

# The Turkish Academy of Sciences (TÜBA)

## SHORT HISTORY OF THE ACADEMY TRADITION IN TURKEY

The Turkish Academy of Sciences (Türkiye Bilimler Akademisi/TÜBA) is the only national academy covering all areas of science, although since the late Ottoman era, there have existed institutions with features of a scientific academy. Thus the Consultative Committee (Encümen-i Dâniş) founded in 1851, during the Reform Period (1839-1876) of the Ottoman Empire, may be considered the first initiative 400 years after the Semaniye Medrese of Mehmet II for establishing an academy in Turkey. This institution was expected to write the textbooks for the Darülfünun (University) to be founded; however, it disappeared in ten years. The Ottoman Science Society (Cemiyet-i İlmîyye-i Osmaniyye), founded in 1861, emerged with a relatively more independent structure. This institution, which had 38 members in natural sciences and published the first journal in natural sciences (Mecmua-i Fünun), was, in turn closed in 1866.

The Ottoman History Council (Tarih-i Osmanî Encümeni) was founded in 1909, following the proclamation of the Second Constitutional Monarchy (1908). This institution had the characteristics of an academy with its organisation and scientific publications. Although establishing a modern university (Darülfünun) was on the agenda of the Ottoman Empire since the mid 19<sup>th</sup> century, the university reform was carried out under the Turkish Republic in 1933.

After the proclamation of republic, the Ottoman History Council continued its existence under different names before it was transformed into the Turkish Historical Society (Türk Tarih Kurumu) in 1935. This institution, together with the Turkish Language Society (Türk Dil Kurumu) founded in 1932, set the first examples of scientific academies (or academic organizations) in modern Turkey.

After this period, the idea of establishing an academy covering all areas of science in Turkey only became a prominent issue in the 1960's. However, it was not possible to establish an academy until 1993.

## FOUNDATION STAGES

TÜBA is a scholarly institution founded in 1993, attached to the office of the Prime Ministry and later (in 2011) to the Minister of Science, Industry and Technology with scientific, administrative and financial autonomy. Although it has the capacity for generating its own resources and accepting donations from individuals or companies, it is presently funded to a great extent by the Government.

The first tangible step towards the establishment of the Turkish Academy of Sciences was the preparation of the document entitled "Turkish Science and Technology Policy: 1983-2003", which was the first of its kind in Turkey. In 1993, the Supreme Council for Science and Technology, established in accordance with the above-mentioned document, decided that the Turkish Academy of Sciences (Türkiye Bilimler Akademisi - TÜBA) be established. The

Academy was established on 02 September 1993 by a governmental decree, published in the Official Gazette with latest amendments in 2011. After constituting its administrative organs, TÜBA initiated its activities with its first Academy Council meeting, convened on January 7, 1994.

## **AIMS AND MISSION OF THE ACADEMY**

The Turkish Academy of Sciences is an autonomous body which determines its organisational structure and activities on the principle of scientific merit. Its aims are to establish the criteria of scientific excellence in Turkey, to encourage and foster scientific endeavours, to ensure that scientific principles be applied in all spheres and to create an environment of debate so that basic social strategies may be defined in the light of scientific and technological data. The Academy strives to promote adoption of and strict adherence to scientific ethics both by its own members and by the whole of the Turkish scientific community; freedom of expression; culture of debate and the integration of the Turkish scientists with the international scientific community.

## **RESOURCES**

### **Buildings**

- TÜBA Headquarter – Ankara



- TÜBA Tunalı Hilmi Street Office – Ankara
- TÜBA Library and Office – İstanbul Technical University Maçka Campus-Istanbul
- TÜBA RABİ Madrasah (built by Mimar Sinan in 16<sup>th</sup> century) – İstanbul



## ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE

### Organs of the Academy

The organs of the Academy are the General Assembly, the Academy Council, and the President of the Academy.

The General Assembly comprises all Academy members. The Academy has a total of **197** members, comprising **108** Principal, **59** Associate and **30** Honorary members/members emeriti. The General Assembly convenes twice a year and elects members from candidates nominated by the Academy Council; discusses and approves the principal documents on science policy, the activity report, the balance sheet and the budget proposal prepared by the Academy Council.

The Academy Council consists of ten members and the President of the Academy, all elected for three years. The Academy Council is elected by the General Assembly and it convenes at least once a month to organise and implement the activities of the Academy; it also sets up working committees for counselling and research purposes, and prepares the budget proposal. The Academy President is appointed for three years by the Prime Minister, from amongst three Principal members elected as candidates by the General Assembly. The President is responsible for the functioning of the Academy in line with its aims and acts as the executive authority. According to the amendments dated 2011, one third of the Principal and Associate members are selected by the Science Board of TÜBİTAK ( The Scientific and Technological Research Council of Turkey), one third by YÖK (The Board of Higher Education) and one third by the Principal members of the Academy.

