

The Fight Against Drugs and Border Security Policy In Turkey¹

Türkiye'nin Sınır Güvenliği ve Uyuşturucuyla Mücadele Politikası

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Abstract

Border gates are the main places where the economic and security interests of the countries are protected, and the entrances and exits to the country are kept under control. Governments determine different border policies based on their administrative structures and security threats on their borders. It would be shallow to talk about physical security alone regarding border security. Smuggling activities, terrorism, and the fight against drugs constitute important threat areas within border security. Due to its geopolitical position, Turkey has an important place in the international illegal drug trade. Within the scope of this study, the fight against narcotic crimes at the borders was evaluated in the context of Turkey's border security policy, and the relevant policies were discussed from the perspective of the process analysis approach. As a result of examples and examinations, the issues that cause confusion and weakness in Turkey's border security policy are mentioned.

Keywords: Border Security, Narcotic, Security Policy, Policy Analysis.

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INTRODUCTION

The most critical issue emphasized while determining Turkey's border security policies has been security. The aspects of both internal and external factors are discussed with the concept of security. While deciding the policies of Turkey, which is frequently faced with internal and external threats, precautionary mechanisms have been established for the extensions of these threats. The fight against terrorism, one of the leading security elements, is fed from many sources, and drug smuggling comes first and reveals the importance of the fight against drugs at the border gates.

The fight against drugs has become not only a foreign policy but also a domestic issue, especially after the 1990s. The anti-drug policies of the Republic of Turkey have attracted attention both in the national and international arena as they are systematic and functional. Turkey's borders have become strategic points in this struggle, as it is a natural route for the international drug trade due to the effects of its geography. Land border gates, which are under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Commerce, are of great importance in the fight against drugs due to their geopolitical position. For this reason, the training of competent personnel at border gates and the use of technological tools that enable them to fulfill their duties most effectively are among the main issues within the relevant policies.

In this study, the policies implemented towards the fight against drugs at the border gates of Turkey are examined. In this context, all stages of the policy, from the formation process to the policy actors, are handled with the process model, which is a preferred method in policy analysis processes.

1. NARCOTIC CRIMES AND FIGHT AGAINST DRUGS

Narcotic is a word used for sleep-inducing substances. These substances are generally referred to as drugs. (Turkish Surgery Dictionary, 2021). It is known that the drug has a pleasant and addictive effect and numbs the human body. In terms of production, there are drugs of herbal origin, as well as those consisting of synthetic substances. It affects the central nervous system in the human body and creates a state of physical and mental dependence (Tosun, Şahin, and Aslan: 2021: 104-105).

Although drugs have been used for therapeutic purposes in the historical process, they have turned into an illegal commercial activity due to their addictive effect. Among these substances, which are divided into different classes according to the impact they have on the central nervous system, the properties they carry, and the level of harm they cause to humans and the environment, the most circulating substances are expressed as follows: heroin, cannabis, cocaine, ecstasy, methamphetamine, amphetamine, opium, captagon (Babahanoğlu, 2016: 62-67).

Table 1. Different Drug Types and Their Effects on Human Body

Effect on the Central Nervous system	Type of Substance used	Natura curd Artificial	Physiological Effects
Morphin, Heroin	Opium Derivatives, Morphin, Base Morphine,	Poppy, Morphin	Coffee, Tobacco, Khat
Alcohol, Barbiturate	Heroin, Codein, Meperidine	Codein, Coca	Betel, Campre, Amphetamines, Bromide
Sedative, Tranquilizer	Alcohol, Cocaine, Marijuana	Cocaine, Marijuana	Sulfanol , Praldeyhde , Verenol , Ether
Cocaine, Amphetamine	amphetamines Inhalant, Phencyclidine	Marijuana, Hydromorphine	Chloralhtdrate, Cholorofom, Alcohol, Mescaline , Morphine
LSD, Maskline	Nicotine, Anxolites	Oxymorphine, Heroin	Heroin, Cocaine
Ecgonine, Marijuana	Hallucinogens	Methadone, Tramadol, Meperidine	Opium, Marijuana

(Ateş ve Banazlı, 2020: 66).

