

## **A RESEARCH ON SOCIOECONOMIC INDICATORS FOR BETTER UNDERSTANDING THE MOTIVATORS OF THE FELLOW COUNTRYMEN ASSOCIATIONS IN BURSA**

Melek Gokmeydan<sup>1</sup>, Ahmet Ozgur Dogru<sup>2</sup>, Dursun Zafer Seker<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Istanbul Technical University, ITU Graduate School, Geomatics Engineering Program, Maslak 34469, Istanbul, Turkey ([gokmeydan17@itu.edu.tr](mailto:gokmeydan17@itu.edu.tr))

<sup>2</sup> Istanbul Technical University, Faculty of Civil Engineering, Department of Geomatics Engineering, Maslak 34469, Istanbul, Turkey ([ozgur.dogru@itu.edu.tr](mailto:ozgur.dogru@itu.edu.tr)), ([seker@itu.edu.tr](mailto:seker@itu.edu.tr))

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### **ABSTRACT**

Turkey has been experiencing a rapid urbanization process since the 1950s. In the 1950s, 75% of the population lived in the city and district centers and this rate has reached 92%. Regional disparities in provided public services in urban and rural areas across the country promoted domestic migration from agricultural to industrial cities with better living conditions. As a result of the increase in received migration, the urban population exploded and the immigrant population had problems in adaptation to the urban lifestyle due to the precipitous differences in the socio-economic structure of the urban and rural. The exclusion of the immigrant population by the urbanites in many ways, in other words, their inability to integrate with the urban population caused them to seek solidarity among themselves and they established organizations. This organization, which is still active today, is "fellow countrymen associations", which are non-governmental organizations. In this study, the distribution of citizen associations operating in the province of Bursa by districts and the tendency of those from which provinces to establish associations in which districts and their relation with the socio-economic development of the districts were revealed. For this purpose, the development of Fellow Countrymen Associations as a civil society organization was firstly examined in Turkey. Secondly, the distribution of non-governmental organizations in Bursa province according to their fields of activity in the districts was determined and an answer was introduced for exploring the diversity of their activity fields based on the socio-economic development indicators. Finally, the distribution of the fellow countrymen associations has been examined in Bursa specifically and the relations with the development of the districts are tried to be revealed by the use of geo-information technologies. The main findings of the study presented the relationship between the total number of immigrants received from the same origin and the total number of the established association. It is seen that people from Eastern and Black Sea regions such as Erzurum, Muş, Samsun, Artvin, and Ardahan mostly reside outside of Bursa province. A striking result is that in the central districts of Bursa, the population that migrated from the surrounding districts or villages has also established fellow citizens' associations. It has been observed that these associations are concentrated in the district of Osmangazi. On the other hand, it is observed that the associations in the Yildirim district have been established by people from the Eastern and Black Sea districts, while the number of associations in the Nilufer district is less and has a more homogeneous distribution.

### **1. INTRODUCTION**

Urbanization has emerged due to economic development and industrialization. With the mechanization process experienced in agriculture in rural areas, the labor force needed in rural areas has decreased. At the same time, the need for labor in the urban areas has increased with the start of the industrialization process in the cities and the development of other economic activities. The unemployed population in rural areas started to migrate to urban areas. In this context, an "urbanize" process has begun in those who migrated from rural areas to urban areas. It would be more meaningful to explain the concept of urbanization beforehand without explaining the concept of urbanization. Social change and integration processes constitute a part of urbanization. In this process, while human relations are rearranged, relationships are also established based on the balance of interests. Urbanization refers to the "adaptation" and "integration" process of urbanization (Acar and Kazancik, 2017; Sahnagil and Guler, 2019).

The population, who migrated from the rural areas to the city, had difficulties adapting to the economic and social structure of the city. They encountered problems such as finding a job, being accepted by the people living in the city, and housing (Özkiraz and Acungil, 2012). The exclusion of the immigrant population by the urbanites in many ways, in other words,

their inability to integrate with the urban population caused them to seek solidarity among themselves and they established organizations. This organization, which is still active today, is "fellow countrymen associations", which is a non-governmental organization. It functions as a buffer institution in the adaptation process of those who come to the city through these associations (Özkiraz and Acungil, 2012).

