

## A Review of Economics and Refugee Research in Türkiye: A Bibliometric Analysis

### Türkiye'de Ekonomi ve Mülteci Araştırmalarına İlişkin Bir İnceleme: Bibliyometrik Bir Analiz

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#### Abstract

**Purpose:** This study reviews the existing literature to fill a gap in this field by providing a bibliometric analysis of economic refugee research in Türkiye. The analysis utilizes Bibliometrix in RStudio and VOSviewer to derive descriptive metrics as well as patterns of co-citation and co-authorship, examining a total of 319 records from the Web of Science Core Collection between 1993 and 2024.

**Design/Methodology:** The results show a dramatic increase in the number of publications since 2016, peaking in 2021 and largely driven by the Syrian refugee crisis. Journal of Refugee Studies and International Migration have emerged as the most influential journals. Leading institutions such as Hacettepe University and Koç University have led the research efforts, while Acartürk C and İlkursun Z have also made significant contributions to the field.

**Findings:** The bibliometric analysis revealed a growing body of research on refugee integration in Türkiye, particularly since the Syrian refugee crisis. Annual publication rates have steadily increased, peaking in 2021. The most productive institutions include Hacettepe University and Koç University, with the Journal of Refugee Studies being the most influential journal in the field. The analysis identified two major thematic clusters: one focused on economic and social integration—including keywords like “refugees,” “economic,” and “labour”—and another on health and education, emphasizing access to services and language barriers. International collaboration was notable, especially with the USA, UK, and Germany. While refugee entrepreneurship and informal labor contributions were highlighted, key challenges such as legal restrictions, limited access to health services, and educational barriers persist.

**Limitations:** Limitations of the study include the reliance on only one database and linguistic barriers.

**Originality/Value:** The study underlines the interdisciplinary and collaborative nature of refugee research in Türkiye, highlighting international co-authorship and diverse research priorities.

**Keywords:** Bibliometric Analysis, Türkiye, Syrian Refugees, Economic Impact

#### Öz

**Amaç:** Bu çalışma, Türkiye'deki ekonomik mülteci araştırmalarının bibliyometrik analizini sağlayarak bu alandaki boşluğu doldurmak için mevcut literatürü gözden geçirmektedir. Analiz, 1993 ile 2024 yılları arasında Web of Science Çekirdek Koleksiyonu'ndan toplam 319 kaydı inceleyerek, tanımlayıcı metriklerin yanı sıra ortak atıf ve ortak yazarlık kalıplarını türetmek için RStudio ve VOSviewer'daki Bibliometrix'i kullanmaktadır.

**Tasarım/Yöntem:** Sonuçlar, 2016'dan bu yana yayın sayısında çarpıcı bir artış olduğunu, 2021'de zirveye ulaştığını ve büyük ölçüde Suriye mülteci krizi tarafından yönlendirildiğini göstermektedir. Journal of Refugee Studies ve International Migration en etkili dergiler olarak ortaya çıkmıştır. Hacettepe Üniversitesi ve Koç Üniversitesi gibi önde gelen kurumlar araştırma çabalarına öncülük ederken, Acartürk C ve İlkursun Z de alana önemli katkılarda bulunmuştur.

**Bulgular:** Bibliyometrik analiz, özellikle Suriye mülteci krizi sonrasında Türkiye'de mülteci entegrasyonu üzerine giderek artan bir araştırma gövdesi ortaya koydu. Yıllık yayın oranları istikrarlı bir şekilde artarak 2021'de zirveye ulaştı. En üretken kurumlar arasında Hacettepe Üniversitesi ve Koç Üniversitesi yer alırken, Mülteci Çalışmaları Dergisi bu alandaki en etkili dergi oldu. Analiz iki ana tematik küme belirledi: biri ekonomik ve sosyal entegrasyona odaklandı - "mülteciler", "ekonomik" ve "işgücü" gibi anahtar kelimeler dahil - ve diğeri sağlık ve eğitime, özellikle hizmetlere erişim ve dil engellerine odaklandı. Özellikle ABD, İngiltere ve Almanya ile uluslararası iş birliği dikkat çekiciydi. Mülteci girişimciliği ve gayri resmi işgücü katkıları vurgulanırken, yasal kısıtlamalar, sağlık hizmetlerine sınırlı erişim ve eğitim engelleri gibi temel zorluklar devam ediyor.

**Sınırlılıklar:** Çalışmanın sınırlamaları arasında yalnızca bir veri tabanına güvenilmesi ve dil engelleri yer alır.

**Özgünlük/Değer:** Çalışma, Türkiye'deki mülteci araştırmalarının disiplinlerarası ve iş birlikçi doğasını vurgular, uluslararası ortak yazarlığı ve çeşitli araştırma önceliklerini vurgular.

