



Islamicity Indices

Benchmarks to Build Effective Institutions for Political, Social, and Economic Reform and Progress

2020

ISLAMICITY INDEX
COUNTRY REPORT
TURKEY
2020

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I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The performance of the Islamicity Index for Turkey in the last 5 years has a decreasing trend. This decreasing trend is also evident in its sub-indices, economy, corporate and legal governance, human and political rights, and internationalization.

There are three main reasons for the decreasing trend in Turkey's Islamicity index in the last 5 years: (i) Military Coup Attempt organized by FETÖ terrorist organization that took place in Turkey in 2016, (ii) COVID-19 Pandemic, which showed its negative effects in March 2019, and (iii) erroneous economic and administrative policies taken by the Turkish government in the last 5 years.

It is seen that the decreasing trend observed in Turkey's Islamicity index and its sub-indices is reflected accurately by the Islamic economy index and the Islamic corporate and legal governance indexes. On the other hand, it can be said that the decreasing trend in Turkey's human and political rights and internationalization indices is overestimated.

Türkiye'nin özellikle ekonomi, yasal mevzuatlar ve kurumsal yönetim alanlarında yapısal reformlara ihtiyacı bulunmaktadır. Bu reformların, en kısa sürede alınarak ülke kurumlarının etkin ve verimli bir şekilde yönetilmesi sağlanmalıdır.

Turkey needs structural reforms especially in the fields of economy, legal entities and corporate governance. These reforms should be taken as soon as possible in order for the institutions of the country to be managed effectively and efficiently.

II. SCORES AND RANKING: THE CASE OF TURKEY

The main purpose of the Islamicity project is to measure how countries are performing in the light of Islamic teachings. The Islamicity index is a composite index consisting of four sub-dimensions. These dimensions are economics, legal and corporate governance, human and political rights, and international relations. Each sub-dimension and resultant index results will be evaluated separately in this report. These assessments will be structured specifically for Turkey.

The Republic of Turkey was established on October 23, 1923. It is located in a geography where the continents of Asia and Europe meet. The population of Turkey is approximately 84 million and 99% is Muslim. It has a democratic management approach. With the legal regulations made in recent years, local elections are held every 5 years. Presidential elections are also held in the same period. Each elected president can serve as president for 5+5 years. The current government in Turkey is run by the AKP party, led by President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan. The AKP party has been chosen as the first party in all national elections in the last 19 years. The next national election will be held on 18 June 2023. Turkey's per capita income in 2020 is 8550 USD.

2.1. Islamicity Index (overall)

Islamicity Endeksi 2000 yılından itibaren hesaplanmaya başlanmıştır. Tablo 1’de 2000 ile 2020 yıllarına ait Islamicity endeksinin bileşke endeks değerleri yer almaktadır. Endeks hesaplaması 2000, 2005 ve 2010 yıllarında 5 er yıllık aralıklarda; 2016’dan günümüze de her yıl hesaplanmaktadır. Bu değerler, endekse dahil olan tüm ülkelere ait değerler, OIC ülkelerine ait değerler, en yüksek değer alan ilk üç müslüman ülkeye ait değerler ve Türkiye değerlerinden oluşmaktadır. Buna göre genel çıkarımlar aşağıdaki gibi yapılabilir:

The Islamicity Index has been calculated since 2000. The resultant index values of the Islamicity index for the years 2000 and 2020 are given in Table 1. Index calculation in 2000, 2005 and 2010 at 5-year intervals. It has been calculated every year since 2016. These values consist of (i) the values of all countries included in the index, (ii) the values of the OIC countries, (iii) the values of the first three Muslim countries with the highest value, and (iv) the values of Turkey. Accordingly, general inferences can be made as follows:

- According to the Islamicity index, the median rank and median values of OIC countries between 2000 and 2020 are lower than other countries. This means that countries that do not adopt Islam as the dominant religion act in the light of more Islamic teachings¹.
- The standard deviation of the values taken by OIC countries is lower than other countries. This shows that the value range in Islamic countries varies in a narrower range than in other countries.
- The Islamic countries with the highest value between 2000 and 2020 are Malaysia, Kuwait, United Arab Emirates, Qatar and Albania. Among these countries, Kuwait, United Arab Emirates and Qatar are oil-rich countries. Albania is located on the European continent. Malaysia, on the other hand, is seen as the country that practices Islam the best.
- Turkey has a poor performance with the values it has received decreasing from 2000 to 2020.

¹ The teachings of the religion of Islam are universal. The necessary condition for acting in the light of these universal teachings is not to declare Islam as the dominant religion.