Looking at the process of urbanization and migration in Turkey was held very slowly until 1950. Especially, since it would be difficult to cope with the problems that may arise as a result of the migration of the rural population to the city in the first years of the republic, it was aimed to keep the rural population in place. Policies aimed at spreading industrial activities in many provinces can be shown as an indicator of this. In the 1950s, the disintegration resulting from structural transformations in rural areas caused an intense immigration wave toward cities. At the beginning of 1950, Turkey's agriculture benefited from the Marshall Plan have occurred as a result of rapid mechanization and led to the rapid migration of the population living in rural areas. According to the 1950 census, 75% of the country's population lived in rural areas and 25% in cities. This situation is among the difficulties of this process, where the rural population constitutes a large part of the society and a large part of this population migrates to cities and adapts to urban life (Teksen, 2003; Kaya, 2020).

The concept of fellow countrymen emerged as a result of migration and urbanization. Countrymen awareness is more developed in immigrants. With the rapid development of urbanization, individuals faced with the problem of adapting to the city started to establish groups that will bear the name of the regions they come from. Citizenship is very important in solidarity networks where people immigrating from the same region come together in one area and share common values, take care of each other and feel safe. The feeling of cooperation and solidarity of those who migrated from rural areas appear as fellow countrymen associations in the city. Countrymen, in short, is the state of being from the same region, province, or district among individuals. It avoids kinship relationships and is thought to be completely fictional. According to TDK, the concept of "fellow countrymen" is expressed as native. According to another definition, it is defined as "a social status generally attributed to each other by those who come from the same village, district, province or region". It can be said that in places where there is more immigration and where there is more immigration, dialogues between citizens are developed (Yakar, 2013; Cengiz, 2017; Oksuz, 2018).

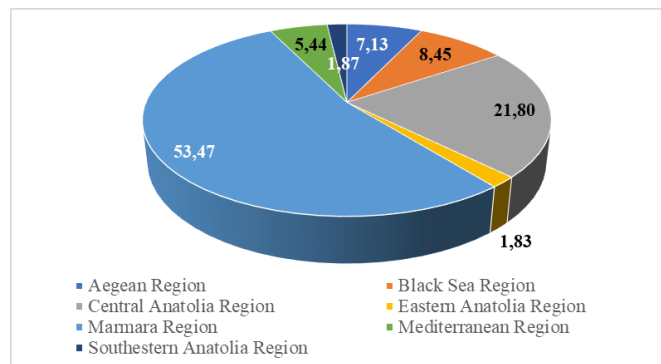


Figure 1: Distribution of fellow countrymen associations by region (siviltoplum.gov.tr)

One of the main reasons why immigrants go to their acquaintances first stems from the notion that they do not feel alone in their new destination and that they will be helped when needed. This situation paves the way for the establishment of "local solidarity associations" of immigrants from the same region. Through associations, awareness of solidarity, cooperation, and fellow citizenship is developed, while on the other hand, it is ensured that their customs, traditions, and customs continue. Fellow countrymen associations do not have a legal difference from other non-governmental organizations in terms of the establishment. The legal framework enabling the establishment of citizen associations is the "Associations Law" or the "Foundations Law". These are the laws that also apply to the establishment of other associations. Countrymen associations generally keep country-specific values alive. As mentioned above, they are established to provide social solidarity and cooperation among citizens. Associations can be a good tool to act together and overcome problems. On the other hand, fellow countrymen associations create an environment that will allow migrants to maintain their lifestyles by preserving their rural life values. It can be said that by preserving their behavior patterns in rural areas and being in solidarity with people who are similar to their behavioral patterns, it can be said that

the urbanization process is delayed. Looking at the breakdown by region of hometown associations established in Turkey is seen that most of the associations are in the Marmara region with 53.47%. This is the Central Anatolia region with 21.80%; the Black Sea with 8,45%; the Aegean region follows with 7,13%. The regions with the least number of citizen associations are the Eastern and Southeastern Anatolia regions (Figure 1).

