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# THE SITUATIONAL ANALYSIS OF SOCIAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP ECOSYSTEM IN 20 COUNTRIES: THE WEIGHTED AVERAGE APPROACH BASED ON "INTERNATIONAL ACADEMIC SOCIAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP WORKSHOP"

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## ABSTRACT

For a more livable and sustainable world, social entrepreneurship is extremely valuable as a type of entrepreneurship. Because social entrepreneurship does not only look after the economic interests of the entrepreneur. It also aims to obtain social benefits that will meet the needs and problems of the society. In order to ensure the development and promotion of social entrepreneurship based on this intention, Mersin University Young Entrepreneurship Incubation Center planned International Academic Social Entrepreneurship Workshop. The aim of this Workshop is sharing knowledge and experience about social entrepreneurship ecosystems of experts in Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, CHAD, Djibouti, Democratic Republic of Congo, Egypt, France, Iran, Iraq, Jordan, Kazakhstan, TRNC, Libya, Mongolia, Moldova, Senegal, Somalia, Syria and Turkey. Increasing awareness and dissemination of social entrepreneurship is extremely important for the development of both economies and societies (Hıdıroğlu, 2020). Therefore, by planning facilities like workshops, panels etc. or arranging academic programs like master, doctoral etc. could build a better world and sustainable future for next generations. The International Academic Social Entrepreneurship Workshop, had organized online via Zoom by Mersin University. When the outcomes of the workshop, attended by keynote speakers, panelists, academics and experts who are experts in the field of social entrepreneurship, are evaluated, it can be concluded that the workshop was quite productive. The International Academic Social Entrepreneurship Workshop had many distinctive characteristics mentioned below: 1. The Workshop was the "first Academic" Social Entrepreneurship Workshop held in Turkey, 2. The Workshop was the "World's Most Participating Country" Workshop in the field of Social Entrepreneurship, 3. The Workshop was the "only International" Social Entrepreneurship Workshop held in the last 4 years in the Turkish Entrepreneurship Ecosystem. The International Academic Social Entrepreneurship Workshop had attracted many people from different cultures and experiences whom were participated from nearly 20 different countries including "Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, CHAD, Djibouti, Democratic Republic of Congo, Egypt, France, Iran, Iraq, Jordan, Kazakhstan, TRNC, Libya, Mongolia, Moldova, Senegal, Somalia, Syria and Turkey" mentioned above. The International Academic Social Entrepreneurship Workshop aimed to bring together the knowledge and

*experience of academics, business world and public sector representatives, to determine the current obstacles and problems of the economies to social entrepreneurship activities. The workshop also planned on the purpose of suggesting policy recommendations that would eliminate these problems in the fastest and most effective way. By focusing on the Workshop results, this study aims to reveal the current situation of social entrepreneurship in 20 countries.*

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**KEYWORDS:** Social Entrepreneurship, Situational Analysis, Social Entrepreneurship Ecosystem, Weaknesses, Threats.

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## 1. INTRODUCTION

As is known, Turkey, which has implemented comprehensive reforms quickly and successfully after the difficult conditions brought by many major economic crises and pandemic, has solved many of its chronic economic problems in a very short time and has become a shining star among many notable economies. However, in order to continue these successes, the Turkish economy must increase high value-added production and support social benefit-oriented businesses. While businesses increase the social benefits produced, they also have to focus on innovation (Mirvis, et.al., 2016; Hidiroğlu, 2020). Many studies, especially in recent years, have shown that great importance should be given to intellectual capital in order to ensure economic development and social welfare.

As human life gets longer and retirement time gets shorter. More and more individuals have to work after their sixties. Therefore, especially in businesses with a widely distributed workforce in terms of age, it has become important to attract and retain the best talents of all ages and to empower them to do valuable and rewarding work, and to design job descriptions in a way that meets the expectations, needs and interests of different ages (Bezdrob, 2024; Çelik, 2024).

Individuals can also develop their social initiative ideas in the institutions and organizations they are affiliated with and lead the increase in value in those institutions (Çelik and Divanoğlu, 2023; Hodgson, 2006). These individuals can carry out successful social entrepreneurship activities that can reach a wider audience by taking advantage of the power of the institution they are in, and the sphere of influence of their social enterprises is expanding (Wallis, 2011). In institutions and organizations that support social enterprises, the importance of employees who can harmonize the social values of the institution they are in with their individual values rather than individuals who work only for their own career goals is emerging (Di Domenico, Haugh and Tracey, 2010; Hidiroğlu, 2020). Thus, candidates who exhibit a social benefit-oriented approach for open positions in the recruitment process are always one step ahead of others.

Especially individuals referred to as Generation Y and Z are individuals who can support social value and exhibit a social benefit-oriented approach as employees in the institutions and organizations they are in (Windasari, et. al., 2022). These individuals have been playing an active role in various social projects on social platforms since their student years and have more positive beliefs about the

sustainability of social value compared to older individuals (Jordan, 2019). Generation Y and Z constitute the majority of the workforce in many countries and play an important role in social media with the social entrepreneurship projects they develop about the benefit of the business world to society and the social value contribution of businesses and institutions (Berkup, 2014).