ISLAMICITY INDEX COUNTRY REPORT: TURKEY

Table 1: Islamicity Index (Overall)

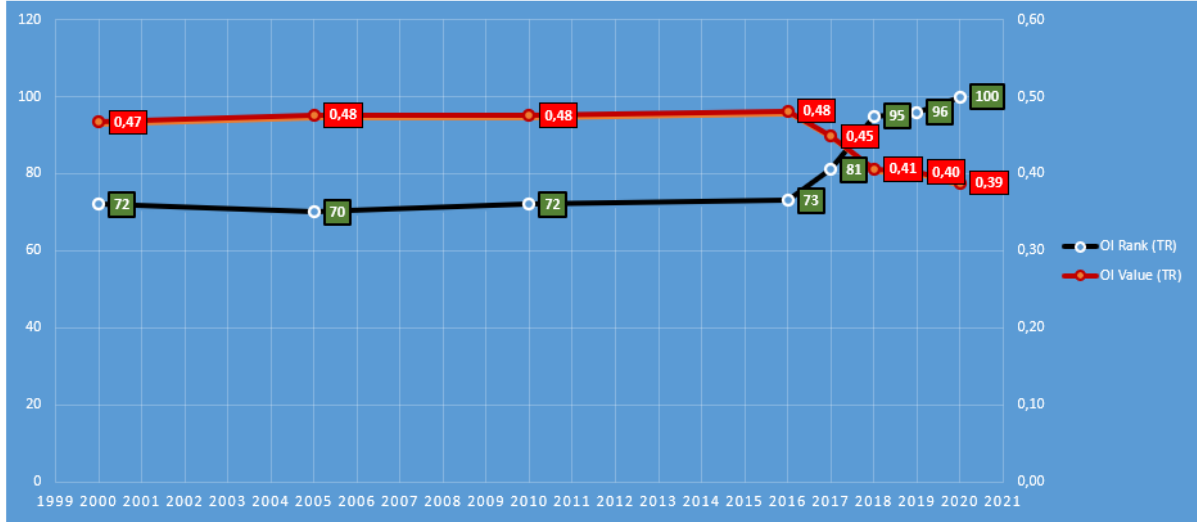
	2000				2005			
	Rank Median	Score Median	Score Average	Score Std.Dev.	Rank Median	Score Median	Score Average	Score Std.Dev.
ALL	76	0,450	0,507	0,198	76	0,461	0,506	0,200
OIC	117	0,339	0,376	0,104	113	0,349	0,371	0,105
Others	56	0,546	0,569	0,202	57	0,529	0,570	0,202
TR	72	0,467			70	0,476		
the top 3 Muslim countries	46	0,592	0,602	0,020	48	0,578	0,590	0,024
	(1) Malaysia, (2) Kuwait, (3) United Arab Emirates				(1) Malaysia, (2) Kuwait, (3) United Arab Emirates			
	2010				2016			
	Rank Median	Score Median	Score Average	Score Std.Dev.	Rank Median	Score Median	Score Average	Score Std.Dev.
ALL	76	0,463	0,501	0,203	76	0,477	0,503	0,205
OIC	115	0,339	0,365	0,117	117	0,329	0,366	0,118
Others	58	0,528	0,565	0,203	56	0,537	0,567	0,205
TR	72	0,48			73	0,48		
the top 3 Muslim countries	43	0,613	0,610	0,013	43	0,624	0,620	0,018
	(1) Malaysia, (2) Qatar, (3) United Arab Emirates				(1) Malaysia, (2) United Arab Emirates, (3) Qatar			
	2017				2018			
	Rank Median	Score Median	Score Average	Score Std.Dev.	Rank Median	Score Median	Score Average	Score Std.Dev.
ALL	77	0,463	0,504	0,207	77	0,469	0,504	0,208
OIC	114	0,339	0,361	0,119	118	0,329	0,360	0,125
Others	57	0,549	0,572	0,205	57	0,541	0,572	0,205
TR	81	0,45			95	0,41		
the top 3 Muslim countries	47	0,602	0,606	0,012	46	0,604	0,608	0,007
	(1) Malaysia, (2) United Arab Emirates, (3) Albania				(1) United Arab Emirates, (2) Albania , (3) Malaysia			
	2019				2020			
	Rank Median	Score Median	Score Average	Score Std.Dev.	Rank Median	Score Median	Score Average	Score Std.Dev.
ALL	76	0,450	0,500	0,208	76	0,472	0,504	0,211
OIC	115	0,339	0,359	0,124	116	0,335	0,357	0,125
Others	56	0,538	0,565	0,208	56	0,543	0,573	0,207
TR	96	0,40			100	0,39		
the top 3 Muslim countries	45	0,602	0,606	0,007	47	0,614	0,608	0,018
	(1) United Arab Emirates, (2) Malaysia , (3) Albania				(1) Malaysia, (2) United Arab Emirates , (3) Qatar			

Turkey's ranking and values in the Islamicity composite index between 2000 and 2020 are shown in Figure 1. Accordingly, while the values taken by Turkey were in a stable range between 2000 and 2015, they deteriorated with a deteriorating momentum as of 2016.

The main reason for this situation is the Military Coup attempt supported by the FETO terrorist organization on July 15, 2016. This attempt was blocked by the will of the people. However, it took a long time to clear this terrorist organization as it was understood that it had infiltrated

all the channels of the state. This cleanup is still ongoing. This coup attempt caused serious damage to Turkey not only economically but also in legal, political and corporate governance dimensions. In addition, it is clear that the COVID-19 pandemic, which showed its effect in March 2020, also had an impact on the data for 2019 and 2020.

Figure 1: Islamicity Index (Overall): Turkey



2.2. Economic Islamicity Index

The index values for the economic sub-dimension of the Islamicity index are given in Table 2. Accordingly, general inferences can be made as follows:

- According to the Islamicity economic index, the main deduction between 2000 and 2020 is that the median rank and median values of OIC countries are lower than other countries.
- The standard deviation of the values taken by OIC countries is lower than other countries. This shows that the value range in Islamic countries varies in a narrower range than in other countries.
- Islamic countries with the highest value between 2000 and 2020 are Malaysia, Kuwait, United Arab Emirates, Qatar and Bahrain. Among these countries, Kuwait, United Arab Emirates, Bahrain and Qatar are oil-rich countries.
- Although Turkey's values were low between 2000 and 2020, it showed a non-stable performance.

