June 2021

METU Studies in Development

Report of the Editor - 2020

General Situation

METU Studies in Development is the academic periodical of the Middle East Technical University (METU) Faculty of Economics and Administrative Sciences (FEAS). It publishes articles in the fields of economics, administrative sciences, public administration and international relations. Board of Editors consists of faculty members and academicians from several universities in Turkey. The submissions are dispersed to members of Board of Editors according to their fields to assign reviewers.

METU Studies in Development was published as four issues per year between 1970 and 1999. Between 2000 and 2002, double issues have been published. It was published as two issues per year beginning in 2003. After it was published as three issues per year since 2010, due to lack of articles that were uploaded, it has been being published double issues per year starting from 2019.

In 2020, Vol. 47 No.1, consisted of five articles and two book reviews, in 124 pages and Vol. 47 No. 2, consisted of six articles and one book review in 170 pages. The number of authors who contributed to Vol. 47's first and second issues were 15 and 9, respectively.

The website of the journal (http://www2.feas.metu.edu.tr/metusd/ojs/index.php/metusd/index) in its new form became operational in September 2006. From January 2008 onwards, all submission and evaluation processes became online only.

All costs of the journal are covered from the faculty budget. The issues have been printed in METU Printing House by the standing order of the Rector's office and the costs of printing materials (ink, carton etc.) have been paid by Dean's Office of METU FEAS until 2019. From 2020, the journal is published online only. This allows the journal fulfil its long-standing public service mission of nearly fifty years of well-regarded and respected academic discourse.

The journal is distributed free of charge to FEAS members and to libraries of public universities and some public institutions. The journal has a small number of

domestic and foreign paid subscribers. Ninety issues are sent to METU Library, which in turn sends these to those universities and institutions that publish their own periodicals, in exchange. The journal thus amply pays back its production subsidy to the university.

Statistics

The journal requires free registration to access its online content. The number of people that subscribe to the journal's website in 2018 was 268. The number of total subscribers was 4653 in 2018. Entire online archive of METUSD is open to public.

Table 1[1]
Statistics on Website

	2014*	2015*	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Unique Visitor	5,706	3,751	5,049	5,337	21,772	17,757	12,312
Number of Visits	8,755	6,155	8,388	8,696	28,432	21,761	18,141
Page view	47,026	66,277	92,110	94,296	226,297	183,190	181,875
View per Visitor	5.5	10.77	10.98	10,84	7.96	8.42	10.03
Returning Visitors (%)	33.65	40.2	41.4	14.7	6.8	6.6	12.3

*Notes: 2014 covers the period between January and October; 2015 covers the period between April and December and 2018 covers the period between December 2017 and December 2018.

During 2020, the number of unique visitors was 12,312 and the number of visits was 18,141. These figures and others from Table 1 show that compared to the 2014-2020 period, although it is seemed that all of the statistics declined except view per visitor and returning visitors (%) .

[1] Statistics cover the period of January-December, except 2014 and 2015. As a consequence of server upgrade operations in October 2014, statistics on website for 2014 covers January – October and for 2015 covers April - December. The technical problem is solved in March 2015.

Table 2
Visitors by Countries and Territories (2020)

Country/Territory	Number of Visits	Share (%)	New Visits (%)
Turkey	3,936	31.64	31.73
United States	2,218	17.83	18.04
India	1,946	15.64	15.88
Vietnam	1,779	14.3	14.21
Indonesia	318	2.56	2.58
Cambodia	203	1.63	1.65
United Kingdom	193	1.55	1.51
Singapore	165	1.33	1.34
Japan	110	0.88	0.77
Others	388	3.12	3.1

About 68% of the total visitors came from outside of Turkey in 2020. Turkey leads with 3,936 visits; the United States follows with 2,218 visits and India with 1,946 visits for 2019. Most (approximately68%) foreign users were first time users in 2019.

METU Studies in Development received 40 manuscripts and 3 book reviews in 2019.

Table 3
Distribution of Submissions by Fields (2014 – 2019)

Fields	2015		2016		2017		2018		2019		2020		Total	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Economics	29	59	25	53	26	60	20	66	10	58	7	47	117	58
Business Adm.	12	24	11	23	6	14	2	7	4	24	2	13	37	18
International Rel.	2	4	1	2	1	2	2	7	0	0	0	0	6	3
Pol. Sci. & Pub. Adm.	4	8	6	13	8	19	5	17	3	18	5	33	31	15
Other	2	4	4	9	2	5	1	3	0	0	1	7	10	5
Total	49	100	47	100	43	100	30	100	17	100	15	100	201	100

Table 3 shows the number and proportion of submissions according to major field. Of these, 53% are in economics while 20% from business administration between 2014 and 2019, though 58% of them are in economics and 20% are in business administration in 2019.