**Anahtar Kelimeler:** Bibliyometrik Analiz, Türkiye, Suriyeli Mülteciler, Ekonomik Etki

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## 1. INTRODUCTION

As one of the first countries to start the refugee intake process immediately after the civil war in Syria, Türkiye has been one of the biggest beneficiaries of strong migration waves. The latest wave has sparked academic debates around the relationship between refugee integration and economic development. Türkiye has been one of the world's largest hosts of Syrian refugees. The country's situation has created unique socio-economic challenges and opportunities (UNHCR, 2023). These conditions have led to an increased interest in academic debates on key issues such as economic integration, access to health services, and social solidarity. In parallel with this increase in interest, the number of publications and research in this field has also increased in recent years.

Bibliometric analysis provides a structured approach to exploring trends, dynamics, and collaborations in a research field. It provides qualitative information to advance academic discourse by identifying influential authors, key topics, and emerging issues (Aria and Cuccurullo, 2017). Tools such as Bibliometrix and VOSviewer allow the visualization of research networks and keyword annexes, helping to understand thematic evolution and patterns of collaboration in refugee-related studies.

This study aims to conduct a comprehensive bibliometric analysis of refugee and economic research in the Turkish context. Using Web of Science data, publications between 1993 and 2024 were analyzed. The main objectives are to identify key contributors, themes, and collaboration networks that emphasize the growth and development of this research field. As a result, this study contributes to a better understanding of how academic research is adapting to the evolving refugee crisis in Türkiye and the resulting socio-economic challenges.

## 2. LITERATURE REVIEW

The Syrian civil war, which began in 2011, has caused one of the largest displacement crises in modern history, forcing millions of refugees to seek asylum in neighboring countries (UNHCR, 2023). Türkiye has become the world's largest refugee-hosting country, hosting more than 3.7 million Syrian refugees. This significant influx has profoundly affected Türkiye's socio-economic landscape, impacting sectors such as employment, housing, health, and public services. To overcome these challenges, the Turkish government implemented policies that provided temporary protection status, health services, and limited employment opportunities.

The presence of Syrian refugees in Türkiye presents challenges and opportunities. It has strained public services, intensified competition in the labor market, and raised concerns about social cohesion, but it has also contributed to economic growth. Refugees have filled labor shortages in sectors such as agriculture and construction and created small businesses that have stimulated the local economy. Socio-economic integration remains a complex task that requires balanced strategies to meet the needs of host and refugee communities.

Türkiye's strategic location on the Syrian border has made it an important refuge for displaced populations. The country's open door policy has allowed Syrians to enter Türkiye despite the social and economic pressures caused by such massive displacement. The Turkish government, with the support of international organizations, has established a temporary protection regime that guarantees refugees access to basic services such as education, health, and social assistance. Türkiye's crisis management of Syrian refugees has positioned the country as a model that balances humanitarian commitments with domestic stability. Moreover, financial and technical assistance from the European Union and other organizations has contributed to the integration of refugees by reducing pressure on public services.

Academic research on the refugee issue in Türkiye has come a long way in the last decade. Initially, studies focused on immediate humanitarian needs, particularly food, shelter, and emergency response. However, as the crisis has progressed, research has expanded to include more complex issues, socioeconomic integration, impacts on local economies, and challenges in health and education. Recent studies focus more on social cohesion and host communities' attitudes towards refugees. Studies emphasize that public perceptions significantly affect the success of integration policies and argue that positive intergroup relations should be encouraged for long-term stability.

There is a growing interest in bibliometric analysis to examine research trends and patterns of collaboration in Refugee studies. Such analyses offer valuable insights into the academic community's efforts to meet new challenges and adapt to the evolving nature of refugee issues (Aria and Cuccurullo, 2017). This shift in research focus - from emergency response to long-term integration - reflects the complexity of managing protracted refugee crises. Experts are examining the economic contributions of refugees, their social integration processes, and their broader impact on Turkish society and policy.

### 3. MATERIAL AND METHODS

Thematic analysis, a method of determining the patterns in qualitative data, was applied to do a comparative analysis of incorporated zero waste strategies in the 11th and 12th Development Plans of Turkey. This study considered the 11th Development plan (2019-2023) and 12th Development plan (2024-2028). These documents are chosen to give a general overview for comparison of the main components of Turkey's strategic objectives and policies for economic, social, and environmental development over the five years. Content analysis is used for analyzing and reporting by identifying duplications in data. The process starts with familiarity, where researchers read data over and over again to get deeper familiarisation. The analysis is carried out through a series of steps. The identification and focus has been on sections easily associated with zero waste, sustainability, environmental protection, circular economy initiatives, systematically extracting key information from both plans. In assistance to the thematic analysis, relevant quotes and excerpts were also documented and plots of the findings found linked to the text.

Based on basic criteria, an analytical framework was first developed for the definition of zero waste, the scope, the specific objectives entailed with the proposed policies, initiatives, support mechanisms including financial aid and regulatory measures, and underlining technological investments. The framework guided the extraction and analysis of information relevant to the undertaking of the study from the documents. Then, one must proceed with the comparative analysis, reflecting commonalities and contrasts between the two plans. Thus, the similarities were found in this process in terms of measures for sustainability and public awareness issues of both plans, while differences come to light in the level, scope, purpose and proposed concrete measures. For instance, while zero waste and recycling are put forward and supported by two plans, the 12th Development Plan focuses more on the circular economy framework and includes an extremely ambitious target like that of a zero-waste society by 2030 and mandatory waste separation.

