

Turkey: A statistical trip to a crossroad

Turkey has been a crossroad from the beginning of its history. From the Eastern Roman Empire to nowadays, when the country looks with an eye to Europe and with the other to Middle East.

In 1987, Turkey applied to be a member of the European Union (EU). But it's still waiting, without a clear deadline. Only one of the 39 mandatory chapters required for the EU has been closed, the science and research chapter. Another 22 haven't even been opened. This visualization compares Turkey with six other countries: three from the Middle East and three that are members of the EU. They were chosen for the similarity in population number. The European countries also represent three nations admitted in very different moments of the EU history: Germany, founder member (1952), Spain (1986) and Poland (2004), one of the newest countries in the Union.

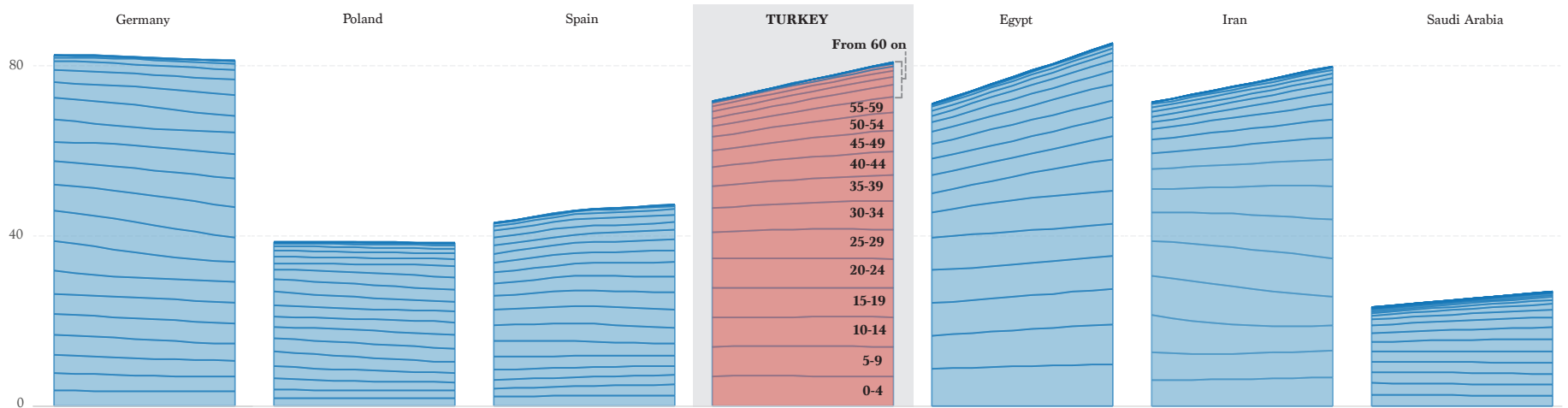
SOURCES: Pew Research Center, European Union, Gapminder, The World Bank, World Value Survey, Google Maps, International Labour Organization
RESEARCH AND GRAPHIC: Luis Melgar



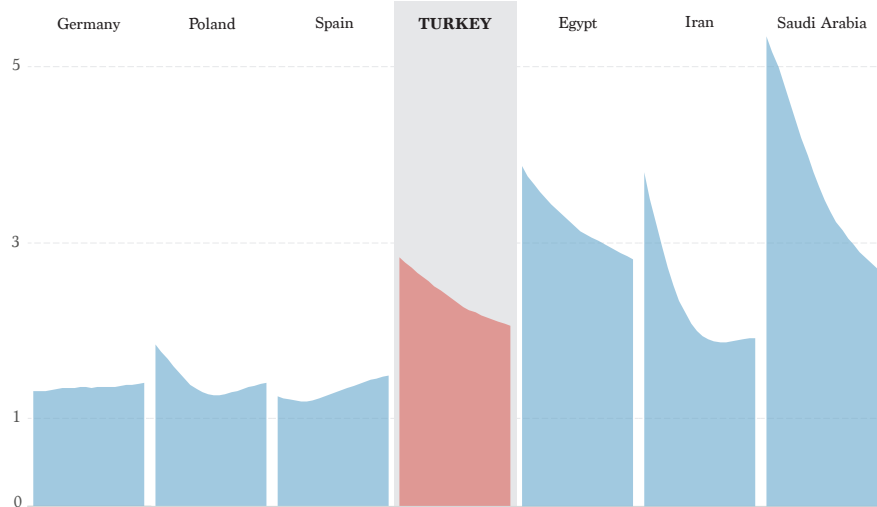
How far is Ankara? (In miles, driving by car and flying by air-plane)

