Centre for Turkish Studies

• Start in May 2011

• Expertise network among various faculties (Arts and Humanities; Political and Social Sciences; Law) and associated institutions of higher education.

• Turkish studies = Turkish language, culture, history and society

• 3 pillars: research – education – community service
Research

• Integrating existing research on Turkey at UGent,
  ▪ E.g., archeological excavations Pessinus (Sivrihisar), 30 years
  ▪ E.g., study of ancient Cappadocian languages

• New PhD project: Image of Ottoman empire in medieval Western Europe

• New PhD proposals in history, political science, ...
Education

• Minor Turkish Language (and Culture) = package of courses, accessible to students from various faculties.

• Master dissertations on Turkish Studies

• Guest lectures from international experts, including from Turkey (e.g. Prof. S. Faroqhi – Bilgi University Istanbul).
Academic community service

• Contribution to accurate information on Turkey

• Outreach to Turkish community in Ghent, Flanders and Belgium

• Extra asset to improve inflow of students from Turkish immigrant community.

• Work in progress: module on Ottoman history for secondary schools.
Activities

• Two Academic Symposia
• Seminar on Evliya Celebi and concert (Brussels)
• Seminar on EU-Turkey accession talks (2 times)
• Lecture of Turkish Minister of EU Affairs, Egemen Bagis, and Q&A
• Lecture with Ayse Kulin on her book “Nefes Nefese”
• Mission of the Rector of Ghent University to Turkey (Ankara, Istanbul, Corum)
• 2014: 50 years Turkish immigration in Belgium
• 2015: Turkey’s presidency of the Group of 20 (G20)
Cooperation

• Erasmus
• Cooperation with over 30 Turkish universities
• Protocol with Yunus Emre Institute
• Cooperation with Turkish authorities and business
• Named professorship
• Ambition to become gateway for all academic cooperation between Ghent University and Turkey.