ISLAMICITY INDEX COUNTRY REPORT: TURKEY

Table 2: Islamicity Index (Economics)

	2000				2005			
	Rank Median	Score Median	Score Average	Score Std.Dev.	Rank Median	Score Median	Score Average	Score Std.Dev.
ALL	76	0,475	0,515	0,180	76	0,458	0,516	0,179
OIC	90	0,438	0,444	0,117	98	0,414	0,438	0,107
Others	65	0,492	0,549	0,194	64	0,502	0,553	0,194
TR	62	0,497			82	0,445		
the top 3 Muslim countries	33	0,693	0,696	0,016	40	0,646	0,658	0,018
	(1) Kuwait, (2) Malaysia, (3) United Arab Emirates				(1) Kuwait, (2) United Arab Emirates, (3) Malaysia			

	2010				2016			
	Rank Median	Score Median	Score Average	Score Std.Dev.	Rank Median	Score Median	Score Average	Score Std.Dev.
ALL	76	0,449	0,498	0,180	76	0,465	0,508	0,183
OIC	101	0,386	0,422	0,116	99	0,402	0,428	0,120
Others	64	0,494	0,534	0,193	63	0,508	0,545	0,195
TR	74	0,452			71	0,485		
the top 3 Muslim countries	32	0,667	0,668	0,011	34	0,695	0,696	0,021
	(1) Bahrain, (2) Qatar, (3) Malaysia				(1) Malaysia, (2) United Arab Emirates, (3) Bahrain			

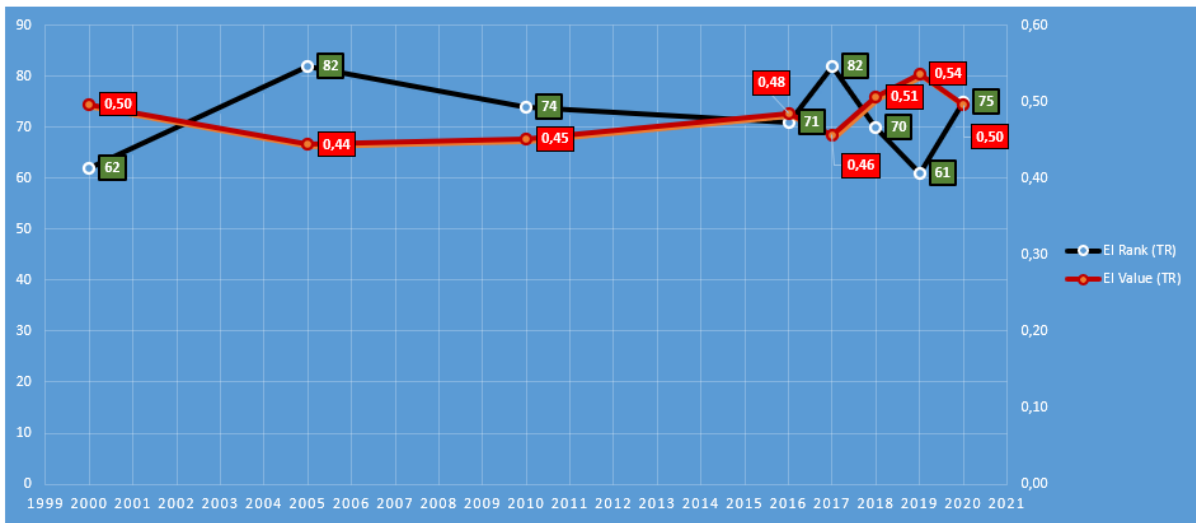
	2017				2018			
	Rank Median	Score Median	Score Average	Score Std.Dev.	Rank Median	Score Median	Score Average	Score Std.Dev.
ALL	77	0,472	0,505	0,194	78	0,478	0,505	0,202
OIC	106	0,382	0,408	0,136	109	0,361	0,396	0,153
Others	60	0,544	0,551	0,201	61	0,543	0,556	0,202
TR	82	0,457			70	0,507		
the top 3 Muslim countries	29	0,717	0,718	0,021	27	0,714	0,723	0,025
	(1) Malaysia, (2) United Arab Emirates, (3) Bahrain				(1) United Arab Emirates, (2) Qatar, (3) Malaysia			

	2019				2020			
	Rank Median	Score Median	Score Average	Score Std.Dev.	Rank Median	Score Median	Score Average	Score Std.Dev.
ALL	76	0,488	0,503	0,208	76	0,495	0,504	0,200
OIC	105	0,360	0,406	0,158	106	0,368	0,401	0,147
Others	65	0,518	0,549	0,212	61	0,547	0,552	0,204
TR	61	0,537			75	0,495		
the top 3 Muslim countries	30	0,717	0,729	0,037	35	0,695	0,709	0,026
	(1) United Arab Emirates, (2) Malaysia, (3) Qatar				(1) United Arab Emirates, (2) Malaysia, (3) Qatar			

Turkey's ranking and values in the Islamicity economic index between 2000 and 2020 are shown in Figure 2. Accordingly, while the economic index values have a low volatility between 2000 and 2015, they have a high volatility after 2016.

