Turkey is the EU’s sixth largest trading partner. Approximately 42% of Turkish exports go to the EU, while the EU share in Turkish imports stands at 33%. The EU’s Foreign Direct Investment stock in Turkey reached €58.2 billion in 2018. Volume of trade in goods with the EU was €157.2 billion in 2021.

11% of EU funding for transport sector from 2014-2020. In 2004 - 2020: 98,800 higher education students were hosted in countries participating in the ERASMUS+ programme. In 2004 - 2020: 32,750 higher education students were hosted in Turkey. €220.5 million in support to civil society (2014-2020).

The EU Facility for Refugees in Turkey provides €6 billion in support of refugees (mostly from Syria) and host communities. An additional €353 million humanitarian funding has extended two flagship programmes launched under the Facility until early 2022, as well as protection, health and education services outside the Facility. An additional €3 billion was proposed in June 2021 to continue support for refugees and host communities for the 2021-2023 period.

Under the Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance, EU assistance to Turkey amounts to €3.2 billion over seven years (2014-2020) after cuts due to lack of progress on key reforms. Another €479.9 million were mobilised over 2014-20 through other instruments (EIDHR, IcSP, HUMA, MADAD, CBC).

Priority areas of funding are civil society, Union Programmes (e.g. Erasmus+), migration and the rule of law.

COVID-19 response

€133 million of existing EU funds have been mobilised to assist Turkey in its COVID-19 response under existing financial commitments, for the prevention and treatment of COVID-19 cases and support to the most vulnerable. Otherwise, Team Europe COVID-19 support has also been largely channelled through European and international financial institutions. In November 2021, a first High Level Dialogue on Health took place, focussing among other topics on cross-border health threats, such as COVID-19. To date, the EU has not received any request for COVID-19 vaccine donations from Turkey. Turkey has developed its own vaccine, TURKOVAC, which was released at the end of 2021.