Madrid: 2,476 miles 39 hours by car 6 hours and 10 minutes by plane
Riyadh: 1,873 miles 34 hours by car 7 hours and 5 minutes by plane
Warsaw: 1,643 miles 28 hours by car 5 hour and 10 minutes by plane
Berlin: 1,640 miles 27 hours by car 3 hours and 10 minutes by plane
Cairo: 1,301 miles 27 hours by car 4 hours 45 minutes by plane
Tehran: 1,297 miles 27 hours by car 2 hours by plane

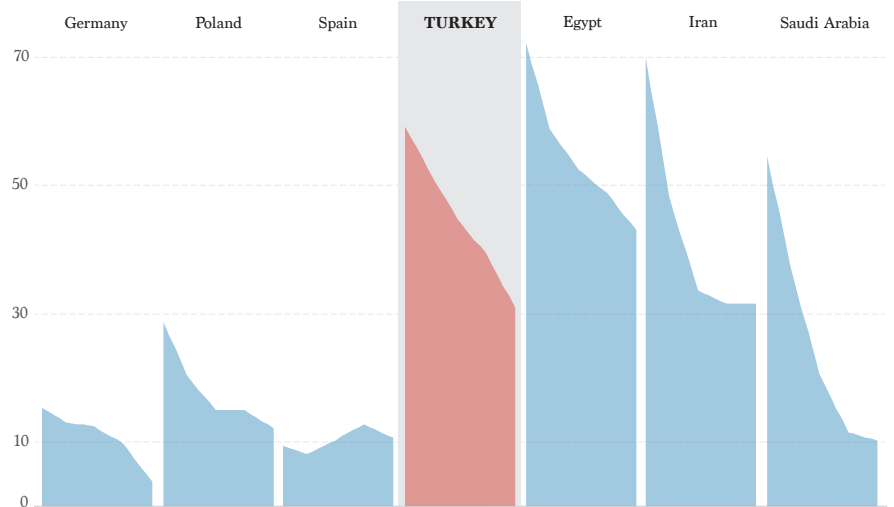
Population according to age groups (by millions, 2004-2013)



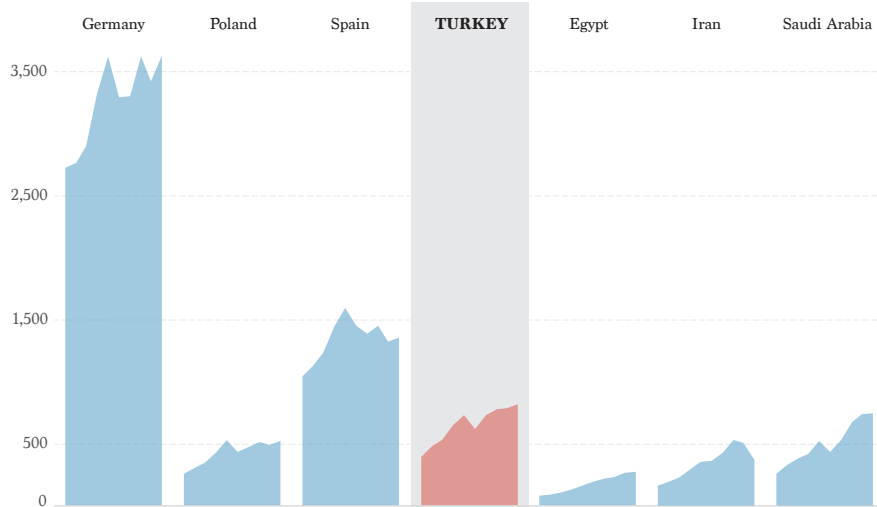
Children per woman (fertility rate, 1993-2012)



