

27th Meeting of the EU-Turkey JCC
2 December 2009, Stockholm

Women's rights and role in the EU and Turkey

İpek İlkcaracan Ajas
Platform for Women's Labor and Employment (KEIG)
Women for Women's Human Rights New Ways
Istanbul Technical University

Progress in the private sphere

- **1998 Domestic Violence Law**
- **2002 Reform of the Civil Code**
 - Concept of “head of family” eliminated
 - Property regime reformed to enable equal sharing of acquired property between separating partners
- **2006 Reform of the Penal Code:** Major shift in perspective
 - The old TPC interpreted violations of women’s bodily and sexual rights as assaults on society’s morals and honor
 - Under the reformed code interpreted as violations of individual’s bodily integrity
- **Formation of Family Courts**
- **Opening of Community Centers**

Progress in the private sphere: How did it happen?

Through constructive dialogue between the women's movement and the Government(s)

2006 Turkish Penal Code Reform:

- 30 of the 34 amendments requested and lobbied for by **the Women's Platform on The Turkish Penal Code** accepted
- Democratic processes do work! When civil society operates efficiently and the political will is there!
- A little bit EU momentum helps!

Private Sphere: Areas in need of intervention

Complete the progress in legal reforms!

- **Protection Order Law:** expand to cover partners not residing together (ex- or unmarried)
- **Turkish Civil Code:**
 - Revise clause on Property Regime to apply to property acquired prior to 2002
 - Abolish imposition of husband's last name on married women

Private Sphere: Areas in need of intervention

Complete the progress in legal reforms!

Turkish Penal Code:

- Punish “**honor killings**” as “aggravated Homicide” and eliminate all references to “unjust provocation” (*Article 82*)
- Clearly state that “**virginity tests are forbidden**” and specify women’s consent as a prerequisite when a test is required for legal purposes (*Article 287*)
- **Abolish criminalization of consensual sexual relations** between 15-18 years old youth (*Article 104/1*)
- Amend article on discrimination, to **penalize discrimination based on sexual orientation** (*Article 122*)

Private Sphere: Areas in need of intervention

Improve implementation!

- **integrate gender awareness and domestic violence training** into core educational and on-the-job training curriculum **for judges, public prosecutors, police, health workers, school teachers...**
- **Women's shelters**
 - increase number and balance regional dissemination
 - improve quality of services, align human resources and operational procedures along with international standards
- Improve **preventive social services** through increased numbers and capacity of **Community Centers**

A successful example of preventive intervention: The Women's Human Rights Training Program - KİHEP

- Collaboration between the Social Services Agency (SHÇEK) and WWHR (a woman's NGO) since 1998
- A 16-week comprehensive legal literacy and human rights awareness training designed by women for women and implemented by women
- Overwhelming majority of participants report back saying they have stopped domestic violence; increased self-confidence; returned back to school; started a paid job; improved communication and relations with partners and children; amongst others.

1998: First Trainer Training for Social Workers Implementation in 7 Provinces



Ankara, Antalya, Çanakkale, Diyarbakır, Eskişehir, İstanbul, İzmir



Women for Women's Human Rights New Ways

www.wwhr.org

**2009: KIHEP has expanded to 42 provinces;
8,000 women; facilitated the birth of over a dozen
women's civil organizing initiatives**



Women for Women's Human Rights New Ways

www.wwhr.org



Public Sphere

- Gender gap HUGE in labor force participation and political representation
 - More than 50 percentage points GAP in male-female LFP rates
 - Turkey ranks at the bottom of world nations!!! Not only EU and OECD!!!
- **No national POLICIES** to tackle the issue
- **Just** a bunch of **PROJECTS** with hardly any monitoring and evaluation of their impact on the ground
- Gender Mainstreaming and Political Will is a must!

Some points of caution on current approaches to the problem

- Increasing female education is not going to solve the problem by itself!
- Overemphasis on entrepreneurship and micro credit support; but how about integration of women into paid employment?
- Occupational training for women merely technical job skills training; no gender empowerment component
- **Gender based division of labor** and related **Gender stereotyping/roles** are the real obstacles!!!

Work-Family Life Reconciliation Mechanisms a must!

