

# The Accreditation Process within the Istanbul Technical University School of Foreign Languages

## Hacer Şivil

The Istanbul Technical University School of Foreign Languages (ITU SFL) was the first university to apply for language program accreditation. As a state university, why did ITU SFL prefer to go through this process and why is it still in search of quality five-years after its initial accreditation? As an on-going process, accreditation is demanding, yet it is beneficial not only in the short run but also in the long run since it contributes to the development of an institution in a number of aspects ranging from facilities to know-how knowledge. Since it empowers almost everyone in the institution, the decision making mechanism is naturally bottom up rather than top down.

In this presentation, we aim to share our experience from the beginning to the end; from how the SFL decided on accreditation, why the CEA played a major role in the SFL's accreditation, how the process continued, to why after all, it is still in progress. In other words, the phases which are like a vicious cycle can be stated as:

- Pre-accreditation
- Eligibility
- Self-study
- Site visit
- Accreditation decision
- Reaccreditation

We also aim to present the pros and cons of accreditation together with some outcomes.