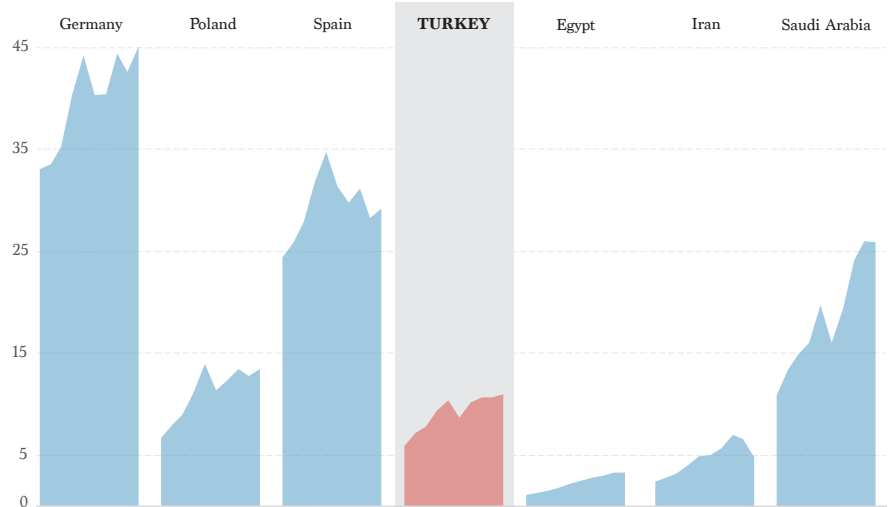
Teenage mothers, ages 15-19 (birth per 1,000 women 1992-2004)



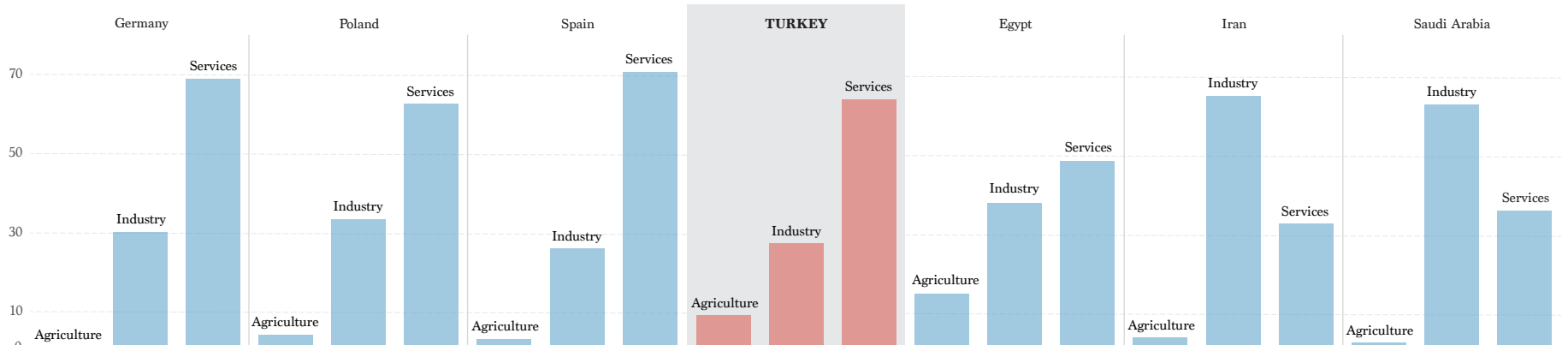
GDP, 2004-2013 (in billions of dollar)