Other sections of the documents were cross-checked to ensure there was uniformity in the results for reliability and validity of the analysis. This method makes possible an exhaustive and systematic comparison of zero waste strategies in the 11th and 12th Development Plans for Turkey, focusing on how it approaches sustainability and environmental defense. In this regard, thematic analysis highlighted a developed strategic change in emphasis over time that represented a growing push towards an integration of zero waste into broader economic and technological frames.

#### 3.1 Economic, Health, and Educational Aspects of Refugee Integration

The integration of refugees into the labor market is a key element of their socio-economic adjustment in Türkiye. In particular, Syrian refugees have filled gaps in low-skilled labor sectors such as agriculture, construction, and manufacturing (Kaya and Tekin, 2023). However, there are various barriers to accessing formal employment, including legal restrictions, limited work permits, and language barriers (Şimşek, 2022). A large proportion of refugees work informally, often in exploitative conditions, without social security, and for low wages (Kaya and Tekin, 2023).

The economic impact of refugees on the local economy has been both positive and negative. Refugees have contributed to economic activities by increasing the demand for goods and services (Güneş and Özcan, 2023). They play a vital role in the informal sector, especially in labor-intensive industries (Kaya and Tekin, 2023). However, this dependence on informality has intensified challenges such as violation of labor rights, wage suppression, and competition for low-skilled jobs among vulnerable populations (Şimşek, 2022).

Legal and financial constraints also limit refugees' economic participation. Applying for a work permit is problematic due to burdensome and costly procedures (Şahin and Yılmaz, 2022). Limited

access to credit and banking services also hinders efforts to start businesses or invest in livelihoods (Güneş and Özcan, 2023). Despite these obstacles, Syrian refugees have shown resilience by establishing small businesses that employ refugees and members of the host community (Güneş and Özcan, 2023).

Access to health services is another important dimension of refugee integration. Refugees face barriers such as language differences, lack of appropriate documentation, and limited knowledge of the Turkish health system (Doğan et al., 2023). Although the Turkish public health system has made significant progress in welcoming refugees, gaps remain, especially in mental health services (Kahraman and Sağlam, 2022). Mental health problems, often linked to trauma and displacement, are underreported (Doğan et al., 2023).

School integration also poses significant challenges. Education is essential for the long-term integration of refugee children and youth (Yılmaz and Acar, 2022). Although Türkiye has integrated many Syrian children into the public education system, challenges such as language barriers, limited resources, and crowded classrooms persist (Kaya, 2023). Language remains a significant barrier affecting academic achievement and social integration (Yılmaz and Acar, 2022). NGOs and international organizations have provided additional educational support, but these efforts often fail to meet widespread needs (Kaya, 2023).

Higher education for refugee youth is another critical area that requires special attention. Despite initiatives such as the abolition of tuition fees and scholarships, enrolment rates of refugee students in universities remain low (Kahraman and Sağlam, 2022). Financial constraints, language barriers, and non-recognition of previous qualifications are the main obstacles (Yılmaz and Acar, 2022). Addressing these issues is essential to ensure that young refugees acquire the skills and qualifications required for successful socio-economic integration.

While existing literature draws attention to the economic, health, and education-related challenges faced by refugees in Türkiye, a comprehensive understanding of how these dimensions interact has yet to be explored. Many studies treat these dimensions as discrete domains, failing to examine their interrelated nature and their collective impact on integration outcomes. In addition, limited bibliometric research has analyzed trends, patterns of collaboration, and thematic clusters in refugee studies in Türkiye.

### **3.2 Purpose of the Study and Research Questions**

This study aims to fill these gaps by conducting a bibliometric analysis of research on the economic, health, and educational integration of refugees in Türkiye. It aims to identify key themes, collaborative networks, and emerging trends to provide a comprehensive understanding of the current state of refugee research. The findings are intended to inform the development of effective integration policies and strategies:

1. What are the main research themes in the literature on refugee integration in Türkiye, with a particular focus on economic, health, and education dimensions?
2. How have models of cooperation between researchers in the field of refugee studies in Türkiye developed?
3. What are the emerging trends and gaps in the existing literature on refugee integration in Türkiye?

### **3.3 Methodology**

This study uses a bibliometric approach to analyze the intersection of refugee research, economic dimensions, and the Turkish context in academic literature. Bibliometric analysis provides a systematic method for assessing publication trends, major contributors, and topic groups in the field (Aria and Cuccurullo, 2017). Data for the analysis were retrieved from the Web of Science core collection database, a large repository of peer-reviewed academic literature.

### **3.4 Data Collection**

The data collection process involved a targeted search of the Web of Science Core Collection to identify relevant scientific studies. The search query used was as follows: refugee (all fields) AND economics (abstract) AND Turkish (abstract)\*\*

This query was designed to capture documents focussing on economic issues related to refugees in the Turkish context. The search yielded 319 records covering publication years from 2019 to 2024. These records include various types of publications such as journal articles, conference proceedings, book chapters, and editorials.