Almost five years ago, Generation Z believed that the social entrepreneurship projects of businesses did not create real social benefits, but today, most businesses have a strong belief that their projects come up with real social benefits. It is an undeniable fact that this increases the loyalty and commitment of both employees and customers to the existing business, ensuring the longevity of the established relationships (Hur, Park and Kim, 2010). The Global Human Capital Trends research and the annual Generation Y Survey have concluded that employees value businesses that value personal values with flexible working conditions (Arora and Dhole, 2019; Hidiroğlu, 2019). As individuals advance in their careers, they begin to value opportunities to learn through experience rather than theory. They desire to be a part of businesses that value their differences and individual thoughts and have a diverse and inclusive goal of creating social value. In short, it has become inevitable for businesses to transform into businesses that are not only focused on profit, but also enable employees to choose when and where they will work and carry out their actions as a social enterprise in order to ensure the sustainability of businesses (Smith, Gonin and Besharov, 2013).

### 1.1. International Academic Social Entrepreneurship Workshop

In this context, the main theme of the International Academic Social Entrepreneurship Workshop was determined as "Social Entrepreneurship" and throughout the Workshop, it was aimed to create effective policy proposals that will eliminate the obstacles to this important issue for the Turkish economy with the valuable contributions of academics, business world and public sector representatives and to support this issue with scientific research and academic programs to be opened in the Academy.

By ensuring that at least one Turkish national student from each country group takes part in the Workshop, it is aimed for the experience and teamwork to remain in our country. Simultaneous workshops were held with many groups at the same time regarding the detection of social problems and finding solutions; In these workshops, opinions were

exchanged in the light of existing examples on the detection of social problems and how permanent solutions can be developed for these problems. With the network and experience that the participants will gain from the Workshop, they will be successful social entrepreneurs and prioritize businesses focused on social benefit in every aspect of their lives.

With the International Academic Social Entrepreneurship Workshop, successful social enterprise examples in many countries were researched. The results of the research are shared in the Final Report of this Workshop and it is aimed to contribute to the academic literature. In this way, it is aimed to inspire and guide individuals and institutions who want to establish a business focused on social benefit or who tend to transform their businesses into a business focused on social benefit. Mersin University Young Entrepreneurship Incubation Center was The "International Academic Social Entrepreneurship Workshop" held online.

The "first academic" social entrepreneurship workshop organized in Turkey and the "most country-participated" workshop in the field of social entrepreneurship in the world, the "International Academic Social Entrepreneurship Workshop" also drew attention as the "only international" social entrepreneurship workshop held in the last 4 years in the Turkish entrepreneurship ecosystem. The workshop was widely attended by nearly 20 different countries.

## 1.2. Opening Speeches of International Academic Social Entrepreneurship Workshop

**In the Opening Ceremony there were six speakers. These speakers were mentioned below:**

The Deputy Minister of Youth and Sports of the Republic of Turkey, Prof. Dr. Halis Ersöz, Mersin University Rector, Prof. Dr. Ahmet Çamsarı, Union of Chambers and Commodity Exchanges of Türkiye (TOBB) Board Member and Mersin Chamber of Shipping President, Cihat Lokmanoğlu and Mersin Chamber of Commerce and Industry President, Ayhan Kızıltan, Mersin University Young Entrepreneurship Incubation Center Founding Director and workshop head Assoc. Prof. Dr. Duygu Hidiroğlu.

First speech was given by Deputy Minister of Youth and Sports of the Republic of Turkey Prof. Dr. Halis Ersöz. Dr. Ersöz stated that efforts to increase entrepreneurship in solving the unemployment problem, one of the most important economic problems, have yielded remarkable results. Prof. Dr. Ersöz stated that, for this reason, the government has been working on various methods for the

development of entrepreneurship in recent years, focusing on entrepreneurship loans, new venture supports and business development center projects. Stating that social enterprises are organizations that are at the intersection of the private sector and the third sector and that adopt business-based and free market-based methods in solving social problems, Prof. Dr. Ersöz underlined that social entrepreneurship is an important dynamic for the development of the country. Emphasizing that there are many social entrepreneurship projects planned by the Ministry of Youth and Sports of the Republic of Turkey in Turkey, Prof. Dr. Ersöz said that there are young social entrepreneurs who have successfully carried out social entrepreneurship, as well as many young entrepreneurial individuals who have created significant social and economic impacts in our country without having a social enterprise.

In his speech, Deputy Minister of Youth and Sports of the Republic of Turkey, Prof. Dr. Halis ERSÖZ stated that social enterprises are organizations that are at the intersection of the private sector and the third sector and adopt business-based and free market-based methods in solving social problems, stated that social entrepreneurship is an important dynamic for the development of the country. He stated that there are many social entrepreneurship projects planned by the Ministry of Youth and Sports of the Republic of Turkey for young people in Turkey, and that there are young social entrepreneurs who have successfully carried out social entrepreneurship, as well as many young entrepreneurial individuals who have created significant social and economic impacts in our country without having a social enterprise. Mersin University Rector Prof. Dr. Ahmet ÇAMSARI stated that although there are many organizations that support social enterprises with trainings, awards and capacity building activities; there are very few institutional structures that support social entrepreneurship in academia and that the necessary importance should be given to social entrepreneurship activities in academia. He expressed that they are sensitive to this deficiency as Mersin University and that they are proud to be the university that hosted the International Academic Social Entrepreneurship Workshop organized by the University and the First Academic Social Entrepreneurship Workshop held academically in Turkey. He stated that while social entrepreneurship activities and examples are mentioned in academic events such as this Workshop, the importance of creating awareness among young people in this field is great and these events should continue to increase.