- Parental leave, paternity leave and other care related leave laws
- Pre-school education and child care institutions: affordable, accessible, dependable
- Men's increased participation in unpaid family responsibilities

Yaş gruplarına göre formel okul öncesi eğitim oranları

Table PF11.1: Participation rates in day-care and pre-school for children under six, 2004

	Enrolment in daycare for the under 3s and pre-school from 3 to 6 years (%)				Expected years in education for 3 to 5 year olds
	Under 3 years	3 years	4 years	5 years	3 to 5 years
Australia ¹	29.0	55.0	64.6	90.9	1.8
Austria	4.1	45.9	82.1	93.1	2.2
Belgium	38.5	99.3	99.9	99.7	3.1
Canada ²	19.0
Czech Republic	3.0	68.0	91.2	96.7	2.6
Denmark ¹	61.7	81.8	93.4	93.9	2.7
Finland ³	35.0	37.7	46.1	54.6	1.4
France ⁴	26.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	3.2
Germany ²	9.0	69.5	84.3	86.7	2.4
Greece ³	7.0	..	57.2	84.1	1.4
Hungary	6.9	71.0	92.3	97.8	2.6
Iceland ³	58.7	93.3	95.1	95.9	2.8
Ireland ⁵	15.0	48.0	46.6	100.0	1.5
Italy ⁵	6.3	98.7	100.0	100.0	3.0
Japan	15.2	67.3	95.2	96.6	2.6
Korea ¹	19.9	59.5	66.4	88.7	0.9
Luxembourg ³	14.0	37.9	83.5	96.9	2.2
Mexico ³	3.0	22.1	66.4	95.9	1.8
Netherlands	29.5	32.3	74.0	98.4	1.7
New Zealand	32.1	82.1	95.1	100.0	2.8
Norway ³	43.7	79.4	86.9	89.0	2.6
Poland ²	2.0	26.1	35.7	46.2	1.1
Portugal	23.5	63.9	79.9	90.2	2.3
Slovak Republic ³	17.7	60.3	71.7	84.7	2.2
Spain	20.7	95.9	100.0	100.0	3.1
Sweden	39.5	82.5	87.7	89.7	2.6
Switzerland	..	7.2	34.4	89.7	1.3
Turkey	..	1.7	3.4	26.2	0.3
United Kingdom	25.8	50.2	92.0	98.2	2.4
United States ¹	29.5	41.8	64.1	77.0	1.8

