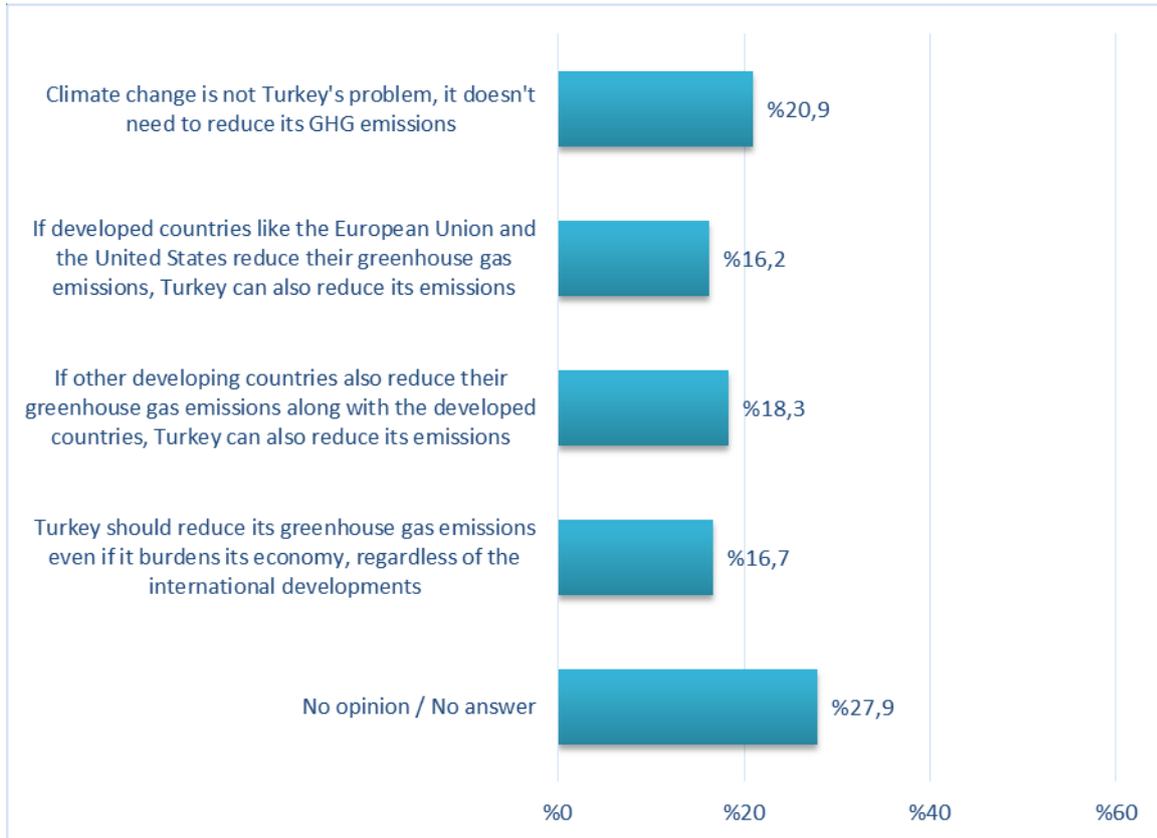


## CONDITIONAL SUPPORT IN TURKEY TO TAKE ON RESPONSIBILITY IN THE STRUGGLE AGAINST CLIMATE CHANGE

Figure 1. "Policies that Turkey can adopt in the struggle against climate change"



According to the country-wide public survey carried out by TNS on behalf of the Centre for Economics and Foreign Policy Studies (EDAM), the Turkish public gives conditional support for Turkey to take on responsibility in the struggle against climate change.

Surveyed between May 5 and June 12 with a sample size of 1508<sup>1</sup> representative of the population in Turkey, the participants were presented with a number of policy choices in the struggle against climate change and were asked which of the policies Turkey should pursue<sup>2</sup>.

<sup>1</sup> The survey was conducted in the following provinces: Adana, Ankara, Antalya, Bursa, Diyarbakır, Manisa, Erzurum, Gaziantep, İstanbul, İzmir, Kayseri, Kırklareli, Konya, İçel, Samsun, Zonguldak, Denizli, Malatya

<sup>2</sup> "It is pointed out that the main factor behind the ongoing climate change in our world is the release of greenhouse gases like carbon dioxide during production, thus emissions. While for the struggle against climate change, it is advised that countries should reduce their greenhouse gas emissions even if that would be costly to the economy. Which of the following policies would you like Turkey to pursue?"

One of the most important findings of the research study was that 28% of the participants did not choose any of the policy options. The fact that one out of every four participants was not able to present their opinion on the subject can be explained by the paucity of public debate that could inform the public on the issues of climate change in Turkey.