Both national and international laws prohibit the production, possession and sale of narcotic substances, and the export and import of these substances are also included in the scope of illegal trade. The international drug trade has had no difficulty reaching new markets with the speed of adapting to the global economy. The crime of drug smuggling has been evaluated within the scope of organized crime and has found the opportunity to occur in many more places due to new technologies and increased international trade volume. Factors such as the formation of new markets and the ease of transportation have also changed the drug smuggling methods and adapted to the new system they have created (Tosun, Şahin, and Aslan, 2021: 106-107).

The expansion of the drug market networks the adaptation to the global economy, the establishment of new trade networks, and the fact that even the countries' annual revenues have whetted the appetite of even the countries have caused groups that carry out illegal or supranational activities to enter into a struggle for shares terrorist organizations to come first among them. It is thought that the PKK's drug revenue in the 1990s was around 300 million dollars a year. According to Turkish Intelligence officials, the drug revenue of the terrorist organization increased significantly after 2001. Today, it is believed that the income the PKK earns from cannabis cultivation is more than 500 million dollars a year (Cengiz, 2017: 8). At the same time, drug smuggling has become an essential source of financing for terrorist organizations. The partnership between terrorism and drug smuggling has become a crucial threat to border security.

Drug trafficking is mostly carried out through cannabis in the world and in Turkey. It is also possible to say that these illegal commercial activities are an essential transit point, mainly due to Turkey's geopolitical position. It is known that Turkey has a central role in terms of ecstasy,

bonsai, and cannabis. It can be seen by the relevant reports that Turkey is an important transit point for cocaine and captagon (Babahanoğlu, 2016: 75). At the same time, Turkey is located on the Balkan Route, which is an essential route in drug trafficking. The Balkan Route covers the road that passes through Iran and Turkey and reaches the Balkan countries, namely Bulgaria, Romania, and Greece, and then to the Middle East and Western European countries. The fact that the Balkan route is one of the most active drug routes places Turkey in a vital position in this sense (Turkey Drug Report, 2019).

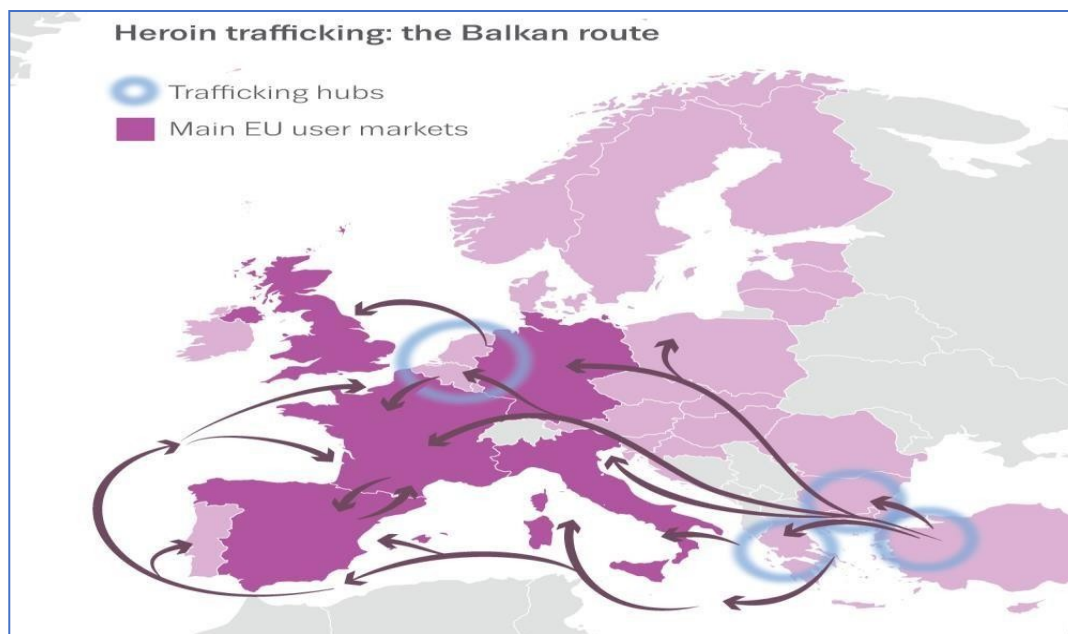


Figure 2. Heroin Traffic
(EMCDDA, 2019).

