

Wage bargaining and spillovers : a two-country analysis: The Netherlands and Turkey

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Wage Bargaining and Spillovers
A Two-Country Analysis: The Netherlands and Turkey

van Erkan Erdil, march 2001

1. In Dutch wage setting, two elements continuously show up: first, wage bargaining and second, the centralization/decentralization debate (Veen 1997, 37 and Chapter 2 of the thesis).
2. Dutch and Turkish labor markets have special characteristics and most of them are very differentiated but what is common in both countries is the significant experience of centralized wage determination process. In the Dutch case, it was reached through a social consensus of agents. What is different in Turkish case is the existence of centralized wage determination process forced on the agents by the state (Chapter 2 of the thesis).
3. It is possible to model the Turkish labor market on the basis of a three-tier segmented model composed of agriculture, urban informal, and the formal sector (Şenses, 1994 and Chapter 3 of the thesis).
4. The inadequacy of new job creation is more important for the Turkish labor market than the destruction of jobs.
5. Printing, Publishing, and Allied Industries and Manufacture of Industrial Chemicals are wage leaders in Dutch manufacturing industry (Chapter 7 of the thesis).
6. Food Manufacturing and Petroleum Refineries are wage leaders in Turkish manufacturing industry (Chapter 8 of the thesis).
7. The most differentiated characteristic of corporatist experiences in two countries is that institutions determine policy until politics determines institutions in the Netherlands but the causality runs in the reverse direction in the Turkish case (Chapter 9 of the thesis).
8. This study has found undeniable evidence in favor of the institutional mechanisms in the wage determination process.
9. In August 1999, the major earthquake officially killed 17.000 persons while the unofficial reports declare the number around 30.000. The Marmara Earthquake had an enormous impact on the real sector of the entire Turkish economy since the share of this region in terms of the gross national value added is more than any other region. Another major earthquake is still expected in the same region.
10. As a result of the final stabilization program sponsored by IMF, the annual inflation rate falls to 28.3% in January 2001. It was the lowest inflation rate since 1987. However, the credibility of the program seriously and steadily damaged in the last 13 months because of the worsening income distribution.
11. On February 8, the Prime Minister calls the representatives of major employers' associations for a talk to defend the targets of the stabilization program. One of the daily newspapers noted that employers gave a homework to the government for the expected crisis in the real sector. The trade unions had good reasons to complain for not being invited to the meeting.