## 2. OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

In this study, the distribution of citizen associations operating in the province of Bursa by districts and the tendency of those from which provinces to establish associations in which districts and their relation with the socio-economic development of the districts were revealed. Firstly, in this study, the development of Fellow Countrymen Associations as a civil society organization was examined in Turkey. Afterward, the distribution of non-governmental organizations in Bursa province according to their fields of activity in the districts was examined and an answer was sought to the question of whether the differentiation in their fields of activity is related to socioeconomic development. In the next section, the distribution of the fellow countrymen associations has been examined in Bursa specifically and the relations with the development of the districts are tried to be revealed. Finally, it was also examined that the fellow countrymen associations established in the districts of Nilüfer, Osmangazi, and Yıldırım, which are the first three most developed districts of Bursa, have tended to establish associations in which districts.

## 3. DATA AND METHODOLOGY USED

In the study, data was obtained from the Turkish Statistical Institute (TURKSTAT) and non-governmental organizations. The maps of the study were created by using commercial GIS software. First of all, after giving brief information about the study area, the total migration movement in the last 10 years has been analyzed. Then, the distribution of associations in Bursa province and the distribution of fellow countrymen associations were visualized (TURKSTAT, 2021; Siviltoplum, 2021)

Turkey's first OIZ at the beginning of 1970 has been established in Bursa. Since this date, Bursa has developed rapidly and started to receive immigration. The map was created using TUIK data and shows the net migration from other provinces to Bursa between 2008-2019. It is seen that the net migration from Erzurum, Muş, Ağrı, Diyarbakır and Van provinces is the highest. There are also provinces where immigration to Bursa is less than immigration. İzmir, Muğla, Antalya, Ankara, and Eskişehir provinces are at the top of these provinces. Bursa receives the most immigration from the provinces of Istanbul, Izmir, Balıkesir, Erzurum, Samsun and Muş (Figure 2).

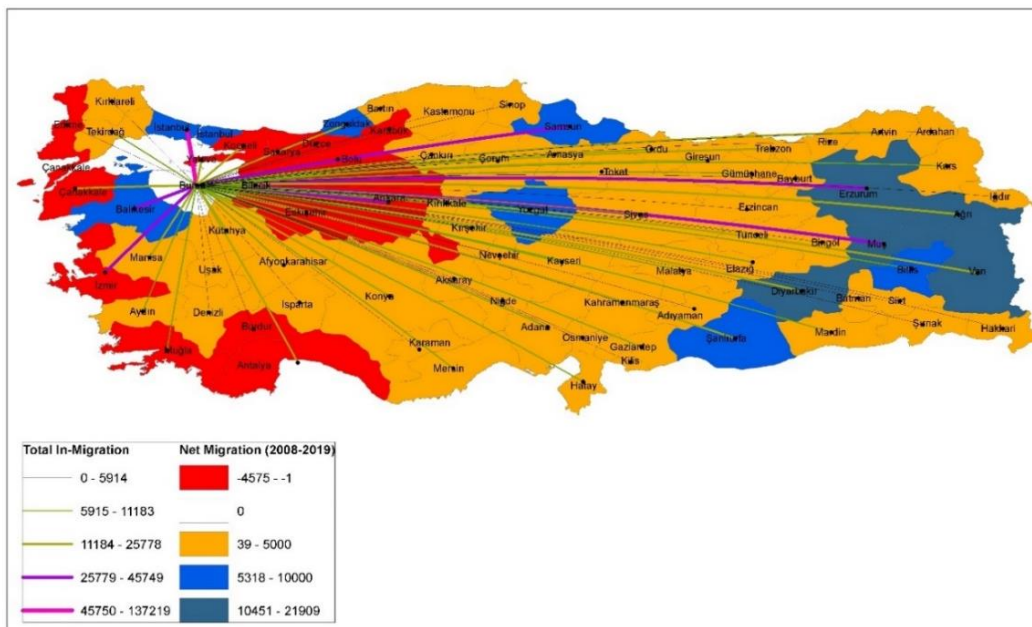


Figure 2: The total net migration and in-migration to Bursa in the last 10 years (Source: TURKSTAT)