When we looked at the heroin seizures of the European Union in 2017, a data of 5.4 tons is reached, while it is seen that this amount is 17.4 tons, three times this amount in Turkey data of the same year. In 2018 data, it is seen that the seizure of 18.5 tons of heroin originated from Afghanistan. It is known that heroin originating from Afghanistan, which has made the European market a target according to the data of 2017-2018, is caught in Turkey before it reaches this illegal market. It is thought that these heavy seizures made on the routes known as the Balkan Route in recent years will intensify on the Northern Route in the coming years (Turkey Drug Report, 2019).

While opium is obtained from the opium poppy in Turkey, after the emergence of allegations that Turkey's opium poppy cultivation areas were used in the illegal drug trade, opium cultivation in the country was banned with the decision of the Council of Ministers dated 26/06/1971 to prove that these claims are unfounded (Parliament, 2021). After this ban, drug networks in Europe turned to other sources, and Afghanistan and Pakistan became famous poppy producers. When we look at the drugs originating from Afghanistan, we can say that this drug mostly passes to the border neighbor Iran and is tried to be transferred to Europe via Iran. Turkey is on a natural route for drugs to Europe necessitates international cooperation in the fight against drugs in Europe and Turkey. For this reason, the priority of Turkey's anti-

drug policy is to prevent the supply that may occur through Turkey (Aksu and Ünlü, 2018: 141).

Table 2. Drug Types

DRUGS (kg)	Belgium	France	Greece	Italy	Spanish	Turkey
Heroin	1928	1012	402.7	614	234	20164
Cocaine	65247.68	14599	953,417	8262.6	37868	1634,292
Methamphetamine	25.1	562	211.3	23.1	51.19	1042
Amphetamine	1027	92	9739	10.4	23.3	2800
Opium	1.07	-	0.09	1.52	1.76	1314
Marijuana (Herb)	1153	21949	12508	23632	39861	90579

(UNODC, 2019).

As seen in the table above, apart from the fact that Turkey has a lesser role in the transportation of cocaine to Europe due to its geographical location and originating from South America, Turkey has a higher rate of seizure of drugs in other drug types seen in the table. One of the biggest reasons for this is that opium gum, one of the raw materials of the drug, is of Asian origin, and we are on the transit route to Europe due to our geographical location. As stated above, Turkey is one of the most important transit routes for the Balkan Route.

According to the Afghanistan Drug Report prepared by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), as of July 2021, over 6,000 tons of opium have been produced in Afghanistan, and approximately 320 tons of pure heroin can be obtained from the obtained opium to be shipped to illicit markets globally. It is estimated that the revenue generated from the trade in opium derivatives in Afghanistan alone in 2021 constitutes an illegal source of around 1.8 to 2.7 billion dollars. It is evaluated that approximately 85% of global illicit opium production in 2020 was carried out in Afghanistan and that opium produced in this country constitutes a source for about 80% of users worldwide. Therefore, changes in opium cultivation and production in Afghanistan have a significant impact on the global illicit drug market and organized crime (UNODC, 2021: 3).

2. BORDER SECURITY AND SUSTAINABLE SECURITY APPROACH

Nation states use the concept of the border to determine their sovereignty on international platforms. Wars or international agreements usually draw borders. In this context, border security includes practices that prevent entry and exit within its borders, independent of state control. Border security aims to prevent the entry and exit of criminal elements such as weapons, drugs, terrorism, and human smuggling. Therefore, outside the focus of terrorism, it can be said that activities such as smuggling and illegal human trafficking are not ignored in the concept of border security. (Expert, 2016: 137).

In order to ensure border security, soldiers' guard posts were kept at locations designated as military towers. Today, additional measures regarding border security have been added. These measures were regulated within the national security framework and included necessary measures related to immigration and health, especially smuggling. At the beginning of the main tools in ensuring border security, some elements will protect the land border, such as fences, walls, mines, border posts, and border watchtowers, as well as current border security tools such as night vision thermal cameras, border flight aircraft, satellite images, and biometric identification. (Taşkın, 2020: 242).

Since one of the primary purposes of the existence of states is to protect citizens' life rights and property, each country has border policies developed in the context of its administrative structure and historical background. While determining these policies, the countries' experiences in terms of border violations are also considered. For example, it is known that after the September 11 attacks against the USA, border security policies were shaped by more severe measures, especially by the USA, England, France, and Germany. In addition, a fence has been built along its borders by Hungary to prevent human trafficking at the borders. We see an example of border security policies in the Schengen Visa application. It is known that although the citizens of EU member states have the freedom to cross borders, the citizens of different countries do not have such a right. In addition to this decision taken with the Schengen Agreement implemented in 1995, standard policies for border security were also adopted (Taşkın, 2020: 242-244).