Among the many reasons for this situation, two stand out. The first of these is the military coup attempt that took place in Turkey on 15 July 2016. The second of these is the COVID-19 pandemic, which has been in effect since March 2019. In addition to these two factors, the erroneous economic policies of the Turkish government led to the emergence of this picture. The Turkish economy has an open market economy. Therefore, international investments have reached a historical low level especially after 2016. As a result, excessive depreciation of the Turkish Lira was observed. Turkey is among the 20 largest economies in the world. However, due to the reasons stated here, Turkey Islamicity economic index value is far from reflecting its real potential.

Figure 2: Islamicity Index (Economics): Turkey



2.3. Legal and Governance Islamicity Index

The index values of the legal and corporate governance sub-dimensions of the Islamicity index are given in Table 3. Accordingly, general inferences can be made as follows:

- According to the Islamicity legal and corporate governance index, the main deduction between 2000 and 2020 is that the median rank and median values of OIC countries compared to other countries are lower.
- The standard deviation of the values taken by OIC countries is lower than other countries. This shows that the value range in Islamic countries varies in a narrower range than in other countries.
- The Islamic countries with the highest value between 2000 and 2020 are Malaysia, United Arab Emirates, Qatar and Tunisia. Among these countries, the United Arab Emirates and Qatar are oil-rich countries.
- Although the values taken by Turkey are low between 2000 and 2020, they show a decreasing slope.

Table 3: Islamicity Index (Legal and Governance)

	2000				2005			
	Rank Median	Score Median	Score Average	Score Std.Dev.	Rank Median	Score Median	Score Average	Score Std.Dev.
ALL	75	0,463	0,500	0,248	76	0,440	0,497	0,257
OIC	110	0,311	0,348	0,162	106	0,325	0,333	0,171
Others	61	0,515	0,572	0,250	59	0,572	0,574	0,254
TR	67	0,499			61	0,567		
the top 3 Muslim countries	45	0,653	0,650	0,028	44	0,683	0,684	0,045
	(1) Malaysia, (2) United Arab Emirates, (3) Tunisia				(1) Malaysia, (2) United Arab Emirates, (3) Tunisia			

	2010				2016			
	Rank Median	Score Median	Score Average	Score Std.Dev.	Rank Median	Score Median	Score Average	Score Std.Dev.
ALL	76	0,464	0,497	0,260	76	0,467	0,496	0,264
OIC	110	0,302	0,331	0,179	113	0,272	0,331	0,177
Others	57	0,579	0,575	0,256	55	0,581	0,574	0,262
TR	63	0,537			67	0,521		
the top 3 Muslim countries	42	0,712	0,706	0,012	40	0,706	0,717	0,016
	(1) Malaysia, (2) Qatar, (3) United Arab Emirates				(1) United Arab Emirates, (2) Malaysia, (3) Qatar			

	2017				2018			
	Rank Median	Score Median	Score Average	Score Std.Dev.	Rank Median	Score Median	Score Average	Score Std.Dev.
ALL	77	0,470	0,500	0,257	78	0,478	0,500	0,259
OIC	113	0,291	0,337	0,167	112	0,298	0,338	0,174
Others	56	0,572	0,577	0,256	57	0,562	0,576	0,257
TR	81	0,442			85	0,431		
the top 3 Muslim countries	43	0,705	0,683	0,035	42	0,698	0,686	0,035
	(1) United Arab Emirates, (2) Qatar, (3) Malaysia				(1) United Arab Emirates, (2) Qatar, (3) Malaysia			

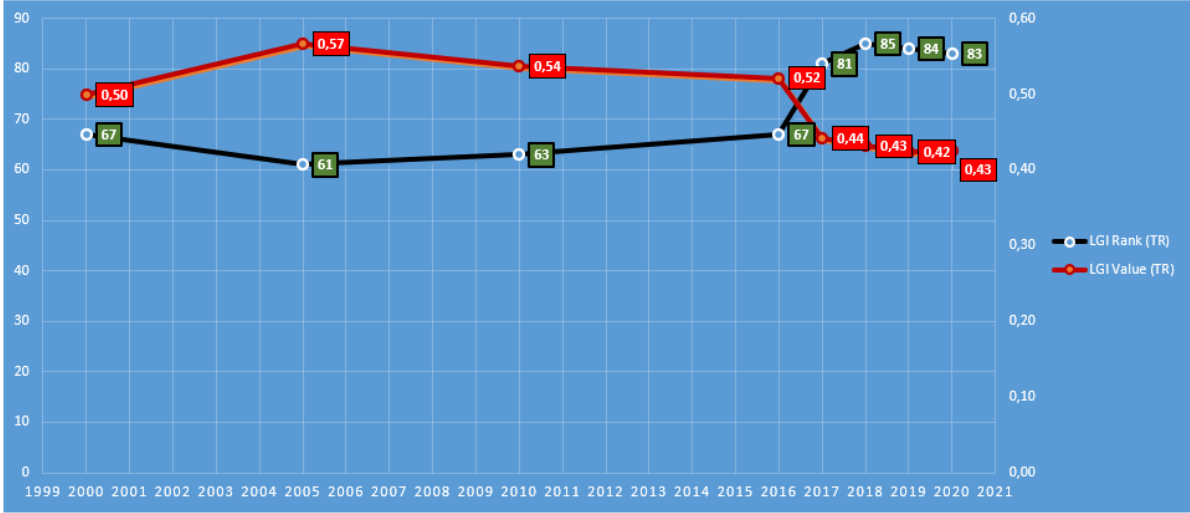
	2019				2020			
	Rank Median	Score Median	Score Average	Score Std.Dev.	Rank Median	Score Median	Score Average	Score Std.Dev.
ALL	76	0,475	0,499	0,259	76	0,470	0,499	0,260
OIC	112	0,303	0,338	0,178	114	0,299	0,334	0,175
Others	56	0,551	0,573	0,257	56	0,568	0,575	0,257
TR	84	0,423			83	0,425		
the top 3 Muslim countries	39	0,679	0,695	0,026	42	0,679	0,695	0,026
	(1) United Arab Emirates, (2) Qatar, (3) Malaysia				(1) United Arab Emirates, (2) Malaysia, (3) Qatar			