The data has been exported in a format compatible with bibliometric tools to enable a comprehensive analysis. Exported metadata is included:

- Author information
- Titles and summaries
- Keywords
- Years of publication
- Number of citations

The dataset formed the basis for bibliometric analyses using tools such as *Bibliometrix* (an R package for comprehensive science mapping) and *VOSviewer* (a software for visualizing bibliometric networks), both operated within the RStudio environment. These tools enabled the extraction and visualization of publication trends, co-authorship patterns, thematic clusters, and citation networks. *Bibliometrix* was used to compute descriptive metrics, track annual scientific production, and perform co-word and thematic mapping, while *VOSviewer* facilitated the construction of co-authorship and keyword co-occurrence maps, allowing for the identification of influential research actors and emergent themes in the literature. Using this methodology, the study provides a systematic and data-driven approach to understanding the evolution of the refugee search in Türkiye, particularly its economic dimensions.

**Table 1:** Main characteristics of the data set

Description	Results
Time Interval	1993:2024
Sources (Journals, Books, etc.)	197
Documents	280
Annual Growth Rate %	10.8
Average Age of Documents	4.36
Average citations per document	11.23
Citations	12898
DOCUMENT CONTENTS	
Keywords Plus (ID)	545
Author Keywords (DE)	875
AUTHORS	
Authors	623
Author of single-authored documents	92
AUTHOR CO-OPERATION	
Single-authored documents	97
Co-author per document	2.5
International co-authorship %	18.93
DOCUMENT TYPES	

Article	264
Article; early access	12
Compilation	4

The metrics provide a comprehensive overview of the dataset and highlight the strong research and collaboration efforts in the field of refugee and economic studies in Türkiye.

### 3.5 Software Tools and Data Processing

The bibliometric analysis used Bibliometrix, an open-source R package specifically created for comprehensive bibliometric assessments (Aria and Cuccurullo, 2017). This software was run in the RStudio environment to efficiently process and analyze the dataset.

### 3.6 Data Processing Steps

#### 3.6.1. Data Cleaning:

- Duplicate and irrelevant records were eliminated - Missing metadata was filled in where possible - Inconsistencies in author names, links, and other fields were corrected to improve accuracy.

#### 3.6.2. Descriptive Metrics:

- Metrics such as annual publication numbers, document types, and prolific authors were calculated to capture research trends - Highly cited papers, publication growth patterns, and contributions from leading journals were identified.

#### 3.6.3. Co-Citation and Co-Authorship Analysis:

- These analyses revealed patterns of collaboration between authors, institutions, and countries - influential publications and key participants in the field were identified. By applying these process steps, the dataset was developed to guarantee reliable and insightful analyses.

### 3.7 Network Analysis

Visualization and analysis of the network were performed using VOSviewer, a tool specialized in the construction of bibliometric networks.

### 3.8 Basic Analyses Performed:

#### 3.8.1. Keyword Co-occurrence Analysis:

- Relationships between frequently occurring keywords were investigated.  
- Clusters representing dominant research themes such as refugee entrepreneurship, integration, and economic impacts were identified.

#### 3.8.2. Thematic Mapping:

- Links between research clusters and keywords are visualized.  
- The resulting areas of academic interest have been mapped to provide a comprehensive understanding of the research environment.

#### They came out:

- Thematic Clusters: This study has highlighted the dominant issues and emerging themes in interviewee and economic research in Türkiye.  
- Visual Maps: These showed cooperation networks, citation networks, and relationships between keywords.

#### Data Analyses:

The findings from Bibliometrix and VOSviewer were combined into visual representations showing key patterns and trends:

- Networks of cooperation between authors, institutions, and countries.



- Attribution patterns highlighting effective work.
- Keyword co-occurrence maps revealing primary research areas and themes.

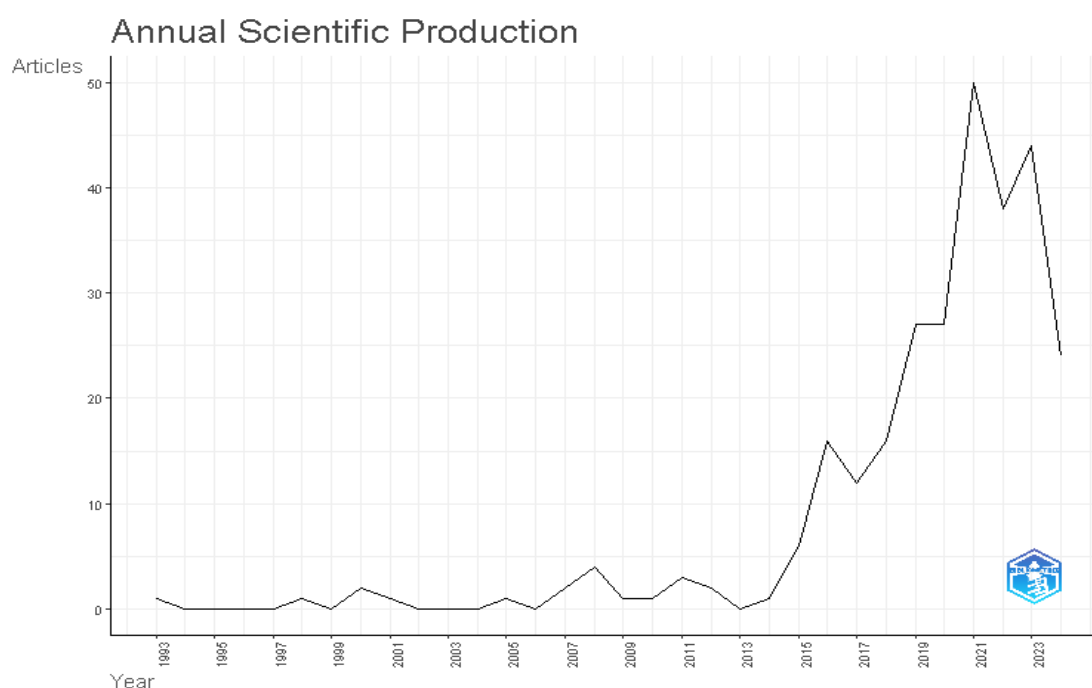
These visual outputs provide a comprehensive overview of research activities and collaborative efforts, highlighting important contributions and emerging trends in the field.