#### 4. IMPLEMENTATION

The map shows the provinces where the residents of Bursa are registered and the distribution of the fellow countrymen associations established by the provinces they belong to. It is seen that those who live in Bursa have the highest number of residents from Erzurum after Bursa. It can be said that it is relatively high in those coming from the provinces in the Eastern Black Sea region. Later, it is seen that those who came from Sivas, Yozgat, Tokat, and Konya provinces resided in Bursa. Those who reside in Bursa are registered in the Aegean, Mediterranean, Southeast, and West Black Sea provinces at the lowest level. Accordingly, when looking at the distribution of fellow countrymen associations established in Bursa, it can be said that it is directly proportional to the number of residents. Those coming from the Eastern Black Sea region have intensely tended to establish associations in Bursa. People coming from Erzurum, Artvin, Ardahan, Samsun, Trabzon, Muş, and Giresun provinces have established more associations. It is observed that the number of associations of those who come from Balıkesir, Kütahya, and Bilecik provinces neighboring Bursa is also proportional to the number of residents. A striking result is that the residents of Bursa living in Bursa province have also established many associations. When we look at the associations here, it is seen that people who live in rural areas of Bursa and migrated to the city center tend to establish associations. It has been reached that those coming from İzmir, Aydın, Burdur, Sakarya, Düzce, Karabük, Adana, Şırnak and Hakkari provinces did not establish an association. It is noteworthy that although there are people born in these provinces in Bursa, they have not established an association. As can be understood from the visual, it can be said that migrants from the Eastern and Black Sea provinces have a higher tendency to form associations and that the awareness of citizenship is relatively more developed than in other provinces (Figure 3).

