



Türkiye's Immigration Landscape: Cultural Exchange and Labor Dynamics with Africa¹

Mert Efe Özuygun²

Abstract:

Türkiye's relations with the African continent trace back to the periods of the Ottoman Empire's existence there. Beginning with trade, continuing education, and improving labour force requirements continue to strengthen relations with the Modern Türkiye. As a result of the transformations the African continent has undergone in recent years, Türkiye wants to take advantage of the opportunities in the region, increasing its reputation through civil society organizations and aid agencies, while exerting a protective and reassuring influence in the region through military cooperation. Due to factors triggering migration from African countries, Türkiye and Europe are seen as a new hope for immigrants. In addition to the increasing need for the labour force, affordable education, and scholarship opportunities, the university entrance exam prepared specifically for foreign students also makes Türkiye an attractive centre. In this article, you will witness the journey stories of hope that often begin with aspirations to become football players, the changes in the perception of Africans over the years through the power of social media, and the factors influencing this, as well as the importance of arts, music, films, and television series in shaping society. From the challenges faced by African communities seeking hope in a new country to the conveniences provided by government institutions during the integration process, all these processes are addressed in this article.

Keywords:

Ottoman Empire; Türkiye; Africa; foreign policy; Türkiye-Africa relations; African perception.

¹ DOI: <https://doi.org/10.59569/jceas.2024.4.1.251>

² PhD Student at Óbuda University, Budapest, Hungary.
ORCID: 0009-0003-5818-8587; mertozuygun@gmail.com.

Introduction

In recent years, Turkey has become a popular destination for African migrants seeking new opportunities. This influx of African migrants represents a complex phenomenon shaped by various economic, political, and social factors, both within Africa and Türkiye. They are comprised of immigrant and refugee communities mostly from Western, Central, and Eastern Africa. African immigrants are distinct from Afro-Turks. Afro-Turks are Turkish people of African Zanj descent, who trace their origin to the Ottoman slave trade like the Afro-Abkhazians. Afro-Turk population is estimated to be between 5,000 and 20,000 people. While official government data on the exact population of Africans in Türkiye is lacking, a 2017 report by the state-owned Anadolu Agency estimated their numbers to be nearly 1.5 million (İncekaya 2017). However, a political party named Zafer Partisi (Victory Party) which is known for anti-migration promises, leader Ümit Özdağ suggested on his Twitter account that this number could surpass 2 million by 2023 (Özdağ 2023).

These new faces, encountered in almost every field from academia to art, from trade to sports, come to the country for various purposes; while some prefer to return after the migration experience, others choose to settle and lead their lives in Turkish society as one of them. Among this community, the most notable group consists of those who come from sub-Saharan African countries to Turkey with two fundamental purposes: "work" and "education." This article aims to discuss the migration experiences of Africans who come to Turkey from the regions designated for work in our country.

Navigating rough migration routes fraught with risks, African migrants undertake arduous journeys to reach Turkey and often face exploitation trafficking along the way. Türkiye's strategic geographical location serves as a gateway, facilitating migration flows and positioning the country as a pivotal transit point for those journeying toward Europe and beyond.

Furthermore, Türkiye's relationship with Africa, both historically and in the contemporary context, plays a significant role in shaping migration dynamics. From the Ottoman Empire's presence across three continents to Türkiye's present-day engagement with African nations, this historical backdrop influences migration patterns and diplomatic relations. Recent revelations regarding Nelson Mandela's acceptance of the Atatürk Peace Prize, contrary to previous beliefs, underscore the complexity of Türkiye-South Africa relations and highlight the importance of accurate historical narratives in diplomacy."

The Turkish Africa Partnership Policy, crafted through collaborative efforts among public institutions, the private sector, civil society organizations, and humanitarian aid entities, aims to promote peace, stability, and socio-economic development across the continent. It endeavours to foster relations grounded in equality and mutual benefit. High-level visits between Turkey and African nations play a pivotal role in sustaining



this partnership. President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, during his tenure as Prime Minister and thereafter, has undertaken visits to 31 African countries, spanning from Angola to Zambia.

Upon their arrival in Türkiye, migrants encounter numerous challenges, including securing housing and employment, overcoming language barriers, and navigating legal obstacles. The landscape of migration to Turkey underwent a significant transformation following the 2014 Syrian refugee crisis, impacting both minor and major migrant groups. However, African migrants have historically received less support and fewer integration programs compared to Syrians, exacerbating the obstacles they face in building a new life. Despite the challenges, African migrants demonstrate resilience, buoyed by support from the Turkish people, Muslim organizations, governmental humanitarian relief foundations, and initiatives aimed at fostering assistance and integration. Through an examination of the influx of African migrants and their experiences in Türkiye, this article seeks to analyse the evolution of their representation in Turkish society in recent decades (Brigitte 2013).

Turkey's Relationship with Africa in the Past and Today

The historical narrative of Turkish-African relations diverges significantly from that of the Ottoman Empire, which extended its influence across three continents. Although Turkey's contemporary engagement is predominantly in Asia, its historical imprint in Africa, particularly in regions like Egypt, Tripolitania, Tunisia, Algeria, and Abyssinia, has left enduring legacies. These provinces facilitated centuries of interwoven relations between Turkish and African histories from the 16th to the 20th centuries. Unlike imposing Turkish language, customs, or Islamic sects, cultural interactions with North African natives evolved naturally. This seriousness paved the way for relations to reach different dimensions. Turkey, which became an observer member of the African Union in 2005, attained strategic partner status in 2008. In the same year, declared as the "Year of Africa," Istanbul hosted the first Turkey-Africa Summit.

The increasing presence of African students studying in Türkiye holds promise for future relations. Beyond social and economic dimensions, Turkey's engagement with Africa encompasses defence treaties, exemplified by its interest in acquiring Rooivalk attack helicopters from South Africa in the early 1990s and this period marked the beginning of the modern Turkish Republic's relationship with Africa, exemplified by the appointment of Sami Onaran as Consul General to South Africa following the peaceful transition to Nelson Mandela's government. However, on May 14 of the same year, the refusal of Nelson Mandela to accept the Atatürk (Founder of Modern Türkiye) Peace Prize awarded to him led to a scandalous incident that marked the beginning of relations between the two countries (Wheeler 2011).

Recent findings by the South African ambassador reveal that Nelson Mandela did not reject the Atatürk Peace Prize, as previously believed. According to the ambassador, Mandela had expressed gratitude for the honour but could not personally receive the award due to scheduling conflicts and health reasons. This revelation contradicts earlier reports and highlights the importance of accurate information in diplomatic narratives. The clarification may reshape perceptions of Turkey-South Africa relations and underscore the need to carefully examine historical events (Anadolu Agency 2014).

