

## **A Review of Historical Development of Student Selection and Placement for Higher Education in Turkey**

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### **ABSTRACT**

A central exam with objective criteria in student selection and placement for higher education in Turkey had not been applied until 1960s. Each higher education institution used to conduct its own exam according to the demand density. No exams were made when the applications were sometimes below the available capacity. In the 1960s, there were so many applications to higher education institutions that it exceeded the existing capacity. Upon the increase in the number of graduates from secondary education, the number of students who want to enroll in higher education increased, and thus some efforts were made to generate an examination that was acceptable by everyone, based on objective criteria, central, equal, fair, and economical, except for the oral and/or written exams of higher education institutions. In conclusion, the “Interuniversity Student Selection and Placement Center (ISSPC)” was established in 1974 so as to conduct exams for student selection and placement in higher education institutions. So, the student selection and placement exams for higher education gained a central quality based on the principles of assessment and evaluation. In this context, it is aimed to show the historical development of the student selection and placement process in higher education in Turkey in this study, which was carried out using document analysis method.

**Key words:** Higher Education, Student, Selection, Placement.

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### **INTRODUCTION**

Selection, which takes place in all areas of life, becomes even more important when it is considered in the field of education. Whereas the selection exams are generally held when the number of applicants is above the current capacity/quota of the educational institution, they sometimes could also be conducted among those with special qualifications determined by the institution, without capacity/quota limitation. The general and special abilities, general culture, affective behavior, psycho-motor skills of the applicants, and their knowledge level are assessed in the exams. In this respect, initially, it is necessary to determine the purpose of the selection examination and the characteristics of the candidates to be assessed. When it comes to higher education, the importance of these selection exams increases even more.

Until the 1950s, the quota of higher education institutions in Turkey was able to meet the number of applicants (Ozguven, 1972). A village-oriented education approach adopted in the first years of the Republic mostly led to the training of students and teachers at primary and secondary levels. In this context, the scarcity of students to enter higher education caused an application to be lower than the quota for existing universities and faculties. Therefore, no selection exam was applied for student placement to higher education.

After 1950, the change in village education-oriented policies, the formation of an education policy for the cities, and the increase in the number of graduates from secondary education institutions (high school) increased the number of applications to universities and faculties. Since there was an increase in the number of higher education institutions and student placement rates in this period, they became unable to meet the applications of high school graduates, whose number was expressed in tens of thousands (Payaslioglu, 1985). Moreover, the fact that the universities and faculties administered exams independently, and that it was not possible for the candidates to be placed in appropriate departments in the current system, made it necessary to have an equal, fair, and central examination system with objective criteria. For this reason, the establishment of a well-equipped institution to conduct this central examination came to the fore. So, “Interuniversity Student Selection and Placement Center (ISSPC)” was established in 1974. This institution, which continues with the name of “Assessment, Selection, and Placement Center (ASPC)” at present time, has turned into an institution that can design exams at every level for every institution, beyond being an institution that selects and places students for higher education.

The limited number of studies on the historical development of the process of student selection and placement in

higher education in Turkey has made this study important. Because the history of ISSPC is given as much as it is related to the Council of Higher Education (CoHE). However, the history of ISPPC is older. Its institutional structure and functioning are different. In this context, it is aimed to contribute to the field by showing the historical process of student selection and placement in higher education in Turkey.

## METHOD

The sources of data for this study are the decisions of the Interuniversity Board, the official gazette and archive documents. These documents were obtained from the National Library of Turkey and second-hand booksellers. Document analysis from qualitative methods was used for the analysis of the obtained data. Direct observation and interview. It is a method in which written and visual materials related to the problem are examined in studies where there is no opportunity (Yildirim & Simsek, 2019). With this method, written texts containing information about the facts and events aimed to be investigated were analyzed.

## FINDINGS

### **Student Selection and Placement for Higher Education until the Establishment of ISSPC**

In the 19<sup>th</sup> century, as in every field in the Ottoman Empire, new higher education institutions were established within the scope of westernization attempts in the field of education. One of them was “Mekteb-i Mulkiye (Faculty of Political Sciences, Ankara University at present)” which was established in 1859 in Istanbul. As of its establishment, because it paid attention to quality, this institution chose their students through classical type exams, both written and oral, although there was no quota limit (Ayas, 1948; Cankaya, 1954).

