

## BIOGRAPHY



**SILA CEREN  
VARIS HUSAR**

Institute of Management STU

**Project number  
2351/03/03**

**Project duration  
11/2022 - 9/2025**

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*"My biggest expectation from this scholarship is to be able to conduct my research in my own academic field independently. As an early career female researcher, I think that finding a place for myself as a research fellow in the context of European Union's Horizon 2020 programme is the biggest chance for my professional growth so far. I am aware of the multiple benefits of this esteemed scholarship such as networking and mentoring for becoming a better fit for future positions. As the research is a lifelong ongoing process, I aspire that this training and supervising opportunity will be nurturing and rewarding for my career."*

Sila Ceren Varış Husar, PhD, completed her undergraduate and postgraduate studies at Middle East Technical University (METU) Faculty of Architecture Department of City and Regional Planning from 2009 to 2021. She got her bachelor's degree in 2013 and master's degree in 2016 at METU. She studied at the Vienna University of Technology, Austria, as part of the Erasmus+ Exchange program for two semesters (2014-2015) during her master's. She completed her PhD at METU Department of City and Regional Planning in November 2021. She is interested in the urban and regional topics, regional innovation, and economic, social, and spatial development. She, professionally, analyses the dynamics of the city and the regions through research and practices at different scales. The subjects she has been working on recently are industrial production patterns, the relationship of innovation with space and its effect on regional development. She pursues to do research in different contexts at urban and regional scales from all around the world.

*"After completing my doctoral research, I realized that one of the ways for me to continue my academic career is to develop ideas and projects that would dynamically produce solutions to current urban and regional problems through contributing to the relevant academic discourse. Continuing to do research in particular geography has a risk to hinder the extent of my knowledge, skills, and competences. To overcome this situation, I realized that it is more beneficial for me not only to do research by using national resources but also by finding on the opportunities at international grounds. Since the SASPRO 2 fellowship aims for supporting young academics on postdoctoral career development, in given conditions it motivated me to apply. I think that, as I also discussed in my dissertation, the unique characteristics of each place have an effective role in their future. Understanding the innovation dynamics of regions in Central and Eastern European countries, with specific focus on Slovakia, will help me to contribute to the future regional policies and to understand contexts beyond my country as well. This fund attracted me furthest with helping me to develop a sectoral perspective via collecting primary data and engaging with non-academic sectors."*

## PROJECT SUMMARY

### Regional Innovation Capacity Research

Regional Innovation Capacity Research/The regional economic performance has been largely affected by the combination of the existing knowledge in different ways, production, and absorption of the new knowledge, and transformation of all these into innovation in a region. These help regions to connect to national and even international economies. Disciplines as economics, regional science, and planning have been scrutinizing the relationship of innovation with space. One of the main determinants of regional innovation is the knowledge base in the region. This project aims to scrutinize the regional innovation capacity of regions at NUTS 3 level in Slovakia and neighbouring Central and Eastern European countries in terms of sectors, employment and human capital. Secondary data obtained from public institutions, primarily the National Statistical Institution of Slovakia, OECD and Eurostat can be used within the extent of the research. Both local and global statistical models are subject to analysis. Local statistical models created with components that positively affect regional innovation show that geographical location has a varying effect on innovation outputs, specific to the provinces of Turkey (Varış, 2021) and the aim of the project is to replicate the conceptual model and test it in Central Europe characteristic by several smaller countries and vast regional differences. This research proposes the development of regional innovation policies primarily in Slovakia with the help of the spatial and statistical analysis of local dynamics through both global and local models. These analyses are assumed to be based on the forms of production in the regions, the technology, knowledge, and R&D intensities of the sectors and people. The research will contribute to the discussions in the field of regional innovation and regional disparities and will create practical interventions for the regional policy in Slovakia and neighboring countries.



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## PUBLICATIONS

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<https://iopscience.iop.org/article/10.1088/1757-899X/245/8/082008/pdf>
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<https://epub.oeaw.ac.at/?arp=0x0036e00f>
3. Buldaç, M., Varış, S. C., Karaoğlu Can, M. (2020). An Evaluation of the Symbolic Meaning of Tile Usage in the City of Kütahya. ICONARCH IV-International Congress of Architecture and Planning-Space and Process, pp.601-620.  
<https://iconarch.ktun.edu.tr/index.php/iconarch/article/view/277>
4. Varış, S. C. (2022). Kentsel Kamusal Mekanın Birimden Bütüne Toplumsal Buluşmayı Sağlaması Üzerine Örnek Olay İncelemeleri: Madrid ve Barcelona Örnekleri. In Buldaç, M., and Can, M. K. (2022). Birimden Bütüne İnterdisipliner Tasarım Yaklaşımları, pp. 164-182. İKSAD Publishing House. ISBN: 978-625-8423-94-5  
[www.researchgate.net/publication/358235563\\_Kentsel\\_Kamusal\\_Mekanin\\_Birimden\\_Butune\\_Toplumsal\\_Bulusmayi\\_Saglamasi\\_Uzerine\\_Ornek\\_Olay\\_Incelemeleri\\_Madrid\\_ve\\_Barselona\\_Ornekleri](http://www.researchgate.net/publication/358235563_Kentsel_Kamusal_Mekanin_Birimden_Butune_Toplumsal_Bulusmayi_Saglamasi_Uzerine_Ornek_Olay_Incelemeleri_Madrid_ve_Barselona_Ornekleri)

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