Governmental Approach

Turkey's approach to Africa is guided by principles of equality, mutual respect, and common interests. The country aims to establish partnerships that are based on mutual benefit and cooperation. To achieve this, Turkey engages with African countries through various channels, including diplomatic visits, high-level meetings, and economic cooperation forums. The government emphasizes the importance of political dialogue and economic cooperation to strengthen ties with African nations. Additionally, Turkey provides development assistance to support African countries in areas such as infrastructure, education, healthcare, and agriculture. Cultural and educational exchanges are also promoted to enhance mutual understanding and friendship between Turkey and African nations. Overall, Turkey's approach to Africa underscores its commitment to emphasize comprehensive and mutually beneficial relations with countries across the continent.

Africa's Growing Significance in Turkish Foreign Policy

Africa has become a top priority in Turkish foreign policy, with Turkey making significant strides in its relations with African countries. The expansion of Turkish embassies on the continent to 44 underscores the importance of diplomatic ties. This heightened engagement has facilitated progress in various domains, including trade, infrastructure investments, cultural exchanges, security cooperation, and humanitarian initiatives.

Historically strong relationships serve as a foundation for Africa's growing importance in Turkish foreign policy. Moreover, this surge in engagement has led to a rise in the number of African students studying in Turkey. However, alongside these positive developments, it's crucial to acknowledge that there have been some missteps and criticisms regarding Turkish involvement in Africa.

Since 2011, Turkey has witnessed a steady rise in the number of African university students, driven in part by state scholarships offered as part of Turkey's soft power strategy on the continent. Recent data from 2022 indicates a total of 260,000 foreign students in Turkey, with 61,000 hailing from Africa. Egypt and Nigeria emerge as the

leading countries of origin among African students (Kavaş 2022). In addition to scholarships, education companies, and education fairs play a pivotal role in attracting African students to Türkiye. Nonetheless, state institutions remain at the forefront of these efforts. The Maarif Foundation, Turkish Language Association, Yunus Emre Institute, and Study in Turkey, affiliated with Yüksek Öğrenim Kurumu (Higher Education Council), stand out as key institutions driving initiatives to enhance educational cooperation between Türkiye and Africa.

Turkish Impact on Africa is Rising

Dr. Ali Onur Tepeciklioğlu, Dr. Elem Eyrice-Tepeciklioğlu and Dr. Can Karabıyık investigate the influence of Turkey's embassies on trade with Sub-Saharan Africa. Employing a panel data set covering 28 African countries from 2002 to 2020, their methodology aims to assess whether the establishment of embassies correlates with increased exports to these nations. Their findings align with previous empirical studies on the relationship between diplomatic representation and export dynamics, indicating a significant positive effect of embassy openings on export promotion to these regions. Furthermore, the analysis extends to examining the policy relevance of establishing foreign missions, shedding light on the economic viability of these new embassies. These complementary studies offer valuable insights into the diplomatic initiatives and strategies of the AKP (Justice and Development Party) in the region, particularly in Sub-Saharan Africa (Eyrice Tepeciklioğlu, Vreÿ & Baser 2024).

Turkey's relations with African countries continue through various institutions and agreements in addition to diplomatic missions. These include institutions such as the Turkish Cooperation and Coordination Agency (TİKA), Turkish Airlines (THY), Yunus Emre Institute (YEE), and Turkey Maarif Foundation (TMV), as well as agreements in different fields. In addition to Turkey's diplomatic relations with African countries, direct flights have been initiated to many countries through Turkish Airlines (THY). Making its first flight to Africa in 1956, THY increased the number of countries it flies to on the continent to 40 and the number of destinations to 61 with flights to the capital of Angola, Luanda. The Turkey Maarif Foundation (TMV) also conducts activities in the field of education by opening schools and dormitories across the continent (De Bel-Air 2016).

It is stated that there are 208 universities in Turkey and more than 8 million university students, and this figure is the highest in the field of Higher Education in Europe. Turkey is located within the European Higher Education Area. The score it received in the Bologna report is 5 out of 5. The diplomas of 45 thousand departments in these 208 universities are accepted in European countries. Attractive reasons for African students. University education, which is quite expensive in the world, is quite cheap in our country compared to other countries. The annual fees of Hacettepe University, Ege University,

Amasya University, and universities located in Istanbul are 0 to 5 thousand, while Başkent University is 5 to 10, and Bilkent University is 10 to 15 thousand USD per year.

Turkey has military attachés in 19 countries in Africa

After South Africa imposed a weapons embargo against Türkiye in 1995, bilateral relations between the two nations became more strained. However, Mandela's successor, Thabo Mbeki, pursued a more conciliatory stance toward Türkiye. This shift paved the way for Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan's inaugural visit to South Africa in 2005 (Öztürk & Duman 2023). Türkiye's ongoing reconstruction efforts across Africa are expanding, enhancing its potential for greater collaboration and mutual benefit (Ozkan 2014).

With the military attachés established in 19 countries across Africa, Turkey is engaged in cooperation in the field of security. Turkish Armed Forces (TSK) personnel have been serving in Mali and the Central African Republic under the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali (MINUSMA) since 2016 to ensure peace and stability.

In 2017, Turkey established the Somali Turkish Task Force Command, which serves as the largest military training centre abroad. This command trains officers and non-commissioned officers who will form the backbone of the Somali army. Under the "Security and Military Cooperation Memorandum of Understanding" signed between Turkey and Libya, the training program prepared by the TSK for Libyan military students continues. Most recently, 90 members of the Libyan Counter-Terrorism Force, who underwent basic and advanced training lasting 6 and 12 weeks, received their diplomas on April 18th (Kavak & Aktaş 2021).

The Mavi Vatan (Blue Homeland) Doctrine

Developed by Turkish retired admiral Cihat Yaycı, the "Blue Homeland" doctrine, known as Mavi Vatan in Turkish, represents a comprehensive maritime strategy crafted by Turkey to assert its maritime interests and territorial claims. It encompasses Turkey's aspirations to safeguard its maritime boundaries, assert its rights in the Eastern Mediterranean, and protect its interests in the Black Sea and the Aegean. Embraced by various segments of Turkish society, including military, political, and intellectual elites, the doctrine underscores Turkey's determination to assert its influence and protect its maritime resources. However, its adoption has also sparked debates and tensions, particularly concerning its alignment with traditional ideologies and the need for modernizing Turkey's naval capabilities. President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan's endorsement of the doctrine further underscores its significance in Turkey's foreign policy and national security agenda. As Turkey navigates regional dynamics and international relations, the



success of the "Blue Homeland" doctrine will depend on its ability to balance assertiveness with diplomatic engagement and strategic partnerships (Katsikidis 2022).