Table 4
Average Processing Periods (Week)

Year	Field	Editor	1st Referee	2nd Referee	To Rejection (including editorial rejections)	To decision
2015	Economics	4.9	7	4.3	18	23.9
	Business Adm.	11.3	7.7	8.5	33.4	50
	Pol. Sci. & Pub. Adm.	5.6	-	-	-	-
	International Rel.	16	0	0	-	26
	Other	-	-	-	7.7	-
	Total	7.2	6.9	5.3	23.1	27.4
2016	Economics	11.6	9.7	9.5	17.3	10.4
	Business Adm.	7.5	8.3	8.3	14.2	44.6
	Pol. Sci. & Pub. Adm.	3.9	5.6	2.4	4.7	30.3
	International Rel.	15.5	8.5	11.8	-	35.8
	Other	-	-	-	5.3	-
	Total	9.3	6.9	5.3	23.1	27.5
2017	Economics	5.6	15.8	8	7.8	10.8
	Business Adm.	4.1	4.3	9	14.5	24.9
	Pol. Sci. & Pub. Adm.	4.5	12.3	13	16	36.5
	International Rel.	8	32		12	56
	Other	-	-	-	5.5	-
	Total	5.6	16.1	10	12.6	32.1

2018[a]	Economics	8.4	16	7.8	4.68	12
	Business Adm.	3.8	4.5	9.2	14.5	15
	Pol. Sci. & Pub. Adm.	5.6	12	12.5	16	17
	International Rel.	7.2	16		12	18
	Other	-	-	-	4	-
	Total	6.25	16.15	9.8	10.23	18
2019	Economics	1.5	8	15	12	9
	Business Adm.	1	2	6	6	12
	Pol. Sci. & Pub. Adm.	4	4	-	5	5
	International Rel.	-	-	-	-	-
	Other	-	-	-	-	-
	Total	2.16	4	10.5	7.7	8.67
2020	Economics	5	14	12	14	21
	Business Adm.	0.5	7	12	10	30
	Pol. Sci. & Pub. Adm.	2	8	5	16	26
	International Rel.	-	-	-	-	-
	Other	1	0	0	1	1
	Total	2.13	9.7	9.7	13.3	25.7

[a] As of 01.12.2018

In Table 4, compilation periods of articles in different steps are shown between 2015 and 2020.It is seen although that a referee was found on average in 2.13 weeks in 2018. Authors have been notified on the editorial decision on average in 8.67 weeks in 2018.

Table 5
Refereeing Status of the Articles

	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Single Referee	12	14	8	11	14	7	12	6
Two+ Referees	34	31	36	20	13	11	4	7
No referee found	5	-	1	-	-	1	-	-
Desk Rejection by Editors	16	13	4	10	13	10	1	3
Recall by Authors	-	-	-	5	-	1	-	-
Total	67	58	49	46	40	30	17	16

Table 5 shows detailed statistics of the refereeing process between the years 2012-2019. During this period, a significant portion of the articles has been assigned to two referees, except for some manuscripts received in 2017 and 2019. The journal always starts by two or three referees but sometimes (due to a lack of response) the decision is made based on a single referee report (who is an experienced and trusted referee) and editorial evaluation. If the editorial board is in doubt, the author is informed and asked for permission to start the process anew it the author so wishes it (or recalls his/her submission).

The statistics for *METU Studies in Development* for the period of 2002 – 2018 are shown in Table 6. In this period, 44% of issued articles were written in Turkish and 89% of the authors were academicians or professionals that affiliated to universities or other institutions in Turkey. *METU Studies in Development* is an important publication source for foreign researches as well as Turkish counterparts. In fact, *METU Studies in Development* is appraised in the category of national A group journal for the majority of state and foundations' universities in Turkey in the process of promotion and assignment for an academic position (see The Annual Report of 2004). The journal is also appraised in the category of international B group journals in the process of promotion and assignment for an academic position by METU. A *METU Studies in Development* publication qualifies for an initial assistant professor position in the overwhelming majority of Turkish universities. Since 1971, the journal has been included by the Econlit index, which is a leading international citation index of American Economic Association in the field of economics.

