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2013

Online at <https://mpra.ub.uni-muenchen.de/43550/>

MPRA Paper No. 43550, posted 04 Jan 2013 06:11 UTC

Economics Research Ranking Place of Turkey in Europe

Abstract

This research article evaluates the research rankings of economists and economics departments of Turkey with respect to the top 10 economists and departments in Europe using *RePEc* data base as of December 2012. This article also provides some useful policy recommendations for improving the research rankings of Turkish economists and economics institutions.

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Introduction

RePEc (Research Papers in Economics <http://ideas.repec.org/>) is a voluntary organization which was established in 1992 with the aim of distributing all kinds of economic research papers. As of December 2012, *RePEc* has more than 34000 registered economists from over 75 countries. More than half of these registered authors are from the continent of Europe. In addition to authors, *RePEc* has also around 6000 economic research institutions in economics in world wide of which about half of them are in Europe.

RePEc has got a very extensive online economics library with all kind of economics materials ranging from articles to research notes with over 3300 discussion papers and 1500 economics journals. The number of downloaded materials from this source is in excess of half a million every month and this has been significantly growing every month.

On utilizing this extensive data base, *RePEc* has been publishing research ranking of economists and research institutions in economics with the frequencies of month, quarter and annual for individual, country, continent, etc. These rankings are based on 35 different criterion and the research rankings are presented in the following internet link: <http://ideas.repec.org/top/>. The *RePEc* rankings may not be the most accurate, however they are so far the most comprehensive and the most up-to-date.

Economics Research Ranking of Turkey with respect to Europe

As of December 2012, there are 18270 registered authors and 2938 institutions from Europe in data base of *RePEc*. Table 1 is formed from the December 2012 *RePEc* statistics and displays only the top 10 research institutions in economics in Europe based on the average of 35 research performance criterion.

Table 1: Top 10 Economics Research Institute in Europe

1. London School of Economics, UK
 2. Department of Economics, Oxford University, UK
 3. Barcelona Graduate School of Economics, Spain
 4. Toulouse School of Economics, France
 5. Paris School of Economics, France
 6. Department of Economics, University College London, UK
 7. European Central Bank
 8. Institute for the Strategy of Labor, Bonn, Germany
 9. Centre for Economic Policy Research, London, UK
 10. Faculty of Economics, Cambridge University, UK
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Source: <http://ideas.repec.org/top/top.europe.html> (access date 03/01/2013)

According to Table 1, the research institutions in economics seem to be dominated by British organizations in which half of them are in the UK. Except the Centre for Economic Policy Research, other British economics research institutes offer degree programmes both at undergraduate and graduate levels. France has two research institutions in economics offering only graduate programmes in English. Similarly, Spain has one graduate research institution in economics in the medium of English.

Table 2 provides the research performance place of Turkish economics research institutions with respect to Europe. Table 2 contains only 6 Turkish institutions which managed to be in the top 12.5% of the December 2012 *RePEc* ranking.

Table 2: Top Turkish Economics Research Institutions in Europe

1. Department of Economics, Bilkent University	(161)
2. Economics Research Department of Central Bank of Turkey	(163)
3. Department of Economics, Koc University	(215)
4. Department of Economics, Middle East Technical University	(278)
5. Department of Economics, Sabanci University	(328)
6. Department of Economics, Bogazici University	(351)

Note: the figures in parantheses indicate the exact place of the Turkish institutions out of 2938 European research institutions in economics.

Source : <http://ideas.repec.org/top/top.europe.html> (access date 03/01/2013)

All Turkish universities in Table 2 offer degree programmes in economics both at the undergraduate and graduate levels with the medium of instructions in English. Out of 5 universities, Middle East Technical and Bogazici Universities are state institutions, the others are owned by private foundations. And all these universities in Table 2 follow the American style of teaching in economics. They seem to be recruiting their teaching and research faculty predominantly from *PhD* holders from the United States. In order to obtain an approximate percentage place of a Turkish institution in Europe, one may follow this simple calculation, for example, in the case of Bilkent University: $(161/2938) \times 100 = 0.05479$ or about 5.5%.