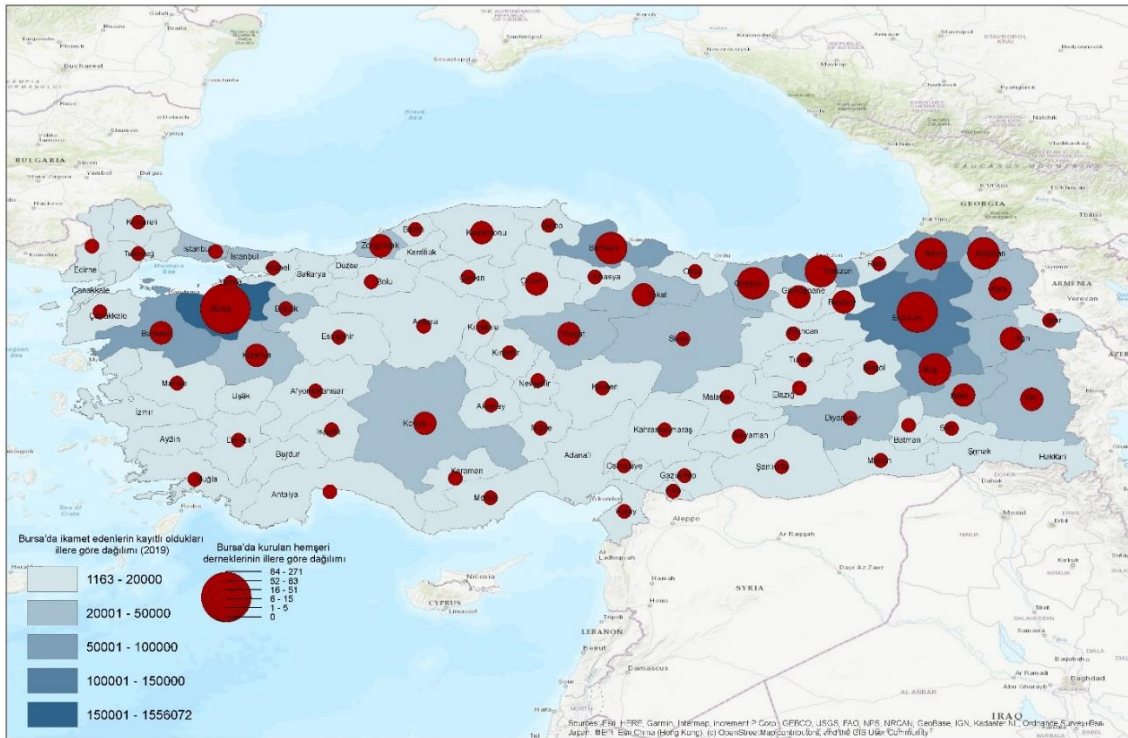


Figure 3: Distribution of fellow countrymen associations established in Bursa according to the provinces they belong to.

It shows the development level of the districts in Bursa province and the distribution of the non-governmental associations in the districts. Nilüfer and Osmangazi are the most developed districts of Bursa province in terms of socio-economic development. It is observed that the number of associations is the highest in these two districts. Considering the distribution of associations according to their branches of activity, the rate of professional solidarity associations is the highest in the Osmangazi district, while the rate of sports activities is highest in the Nilüfer district. It is observed that the ratio of associations engaged in religious activities is higher in the Osmangazi district compared to the Nilüfer district. Mudanya, Yıldırım, İnegöl, Kestel, Gemlik, and Orhangazi districts are in the group of districts developed at the 2nd level in terms of socio-economic development. Considering the number of associations in these districts, it is seen that the

Yıldırım district has the third-highest number of associations after the Nilüfer district. Yıldırım district is also one of the three central districts of Bursa province. In the distribution of associations according to their branches of activity, it is seen that professional activities have the highest share, while religious associations have the second-highest share. The distribution of association activities is similar in Gemlik and Orhangazi districts. When the number of associations in the İnegöl district is examined, it ranks fourth. There is a remarkable distribution in the distribution of association activities. The proportion of associations engaged in religious activities is highest, followed by professional solidarity associations. Although the number of associations in the Mudanya and Kestel districts is low, the activity distribution of the associations is similar to the district of İnegöl. Gürsu, Karacabey, Mustafa Kemalpaşa, Iznik, Yenişehir, and Orhaneli are in the third level socioeconomic development group of their districts. The number of associations in these districts is also lower than in the districts developed in the 1st and 2nd levels. Considering the activity distribution of the associations in the Orhaneli district, it is seen that religious activities have a very high share. Although religious activities are at the highest rate in Karacabey and M. Kemalpaşa districts, it can be said that the rate of associations is also high in professional solidarity and sports activities. The situation is a little different in the district of Gürsu. Professional solidarity and sports activities have the highest rate in the Gürsu district. This situation can be explained as follows: It can be said that it is located closer to the city center compared to other districts, and it can be said that professional and solidarity associations are also effective in the choice of location. While Keles and Harmançik districts are developed at the 4th level, Büyükorhan district is in the 5th level developed districts. These districts are located in the south of Bursa province. In other words, it is located in the south of Uludağ. Uludağ has been a limiter for these districts and makes the connection with the city center difficult. In this sense, the ratio of the rural population living in these districts is also high. When the population graphics for the last 30-40 years are examined, it is seen that these districts have lost population. Looking at the distribution of association activities, it is seen that the number of associations engaged in religious activities is very high. Later, it can be said that professional solidarity associations also exist, albeit a little. It is seen that the professional solidarity associations in these districts are mostly formed by those who come to the district center from the surrounding villages (Figure 4).

