

Sociological and Legal Peculiarities of Migration to Turkey

The Case of Russian-Turkish Marriages

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Abstract

Examining the statistics of tourism, of real estate sales to foreigners and statistics of mixed marriages, the authors argue that Russians' interest to Turkey has steadily increased not only as a tourist destination but also as an emigration country for Russians. Many Russian citizens who visit Turkey for tourism purposes think about settling down in the country, and some of them buy real estate there. The second main period of the Russian immigration to Turkey is 1990s, after the collapse of the Soviet Union. Due to the number of mixed marriages increased as a result of irregular migration, a new generation grew up with two common cultures. In general, the gender factor appears more prominently in the marriage and migration, and the mixed marriages point out the unimportance of social-cultural differences such as language and religion. After 1980, an increase in foreign population was observed in Turkey especially in coastal areas such as Aegean and Mediterranean regions with tourism activities, and from 2000, these locations, mainly Antalya, have become popular in international migration. Main changes in Turkish legislation on citizenship are closely linked to the economic migration process, including quantitative limits set forth for investments in capital and real estate were dramatically decreased. Turkey has really become an immigration country while before it was an emigration one. The statistical data collected from different sources prove some surveys' conclusions that economic factors are less important than social and geographical ones in the decisions of Russian citizens to migrate to and settle down in Turkey.

Keywords: CIS, citizenship, legislation, real estate, mixed marriage, refugees, Antalya

1 Introduction

Human mobility has increased due to globalization and tourism and migration activities therefore have intensified around the world. The study conducted by the World Tourism Organization (UN WTO) in 2009 revealed that international migration and tourism were two interdependent concepts and every year the numbers of tourists and immigrants were increasing simultaneously. Migrants contributed to the tourism and service sectors in social, economic, and cultural terms in their destination countries. In this context, two concepts appear: tourism because of migration (Tourism-led migration) and Migration due to tourism.

Russia and Turkey have close relations in many areas such as commercial, economic, and cultural fields. Tourism and irregular migration have been increased due to various reasons such as Turkey's geographical location, proximity to Russia and other Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) countries, suitable vacation, and travel opportunities, living conditions, and climate. Geographical proximity has enabled the people of both countries to become mutually close. The reasons of immigration of citizens of the CIS states to Turkey vary historically.

In the historical process, two periods are especially noticeable in the migrations from Russia to Turkey. The first of them is migration to Turkey of Russians from the anti-Bolshevik White movement (during the Russian Civil War) and civilians who just took refuge from the Soviet regime. During this period, it is estimated that 140-150 thousand or 200 thousand according to

some sources, Russian immigrants have come to Turkey [1]. General Wrangel stated that 134 thousand Russian refugees arrived in Istanbul and that the total number of Russians in Istanbul was 167 thousand [2].

Another main immigration period is 1990s, after the collapse of the Soviet Union. From that time, the number of citizens of Russia and of the other former Soviet republics residing in Turkey has increased. Following the dissolution of the Soviet Union after 1990, agreements between the CIS countries and Turkey in the field of economic, trade, political, education and culture were signed, bilateral relations accelerated, and waves of migration from these countries have started to Turkey. Azerbaijan and Central Asian states are among the top 20 countries in the ranking of foreigners residing in Turkey. It was stated that 9,031 people are from Azerbaijan, 3,650 people from Uzbekistan and 2,738 people from Kazakhstan [3]. In 2018, foreigners from the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) accounted for 23.8% and foreigners from the Central Asian Republics accounted for 16.8% of the total foreign population in Turkey [3, p.153].

2 Problem Statement

The issue to be discussed is whether migrants' experiences in Turkey are bound to their legal status. For example, socio-cultural, political, and economic aspects of the legislation form the strategies used by marriage migrants. In the modern migration processes Turkey is famous as a transit country but it has also become a popular host state for legal economic migrants, including citizens of the Russian Federation and of other CIS countries. Different statistical data collected from different sources are used in the article to highlight role of the social and geographical factors in the Russian citizens' migration to the Mediterranean provinces especially Antalya.

3 Findings

3.1 Labour and Tourist Migration

In general, the labour deficit in the tourism sector is decreasing in the migration caused by tourism [4]. For example, women's labour migration from the Russian Federation and other CIS countries to coastal areas in Turkey contributes to travel, accommodation, catering and other tourism sectors [3, p.148]. Another example is the migration of Turkish male workers in the construction industry. Following the dissolution of the Soviet Union, Turkish construction companies fulfilled different investment and construction projects in the CIS states providing the Turkish male labour migration to these countries.