Mersin University Rector Prof. Dr. Ahmet Çamsarı stated that although there are many organizations that support social enterprises with trainings, awards and capacity building activities; there are almost no institutional structures that support social entrepreneurship in academia and that the necessary importance should be given to social entrepreneurship activities in academia as well. Our President Prof. Dr. Çamsarı stated that they are sensitive to this deficiency as Mersin University and that they hosted the first academic social entrepreneurship workshop held in Turkey with the International Academic Social Entrepreneurship Workshop organized by the University in this context, and expressed their pride for this reason.

Union of Chambers and Commodity Exchanges of Türkiye (TOBB) Board Member and Mersin Chamber of Shipping President Cihat Lokmanoğlu emphasized the importance of social entrepreneurship and the workshop in their speeches. He emphasized that Turkey has to strengthen the intellectual economy and become more competitive. Emphasizing the necessity of achieving the 2023 vision and setting sail for new visions, Lokmanoğlu stated that in this context, academics, valuable sector representatives of the public sector and the business world and international participants will make meaningful observations in this Workshop.

Mersin Chamber of Commerce and Industry President Ayhan Kızıltan also emphasized the importance of social entrepreneurship and the Workshop in his speech. Kızıltan, who stated that the successfully organized Workshop contributed greatly to the cooperation between the university, the business world and civil society organizations, stated that the establishment of a personnel management system based on professional competence; an economic management that takes into account the realities of the world and Turkey, where sharing is fair and everyone can successfully take a share, can be achieved through social entrepreneurship activities.

Mersin University Young Entrepreneurship Incubation Center Founding Director and workshop head Assoc. Assoc. Prof. Dr. Duygu Hidiroğlu emphasized that the field of social entrepreneurship is an untouched field in Turkey where scientific research is scarce in the academic community and has not yet been discovered, but it has been accepted as a major field and is highly valued thanks to the programs and departments opened in this field in successful universities leading the academy such as Harvard, MIT, Oxford, Yale, Cambridge, etc. Assoc.

Prof. Dr. Duygu Hidiroğlu said, "As Mersin University Young Entrepreneurship Incubation Center, we are making all the necessary efforts to ensure that social entrepreneurship activities are given the necessary value in scientific media.

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Duygu Hidiroğlu said, "As a Mersin University Young Entrepreneurship Center Manager I am proud to pioneer the academic acceptance of social entrepreneurship with the workshop organized as a result of the collaboration."

Workshop Chair Assoc. Prof. Dr. Duygu Hidiroğlu stated that the International Academic Social Entrepreneurship Workshop aims to bring together the knowledge and experience of academics, public sector and business world representatives; At this point, they emphasized that the organized Workshop will provide a platform to determine the current problems in the development of social entrepreneurship activities in the Turkish economy and to create policy recommendations that will solve these problems in the fastest and most effective way.

Workshop Chair Assoc. Prof. Dr. Duygu Hidiroğlu thanked the Ministry of Youth and Sports of the Republic of Turkey, the Union of Chambers and Commodity Exchanges of Turkey, TÜMMİAD, JCI Turkey, Impact Hub, Islamic Help Turkey, Grameen Microfinance Program, Enactus Azerbaijan, IEEE Turkey, Azerbaijan Youth Forum, Mersin University and Social Business Global Association for their contributions to the Workshop at national and international levels and concluded their opening speeches.

### **1.3. *Panelist Speeches of International Academic Social Entrepreneurship Workshop***

After the opening speeches, representatives of the institutions and NGOs took the floor as Panel Speakers. These speakers were mentioned below:

Amine Malik, Impact Hub İstanbul Founding Partner Mr. Semih Boyacı, JCI Turkey President Mr. Mehmet Altuğ Türkdalı, Azerbaijan Youth Forum President Vusala Mr. Niftaliyeva, IEEE Turkey Vice President Dr. Lecturer Tunçer Baykaş, Enactus Azerbaijan President Mr. Faik Mammadov, TÜMMİAD World Term President Mr. Bülent KAavaklı and Islamic Help Turkey Director Mr. Muhammed Şerif Ökmen took the floor respectively to make the Workshop Speeches.

First speaker was Grameen Microfinance Program Strategy and Business Development Director Ms. Amine Malik. She stated that in terms of local government; the transition to local government where provincial, district and village zoning plans

are completed and zoning implementation is carried out according to common sense plans submitted to the approval of the public will be an innovation. He also emphasized that a local government approach that sees industrialists as a burden due to the low voting potential of industrial zones is not present and that the confusion of authority and responsibility between local government and public administration ends and everyone's authority and responsibility are fully determined is innovative.

Malik stated that they signed protocols with many universities as ISO regarding university-industry cooperation and stated that an industry-university cooperation system should be put into effect where academics take on more duties in the industry and can make observations. Finally, MALİK concluded his speech by emphasizing the importance of reaching a ready, qualified, and educated human resource standard for advanced technology product production in our country, which is preparing for Industry 4.0.