Turkey's ranking and values in the Islamicity legal and corporate governance index between 2000 and 2020 are shown in Figure 3. Accordingly, while the legal and corporate governance index values had a low volatility between 2000 and 2015, they had a decreasing slope after 2016.

The most important reason for this situation is the military coup attempt on 15 July 2016. After the coup attempt, a state of emergency was implemented for a certain period of time. In order to make the legislative process faster in emergency applications, the government has

fulfilled its functions with the Legislative Decrees, which are considered less democratic. This situation caused Turkey to be watched and evaluated negatively in the international arena. Another reason for the poor performance after 2016 in Figure 3 is the COVID-19 pandemic, which showed its effect in March 2019. The government has performed poorly in managing the pandemic period, especially for economic reasons.

Figure 3: Islamicity Index (Legal and Governance): Turkey



2.4. Human and Political Rights Islamicity Index

The index values of the human and political rights sub-dimensions of the Islamicity index are given in Table 4. Accordingly, general inferences can be made as follows:

- According to the Islamicity human and political rights index, the main deduction between 2000 and 2020 is that the median rank and median values of OIC countries compared to other countries are lower.
- The standard deviation of the values taken by OIC countries is lower than other countries. This shows that the value range in Islamic countries varies in a narrower range than in other countries.
- The Islamic countries with the highest value between 2000 and 2020 are Guyana, Suriname, Kuwait, Malaysia, Albania, United Arab Emirates, Qatar.
- Although the values taken by Turkey are low between 2000 and 2020, they show a decreasing slope.

Table 4: Islamicity Index (Human and Political Rights)

	2000				2005			
	Rank Median	Score Median	Score Average	Score Std.Dev.	Rank Median	Score Median	Score Average	Score Std.Dev.
ALL	76	0,479	0,509	0,228	76	0,480	0,508	0,229
OIC	112	0,322	0,323	0,107	113	0,315	0,326	0,112
Others	52	0,571	0,596	0,217	53	0,566	0,594	0,220
TR	85	0,420			86	0,424		
	59	0,545	0,545	0,007	58	0,538	0,554	0,042
the top 3 Muslim countries	(1) Guyana, (2) Suriname, (3) Kuwait				(1) Suriname, (2) Guyana, (3) Kuwait			

	2010				2016			
	Rank Median	Score Median	Score Average	Score Std.Dev.	Rank Median	Score Median	Score Average	Score Std.Dev.
ALL	76	0,486	0,508	0,227	76	0,465	0,507	0,227
OIC	117	0,316	0,328	0,112	116	0,319	0,326	0,115
Others	52	0,559	0,593	0,217	52	0,567	0,592	0,217
TR	80	0,456			80	0,456		
	62	0,520	0,532	0,021	58	0,540	0,535	0,021
the top 3 Muslim countries	(1) Suriname, (2) Kuwait, (3) Malaysia				(1) Suriname, (2) Albania, (3) Malaysia			

