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What Makes an Innovative and Entrepreneurial University? A Descriptive Study on visible-invisible impediments / Yenilikçi Ve Girişimci Üniversiteyi Yapan Nedir? Görünür- Görünmez Engeller Üzerine Betimleyici Bir Çalışma

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ABSTRACT

Based on the best entrepreneurial and innovative practices of outstanding universities worldwide, the major indicators behind their success of being the most entrepreneurial and innovative higher education institution can be seen as follows: facilitating access to technology, recruiting relatively less number of students, diversity of the course offerings, the quality of academic staff, campus life, employment opportunities of alumni, the number and activities of student clubs, creating value-added products in strong collaboration with the technology development zones. In the field of higher education in Turkey, the term “research-oriented university” has been highly voiced in the most recent times of Turkish Universities’ agenda. Thus, in this paper, we aim to identify the limits, barriers, challenges as well as success factors leading to the formation of an entrepreneurial and innovative university within the context of Turkey by taking into consideration the best practices of world universities. The data were obtained within the framework of a Scientific Research Project (numbered 2104.KB.SOS.08-210472SK) carried out in Dokuz Eylül University, Izmir, Turkey to explore specifically an R&D and innovation culture inventory. Based on the previous focus groups and identification of themes, a structured survey form consisting of 33 items was designed and administered on academic staff in order to elucidate the major factors and dynamics in shaping the entrepreneurial and innovative university. The sample size includes 92 respondents from a total of 18 different academic units throughout the university. Five Likert type scale (1: not important, 5: very important) was adopted in the study. The alpha score for the reliability is .97. The explanatory factor analysis results reveal 23 items and 7 factors. In the light of descriptive findings, several conclusions were drawn and recommendations were made.

KEYWORDS Innovation; Entrepreneurial University; Obstacles

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