Turkey's Role in Libya

Türkiye has a key position on the energy corridors, smuggling, and illegal migration routes according to Türkiye's geographical location in the Mediterranean Sea and Middle East. Furthermore, Turkey's influence and balancing role in western Libya, along with its significant military presence, play a crucial part in shaping the political atmosphere. This factor attracts countries who are looking for solutions to controversies in Africa to collaborate with Turkey.

Additionally, Turkey's military presence in Libya acts as a deterrent, helping to prevent the emergence of a new influx of migration by containing the potential internal conflict or, in other words, by preventing the tense political atmosphere from translating into social dynamics. The geographical proximity of Turkish military forces to the cities of Zawiya and Zuwarah, which are seen as key migration routes from Libya to the Mediterranean, as well as Turkey's experience in border security, make Turkey an effective ally in migration management (Şefkatli 2024).

Italy's Development, Migration, and Security Agenda in Africa: The Mattei Plan

Italy has recently implemented the "Mediterranean diplomacy" known as the Mattei Plan, in Africa under Prime Minister Meloni's leadership. As a Mediterranean country, Italy relies on African nations for 40% of its natural gas needs. However, escalating instability and conflict in the Sahel region and North Africa threaten Italy's energy security. Thus, the primary objective of the Mattei Plan is to position Italy as an energy hub bridging North Africa and Europe. Nevertheless, it's arguable that Italy also aims to manage migration flows through this initiative. Initially conceived in the 1950s to secure Italy's energy supply, the Mattei Plan now encompasses irregular migration alongside energy and economic priorities, especially amidst increased global engagement with Africa.

Within the Mattei Plan, Italy seeks to address poverty, economic challenges, and structural barriers as part of its approach to tackling migration issues. The emphasis is on promoting economic growth and development as solutions to migration challenges. These initiatives may foster backdoor diplomacy on migration, emphasizing principles of development and mutual benefit. Moreover, Italian officials highlight the Mattei Plan's distinctiveness from China and Russia's policies in Africa, aiming to expand Italy's influence on the continent.

During the January 2024 Rome Summit, which saw the participation of over 20 African leaders and European Union representatives, Meloni outlined a comprehensive

\$5.95 billion investment strategy, with a primary focus on energy cooperation as a pivotal aspect of economic development. This initiative represents a proactive approach by Italy, potentially reshaping its historical engagement with Africa and offering a platform to manage irregular migration flows through enhanced mediation efforts on the continent (Torkington 2024).

Push Factors in Africa (Economic Hardship, Political Instability, Conflict, etc.)

According to the International Monetary Fund's 2024 GDP projections, South Africa ranks as the wealthiest African country with a GDP of \$401 billion (equal to ₺13 billion), while Türkiye's current GDP stands at \$1.34 billion (equal to ₺43 billion) (IMF 2023). Moreover, political instability, governance challenges, frequent coups, and persistent conflicts in various African nations compel individuals to seek refuge and safety elsewhere. Additionally, environmental factors such as climate change and environmental degradation further exacerbate the need for displacement and migration.

Highest GDP Countries		Lowest GDP Countries	
South Africa	\$401B	Eswatini	\$5B
Nigeria	\$395B	Liberia	\$5B
Egypt	\$358B	Sierra Leone	\$4B
Algeria	\$239B	Djibouti	\$4B

Figure 1: Highest and Lowest GDP in African Countries
 Source: IMF

In 2024, South Africa is expected to have the highest unemployment rate in Africa, projected at approximately 30 percent. Djibouti and Eswatini are also anticipated to face significant challenges, with unemployment rates of around 28 percent and 25 percent, respectively. Conversely, Niger and Burundi exhibit the lowest unemployment rates on the continent. However, across Africa, youth unemployment remains a prevalent issue, with projections indicating a rate of around 11 percent in 2024. Djibouti faces an especially acute challenge, with an estimated youth unemployment rate of nearly 80 percent in 2022, followed by South Africa with approximately 52 percent. Gender disparities persist, with female unemployment rates in Africa reaching around eight percent in 2023, compared to 6.6 percent among men. Djibouti and South Africa rank highest for female unemployment, with rates of approximately 38 percent and 31 percent, respectively. The mass unemployment and rootless situation of young people, particularly in urban areas, is a source of constant unrest in many African countries. Consequently, these states do not hinder but rather support the emigration of young people. (Galal 2023).

Pull Factors in Türkiye (Growing Economy, Labour Demand)

Türkiye has a large influence over African nations due to their religious and historical relations. A secular republic founded in 1923 as a predecessor of the Ottoman Empire that is located in a unique location from Asia to Anatolia, Anatolia to Europe is a massive pull factor for Africans who are looking for better life conditions. According to the World Bank, Türkiye's GDP per capita (PPP) is \$38,355, the Middle East and North Africa average is \$19,806 and the Sub-Saharan Africa average is \$4,434 (World Bank 2022).

Country	Most Recent Year	Most Recent Value
Türkiye	2022	\$38,355.2
Middle East & North Africa	2022	\$19,806.5
Sub-Saharan Africa	2022	\$4,434.7

Figure 2: Comparison of Türkiye and Africa's GDP Averages

Source: The World Bank

Additionally, the Gross External Debt Stock of Türkiye amounted to 499.9 billion US Dollars. Between 2004 to 2024, Türkiye's Debt Stock skyrocketed from \$149 billion to \$499.9 billion.³ Africans who migrate to Turkey to work are active in many different sectors. Among them, the most well-known are those who work in salaried jobs like Turkish citizens, those active in the television and film industry, employed athletes, freelancers, street vendors, cargo workers, interpreters, guides, educators, and artisans. Sport facilities, particularly football hold significant appeal for many African migrants in Türkiye, offering the promise of stability for themselves and their families. While some secure contracts in Türkiye's Regional Amateur League (BAL) or Turkish top division Trendyol Süper Lig (Trendyol Super League), which boasted a \$500 million (₺16 billion) broadcasting revenue in 2017,⁴ others aim to advance their careers in a Muslim-friendly environment and may choose Türkiye as their first destination. Indeed, Türkiye has served as a starting point for numerous talented players who have successfully moved on to the top European leagues and the English Premier League. Notable players like Demba BA, Didier DROGBA, Jay Jay OKOCHA, Stephen APPIAH, Ibrahima YATTARA, and Daniel AMOKACHI have made indelible marks on Turkish football. However, for those encountering setbacks in their footballing aspirations, Türkiye offers limited alternatives. Some explore alternative employment opportunities, while others contemplate returning to their homelands. In the face of these challenges, time becomes a crucial factor for these individuals, who are acutely aware of the need to seize opportunities swiftly (CLERCK & Marie-Lou 2013).

