

NETWORK ANALYSIS OF SAMSUN INNOVATION ECOSYSTEM

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This research is about “to explain the features of Samsun innovation ecosystem network through social network analysis.”

The purpose is “to draft Samsun Innovation Ecosystem Network Map and with social network mapping.”

Keywords: Innovation, Innovation Ecosystem, Social Network Analysis, Network Mapping, Samsun

The main question is what are the features of Samsun innovation ecosystem network and/or how is the Samsun innovation ecosystem network explained?

This research is the first, but not last, academic study which combines theoretical and practical perspectives on innovation ecosystem network analysis in provincial level in Turkey.

Having reviewed the **previous studies** and **theoretical background** from the researchers such as Freeman C. and Luc S., Curley M.G., Moore C.F., Gomes L.A., Dedehayir O., Burt R.S. and Barabasi A.L. for the concept of Innovation Network and Ecosystem Analysis.

As a methodology specified **geographical coverage** as Samsun, **population of reference** as 20 among 66 regional actors, selected **snowball technique** as a **data collection** (between 22 April 2021 and 16 June 2021) method because of the limited time and global pandemic.

This research was prepared under the **limitations** of **geographical coverage** of Samsun, **tool of Gephi** for network analysis and **exclusion of private sector companies** from the sample group.

The findings of this study are that

- Samsun has a **great infrastructure** in human capital of researchers and interface institutions although **not having great performances in private sector**.
- For the **result-oriented performance**, there is a need for a stronger university-industry cooperation model on a city scale so, this cooperation will both support the university and contribute to the holistic development of the province in the medium and long term.