### 3.9 Findings

#### 3.9.1 Annual Scientific Production

Initial analysis using Bibliometrix has shown a steady increase in publications focusing on refugee and economic issues in Türkiye over the last decade. This indicates a growing academic interest, possibly influenced by the socio-economic consequences of the Syrian refugee crisis.

**Figure 1: Annual Scientific Production**

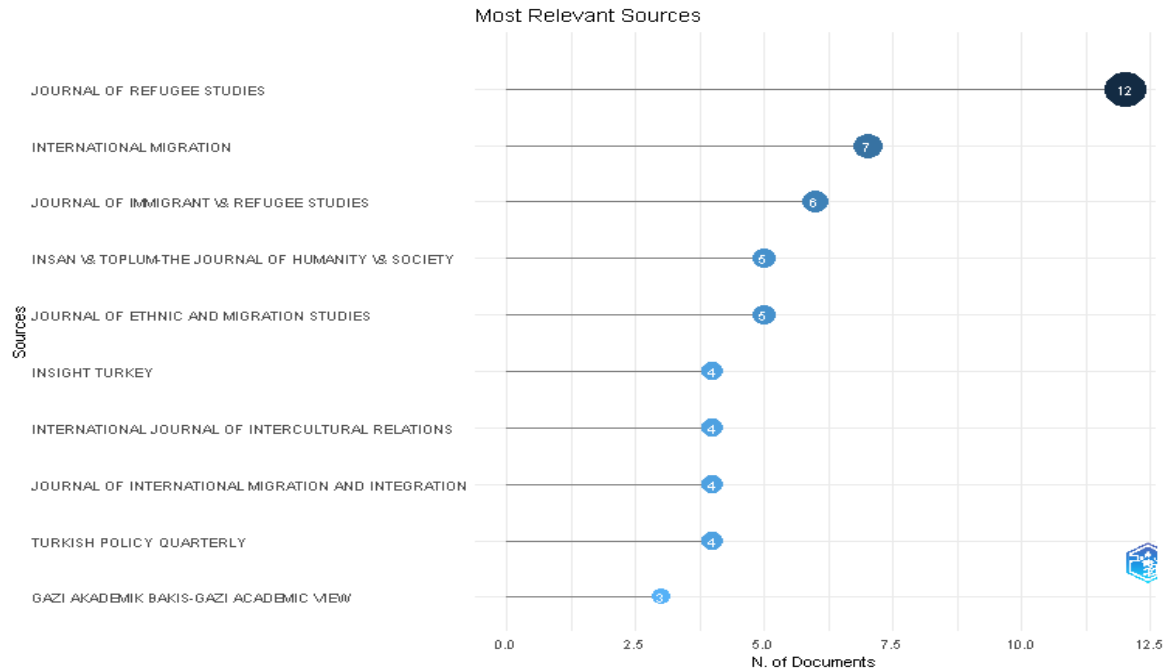


The distribution of publications by year reveals a significant increase in research activity. The steady annual growth rate of 10.8% has seen a significant increase in publications since 2016. The peak recorded in 2021 with 50 publications highlights the intense academic focus, possibly influenced by the economic effects of the Syrian refugee crisis. Subsequent notable publication numbers in 2022 (38), 2023 (44), and 2024 (24) indicate continued academic interest in these vital issues. This upward movement indicates a growing academic interest in the intersection of refugee issues and economic factors in Türkiye, especially in light of the significant arrival of Syrian refugees after 2015.

#### 3.9.2 Prominent Journals in the Field

The bibliometric analysis identified a large number of influential journals that contribute significantly to refugee and economic research in Türkiye. Figure 2 summarises the academic outputs from these journals and highlights their important role in influencing the ongoing discourse.

