

How internationally-relevant publications are being encouraged in Turkey

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Abstract. I present a brief report on the financial support given by Turkish Government to the researchers whose papers are published in journals listed in ISI Science Citation Index and Social Sciences Citation Index.

Keywords: ISI indexed publications, Turkish encouragement program, financial support

1 Introduction

In 1993, *The Program of International Academic Publications Encouragement (UBYT)* has been established under the supervision of the *Scientific and Technical Research Council of Turkey (TÜBİTAK)* to support the international diffusion of academic publications. UBYT was first directed by TÜBİTAK between 1993-2006, and from 2006 the program started to be directed by *Turkish Academic Network and Information Center (ULAKBİM)*, which has been founded as a service unit, in association with TÜBİTAK, in 1996. Moreover, publications in the field of Social Sciences have been encouraged by the UBYT program since 2006. In order to be supported by the UBYT program, scientific publications were required to reach international standards of quality and relevance. This was defined by UBYT as: “published in peer-reviewed periodic journals and indexed by Social & Science Citation Index - Journal Citation Reports = SCI-JCR” [1]. This refers to the Science Citation Index and the Social Sciences Citation Index maintained by Thomson ISI. For the journals that belong to these indexes, ISI computes the impact factor, published in the Journal Citation Reports.

2 How incentives are given?

In the Journal Citation Reports, Thomson ISI categorises journals according to their subject and publishes their impact factor. For each subject category, journals were ordered according to their impact factor and were classified as follows: the top 25% are considered to belong to class A; the following 25% are in class B; and the last 50% are in class C. This order was in the form of 25%-50%-25% in the previous years. However, this distribution has been changed as above (25%-25%-50%) by the TÜBİTAK Science Committee since 2007. It should be noted that the classification in the A/B/C classes depends not only on the impact factor, but also on the subject category to which the journal belongs, according to the

categorisation by ISI. The journals that belong to several subject categories are considered to belong to the highest class that they get from the classification within the different subject categories [1].

Publications are further classified as follows:

- A1 type: Full text articles and review articles published in A class journals.
- A2 type: Publications such as technical notes and abstracts and case reports that are published in A class journals.
- B1 type: Full text articles and review articles published in B class journals.
- B2 type: Publications such as technical notes and abstracts and case reports that are published in B class journals.
- C1 type: Full text articles and review articles published in C class journals.
- C2 type: Publications such as technical notes and abstracts and case reports that are published in C class journals.

Publications of the following types: letter to the editors, meeting abstract, book review, editorial material, biographical item, correction, reprint, bibliography, poetry, addition, item about an individual, software review, news item, proceedings paper are excluded from this encouragement program.

According to this classification, the amounts of the incentives for any academic paper published in 2007 are given in Table 1:

Table 1. The amounts of the incentives in 2007

Publication types	Science (SCI papers)	Social Science (SSCI papers)
A1	1200 YTL (~686 EUR)	2400 YTL (~1371 EUR)
A2	600 YTL (~343 EUR)	1200 YTL (~686 EUR)
B1	800 YTL (~457 EUR)	1600 YTL (~914 EUR)
B2	400 YTL (~229 EUR)	800 YTL (~457 EUR)
C1	400 YTL (~229 EUR)	800 YTL (~457 EUR)
C2	200 YTL (~114 EUR)	400 YTL (~229 EUR)

Incentives were converted to euros at the rate 1 EUR ~ 1.75 YTL (Turkish New Lira)

Under the framework of the program, the amount of the incentives given to the A1, B1 and C1 type of publications are determined annually by the Scientific Committee. Incentives for the A2, B2 and C2 type of publications were allocated to the half of the amounts given to the A1, B1 and C1 type of publications [2]. For publications having more than one authors, the incentives are distributed equally among all Turkish and foreign authors, regardless of the citizenship. However, if the amount of the incentive corresponding to each author of a particular paper is less than 100 YTL, authors do not receive any payment. The amount of the incentive established for 2007 is more than 20% percent higher than the amount given in 2006 [3].

3 Results of the encouragement program

This encouragement program contributed to the rise of the number of Turkish scientific publications. The contribution of our country to global science was 0,001 in 1988, and it increased ten times to 0,01 in 2003 according to the ISI [4, 5]. Turkey published 1396 ISI indexed papers in 1991 and 7811 papers in 2001, the growth for the 1991-2001 period being the third highest in the world, after Korea and Iran [6]. Most of the Turkish papers belong to the B1 class. With the recent increase in the amount of incentives, it is believed that researchers will be motivated even more and their scientific productivity will be improved. Figure 1 shows the distribution of Turkish scientific publications according to the years. As it can be clearly seen

from Figure 1, since 1993 and more so since 2000, the number of Turkish ISI publications has been increasing rapidly.

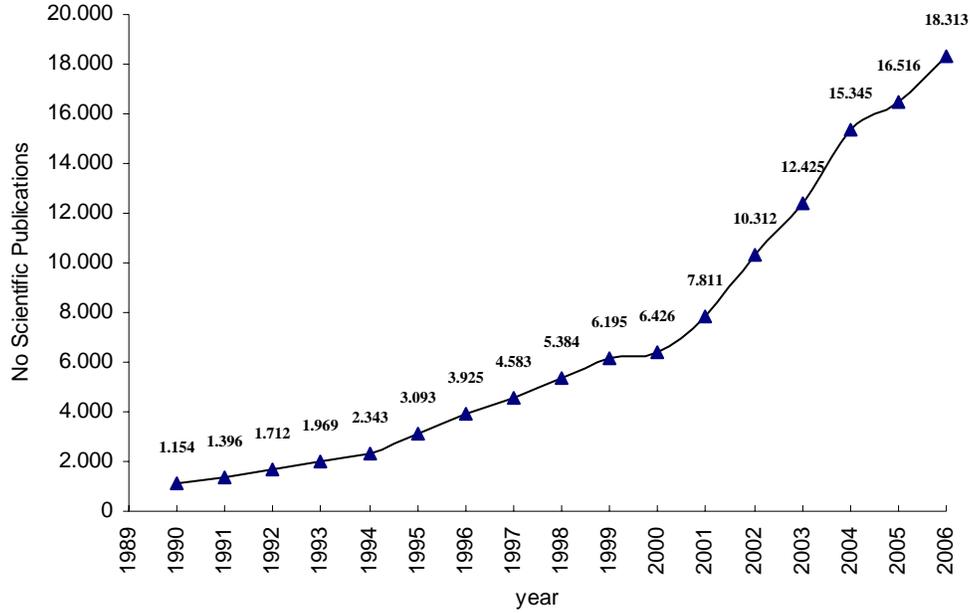


Figure 1. The distribution of Turkish scientific publications according to the years (Source: Thomson's ISI Web of Science; databases: SCI Expanded, SSCI and AHCI)

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