While defining the concept of border security within international relations, it was discussed in maintaining ties based on trust. The concept of security Hoffman examines under five headings; Firstly, the willingness of the actors to take the fate of another actor. Secondly, that the other party does not harm the established relationship; thirdly, that the security relationship between the actors can be changed in terms of reliability and density perception, fourthly, the trust-based relationships are dynamic for possible future situations, and lastly, trust is constantly maintained by the actors. It is expressed as being re-evaluatable. From this point of view, the concept of trust is considered a dynamic process in which risk is constantly re-evaluated on an international scale (Leuprecht et al., 2021: 350).

The emergence of the concept of sustainability is based on the World Nature Charter document accepted by the World Union for Conservation of Nature in 1982. In this document, it is aimed that the resources in the sea, air, land, ecosystem, and atmosphere that people benefit from be used in a way that will achieve optimum sustainability, but that the benefit provided will not endanger the integrity of other living species. Sustainability in its current meaning was made in the report *Our Common Future* published in 1987 by the World Commission on Environment and Development. According to this report, sustainable development has been defined as providing optimum benefits without ignoring future generations' needs while meeting today's needs (Karakurt, 2009). The understanding of sustainable security that emerged within the sustainable development framework has transformed the concept of sustainability into a principle that shapes public policy processes. Sustainable development has been presented as a solution to the social and inter-communal tensions caused by climate changes, environmental problems, poverty, and the inequality that comes with them (Giovannoni and Fabietti, 2014: 21-40).

While the emphasis is placed on ensuring the physical security of land borders and maintaining them through armament within the scope of the traditional security approach, the concept of human development is emphasized within the new security understanding developed with the idea of sustainability. In this context, it can be said that a holistic security approach has emerged that does not address a single area but also deals with different disciplines. Border security now includes issues such as improving living conditions and having better conditions within its field of activity. The concept of security has created new application areas at the borders with the understanding of sustainability and has provided a reinterpretation of the concept of security in domestic politics (Barbak, 2018: 39-41).

Developing a sustainable security approach ensures that the measures taken, and the actions taken are handled more holistically within public policies. The concept of border security, which we will discuss in our study, can be accepted in this context. As we will discuss in detail in our research, border security is not just about the military protection of borders. Accordingly, the fight against narcotic crimes, which we have examined, is a part of border security.

2.1. Border Security Practices in European Union Countries

Europe has faced a severe migration crisis, especially since 2011, due to the Arab spring, the political crises in the Middle East, and the unrest in North Africa. The inability to track many illegal immigrants has led to humanitarian and security concerns. There were differences of opinion among European countries regarding managing these crises, and these disagreements created an atmosphere of discussion despite the principles of equal burden sharing and solidarity, creating new fields of study such as securitization of immigration, multidimensional examination of the concept of security, with the increase in illegal immigration (Baër, Beeres, and Bollen, 2021: 786). In the border security field, radars, camera surveillance systems, unmanned aerial systems, various sensors and complex technological devices have come to the fore. Therefore, border security emerges as a more complex and complicated structure that includes physical factors and legal regulations (Léonard and Kaunert, 2022: 1419).

While the border security in the countries of the European Union is tried to be protected by the Schengen Borders Law, this law also states that the primary responsibility of border security belongs to the Schengen countries at the land, sea, and airport borders. In this context, the FRONTEX mission seems to be compatible with the European Union's Integrated Border Management concept and consistent with the European Union's fundamental rights. The aim of FRONTEX is the promotion, coordination, and development of the European Border Management. In addition, it is aimed to technically support the joint operations with FRONTEX to the member states with rapid interventions (FRONTEX, 2022).

2.2. Border Security in Turkey

Looking at Turkey's border gates: It is seen that there are a total of 160 border gates, including thirty lands, seven railways, 63 seas, and sixty air. Within these border gates, there are 13 border gates, 3 of which are railways and 10 are highways, on the Turkey-Syria land border line, which has a length of 877 km. Between Turkey and Syria, nine of the border gates were opened permanently and four of them temporarily. While ten of these doors are actively used, 3 of them are currently inactive. There are three active border gates on the land border of

Turkey and Iran, with a length of 560 km. The Turkey-Iraq border is 378 kilometers, and there are four border gates, two of which are in operation and 2 of which are closed. Apart from these, Bulgaria has 269 km, Greece 203, Georgia 276, Armenia 328, and Azerbaijan/Nakhchivan 18 km border length. However, they do not have as important a place as Syria, Iraq, and Iran in our border security policy.