³ <https://en.hmb.gov.tr/duyuru/gross-and-net-external-debt-stock-of-turkiye-as-of-31-december-2023>

⁴ <https://www.sporx.com/super-lig-yine-digiturkte-500-milyon-dolar-SXHBQ584599SXQ>

Athletics emerges as a notable pathway for migration to Türkiye among athletes. Between 1999 and 2008, six Ethiopians, followed by eight Kenyans along with two Jamaicans and one South African between 2013 and 2016, transitioned to Turkish citizenship to represent the country on the international stage. Among these athletes, Elvan ABEYLEGESSE stands out as a prominent figure. Born in Ethiopia, she excels as a middle and long-distance running athlete, competing across distances ranging from 1500 meters to the marathon, as well as in cross-country events. A former world record-holder in the 5000-meter event with a time of 14:24.68 minutes, ABEYLEGESSE has garnered a remarkable collection of medals, including two gold, one bronze, and one silver. Her sportsmanship was recognized in 2010 when she received the Pierre de Coubertin World Fair Play Trophy for her act of lending a pair of running shoes to competitor Meselech Melkamu just moments before the start of the 10,000 meters final at the 2009 World Championships in Athletics, ultimately leading Melkamu to win the silver medal.⁵

Migration Routes and Methods

In many other African countries, men between the ages of 18 to 40 years head to North Africa every year along well-established migrant smuggling routes, then board boats to cross the Mediterranean into Europe. African migrants employ diverse routes and migration channels to reach Turkey, reflecting the complexities of their journeys. Some opt for land routes, navigating through multiple countries and crossing borders to reach their destination. Others choose perilous sea journeys, particularly those originating from North African countries.

The Mediterranean Sea route is one such path, notorious for its dangers yet frequented by migrants from countries like Somalia, Sudan, and Eritrea. For many, Turkey serves as both a destination and a transit point, with some aiming to settle in the country while others continue their journey toward Europe.

Over the past year alone, approximately one million new migrants have joined the ranks, contributing to the estimated total of 43 million African migrants. The majority of these migrants, predominantly young and unattached individuals, remain within the continent, seeking employment opportunities in urban centres. However, some opt to pursue job prospects beyond Africa, with a notable presence in the Middle East and Europe. Despite this, Africans represent only a small proportion, comprising 6.6% and 8.2% of all migrants in the respective regions (World Bank 2023).

Analysis of Turkey's Immigration Policies

⁵ <https://worldathletics.org/news/iaaf-news/fair-play-to-abeylegesse>

Demographic Data

Since the late 1990s, there has been a significant rise in the number of immigrants and refugees of African origin in Turkey due to migration. The contemporary migrant community primarily comprises individuals from countries such as Ghana, Ethiopia, the Republic of Congo, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Sudan, Nigeria, Kenya, Eritrea, Somalia, and Senegal. Initially, many African migrants came to Turkey intending to cross into Europe. However, with both Turkey and the EU implementing stricter migration policies, an increasing number of migrants now choose to settle in Turkey instead. As of 2021, Istanbul hosts around 70% of the African population in Türkiye due to the availability of work (Dedecan 2023).

Arriving from Sub-Saharan African Countries			Arriving from Whole African Countries		
Country	20016	2017	Country	2016	2017
Nigeria	1583	1734	Libya	4344	6029
Somali	1452	701	Egypt	4094	8582
Sudan	656	442	Morocco	1763	2556
Ethiopia	551	495	Nigeria	1583	1734
Ghana	477	326	Algeria	839	1478

Figure 3: Sub-Saharan African Countries and Whole African Countries Immigration and Refugees in Türkiye

Source: DHA (Demirören News Agency)

Legal Status

The legal status of African migrants in Turkey is diverse and can significantly impact their access to various services and opportunities. While some may arrive with valid visas for work or study, others may be undocumented, facing challenges in employment, housing, and accessing social services. This revised overview sets the stage for a more detailed exploration of African migration to Turkey. Subsequent sections will delve into the specific factors driving migration, the experiences of migrants upon arrival, and the challenges and opportunities they encounter in their new home.

Turkey does not grant refugee status to approximately 400,000 asylum seekers from non-Council of Europe member states such as Iran, Iraq, Afghanistan, and African countries. Due to geographical limitations, Turkey has established a unique international protection status called "conditional refugee status." In 2024, Turkey hosts a diverse range of residents, including 612,331 short-term residence permit holders, 171,992 students, 125,048 individuals with family residence permits, and 216,212 holders of other types of visas, totaling 1,125,583. The top three cities in Turkey by residence permits are Istanbul with 554,552, Antalya with 122,535, and Bursa with 51,060 residents. Additionally, data from Turkey's Directorate General of Migration Management reveals that in 2020, 281 individuals were identified as human trafficking victims, a number that increased to 402 in 2021, decreased to 343 in 2022, and further dropped to 223 in 2023. Currently, Turkey provides shelter for 42 victims of human trafficking (Presidency of Migration Management 2024).

Residence Permit Types in Türkiye	
Short Term Residence Permit	612.331
Student Residence Permit	171.992
Family Residence Permit	125.048
Others	216.212

*Figure 4: Residency Types in 2024 at Türkiye
Source: Presidency of Migration Management*

In 2023, Turkey demonstrated robust efforts in managing irregular migration, with 42,738 irregular migrants apprehended, marking a significant stride in border security. Impressively, 39,576 irregular migrants were efficiently deported, representing a commendable 93% success rate in curbing unauthorized entry. Additionally, proactive measures prevented the entry of 96,785 irregular migrants into the country, underscoring Turkey's commitment to border control and immigration management. Over the last 12 months, a substantial 134,602 irregular migrants were deported, reflecting sustained efforts to uphold immigration regulations and ensure the integrity of Turkey's borders (Presidency of Migration Management 2023).

Efforts to Facilitate Integration

Initiatives aimed at facilitating the integration of migrants into Turkish society encompass a multifaceted approach, addressing social, economic, and cultural aspects. Government-led programs prioritize language instruction, vocational training,



employment assistance, and legal aid, equipping migrants with the necessary skills and resources for successful integration. Community-driven initiatives, in collaboration with local businesses and educational institutions, provide platforms for migrants to actively participate in society and contribute to its growth. Additionally, promoting intercultural dialogue and fostering mutual understanding between migrants and host communities are pivotal for creating an inclusive and cohesive society. Through concerted efforts at all levels, Turkey endeavors to cultivate an environment where migrants can flourish and engage fully in their new communities.

