

## SABIHA SENYÜCEL GÜNDOĞAR

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Sabiha is a social and policy analyst and researcher with 18 years of history working in Türkiye's prominent think tanks and experience working with international organizations on a project-by-project basis. After completing her MA degree in European studies at Istanbul Bilgi University, Sabiha took up research, coordination, and director positions at the Turkish Economic and Social Studies Foundation and then director and advisor positions at the Center for Public Policy and Democracy Studies, where she worked with various national and international organizations on different projects. Her positions at civil society in Türkiye required close working relationships, sometimes partnerships, with national and international non-governmental organizations, decision-makers, media, and academic representatives.

Now, in addition to her work as a consultant for RMTeam on a project basis, she lectures at Istanbul Kultur University on civil society and international debates, works as a researcher for PAR Research and Consultancy Inc., is one of the initiators of the Not Without You Not Without Your Voice social project, which aims to strengthen women's voice in media, and takes on other projects as an independent researcher, advisor, and evaluator.

Sabiha is experienced in qualitative and quantitative research, impact assessments, in-depth analyses, policy reporting, societal research, and analysis and is skilled in political science, social studies, migration studies, conflict management, and governance. She has undertaken extensive fieldwork in diverse geographies, including Turkey, the Middle East, Europe, the US, and the Caucasus. She is a capable project and team manager with experience establishing dialogue and working channels with local and national government bodies, officials, media organizations, businesses, academic and civil society actors, EU institutions, and domestic and international NGOs.

In her experience conducting evaluations with FAO Türkiye, UNICEF Türkiye Save the Children, Concern Worldwide, and the Danish Refugee Council, Sabiha has led research projects and evaluations in protection, education, socio-economic integration, social inclusion, livelihoods, and human rights. She recently completed a research report on assessing women's rights in the private sector in Türkiye, which the Center for International Private Enterprise published. Sabiha is a Turkish national and speaks fluent Turkish and English.

### Work Experience

#### RMTeam International, Türkiye, [September 2021 – Present]

##### Consultant/ Researcher

- Lead evaluations needs assessments, baseline, and end-line assessments through the project cycle for a range of I/NGOs operating in the Middle East/North Africa region.
- Lead research projects on a range of humanitarian and development issues across sectors, including Protection, Education, Socio-Economic Integration, Livelihoods, and more, to produce high-quality reports based on primary and secondary data that include actionable recommendations.
- Oversee remote data collection in insecure and dynamic contexts and conduct rigorous quantitative and qualitative data analysis, including household and online surveys, key informant interviews, in-depth interviews, and focus group discussions.
- Coordinate and supervise multiple remote teams of project teams to produce quality deliverables and support internal capacity building.
  - Select Project Examples
    - UNICEF Türkiye 2021-24 country program evaluation, local expert, April-September 2024

- Third-party monitoring (TPM) for Support to Life and Diakonie Katastrophenhilfe (DKH), “Reducing Emergency Protection Risks and WASH Needs of Earthquake-Affected Populations”, April-May 2024
- Final Evaluation for UNESCO, EU-funded “Building Trust in Media in South East Europe and Turkey” project, September 2022-January 2023
- Labor Market Assessment for Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) “Building Resilience of Syrians under Temporary Protection and Host Communities in Türkiye through Supporting Socio-economic Integration and Creating Livelihood Opportunities” project, funded by the European Union’s Regional Trust Fund in Response to the Syrian Crisis (the E.U. “Madad Fund”) and the Facility for Refugees in Türkiye, January-October 2023
- Public Perception Study for European Union Delegation in Iraq, March-September 2023.
- Final Evaluation for UNESCO, EU-funded “Building Trust in Media in South East Europe and Turkey” project, September 2022-January 2023
- Final Evaluation for Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit GmbH (GIZ) project “Improving community-based social services for refugees and vulnerable residents of the host community” (Community-based Local Initiatives Project – CLIP 2”), March 2022-February 2023.
- Labor Market Impact Assessment for UN FAO under the “Building Resilience of Syrians Under Temporary Protection and Host Communities in Turkey Through Supporting Socio-Economic Integration and Creating Livelihood Opportunities” project, Turkey, ongoing
- Final Evaluation of Concern Worldwide, ECHO-Funded “Emergency Education, Protection Support and Resilience Building for Refugees in South Eastern Turkey Phase III” project, Turkey, March-May 2022
- Final Evaluation for Save the Children Turkey, “Strengthening Resilience among Refugees, Asylum Seekers and Vulnerable Host Community Children, Youth and Their Families project, March-April 2022
- Final Evaluation for Danish Refugee Council, ECHO-Funded “Addressing Protection Risks of the Displaced Populations in Turkey” project, August 2020- December 2020

**Istanbul Kultur University, Turkey [September 2018 – Present]**

Lecturer

- Teaching courses on civil society and current international debates within the International Relations Department of Istanbul Kultur University.