**Figure 2: Most Featured Magazines**

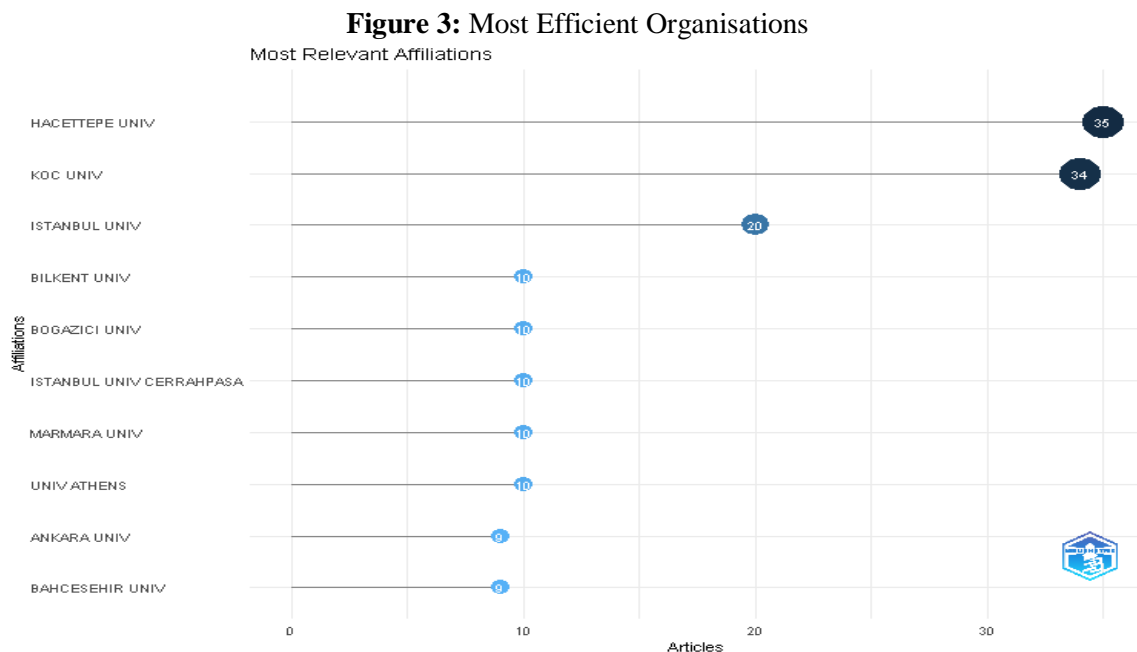


As shown in Figure 2, the Journal of Refugee Studies stands out as the leading publication area with a total of 12 articles. International Migration with 7 publications, Journal of Immigrant and Refugee Studies with 6 publications, and Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies with 5 publications are also important contributors. These journals have played an important role in advancing research on refugees and economic issues, acting as key platforms for sharing insights and stimulating scholarly debate.

In addition, publications from journals such as Insight Türkiye, International Journal of Intercultural Relations, and Journal of International Migration and Integration, each with 4 contributions, emphasize the interdisciplinary nature of refugee research. This diversity underlines the comprehensive coverage of the social, economic, and political aspects of the field and reflects its complex and diverse character.

### 3.9.3 Most Efficient Institutions

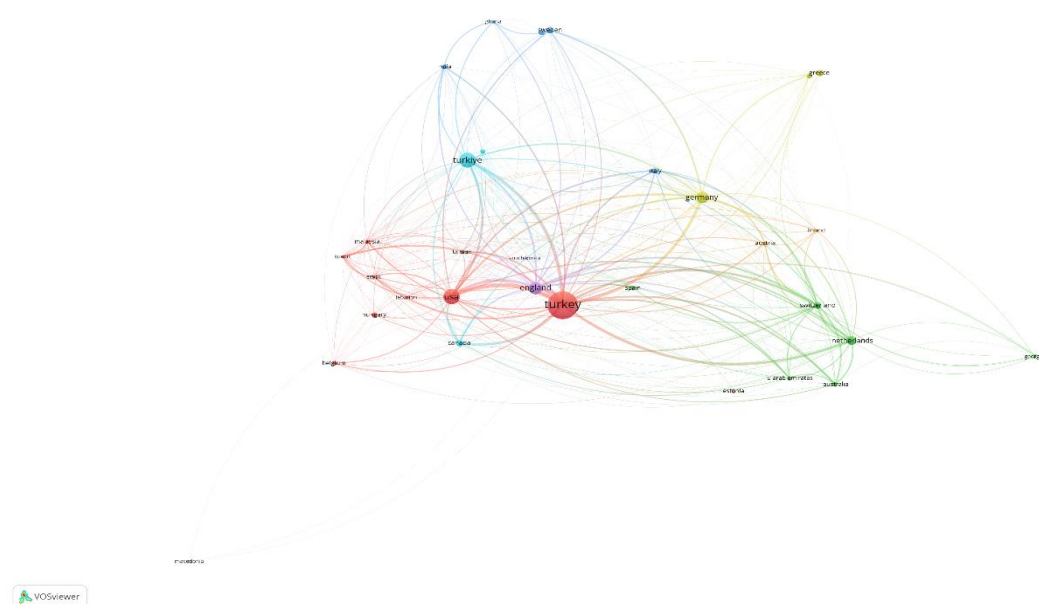
The bibliometric analysis revealed the institutions with the highest production based on the affiliation of the authors, and these findings are summarised in Figure 3.