Potentials & Exceptions for Higher Education

Türkiye has emerged as a preferred destination for African students seeking higher education opportunities. In 2020, Turkey ranked 8th among African students' preferences, attracting over 28,000 students for education purposes. By 2023, this number had surged to 61,000 African students choosing Turkey for their studies (Kavak 2023a).

Between 2011 and 2021, Türkiye Bursları (Turkey Scholarships) received applications from more than 314,000 students from 54 African countries, with 13,982 students being awarded scholarships. Additionally, thousands of African students pursue university studies in Turkey through other means. In 2021 alone, 4,403 African students enrolled in undergraduate, master's, and doctoral programs at Turkish universities. Furthermore, there are 8,786 graduates from Turkey across 51 African countries (Anadolu Agency, 2021).

Civil society organizations, including the Presidency for Turks Abroad and Related Communities and the Diyanet Foundation, have also played a significant role in facilitating education opportunities for young Africans. Their contributions have enabled over 30,000 African students to pursue studies in Turkish universities, whether public or private (Kavaş 2022).

This data underscores Turkey's growing prominence as a destination for higher education among African students and highlights the collaborative efforts of various stakeholders in promoting educational exchanges between Turkey and Africa.

Turkish universities play a pivotal role in welcoming African students, offering them various privileges such as scholarships, part-time work opportunities, and participation in conferences. For instance, Istanbul Aydın University has established an African Student Union dedicated to assisting students in making the most of their experience in Türkiye. The university hosts panel meetings, known as "African Students Meets Business Life," aimed at connecting students with potential employers who value their diverse backgrounds and skill sets.

The YÖS Examination (Foreign Student Exam) serves as an entrance examination tailored for foreign students aspiring to pursue higher education in Turkey. Individual universities administer their variations of the exam, which is exclusively open to candidates seeking admission to undergraduate programs. Students aiming for transfer opportunities or postgraduate studies apply directly to their preferred institutions. Annually, approximately 5,000 candidates sit for the YÖS Examination (OSYM 2024).

A recent analysis of the exam questions suggests that they are generally considered easier compared to the Turkish university placement exam, which is designed for Turkish citizens. This discrepancy has led to discontent among Turkish adolescents, as university quotas are being occupied by foreign students instead of local applicants. One notable instance is Karabük University, located in the Turkish city of Karabük, where out of a total student population of 45,358, 11,890 are international students (Karasu 2024).

The Role of NGOs and Community Support Initiatives

TMV (Turkish Maarif Foundation) extends educational opportunities to 17,565 students across 175 institutions in 26 African countries and addresses accommodation needs through 18 student dormitories. The Presidency for Turks Abroad and Related Communities (YTB) has supported higher education for 5,259 students from 52 African nations between 2010 and 2019.

TIKA (Turkish Cooperation and Coordination Agency) and YEE (Yunus Emre Institute) are actively engaged in development and educational projects benefiting Africans. TIKA operates in Africa through 22 representations, while YEE manages cultural centers in 10 countries. With offices in Algeria, Morocco, Tunisia, Somalia, Sudan, Rwanda, Senegal, Mauritania, and The Gambia, YEE expands its presence to Abuja, Nigeria, to promote Turkish language and cultural exchange. Additionally, YEE fosters collaboration in culture and arts, alongside Turkish language instruction, to strengthen bonds with African communities.

Immigration Groups and Their Status

In the context of immigration groups and their status, it has been observed that certain companies in Türkiye are due to a lack of official statistics or reports published. Such as the chicken farm Lezita, has begun to hire African workers following the employment of Indian & Syrian workers. While the exact statistics on the number of foreign workers in Türkiye remain unclear, Lezita recently announced the hiring of 37 foreigners, equivalent to 1% of their labour force, to replace 69 individuals who recently left due to reasons such as resignation, retirement, or marriage. This move triggered a strike and



protests against the company which is currently on its 45th day, expressing concerns about potential job losses and the preference for a labour force without a full package of benefits, also leading companies to access special interest rate loans from government banks. Despite this, African workers hired by Lezita have expressed satisfaction with their work experience in Türkiye, prompting inquiries and requests for guidance from other Africans seeking job opportunities or contemplating relocation. Lezita's official statement highlights the necessity for foreign labour to sustain production amid inadequate recruitment efforts, particularly considering the factory's location. The statement emphasizes that this approach is also adopted by other companies facing similar challenges. Additionally, it was noted that the strike had no impact on operations, as the facility continued production at full capacity without any disruptions in the supply chain or changes in quality or operations (Yeniçağ 2024).

Following the preceding discussion on the utilization of foreign labour in Türkiye, it's noteworthy that African workers continue to play a significant role in various sectors, including agriculture. As exemplified in the annual tea harvest, African workers contribute to Türkiye's agricultural workforce, particularly in tea-rich regions like Rize, known for its tea cultivation. In 2021, the tea harvest saw the active involvement of African workers, highlighting their integral role in meeting the labour demands of Türkiye's agricultural sector. The presence of African workers in activities like tea harvesting underscores the diversity of Türkiye's labour force and the collaborative efforts across different communities to sustain crucial sectors of the economy (NTV 2021).

Integration Challenges

Legal Obstacles & Language Barriers

A significant portion of immigrants and refugees from African countries face difficulties with registration. The majority of Africans who have been in Turkey for 3-4 years but have not been able to access any registration process are predominant. While those who are refugees should benefit from the international protection regime, it is observed that due to both language barriers and the attitude of migration authorities, these individuals cannot even apply.

Africans who have had their residence applications rejected, cannot access the asylum regime, are subject to administrative supervision, and face the risk of deportation are compelled to continue their daily lives by working in the informal sector, just like other migrant and refugee communities.

Discrimination, Unpaid Wages, Poor Housing Conditions

Turkish perception of Africa has undergone significant changes throughout history. In the 1970s and 1980s, Africans were often portrayed in Turkish films with stereotypical

terms such as "Arap bacı" (Arab sister) and "Zenci" (Negro), reflecting a problematic perception of the continent. These terms serve as evidence of the problematic nature of the perception of the continent in Turkey (Kavak 2023b). Meanwhile, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) from various Turkish cities began operating in Africa during the late 1990s. However, their perception of Africa was influenced not by what they observed but rather by preconceived notions.

This situation has been likened to Europe's post-independence aid policies, which perpetuated colonial cooperation, mirroring Europe's perception of Africa. The portrayal of Africa by some NGOs solely as "the hungry, deprived, and poor" has led to a distortion of the realistic portrayal of Africa (ChatGPT 2023).

