

Name: Yansı Eraslan

Country: TURKEY

Policy Reform: Implementation of new Private Education Institutions Act (PEIA) No.5580

Implementation of New Private Instruction Institutions Act (PIIA) No.5580: Institutional Contexts for Policy Reform

Organizational /inter-organizational arena	What actors have access to this arena?	What “rules of the game” within the arena are particularly relevant to your policy reform?¹	What resources of power/influence are relevant in this arena?²	How important is this arena to the outcome of your policy reform?³
<p>Ministry of National Education (following the very recent passing of PEIA No.5580, the phase of preparing the related regulations and by-laws to complement the new law)</p>	<p>Mainly bureaucrat-driven apart from the Minister himself. Minister of National Education, Undersecretary, Deputy Undersecretaries, General Director of Private Education Institutions, Chairman of Board of Education. While not a direct member of the group, naturally, strong influence of Prime Minister from outside when he is willing to send messages prior or after agenda-setting or building a policy.</p>	<p>Consensus building including the “personal” preferences of the Minister and, to some extent, the Undersecretary (current Minister is the student of Undersecretary from college years; so the latter has a fair amount of personal leverage on the former). Conservative and status quotic traditions of the Ministry greatly influence virtually all ministers; hence, the unwritten rule is the persuasion of the Ministry bureaucracy. No reform has any chance of realization without the persuasion of institutionalized civil service,</p>	<p>Strong ties with mainstream media; therefore, the ability for - so to speak- social engineering or the manipulation of educational community, depending on the lenses of the reader. Strong experiential capital of staff; thus, strong technical (educational) arguments. Very strong financial resources (the governmental agency with the highest budget). Strong network/connections with conservative NGOs. As</p>	<p>High. No action can be taken on the implementation of the new law without the consent, persuasion, and/or will of this group. Unless the group provides a decentralized climate and produces liberal by-laws which would leave many daily educational decisions at the discretion of the schools, many parts of the law would have been overshadowed thanks to the -probably deliberate-</p>

¹ For example, majority vote wins, political “friends” receive priority treatment, military considers itself arbiter of civilian politics, presidential preferences usually win, congressional committees have considerable power over legislation, etc.

² For example, the ability to sway public opinion, the ability to make a good technical argument, the use of money for campaign contributions, ability to put together winning coalitions, the capacity to appoint supporters to important positions, having enough money to use for bribes, etc.

³ High, medium, low. Explain.

Name: Yansı Eraslan

Country: TURKEY

Policy Reform: Implementation of new Private Education Institutions Act (PEIA) No.5580

		<p>which is more like Indian system (as compared to Mexican <i>sexenio</i>). Long-standing affiliation of the Minister with the religious groups might bring priority treatment for faith-based foundations' schools, in particular, during the agenda-setting stage of regulations. Indirect, yet strong influence of military on major policy changes, mainly because of its concerns on strengthening religious groups and the increasing number of private schools of those groups, arising from military's republican and secularistic values. Critical: Federal Court of Appeals has the final say no matter if the regulations are the product of the Ministry; indeed, in various cases, the Court annulled Ministry's by-laws.</p>	<p>many public and private figures, including Ministers, judges, journalists, have many teachers around them (total nation-wide population exceeds 600,000), teacher appointments for the most-desired schools are used as a leverage (could also be seen as some sort of a political bribe).</p>	<p>vaguenesses. Such a deficiency would render the new law an ineffective legislation and cause the legislative success (of creating a new law after 42 years) to end up with inefficacy.</p>
<p>Ministry of Finance (PEIA No.5580 includes a</p>	<p>Prime Minister, Minister and similar to the first arena, many bureaucrats, such as Undersecretary, General</p>	<p>Consensus building with quite some impact of the Minister. General Director of Income has been generally</p>	<p>The main resource of influence is the traditional weight of Finance Ministry within the public</p>	<p>High. The mindset and decisions of this group directly influence all</p>

Name: Yansı Eraslan

Country: TURKEY

Policy Reform: Implementation of new Private Education Institutions Act (PEIA) No.5580

<p>number of financial issues that require Ministry of Finance to reregulate or rephrase some of its internal directives binding for all private institutions)</p>	<p>Director of Income. Thanks to personal relationships and, to some extent, mutual dependence and connectedness, indirect access of various private sector organizations, such as Turkish Private Schools Association, Union of Chambers of Commerce, Industry, Maritime Trade and Commodity Exchanges of Turkey (TOBB), and Turkish Industrialists' and Businessmen's Association (TÜSİAD).</p>	<p>very influential with his/her respected bureaucratic background. The Ministry is arguably one of the most orthodox public agencies among the governmental organizations and, hence, it is a very challenging task to extract private sector favoring decisions. IMF-supported economic program makes it even harder to materialize business-friendly tax decisions (reduction or deduction) as the Ministry's motivation is budget success (increasing revenue and/or spending control). A debatable belief (not a direct rule, though) could be the traditionally business-averse attitude of this Ministry vis-à-vis private sector. Some bureaucrats have an implicit feeling against business owners with the prejudice that businesses do their best to be as parsimonious as possible with their tax and other liabilities.</p>	<p>agencies. The fact that all the governmental organizations must persuade the Finance bureaucracy provides a tremendous influence. Members of this group have a very strong loyalty to the "State"; each Turkish Lira spent has been the concern of those with high integrity and commitment (to the State). Very close ties with media as the media bosses have somewhat dependence on the Ministry. Even if the Prime Minister or a minister gives a commitment to the constituents, the bureaucrats of the Ministry often find a way to convince the politicians, mainly thanks to their expertise and political savvy to manipulate the complex situations. Increasing credit on the</p>	<p>financial issues for businesses; thus, a financial relief -as implicitly included in the new law- for private schools and private school parents (such as governmental assistance) arising from the implementation of the new law will first and foremost depend on the persuasion of them. Complication: This arena internationalizes a domestic issue since virtually all financial policies and changes are closely scrutinized by IMF and foreign investors.</p>
--	---	--	--	--

Name: Yansı Eraslan

Country: TURKEY

Policy Reform: Implementation of new Private Education Institutions Act (PEIA) No.5580

			part of IMF and international financial arena (because of budget performance successes over the last five years) helps them to be able to maintain an upright stance with even more power.	
--	--	--	--	--

Definitions: **Institutions** are the “rules of the game” that shape social, political, and economic interactions (see Douglass North, 1991, for more on this definition). Institutions can be a set of rules like those found in a constitution, a regulatory or trade regime, a political regime, executive-judicial relations, elections, a political party system, a civil service system, etc. They can also be common ways of doing things, such as clientelism or various forms of corruption. **Organizational/Interorganizational arenas** are where such rules are exercised, such as in a parliament, a ministry, an independent regulatory body, or in the interactions among such organizations.

© Yansı Eraslan