When the institutional structure regarding border security is examined, it is seen that five primary institutions (Land Forces Command, Gendarmerie General Command, Coast Guard Command, General Directorate of Security, and General Directorate of Customs Enforcement) have responsibilities. Many experts have criticized this dispersed institutional structure as it may cause integration and coordination problems among the facilities. Considering the criticisms made, it has been stated that border security should be carried out by preventing crime, not depending on the practice of attack and defense (Kaya, 2013: 10).

There are also different projects planned for Turkey's border security. However, these projects are activated dynamically according to current needs and changing conditions. Regarding physical security, by the TAF, Suggestions such as building a 5-meter-high concrete wall on the borderline and setting up 15-meter watchtowers on the walls were made. Especially considering the civil war situations in our border countries, physical security measures are among the border security measures that should be implemented very quickly (Demir, 2018: 6-8).

When evaluated in the context of border security, it can be said that there are different agendas in each border region of Turkey. The Turkey-Iraq border region is one of the border regions where terrorist activities are most intense. The fact that there is mountainous land on the borderline makes it challenging to control this region. In addition, the Turkey-Iraq border region is used as an essential route for smuggling activities of terrorist organizations due to the characteristics of its geographical structure. The smuggling activities in this region are of critical importance as they also finance terrorist organizations. Since it is a border area where smuggling activities and terrorist organizations feed, there is a significant security threat in this region. For this reason, the fight against smuggling can simultaneously be considered an indispensable policy for border security (Öztürk and Bulut, 2020: 190).

National legislation on border security management and essential regulations have been made by institutions that carry out studies on border security. At the beginning of these regulations; "Law on the Protection and Security of Land Borders" (1988), "Prime Ministry Circular on Integrated Border Management" (2010/15), and "Regulation on Inter-Agency Cooperation and Coordination in the Field of Border Management" (2016) are coming (Ekmekçiöğlü and Yıldız, 2018:337).

The Prime Ministry Circular on Integrated Border Management (2010/15) is a critical study that also took place in the EU accession negotiations. Within the scope of the work carried out in coordination with the Ministry of Interior, one of the actors of the policy transfer process, it is aimed to harmonize the legislation on border management with the EU legislation. At the same time, the regulation of the border security organization as a new organization under the Ministry of Internal Affairs is among the study's aims.

Another legal regulation on border security is the "Regulation on Cooperation and Coordination Between Institutions in the Field of Border Management. The purpose of this regulation is to provide cooperation between all organizations actively involved in the field of border management and to realize the needed organization (Ekmekçioğlu and Yıldız, 2018:338).

Another study carried out within the scope of border security was establishing the European Agency for the Management of Operational Cooperation at External Borders (FRONTEX) in 2004 by the Council of the European Union. This agency was established to ensure the coordination of EU member states in terms of border security, creating common education policies, performing risk analyses, and following developments that will increase efficiency in border surveillance.

Within the scope of this agency established by the EU, various harmonization studies are carried out between the relevant institutions and organizations and FRONTEX in Turkey. These harmonization studies are carried out in three main dimensions:

- *Establishment of professional and civilian law enforcement at border crossing points and along the border,*
- *Establishment of an integrated border management system to ensure cooperation and coordination between relevant institutions and organizations*
- *Increasing efficiency in border management through modernization of infrastructure, tools, and staff training.* (Ekmekçioğlu and Yıldız, 2018: 339).

2.3. Combating Narcotic Crimes in Turkey's Border Regions

In this part of our study, terrorist organizations, one of the main threats to border security, and how the fight against drugs, one of the biggest financing sources of terrorist activities, will be examined on our borders. EGM carries out anti-drug activities in Turkey, Gendarmerie General Command, Coast Guard Command, and General Directorate of Customs Enforcement (Tosun, Şahin, and Aslan, 2021: 121). Duties for the operations carried out for the entry, and the General Directorate of Security carries out the exit of people at the border gates. The units affiliated with the Ministry of Commerce carry out the entry and exit of goods and vehicles (Akman and Kılınc, 2010: 19).

