Despite the increasing number of people entering into Turkey as asylum seekers, the Turkish state has maintained the “rule of the geographical reservation” which does not allow non-European asylum seekers to remain in Turkey as refugees. With the start of the accession process into EU, Turkey’s position began to change in the map of international migration which in turn initiated a transition process leading to series of reforms to reconstruct the institutional structure concerning the non-European asylum seekers and to adopt national refugee legislation in conformity with international and EU standards. The proposed research is concerned with the study of the experience of the Iranian asylum seekers residing in a border satellite city, Van, South-eastern Turkey in the course of this transition process. It analyzes the effects of new legislative measures and current policies on the relationship between the asylum seekers and the official authorities. In so doing, the research aims to develop an account of socio-political processes surrounding the practices of international migration and to understand the ways the category of asylum seeker is used, produced and adopted in a border satellite city. The proposed research will be composed of two parts. The first part will consist of a survey with 100 Iranian asylum seekers who are recognized as refugees by the UNHCR and who have been waiting for the final decision of the Turkish state on their refugee-status determination. The survey will aim to provide a general profile about these legal subjects. The second part will consist of in-dept interviews with 30 asylum seekers from different ethnic and religious backgrounds, namely Azeris, Farsis and Kurds aiming to focus on a- their experience of migration and asylum seeking in Turkey, b-changing perceptions of their positions from the moment of entering Turkey as illegal migrant to gaining recognition of UNHCR as a refugee to waiting for the final decision of the Turkish authorities to be sent to a third host country, The key concern of the proposed project is to examine the nature of the relationship between legality and illegality regarding the asylum and migration policies and to understand the effect of the legislative measures on the experience of asylum seekers.