Impact Hub Istanbul Founding Partner Mr. Semih Boyacı began his speech by stating that academics and scientists will contribute to what needs to be done to get our country out of the middle-income trap it is in with the International Academic Social Entrepreneurship Workshop. He emphasized that steps referred to as science diplomacy should also be taken by touching on the importance of expanding cooperation between countries in every field, especially in the field of technology and innovation.

JCI Turkey President Mr. Mehmet Altuğ TürkDALI said, "We have work in R&D and innovation. When we look at the developments in the world, many scientific publications are being produced with the cooperation of authors from more than one country every day." Providing information about Turkey's R&D expenditures, TURKDALI said that the R&D figure included in the budget this year is 4.4 billion liras and that they will work with stakeholders to bring this resource together with the most appropriate projects.

Stating that he believes that the number of R&D centers will increase with the R&D Reform Package, he said, "If you are investing in the high-tech sector, you can benefit from the 5th region supports within the incentive system. We are working to include some medium-high-tech sectors in this scope." Expressing that it is said that Turkey is in the middle-income trap, TURKDALI noted that the steps to be taken to get rid of this should be decided jointly by academics and businessmen. He emphasized that the EU plans to use 80 billion Euros of funds in the Horizon program within the scope of supporting

international R&D collaborations and for this reason, academics should be in more international collaboration than industrialists in the fields of R&D and innovation.

President of Azerbaijan Youth Forum Vusala Ms. Niftaliyeva stated her speech that "Social entrepreneurship is a powerful tool that increases and develops innovation and leadership among our youth, while addressing and solving social problems. Young people who actively participate in social entrepreneurship not only develop their entrepreneurial skills, but also contribute to the creation of more caring, sustainable societies and inclusive economies.". She also mentioned that "As part of the Social Entrepreneurship youth activities, young people have the opportunity to visit local organizations and initiatives in Baku. The volunteerism and sensitivity of young people who come together with participants dedicated to social entrepreneurship are also increasing day by day."

IEEE Turkey Vice President Dr. Lecturer Member Tunçer Baykaş expressed that the field visits, workshops, panels and discussions organized today were extremely valuable for the participants. Stating that social entrepreneurship is a driving force that causes the development of every society, Dr. Baykaş said that it will be possible for the people who attend the workshop today to gain an idea about successful social entrepreneurship models. The benefits that emerged with the interactions of the participants from 20 countries are quite significant. He concluded his speech by saying that the participants will both learn about the available resources and support networks and develop their perspectives on social entrepreneurship by sharing best practices with their peers in different countries.

Enactus Azerbaijan President Mr. Faik Mammadov stated that "Social entrepreneurship is the art of analyzing social problems and finding solutions with entrepreneurial skills. Social entrepreneurs are the pioneers of social change. Of course, when we talk about change here, we are talking about a positive change. Therefore, I would like to thank the workshop leaders who organized this event, where we will see the strong reflections of social impact in the future. It is really valuable and promising to see so many valuable names working in the field of social entrepreneurship here today."

TÜMMİAD World Term President Mr. Bülent Kavaklı gave brief information about social entrepreneurship and the importance of social innovations. Moreover, he mentioned that "Social entrepreneurship is one of the most popular topics of recent years. Social entrepreneurship, which we can

describe as the type of entrepreneurship that gives back to society what it takes from society, is also the type of entrepreneurship that paves the way for innovations the most. Even if societies cannot come together and do it, social entrepreneurship initiates individual efforts, even if within a small group, and enables the small benefits gained as a result of ant-like entrepreneurial activities to grow like a snowball. I said that social entrepreneurship is closely related to innovation. As the founder of a social community that supports inventors, I care about social initiatives and I am pleased to be with you today. Because thanks to you, we have proven once again through this workshop that the social entrepreneurship ecosystem consists of extraordinary and innovative people who have bright ideas to change society in many ways."

Islamic Help Turkey Director Mr. Muhammed Şerif Ökmen mentioned that "Social entrepreneurship should be supported because it is an entrepreneurship that makes significant contributions to both the economy and the business world. All speakers expressed the importance of social entrepreneurship with beautiful words. I would also like to mention that social welfare is of vital importance and that successful social enterprise examples are the most sustainable solution to achieve social welfare. Social entrepreneurship has the potential to change societies and develop economies for entrepreneurs, providing them with livelihood opportunities for themselves and their people. For this, social entrepreneurship, which supports innovative ways and methods, shapes society and improves values. Although social enterprises include commercial activities, the most basic motivation for starting a social enterprise is to help others."

## 2. CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK

### 2.1. International Academic Social Entrepreneurship Workshop

In the workshop, simultaneous workshops were held with many groups at the same time regarding the identification of social problems and finding solutions, and opinions were exchanged in the light of examples.

By the International Academic Social Entrepreneurship Workshop, successful social enterprise examples were researched in many countries. The results of the research are aimed to be shared in the final report of the workshop in a very short time and to contribute to the academic literature. In this way, it is aimed to provide inspiration and guidance to individuals and institutions who want to establish a social benefit-

oriented business or who tend to transform their businesses into a social benefit-oriented business.

Within the scope of the workshop, the workshops were completed in the afternoon, where the "Situation Analysis of Social Entrepreneurship Activities in Turkey and the World" was conducted with predetermined questions and managed by Workshop Chair Assoc. Prof. Dr. Duygu Hidiroğlu. Following the workshops, country presentations were made by one leader selected from the formed groups, presenting the current situation analysis results on Social Entrepreneurship Activities and Needs in Turkey and the World.