This analysis also highlighted the main institutions leading refugee and economic research in Türkiye. Hacettepe University was identified as the most prolific institution with 35 publications, followed by Koç University with 34 publications. Istanbul University also made significant contributions with 20 publications. Other notable institutions include Bilkent University, Boğaziçi University, Istanbul University-Cerrahpaşa, Marmara University, and the University of Athens, each contributing 10 publications. Ankara University and Bahçeşehir University stood out with 9 publications each. These institutions have played an important role in advancing research on refugee and economic issues and reflect the academic expertise and dedication of Türkiye's elite universities. The remarkable outputs from these universities demonstrate the existence of strong research centers on refugee studies and economic integration. The apparent cooperation between institutions within Türkiye and at the international level demonstrates the common spirit of research in this field. Furthermore, the bibliographic linkage analysis revealed trends of international cooperation in refugee and economic research on Türkiye.

**Figure 4:** Bibliographic Linkage of Countries



The visualization of the network highlights Türkiye and the USA as the two most important countries in terms of research contributions and shows a strong bilateral output. Other important contributing countries are the UK, Germany, the Netherlands, Greece and Canada. Furthermore, the map shows clear links between Türkiye and countries such as Sweden, Switzerland, India, Australia, and South Korea, revealing areas of active cooperation and common research interests. Many nodes and links represent the global dimension of the research field and include contributions from a wide geographical area. This international collaboration highlights the importance of a collective understanding and collaborative research efforts in addressing refugee-related economic challenges and points to the need for a comprehensive strategy that integrates expertise from different countries.

### 3.9.4 Keyword Analysis

The analysis of keywords provided important insights into key themes in refugee and economic research on Türkiye.

**Figure 5:** Keyword Analysis



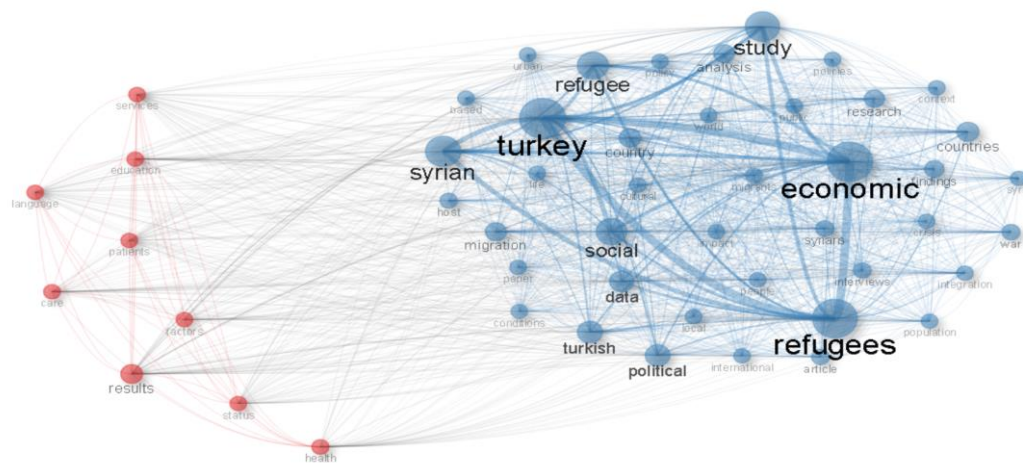
The most frequently used keyword is "refugees", which was used 624 times. This is followed by "Türkiye", which was used 412 times, and "Syria", which was used 400 times. This reveals the emphasis on Syrian refugees in Türkiye and shows the impact of the large influx of refugees since the beginning of the Syrian civil war on academic research. Other frequently used keywords include "economic" (315 times), "labour" (292 times), "social" (264 times), "health" (222 times), "Turkish" (206 times), and "migration" (189 times). These keywords cover a variety of themes examined in the literature and include economic integration, social dynamics, health issues, and broader migration issues.

The repetition of these keywords emphasizes the complex nature of the research field and illustrates the interplay of economic, social, and health dimensions in the context of refugees in Türkiye. This analysis provides a comprehensive overview of the main thematic areas of academic focus and highlights the wide diversity of the issues researched.

### 3.9.5. Thematic Clustering from Keyword Analysis

The keyword concurrency analysis allowed for the emergence of clear thematic clusters in the field of refugee and economic research in Türkiye. Two main clusters were identified based on the interconnectedness of keywords.

**Figure 6:** Thematic Clustering from Keyword Concurrency Analysis



Economic and Social Integration Cluster, shown in blue, includes keywords such as "Türkiye", "economic", "refugee", "Syrian", "social" and "political". The prevalence of these keywords indicates that a significant portion of the research focuses on the economic and social integration of refugees, with a particular emphasis on the integration of Syrian refugees in Türkiye. This cluster also reveals themes related to social conditions, migration dynamics, and the broader socio-political landscape of refugee integration.