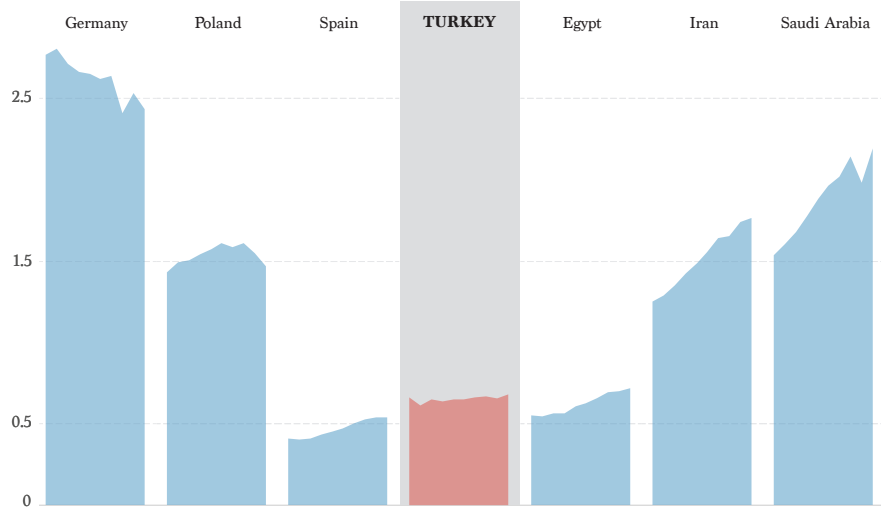
GDP per capita, 2004-2013 (in thousands of dollar)



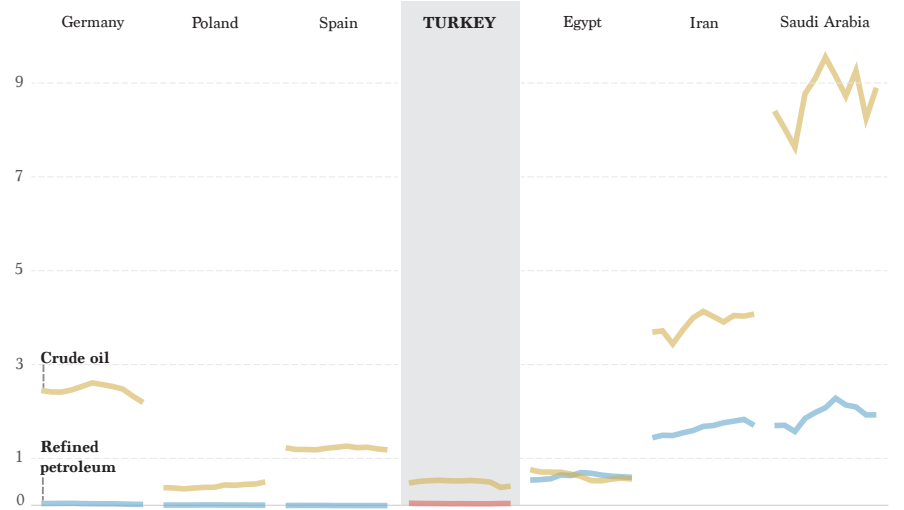
GDP sector composition (percentages based in 2013 estimations)



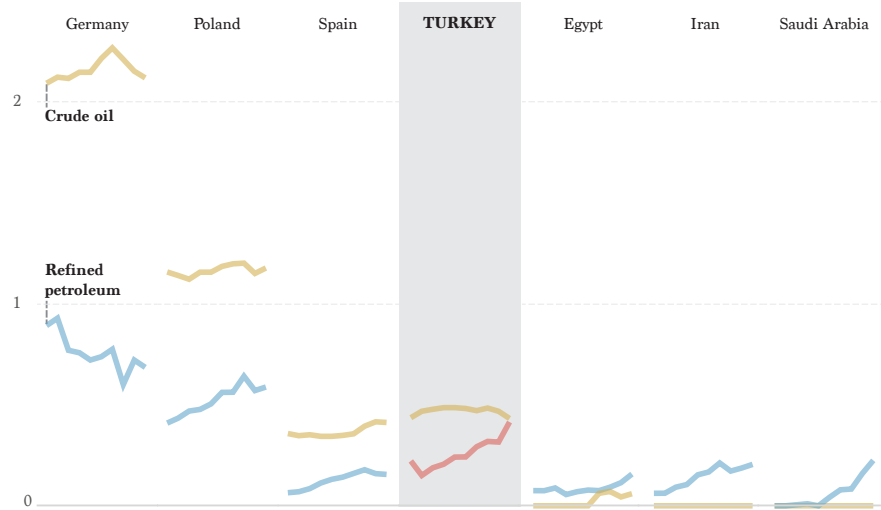
Petroleum consumption, 2000-2009 (thousands of barrel per day)



