**ÖZGÜR PROJE**

**Deconstructing the national and cultural identity of a Turkish Cypriot**

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**Project name**

*“Deconstructing the national and cultural identity of a Turkish Cypriot”*

**Participating students**

Student 1: Elvin Cetin (International Studies, Sophomore)

Student 2: Rabbya Kamran (Economics, Junior)

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**Duration of the project**

**Field Work:** Proposed travelling duration would be 6 days max. (first week of September, exact dates would depend on the Academic Calendar which is not available yet)

**Evaluation of Data:** 3-4 weeks

**Drafting of Research Paper:** 4-5 weeks

**Research Outline**

**Research Question:**

To what extent does Turkish descent define the national and cultural identity of Cypriots in Northern Cyprus?

**Hypothesis:**

Turkish descent is important for the national and cultural identity of Cypriots in Northern Cyprus but the Northern Cypriots have also developed an independent hybrid sense of identity.

**Independent Variable:** Turkish descent of Northern Cypriots

**Dependent Variable:** National and cultural identity of Northern Cypriots

**Population:** Northern Cypriots

**Sample:** Random sampling of 3 age brackets and 3 income brackets in Lefkoşa, Ercan

**Methods:**

Survey ­ Socio cultural topic, thus to ensure a practical balance between internal and external validity we have chosen this topic. The survey will allow us to objectively provide an equal insight into 3 age brackets of 18­25, 25­50 and 50 and above and 3 income brackets of $ 0­19 999, $20 000­39 999 and $40 000­ more (per year).

**Measurement:**

We will be using nominal questions to gain an insight into concepts such as national and cultural identity as understood by our survey respondents (we will be clearly defining these concepts in our research) and will make use of a small number of open ended questions to understand their individual background and descent from Turkey.

**Research Motivation**

What makes our question a ‘good’ question is its relevance. As three international students (two from Pakistan and one from German­Turkish descent) from different countries and cultural backgrounds and upbringing, coming to Turkey made us realize the importance of culture. Especially when one’s culture can have an important effect on one’s identity, it becomes important to study the origins of culture formation and track its development. Having lived in Turkey for three years, the three of us observed and immersed ourselves in the Turkish culture and found it fascinating. This made us question whether Turks who live outside Turkey and are not brought up in Turkey experience a different national and cultural identity to that of Turks brought up in Turkey. This academic endeavour became more specific in the Turkish- Cypriot context where we decided we want to explore how a Turkish Cypriot defines his/her national and cultural identity in relation to their Turkish descent. Have they established their own culture, do they feel like they belong to Cyprus independent of Turkish values and norms or is their identity susceptible to a sense of confusion. This process of self inflection and identity of groups who have lived outside their country of descent is relevant in today’s world of convenient and fast mobility and thus through this opportunity of Ozgur Proje, we want to add to the existing scholarship by academically exploring this phenomenon.

**Roles and Responsibilities**

As we want to use the funds provided responsibly, we have decided to appoint one team member to keep a track of the budget (receipts, boarding passes and other relevant documentation). Additionally, this team member will in charge of the statistical analysis and coding of the data collected.

A second team member will be responsible for brainstorming and drafting potential survey questions to ensure that our research question is explored and tested in a thorough manner. This person would also be in charge of keeping a proposed outline of our research paper in terms of what components of culture formation and identity we want to find specific information about.

The third team member will extensively prepare a list of areas and groups we would like to target as our sample population to ensure a sense of generalizability in our survey responses. Specifically, this will include doing background research about Lefkoşa with respect to our three income and age brackets. This team member is also responsible for researching relevant people we can contact before our field work incase there is a need for local area expertise or emergency.

The drafting of our research paper is a shared task and will include equal contribution and effort from all team members. We will be dividing sub topics amongst the three of us and the above paragraph regarding the division of taks has been made democratic and equitable as possible. It is open for change as the need arises and we hope to complete this on time and are looking forward to getting the opportunity to develop a renewed academic sense of interaction amongst us.