1. Year of reference 2005

2. Year of reference 2001

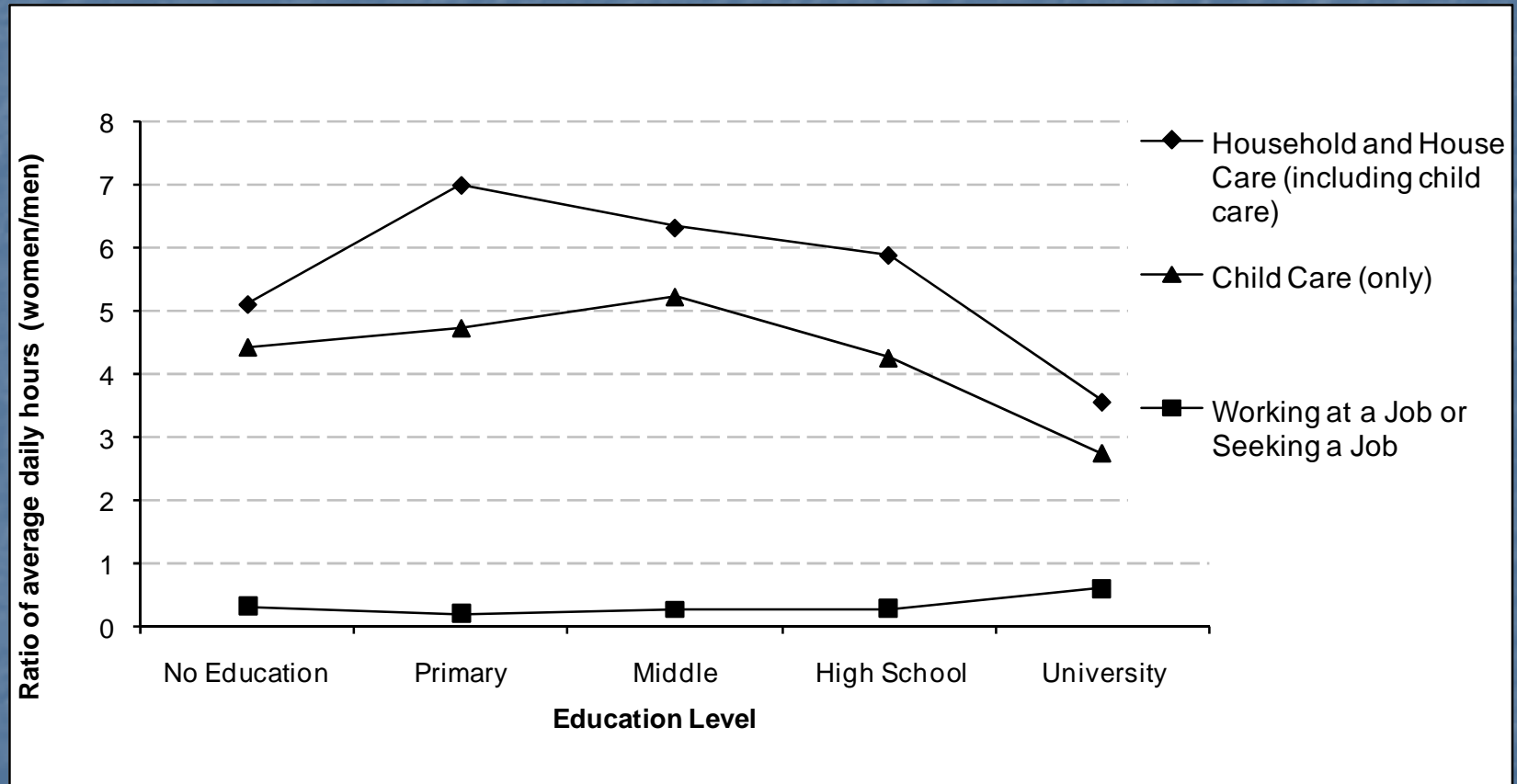
3. Year of reference 2003

4. Year of reference 2002

5. Year of reference 2000

Source: OECD Family and Education databases

Gender Ratio of Time Spent in Household Production by Education Level



Source: İlkaracan, İ. and Gündüz, U. 2009

Work-Family Life Reconciliation Mechanisms how?

- Look for examples from other countries; carry on an informed debate for Turkey!
- WWHR/KEIG Research Initiative
- 7 countries
 - **Spain:** Work Family Life Reconciliation Law!
 - **S. Korea:** Reconciliation as a social growth engine! 3 birds with one stone!
 - **Mexico:** Poverty alleviation through subsidized childcare
 - **Sweden and France:** extensive experience with parental leave, subsidized childcare versus cash transfer policies
 - **The Netherlands:** reconciliation through part-time and flexible working

To improve women's participation in the public sphere

- Move from a short-sighted project approach to a comprehensive policy approach;
 - State future vision of where women will stand in society!
- Create an enabling reconciliation environment supported by labor law and care institutions
- Positive discrimination (e.g. tax breaks in the private sector, hiring quotas in public employment; women's quota in political parties, parliament and ministerial cabinet)
- Enhance job skills training with gender awareness raising and empowerment
- Provide the national machinery with implementation power and necessary gender budget
- Strengthen the mandate of the Parliamentary Commission beyond advising and consulting

OECD Ülkelerinde Kadın ve Erkeklerin İşgücüne Katılım Oranları (İKO), 2005

Kaynak: Labour Force Statistics 1985-2005, OECD; ve ILO Global Employment Trends 2007

Ülke	Erkek İKO (%)	Kadın İKO (%)
İzlanda	89.8	83.4
Danimarka	83.6	75.1
Kanada	82.5	73.1
Avustralya	82.7	68.4
Fransa	74.5	63.8
Japonya	84.4	60.8
Belçika	73.1	59.5
Macaristan	67.9	55.1
Yunanistan	79.2	54.6
G. Kore	78.2	54.5
İtalya	74.4	50.4
Meksika	83.1	43.1
Türkiye	76.2	26.5
Orta Doğu ve Kuzey Afrika		29.5
Güney Asya	--	36.0
Güney Amerika ve Karayipler	--	52.4