Table 6
Summary statistics for METU Studies in Development, 2001-2015

Volume	Number	Number of Articles[a]	Number of Articles in Turkish	Total Number of Authors	Number of Authors (from Turkey)[b]	Number of Authors (Foreign Affiliation)	Number of Book Reviews	Printing Date[c]	Special Issue
29	2002(1-2)	9	4	14	13	1	3	2003	
29	2002(3-4)	7	2	11	8	3	3	2003	
30[d]	2003(1)	5	0	8	6	2	5	Apr.04	
30	2003(2)	5	2	5	5	0	0	Oct.04	
31	2004(1)	5	3	9	8	1	0	Dec.04	
31	2004(2)	5	2	8	7	1	0	Jan.05	
32	2005(1)	8	3	10	9	1	1	Jul.05	
32	2005(2)	12	0	23	21	2	0	Jan.06	*
33	2006(1)	6	4	7	6	1	1	Jun.06	
33	2006(2)	6	1	10	10	0	0	Dec.06	
34	2007(1)	5	3	7	7	0	0	Jun.07	
34	2007(2)	11	4	11	11	0	0	Dec.07	*
35	2008(1)	10	1	12	1	11	0	Jun.08	*
35	2008(2)	10	2	20	18	2	0	Dec.08	
35	2008(2)	11	8	22	21	1	1	Apr.09	*
36	2009(1)	10	6	17	9	8	0	June.09	
36	2009(2)	7	3	13	13	0	1	Dec.09	
37	2010(1)	4	2	8	8	0	0	Apr. 10	
37	2010(2)	4	2	10	10	0	0	Aug.10	
37	2010(3)	4	1	8	8	0	1	Dec.10	
38	2011(1)	4	3	8	8	0	0	Apr. 11	
38	2011(2)	4	3	6	6	0	0	Aug.11	
38	2011(3)	4	3	5	5	0	0	Dec.11	
39	2012(1)	5	4	6	6	0	0	Apr. 12	
39	2012(2)	4	3	7	7	0	0	Aug.12	
39	2012(3)	3	1	5	5	0	1	Dec.12	
40	2013(1)	5	2	8	8	0	0	Apr. 13	
40	2013(2)	12	12	15	15	0	0	Aug. 13	*
40	2013(3)	4	1	8	8	0	0	Dec. 13	

41	2014(1)	4	3	6	6	0	0	Apr. 14	
41	2014(2)	9	6	15	15	0	1	Aug. 14	
41	2014(3)	11	0	11	7	4	0	Dec. 14	*
42	2015(1)	5	3	10	10	0	0	Apr.15	
42	2015(2)	6	2	7	5	2	1	Aug.15	
42	2015(3)	7	4	13	13	0	1	Dec.15	
43	2016(1)	15	5	29	27	2	0	Apr.16	*
43	2016(2)	9	3	17	15	2	1	Aug.16	
43	2016(3)	5	4	7	7	0	0	Dec.16	
44	2017(1)	5	3	8	8	0	1	Apr. 17	
44	2017(2)	5	2	7	7	0	1	Aug. 17	
44	2017(3)	4	1	6	4	2	1	Dec. 17	
45	2018(1)	4	1	5	5	0	0	Apr.18	
45	2018(2)	4	1	6	6	0	0	Aug.18	
45	2018(3)	3	1	4	4	0	0	Dec.18	
46	2019(1)	6	3	8	8	0	1	Jun. 19	
46	2019(2)	6	0	14	14	0	0	Dec.19	
47	2020(1)	7	4	15	15	0	2	Jun. 20	
47	2020(2)	7	3	9	9	0	1	Dec. 20	
47	Total	311	134	498	452	46	28		

[a] Shorter Papers / Notes / In Memoriam are included.

[b] The authors that are affiliated with institutions from Turkish Republic and Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus.

[c] The publication date is noted the inside cover page since Vol. 26.

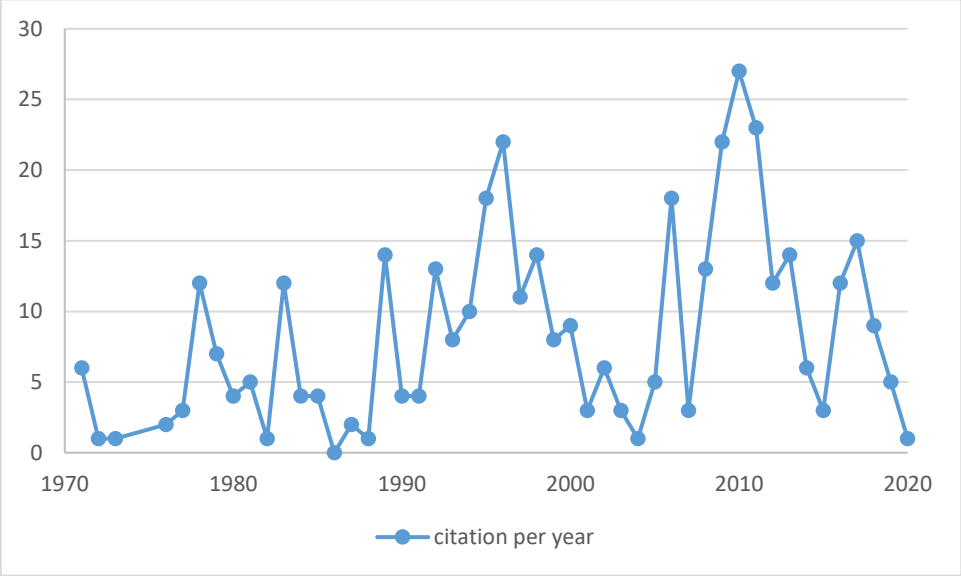
[d] In Vol. 30, publication period was changed to two issues per year (in June and December).