General Impact of African Immigrants on Turkish Society

Societal Tensions and Conflicts

Recent refugee crises worldwide have had a profound impact on Türkiye, which hosts more refugees than any other country. The growing support for repatriating refugees to their home countries also affects Africans who have established long-term residency in Türkiye. Despite the generally welcoming attitude towards Africans in Turkish society, negative media portrayal of refugees has contributed to the dissemination of prejudiced beliefs. Turkish citizens are increasingly cognizant of neighbourhoods with a predominant foreign ethnic population, leading to a decline in societal support, particularly in the wake of economic challenges stemming from events such as the COVID-19 pandemic and the Russian-Ukrainian War. These factors have fuelled concerns among Turkish citizens, exemplified by the influx of Russian refugees fleeing conflict to cities like Antalya, resulting in soaring real estate prices and significant demographic shifts, which are viewed with apprehension by residents.

The presence of Africans in Turkey significantly impacts Turkish society, reflecting the interconnectedness between Turkish and African communities. This bond was vividly exemplified during a natural disaster in Turkey in 2023, where Africans demonstrated their adaptability and solidarity by extending invaluable assistance and aid.

A significant example occurred in Turkey's Cape Town Municipality, where efforts were promptly organized to provide support. According to the Anadolu Agency, these humanitarian contributions encompassed a range of essential supplies, including over 500 tents, 1000 sets of winter clothing, 250 blankets, 200 medical kits, and more (Güvendik 2023). This remarkable initiative underscores the depth of the bonds shared between these communities, bridging the geographical distance between Türkiye and African lands.

Cultural Exchange and Integration: Movies, TV Series, Arts and Music

Television serves as a powerful medium through which one can gain insights into Turkish culture, societal norms, and the government's influence on media. Throughout various periods of the Ottoman Empire, Africans came to Turkey and settled within its borders. Among them were individuals who made significant contributions to Turkish cinema and television, leaving an indelible mark on the entertainment industry.

One notable example is Dursune Şirin, an Afro-Turkish actress born in Türkiye in 1913. Throughout her illustrious career, Şirin appeared in over 70 films, leaving an enduring legacy in Turkish cinema. Another prominent figure is Ihsan Küçüktepe, known for his portrayal of 'Çitlembik,' a trusted companion to the main character in Turkish television series. Küçüktepe's character resonated deeply with Turkish audiences, earning him widespread acclaim and popularity.

Max Bendo, born in 1972, is another inspiring example of an African actor who found success in Turkey. Starting his career as an animator, Bendo transitioned to television series acting after coming to Turkey. He became known for his roles in series such as "En Son Babalar Duyar" and "Akasya Durağı." Bendo later obtained Turkish citizenship and appeared in more than 300 episodes, mostly from these television series, which lasted for over 5 seasons.

Bendo's journey serves as an example for African individuals seeking better life conditions in a new country and for nations that embrace minorities and integrate them into their communities.

In Turkish television series, representations of cultural customs and traditions, such as circumcision, are often portrayed for comedic effect. Max Bendo is depicted wearing traditional Turkish circumcision celebration attire. Circumcision is a significant event in Turkish culture, and actors often portray humorous reactions to the ritual, reflecting the Turkish community's religious roots. Additionally, Turkish audiences are curious to see Kenyan customs depicted in television series, although this curiosity sometimes leads to portrayals of African tribal village life and customs with voodoo magic jokes (Ramm 2016).

Travel blogger Marion Kate Smith, who has attended Turkish courses and explored Turkey over the past decade, is showcasing his memories, photographs, and sketches in an exhibition in Istanbul, supported by institutions in Turkey. Concurrently, five friends studying in Turkey have formed a band named 'Highlife' that performs at festivals across the country by singing in Turkish. They highlight the warm reception they receive from Turkish people when foreigners attempt to speak in Turkish, noting that singing in Turkish is particularly appreciated.

Example 1: Jacob Kakra Bida's Journey in Türkiye

Jacob Kakra Bida, a 21-year-old from Ghana, epitomizes the aspirations and struggles of many young African migrants in Turkey. With dreams of European football stardom burning bright in his heart, Jacob left behind his family and the familiar comforts of his homeland, seeking a chance to prove his talent and transform his life. His family, unwavering in their support, believes in his potential to become a renowned footballer, a conviction that echoes Jacob's unwavering determination.

As Jacob navigates the complexities of life in Turkey, he faces a myriad of challenges, determined to overcome them all. For Jacob and countless others like him, the pursuit of professional football is not merely a personal ambition; it's a lifeline, a chance to break the cycle of poverty and elevate their families' circumstances. This article delves into the experiences of African migrants in Turkey, exploring their dreams, struggles, and the unwavering hope that drives them forward.

Example 2: Somali President's Son in Hit-and-Run Case

A collision in Istanbul involving Mohammed Hassan Sheikh Mohamud who is the son of Somalia's president ignited public anger in Turkey. The incident, which resulted in the death of a motorcycle courier named Yunus Emre Göcer, drew accusations of a cover-up and unequal treatment under the law. Initial reports indicated a lack of action from authorities. This sparked outrage, leading to protests from motorcycle drivers and couriers demanding justice for Göcer. Istanbul's mayor, Ekrem Imamoglu, said in December 2023 that he was glad the prosecutor's office had issued the arrest warrant. The mayor had written on X, formerly known as Twitter, that the prosecutor's office would need to explain discrepancies between the initial police report and the latest statement "which allowed the suspect to flee abroad" (İmamoğlu 2023).

The Somali president, denying his son had fled, claimed he left due to prior business commitments and the absence of an arrest warrant. He expressed condolences to Göcer's family and stated he advised his son to return for court proceedings. News reports also mentioned communication between the Turkish and Somali justice ministers. At the time, Turkish state news agency Anadolu reported that Justice Minister Yılmaz Tunç told reporters in Ankara he had personally spoken with the Somali justice minister (McLean 2024).

Example 3: Various Interviews

Pascal, one of the hundreds of Africans who came to Turkey seven years ago at the age of 20 with dreams of playing football, faced disappointment. Despite being liked by numerous teams, he never received his payment from any of them.

"I didn't understand what was happening. They would tell me 'You're very good,' but everything would fall apart after the team gathered. I don't know why. They took me to Tokat Spor football club. I stayed there for three years. They were supposed to get a license for the league. Then it didn't happen again. I went to Zeytinburnu Sport football club. The same thing. I went to many teams like this, but the same thing happened in all of them. I couldn't get my money."

After his experiences, Pascal lost hope and gave up playing football. Now his biggest dream is to get a coaching license and coach a major team in Africa (Koşar & Yalçın 2020).

Yakuba, 32 years old and from Gambia, came to Turkey as a political refugee. Due to the pandemic, he is unemployed and lives in a house with 16 people. One of the most common problems he faces is, once again, not being paid for his work.