Even though “Dar’ul-Funun”, which is accepted as the first university in modern sense in the Ottoman Empire, started its activities in 1863, it was closed several times for some reasons and reopened with names of “Dar’ul-Funun-u Sahane” and “İstanbul Dar’ul-Fununu” (Saray, 1996). The teachers working in this institution, which took students without an examination upon entry, designed some evaluations to verify these students’ competence at higher education level. Thereupon The Ministry of Education started to apply a qualification exam to the students who graduated from secondary education institutions (RGE, 1869). The students who succeeded in these exams were able to get the right to enroll in “Dar’ul-Funun”.

As in every field, radical changes were experienced in the field of education during the Republic period. The “İstanbul Dar’ul-Funun” at the period of the Ottoman was closed as of July 31, 1933 with the law number 2252 and the date of May 31, 1933, and the “İstanbul University” was established under the Ministry of Education on August 1, 1933 as its replacement (Official Gazette, June 6, 1933/2420). According to the “Universities Law” dated June 13, 1946 and numbered 4936, whereas the universities and faculties not affiliated to a university to be opened were established by a

law, the opening of faculties and schools within universities, the merger or abolition of faculties or schools were established with the proposal by the senates of universities and the approval of the Minister of National Education. Within the scope of this law, an “Interuniversity Council” consisting of the rectors and deans of each university and one representative each from among the members of the senate chosen for two years was established under the chairmanship of the Minister of National Education, which was considered as the head of the universities and responsible for the supervision and management of the universities. This council was a committee that convened at a place where the Minister of National Education would require it and had to proceed in accordance with this law and decided on the works given to it (Official Gazette, June 18, 1946, 6336).

The low number of students who wanted to be students in higher education in the first years of the Republic prevented the scarcity of higher education institutions from being a problem. Therefore, the higher education institutions accepted students without examination, with some exceptions. Selection of students to the higher education institutions was initially carried out in high schools by the Ministry of National Education and later by higher education institutions themselves. In this respect, in the first years, senior students took the “High School Graduation Exam”, which was conducted orally from all high school courses. Those who passed the exam were considered as high school graduates and had the right to apply to any faculty they wanted. In the following years, a double examination system called as “High School Graduation Exam” and “State Matura Exam” was applied. Whereas those who passed the “High School Graduation Exam” of these exams became high school graduates, those who passes the “State Matura Exam” could enroll in the faculty they wanted. In 1955, these two exams were combined with the name of “State High School Exam” (Ayas, 1948; Ozguven, 1972).

Apart from the exams conducted by the Ministry of National Education, some higher education institutions continued to make their own exams, and the exams were started to be held by the applied higher education institutions in the 1960s. While some faculties took the order of application into account, some faculties registered the graduates from the science or literature branches of high schools, considering the quality of their education (Ozguven, 1972). Some faculties took the high school graduation degree as a criterion. Among the applicants, they first chose those with high degrees, then those who graduated with good and intermediate degrees.

The classical type of written and/or oral selection exams that higher education institutions initially performed were replaced by the exams conducted with objective tests. This situation enabled the exams to be centralized and developed in terms of quality over time (Mihcioglu, 1969). In the beginning, such faculties as Ankara University Faculty of Political Sciences implemented their own exams, and later, the registration and exam procedures were carried out by the universities, and finally, more than one university came together to establish a centralized system and to conduct the student selection examination from a single source.

The first objective test practice for placement to the university in Turkey was carried out in Istanbul University between the years of 1951 and 1953. In Middle East Technical University, objective tests were continuously applied in the selection of students for the university as of 1959. In the 1961-1962 academic year, in the placement examinations of the Faculty of Political Sciences of Ankara University, objective tests were also implemented in addition to the classical tests applied since its establishment in 1859 (Ozguven, 1972).

In 1962, a central examination system covering all faculties of Ankara University was developed by a commission headed by Prof. Dr. Cemal Mihcioglu, one of the faculty members in the Faculty of Political Sciences in Ankara University. In this respect, it was ensured that the candidates applied to the registration center of the University, not to the faculties, that they indicated which department of the faculty they preferred in their application, that the examinations were carried out as a single exam with the objective test technique, and that the scores of the candidates were evaluated together with the preferences, thus determining which faculty or department the candidates would be admitted to (Mihcioglu, 1969).