## 3. DATA AND METHODOLOGY

The opinions of total 195 workshop participants from 20 different countries were recorded without any preliminary evaluation. In addition to experts, foreign faculty members and administrators also took part in the work by brainstorming during the workshops.

The prerequisite for participating in the workshop was to define social entrepreneurship correctly and to have been involved in social entrepreneurship activities at least once. Therefore, the 195 participants in the workshop had these qualifications.

The sample consisting of randomly selected participants has a normal distribution and answered following questions on International

### Academic Social Entrepreneurship Workshop:

**Question 1:** What are the characteristics of social entrepreneurs who contribute to growth and employment?

**Question 1.1.** How do you think social welfare is measured?

**Question 1.2.** What should be the training programs to increase social awareness?

**Question 1.3.** What should be the role of the government in encouraging social entrepreneurship and improving social awareness?

Every participant was asked by each above questions and the responses are grouped regarding the countries. In this study, in this study, the names of the countries are not declared in terms of personal data protection law. The weighted averages of the participants opinions' will be mentioned as a discussion of each table. The weighted average is a statistical measure that calculates the average of values assigned different levels of importance or weights. This is very crucial since this approach provides a more accurate representation of a scenario where not all elements contribute equally (Ahn, 2011). The most frequently expressed opinions are

determined with this method used to obtain a more accurate average (Liu, Hu and Cheng, 2005).

According to the weights of responses; the most common opinions are listed. According to the priority order of experts, the importance levels are defined in general. Thus, by prioritizing it is planned to reveal the factors that are considered to be most effective in the social entrepreneurship ecosystem of 20 countries. According to the responses of the 195 participants, the top five opportunities and top five threats will be determined.

**Common weighted responses based on countries are given on Table 1, Table 2, Table 3, Table 4, Table 5, Table 6 and Table 7 as follows:**

**Table 1: Common Responses Of 20 Countries' Experts to Question 1: What Are the Characteristics of Social Entrepreneurs Who Contribute to Growth and Employment?**

20 Countries' Experts	Common Responses
1	They focus on problem solving and open their own patents to everyone for social use.
2	They focus on getting rich and their intellectual capability is high.
3	They aim to benefit society, being innovative, turning problems into opportunities.
4	Social entrepreneurs focus not only on material things but also on social curiosities and improving people's life activities.
5	They produce social benefit. They can touch people, not just for making money.
6	They should be productive and entrepreneurial.
7	They give importance to innovation
8	They do not give up -destruction and can work well in a team
9	They have inspiration.
10	Entrepreneurship is a facility to compose value by innovation, using innovative talents or in any other way, finding new products, services, resources, technologies and markets. Another of the most important figures in entrepreneurship theory is Joseph Schumpeter. Schumpeter's theory gives special importance to the concept of innovation and accepts innovation as the main force of the economic system. In this sense, Schumpeter defines five events for innovation. They are ready for hard work under difficult conditions, desire to improve oneself, are able to influence and involve others in work ability to work in a planned manner and to do innovative research.
11	They introduce a new product that the customer does not yet know or a new quality of an existing product.
12	They develop a new production technique.
13	They find a new market that no production unit in the country has entered before.
14	They find new sources of raw materials and semi-finished products.
15	They establish new organizations in any industry.
16	They are generally all reasonable people. They do not establish businesses to give alms but to make things easier for people.
17	They should not only keep themselves in mind but also all social needs and appreciate all the steps taken to solve those problems. If everyone is socially aware, the welfare in the world can reach very beautiful places.
18- TR	They are aware of problems and always approaching events moderately, desire to be successful, combatant and perseverance, desire and ability to take responsibility and risks, productivity and ability to sense opportunities. They feel confident, give confidence knowing one's shortcomings and limits and being able to benefit from advice. They are able to work with others, trust them and be able to give confidence to people one is in contact with.
19	They can look holistically and have a forward-looking perspective.
20	They evaluate opportunities and have good social skills.

The most common answer to this question is that social entrepreneurs are people who care more about social development than generating income. In addition, it is thought that social entrepreneurs have more developed social skills compared to other entrepreneurs and individuals. Moreover, the view that social entrepreneurs are trustworthy people is

## 4. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The active players of the social entrepreneurship ecosystem are social entrepreneurs. A social entrepreneur is a person who creates social benefit and uses the profit obtained from entrepreneurial activities to continue this benefit. The common answers of a total of 195 participants from 20 different countries who participated in the International Academic Social Entrepreneurship Workshop to the question "What are the characteristics of social entrepreneurs who contribute to growth and employment?" are given in Table 1 on a country basis.

common among the answers. In addition, social entrepreneurs have impressive aspects on the people who follow them. Social entrepreneurs are inspiring. Their voluntary dedication leaves a positive and strong impact on many. Finally, the innovative aspect of social entrepreneurs was emphasized in the answers. According to the participants, social

entrepreneurs are innovators and contribute to the emergence of successful innovations.

**In this respect, when the participants' answers to**

**the first question are evaluated, "Table 2: The Most Characteristics of Social Entrepreneurs", which was created according to the 5 most common answers, is as follows:**

**Table 2: The Most Characteristics of Social Entrepreneurs.**

The Characteristics of Social Entrepreneurs	
1	Giving importance to social development more than earning own profit
2	Having social skills
3	Being trustworthy
4	Being inspiring
5	Being innovative

The characteristic features stated on Table 2 from top to bottom are arranged according to the most frequently given answer to the least frequently given answer by workshop participants.