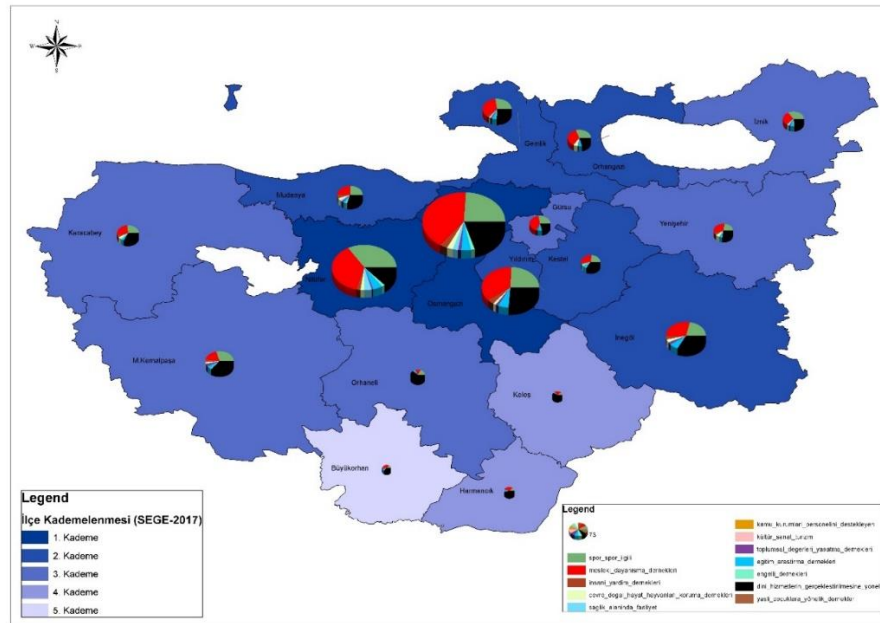


Figure 4: Distribution of non-governmental organizations in Bursa districts.

In short, it is seen that the number of associations is highest in the most developed districts of Bursa and the districts with the highest relative population, while in districts with less developed and fewer populations, this number is very low. Considering the distribution of association activities, the number of associations involving professional solidarity and sports activities is high in developed districts, while this situation differs in less developed districts. It has been observed that the rate of religious association activities is very high, especially in districts with developed 4th and 5th levels.

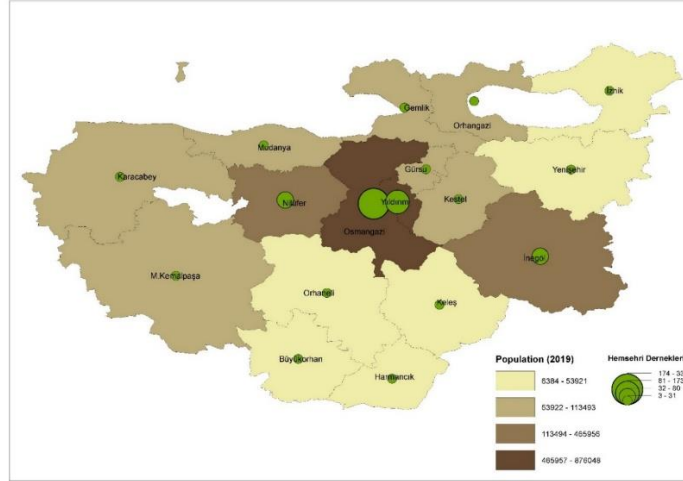


Figure 5: Distribution of fellow countrymen associations in Bursa District.