According to data of the Turkish Employment Agency (İŞKUR), the numbers of workers employed to Russia by İŞKUR were 23.349 in 2007, 16.085 in 2008, 7.718 in 2010 and 9.265 in 2011. The total number of workers who employed abroad from Turkey by the Agency was 52,013 people. 13,463 people of them moved to Russia that is the second country in terms of finding employment in foreign countries [5]. According to Foreign Ministry data, 40 thousand Turkish citizens live in Russia as of 2019 [6].

Year	Number of workers	Year	Number of workers
1989	932	1997	13.195
1990	1.243	1998	7.426
1991	4.693	1999	2.215
1992	6.708	2000	2.199

1993	21.436	2001	4.190
1994	41.837	2002	10.160
1995	35.792	2003	10.816
1996	20.460	2004	13.281

Table 1: Turkey Employment Agency Workers Submissions from Turkey to Russia (1989- 2013) [5, p.123; 7]

Country	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Russia	13.271	19.540	24.142	23.349	16.095	9.482	7.718
Kazakhstan	4.403	5.775	8.627	7.994	4.723	1.595	1.011
Ukraine	761	1.017	1.926	2.753	2.575	832	217
Turkmenistan	2.031	964	1.086	741	1.249	4.291	4.625
Azerbaijan	745	629	632	1.299	975	858	555

Table 2: Number of Turkish workers sent to Russia and CIS countries through the Turkish Employment Agency (İşkur) between 2004 – 2010[8]

Country	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Russia	9.277	13.762	13.463	9.163	4.379	1.938	2.537
Turkmenistan	4.876	4.810	3.816	3.723	2.913	1.219	623
Georgia	598	626	750	519	395	802	350
Kazakhstan	877	985	678	1.928	1.374	803	292

Table 3: Number of Turkish workers sent to Russia and CIS countries through the Turkish Employment Agency (İşkur) between 2011 – 2017[9]

Country	Total
Azerbaijan	55.000
Russian Fed.	40.000
Georgia	22.000
Ukraine	20.000
Kazakhstan	20.000
Kyrgyzstan	10.000
Turkmenistan	3.500
Uzbekistan	2.000
Belarus	600
Tajikistan	400
Mongolia	200

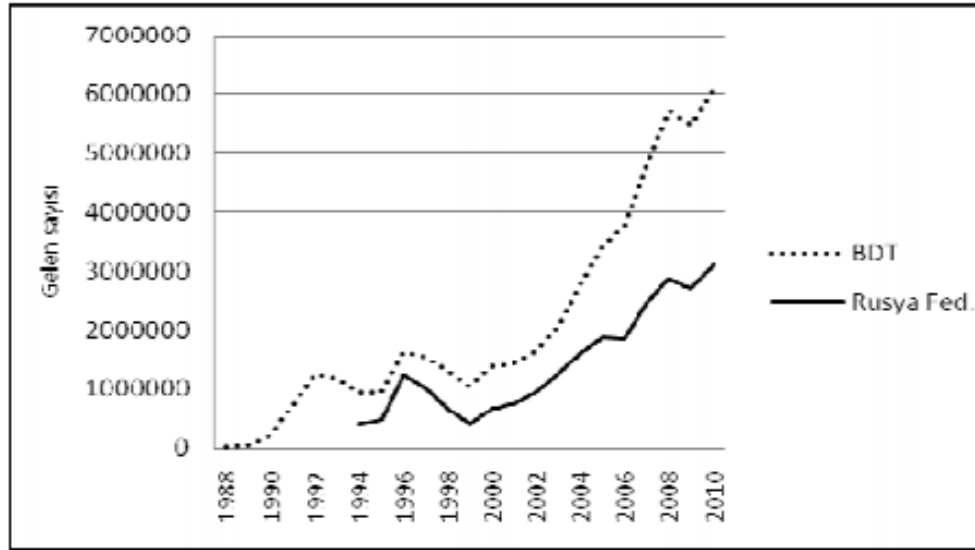
Table 4: Number of Turkish citizens living in Russia and CIS countries (2019) [6]

In tourism caused by migration, it covers the foreigners' visits from countries of emigration to their own countries. According to the World Tourism Organization's (UNWTO) research, immigrants' visits to their own countries account for at least 15% and even in some countries 70% of total tourism [4].