Social welfare is so important for the success and sustainability of social enterprises. Social welfare, which can be defined as the living standards, happiness, and satisfaction of individuals who make up society, is very effective in the development and dissemination of social entrepreneurship. Therefore,

the answers given to the question "What do you think how social welfare is measured?" in the workshop where the social entrepreneurship ecosystem was evaluated are very effective in measuring the effectiveness of the ecosystem. The common responses of a total of 195 participants from 20 different countries who participated in the International Academic Social Entrepreneurship Workshop to the question "How social welfare is measured?" are given in Table 3 on a country basis.

**Table 3: Common Responses Of 20 Countries' Experts to Question 1.1: "What Do You Think How Social Welfare Is Measured?".**

20 Countries' Experts	Common Responses
1	There are many people who have very good living conditions.
2	A society with equal and fair living conditions
3	It is an organized system of social services and social institutions with the aim of ensuring that individuals and groups can fully develop their productivity and reach satisfactory living and health standards in order to meet the needs of their families.
4	If people see everyone equally.
5	People can get what they need immediately.
6	Welfare is mostly taken to be accepted by voluntary and community groups, such as trust and sense of belonging, and is not worth measuring
7	It is measured by how much social benefit you can produce.
8	I think that people should live under better conditions.
9	Salary Purchasing Power People's money spent on entertainment and social welfare sectors.
10	First, accumulated problems will be solved, then elements that will contribute to the growth of the middle-income group will be put into action. Brazil's new president of working origin has realized this fact. Despite all the criticism, he did not compromise on policies to reduce inflation. Although unemployment is rising, the Brazilian economy is much more stable today than it was a year ago. Inflation has fallen back to single digits. Real interest rates have been reduced to much more reasonable limits. First of all, public finances have started to recover.
11	The chance for each person to build their lives with minimum interest rates so that they can live well.
12	People are complex, and measuring traditional outcomes can sometimes hide this complexity. It can thus hide the full effects of your activities. At the center, we examine this complexity and the different things that make up our well-being: the quality of our health, our work, our relationships; how happy, anxious or satisfied we are... How confident, purposeful or connected are we in life? All of them are interconnected and change many times throughout our lives. Well-being can be measured by looking at observable factors (such as employment) as well as by looking at factors that are subjective to the person experiencing them, such as how secure we feel.
13	Social well-being is measured by the equal availability of everyone's personal needs.
14	The individuals in society should be in a state of complete well-being spiritually, physically, socially and economically.
15	If there is a social welfare, people continue their personal and social relationships in a balanced way.
16	Communities could reach prosperity and wealth at the same time.
17	There is almost no economic uncertainty.
18-TR	People having the time and money to do social activities instead of just working and making a living.
19	If there is a low level of unemployment rate.
20	People have enough money to spend other than their basic needs.

The most common answers received from the workshop participants, from the most common to the least common, are as follows: Most participants evaluate the level of social welfare in parallel with the level of social benefit. Then, the view that social welfare is related to the good living conditions of people is common. According to many participants, social welfare is closely related to economic welfare and employment status. Another most common

answer from participants who think that social welfare is related to social justice and fair living conditions is that social welfare is related to social belonging.

When all participants' answers are examined, "Table 4: The Social Welfare Measurements", which was organized according to the 5 most common answers given by the participants to the second question, is as follows:

*Table 4: The Social Welfare Measurements.*

The Social Welfare Measurements	
1	Social Benefit
2	Living Conditions
3	Economic Welfare and Employment Status
4	Social Justice
5	Social Belonging

The social welfare measurements are stated on Table 4 from top to bottom are arranged based on the most frequently given answer to the least frequently given answer by workshop experts.

Social awareness is the first step of social entrepreneurship. Entrepreneurial activities begin with problem identification. Therefore, social entrepreneurship activities also begin with the identification of social problems and needs. Identifying social problems and needs is possible by being sensitive. The higher a person's social awareness, the higher their potential to become a

social entrepreneur. In this context, it is important to give a question among the workshop questions that "identifies the existence of trainings that develop social awareness in the social entrepreneurship ecosystem."

The common answers of a total of 195 participants from 20 different countries who participated in the International Academic Social Entrepreneurship Workshop to the question "What should be the education programs to increase social awareness?" are given in Table 5 on a country basis.

*Table 5: Common Responses Of 20 Countries' Experts to Question 1.2: "What Should Be the Education Programs to Improve Social Awareness?".*

20 Countries' Experts	Common Responses
1	Social entrepreneurship should also become an academic program in schools.
2	Increasing the number of social institutions like Enactus
3	Explaining the gains of people at every level with examples and chances and holding meetings.
4	Organizing conferences.
5	Increasing regulations enabling social welfare.
6	TR- In addition to social entrepreneurship education, the technologies, software, etc. used should also be trained.
7	Radio, television and social media should be used effectively.
8	Increasing awareness and constant encouragement about this issue.
9	Enabling Disabled Support Program (ODES).
10	There should be people from different countries and cultures so that everyone can learn different things from each other and apply some things to their own country by changing them and adapting them to their own culture.
11	Increasing acceptance of disabled individuals in society, acceptance of inequality between women and men, as well as women social entrepreneurs in society etc.
12	-Such teams promoting social sensitivity should be established in schools and universities, and notifications should be made.
13	Providing training to adolescents on how to say no.
14	Raising children as social sensitive.
15	Educating girls.
16	Ensuring women to participate more on working life.
17	Increasing the number of Social programs.
18-TR	Social entrepreneurship and social responsibility courses should be added to courses list.
19	Paving the way for young entrepreneurs.
20	Developing new strategies especially for disadvantaged groups on society.

