

Turkey Initiative

Five-Year Plan
2006-2010



*Central Asia- Caucasus Institute
Silk Road Studies Program*

The *Turkey Initiative* forms a part of the Central Asia-Caucasus Institute & Silk Road Studies Program. The Central Asia-Caucasus Institute & Silk Road Studies Program is a joint transatlantic research and policy center, resulting from the merger in 2005 of Uppsala University's Silk Road Studies Program and Johns Hopkins University's Central Asia-Caucasus Institute. The Joint Center is independent and externally funded, and has offices in Washington and Uppsala, affiliated with the Paul H. Nitze School of Advanced International Studies of Johns Hopkins University, and the Department of Eurasian Studies of Uppsala University, respectively. It is the first Institution of its kind in Europe and North America, and is today firmly established as a leading center for research and policy worldwide, serving a large and diverse community of analysts, scholars, policy-watchers, business leaders and journalists.

The *Turkey Initiative* operates out of the Center's European premises in the Department of Eurasian Studies, Uppsala University, Sweden. Through teaching, impartial research and interaction with academic, government, and non-governmental organizations, the *Turkey Initiative* aims to function as a nexus in Swedish, Scandinavian and European society for expertise, knowledge and information on Turkish politics, society, and foreign relations.

Dr. **Svante Cornell**, Research Director of the Joint Center, is the Founding Director of the *Turkey Initiative*. He is a graduate of the Middle East Technical University, Ankara, holds a Ph.D. from Uppsala University, and is the author of numerous works on Turkish, Caucasian and Central Asian affairs.

Ms. **Zeyno Baran** is a Senior Advisor of the Turkey Initiative. She is Director of International Security Programs and of the Turkey Initiative at the Nixon Center, Washington DC.

Ambassador **Ann Dismorr** is Senior Advisor and Ambassador-in-Residence of the *Turkey Initiative*. She served as Swedish Ambassador to Turkey in 2001-2005.

Mr. **Cumhur Thomas Gür** is a Senior Advisor of the *Turkey Initiative*. He is a political commentator and business consultant formerly serving as press spokesman of the Swedish Armed Forces Headquarters and of the Swedish Ministry of Industry and Commerce.

Dr. **Kemal Kaya** is a Senior Advisor of the Turkey Initiative. He is serving in an advisory position in the Turkish Parliament and a co-founder of the Ankara-based Institute for East-West Studies.

Mr. **Per Håggström** is Coordinator of the *Turkey Initiative*.



UPPSALA
UNIVERSITET

JOHNS HOPKINS
U N I V E R S I T Y

CONTENTS

Background	3
Purpose	5
Elements	7
Time plan and Planned Budget	11
Contact Information	12

FIVE-YEAR PLAN, 2006-2010

Turkey Initiative

The Silk Road Studies Program
Central Asia-Caucasus Institute & Silk Road Studies Program
Department of Eurasian Studies
Uppsala University

Background

The Silk Road Studies Program is the first research and policy center in Northern Europe focusing on applied research on contemporary political and societal affairs in the area of the ancient Silk Road. With a staff of 15 resident staff and an additional dozen associated researchers, its focus is research on issues of conflict, security and development in the wide region stretching from Turkey to China and Northeast Asia. In 2005, the Program merged with the Central Asia-Caucasus Institute of Johns Hopkins University-SAIS to create a Joint Transatlantic Research and Policy Center.

In December 2004, the European Council resolved to initiate negotiations with Turkey on membership in the European Union. In view of Turkey's long-standing relations with European institutions and its negotiations for admission into the European Union, most EU countries have devoted political attention and funding to the development of relations with Turkey stretching from legal and political to economic, social, religious and cultural affairs. Concomitantly, Turkish academic and think tank life has received a considerable boost. As far as Sweden is concerned, Sida and the Section for Swedish-Turkish Cooperation in the Consulate General in Istanbul have conducted important work in this regard; with Turkey beginning negotiations, this process is set to accelerate. The European Commission and member state governments have emphasized the importance of building close ties to prepare both Turkish and European Societies for the challenges of the negotiation process and future Turkish EU membership.

Meanwhile, there is a weakness of concentrated scholarship and expertise on Turkey in Europe; in northern Europe, few research organizations treat Turkey as more than a peripheral focus of activities. Yet a process has been initiated which in the next decade is likely to bring Turkey to the threshold of EU membership. Clearly, it is in European as well as Turkish interest that knowledge and expertise on Turkish society, law, economics and politics is considerably higher at that date than is the case presently. Many organizations in society are playing and will play a role in developing this knowledge: governments, bureaucracies, non-governmental organizations, trade unions, and media are prominent actors in this regard.

