

TURKS IN FAVOUR OF COOPERATION WITH THE EUROPEAN UNION

Figure 1. "The country/country groups that Turkey should cooperate with to have a stronger economy and foreign policy"



According to a public opinion survey conducted on behalf of the Centre of Economics and Foreign Policy Studies (EDAM) via TNS throughout the country, Turkey should cooperate with the European Union to have a stronger economy and foreign policy.

In a survey conducted from January 1, 2015, to February 15, 2015, with a sample size of 1,500 people representing voters living in Turkey¹, survey participants were asked which country or country group Turkey should cooperate with in order to have a stronger economy and foreign policy².

¹ The survey was conducted in the following cities: Adana, Ankara, Antalya, Bursa, Diyarbakır, Manisa, Erzurum, Gaziantep, İstanbul, İzmir, Kayseri, Kırklareli, Konya, İçel, Samsun, Zonguldak, Denizli, and Malatya.

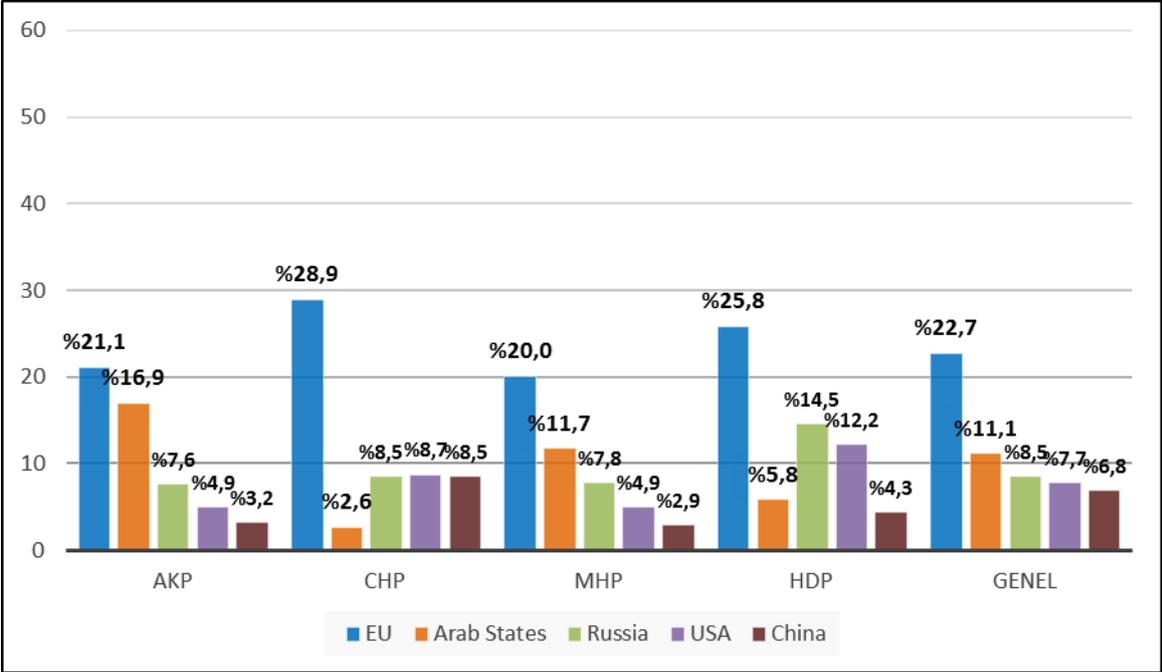
² "In order to have a stronger economy and foreign policy, which of the countries or country groups that I am going to read out should Turkey strengthen its relations with in your opinion?"

23 percent of the participants expressed that the country group Turkey should cooperate with most is the European Union. Arab states, the second most favourable choice of survey participants, remained at 11 percent.

9 percent of those surveyed chose Russia, while 8 percent chose the United States and 7 percent preferred China. 8 percent of the participants preferred cooperating with countries other than those listed in the survey.

While 11 percent of the participants argued that Turkey should cooperate with none of the countries, it is important to note that one quarter of the participants chose not to respond to the question.