In 1988, while the number of people who came from the USSR to Turkey was 21,567, it showed an increase of more than ten times in 1990 and reached 222,537 people. In 2010, the number of

foreigners who came to Turkey from Russia was 3,107,043 and from all CIS countries – 6,075,484 people [10]. The increase in the number of tourists has brought with it a demand for a Russian-speaking labour force in tourism sector. There has also been an increase in the number of people coming to Turkey to work for short and long terms. (The suitcase trade between the two countries has increased after the 1990s.).

Thus, examining the statistics of tourism, of real estate sales to foreigners and statistics of marriage to foreigners, it is seen that Russians' interest to Turkey, their close neighbour, has increased.



Şekil 1: BDT ve Rusya Federasyonu'ndan Türkiye'ye gelen turistlerin miktarı, 1988-2010

Figure 1: Number of tourist arrivals from Commonwealth of Independent States and Russian Federation to Turkey, 1988-2010 . Kaynak: DİE, 1994a,b,c, 1995, 1999a,b, 2003,a,b, 2005; TÜİK, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009 ve 2011

Country	2017	2018	2019
Azerbaijan	765.514	858.506	901.723
Belarus	229.229	245.254	258.419
Armenia	48.320	51.880	66.882
Georgia	2.438.730	2.069.392	1.995.254
Kazakhstan	402.830	426.916	455.724
Kyrgyzstan	104.911	114.926	121.364
Moldova	171.538	194.268	198.867
Uzbekistan	195.745	24.235	252.138
Russian Fed.	4.715.438	5.964.613	7.017.657
Tajikistan	30.532	40.879	44.155
Turkmenistan	230.881	252.911	297.706

Ukraine	1.284.735	1.386.934	1.547.996
TOTAL CIS.	10.618.403	11.847.714	13.157.885

Table 5: Number of tourist arrivals from Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) and Russian Federation to Turkey (2017-2019)[11].

According to the Table 5, the number of tourists visiting Turkey has increased every year. Although this number fell due to the aircraft crisis in 2015 and the coronavirus outbreaks, which took effect all over the world in 2020, Turkey has continued to maintain the priority of citizens of the Russian Federation and CIS countries.

After 1980, an increase in foreign population was observed in Turkey especially in coastal areas such as Aegean and Mediterranean regions with tourism activities, and after 2000, these locations, mainly Antalya, became popular in international migration. In particular, Russian citizens' participation in social life has become apparent [10, p. 13]. Another migration movement caused by tourism is retired migration and tourism-based movements of real estate owners. The transition period to settled life has begun with the acquisition of property by tourists in Turkey for holiday purposes [3, p.148].

The number has undoubtedly increased considering data on the total Russian immigration to Turkey in 2016-2019: from 6,425 (2016) and 7,311 (2017) to 13,782 (2018) and 17,311 (2019) [13]. This tendency was not changed despite the record fall in 2017 with only 866,256 arrived Russians (mainly tourists), while one year before there were and 3,649,003 in 2016 (cf. 4,479,049 in 2015) and a year later 4,715,428 (2018). The strange drop and then rise (up to 5 times in 2018) are directly linked to the foreign policy factors: at first, worsening relations between Turkey and Russia in the end of 2015-2016; second, their stabilization later. Moreover, 2020 became a record year for the Russians' visits: 7,017,657 arrived in Turkey (7,000,407 of them departed). Probably, 2021 could give similar figures but for the COVID-19 pandemic: 2,128,758 arrived in the first 6 months of 2021 [13].

In the context, a survey fulfilled by O. Deniz among Russian expats in Antalya province is of great interest. According to the survey, the main reasons in choosing Antalya as a migration destination are warm climate, good environmental conditions and touristic attractions, the positive image of Turkey and its society's tolerant attitude towards foreigners, the ease of establishing social and human relations with the local people, former positive Turkey experiences and the vast number of foreigners in Antalya. Among the migration motives of Russian respondents, economic factors (expectations of good job and earning, demand for Russian-speaking labour force in Antalya) were less important than social and geographical ones in their decisions to migrate to Antalya [14, p. 8].

3.2 Correlation between Mixed Marriages and Real Estate Sales

Turkey has gained great momentum in the construction sector after 1980 and 2002 [15]. As investing in the construction sector and increasing economic activity, Turkey aimed to provide foreign currency income through tourism and real estate sales to foreign investors to Turkey. While in 2017 22,428 properties were purchased by foreign investors in Turkey, in 2019 they purchased 45,967 properties [16] which is the highest figure in real estate sales for the last 10 years [17]. House sales increased by 105% in two years [18].

