

*International Trade and Finance
Association*

19th International Conference Working Papers

Year 2009

Paper 14

Global Trends in Distance Education and
the Turkish Experience

Fahri Unsal* Nursel S. Ruzgar†
Bahaddin Ruzgar‡

*Ithaca.college

†Marmara University, Istanbul, Turkey

‡Marmara University, Istanbul, Turkey

This working paper site is hosted by The Berkeley Electronic Press (bepress) and may not be commercially reproduced without the publisher's permission.

<http://services.bepress.com/itfa/19th/art14>

Copyright ©2009 by the authors.

Global Trends in Distance Education and the Turkish Experience

Abstract

Distance education has been around for some time. However, the rapid growth of Internet and communication technologies has increased its popularity during the recent years. This has resulted in the creation of online programs and/or online courses by a very large number of institutions all around the world. This paper examines some of these trends and compares distance education with traditional in terms of advantages\disadvantages of each and public perceptions. Then the evolution of distance education is discussed with special emphasis to the Turkish experience.

The second part of the paper is devoted to discussion of the findings of survey that was conducted in Turkey on distance education issues. The results indicate that the Internet is fast becoming the preferred mode of distance education there. A large majority of the students access the online course materials at home as opposed to work or university. They complain that the high cost of Internet access is a deterrent for their education. It is suggested that the government should take the necessary measures to make the Internet faster, more affordable, and provide incentives for computer purchases for educational uses.

This paper was prepared for presentation at the 19th International Conference of the International Trade and Finance Association in Beijing, China, May 27-30, 2009.