

Quality Development in English in Higher Education for institutional and national level capacity building - the story so far

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The output of education (knowledge, skills etc.) aims at improving the quality of life in society, and Internationalism is a key feature in this brave new world with Higher Education Institutions (HEI) in Turkey considering English as an important element of their internationalisation policy.

The British Council and TEPAV carried out large-scale research into the teaching of English in state schools in Turkey (November 2013). It concluded that Turkey is underperforming in the area of English language teaching (ELT) and that this deficiency in English could threaten Turkey's economic development. A similar study by the British Council at HEIs in Turkey (2015) discovered an 'English deficit' affecting the quality of higher education, restricting access to academic resources, international research publication and the mobility of staff and students.

The British Council's Quality Development Programme (QDP) in Turkey followed on from the research findings by taking a critical look at the approach HEIs adopt in the provision of English. It looked at whether current HEI graduates are acquiring the commensurate English language knowledge, skills, competency and proficiency expected that prepares them for life in a 21st century world that demands innovation, creativity, critical thinking skills.

This presentation is about the story of QDP, presenting findings from its study of five institutions across Turkey in Stage 1, the

recommendations made from them, on-going discussions the British Council is having with CoHE (YÖK) and a 5-day Stage 2 visit to a sixth university to turn recommendations into an Action Plan to improve current practices.