The reason of the increase of sales could be related to the granting of citizenship to foreigners in exchange for housing. While the number of real estate sold to foreigners in 2015 was 22,991, this figure decreased to 18,391 in 2016 [16]. The law adopted in January 2017 granted Turkish

citizenship to foreign citizens who purchased property worth at least US\$ 1 million in Turkey. However, it was rearranged on 12 January 2017 – in order to be eligible for Turkish citizenship, the law required to keep the purchased property for at least 3 years. As amended on 18 September 2018, the value of the property purchased to obtain Turkish citizenship has arranged to USD 250,000. While housing sales have increased by the help of decreasing the worth of real estate and the devaluation of the Turkish lira, foreigners have purchased a total of 180,000 houses from Turkey in the last 7 years [18].

The increase in real estate sales in citizens of the Russian Federation is noteworthy. Citizens of the Russian federation purchased 12,076 houses and they accounted for 6.7% of foreigners who buy housing from Turkey [16]. Russian citizens who came for tourism purposes started to buy housing from Turkey, to stay longer and settle down in the country.

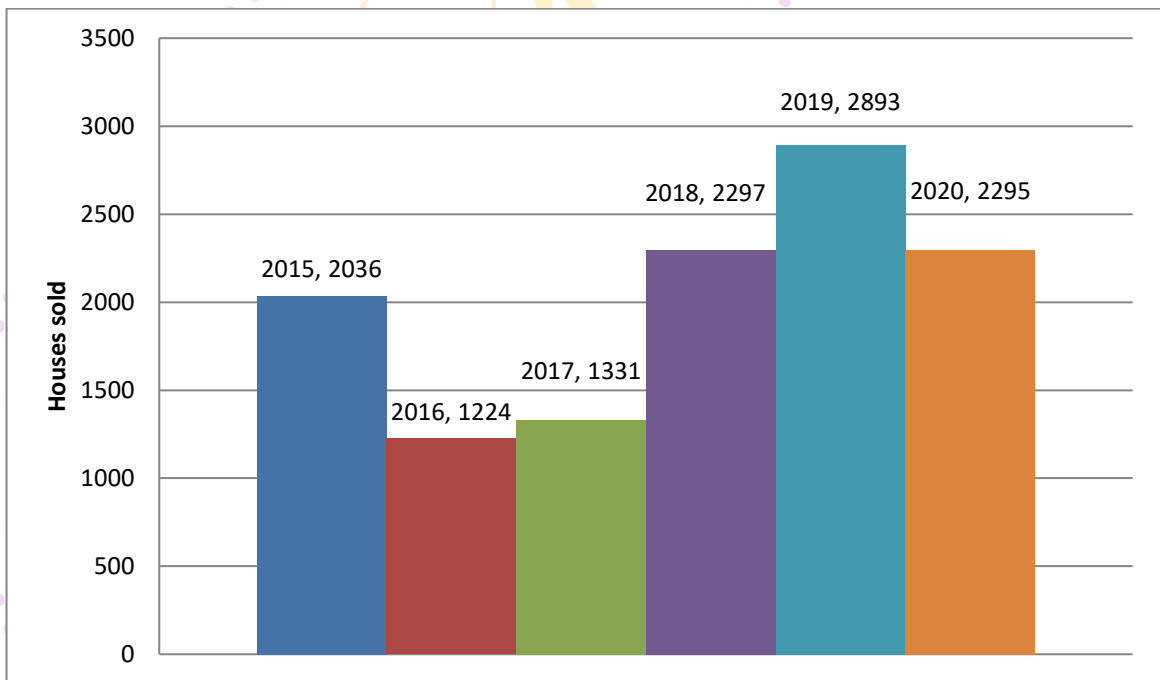


Table 6: Number of residential properties sold in Turkey to the Russian Federation citizens from 2015 to 2020 [16]

Country	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Toplam
Russia	2.036	1.224	1.331	2.297	2.893	2.295	12.076
Azerbaijan	815	610	942	1.250	1.191	1.020	5.828
Ukraine	608	484	505	624	719	598	3.538
Kazakhstan	540	380	334	542	776	877	3.449
Turkmenistan	-	-	-	-	-	434	

Table 7: Number of residential properties sold in Turkey to Russian Federation and CIS countries citizens from 2015 to 2020 [16]

3.3 International Migration to Turkey from CIS

Though refugees have a long history, the first international refugee protection initiative as well as the League of Nations international community's attempts to provide protection and find solutions for refugees dates back to the 1921, when Dr. Nansen was elected as the first High Commissioner for Russian refugees (Feller, 2011, p. 130) [19].