Upon the success of this practice in Ankara University, Interuniversity Council meeting on April 26, 1963 provided the establishment of a commission consisting of representatives from Ankara, Istanbul, Ege, and Istanbul Technical University so as to investigate the issue of the extension of the student selection and placement system implemented at Ankara University to all universities in Turkey. The recommendation decision of this commission on May 24, 1963 regarding the need of a central system in higher education placement was approved by the "Interuniversity Council". And then, a regulation named as "Regulation for Interuniversity Registration and Admission Examination" was prepared. The relevant regulation was accepted by the "Interuniversity Council" on December 26, 1963. The central system was established with its publication in the Official Gazette dated February 5, 1964 and numbered 11625. The articles of this regulation are presented below:

Article 1 — An "Interuniversity Admission Examination Commission" was established to regulate and conduct candidate registration and admission exams for faculties and colleges affiliated to universities.

Article 2 — The Examination Commission consists of one member to be elected for two years by the Senate of each university that accepts the central registration and entrance examination system.

Article 3 — The members of the commission elect one of them as the "General Manager". The General Manager implements the decisions taken by the commission. At the same time, s/he chairs the commission.

Article 4 — The Interuniversity Admission Examination Commission: a) determines the principles regarding the execution of the candidate registration. b) specifies the procedures to be followed in the preparation, implementation, and evaluation of the results of admission exams and may cooperate with the relevant institutions in this regard.

Article 5 — The number of students to be accepted for the next academic year by the faculties and colleges

affiliated to the universities applying the central registration and admission examination system is notified to the head of the commission by the relevant universities in the first half of April.

Article 6 — The admission exams are held at the beginning of the summer holiday on a date deemed appropriate by the Commission.

Article 7 — No diploma or a substitute document is required from those who apply for candidate registration. However, the candidates who have passed the exam must have the required diploma or a document substitutive for the diploma in order to be able to make their final registration.

Article 8 — The admission exams are conducted through the test method. Their score status, the order followed by the candidates when making a choice between educational institutions, and the quotas of these institutions are taken into consideration in the separation of the candidates into various faculties, departments, and schools.

Article 9 — Registration and acceptance conditions of foreign candidates are not subject to the above principles. The conditions for accepting these students are determined by the relevant faculty or college.

Article 10 — The commission is authorized to take the necessary decisions about the issues related to the exams that are not specified in this Regulation.

Article 11 — Participation of other universities and colleges in the central registration and admission examination system is kept open. The acceptance of the university or college requesting participation is decided by the Commission. Institutions participating in the system send a representative to the Commission.

Article 12 — The university to which the interuniversity admission examination commission will be affiliated is determined by the Interuniversity Council every other year.

Article 13 — This Regulation becomes valid on the date of its publication.

This regulation has an important function in centralizing the process of student selection and placement for higher education. Ankara, Istanbul, Ege, Ataturk, and Karadeniz Technical Universities and Ankara Economic and Commercial Sciences Academy were included in the first "Interuniversity Registration and Admission Examination" system in 1964. Afterwards, Hacettepe University, Istanbul Technical University, and Middle East Technical University joined this system.

The first "Interuniversity Registration and Admission Examination" dated 1964-1965 was held on Thursday, July 9 and Friday, July 10, 1964, as a general competition by test method. Whereas such tests as "Ability of Mind", "Social Sciences (Sociology, Psychology, Social Issues, History, Mathematics at the level of Literature branch)", and "Foreign Language (English, French, German)" were applied in the first exam on July 9, 1964, "Science Test (Mathematics, Physics, Chemistry)" was applied in the exam on July 10, 1964. The applicant candidates were not required to have a high school diploma and to have completed high school at that time. However, on the condition that they won, they had to graduate from high school in order to enroll (IAECP, 1964).

### **Student Selection and Placement for Higher Education from ISSPC to SSPC**

The process of student selection and placement in higher education, where the central examination system was applied as of 1964, was in the form of applications, registrations, preparation of exam questions, and evaluation of the results. However, some problems such as the non-participation of all higher education institutions in the country, the evaluation of quotas, and the preferences of candidates emerged in this system (Mihcioglu, 1969; Dokmen, 1992). This situation caused abandonment of central placement in 1966. However, then, the higher education institutions could not fill their quotas, and students could not be placed in their preferences (Mihcioglu, 1974; Payaslioglu, 1985). Thus, based on the problems experienced in the process, efforts were made to eliminate the deficiencies of the central examination system. The university admission system, which was already controversial, became even more controversial upon the stealing of the questions of the "Interuniversity Admission Exam" held on July 6, 1973.