These types of exchanges will generate a substantial added expertise on various aspects of Turkish society to European countries. Nevertheless, this expertise is likely to remain decentralized, scattered, and specific: through its very nature, it is unlikely to generate a lasting, deep, accumulative, and multi-faceted knowledge of Turkey and its society. Such multi-faceted expertise, necessary for a better understanding of Turkey and for the broadening of the discussion of Turkey in Europe, is likely to emerge only through the creation of a distinct focal point for Turkish affairs at an academic or think-tank institution.

Compared to other spheres of society, academia displays a considerable void in terms of expertise on Turkey. Traditionally studied neither under Middle Eastern nor European studies, and neither under advanced economies nor developing countries, Turkey tends to fall 'between chairs'. Specific Chairs in Turkish studies have been created at several North American universities. Yet in universities in northern Europe, no such Chair exists; few scholars have expertise on Turkish society; few courses in social sciences touch upon Turkey, let alone focus on it; and few students and graduate students are developing the type of expertise and knowledge on Turkey that European societies will require in coming decades.

Since its foundation, the Silk Road Studies Program at Uppsala University's Department of Eurasian Studies includes Turkey as an explicit part of its mandate. In view of the situation described above, the Program resolved in 2005 to explore ways to initiate a concerted effort to improve knowledge and expertise on Turkey in Swedish academia. In early 2006, this was launched in the form of the creation of a specific *Turkey Initiative* with an explicit agenda set for the long-term and focusing on capacity-building.

This document is a living document and alterations to the content may be done continuously.

Purpose

The purpose of the *Turkey Initiative* is to develop – in cooperation with institutions of research and learning in Sweden and Turkey but also Europe and North America – a nexus on expertise on Turkey that will cater not only to the academic community but to society at large, including government institutions and parliament, the business community, NGOs, media, and the wider public. In so doing, the *Turkey Initiative* does not aspire to monopolize expertise on Turkey. Quite to the contrary, it aspires to function as a ‘switchboard of resources’, bringing together and linking existing resources to itself and to one another through cooperation in research, teaching and outreach activities. Such cooperation implies first and foremost close cooperation with the expertise on Turkic languages and culture present at Uppsala University’s Department of Linguistics and Philology; secondly, this implies coordination and cooperation with the Swedish Research Institute in Istanbul and the Section for Swedish-Turkish Cooperation at the Consulate General in Istanbul; thirdly, this means interaction and cooperation with other academic institutions, think tanks, government and business in Sweden and Turkey as well as other countries; and last but not least, this implies a focus on applied research and teaching that weds academic integrity and rigor with relevance to the needs of actors in society such as governments and business.

In this light, the activities of the *Turkey Initiative* will be fall chiefly under three headings: Research, Teaching, and Outreach.

R E S E A R C H :

The *Initiative’s* core component is impartial, open-ended research on the areas under its mandate. Research will be undertaken in various forms; in shorter or longer specific research projects; by senior researchers, visiting researchers and junior researchers, and through university, public or private funding. The *Initiative* aspires to initiate research spontaneously and finance this research from general sources of funding. Nevertheless, the *Initiative* is open to the prospect of specific funding for commissioned research projects undertaken either alone or in cooperation with other institutions.

T E A C H I N G :

A second component is teaching and instruction, primarily academic supervision and instruction at the graduate and undergraduate levels; but also through specific courses designed for the needs of other public or private actors in society.

O U T R E A C H :

The third component is outreach, based on openness to interaction and cooperation with other actors in public life. This implies firstly the conduct of conferences and seminars; secondly, an ambition to disseminate the results of the *Initiative's* research; and thirdly, an ambition to maintain an openness to requests for information and analysis by the public and the media through, among other, internet presence.

Elements

To meet its ambitions, The *Turkey Initiative* is planned to consist of a number of specific elements.

DIRECTORSHIP / CHAIR AND COORDINATION:

In order to function in a professional manner, the *Initiative* will require directorship and administrative coordination.

In the short term, the *Initiative* will be led by a Director. It is estimated that the Directorship in the initial years will require funding in the amount of 50% of a yearly salary for a senior researcher. The Director of the *Initiative* will be responsible for the overall management of the *Initiative*, supervising research, teaching, outreach and fund-raising as well as conducting substantive independent research. As the *Initiative* develops, the Directorship is likely to require a full-time position. As the ideal form for this is through the endowment of a Chair, the long-term aim of the *Initiative* is to secure the long-term financing, if possible endowment, of a Chair of Turkish studies at Uppsala University's Department of Eurasian Studies.