### Membership

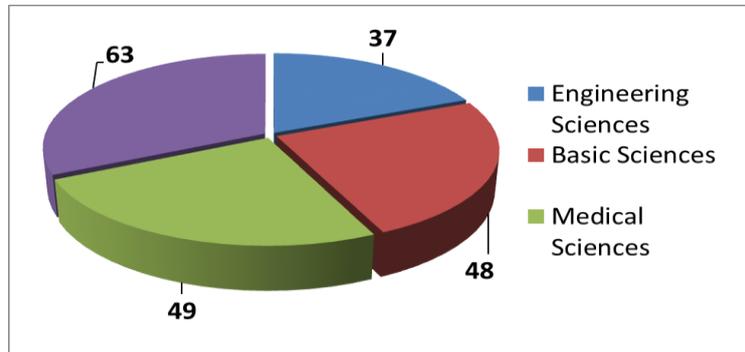
Principal members are expected to be distinguished scientists of international prominence. Principal membership turns into Honorary membership at the age of 67. Young talented scientists of Turkish nationality are elected for a period of three years as Associate members. Associate membership can be extended twice to a maximum length of nine years. They are among candidates to become Principal members.

The number of TÜBA members working in various domains are shown below (woman members account for 8.63 % of the membership):

Scientific Domain	Honorary Members	Principal Members	Associate Members	Total
Medical Sciences	6	29	14	49 (W: 5 / M: 44)
Basic Sciences	6	26	16	48 (W: 2 /M: 46)
Engineering	2	20	15	37 (W: 2/ M: 35)

Sciences				
Social Sciences	16	33	14	63 (W:8 / M: 55)
Total (W/M)	30 (5/25)	108 (6/102)	59 (6/53)	197 (17/180)

\* W/M women/men



## ACADEMY ACTIVITIES

The activities of the Academy are carried out in two main categories. The first category comprises incentive programmes which have the objective of encouraging scientific pursuit by donation of scholarships, bursaries, awards and varying degrees of support for enterprises deemed worthy. All of the above are aimed at promoting research, encouraging the youth towards scholarly pursuits, honouring dedicated scientists, and, above all, establishing norms of scientific excellence.

In the second category, the primary and most important endeavour is to create a scientific platform as a basis for communication and debate on public issues and to contribute to the development of national policies based on scientific principles; pinpointing problems in critical issues; and developing proposals for their solutions. For this purpose, conventions, conferences and meetings are organised and proceedings are published.

These activities are implemented by committees and working groups, made up primarily of Academy members, aided by the contributions of volunteers from the scientific community.

### Scholarships, Financial Support and Award Programmes

- Young Scientists Award Programme (GEBİP): One of the first examples of the concept of “Young Academies” in the world. More than 335 young scientist have been awarded since 2001.

- Award for writing and translating University Level Books in Turkish (Copyrighted and Translated Scientific Works Awards Programme – TEÇEP)

- Bursaries (Fellowships) Programmes in Social Sciences and Humanities have been extended to cover all scientific fields:

- Doctoral Fellowship Programme is applied in two complementary but independent stages:
  - Preparatory Programme for Doctoral Studies: A Ph.D student is supported for a maximum of three years prior to the qualification examination.
  - Integrated Doctoral Research Fellowship Programme: A Ph.D candidate and his/her academic advisor and department are supported for a maximum of three years, half of this period may be spent in a respectable academic institution abroad.
  - Post-Doctoral Research Fellowship Programme: A two-year support programme (second year abroad) is envisaged for promising researchers in their post-doctoral stage, before they assume academic staff responsibilities.

### **Programmes Carried out by Academy Committees and Working Groups**

- Dictionary of Turkish Scientific Terminology ([www.tubaterim.gov.tr](http://www.tubaterim.gov.tr), Dictionary of Social Sciences published)
- Foresight Studies for Scientific Policies in Turkey (published)
- Turkey's Cultural Inventory (*completed for Istanbul* [www.istanbulkulturenvanteri.gov.tr](http://www.istanbulkulturenvanteri.gov.tr) )
- Population and Development Strategies (*completed*)
- Environmental Studies (reports published)
- Human Rights in the School Curriculum (*completed*)
- Science Ethics ([www.tuba.gov.tr/index.php/en/component/content/article/887.html](http://www.tuba.gov.tr/index.php/en/component/content/article/887.html))
- Science Education ([www.bilimegetimi.tuba.gov.tr](http://www.bilimegetimi.tuba.gov.tr))
- Policies in Cancer Research
- Policies in Stem Cell Research ([www.tuba.gov.tr/index.php/en/kok-hucre-kurs-ve-sempozyum.html](http://www.tuba.gov.tr/index.php/en/kok-hucre-kurs-ve-sempozyum.html))
- Translation/Publication of University Textbooks (awarded books are published)
- Turkish Science Classics (2014-2016)
- Preparation and Publication of Andreas Tietze's "Historical and Etimologic Dictionary of Turkey's Turkish" (2014-16)

### **International Relations**

As the only national Academy of Turkey, the Turkish Academy of Sciences maintains bilateral relations with foreign academies and multilateral relations with international organisations.

