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Eskişehir’de Avrupa Birliği Algısı / Does city’s socio-economic development level plays role in shaping the European Union perception? Findings from Eskişehir

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ABSTRACT

For more than ten years of accession negotiations to the European Union, it is important to monitor the public’s perception of the EU in Turkey. However, there is no existing study for monitoring the evolution of public opinion about the EU in Turkey. Furthermore, there is negligible research available aimed at the local and/or specific segments of Turkish public opinion. Eskişehir stands out in terms of socio-economic development compared to other cities in Turkey. In this study, it is assumed that this feature of the city plays an important role in shaping perceptions of public opinion about the EU positively. Data were collected by a survey from 1.106 participants over the age of 20 residing in Eskişehir through face to face interviews from June 2004 through September 2004. The findings support that Eskişehir differs from nationwide public opinion in terms of the EU perception.

KEYWORDS Turkey- EU relations; public opinion; local perceptions of the EU; Eskişehir

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