Later, in 1929, the High Commissioner's mandate was broadened to take in Assyrians, Assyro-Chaldeans, and Turkish refugees [20]. Inter alia, the issue of refugees is closely tied to the problem of citizenship. For example, "The Soviet Government promulgated a series of decrees which deprived Russian refugees of their citizenship. This loss was automatic and complete without resort to intervention or to special decision by tribunals or other authorities". Many Armenians also became stateless by decree as "fugitives" from Turkey [21].

Modern Turkey, having the geographical limitation clause, grants refugee status only to people originating from Europe, as a result of events occurring in European countries [22]. For persons not originating from European Countries, Turkey grants the so-called conditional refugee status [23].

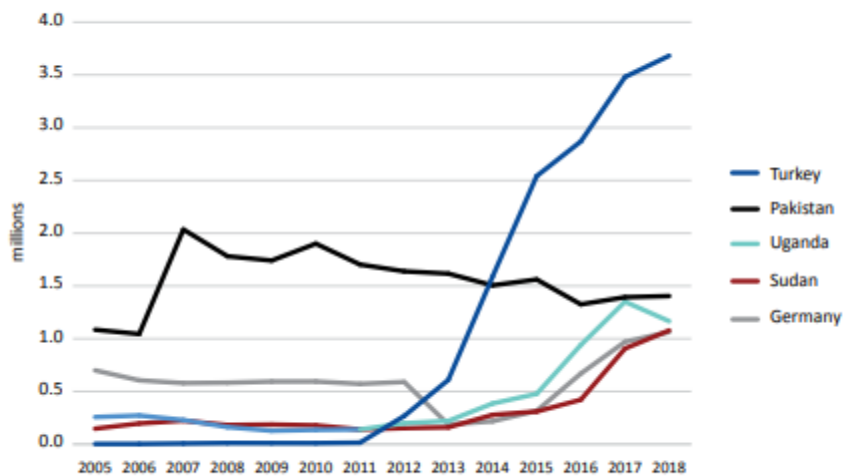
According to the TURKSTAT, the first five places in the foreign immigrant population in 2019 belong to citizens of Iraq (with 14.5%), Turkmenistan (13.8%), Afghanistan (8.2%), Syria (7.5%) and Iran (7.3%).

Regarding destination regions, İstanbul had the largest immigrant population with the proportion of 45.3%. İstanbul was followed by Ankara with 9.2%, Antalya with 6.5%, Bursa with 3.5% and İzmir with 2.2%, respectively [13].

Of the 8361 people from the former Soviet Union and Romania who became citizens between 1995 and 2001, nearly all were women who gained citizenship through marriage. A total of 56,449 people gained Turkish citizenship in this period (Koç University Migration Center, 2007) [24].

Turkey has *recently* become an immigration country while *before* it was emigration country [25, p.37]. According to the 2020 report of the International Organization for Migration (IOM), Turkey has been the largest host country in the world for five consecutive years in 2018 [26] Until 31 December 2019, the number of foreign citizens living in Turkey, determined by the TURKSTAT's Address Based Population Registration System Results was announced 1,531,180 people [27]. The population of foreigners living in Turkey exceeds 5.9 million, and that make up 7% of the total population [28].

Figure 9. Number of refugees by top 5 host countries as of 2018 (millions)



Source: UNHCR, n.d.a. (accessed on 25 June 2019).

Approximately 52 thousand citizens of the Russian Federation living in Turkey form 3.4% of the total foreign population. It is also observed that the total foreign population of people who came from the former Soviet republics and reside in Turkey also includes 4,7% from Azerbaijan, 4,6% from Turkmenistan, 2,8% from Georgia and 2,0% from Ukraine [27].

Some of the Turkish citizens who were born abroad are foreigners who subsequently acquired Turkish citizenship. For this reason, the birthplace data also provide information about foreigners residing in Turkey. According to TurkStat's AddressBased Population Registration System Results, 2019, 83 million 154 thousand 997 people are living in Turkey and of those, 3,2% were born abroad. The residents in Turkey who was born in Russia make up 2,1% to the number of born abroad and this is approximately 55 thousand 880 people. People residing in Turkey who were native born from Turkmenistan are 5,1%, who was born in Azerbaijan is 3,7% and who was born in Uzbekistan is 2,9% to the number of people born abroad [29].