Citations of *METU Studies in Development* in the SSCI

The journal was published for more than 45 years through the dedicated efforts of a small staff and limited resources of the METU FEAS. In the past, publication on time was an issue. The journal has been back on timely publication track for the past twelve years and it has international visibility statistics compiled within an online system for the past six years. Also, the full text of past volumes (back to 2000) was transferred to the web environment in pdf format. Until recently, the journal could be found only at the central libraries of public universities. In addition, the EBSCOHost Academic Search Premier database provided full text access.

METU Studies in Development has been cited in the SSCI index for the first time in 1970. The journal has been cited 413 times in studies that have been published in the journals indexed by SSCI between 1970 and 2020. An increase in the number of citations has been observed over time, though it was declined to 6 in 2014 and 3 in 2015. Although, it was increased to 12 in 2016 and 15 in 2017, it decreased to 9 in 2018 and to 5 in 2018. The journal was cited mostly in 2010 by 27 citations.

Figure 1
Number of Citations by Year



The classification of the citations by fields is given in Table 7. A large part of the citations comes from the articles in the field of economics.

Table 7
Classification of Citations by Fields

Field	Citations	
	Number	Percentage
Economics	204	49.39
Business Adm.	53	12.83
Pol. Sci. & Pub. Adm.	70	16.94
International Rel.	22	5.32
Others	64	15.50
Total	413	100.00

Table 8 shows the distribution of citations to the journal by country. The majority of the citations were made by the Turkish researchers (52.91%). Turkish researchers are followed by the journals from the U.S.A. and the U.K. The share of citations by foreign researchers increased to 47.42% in 2014 from 28% in 2008 and 33% in 2009.

Table 8
Distribution of Citations by Country

Country	Number	Percentage
Turkey	220	53.26
U.S.A.	54	13.11
U.K.	25	6.05
Netherland	7	1.69
Germany	5	1.21
Canada	4	0.97
Taiwan	3	0.73
Jordan	3	0.73
France	3	0.73
People's Republic of China	3	0.73

Table 9 shows the distribution by institution of the authors who cited article from METU Studies in Development. A significant proportion of the citations (49.17%) were made from METU and Bilkent University authors who have had a long-standing familiarity with the journal.

Table 9

Distribution of Studies that Cite METU SD by Institution

The institution	Number	Percentage
METU	55	30.39
Bilkent University	34	18.78
Boğaziçi University	22	12.15
İstanbul Technical University	16	8.84
Ankara University	11	6.08
Hacettepe University	11	6.08
Ege University	6	3.31
Koç University	5	2.76
Sabancı University	5	2.76
Turkish Republic of Central Bank	4	2.21
Marmara University	4	2.21
University of Minnesota	4	2.21
Yeditepe University	4	2.21

Journals which cited *METU Studies in Development* most are given in Table 10. Most of the citations to the journal are from “Emerging Markets Finance, Trade”, and “Applied Economics”.

Table 10
Distribution of Studies that Cite METU SD by Journal

Name of the Journal	Number	Percentage
Emerging Markets Finance and Trade	12	3.53
Applied Economics	12	3.53
Developing Economies	8	2.35
Journal of Policy Modeling	7	2.06
Middle Eastern Studies	7	2.06
İktisat Isletme ve Finans	7	2.06
International Journal of Middle East Studies	6	1.76
World Development	6	1.76
Amme İdaresi Dergisi	6	1.76
Economic Modelling	5	1.47
Applied Economics Letters	5	1.47
Journal of Development Studies	5	1.47
Development and Change	4	1.18
European Journal of Operational Research	4	1.18
Canadian Journal of Development Studies	4	1.18

METU Studies in Development will remain to be the best known and most respected academic journal in its field in Turkey, continuing to fulfill its mission as it has done for the past fifty years.