These international relations are facilitated by framework agreements which specify the basic elements of scientific co-operation with other science academies and implementation protocols which specify the conditions under which these agreements will be executed. In the initial stage of bilateral relations, co-operation is ensured by a memorandum of understanding signed by the academies in question.

These Academies are:

- Academy of Sciences of Albania
- Austrian Academy of Sciences
- Azerbaijan National Academy of Sciences
- Belarus National Academy of Sciences
- Bulgarian National Academy of Medicine
- Georgian National Academy of Sciences
- Indian National Science Academy
- Israel Academy of Sciences and Humanities
- Montenegrin Academy of Sciences and Arts
- Korean Academy of Sciences and Technology
- Kosova Academy of Sciences and Arts
- Hungarian Academy of Sciences
- Macedonian Academy of Sciences and Arts
- Mongolian Academy of Sciences
- The Academy of Sciences of Moldova
- Romanian Academy
- Serbian Academy of Sciences and Arts
- Slovenian Academy of Sciences
- The National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine
- Afghanistan Academy of Sciences (MoU)
- National Academy of Sciences and Technology Philippines (MoU)
- Institut de France (MoU)

On the level of multilateral relations, the Academy represents Turkey as a member of international and/or inter-academy organisations, through its position on some of their executive boards and by participating in their various activities.

These organisations are:

- The Global Network of Science Academies (IAP) (Membership of the Executive Committee: 2001-2003)
- The InterAcademy Council (IAC) (Membership of the Board: 2005-2009, 2009-2013)
- The InterAcademy Medical Panel (IAMP) (Membership of the Executive Committee: 2002-2006, 2010-2013)
- All European Academies (ALLEA) (Membership of the Steering Committee: 2004-2010, membership of the Standing Committee for Intellectual Property Rights)
- International Human Rights Network of Academies and Scholarly Societies
- Association of Academies and Societies of Sciences in Asia (AASSA) (Secretary General: 2004-2008; Vice President: 2008-2010, 2012-2014)
- International Social Sciences Council (ISSC) (Membership of the Executive Committee: 2004-2006)
- International Union of Academies (IUA) (Membership of the Board 2012-2015)
- Euro-Mediterranean Science Academies Network (EMAN) (Vice President 2010-2012)
- Inter-Academy Council for Southeast Europe (IAC-SEE)
- Council of the Presidents of the National Academies of Science of the BSEC (Black Sea Economic Co-operation) Member States (CoPNAS)

- The InterAcademy Council (IAC)

### **Scientific Lectures, Conferences, Meetings**

- Academy Lectures: Lectures are given by prominent scientists, intellectuals, academics, artists and politicians with the aim to establish a platform for the debate of social issues and to encourage public awareness of science.

- University Lectures: Lectures are given in the framework of visits of the academy members to universities with the ultimate aim of creating an atmosphere of close co-operation between the Academy and universities.

- Scholarly Meetings: National and international meetings and conferences are held with the participation of scientists from a variety of disciplines in order to elaborate different scientific issues in depth.

### **Ongoing and New Projects**

1. TÜBA Restructuring, organizational development (Management, Organization Legislation, IT hardware, software)
2. Turkish Science Classics
3. Turkish Science Classics for Children
4. Children Platform
5. New Committees (Nutrition, Renewable Energy etc. )

### **Publications**

- Turkish Academy of Sciences monographs;
- Academy Forum: Transcripts of Academy Lectures published for the edification of the general public
- Proceedings of scientific conferences and meetings
- Reports
- Biographies
- Cultural Inventory Project Publications: Publications documenting Turkey's cultural heritage to serve as databases for pilot areas
- TÜBA *Günce* Diary: Journal of the Academy
- *The Turkish Academy of Sciences Journal of Archaeology (TÜBA-AR)*: Published annually; first issue published in 1998
- *The Turkish Academy of Sciences Journal of Cultural Inventory*: First issue published in June, 2003.

The TÜBA Library located in Istanbul may be accessed online at:

<http://www.ist.tuba.gov.tr/kutuphane/>