Year	Number of people
1927	6.206
1935	1.620
1945	752
1955	370
1960	483
1970	477
1975	1.029
1985	600
1990	3.514
2000	13.806

Table 8: Russian population living in Turkey by year [30]

Country	Female	Male	Total
Russia	26.882	13.319	40.201
Azerbaijan	35.982	32.533	68.515
Ukraine	16.438	3.790	20.228
Uzbekistan	31.880	13.026	44.906
Georgia	17.982	4.114	22.096
Kazakhstan	12.979	8.172	21.151
Turkmenistan	59.426	74.243	133.669
Kyrgyzstan	17.358	6.183	23.541
Moldova	6.587	1.483	8.070
Tajikistan	2.297	2.355	4.652
Belarus	2.225	276	2.501
Armenia	371	1.389	1.760

Table 9: Foreign citizens from CIS with residence in Turkey, by sex and country of citizenship (As of 31 December 2019)^[31]

The table 9 indicates that in the female population is more than the male population (excluding Turkmenistan, Tajikistan and Armenia). This is described as the feminization of migration. After the collapse of the Soviet Union, especially women from Russia and the CIS countries migrated to different countries for economic and social reasons. Ryazantsev and Tkachenko stated in their article that the Russian immigrant women were actively joining international migration and constituted 53% of all immigrants out of Russia [32].

3.4 Waves of Russian Immigration to Turkey

Some of the Ottoman sultans' wives and mothers were of Slavic including Russian origin. For example, Ibrahim's wife and mother of Mehmet IV Hatice Turhan Sultan, wife of Mustafa II and mother of Osman III Şehsuvar Sultan, and also Suleiman the Magnificent's wife and mother of Selim II Hürrem Sultan etc. [33]. The kinship ties that began with the marriage of the Sultans with the Slavic women in the Ottoman Empire continue today with the Russian-Turkish marriages.

Even the top officials of both countries have been talking about this phenomenon. On 13 February 2009, at a dinner hosted by Russian President Dmitry Medvedev, Turkish President Abdullah Gul said: *"The Turkish people are getting to know the Russian people more and more. The growing number of mixed marriages and the children of these families will form the most*

¹ Foreign population covers individuals who are holding a valid residence/work permit at the reference day and individuals who have a valid address declaration at the reference day while holding an identity document equivalent to residence permit such as international protection identity document and the individuals who have already renounced his/her Turkish Republic citizenship and who have a valid address declaration at the reference day. In addition to Syrians under temporary protection, foreigners holding visas or residence permits shorter than 3 months with the purpose of training, tourism, scientific research, etc. are not covered.

solid foundations of Turkish-Russian friendship in the future." At a meeting with Sergei Lavrov on 27 January 2012, Foreign Minister Ahmet Davutoglu said: *It is significant that the number of Turkish-Russian marriages increases. I want the number of Russian brides to increase. Because Russian brides are very suitable for the Turkish family structure. Russian family culture is very close to the Turkish family culture, very harmonious.*" [34].

After the collapse of Soviet Union, citizens of the Russian Federation constituted a large group among circular migrants in Turkey. At first, they arrived in the Black Sea coastal cities of Turkey and in Istanbul. There they worked in services such as tourism, entertainment, domestic labour and in shuttle trade.

Later, other large cities of Turkey also began to attract Russian migrants, especially Ankara and İzmir, as well as Mediterranean touristic regions, like Antalya, Alanya and Fethiye. Antalya gradually became the seaside province number one in, and it concerns both external tourist and migrant flows [35].

In general, Antalya became one of the main destinations for internal and international migrations in Turkey (along with Istanbul and Ankara) and transformed into a real multi-ethnic and multicultural areas.

According to the statistics of the TUIK (2014), 20.650 Russian Federation citizens were registered in Turkey as of end-2013, and Antalya was the city with the largest Russian population, with 6.876 people (1/3 of the Russians registered in the country) [36].