**Founder and Key researcher of PAR Research and Consultancy Inc. (November 2019- present)**

- Conducting research on women’s rights at workplace in Türkiye
- One of the founders of the social initiative named “Not Without You Not Without Your Voice” ( <https://sensizolmazsessizolmaz.org/home>) aimed to enhance women’s presence in public spaces in Türkiye

**PODEM (Center for Public Policy and Democracy Studies), Turkey [May 2018 – December 2021]**

Adviser

- Provide key expertise and advice on two European Commission Horizon 2020 funded projects, namely MEDRESET and MENARA; both focused on the European Union’s policies on the Mediterranean. Both of the Projects were granted TÜBİTAK (The Scientific and Technological Research Council of Turkey) Success Award.
- Provide expertise and advice in the field research of an EU-funded civil society dialogue project focusing on youth in five countries.

- EU-funded women and refugee access to justice project design, implementation and analysis

**PODEM (Center for Public Policy and Democracy Studies), Turkey [April 2015 - May 2018]**

Founding Member and Research Director

- As research director and member of the executive board, involved in designing, planning and development of PODEM's research and advocacy focus; carried out networking for PODEM at national and international level.
- Directed and carried out research for the two European Commission Horizon 2020 funded consortiums, named MENARA and EDRESET focusing on the Mediterranean.
- Directed PODEM's research and advocacy on the subject of refugees. Established and coordinated network and research projects on the subject, provided expertise to national and international bodies on the refugees in Turkey. Selected projects include: the European Union funded Capacities for Peace project, run by United Kingdom-based Saferworld; Raoul Wallenberg Institute – Istanbul office funded research and advocacy project on the prospects and policies concerning Syrian Communities in Turkey.
- Coordinated and carried out research on societal studies. Selected projects include a key research on the subject of 1915 and the Armenian diaspora, involving research throughout the United States, Canada, Europe and Turkey, research on citizens' perception of Turkey.

**Turkish Economic and Social Studies Foundation (TESEV): Turkey [March 2010---April 2015]**

Director, Foreign Policy Program

- Director of the foreign policy program, member of the executive board and coordinating a team of 4---6 project officers, coordinators and assistants.
- Responsible for networking activities of the foreign policy program of TESEV at all level nationally and internationally; as well as the designing and implementation of research and advocacy projects in Turkey, Europe, the United States, the Middle East and the Caucasus region.
- Raised and managed funds from local and international donors for the work of the Foreign Policy Program.
- Carried out research and workshop activities in the Middle East and in Europe.
- Designed and carried out research on the refugees in Turkey. Involved as a key researcher on the 'Impact of Syrian Refugees to Turkey' project that involved field research in Turkey---Syria bordering cities of Turkey.
- Coordinated and co-authored the reports of the five-year project of "Turkey's Perception in the Middle East" research and survey series.
- Provided expert opinion to national and international decision-makers, policy experts, academics, and journalists.

**Turkish Economic and Social Studies Foundation (TESEV), Turkey [January 2004 - March 2010]**

Program Officer, Foreign Policy Program

- Involved in coordination and design of the Foreign Policy Program research and advocacy activities.
- Carried out research and reporting on Turkey's EU Membership process
- Involved in establishing network and fund raising work and financial management the Foreign Policy Program.
- Coordinated a Program team of 5 to 7 project experts and assistants.
- Organized national and international conferences for the Institution.
- Carried out editorial and editing roles for the publications of the Program.

## **Turkish Economic and Social Studies Foundation (TESEV), Turkey [September 2002 - January 2004]**

### Research Assistant

- Provided research for study project named “Turkey’s Harmonization with the EU Copenhagen Criteria.”

### **Selected Publications**

- Sabiha Senyücel Gündoğar, Mehmet Ekinci (lead authors), “An Assessment of Women’s Rights in Corporate Compliance Programs in Turkey”, Report published by Center for International Private Enterprise, December 2021.
- Sabiha Senyücel Gündoğar, Gülşah Dark, “Exploring Refugee Movements in the Middle East Regional Context: Responses to the Syrian Crisis in Lebanon and Turkey – Turkey Chapter” European Commission Horizon 2020 Program, MENARA Working Papers, No 28, December 2018.
- Sabiha Senyücel Gündoğar, Gülşah Dark, “Turkey’s Evolving Response to Migration Management: Facts and Policy Steps”, Podem Online Publications, 2019.
- Oytun Orhan, Sabiha Senyücel Gündoğar, “The Impact of Syrian Refugees to Turkey”, Orsam Publications, 2014.
- Mensur Akgün, Sabiha Senyücel Gündoğar, “Turkey’s Perception in the Middle East” Survey Series, TESEV Publications 2009---2013.

### **Education**

- Istanbul Bilgi University, Istanbul, Turkey (2000---2003): MA degree in European Studies Program
- Leiden University, Leiden, the Netherlands (2001---2002): MA degree in European Public Administration
- Istanbul Bilgi University, Istanbul, Turkey (1996---2000): Undergraduate degree in Political Science and International Relations

### **Academic Grants**

- Leiden University, Public Administration Department Foreign Student Grant – for school yearly fee and living allowances in the Netherlands
- Istanbul Bilgi University --- full undergraduate scholarship for the entire 4 years of academic education

### **Languages**

- Turkish [Native]
- English [Fluent]