

# **Importance of the European Union Regional Development Fund: The Case of Turkey**

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**Abstract:** *Development is one of the major concepts that determine the countries' place among other nations in the world and the welfare of the citizens of country. The concept of development in the globalization process can be discussed in transnational, national and regional dimensions. While nation-states are improving their own development strategies, transnational structures try to employ different methods on a global scale in order to promote development. In this context, answering these questions such as what the main factors is to determine the development index and what degree these factors influence on the development are very important.*

*In this paper we will review the literature to find out (1) which factors are effective to ensure the development, (2) what type of work these actors carried out in order to ensure the development, (3) what are the common elements in the documents that national and transnational organizations revealed, and (4) in the process of European Union membership, what proportion of the grant programs has impact on Turkey's regional development. In our study we will examine these issues by comparing the grant programs with the development criteria.*

*We will analyze project proposals that Turkish Regional Development Agencies, Turkish Ministry for European Union and Turkish Ministry of Development called for during the period of 2007-2013 IPA (Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance). We will compare the fund release with millennium development criteria and IPA components over the period undertaken and tabulate the results.*

**Keywords:** *Development, Regional Development, Grant, European Union, Turkey.*