At the Interuniversity Council meeting dated September 21-22, 1973, a commission was established to examine the university admission problem, to regulate it, and to prepare the required regulations. This commission started to prepare a regulation for selection and placement in universities. This regulation was discussed in the Interuniversity Council on January 18-19, 1974. Such decisions as continuing the selection system in the academic year of 1974-1975 and establishing a central and permanent organization under the Interuniversity Council were taken to conduct studies on research, selection, and placement (GSIC, 1974). This regulation in the form of a draft was published under the name of "University Student Selection and Placement Center Regulation" in the Official Gazette dated November 19, 1974 and numbered 15067 after the necessary studies were done. So, "Interuniversity Student Selection and Placement Center (ISSPC)" liable to "Interuniversity Council" was established, and the selection and placement process in higher education in Turkey became fully centralized. The articles of this regulation are provided below:

Article 1 — An institution with the name of "Interuniversity Student Selection and Placement Center" was established in order to organize and carry out the selection, ranking, and placement issues of those who have completed high school or other schools that will constitute the basis of higher education, and to conduct continuous research on this subject. The admission exam to universities and other higher education institutions is held by the "Interuniversity Student Selection and Placement Center". In accordance with the 2<sup>nd</sup> paragraph of Article 73 of the Universities Law, the registration fees are collected by this institution and deposited into the Fund account to be opened in T. R. Central Bank. The subjects related to the fund are carried out in accordance with the provisions of the "Regulation on the Interuniversity Council, University Admission Exam Registration Fee Fund".

Article 2 — The Interuniversity Student Selection and Placement Center acts as a responsible to the

Interuniversity Council. Higher Education Institutions other than universities can also become a member of the Center. Headquarter of the institution is in Ankara.

Article 3 — The decision-making body of the Interuniversity Student Selection and Placement Center is the "Executive Board" consisting of five members. The Chairman and members of the Executive Board are elected for three years by the Interuniversity Council, five of them principal and three alternates, from among at least three candidates to be nominated by the most authorized bodies of universities in Ankara. The meeting quorum in the Executive Board is three.

Article 4 — The main duties of the Executive Board are as follows: a) To determine the principles regarding the selection of students to enter universities and their placement in relevant educational institutions; b) To explore the possibilities of the student selection and placement system to better meet future needs; c) To determine the cadres of the administrative, technical, and service personnel of the organization, the employment principles and wages of the contracted ones; d) To prepare the income and expense budget of the Center and to submit it to the Interuniversity Council for approval; e) To take the necessary decisions on the issues related to the duty and working order of the center which are not clearly stated in this regulation.

Article 5 — The Executive Body of the Interuniversity Student Selection and Placement Center is the Board Chairman. The Board Chairman is deemed on leave to the extent required by the University to which he is affiliated. The main duties of the chairman are: a) To chair the Executive Board and the General Assembly; b) To submit the Regulations prepared by the Executive Board to the Interuniversity Council for approval; c) To appoint experts and clerks who will carry out the technical and office services of the Interuniversity Student Selection Center; d) To ensure that the management and research issues of the center are carried out regularly.

Article 6 — Student Selection and Placement Advisory Board can be established with the decision of the Interuniversity Council. The Advisory Board consists of a representative to be elected for two years by the most authorized bodies of all Universities and Higher Education Institutions that are members of the Center. The Advisory Board convenes under the chairmanship of the Board Chairman and upon his invitation. The Advisory Board discusses the issues to be presented by the Board Chairman and makes recommendations.

Article 7 — This Regulation becomes valid on the date of its publication.

Article 8 — The provisions of this regulation are executed by the Chairman of the Interuniversity Council.

In accordance with Article 3 of the ISSPC Regulation, at the meeting of the Interuniversity Board dated November 21-22, 1974, with the determination of the permanent and alternate members of the Board of the Center, ISSPC started to work under the chairmanship of Prof. Dr. Altan Gunalp (GSIC, 1975).