The most common opinion of the workshop participants about this question is that training programs that increase social awareness should be planned especially for disadvantaged groups such as women and young people. The second most common opinion is that these trainings should be given officially especially at the high school and university level. The other common answer is that these trainings should be prepared with a design that increases social responsibility and their materials should be determined in a way that encourages

volunteering. The fourth most common view is based on the necessity of providing training to everyone through digital channels. Finally, participants stated that these trainings could also be provided by the civil society organizations such as social institutions, foundations, etc.

The characteristics of education programs that increase social awareness, listed in Table 6. The characteristics are arranged from the most frequent to the least frequent answers.

**Table 6: The Characteristics of Education Programs That Improve Social Awareness.**

The Characteristics of Education Programs that Increase Social Awareness	
1	Planned especially for disadvantaged groups
2	Given officially especially at the high school and university level
3	Being prepared with a design that increases social responsibility and encourages volunteering
4	Provided to everyone through digital channels
5	Provided by the civil society organizations such as social institutions, foundations, etc.

The Characteristics of Education Programs that Increase Social Awareness are illustrated on Table 6 from top to bottom are arranged based on the most frequently given answer to the least frequently given answer by workshop experts.

The common answers of a total of 195 participants

from 20 different countries who participated in the International Academic Social Entrepreneurship Workshop to the question "What should be the role of the government in encouraging social entrepreneurship and improving social awareness?" are given in Table 7 on a country basis.

**Table 7: Common Responses Of 20 Countries' Experts to Question 1.3: "What Should Be the Role of The Government in Encouraging Social Entrepreneurship and Improving Social Awareness?".**

20 Countries' Experts	Common Responses
1	The Government should help disadvantaged people.
2	The Government should organize and support institutions in this direction.
3	The Government should request presentation of ideas to young people, especially university students.
4	The Government should ensure that students are more informed about these issues.
5	The Government should support, financial aid.
6	The role of the government is to provide financial and moral support.
7	The Government should provide financial and educational aid.
8	The Government should support all kinds of projects and entrepreneurs should be provided with all kinds of material and moral support.
9	The Government should support to organizations Tax and customs discounts to encourage these organizations.
10	The most useful and enlightening way to define social entrepreneurship is to determine the compatibility of this term with entrepreneurship and to accept that social entrepreneurship is based on these three elements. All other elements are nothing more than confusing and do not provide the necessary assistance. In order to understand what separates the two groups of entrepreneurs from each other, it is important to eliminate the idea that the difference is simply associated with money for motivation and altruism for social entrepreneurs. The truth is that entrepreneurs are rarely motivated by the returns of a financial gain, because the possibility of making a lot of money clearly deters entrepreneurs. Instead, both the entrepreneur and the social entrepreneur are strongly motivated by the opportunities they identify, pursue this vision relentlessly and derive significant spiritual gain from the process of bringing their own ideas to life. Therefore, government should motivate entrepreneurs in many ways.
11	The government should provide more financial and moral support for projects that bring people together and educate them on these issues
12	The Government should organize forums where the life stories of social entrepreneurs are told, rather than individual entrepreneurship, as well as Start-up project competitions and so on
13	The government should show its support for such social projects and hold competitions.
14	The Government should contribute raising young people with entrepreneurial spirit starting from school.
15	The Government should provide people to learn about social entrepreneurship.

16	Regardless of whether they operate in a specific market or a social organization, many entrepreneurs should receive the reward of the time, risk, effort and capital they spend on their ventures.
17	The Government should provide financial and logistical support to young people who contribute to the venture.
18- TR	-With the concept of entrepreneurship taking place in life, many types of it have begun to emerge. One of these is social entrepreneurship. While civil society organizations and some large companies raise awareness of social events in the world, what is the position and importance of social entrepreneurship in this regard? Social entrepreneurship is defined as non-profit initiatives that spend their earnings on social responsibilities. The basis of social entrepreneurship is to use all the goodness of the capitalist system for the benefit of society. Social entrepreneurship is an approach that combines profit and social benefit in the same pot and brings together social responsibility and management skills under the same roof. Social entrepreneurs measure their success not by the profit they make, but by the benefit they provide to society. Although social entrepreneurship has recently entered our language, there are examples of it in our country that date back to very old times. For example, Ziya Bey is a social entrepreneur with his pioneering and work in the establishment of Darüşşafaka in 1872. Another important name, Zeynep Kamil, established the Zeynep Kamil Hospital in 1862, which provides treatment for women's and children's diseases.
19	The Government should offer special treatment for the social entrepreneurship participants.
20	The Government should be a facilitator in increasing the number of social entrepreneurship incubators.