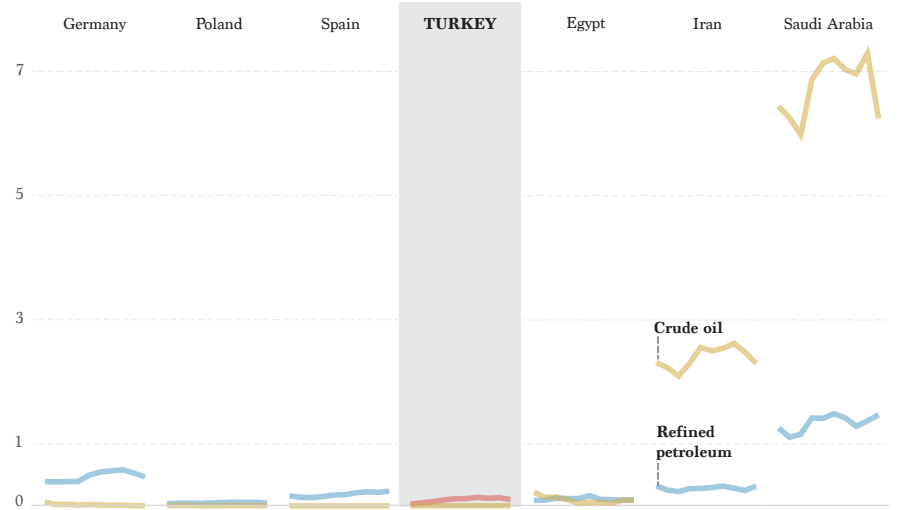
Oil and petroleum output, 2000-2009 (thousands of barrel per day)



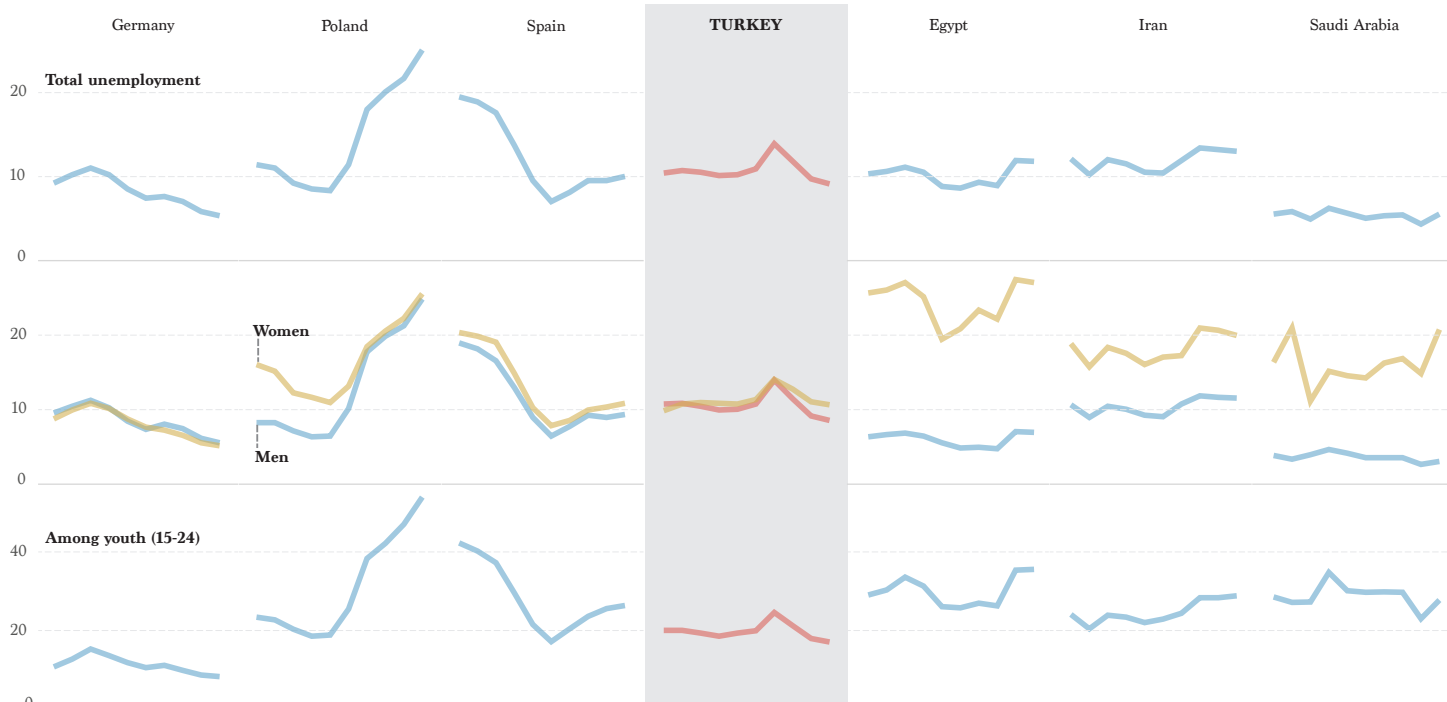
Oil and petroleum imports, 2000-2009 (thousands of barrel per day)



