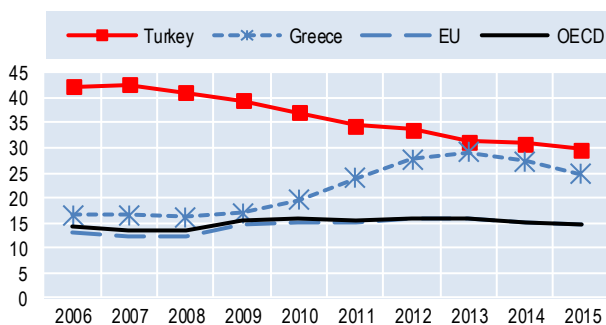


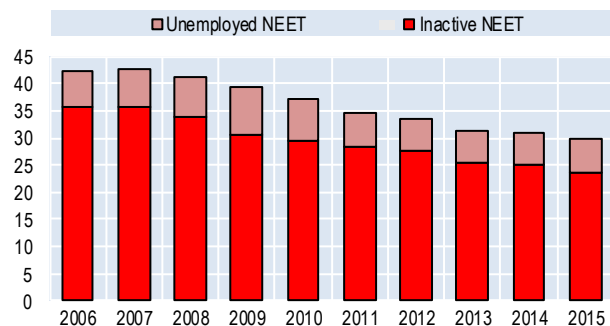
The 2016 edition of *Society at a Glance* examines social well-being and its trends across the OECD. The number of young people not in employment, education or training (NEETs) remains elevated in many countries since the crisis; the report therefore focusses on this group of young people examining the characteristics of those at risk of being NEET along with policies to help meet the challenge. This edition also includes many new youth-specific indicators on family formation, self-sufficiency, income and poverty, health and social cohesion.

### Large decline in the NEET youth rate in Turkey but still highest level in OECD

Percentage of 15-29-year-olds who are not in employment, education or training (NEET rate), 2005-2015



By activity status, Turkey



#### THE NEET SITUATION

The proportion of young people who are not in employment, education or training (the NEET) in Turkey is the highest in the OECD, at 30%. However, no other country experienced a larger drop between 2007 and 2015: nearly 13 percentage points [Figure 1.5]. Most of this improvement stems from rising enrolment rates in education over the last decade while young people also tend to continue their education longer than in the past.

The NEET rate is especially high for women, at 46%, compared to 18% on average in the OECD. In Turkey women have three times more risk of becoming NEETs than men (17%) [Figure 1.11]. This may reflect a traditional gender-related assignment of roles, which translates into low female participation in the labour market while women take on most of the unpaid domestic work and care for children and the elderly.

The fact that many young women are stay-home mothers is reflected by a large proportion of the NEETs who are partnered with children in Turkey

(42%). This pattern also observed in Estonia and Mexico but less common in other countries where on average only 26% of NEET are in this situation.

**Early school leaving remains an important challenge for Turkey, especially for young women.** In 2014, more than half of Turkish youth did not complete their upper secondary education, the highest rate in the OECD after Mexico. This phenomenon is even more striking for young women: 60% of them did not finish upper-secondary education, the highest share in the OECD area. On average in the OECD around one in six 25 to 34 year-olds still do not have an upper-secondary qualifications, [Figure 1.26].

Ensuring that young women can carry on their studies is essential to improve their opportunities and increase female labour market participation. A high incidence of inactivity or unemployment among young women and youth in general also means forgone income. This « cost » is estimated to amount to 3.4% of GDP for Turkey [Figure 1.8]

## OVERVIEW OF OTHER SOCIAL INDICATORS

### *A very dynamic demography*

**Turkey recorded the third highest fertility rate in the OECD at 2.17 children per woman.** Together with Israel (3.1) and Mexico (2.2) only these three countries had a fertility level above the population replacement rate (2.1 children per woman) [Figure 3.4].

**People tend to marry early in Turkey** (as in Israel) where the average age of women at first marriage is below 25 and of men is less than 28. [Figure 3.11]

**Turkey is a young country** recording the lowest old age dependency ratio after Mexico: the number of people of retirement age (65+) per 100 people of working age (20-64) is 13% compared to 28% on average in the OECD area [Figure 3.13]. At the same time **Turkey benefited from the largest increase in life expectancy in OECD** from 1970 to 2014 (*ie.* 24 years) [Figure 6.1].

**Turkey reports the lowest alcohol consumption among adults in most OECD countries**, with less than 2 liters per capita per year, a quarter of the OECD average standing at 9 liters [Figure 6.12].

### *Positive growth in employment*

**Turkey recorded the largest increase in the numbers of jobs for the working age population** *ie.* +28% compared to + 3% on average in the OECD [Figure 1.1]. Growth in employment has also been positive for the young people with an 11% increase compared to a decline of 8% in the OECD area.

### *High immigration*

**Turkey is one of the most affected countries by the humanitarian migration crisis** in the OECD. Based on the latest *OECD International Migration Outlook 2016*, the number of Syrians in Turkey with temporary protection reached 2.5 million in 2015. Within the European Union, the main destination countries are Germany, in absolute terms, as well as Sweden and Austria, relative to their population [Figure 3.7].

### *Low social protection and social support*

**Public social spending in Turkey at 13% of GDP is substantially lower than the OECD average** of 22%. Most of Turkey's social spending is related to health,

old age and survivors benefits, while support for the working-age population is very low. [Figure 5.10]

**Social cohesion in Turkey is the lowest in OECD**, especially for the elderly; only 68% of them report having relatives or friends they can count on, compared to 87% for their age group across the OECD [Figure 7.13].

### *Low investment in education*

Despite an increase over the last years, **Turkey still records the second lowest education spending per student** in the OECD at around USD PPP 3 500, just after Mexico. This represents only 1/3 of the OECD average of USD 10 000 spent per youth per year from primary through tertiary education [Figure 4.10]

### *Low income and high poverty*

Disposable household income has been increasing substantially over the last decades, but it is still only 42% of the OECD average. Turkey has also the 4<sup>th</sup> highest level of income inequality and the 3<sup>rd</sup> highest level of relative poverty in the OECD area, despite improvements in recent years. **One in every six Turks is poor, compared with just above one in ten on average across the OECD.** Children are more at risk of poverty as are the elderly (over 65) [Figures 5.1. and 5.4]. Turkey belongs to the few OECD countries (*inc.* Greece, Italy) where there is no generally applicable guaranteed minimum-income benefit (GMI) [Figure 5.8].

### *Low level of trust*

**A low level of interpersonal trust** is recorded in Turkey, the share of people reporting high trust in others is about 12%, a third of the average level across the OECD. [Figure 7.4.]. –Trust is slightly higher among the younger generation at 15%.

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