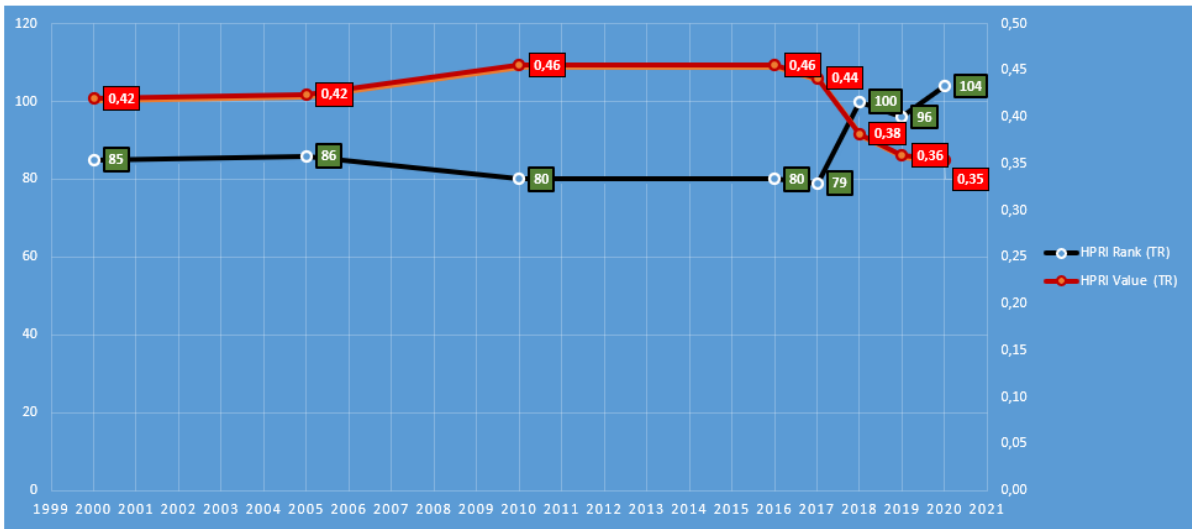
	2017				2018			
	Rank Median	Score Median	Score Average	Score Std.Dev.	Rank Median	Score Median	Score Average	Score Std.Dev.
ALL	76	0,470	0,500	0,257	78	0,477	0,510	0,226
OIC	112	0,291	0,337	0,167	115	0,339	0,334	0,116
Others	56	0,572	0,577	0,256	55	0,571	0,593	0,218
TR	79	0,442			100	0,382		
	43	0,705	0,683	0,072	52	0,594	0,577	0,057
the top 3 Muslim countries	(1) United Arab Emirates, (2) Qatar, (3) Malaysia				(1) Albania, (2) Suriname , (3) Guyana			

	2019				2020			
	Rank Median	Score Median	Score Average	Score Std.Dev.	Rank Median	Score Median	Score Average	Score Std.Dev.
ALL	76	0,458	0,498	0,230	76	0,478	0,510	0,235
OIC	113	0,310	0,322	0,111	112	0,331	0,330	0,117
Others	53	0,567	0,580	0,225	53	0,586	0,594	0,229
TR	96	0,359			104	0,354		
	59	0,542	0,570	0,056	59	0,557	0,570	0,040
the top 3 Muslim countries	(1) Albania, (2) Suriname , (3) Guyana				(1) Albania, (2) Suriname , (3) Guyana			

Turkey's ranking and values in the Islamicity human and political rights index between 2000 and 2020 are shown in Figure 4. Accordingly, while the human and political rights index values had a low volatility between 2000 and 2015, they had a decreasing slope after 2016.

It is observed that Turkey exhibited a low performance in this sub-index, especially after 2016. The main reason for this is the negative perception left in international platforms by the detention and investigation of people determined to be involved in the military coup attempt that took place on July 15, 2016. The prosecution processes of those who directly and indirectly supported this coup attempt fed this negative perception. The fact that journalists, soldiers, doctors, public officials and many other people among those on trial were evaluated negatively on the international platform. In this process, the investigations into the intra-Turkey formations affiliated with the PKK terrorist organization and the investigations against the members of the HDP party, which is seen as the political extension of the PKK terrorist organization, caused criticism, especially in the eyes of the European Union and the West.

Figure 4: Islamicity Index (Human and Political Rights): Turkey



2.5. International Relations Islamicity Index

The index values of the internationalization sub-dimension of the Islamicity index are given in Table 5. Accordingly, general inferences can be made as follows:

- According to the Islamicity internationalization index, the main deduction between 2000 and 2020 is that the median rank and median values of OIC countries are lower than other countries.
- The standard deviation of the values taken by OIC countries is lower than other countries. This shows that the value range in Islamic countries varies in a narrower range than in other countries.
- The Islamic countries with the highest value between 2000 and 2020 are Guyana, Nigeria, Ivory Coast, Tunisia, Indonesia, Albania, Libya, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Jordan.
- Although the values taken by Turkey are low between 2000 and 2020, they show a decreasing slope.

Table 5: International Relations Islamicity Index

	2000				2005			
	Rank Median	Score Median	Score Average	Score Std.Dev.	Rank Median	Score Median	Score Average	Score Std.Dev.
ALL	76	0,495	0,497	0,166	76	0,502	0,497	0,158
OIC	100	0,417	0,414	0,139	100	0,428	0,414	0,122
Others	59	0,560	0,536	0,164	58	0,547	0,536	0,158
TR	98	0,420			88	0,457		
	26	0,657	0,664	0,021	39	0,593	0,598	0,078
the top 3 Muslim countries	(1) Guyana, (2) Nigeria, (3) Cote d'Ivoire				(1) Nigeria, (2) Tunisia, (3) Indonesia			

	2010				2016			
	Rank Median	Score Median	Score Average	Score Std.Dev.	Rank Median	Score Median	Score Average	Score Std.Dev.
ALL	76	0,502	0,497	0,168	75	0,493	0,497	0,168
OIC	98	0,430	0,408	0,139	103	0,415	0,408	0,138
Others	60	0,537	0,538	0,164	62	0,527	0,538	0,165
TR	99	0,427			102	0,430		
	38	0,597	0,616	0,032	30	0,647	0,647	0,044
the top 3 Muslim countries	(1) Nigeria, (2) Albania, (3) Malaysia				(1) Albania, (2) Nigeria, (3) Malaysia			