Concomitantly, the *Initiative* will require a Coordinator, responsible for the overall day-to-day affairs of the initiative; handling the interaction with other cooperative institutions; managing the reference library; and contributing to fund-raising. The Coordinator position will in the initial period require 50% of a yearly salary for a junior researcher. It is not excluded that the Coordinator's position may need further financial support once the *Initiative* grows. It is nevertheless the the *Initiative's* ambition to minimize costs of administration and coordination.

ADVISORY COUNCIL

The *Initiative* will also form an Advisory Council, which will serve to advise the Director on the *Initiative's* research, teaching, and general strategic directions. The Advisory Council will include a representative of the University; senior individuals from both Turkey and Sweden with professional and academic experience; and representatives of the *Initiative's* major funders. As of February 2006, the *Initiative* has received the agreement of four advisors to

serve on Council: Ann Dismorr, Zeyno Baran, Thomas Gür, and Kemal Kaya. The main members of the board are planned to be appointed within 2006. The Director will provide a yearly report to the Advisory Council.

I N D E P E N D E N T R E S E A R C H

A key long-term aim of the Initiative is to produce high-quality, rigorous yet policy-relevant research on Turkish affairs. The Initiative's research will be targeted at policymakers, professionals, business and academics as well as the educated public. The overriding purpose of the research will be to provide target audiences with an improved foundation for the understanding of processes within Turkish society (in the political, legal, economic, or societal domains) and in Turkey's interactions with the world (be it with Europe, Turkey's neighborhood, or transatlantic relations).

The basis for such research will be vested in the position of the Director/Chair. It is intended for the holder of this position to conduct substantial research within the mandate of the position, and to determine the main focus of the Initiative's research activities.

Aside from the Director, research at the Initiative will be conducted by a variety of means. Through general or project-specific financing, the Initiative aspires to attract senior researchers, Ph.D. Candidates, junior and visiting researchers for shorter or longer periods of time. A major element will be the research undertaken by the prospective Ph.D. Candidates. Moreover, senior as well as junior researchers will be employed to conduct specific research tasks designed by the Initiative either on its own or in conjunction with funders of specific research projects. A key component of this will be the hosting on a systematic basis of visiting scholars on Fellowships of varying length.

C O M P E T E N C E - B U I L D I N G :

A crucial component of the Initiative will be supervising and providing a common platform for the work of graduate students, specifically Ph.D. Candidates. This is central to the Initiative's aims to remedy the lack of expertise on Turkey, specifically concentrated expertise on various aspects of Turkish society. Training a number of Ph.D. Candidates in different disciplines can, in half a decade, help create a multi-faceted center of expertise on Turkey where fruitful interaction between disciplines can emerge.

The Department of Eurasian Studies provides the ideal atmosphere for this endeavor. For three decades, the department has functioned as the chief Area Studies institution in Swedish academia. As such, it has no Ph.D. Program of its own but has developed a practice of cooperating with academic disciplines where its Ph.D. Candidates have received their degrees. The Department has hence hosted the Ph.D. Candidates and provided them with offices, library facilities, regional expertise, and the environment of area studies research, while studying in an academic discipline has ensured that the Ph.D. Candidates receive rigorous theoretical and methodological training. In this spirit, the Department has wedded regional expertise to academic rigor and has hosted economists, historians, political scientists, legal scholars as well as ethnologists. In effect, the Department presently proposes to build on its tradition of functioning in this sense in the study of Communist societies until 1991 and on Eastern Europe from 1992 to 2005; and functioning in this sense for the building of competence on Turkey (and China, for which a parallel initiative is being launched).

The Initiative is conducting discussions with potential funders of prospective Ph.D. Candidates, and potential host institutions, primarily but not necessarily within Uppsala University. At present, the main objectives of the Initiative is to host Ph.D. Candidates in Political Science, Economics, and Law.

C O U R S E S :

The Initiative will seek to create courses on Turkish society and foreign relations. At the level of Ph.D. Candidate supervision, instruction will be conducted in a tailor-made form for the needs of Ph.D. Candidates. At the Senior and Master's level, it is planned to institute a course on Turkish society, politics and foreign relations that will encompass 10 credit points (15 ECTS credits) and consist of ca. 15 lectures and a term paper.