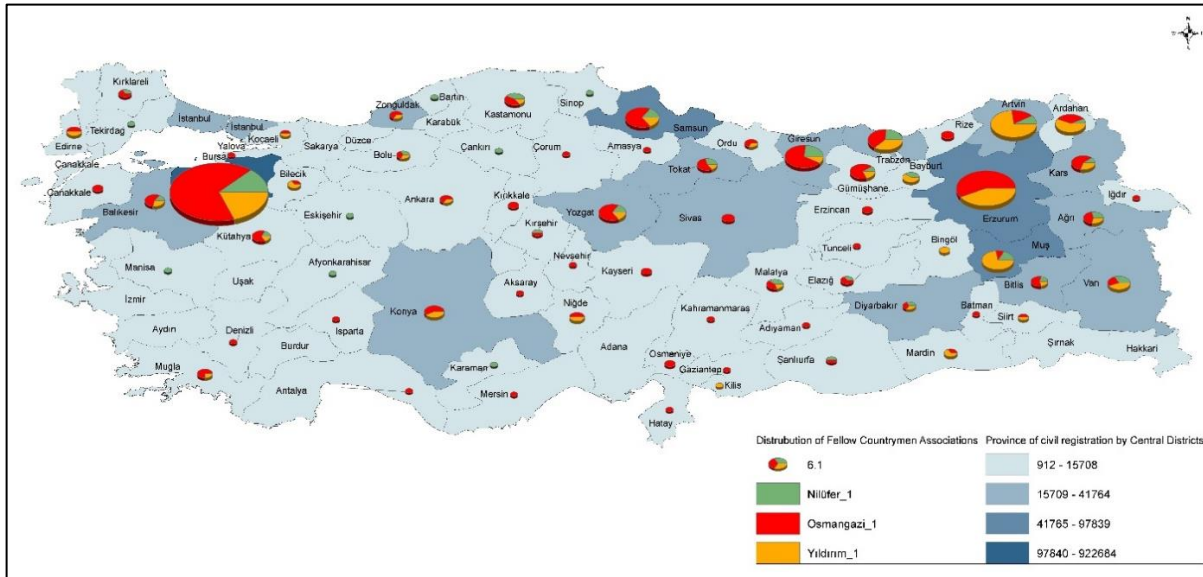


Figure 6: Distribution of fellow countrymen associations and province of çivil registration by central districts

Considering the distribution of fellow countrymen associations in Bursa based on districts, it is seen that most associations are in the Osmangazi district. It is observed that the population is mostly concentrated in the most developed districts. It is observed that the number of fellow countrymen associations is high in Osmangazi, Yıldırım, Nilüfer, and İnegöl districts, respectively. These districts are the most developed districts of Bursa as well as the districts with high populations. The maps below show which provinces from which citizens' associations in the three central districts of Bursa were established and the provinces where the residents of the district are registered.

As of 2019, the first 5 of the birthplaces of the residents in the district are Bursa with 51%, Samsun with 5%, Erzurum with 4%, Giresun and Muş with 2%. Considering the distribution of fellow countrymen associations established in the Osmangazi district, the number of associations established by Bursa citizens is the highest. It is seen that those who come from the surrounding districts and villages of Osmangazi have established these associations. Later, it is seen that those coming from Erzurum province established 35 associations. Even though the number of people coming from Samsun is high, the number of associations is relatively low compared to Erzurum. It is seen that people from Artvin, Ardahan, Iğdır, Trabzon, Giresun, and Gümüşhane have established an association in the Osmangazi district. Yıldırım district is one of the central districts established with migration. The population that came with migration started to settle here by

making shanty houses. Yıldırım district developed unplanned and became one of the densest districts of the city. The number of fellow countrymen associations has increased rapidly in the district, which consists of immigrants, and has become a means of solidarity. The district where people from the Black Sea and Eastern Anatolia regions mostly reside also shows parallelism with the provinces to which the fellow countrymen associations are affiliated.

## 5. RESULTS AND CONCLUSIONS

Country fellowmen associations, which emerged as a result of urbanization, are observed to be concentrated in the regions where migration has occurred the most. The reason for this stems from the need for space where migrants can share common values. Considering the provinces to which the fellow countrymen associations are affiliated in Bursa, it is noteworthy that those coming from the provinces with the highest number of immigrants have established more associations. It is seen that people from Eastern and Black Sea regions such as Erzurum, Muş, Samsun, Artvin, and Ardahan mostly reside outside of Bursa province. It can be said that there is a similarity when looking at the distribution of citizen associations by province. A striking result is that in the central districts of Bursa, the population that migrated from the surrounding districts or villages has also established fellow citizen associations. It has been observed that these associations are concentrated in the district of Osmangazi. On the other hand, it is observed that the associations in the Yıldırım district have been established by people from the Eastern and Black Sea districts, while the number of associations in the Nilüfer district is less and has a more homogeneous distribution.

When the relationship between the total number of associations in Bursa and development is examined, it is found that the number of associations is high in the most developed districts. Considering the distribution of associations in these districts, it is seen that the rate of associations conducting professional solidarity and sports activities is high, while the rate of associations engaged in religious activities is high in less developed districts.

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