



**AN EXPLORATORY STUDY ON UNIVERSITY AUTONOMY:  
A COMPARISON OF TURKEY AND SOME EUROPEAN UNION COUNTRIES**

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**Abstract**

Autonomy is defined as leaving the right of administration to the individuals or institutions. As for the university autonomy, it was studied under the four main headings such as organizational, financial, staffing and academic autonomy in European University Association Reports in 2009 and 2011. In this study, comparisons about organizational, financial, staffing and academic autonomy of universities were made among Turkey and top rated European countries such as England, Estonia, Ireland and Finland in the light of EUA's latest projects. The findings were discussed in accordance with the data obtained from European Commission Report about Bologna process in 2012 in terms of competitiveness of universities. There were significant relationships among the variables such as higher education ratio in the population, employment opportunities of graduates, number of articles published in international indexed journals and academic performance of academics in top rated countries within organizational, financial, staffing and academic autonomy of universities.

**Keywords:** University autonomy, Financial autonomy, Academic autonomy, Administrative autonomy.