While the studies for the preparation of the regulation were continuing, the first central examination with the name of "Interuniversity Selection Examination (ISE)"

was administered under the responsibility of Hacettepe University on July 5, 1974, in two sessions, one-stage, morning and afternoon. Final year students at high schools or equivalent schools, students who could graduate that year, and the graduate T.R. Turkish citizens and Cypriot citizens could take this exam. The examination was administered in 15 provinces in Turkey, Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus, New York, and West Germany (in two places). Such tests as "Science", "Social Sciences", "General Ability", and "Foreign Language" were applied to the candidates. The maximum number of higher education programs that the candidates could choose was determined as 30. It was left to the decision of the relevant institutions to admit students to the programs whose quotas were not filled at the end of the registration process based on the results of the central placement process. In addition to ISE, special talent exams or interviews were conducted for the candidates who would study in some fields of higher education institutions that required special skills such as fine arts or sports. They established the necessary examination commissions for this special talent exam, which was carried out independently from the ISSPC.

In 1976, ISE started to be held as a single session, and the number of programs that candidates could choose was determined as 20. In 1977, the number of programs to be chosen by the candidates was 18. In 1981, the central examination system was changed. The name of the exam was changed to "Interuniversity Selection and Placement Exam (ISPE)" and had two stages. Whereas the first stage of the ISPE was held in April under the name of "Interuniversity Selection Examination (ISE)", the second stage with the name of "Interuniversity Placement Exam (IPE)" was held in June (ISSPC, 1980). The first stage, the ISE, consisted of tests including verbal and numerical questions. The candidates who scored a certain score or more from this first stage were able to take the second stage exam by stating their preferences for the department they wanted to enroll in. IPE, which was the second stage exam, consisted of five different tests such as "Science", "Mathematics", "Turkish", "Social Sciences", and "Foreign Language". The number of programs that the candidates could choose was determined as 18.

### **Student Selection and Placement for Higher Education from ISSPC to Today**

All universities in Turkey are affiliated to Council of Higher Education (CoHE) which was established with Law No. 2547 of November 4, 1981 (the Official Gazette on November 6, 1981/17506). The duty, establishment, and functioning of the Student Selection and Placement Center established under Article 10 of this law are defined as follows:

The Student Selection and Placement Center determines the examination principles of students who will enter higher education institutions within the framework of the principles determined by the Council of Higher Education, prepares and conducts the exams, evaluates them according to the principles given by the Higher Education Council and exam results by taking the student requests into account, provides the placement of the student candidates to universities and other higher

education institutions, and conducts research on these activities. Registration and examination fees are charged to student candidates for selection and placement exams. These fees are collected in the Higher Education Council Student Selection and Placement Fund to be established. The authority of the fund is the Chairman of the Council of Higher Education. This fund is primarily used for student selection and placement services. The principles regarding revolving funds are applied in expenditures to be made from the fund and other financial issues. The management, operation, and control principles of the fund are determined by the Council of Higher Education. The amount residual from the fund at the end of each year is added to the fund of next year.

In this context, a "Student Selection and Placement Center (SSPC)" was established under CoHE for student selection and placement in universities. In the provisional article 27 of the same law that "*Interuniversity Student Selection and Placement Center is transferred and connected to the Council of Higher Education with the management of the Council of Higher Education, with its movable and immovable properties, all kinds of rights and obligations, personnel and staff*", statement is included. So all the powers and duties of ISSPC, which was operating under the Interuniversity Board as of 1974, passed under the control of SSPC, which was affiliated to CoHE. After these changes, Prof. Dr. Altan Gunalp who was the chairman of ISSPC became the first chairman of SSPC.

Within the scope of the law numbered 2547, a regulation named Student Selection and Placement Center Establishment, Operation and Task Regulation was published in the Official Gazette dated January 6, 1982 and numbered 17566 by the Council of Higher Education. The structure, duties, function, and application principles of the exams of the SSPC are included within the scope of this regulation. Regulations on student selection and placement took place in Article 9 with the title of "*Determination of the Principles Regarding Selection and Placement Procedures*" in which

*The Chairman submits his/her suggestions on the principles regarding selection and placement procedures to the Higher Education Council. The Center prepares the exams within the framework of the principles to be determined by the Council of Higher Education, ensures its implementation, evaluates other matters that will help the selection, carries out the selection and placement procedures by considering the preferences of the candidates and the quotas to be determined by the Higher Education Council considering the manpower planning and the capacities of the higher education institutions.*

In addition, in the 10<sup>th</sup> article titled "*Selection and Placement Exam Application Principles*"