"I experienced it myself. I worked but didn't get paid. We asked for our money. My friend went to the police station. He wanted to return to Senegal. Later, we went to the police and the employer together. The employer still didn't give us our money. 'I'm here too, just like you. Go now, I'll give it to you later,' he said. Months passed, and we still haven't received our money (Koşar & Yalçın 2020)."

Discussion

The conclusion of the article sheds light on the intricate interactions between Turkish society and African migrants, where skin colour emerges as the dominant social marker of difference. While religion and legal status also significantly impact social interactions, skin colour often plays a pivotal role in shaping perceptions and determining social dynamics.

Technological advancements, particularly widespread access to social media, have had a profound impact on perceptions of Africa and Africans globally, including within Turkish society. The influence of state-controlled media further shapes public attitudes toward migrants, contributing to both positive and negative portrayals. Additionally, the prevalent assumption of Africans transiting Türkiye rather than settling has implications for interactions, especially among segments of the population with nationalist tendencies. The experiences of many African migrants aiming to reach developed countries, often through pursuing dreams in sports, reflect a racialization of their undocumented status in Türkiye. Despite these challenges, examples exist of African migrants carving out advantages for themselves by navigating historical boundaries dating back to the Ottoman Empire.

The increasing number of marriages between Turks and Africans reflects Türkiye's multicultural identity, rooted in its history as an empire. Some individuals feel closer to Middle Eastern culture than Europeans, contributing to reduced social tension and a

nationalist rather than racist outlook. However, categorizations based on Arab or European cultural affiliations raise questions about Turkish identity and warrant further study. The EU's stance on human rights and immigration, particularly following the Syrian and Afghan refugee crisis, poses challenges to integration efforts in Türkiye, which has become the largest illegal migrant hub. The predominantly male demographic of migrants aged 18-35 raises concerns and is sometimes framed as a hidden army by opposition parties, prompting debates about repatriation versus integration.

The presence of 500,000 Syrian babies born in Türkiye raises concerns about the potential rise of Arab nationality in Turkish territories. Despite this, African representation in society remains relatively positive, with their skin colour often viewed as a positive attribute. However, discourses about race are primarily framed as a potential danger rather than approached pragmatically, reflecting socio-cultural attitudes towards visibility and potential risks associated with migrant populations.

Acknowledgments

I would like to express my very great appreciation to Dr. Póczik Szilveszter for his valuable and constructive suggestions during the planning and development of this research work. His willingness to give his time so generously has been very much appreciated. And, Prof. Dr. János Besenyő for their valuable technical support while writing this article.

Declaration of interests

The authors declare that they have no known competing financial interests or personal relationships that could have appeared to influence the work reported in this paper.

The author is an Editorial Board Member/Editor-in-Chief/Associate Editor/Guest Editor for Journal of Central and Eastern European African Studies and was not involved in the editorial review or the decision to publish this article.

References

Anadolu Agency. (2014). *S. African ambassador: Mandela didn't "reject" Ataturk prize*. Retrieved Oktober 10, 2024 from <https://www.aa.com.tr/en/archive/s-african-ambassador-mandela-didnt-reject-aturk-prize/188021>

- ChatGPT response to "Discrimination to Africans in Türkiye.* (2023). ChatGPT. Retrieved Oktober 10, 2024 from <https://chat.openai.com>.
- De Clerck, H. M.-I. (2013). Sub-Saharan African migrants in Turkey: a case study on Senegalese migrants in Istanbul [Türkiye'deki Sahra Altı Afrikalı Göçmenler: İstanbul'daki Senegalli Göçmenler Üzerine Bir Örnek Olay İncelemesi]. *Ankara Üniversitesi SBF Dergisi*, 68(01), 39-58. https://doi.org/10.1501/SBFder_0000002272
- Dedecan, M. (2023). *Siyah İstanbul*. Retrieved Oktober 10, 2024 from <https://www.evrensel.net/haber/486135/siyah-istanbul#:~:text=2021%20itibar%C4%B1yla%20T%C3%BCrkiye%E2%80%99de%20yakla%C5%9F%C4%B1k,b%C3%BCy%C3%BCk%20bir%20Somali%20toplulu%C4%9Fu%20var>
- European University Institute: Migration Policy, C., European University Institute: Robert Schuman Centre for Advanced, S., & De Bel-Air, F. (2016). *Migration profile – Turkey*. European University Institute. <https://doi.org/doi/10.2870/805939>
- Eyrice Tepeciklioğlu, E., Vreÿ, F., & Baser, B. (2024). Introduction Turkey and Africa: Motivations, Challenges and Future Prospects. *Journal of Balkan and Near Eastern Studies*, 26(3), 289-294. <https://doi.org/10.1080/19448953.2023.2236514>
- Galal, S. (2023). *Unemployment rate in Africa as of 2024, by country*. Statista. Retrieved Oktober 10, 2024 from <https://www.statista.com/statistics/1286939/unemployment-rate-in-africa-by-country/>
- Güvendik, M. Ö. (2023). *Güney Afrikalılar Türkiye'deki depremzedelere yardım için seferber oldu*. Retrieved Oktober 10, 2024 from <https://www.aa.com.tr/tr/asrinfelaketi/guney-afrikalilar-turkiyedeki-depremzedelere-yardim-icin-seferber-oldu/2818319>
- Imamoglu, E. (2023). *Somali Cumhurbaşkanı'nın oğlu, motokurye Yunus Emre Göçer'e çarparak ölümüne sebep oluyor ve serbest bırakılıyor. Göçer'e Allah'tan rahmet, ailesine başsağlığı diliyorum. Bu işin peşini bırakmayacağız. Hukuki süreci, on binlerce motokurye emekçi adına sonuna kadar takip edeceğim!* . Retrieved Oktober 10, 2024 from https://x.com/ekrem_imamoglu/status/1732702527928373745
- İncekaya, G. (2017). *Afrika Kitası'nın yeni umut kapaşı*. Retrieved Oktober 10, 2024 from <https://www.aa.com.tr/tr/turkiye/afrika-kitasinin-yeni-umut-kapisi-/991959>
- International Monetary Fund. (2024). *World Economic Outlook (April 2024)*. Retrieved Oktober 10, 2024 from <https://www.imf.org/external/datamapper/datasets/WEO>
- Karasu, K. (2024). *Karabük Üniversitesi'ndeki yabancı sayısı, Türkiye'nin en kalabalık üniversitesine yaklaştı*. Retrieved Oktober 10, 2024 from <https://12punto.com.tr/dunya/gazdede-can-kaybi-32-bini-asti-28301>