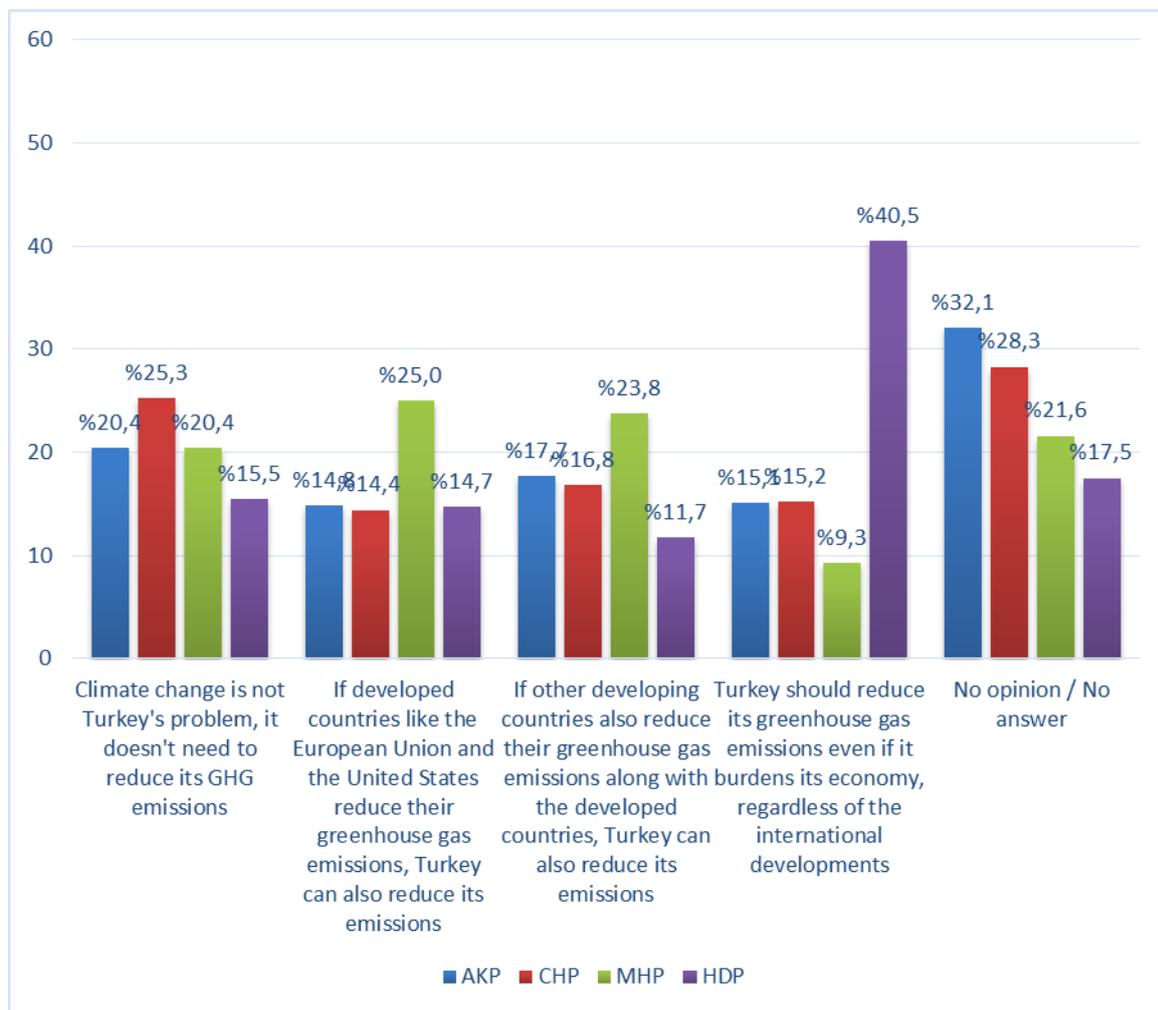
When undecided respondents were excluded from the options, the most widely preferred policy alternative was the “policy of doing nothing,” which was favoured by 21% of the sampled population. One out of every five people surveyed agreed that climate change was not Turkey’s problem and there was no need to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by the country. The widespread conviction that climate change was not Turkey’s problem suggests that ample progress needs to be made on the issue.

The other three policy options received similar levels of support, hovering around 16-18% each. 34% of the people surveyed supported the “conditional” approach, stating that Turkey should pursue greenhouse gas mitigation policies on a conditional basis, with 16.2% offering support if developed countries like the EU and the US took action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and 18.3% offering support if developing countries also reduced emissions.

The “altruistic” approach, which proposes that Turkey should pursue greenhouse gas mitigation policies regardless of other countries’ policies and international developments, has been supported at the same level as the other policy alternatives, around 17%.

