>	<p>IPC as coordinator</p>
<p>RENPET (Reconceptualising European Power in an Era of Turmoil: Contestation, Relevance and Sustainability) 2021-2024 Erasmus + Project</p>	<p>The overall objective of climate change studies within the Initiative is to advance the climate change policies of Turkey and raise public awareness. The initiative's main objective is to change Turkey's climate policy from a “no commitment” approach to a “climate responsible” approach.</p>	<p>RENPET deepens the dialogue and fosters exchange between the academics and practitioners, through regular activities and interactions</p>	<p>Senem Aydın-Düzgit, IPC Research and Academic Affairs Coordinator, Senior Scholar as the Project Partner</p>



<p>Enabling Effective Citizen Participation March 2021-March 2024 Swiss International Development Agency (SIDA)-funded</p>	<p>Project aims to establish a strong system of checks through a new democratic constitution, reform of institutions, and greater participation, transparency and accountability. The concept of "checks and balances" provides a framework for distributing state powers among diverse institutions and actors in ways that prevent abuses of power and ensure the rights and needs of citizens Project website: https://www.dengedenetleme.org/</p>		<p>IPC as Coordinator</p>
<p>Mecliste.ORG 2017-2018 British Council-funded</p>	<p>Project website: mecliste.org</p>	<p>Citizens would acquire means and skills to bring parliament under sustained pressure to improve legislative and oversight duties and become more accountable to citizens.</p>	<p>IPC as Coordinator</p>
<p>"Sustainable Urban Policies: The City-Regions in Turkey in terms of Quality of Life" 2020-2023 TUBITAK 1003</p>	<p>Three-year project coordinated by Prof. Fuat Keyman aims to critically evaluate objects and material qualities, intramural relationships, along with the current situation and the process of change across nine city-regions: Bursa, Eskisehir, Izmir, Adana and Mersin, Gaziantep, Diyarbakir, Konya, Kayseri, and Samsun. The project will develop comparative and sustainable political proposals for achieving higher living standards in Turkey and share them with central/local administrative branches and local sectors.</p>	<p>To critically evaluate these cities-regions, to reveal their specificities and differences, and to develop sustainable and comparative policy recommendations for high (participatory) urban quality of life in Turkey and to share them with decision-makers, central/local governments and local actors.</p>	<p>IPC as the Coordinator</p>