*Conditions and rules regarding Student Selection and Placement Exams are determined each year in the exam guides, exam practice and administration instructions to be prepared by the Head of the Center. Candidates who will take the exam are obliged to comply with the provisions of this guide and directive. Candidates who do not fulfill this requirement will be deemed invalid, and their exam will be canceled.*

SSPC, which was established in 1981 for the purpose of student selection and placement, continued the examination system it took over from ISSPC. In 1983, the name of ISPE became “Student Selection and Placement Exam (SSPE)” based on SSPC. Whereas the first stage of this examination was called “Student Selection Examination (SSE)”, the second stage was referred to as “Student Placement Exam (SPE)”. Thus, while the scores of the candidates who could take the placement exam at the end of the first stage were formed, the candidates could be placed according to their preferences through the second stage.

Upon the regulation made in 1986, the examination system, selection, and placement were changed (SSPC, 1986). The tests in SPE consisted of three separate test groups: “Science and Engineering Sciences”, “Economic and Social Sciences”, and “Foreign Languages”. Each stage of the two-stage SSPE was turned into two separate exams. Accordingly, SSE results were used not only to select students who want to be placed in higher education programs, but also to enable the selected students to be placed in different programs. During this period, the candidates could choose a maximum of 24 programs for the programs that they could be placed with both SSE and SPE. Candidates could choose a maximum of 18 programs among the higher education programs that only accepted the students according to SSE or SPE results. They could choose the remaining 6 programs from the other program group.

In 1999, a single-stage examination system was applied instead of two-stage examination for student selection and placement for higher education (SSPC, 1999). In this context, placement was made with three types of scores, namely “Numerical”, “Verbal”, and “Equally Weighted”, with the addition of the secondary education achievement score to the SSE scores. For students who wanted to enter higher education programs with foreign language scores, a Foreign Language Exam (FLE) was held in English, French, and German at a later date, separate from the SSE. With article 2 of the law numbered 4702 and dated June 29, 2001, the students who graduated from vocational and technical secondary education institutions have been able to settle in vocational higher education schools that are the continuation of the program they graduated from or where the programs closest to it are applied without examination since 2002 (Official Gazette, July 10, 2001/24458).

In 2010, a two-stage multi-session examination system was introduced under the name of “Student Selection and Placement System (SSPS)”. In this context, the “Transition to Higher Education Exam (THEE) held in April was the first stage, and the “Undergraduate Placement Exam (UPE)” held in June was the second stage. Such tests as “Turkish”, “Social Sciences”, “Basic Mathematics”, and “Science” were applied in YGS (SSPC, 2010). In UPE, “Mathematics” and “Geometry” tests within UPE-1, “Physics”, “Chemistry”, and “Biology” tests under UPE-2, “Turkish Language and Literature” and “Geography” tests within UPE-3, “History”, “Geography-2”, and “Philosophy Group” tests within the scope of UPE-4, and “German”, “French”, and “English” tests within the scope of UPE-5 were applied.

In 2018, the name of the Student Selection and Placement Exam (SSPE) was changed to “Higher Education Institutions Examination (HEIE)”. This exam is one-stage, and the first session is administered as “Basic Proficiency Test (BPT)”, second session as “Field Proficiency Test (FPT)”, and optional third session as Foreign Language Test (FLT)” (SSPC, 2018). Whereas such tests as “Turkish”, “Social Sciences”, “Basic Mathematics”, and “Science” take place in BPT, the first session, “Turkish Language and Literature-Social Sciences-1”, “Social Sciences- 2”, “Mathematics”, and “Science” tests are included in FPT, the second session. In the third session, FLT, “German”, “Arabic”, “French”, “English”, and “Russian” tests take place.

## CONCLUSION

According to the results of the study, the centralization process of selection and placement exams for higher education starting in Turkey upon the regulation prepared by the “Interuniversity Council” as of 1964 has undergone several changes. The central examination process, which started with the establishment of the “Interuniversity Student Selection and Placement Center (ISSPC)” in 1974, continued as the “Student Selection and Placement Center (SSPC) established in 1981. After SSPC turned into an institution which not only prepared exams for student selection and placement for higher education but also organized examination of all the institutions in Turkey, its name was changed to “Assessment, Selection, and Placement Center (ASPC)” in 2011.

The first central examination, which started with ISSPC, has undergone some changes in terms of content in some periods according to changing and developing conditions. In this context, one-stage exams were held in some periods, two-stage exams were held in some periods, and the number of sessions of the exams at each stage was also changed.

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