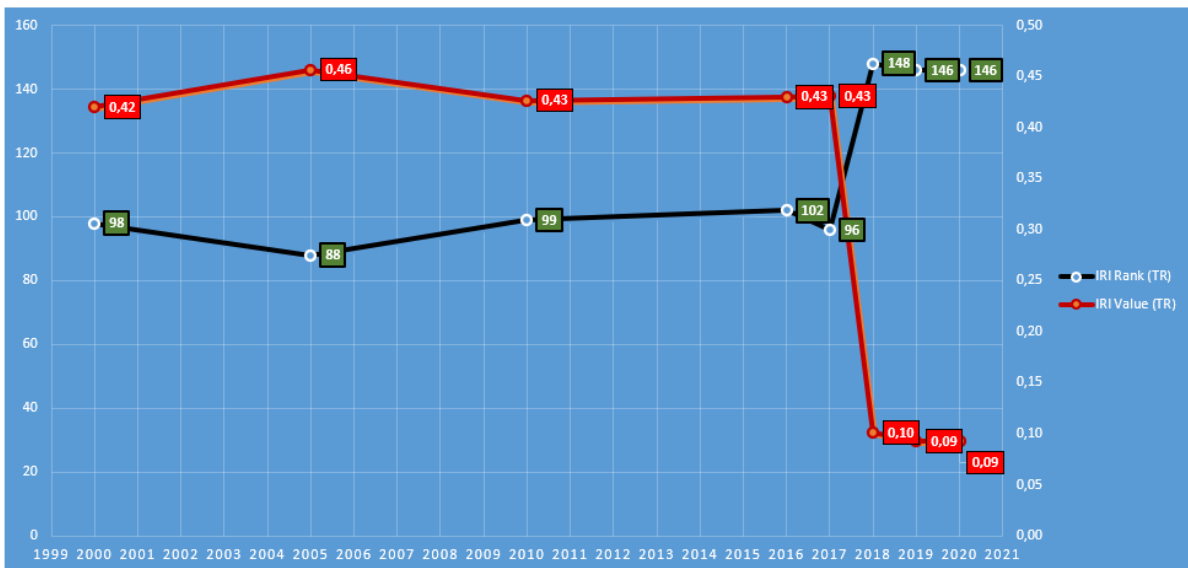
	2017				2018			
	Rank Median	Score Median	Score Average	Score Std.Dev.	Rank Median	Score Median	Score Average	Score Std.Dev.
ALL	76	0,500	0,499	0,177	77	0,503	0,498	0,213
OIC	106	0,406	0,391	0,153	107	0,400	0,397	0,210
Others	59	0,539	0,549	0,165	63	0,552	0,545	0,198
TR	96	0,431			148	0,101		
	40	0,622	0,672	0,071	14	0,801	0,784	0,061
the top 3 Muslim countries	(1) Albania, (2) Libya, (3) Nigeria,				(1) Sierra Leone, (2) Albania , (3) Senegal			

	2019				2020			
	Rank Median	Score Median	Score Average	Score Std.Dev.	Rank Median	Score Median	Score Average	Score Std.Dev.
ALL	74	0,517	0,500	0,209	76	0,497	0,497	0,211
OIC	91	0,462	0,421	0,207	106	0,392	0,378	0,195
Others	64	0,540	0,538	0,200	63	0,546	0,553	0,194
TR	146	0,09			146	0,093		
	9	0,831	0,813	0,030	24	0,722	0,736	0,070
the top 3 Muslim countries	(1) Sierra Leone, (2) Jordan, (3) Albania				(1) Sierra Leone, (2) Malaysia, (3) Albania			

Turkey's ranking and values in the Islamicity internationalization index between 2000 and 2020 are shown in Figure 5. Accordingly, internationalization index values have a low volatility between 2000 and 2015, but have a decreasing slope after 2016.

The main reasons for the noticeable decrease in Turkey's internationalization index is that Turkey has concentrated on military expenditures and military projects. In particular, the Turkish army, which was restructured after the 2016 military coup attempt, and the domestic production of needed military vehicles was accelerated. The main reason for this is the increase in Turkey's foreign threat perception. The conflict environment in neighboring Syria, the natural gas and oil exploration conflict with countries such as Greece, Israel and Egypt in the Eastern Mediterranean, and the conflicts in Libya have drawn the image of Turkey as a balancing country as a regional power and defending its rights on international platforms. In addition, Turkey hosts 4 million Syrians as refugees. In the context of conflict in Libya, it has prevented another possible tragedy in Libya by supporting the central government approved by the United Nations against the Haftar forces supported by Western countries and Russia. As an Islamic country, Turkey, which does not remain silent on the Palestinian issue, continues to express the idea of seeing Palestine as an independent state in every platform. Unmanned and armed aerial vehicles and many other military equipment that Turkey has developed in the military field in recent years, which can change the course of wars, does not please its Western allies. Because, the export of these vehicles has also started. In addition to countries such as Qatar, Azerbaijan and Pakistan, it has started to export high-tech weapon systems to other friendly and brotherly Islamic countries.

Figure 5: Islamicity Index (International Relations): Turkey



III. SUMMARY and RECOMMENDATIONS

In this report, Turkey's Islamicity index values are interpreted. Islamicity index values were examined in the period from 2000, when it was calculated, to 2020. The general trends in Islamicity index values and the main factors affecting these trends are explained.