- Katsikidis, A. (2022). *Materializing the 'Blue Homeland' doctrine*. Retrieved Oktober 10, 2024 from <https://www.ekathimerini.com/opinion/interviews/1197618/materializing-the-blue-homeland-doctrine/>
- Kavak, G. (2023a). "African Perception" in Türkiye and the African Vision (First Quarter of the 21st Century). Retrieved Oktober 10, 2024 from <https://dergipark.org.tr/tr/download/article-file/2994579>
- Kavak, G. (2023b). *Binlerce Afrikalı genç eğitim için kıta dışı ülkeleri tercih ediyor*. Retrieved Oktober 10, 2024 from <https://www.aa.com.tr/tr/dosya-haber/binlerce-afrikali-genc-egitim-icin-kita-disi-ulkeleri-tercih-ediyor/3034243>
- Kavak, G., & Aktaş, T. (2021). *Türkiye'nin Afrika'da etkisi artıyor*. Retrieved Oktober 10, 2024 from <https://www.aa.com.tr/tr/gundem/turkiyenin-afrikada-etkisi-artiyor/2398371>
- Kavaş, A. (2022). *Afrikalı Öğrencinin İstikameti Türkiye*. *İstanbul Ticaret Gazetesi* 18 March. Retrieved Oktober 10, 2024 from <https://istanbulticaretgazetesi.com/tr/yazar-haber/afrikali-ogrencinin-istikameti-turkiye>
- Koşar, A., & Yalçın, V. (September 20, 2020). *Türkiye'de Afrikalı göçmenler: 'Yaşadığımız haksızlıkların nedeni hala köle olarak görülmemiz'* Euronews. Retrieved Oktober 10, 2024 from <https://tr.euronews.com/2020/09/18/turkiye-de-siyahiler-yasad-g-m-z-haks-zl-klar-n-nedeni-hala-kole-olarak-gorulmemiz>
- McLean, S. (January 17, 2024). *Somali president's son convicted for fatal collision in Turkey, but spared jail time*. CNN Retrieved Oktober 10, 2024 from <https://www.cnn.com/2024/01/17/world/somali-presidents-son-convicted-for-fatal-collision-in-turkey-but-spared-jail-time>
- Merkezi, H. (2024). *Türk işçisini atıp yerine yabancı işçi getiriyorlar. Önce Hindistan'dan şimdi Afrika'dan*. Yeniçağ. Retrieved Oktober 10, 2024 from <https://www.yenicaggazetesi.com.tr/turk-iscisini-atip-yerine-yabanci-isci-getiriyorlar-once-hindistandan-simdi-787991h.htm>
- Ozkan, M. (2014). *Doğu Afrika Jeopolitiği ve Türkiye'nin Somali Politikası*. Retrieved Oktober 10, 2024 from https://file.setav.org/Files/Pdf/20141021153934_40_somali_web.pdf
- Özdağ, Ü. (2023). *Burası İzmir. Afrikalı mahallesi. Türkiye'de 2 milyon civarında Afrikalı yaşıyor. Bu sağlıklı bir durum değil. Afrikalıların sayısı her geçen gün artıyor*. X.com. Retrieved Oktober 10, 2024 from <https://x.com/umitozdog/status/1672888975286050816>
- Öztürk, M., & Duman, M. (2023). A Founding Role in Türkiye's Africa Policy: The Action Plan for Opening to Africa. *Insight Turkey*(25), 223-240. <https://doi.org/https://doi.org/10.25253/99.2023253.12>
- Presidency of Migration Management. (2023). *Düzensiz Göçle Mücadelemiz Devam Ediyor...* Retrieved Oktober 10, 2024 from <https://x.com/Gocidaresi/status/1662073044423114752>



- Presidency of Migration Management. (2024). *Residence Permits*. Statistics. Retrieved Oktober 10, 2024 from <https://en.goc.gov.tr/residence-permits>
- Ramm, C. (2016). Beyond 'Black Turks' and 'White Turks' – The Turkish Elites' Ongoing Mission to Civilize a Colourful Society. *70(4)*, 1355-1385. <https://doi.org/doi:10.1515/asia-2016-0035> (Asiatische Studien - Études Asiatiques)
- Şefkatli, F. E. (2024). *Meloni'nin Türkiye Ziyareti ve İtalya'nın Afrika'daki Mattei Planı. SavunmaTR February*. Retrieved Oktober 10, 2024 from <https://www.savunmatr.com/meloninin-turkiye-ziyareti-ve-italyanin-afrikadaki-mattei-planı/>
- Suter, B. (2013). Perceptions, Contestations And Negotiations On Race, Ethnicity And Gender: The Case Of Sub-Saharan African Migrants In İstanbul [İrk, Etnisite ve Toplumsal Cinsiyet Üzerine Algılar, Çekişmeler ve Müzakereler: İstanbul'da Sahra Altı Afrikalı Göçmenler Örneği]. *Ankara Üniversitesi SBF Dergisi*, *68(01)*, 59-81. https://doi.org/10.1501/SBFder_0000002273
- Torkington, S. (2024). *A \$6 billion investment in Africa's future and other key outcomes from the Italy-Africa summit*. Retrieved Oktober 10, 2024 from <https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2024/02/italy-africa-summit-outcomes/>
- Turkish TV Channel (NTV). (May 25, 2021). *Afrikalı işçiler bu yıl da çay hasadında*. Retrieved Oktober 10, 2024 from https://www.ntv.com.tr/galeri/turkiye/afrikali-isciler-bu-yil-da-cay-hasadinda,p2h93F7Y_k6QbOWn8aHJGA/O_ssWVFJu0atBFfXx3XSzg
- Wheeler, A. T. (2011). Ankara to Africa: Turkey's outreach since 2005. *South African Journal of International Affairs*, *18(1)*, 43-62. <https://doi.org/10.1080/10220461.2011.564426>
- World Bank Group. (2022). *GDP per capita, PPP (current international \$) - Middle East & North Africa, Sub-Saharan Africa, Türkiye*. Retrieved Oktober 10, 2024 from <https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/NY.GDP.PCAP.PP.CD?end=2022&locations=ZQ-ZG-TR&start=2015&view=chart>
- World Bank Group. (2023). *Publication: World Development Report 2023: Migrants, Refugees, and Societies*. Retrieved Oktober 10, 2024 from <https://openknowledge.worldbank.org/entities/publication/5e5ac9f1-71ee-4734-825e-60966658395f>
- YÖS ile İlgili Sorular. (2024). ÖSYM. Retrieved Oktober 10, 2024 from <https://www.osym.gov.tr/TR,4651/yos-ile-ilgili-sorular.html>