Customs Enforcement units operating under the Ministry of Commerce carry out anti-drug activities at border gates. These activities are carried out with various materials and the training and equipment received by the personnel of the Customs Enforcement, Smuggling, and Intelligence Directorate. Customs Enforcement officers are trained in using X-Ray Detectors, and they inspect the prohibited items and goods by ensuring that the X-Ray Detector inside the customs scans the vehicles within the scope of various risk criteria at border crossings. In addition, the training of detector duty dogs is carried out at the Customs Enforcement Dog Training Center. Customs Enforcement personnel, subjected to interview selection tests at the Dog Training Center, become detector dog managers with their training. Detector Dog managers and detector dogs are one of the most critical parts of the drug control mechanism at the border gates. In this context, 142 narcotic detector dogs and 70 X-Ray devices are operating as of 2020 (Ministry of Trade, 2020).

The aim of "More Effective Fight Against Drugs" in the I. 100-Day Action Plan published in 2018, a new unit was established to carry out comprehensive activities for the fight against drugs. NARKOKİM is a unit specialized in narcotics and fighting methods, consisting of expert personnel to work 24/7 within the scope of the Department of Combating Narcotic Crimes and Van, Kocaeli, Gürbulak, Istanbul, Mersin, and Edirne Smuggling and Intelligence Directorates (KİM) established under the General Directorate of Customs Enforcement. (Customs Enforcement, 2021). Within this unit, 399 NARKOKİM personnel are actively involved (Ministry of Trade, 2020: 139).

Within the Ministry of Commerce, not only in-house studies but also joint studies are carried out. In this context, participation in the work of the High Council on Combating Addiction and the 2018-2023 Strategy Document and Action Plan was ensured in 2020. In addition, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, European Monitoring Center for Drugs and Drug Addiction, WCO, and Southeastern Europe Law Enforcement Center are among the joint activities of the ministry (Ministry of Trade, 2020: 139). According to the statistics published in the 2020 annual report of the Ministry of Commerce, the one-time drug seizures by Customs Enforcement units, which reached record levels, were carried out as follows:

- 160 kg of heroin, 2,080,000 units of ecstasy, 2 tons of 70 kilograms of skunk cannabis at Kapıkule Border Gate
- 540 kilograms of cocaine at Kocaeli Port
- 61 kilograms of opium gum, 462.5 kilograms of liquid methamphetamine at the Gürbulak Border Gate
- Two hundred fifty-six kilograms of methamphetamine at Dilucu Border Gate (Ministry of Trade, 2020: 143).

Considering the statistical data, the Customs Enforcement Smuggling Intelligence Directorate, the authorized unit at the border gates, is influential in the fight against drugs. Although the EGM, JGK, Coast Guard, and Land Forces units are effective in the context of border security, these units carry most drug seizures at the border gates since the authorized control unit at the border gates is the Customs Enforcement Smuggling and Intelligence Directorate.

3. DISCUSSION

It is mentioned about a process that is described as everything that exists to describe the analysis of a policy and the evaluation without the use of the policy. It can be said that the most appropriate analysis method is the process analysis of the policies carried out regarding the fight against narcotic crimes. While making this analysis, the stages of enactment, implementation, and evaluation are examined in detail.

The process analysis model is also called the incremental model. It is expressed in this way because the analysis of this policy-making process, in which policy actors are included, is carried out gradually. Evaluations about what the actors do and will do in the policy are also among the stages in the process analysis (Babaoğlu and Yılmaz 2021: 17-19), and the actors of the current policy are primarily evaluated. Alternative policy solutions are then discussed. In

the next stage, the process analysis as enactment, implementation, and evaluation of the implementation was completed.

While more than one institution and organization is active in border security, it is known that Customs Enforcement personnel of the Ministry of Commerce operate at the border gates to fight against narcotic crimes. According to the 4th article of the Law Enforcement Regulation based on TCK 167, the Customs Enforcement Smuggling and Intelligence Directorate personnel are assigned as judicial law enforcement officers. According to Law No. 6815, the authorized judicial and administrative law enforcement unit at the border gates is the Customs Enforcement personnel. While it is seen that there is a concentration of institutions that confuse authority and responsibility regarding border security, it can be said that the activities in the fight against narcotic crimes at the border gates are carried out through a single institution.