It's logical that Foreigners Communication Centre under the body of the Directorate General of Migration Management (DGMM) provides information services not only in English but also in Russian, Arabic, Persian and German for non-speaking Turkish foreigners (157 Emergency Hotline). Public institutions and organisations together with civil society discuss steps and approach on the services provided for the foreigners. The Directorate inform and discusses the issues regarding the foreigners in different provinces of Turkey, such as raising the awareness of rights, obligations, access to services and identifying their problems. Besides, various shares on supporting the positive perception towards the foreigners are made together with local actors, civil society, public organisations and host communities [37].

Country	Toplam
Azerbaijan	20.630
Russian Fed.	14.676
Ukraine	11.118
Uzbekistan	7.967
Georgia	6.372
Turkmenistan	6.280
Kyrgyzstan	5.469
Kazakhstan	4.658
Moldova	3.993
Belarus	2155
Tajikistan	307
Armenia	402

Table: 2009-2019 Turkish men and Russian and CIS Citizens official marriage data.

Country	Total
Azerbaijan	984
Russian Fed.	176
Turkmenistan	143
Georgia	99
Uzbekistan	48
Kyrgyzstan	33
Kazakhstan	29
Ukraine	23
Moldova	11

Table : 2009-2019 Turkish women and Russian and CIS Citizens official marriage data.

Tables 10-11: Mixed marriages data (Turkey – CIS citizens) [13]

If carefully examine the statistical data (tables 10-11), we see that Turkish men prefer to marry foreigners much more than Turkish women do. One can say that social-cultural differences such as religion, language, ethnic origin, family life are not a negative factor for Turkish men in marriages with foreigners via the data. The gender factor appears more prominently in the marriage of Turks with foreigners.

According to the Russian registry office (ZAGS), the number of marriages between Russian women with foreigners has increased. The ease of travel opportunities has also a significant impact on the increase. As considering the statistics of Russian citizens who married foreigners in the last five years, Turks are in the first place. The increase of the number of Russian-Turkish marriages depends on choosing Turkey for the vacation, and working Turkish employees of Turkish construction companies operating in Russia. Due to the fact that some of the marriages between Russian-Turkish couples are not officially performed in Turkey and some in Russia, the exact number of Russian-Turkish marriages is not known. However, it is estimated that there are over 200,000 Turkish-Russian families, including 150,000 in Russia and 50,000 in Turkey [38; 39].

3.5 Turkish Legislation on Citizenship

First of all, Article 66 of the Turkish constitution of 1982 stipulates:

- Everyone bound to the Turkish state through the bond of citizenship is a Turk.
- The child of a Turkish father or a Turkish mother is a Turk (Sentence repealed on October 3, 2001; Act No. 4709).
- Citizenship can be acquired under the conditions stipulated by law and shall be forfeited only in cases determined by law.
- No Turk shall be deprived of citizenship unless he/she commits an act incompatible with loyalty to the homeland.
- Recourse to the courts in appeal against the decisions and proceedings related to the deprivation of citizenship, shall not be denied.

According to the 2009 Turkish Citizenship Law (No. 5901), a person can acquire citizenship by birth or by descent (Turkey 2009, Art. 6-7) as well as after birth (Art. 9) that is by naturalisation.

Regarding the citizenship acquired by birth, the law stipulates the following:

- A child born in Turkey but acquiring no citizenship of any state by birth through his/her alien mother or alien father is a Turkish citizen from the moment of birth.
- A child found in Turkey is deemed born in Turkey unless otherwise proven (Art. 8)

Regarding citizenship acquired by descent, the law states the following:

- A child born to a Turkish mother or through a Turkish father within the unity of marriage either in Turkey or abroad is a Turkish citizen.
- A child born to a Turkish mother and through an alien father out of wedlock is a Turkish citizen.
- A child born through a Turkish father and to an alien mother out of wedlock acquires Turkish citizenship if the principles and procedures ensuring the establishment of descent are met (Art. 7) [40].

In addition, in accordance with Article 11 of the Law, a foreigner who wishes to acquire Turkish citizenship to have been residing in Turkey for five years without interruption and those who fulfill conditions can acquire the Turkish citizenship[40]. Purchasing real estate property in Turkey, working, investing or establishing a business in Turkey ensure the acquisition of Turkish citizenship by foreigners in exceptional situations such as a concrete behavior that reveals one's intention to settle in Turkey.

Foreign citizens who are married to a Turkish citizen shall not obtain Turkish citizenship directly. In accordance with Article 16 of the Turkish Citizenship Law, the one who has married to a Turkish citizen for at least three years and continues to marriage and fulfills the requirements can apply for Turkish citizenship[40]. As analyzing the statistics of those who were born abroad and are residing in Turkey now, one can say that a great number of people have obtained Turkish citizenship through marriage. Turkish citizens who are married to Russian citizens also often acquire Russian citizenship through their spouses.