BM İstatistiklerine göre Kadın ve Erkeklerin İlgücüne Katılım Oranları

2000li yıllar,Türkiye 130 ÷lke arasınca sondan 14. sırada

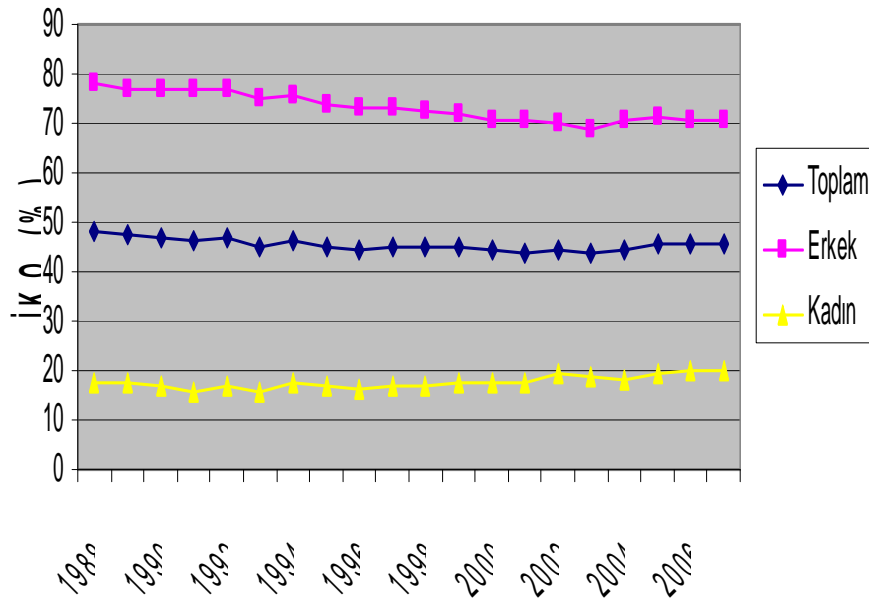
Ülke	Erkek İKO (%)	Kadın İKO (%)	Erkek İKO- Kadın İKO
Cezayir	47	7	40
İran	75	11	64
Batı Yakası ve Gazze	67	14	53
Pakistan	83	18	65
Mısır	69	18	51
Suriye	75	19	56
Guatemala	74	23	51
Tunus	69	24	45
Amman	78	25	53
Türkiye	72	25	47
Bengaldeş	87	26	61
Fas	77	27	50

Türkiye’de kırsaldan kente göçle kadın işgücüne katılım oranı düşmeye devam ediyor.

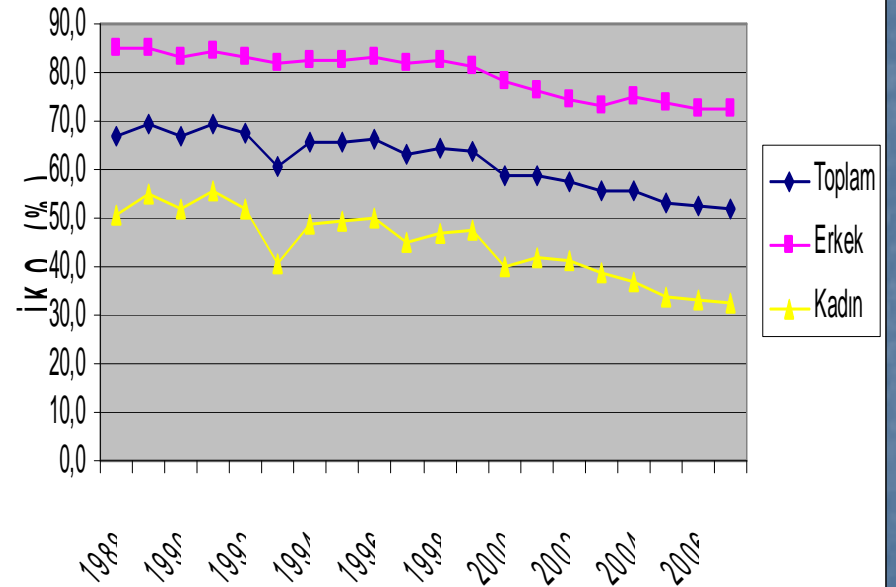
*Ekonomik krizler kentte kadın işgücüne katılımını destekliyor:
Ek İşçi Etkisi*

(TÜİK, HİA 1988-2008 İşgücüne Katılım Oranı İKO %)

Kent İKO



Kırsal İKO



Türkiye'deki büyüme süreci hem kadın-erkek eşitsizliklerine hem kadınlar arasında sınıf eşitsizliklerine dayalı

Cinsiyete ve eğitim düzeyine göre işgücüne katılım oranları (*İlkkaracan and Acar, 2007*)

Türkiye Kent	Erkek İKO (%)					Kadın İKO (%)			
	Okur yazar değil	İlköğretim	Lise ve dengi	Üniversite		Okur yazar değil	İlköğretim	Lise ve dengi	Üniversite
1988	63.3	79.1	76.6	87.4		8.5	13.9	45.7	80.3
1995	51.0	74.9	72.1	87.7		7.4	10.7	35.6	73.7
2000	44.7	71.3	68.6	82.1		5.1	13.5	30.6	69.6
2007	34.9	68.9	71.5	83.4		5.4	13.0	30.8	70.0
1988- 2007 farkı	-28.4	-10.2	-5.1	-3.0		-3.1	-0.9	-15.9	-10.3