The figures demonstrate a relatively low public awareness in Turkey on the climate change agenda. While there is a significant secondary group of constituents that support the “conditional” approach, the unconditional “altruistic” approach only received around 17% of support.

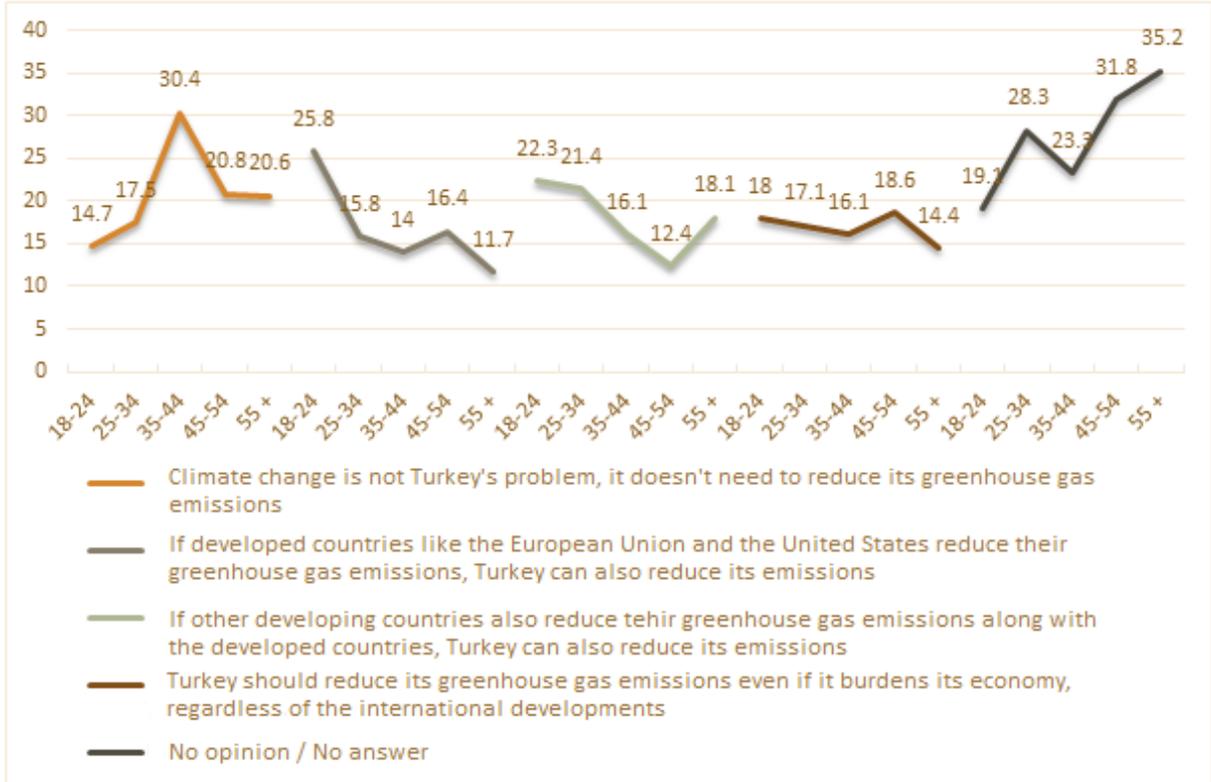
Figure 2. Policies that Turkey can adopt in the struggle against climate change and political party choice



According to the survey results, there are significant differences among the constituents of Turkey's political parties on the issue of climate change. First, the percentage of the "altruistic" respondents, who argue that Turkey should make efforts to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions regardless of international developments is highest among the HDP constituency with 41% of surveyed HDP voters supporting this policy. Although the smallest percentage of supporters of this unconditional policy is among MHP voters, the MHP's constituents mainly support the "conditional" climate change policies. Greenhouse gas mitigation policies are supported if either developed countries like the EU and the US or other developing countries also pursue such policies.

The favored policy option of surveyed CHP and AKP voters is for Turkey to take no action. The highest percentage of "no opinion/no answer" respondents is from the AKP with 32% followed by the CHP with 28%.