Table 3 presents the top 10 researchers in economics as of December 2012. Although British universities seem to be dominant in regards to the top 10 research economists, the other seven European universities are also successful in recruiting top research economists.

Table 3: Top 10 Research Economist in Europe

1. <i>Jean Tirole</i> Toulouse School of Economics, France
2. <i>Richard Blundell</i> University College London, UK
3. <i>Lars Svenson</i> Stockholm University, Sweden
4. <i>Jordi Gali</i> Barcelona Graduate School of Economics, Spain
5. <i>Stephen J. Nickell</i> Oxford University, UK
6. <i>Peter Nijkamp</i> Amesterdam University, Holland
7. <i>Guido Tabellini</i> Bocconi University, Italy
8. <i>Enst Fehr</i> Zurich University, Switzerland
9. <i>Chrispother A. Pissarides</i> , London School of Economics, UK
10. <i>Soren Johansen</i> , University of Copenhagen, Denmark

Source : <http://ideas.repec.org/top/top.europe.html> (access date 03/01/2013)

Finally Table 4 shows the research success of Turkish economists in Europe. As Table 2, Table 4 is also formed from the summary statistical results drawn from the top 12.5% of the December 2012 *RePEc* rankings.

According to Table 4, the top performing Turkish research economist in Europe is from Bilkent University, Refet Gurkaynak. This economist's exact percentage place is in Europe about $(316/18270 = 0.01729)$ 1.73%.

Table 4 indicates that the large majority of top performing research economists are employed by private foundation universities, with the exception of two economists.

Tablo 4: Top 10 Turkish Research Economist in Europe

1. <i>Refet Gurkaynak</i>	Bilkent University	(316)
2. <i>Sumru Altug</i>	Koc University	(735)
3. <i>Aysit Tansel</i>	Middle East Technical University	(842)
4. <i>Mehmet Yorukoglu</i>	Central Bank of Turkey	(845)
5. <i>Efe Ok</i>	Bogazici University	(909)
6. <i>Ferda Halicioglu</i>	Yeditepe University	(1354)
7. <i>Bilin Neyapti</i>	Bilkent University	(1360)
8. <i>Selva Demiralp</i>	Koc University	(1413)
9. <i>Kamil Yilmaz</i>	Koc University	(1453)
10. <i>Erinc Yeldan</i>	Yasar University	(1666)

Note: the figures in parantheses indicates the exact place of the Turkish economist out of 18270 European economists.

Source : <http://ideas.repec.org/top/top.europe.html> (access date 03/01/2013)

Concluding Remarks

This brief research note aimed at comparing the research performace of the Turkish economists and institutions in Europe using the *RePEc* data base. The *RePEc* ranking may not be treated as the most sophisticated or the most reliable source to compare economics institutions or economists. However, the *RePEc* rankings provide continous aggregate and disaggregate information which may be used to draw some useful policy conclusions. In terms of the research performance of Turkish institutions and economists, it is clear that Turkey is below its potential considering that almost all universities in Turkey have economics departments (more than 150 currently). However, their research products or the productivity of the researchers are far below satisfactory levels. However, there is a huge potential that these standings may improve substantially in the future, providing that the economics research strategies of Turkish universities are channelled correctly and the resources are used efficiently. Therefore, the researchers and research departments in Turkey require more financial resources to be used for high quality of research with the aim of publishing in top economics journals. These policies will increase the impact of the research further, with the possibility of providing higher level of citations. The economics research departments should be more focused on certain area of economics research with view of specialist research products rather than scattered and unorganized research outputs. The visibility of the economics departments may also help the research outputs to be easily recognised for the world-wide research community. Therefore, it is essential that updated and comprehensive internet sites of the economics departments of the Turkish universites are available.