Oil and petroleum exports, 2000-2009 (thousands of barrel per day)



Percentage of unemployment, 2003-2012 (total, by gender, and among youth)



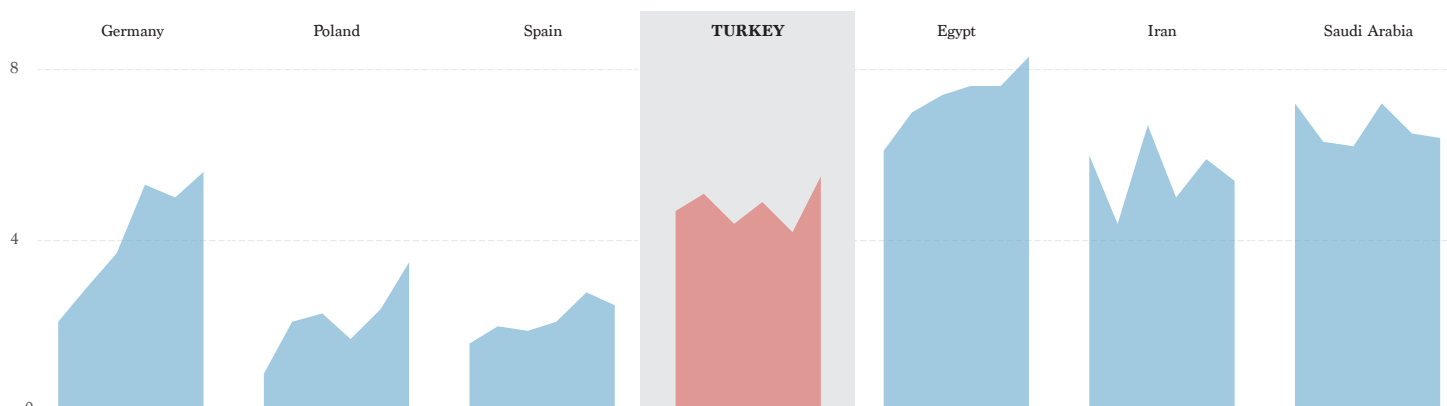
While Europe gets older, Middle East stays younger. Nevertheless, the youth live a complex situation in this region. **Most of the Middle Eastern countries have high levels of unemployment, which has a high impact in the young people.** The protest in the so called Arab Spring were brought out by the youth, specially in countries as Egypt and Iran. Turkish youth took the streets as well. And put the president Erdogan in some trouble. **The youth in Turkey, as in other countries, trust less in politicians and other traditional institutions -like media-.**

Religions professed in each country (percentage)



According to World Values Survey, **68% of the Turkish say that religion is important in their lives. Other 7% consider it is not important.** The presence of religion in Turkish society could explain why the 85% of the Turkish reject to have a gay person as a neighbour. Moreover, **78% of the Turkish consider the homosexuality never justifiable.**

Social Hostilities Index against Religions, 2007-2012 (from 0 to 10)



The Social Hostilities Index (SHI) measures "concrete, hostile actions that effectively hinder the religious activities of the targeted individuals or groups," as it is defined by the Pew Research Center (PRC). **The SHI goes from 0 to 10, the latter means the highest level of hostility.** According to the PRC, Middle East and Africa show the highest hostility.