Common opinion about this question is that "the government should give financial support and aid to the social entrepreneurs.". Then it should give moral support as a second role. Many workshop participants thought that "Social entrepreneurship is an approach that combines profit and social benefit in the same pot so that the government should organize an environment where social responsibility and management skills are combined. The government also should support social projects by

social entrepreneurship incubators. Lastly, the government should educate people and arrange entrepreneurship competitions which give reward successful projects of entrepreneurs.

The roles of the government that encourages social entrepreneurship and improves social awareness, listed in Table 8. The roles are arranged from the most frequent to the least frequent answers on that table.

**Table 8: The Roles of The Government Improving Social Entrepreneurship and Social Awareness.**

The Roles of The Government	
1	Giving financial support
2	Giving moral support
3	Combining social responsibility and management skills
4	Giving support through social entrepreneurship incubators
5	Educating entrepreneurs and arranging entrepreneurship competitions

The roles of the government that encourages social entrepreneurship and improves social awareness illustrated on Table 8 from top to bottom are arranged based on the most frequently given answer to the least frequently given answer by workshop experts.

The results comprehend middle-income countries and developing countries including Turkey, in this study. Because there has been significant growth of social enterprises in these countries including Turkey. In terms of especially in upper-middle income countries, the success level of social entrepreneurs is very high. In these countries there is low level of labor salaries and the cost of raw material is very low. There are many opportunities of economic growth in these countries. The development of both entrepreneurship and social entrepreneurship ecosystems could cause emerging economies to come to the forefront in a very short

time.

Average growth in Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, CHAD, Djibouti, Democratic Republic of Congo, Egypt, France, Iran, Iraq, Jordan, Kazakhstan, TRNC, Libya, Mongolia, Moldova, Senegal, Somalia, Syria and Turkey has been many times higher than the growth rates of developed countries. Turkey and France have become the locomotive of other economies mentioned in this study. However, in recent years, the lack of structural reforms in technology and innovation areas and the removal of numerical improvement have caused a loss of momentum in French growth rates on the contrary to the partial increase in interest rates in Turkey. If the increase in Turkish interest rates is sustained, this could cause hot money flow in middle-income countries, and this could result in a huge panic in economies that causes many exits of existing funds.

## 5. CONCLUSION

International Academic Social Entrepreneurship Workshop which forms the basis for the field of Social Entrepreneurship in academia, was organized by Mersin University Young Entrepreneurship Incubation Center. The workshop focuses on the topic of social entrepreneurship; since the social entrepreneurship is very crucial at both the individual level and the social level (Hidiroğlu, 2019; Hidiroğlu, 2020).

Thanks to fast access communication networks and high technologies, the world has become a more transparent place and reaching the developments in the world is now at our fingertips. All business owners, whether manufacturers, suppliers, investors or entrepreneurs, can instantly conduct detailed research on a required topic and access the necessary information (Shabeer and Rasul, 2024; Hidiroğlu, 2020). Social media has made the biggest contribution to this situation recently (Hidiroğlu, 2020). Social platforms, which have been developed for individuals and businesses (Hidiroğlu, 2021) to express themselves better and more clearly, make it easier to get ideas about many things experienced (Hidiroğlu, 2022) and to devise correct and more realistic strategies in light of these ideas (Nielsen and Ganter, 2022; Hidiroğlu, 2019).

Fast access communication networks make easier planning the workshop online (Hidiroğlu, 2022). By the digital opportunities (Hidiroğlu, 2021) many speakers and experts were getting together and could share their opinions, experiences etc. about social entrepreneurship via Zoom Meeting Program. Under the honorary presidency of the Deputy Minister of Youth and Sports of the Republic of Turkey Prof. Dr. Halis Ersöz and the Rector of Mersin University Prof. Dr. Ahmet Çamsarı; Under the presidency of Dr. Faculty Member Duygu Hidiroğlu on behalf of the Mersin University Young Entrepreneurship Incubation Center, the Workshop, which brings together the knowledge and experience

of many academicians, business world and public sector representatives, aims to contribute to the academic literature by discussing successful social enterprise examples in many countries through speeches by entrepreneurs who have achieved significant success in the international arena and information transfers from other international events and studies carried out in Turkey. In this way, it is aimed to inspire and guide individuals and institutions who want to establish a social benefit-oriented business or who tend to transform their businesses into a social benefit-oriented business.

Based on the results of International Academic Social Entrepreneurship Workshop, it can be said that it is impossible to ensure the sustainability of a social initiative that does not value the individual's own power by obtaining a certain return from it. When individuals decide to lead the biggest problems of society with the positive contribution of rapidly changing innovative technologies, they should also plan for the initiative to generate income. Because income is one of the basic macro forces that direct the growth and success of a social initiative.

The judgment that social enterprises must be carried out through an association, institution, organization or state is quite wrong in general regarding business ethics (Hidiroğlu, 2021; Bruder, 2021). Social entrepreneurship activities could start under the ethical business leadership of an individual or a group of managers. By the social media, individuals representing the workforce today have more power and influence than ever on society and their close circles so that ethic codes as well. In this context, instead of standing in the way of individuals' personal enterprises; supporting these initiatives by institutions caring business ethics such as the government, incubation centers and social organizations that will increase trust (Song, 2024). These institutions and organizations could strengthen the reputation of social entrepreneurial facilities and improve social motivation and skills.

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