In contrast, the Health and Education Cluster, shown in red, includes keywords such as "health", "patients", "care", "education", "language" and "services". This cluster highlights research focussing on the health needs and educational challenges faced by refugee populations. In addition, particular attention is given to issues such as access to health services, patient care challenges, education services, and language barriers faced by refugees in Türkiye.

These thematic clusters comprehensively present the main research foci and clearly distinguish economic and social factors on one side and health and educational concerns on the other. The examination of these clusters highlights the interdisciplinary nature of refugee research in Türkiye and the diversity of economic, health, social, and educational challenges faced by refugees.

#### 4. DISCUSSION

The results of this study comprehensively examine the current state of the field of refugee research in Türkiye, with a particular focus on the integration of economic, health, and education. Bibliometric analysis reveals important themes and patterns of collaboration that have influenced academic debates over the last decade.

A clear trend is the increasing emphasis on socio-economic integration, reflecting the changing needs of both refugees and host communities. While initial research focused specifically on the humanitarian aspects of the Syrian refugee crisis, emergency response, and basic needs (Erdoğan, 2023), as the crisis has protracted, research attention has shifted to long-term socio-economic outcomes, employment opportunities, entrepreneurial activities, and access to health and education services. This shift reflects a growing recognition that sustainable integration involves not only meeting basic needs but also ensuring economic independence and securing access to essential services.

The economic integration of refugees remains an important area that is still attracting attention. Syrian refugees have created economic opportunities for both refugees and host communities by participating in the labor market and establishing businesses (Güneş and Özcan, 2023). However, challenges such as legal barriers, informal employment, and limited access to credit emphasize the need for more supportive policies, which should encourage formal employment and entrepreneurship initiatives (Şahin and Yılmaz, 2022). Overcoming these barriers is critical to increase refugees' economic inclusion and reduce their dependence on humanitarian aid.

In terms of health and education, the findings reveal significant gaps that hinder the full integration of refugees into Turkish society. Access to health services, particularly mental health services, poses a significant challenge due to language barriers, insufficient resources, and inadequate infrastructure (Doğan et al., 2023). Similarly, education integration, especially for children and youth, faces barriers due to language difficulties and the limited capacity of the public education system (Yılmaz and Acar, 2022). Despite efforts by the Turkish government and NGOs to provide support, the scale of demand far exceeds available resources, demonstrating the urgent need for targeted interventions such as language support programs and improved access to health services.

The bibliometric analysis also highlights the progression of patterns of collaboration between researchers. There has been a notable increase in international collaboration, which has improved the quality of research by integrating different perspectives in the study of refugee integration (Aria and Cuccurullo, 2017). However, the analysis reveals gaps in collaboration between academic institutions and policymakers. Strengthening these links could facilitate more effective translation of research findings into practical policies that address the needs of refugees and host communities.

The thematic clusters identified in this study imply that future research should focus on the interplay between economic, health, and educational integration, as these factors are interlinked and jointly influence the overall integration outcomes of refugees. For example, economic independence is

closely linked to access to education and health services, which in turn affect refugees' full participation in the labor market. A comprehensive approach that takes into account these intertwined dimensions is vital for the formulation of effective integration policies.

## 5. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

This study presents a comprehensive bibliometric analysis of research on refugee integration in Türkiye, focusing on economic, health, and educational dimensions. The results highlight important trends, patterns of collaboration, and research themes that have emerged over the last decade. The research highlights the growing importance of socio-economic integration, the challenges faced in health and education, and the vital role of international cooperation in enabling progress in these areas. The findings of this study provide valuable insights into the current state and thematic evolution of refugee-related research in Türkiye. As such, they offer a meaningful foundation for shaping the future directions of academic inquiry in this field. Building upon the identified research clusters, collaboration networks, and gaps, future studies can conduct more in-depth investigations into the interconnections between economic, social, health, and educational dimensions of refugee integration. This would contribute to a more nuanced and policy-relevant understanding of the challenges and opportunities surrounding long-term refugee inclusion in Türkiye. By identifying gaps in the existing literature, this study enhances our understanding of the complex nature of refugee integration in Türkiye.

However, this study has some limitations. First, the analysis is based solely on Web of Science Core Collection data, which may lead to the exclusion of relevant research published in alternative databases or non-indexed sources. This limitation may result in an incomplete representation of the literature on refugee integration. Future studies should consider including additional databases such as Scopus, Google Scholar, and regional academic indexes to ensure broader coverage and a more complete representation of the scholarly landscape. This multi-database approach would enhance the robustness and generalizability of bibliometric findings. Secondly, as the study focuses on bibliometric analysis, it does not provide qualitative insights into the experiences of refugees or the effectiveness of integration policies. Future research should adopt mixed methods strategies that combine qualitative data with quantitative data to provide a more holistic understanding of refugee integration. Finally, while the study highlights important patterns of collaboration, it does not explore the specific impact of these collaborations on policy development and concrete outcomes. Examining how academic research can directly shape integration policies and practices is a key area of research to improve support for refugees in Türkiye.

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**Ethics Statement:** In this study, no method requiring the permission of the “Ethics Committee” was used.

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