Figure 3. "Policies that Turkey can adopt in the struggle against climate change" and the age of those interviewed



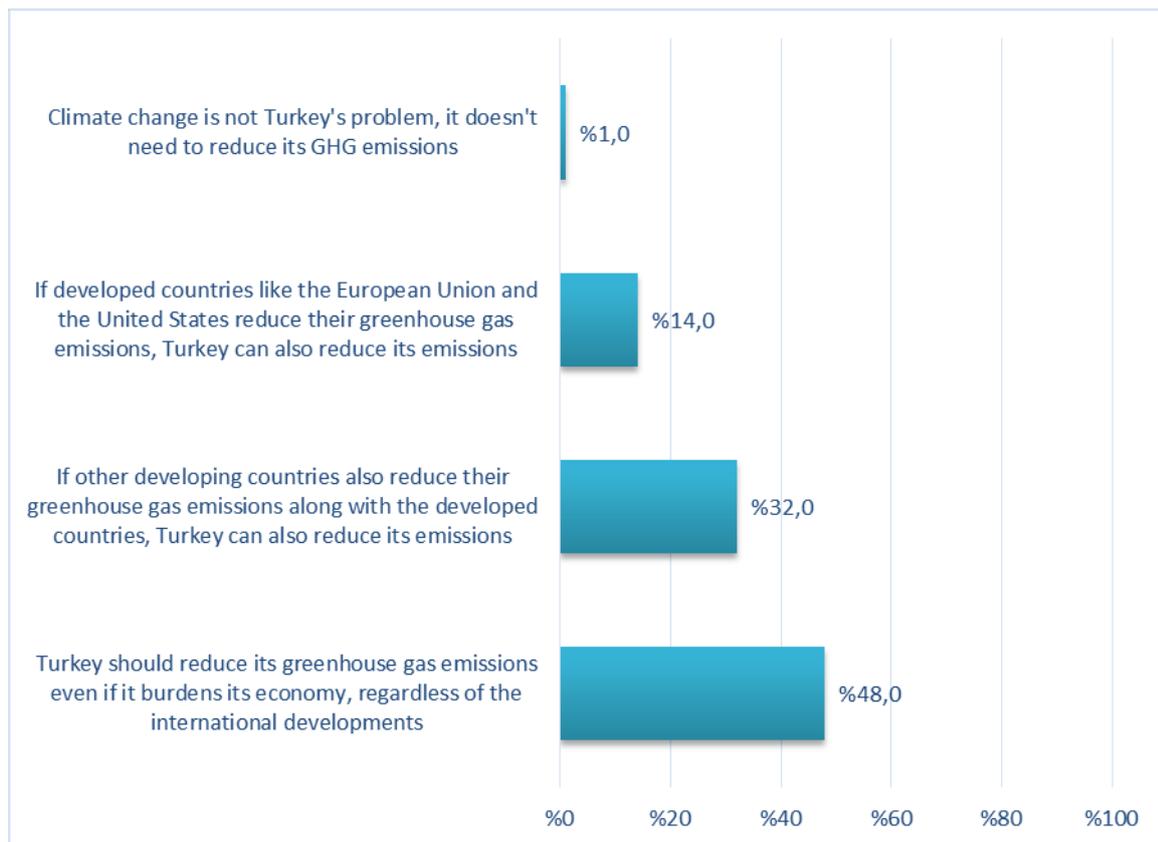
There seems to be a correlation between climate change policy preferences and age. Older respondents tended to prefer the conditional policies less. While the percentage of those favoring the conditional approach was 26% within the 18-24 age group, the percentage dropped to 11% within the constituents older than 55. Similarly, while the percentage of those that support climate action on the condition that other developing states also take measures was 22% within the 18-24 age group, the same figure dropped to 12% within those in the 45-54 age group.

Most importantly, younger respondents were more opinionated on the issue compared to the older population. While those that answered "No opinion" made up 19% among the 18-24 age group, the same figure rose to 32% among the 45-54 age group and to 35% among those older than 55. Therefore, we can conclude that younger people are generally more knowledgeable on the issue of climate change compared to the older population.

Another policy choice for which the age factor is partially influential is "doing nothing." While the percentage of younger people who support this view was 14%, the same figure went up to 30% among the 35-44 age group but dropped to the 20's among older age groups.

Another important finding was that the "altruistic" policy choice was not related to age, receiving around the same level of support from each age group.

Figure 4. "Policies that Turkey can adopt in the struggle against climate change" Expert Panel



When EDAM posed the same questions to a panel of 69 foreign policy experts<sup>3</sup>, it was discovered that the views of the experts were very different from those of the general public. The clear climate change policy preference of the experts was the “altruistic” policy. The view that “Turkey should reduce its greenhouse gas emissions even if it burdens its economy, regardless of the international developments” was supported by 48% of the experts. For comparison, the response to the same question was just 17% among the general public.

Among the conditional policy alternatives, the option to tie greenhouse gas mitigation to reductions in the “other developing countries” was more widely preferred at 32%. Those who tied the conditionality to actions of developed countries such as the EU and US totaled only around 14%.

The biggest difference between the views of the public and the foreign policy experts was that there was almost no one among the experts who preferred the “doing nothing” policy. In this regard, it is not surprising that the experts have clearer views on climate change and policy suggestions compared to the public.

<sup>3</sup> 69 experts participated in the experts study and the research was undertaken by Infakto RW.