Those who meet the requirements of Article 16 of the Law may apply to acquire Turkish citizenship by marriage. Authorities will examine the application and it cannot be approved in the following cases:

- a) the applicant has not been married for three years with a Turkish citizen,
- b) the marriage ends due to reasons such as death before the date of divorce or application,
- c) the proceedings for any offense have been continued or convicted or detained,
- d) he/she cannot submit the requested documents in accordance with Article 26.

If the spouse of the foreigner who wants to obtain Turkish citizenship has already gained Turkish citizenship, then the date of acquisition of Turkish citizenship shall be taken as basis in the calculation of the time elapsed in marriage.

Another act – Law on Foreigners and International Protection no. 6458 dd. 10.04. 2013 – was declared to be prepared in international standards with a transparent and participatory process by ensuring the norms of law on human rights. Directorate General of Migration Management under the Ministry of Interior (DGMM) was established to have an effective and human rights-oriented migration governance.

According to the law, migration means “regular migration whereby foreigners’ legally enter into, stay in or exit from Turkey as well as irregular migration whereby foreigners enter into, stay in or exit from Turkey through illegal channels and work in Turkey without a permit; as well as international protection” (Art.1, par.1). It's noteworthy that the conditions stipulated in Articles 5, 6 and 7 “shall not be construed and implemented to prevent the international protection claim” (Art. 8).

New Legislative Regulation. According to the amendment (by the Presidential Decree No. 106) made to the Regulation on the Implementation of Turkish Citizenship Law which entered into force on 11 February 2010 with the Council of Ministers Decision No. 2010/139, after 18.09.2018 foreigners can get citizenship of Turkey if they buy real estate in Turkey worth at least \$250.000, but under the condition that the property is not sold for at least 3 years (Article 20, sub-article 2(b)).

The quantitative limits set forth for investments in capital and real estate as well as employment were dramatically decreased, so foreign investors can obtain Turkish citizenship much easier than before.

A property of valued minimum \$250.000 USD can be purchased in any part of Turkey, though previously the worth was 1 million USD. Other options are making \$500.000 fixed capital investment; depositing at least 500,000 USD (or equivalent foreign currency or Turkish lira) in any bank(s) operating in Turkey; buying at least 500,000 USD worth of real estate investment fund share or venture capital investment fund share; buying at least 500,000 USD worth of government bonds with the condition that they cannot be sold for at least three years; or creating jobs for at least 50 Turkish employees (Art.20).

4 Conclusion

1. Two historical events in Russia, such as the collapse of the Russian Empire and the disintegration of the Soviet Union, affected not only Russia but also the surrounding countries. These regime changes have resulted in international migration movements. While the number of immigrants in Russia has recently decreased, on the contrary, the number of foreign migrants moving to Turkey is increasing every year [41]. Especially after the 1990s, Turkish construction workers who employed in Russia and Russian female labor force in Turkey formed gender-based labor employment and international migration between two countries.

2. Tourism and irregular migrations have been increased due to various reasons such as geographical location, suitable vacation and travel opportunities, living conditions, and climate. Due to these migrations, the number of mixed marriages is also increasing and then children born in the cross-cultural marriages grow up within Russian and Turkish cultures. In addition, mixed marriages, which cannot be underestimated in number, point out the unimportance of social-cultural differences such as language and religion.

3. Commercial, economic, social, cultural and humanitarian relations are interconnected, affect each other, and are progressing day by day between the two countries. Marriage migration proves that the migrants' experiences are bound to their legal status. The legislation of Turkey and its sociocultural, political, and economic aspects form the strategies used by marriage migrants.

In general, diaspora activism takes two forms in the eyes of the home state: conflictual and complementary [42]. The Russian diaspora (i.e., citizens of the Russian Federation) in Turkey, especially in Antalya, presents the complementary mode of action. Though the Russian government does not pay attention to the diaspora, in the future it can be used within the soft power and public diplomacy policy. As Shain and Barth noted: "The basic nature of the hostland regime determines the ability of a diaspora to organise influence; indeed, it determines the ability to organise at all" [43, p.463]. However, in some cases it can become a challenge for Turkey (the host state) and involve changes in its public policy and legislation.

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