R E F E R E N C E L I B R A R Y :

The Initiative will also seek to build up a reference library containing important books on Turkey in both English and Turkish; major periodicals covering Turkey; and an archive of Turkish Press.

CONFERENCES & PUBLICATIONS :

Within its spheres of activity, the Initiative will seek to organize yearly conferences on selected topics within its mandate, and to publish the results of these conferences in the form of edited volumes and conference reports. While the Initiative's aim is to be able to independently finance a conference per year, it is also open to organizing specific conferences or seminars in conjunction with prospective funders.

As is the tradition of the Joint Center, the Initiative will also put significant emphasis on disseminating its research and activities. Primarily, this will take place through the existing publications series that the Joint Center produces, such as the Silk Road Papers series.

THE SILK ROAD FORUM

To communicate the results of its activities to the general public and to allow its visiting researchers an opportunity to address a wider audience, the Initiative will make use of the Silk Road Forum lecture series, conducted in Uppsala and occasionally in Stockholm in cooperation with other institutions, which reaches out to a wide community of decision-makers, media, professionals, and academics.

TRAVEL & COMMUNICATION

The Initiative's work will require both travel and communication in order to ensure that the results of its research and dissemination activities are properly circulated and reach its audiences. Frequent travel to Turkey will be a necessary element of the Initiative's work. Moreover, the Initiative plans to elaborate a communications strategy in order to develop its target audiences, network, and contacts. This will include among other elements, continuous work on assembling and updating of a mailing list as well as a media relations strategy.

Time-Plan and Planned Budget, 2006-2010

The *Turkey Initiative* was launched in 2006 and seeks public as well as private funding for its activities. The time plan and budget below is the present estimate for an ideal development of the *Initiative*.

The objective of the *Initiative* is to obtain, by 2010, permanent financing for a Chair (initially at half-time, a half-time coordinator, three parallel Ph.D. Candidates, a yearly conference and a research library. Presently, the *Initiative* has secured financing for its first yearly conference. The priorities of the *Initiative* during 2006 are: 1) to secure financing for the Director and Coordinator positions; 2) to secure funding for the admission of one full-time Ph.D. Candidate in Political Science, for admission in Spring 2007; and 3) to secure funding for the reference library. From that point onward, the *Initiative* will seek to secure funding for two additional Ph.D. Candidates (primarily in Law, Political Science or Economics), conceivably with one Ph.D. Candidate accepted with two year intervals. Ph.D. Candidates will function as Junior Researchers within the *Initiative* and will determine the topic of their dissertation in a dialogue with the Director and Advisory Council.

Aside from this, specific research projects will be undertaken in parallel, but the cost of these cannot be readily estimated and will depend on interaction with prospective funders.

Time-Plan and Planned Budget 2006-2011						
Item/Cost, Euros	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Director/Chair	45	45	45/90	45/90	45/90	45/90
Yearly Conference	20	20	20	20	20	20
Reference Library	5	5	5	5	5	5
Coordinator		25	25	25	25	25
Ph.D. Candidate 1		45	45	45	45	0
Ph.D. Candidate 2				45	45	45
Ph.D. Candidate 3						45
Visiting Scholars		10	10	10	10	10
Advisory Council Fees		10	10	10	10	10
Travel/communication	10	10	10	15	15	15
Yearly Total, Thousand Euros	80	170	170/215	220/265	220/265	220/265

Contact Information for the Turkey initiative Staff:

Dr. Svante Cornell (Research Director)
<scornell@silkroadstudies.org>

Amb. Ann Dismorr (Senior Advisor)
<adismorr@silkroadstudies.org>

Per Häggström (Coordinator)
<phaggstrom@silkroadstudies.org>

CENTRAL ASIA-CAUCASUS INSTITUTE & SILK ROAD STUDIES PROGRAM

Chairman
Dr. S. Frederick Starr

Program Director
Dr. Niklas L.P. Swanström

Research Director
Dr. Svante E. Cornell

Forum Director
Amb. R. Grant Smith

Coordinator, Turkey Initiative
Per Häggström

CONTACT INFORMATION

Silk Road Studies Program
Dept. of Eurasian Studies
Uppsala University
Box 514
SE-75120 Uppsala
Sweden

Visiting address:
Gamla Torget 3, 3rd floor
Uppsala, Sweden

Tel. +46-18-471-7169
Fax. +46-18-106397
E-mail: turkey@silkroadstudies.org

www.silkroadstudies.org