Figure 2. "The country/country groups that Turkey should cooperate with to have a stronger economy and foreign policy" Political Party Preferences



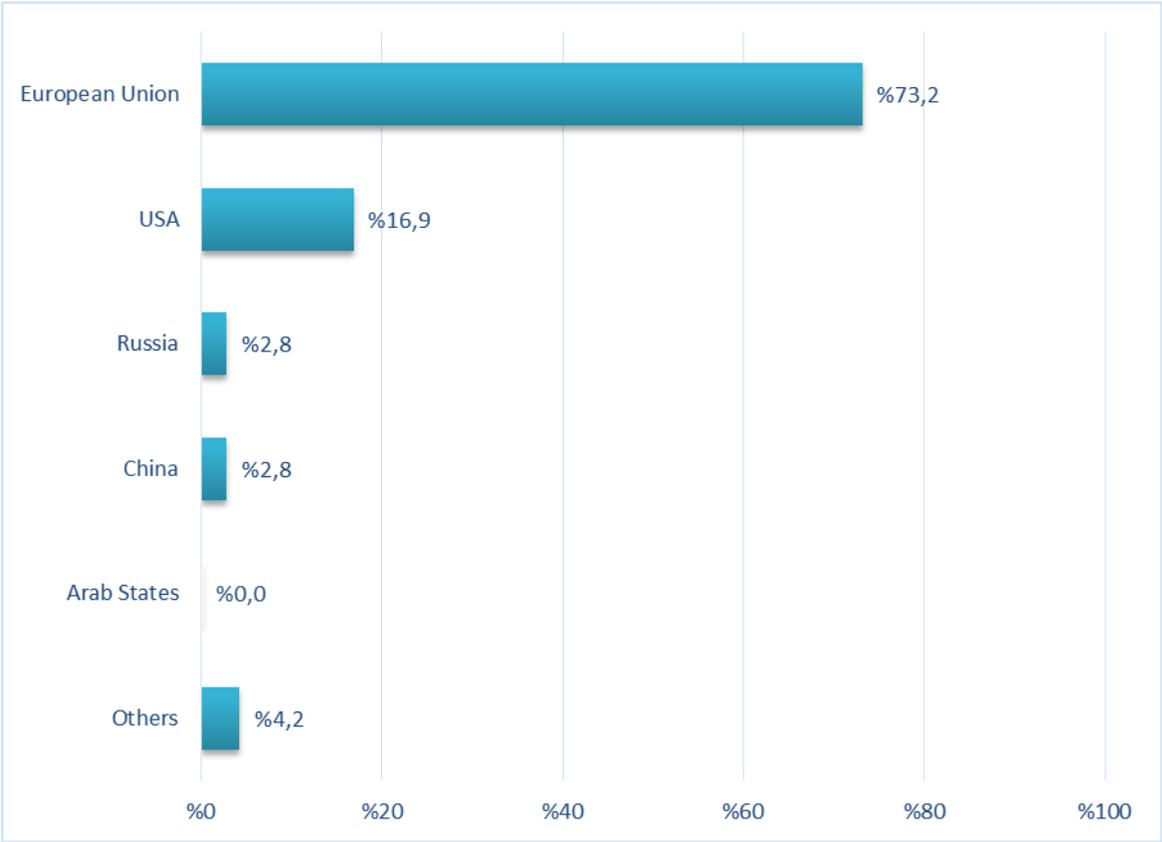
The results of the survey show meaningful differences among different electorates regarding their preferred country or country groups of cooperation. The EU option, which 23 percent of the public preferred, ranked the highest among all political parties. While 29 percent of the participating CHP voters desired cooperating with the EU, this rate was 26 percent among HDP voters. The two electorates that preferred the EU option the least were AKP voters with 21 percent and MHP voters with 20 percent. Nonetheless, the EU was the most preferred option for both the AKP and MHP electorates.

Although there is consensus on the importance of cooperating with the European Union, there are major differences among participating electorates on whether or not to cooperate with

Arab states. 17 percent of AKP voters that participated in the survey saw Arab states as the country group to cooperate with “for a stronger economy and foreign policy.” This rate is almost 8 times that of the rate for participating CHP voters. For participating MHP voters, this rate was 12 percent, suggesting a more amicable stance towards Arab states, while only 6 percent of HDP voters supported this view.

Another clear area of divergence between the electorate is the United States. For 8 percent of the participants, the United States was the most preferred country on the list. While this rate does not vary much among participating AKP, CHP, and MHP voters and ranges between 5 and 9 percent, HDP voters saw the United States as a good alternative. 15 percent of the participants that declared they would vote for the HDP preferred cooperation with the United States. Furthermore, support for cooperating with Russia was higher among participating HDP voters compared to the other three parties.

Figure 3. “The country/country groups that Turkey should cooperate with to have a stronger economy and foreign policy”
Panel of Experts



The same question was directed at a panel of foreign policy experts consisting of 75 people, 73 percent of which preferred the European Union option.³ The United States was ranked second

³ 75 experts participated in the expert survey, which was conducted by Infakto RW.

with 17 percent while almost none of the surveyed foreign policy experts believed that Turkey should cooperate with Russia, China, and Arab states “for a strong economy and foreign policy.”

It is also noteworthy that none of the experts argued that Turkey should not cooperate with any one of these countries.