Policies regarding Turkey's fight against drugs are not only at the border gates but also throughout the country. In addition, the policies on border security covered not only the fight against narcotic crimes but also physical security or the smuggling of people, goods, and money. For this reason, it is impossible to talk about a single policy area regarding the fight against narcotic crimes at Turkey's border gates. In the 1990s, Turkey was considered a transit point for drug smuggling, and in this context, on April 26, 1996, a recommendation from the MGK to develop a general policy (Akgül and Kaptı, 2010: 87).

As a result of the evaluation of both internal and external factors in the fight against drugs, the "Law on the Protection and Security of Land Boundaries" (1988), "Prime Ministry Circular on Integrated Border Management" (2010/15), and "Border Management" on border security in the process of creating new and inclusive policies Studies on the "Regulation on Cooperation and Coordination between Institutions in the Field" (2016) have emerged. (Ekmekeçioğlu and Yıldız, 2018). Although these studies are mainly carried out in the context of border security, there are also activities aimed at combating drug smuggling. In addition, within the scope of the "More Efficient Fight Against Drugs" objective included in the I. 100-Day Action Plan published in 2018, a new unit was established under the roof of the General Directorate of Customs Enforcement of the Ministry of Commerce to carry out comprehensive anti-drug activities. NARKOKIM, which consists of personnel who are experts in their fields and will work 24/7, is composed of people who are experts in drugs and methods of struggle, and by this means, a more effective fight against drugs at the border gates is ensured (Customs Guard, 2021).

Statistics show that drug seizures at border gates have increased due to these practices. The sensitivity in the fight against drugs is maintained to the same extent at the border gates. The increase in the international drug trade, which has been integrated into new trade routes and trade systems that have emerged with technological opportunities, has also increased the number of drugs seized at the Turkish border gates. Despite the latest methods, due to Turkey's determined struggle, drug seizures got ahead of Europe and did not turn a blind eye to dirty traders. The increase in drug seizures from the annual reports published by the Ministry of Commerce proves the successful results of these policies (Ministry of Commerce, 2021).

CONCLUSION

Based on the evaluations in the article, Turkey's border security policy is based not only on physical security but also on issues such as combating smuggling, drug trafficking, and human smuggling. Due to Turkey's geopolitical position, being on important drug trafficking routes requires keeping the border security policies up to date in this direction.

In the context of Turkey's border security policies, two issues that cause security weakness to stand out: are the confusion of authority and responsibility. This complexity covers each twenty-eight institutions considered within the secondary, rather than the primary, the mandate of border security. While the Turkish Land Forces determine national security as the primary target in border security policies, it does not prioritize issues such as smuggling. In addition, customs directorates working under the Ministry of Trade are primarily concerned with import and export activities. However, as a secondary task, the Ministry of Commerce gave an assignment for ensuring border security. In addition, it is seen that the police officers whose primary duty is to maintain order in the city are also on duty at the border gates. It can be said that there is a very complex institutional structure within the borders of Turkey, which is not under a single institution, unlike Europe (Öztürk and Bulut, 2020: 192).

The main objectives in ensuring border security are preventing illegal human, animal, and product smuggling and the effective continuation of entry and exit controls for terrorist and drug activities. For this reason, the security forces must protect the borders first. However, in addition to these security measures provided by law enforcement, factors such as smuggling and illegal migration are the main problems at the walls, and regulations should be made with appropriate principles (Uzman, 2016: 139).

Within the scope of the National Action Plan for the implementation of Turkey's Integrated Border Management Strategy, "*Border agreements generally include it is aimed to ensure that the other state is innocent of all kinds of attacks, that the people living along the border do not violate the border security, and that all kinds of smuggling, gangsterism, and theft at the borders are prevented by cooperation.*" In this context, it is stated that border security should be ensured by walls or technological tools and agreements with bordering countries (Öztürk and Bulut, 2020: 193).

When border security policies are examined in the context of drug smuggling, it is seen that this field is an area that requires a significant level of professionalism. Especially understanding the phenomenon of stimulants and knowing that the drug trade is a power that finances criminal organizations requires a holistic evaluation. For this reason, it can be said that the units fighting against drug trafficking and the field personnel of these units are among the essential requirements to specialize in the field (Çopur, 2014: 107).

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