Recent Successes

It has been observed that Turkey has a decreasing trend especially from 2016 to 2020 according to Islamicity index values. It has been stated that there are two main reasons for the deterioration in these values. These are (i) The Military Coup Attempt in 2016 and (ii) the negative effects of the COVID-19 Pandemic that started to show its effect in March 2019. Unfortunately, in the Turkey 2020 report, we see that the effects of these factors continue. Therefore, we cannot say that Turkey has achieved success in 2020 in terms of Islamicity index and sub-indices. For Turkey, 2020 has been a year in which the negative impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic was felt deeply.

Recent Shortfalls

Turkey showed a negative performance in all 2020 Islamicity index and sub-index values. Especially the COVID-19 Pandemic and the negative economic policies of the Turkish government are the main factors in the emergence of these results.

Recommendations

In the context of Turkey 2020 Islamicity Index and its sub-indices, the following recommendations may be suggested:

Islamicity Index

Turkey needs structural reforms in the context of economy, corporate governance, human rights and international relations.

Economic Islamicity Index

The economic policies implemented in Turkey need to be corrected immediately from the aspects that contradict the liberal economic system. At this point, Turkey either needs to go through reforms within the liberal economy system and fulfill the requirements of the liberal economy system, or it needs to implement an economic model unique to Turkey that is different from the liberal economy.

- Independence of the Central Bank: The independence of the Central Bank is a necessary condition in the liberal economy system. On the other hand, the

management of the Central Bank of the Republic of Turkey takes place in a way that is seen as contrary to the independence of the institution.

- High exchange rate: The Turkish lira depreciated by approximately 20% against foreign currencies. This situation caused the dollarization to reach a historical peak in Turkey. The total amount of foreign currency in Turkish banks has reached approximately 230 billion dollars. The Turkish people's trust in the Turkish Lira has decreased due to extremely ineffective economic policies.
- High Inflation: Especially the depreciation of the Turkish Lira and the increase in the prices of imported substitute products (especially energy) increased inflation. Structural reforms to reduce inflation cannot be made.
- High Interest Rates: Policy rates in the Republic of Turkey rose to 19%, reaching the highest level among other developing countries. High interest rates increase the debt costs of the private sector and the public. This causes less capital to be transferred to the investment.

Legal and Governance Islamicity Index

The most important problem of the corporate governance approach implemented in Turkey is the inability to select managers based on merit. The most important reason for this situation is that corporate governance and legal understanding cannot escape from political influences. Although the principle of separation of powers (legislative, executive and judiciary) has been adopted in Turkey, the legislature and the executive cannot be considered separately due to the current distribution of deputies. Because, it is the political parties on the same side that make the law and implement the law. Especially in the legislative process, the influence of the opposition is almost non-existent. The reason for this is that the decisions taken are taken by majority vote. The number of votes of the government party and the other party with which it formed an alliance is higher than the opposition. However, the main problem concerns the independence of the judiciary. The independence of the judiciary has never been fully achieved in Turkey. Among the reasons for this is the changes in the judicial organs in each changing government. Independent courts are the most important elements of democracy. Considering the 1923-2020 period, unfortunately, there are no important developments that can be said positively in terms of the evolution of judicial independence. The only positive situation is the statement that a string of judicial reforms planned by the Turkish government will be made.

Human and Political Rights Islamicity Index

The negative situation of Turkey in the value of the Islamicity human and political rights index does not fully reflect the situation in reality. The negative outlook on human rights continues between 2016 and 2020. The main reason for this is the investigations made against terrorist organizations. These investigations stem from the deliberate propaganda of the collaborators of these terrorist organizations on international platforms. Western countries especially want to use every situation against Turkey. Of course, the Turkish government should change this negative perception by implementing the right policies.

- In particular, freedom of the press and opinions from different segments should be welcomed calmly (provided that they are not contrary to the Turkish Constitution).
- Expressing different views from all segments should be provided by the Turkish Government.
- The criticism of the intelligentsia should be taken into account.
- The effectiveness of non-governmental organizations in the system should be increased.
- The competence of the judiciary must be ensured.
- It is necessary to ensure the competence of employees in public institutions.

International Relations Islamicity Index

Turkey 2020 internationalization index value is very low. There are two main reasons for this situation. It is the increase in Turkey's military expenditures and the decrease in Turkey's perceived peace. This value does not reflect Turkey's right and right to defend itself on issues that it is right on both national and international platforms. In the last 5 years, Turkey has increased its threat perception due to the threats coming from both national and international platforms. The activities of various terrorist organizations at the national level have been neutralized. At the international level, it has nullified the threats of western countries in Syria, Libya and Azerbaijan. Currently, Turkey has accepted 4 million Syrians and 1 million immigrants from different Muslim countries. At this point, it has claimed more refugees than any other world country.

It strongly opposes the attempts to establish a new state, which is planned to be established in northern Syria and which will be a threat to Islamic countries in the future. The establishment of this country will cause Iran, Iraq and Turkey in the region to be kept under constant threat. The purpose of the establishment of this state is to further consolidate the security of Israel. Therefore, although Turkey is a NATO member, it has not received the necessary support from its Western allies. This has been instrumental in the effective and

efficient realization of Turkey's military investments with domestic resources. In particular, the weapon systems developed in recent years have been used as a factor influencing the outcome in regional wars. These weapon systems have had effective results in the wars in Syria, Libya and Azerbaijan. Due to these investments, Turkey's military expenditures have increase