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<th><strong>Project title</strong></th>
<th>Development of a Turkish Health Literacy Scale for Literate Adult Population in Turkey</th>
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<td><strong>Funding organization(s)</strong></td>
<td>Hacettepe University Scientific Research Projects Coordination Unit</td>
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<td><strong>Project no</strong></td>
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| **Budget** | 178,484.70 TL |
| **Start-finish date** | 27 Aug 2015-23 Feb 2018 |

**Project summary**

**Background:** Despite numerous health literacy scales adapted and used in Turkey, there is no scale that has been originally developed and validated at a national level. This study aimed to develop and validate a culturally appropriate health literacy scale to be used as a reference scale for the Turkish speaking, literate adult population.

**Method:** First phase of the scale development included review of current literature for widely used health literacy scales at the international level and adapted and/or locally developed scales in Turkey. Thereafter, two workshops with the participation of more than 20 experts from various disciplines were conducted and a large item pool was developed. The first draft of the scale was pre-tested with 20 adults, revised and pre-tested again in a household survey with randomly selected 150 adults from different socioeconomic levels in Ankara. The validity and reliability study of the revised scale was carried out with a household survey of 2466 adults in 12 randomly selected provinces from 12 different NUTS regions in Turkey. Data analysis was performed with 2411 adults after removing participants, who were categorized as “health workers” and the scale was finalized with the most valid and reliable items. This study was approved by the Hacettepe University (HU) Ethics Committee and supported by the HU Scientific Research Projects Coordination Unit.

**Results:** Study findings showed that HU-Health Literacy Scale (HU-SOY) can be used to assess health literacy of Turkish speaking, literate adults. Cronbach’s alpha for the two main
dimensions (“health protection and promotion” and “treatment and health services”) were 0.79 and 0.92, respectively. Related validity scores were found as follows; RMSEA=0.047, GFI=0.96, NFI=1 and AGFI=0.95. The scale includes “self-efficacy” as an additional/optional dimension with the following scores; Cronbach’s alpha=0.88, RMSEA=0.64, GFI=0.95, NFI=0.95 and AGFI=0.93.

**Conclusion:** Development of a health literacy scale, which is socially and culturally appropriate for Turkey will enable health decision-makers and researchers to make country-specific evaluations and provide researchers with the opportunity to have standard monitoring, evaluation, and comparison as well as development of health service provision, health promotion, education and communication interventions for the Turkish-speaking literate adults.

**Keywords:** Health literacy, scale, validity, reliability

### Scientific, technological, economic and social gains obtained or expected by the project

1) **Scientific Impact:**
   
a) The scale is expected to be used as a reference scale by researchers in Turkey in different research projects and/or masters/doctorate dissertations.

b) Wide usage of the scale will help the results of nation-wide health literacy studies to be comparable.

c) Even though the scale is intended to be specifically developed for Turkey, the scale can also be adopted in other countries, which has similar cultural, social and/or language characteristics. Therefore, the scale has the potential to be used at the international level.

d) Findings of different research studies using the scale will be shared as scientific publications (manuscripts, conference papers, books, etc.)

2) **Economic Impact:**
   
Use of the scale is expected to help to develop more cost-effective health services and programs in both public and private health sectors.

3) **Commercial Impact:**
   
Health literacy scales are widely used by private health service and/or medical product providers in developed countries and help providers understand the perception of end-users about their services and/or products, as well as help providers to develop interventions for efficient use of their services and/or products by end-users. The health literacy scale, which will be developed by this project, is expected to provide commercial gains for pharmaceutical and medical product companies in Turkey.

4) **Social Impact:**
   
The scale is expected to be used periodically to monitor health literacy level of Turkish adult population and to develop and evaluate programs, which aim to increase health literacy. These programs may help to implement more effective health promotion and health education interventions, as well as to improve communication between health professionals and health service users.