The Effects of the Europeanisation of Turkish Agriculture Policy on the Internal Migration Dynamics of the Agricultural Labour (Nazan Albayrak)

Agriculture is one of the most labour populated sectors of Turkey. Even though the share of it in GDP has decreased over time, the population of the persons involved in agriculture has not decreased in proportion to its share in GDP. There are many areas waiting to be reformed at the sector ranging from more effective production to land reform and also decreasing the labour involved in agricultural activities.

On the other hand, as the negotiations with the EU have started and in the medium-term future, Turkey’s EU membership is expected, the reform of agricultural sector will start soon. If the EU’s Common Agricultural Policy and all other related policies are considered (regional development policy, environmental policies, social policies), with the reform of Turkish Agricultural policy, a decrease at the agricultural labour can be expected.

This project aims to analyse the effects of the europeanisation of Turkish agricultural policy on the dynamics of immigration of the agricultural labour from rural to urban areas. As the decrease is expected at the population of agricultural labour and farmers, some of these people are also expected to migrate from rural areas to urban. Since these assumptions are not evident yet, the case of Polish agricultural reform and its affects on labour movements would provide an example for this research.

It is expected that, the Polish experience and the governments’ approaches to solve this problem could also highlight the Turkish experience and would provide practical and effective solutions for the possible immigration of agricultural labour.

After examining the Polish case, also the future prospects of Turkish government will be studied, and the projects, policies and perspectives of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs, on the immigration of agricultural labour and farmers, will be analysed.