

PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE OF THE CITTASLOW MOVEMENT: A NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL CONTENT ANALYSIS ¹

Sakin Şehir Hareketinin Dünü, Bugünü Ve Yarını: Ulusal Ve Uluslararası İçerik Analizi

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ABSTRACT

Sustainability, the importance of various changes and practices has increased gradually, as people prefer authentic products, engage in food and beverage activities, participate in nature-based tourism movements, protect local people and local values, and raise awareness of people's life. The cittaslow movement, which envisages saving resources and slowing down, emerged in Italy in 1999. The nationally initiated movement has gained an international dimension and today, 278 cities from 30 countries are involved in the cittaslow movement. In the context of the study, it is desired to reveal the situation regarding the emergence, development and future of the cittaslow movement. Content analysis was used for the purpose of the research. In the study, cittaslow cities were classified according to their continents, countries and seven geographical regions in Turkey. According to the findings obtained in the research, it is seen that there are cittaslow cities all over the world. It is understood that cittaslow cities are mostly in the european continent with 214 cities. By 2021, 18 cities from Turkey, located within the borders of the european and asian continents, are also included in the Cittaslow International Network. Although the number of cities in other continents is currently low, it is thought that cities that will meet the cittaslow criteria will be included in the network in the coming years. According to the findings obtained within the scope of the research, there is at least one cittaslow city in all seven geographical regions of Turkey. However, it is very important to increase the number of cittaslow cities in the relevant region due to the fact that only two areas of Isparta province are cittaslows, especially among the cities in the Mediterranean Region.

Keywords: Sustainability, Cittaslow, Content Analysis, Turkey

ÖZET

Sürdürülebilirlik anlayışı, insanların otantik ürünleri tercih etmesi, doğa temelli turizm hareketlerine katılması, yerel halk ile yerel değerlerin korunması ve insanların hayata karşı bilinçlenme gerekliliği çeşitli değişimlerin ve uygulamaların önemi giderek artmıştır. Kaynakları korumayı ve yavaşlamayı öngören cittaslow hareketi 1999 yılında İtalya'da ortaya çıkmıştır. Ulusal olarak başlatılan akım süreç içerisinde uluslararası bir boyut kazanmıştır ve günümüzde 30 ülkeden 278 şehir cittaslow hareketi içerisine dâhil olmuştur. Bu çalışmada cittaslow hareketinin ortaya çıkışı, gelişimi ve geleceğiyle ilgili durumun ortaya konması amaçlanmaktadır. Araştırmanın amacı kapsamında içerik analizinden yararlanılmıştır. Araştırmada cittaslow şehirleri buldukları kıtalara, ülkelere ve Türkiye'deki yedi coğrafi bölgeye göre sınıflandırılmıştır. Araştırmada elde edilen bulgulara göre; dünyanın dört bir yanında cittaslow şehirlerinin bulunduğu görülmektedir. Ancak cittaslow şehirlerin daha yoğun olarak (214 şehir) Avrupa Kıtası'nda yer aldığı anlaşılmıştır. 2021 yılı itibarıyla Avrupa ve Asya kıtalarının sınırları içerisinde bulunmakta olan Türkiye'den de 18 şehir Cittaslow Uluslararası Ağı'nda yer almaktadır. Diğer kıtalardaki şehir sayısı şu anda az olmasına rağmen ilerleyen yıllarda cittaslow kriterlerini karşılayacak bu ağa dâhil olacağı öngörülmektedir. Araştırma kapsamında elde edilen diğer bulgulara göre ise Türkiye'nin yedi coğrafi bölgesinin tamamında en az bir cittaslow şehri bulunmaktadır. Ancak özellikle Akdeniz Bölgesi'ndeki iller arasında Isparta ilinin sadece iki bölgesinin cittaslow olması nedeniyle ilgili bölgedeki cittaslow şehirlerinin sayısının artırılması oldukça önemlidir.

Anahtar Kelimeler: Sürdürülebilirlik, Sakin Şehir, İçerik Analizi, Türkiye

"Nature is not a legacy left to us from our ancestors, it is a trust we will leave to our grandchildren."

Native American Proverb

1. INTRODUCTION

Cities as economic and administrative centers have a historical and cultural background as old as humanity. Throughout history, cities have been the center of cultural exchange, social and economic life. The constant change of social and economic life causes the deterioration of the social and cultural fabric of cities, as well as globalization due to its similarities with other cities. Globalization forces people to work more, live faster, produce more and consume more (Küçükergin & Öztürk, 2020: 749). Especially after the 1980s, cities have been the first places to be affected by the incredible impact of globalization in terms of monetary, social and

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political conditions, the structure of cities has been seriously damaged and cities have become standardized in every aspect. At this point, the concept of sustainability is a very necessary and accepted phenomenon in urban areas in order to eliminate the negative effects of globalization on city life. The origin of this concept aims to provide better social, economic and ecological conditions (Ince et al., 2020: 173-174). In the current period, small destinations are exposed to migration loss due to scarcity of social activities, inadequacies in educational facilities, health, limited employment opportunities and similar reasons, and there is a serious decrease in their populations. Small destinations that want to prevent this situation have to continue on their way while preserving their originality and support the development of industrial facilities. Considering the damages caused by industrial enterprises to human health and nature, it is thought that destinations can preserve their originality and existence by protecting their natural beauties and historical values. For this reason, it is known that cittaslow is an effective approach in the development and preservation of authenticity (Küçükaltan & Pirnar, 2016; Pajo & Uğurlu, 2015: 66). This approach also points to sustainable development. Sustainable development; it can be defined as the way in which all living things continue to exist together in harmony and without posing a threat to each other. This definition can be adapted as the continuation of the historical, natural, socio-cultural values and other components of the activities of all persons and institutions that affect the development of sustainable tourism in harmony (Ekinci, 2014: 179).

Many small towns strive to meet the growth expectations of their resident populations, solve social and economic problems, encourage local businesses, and join organizations that seek to pursue common goals. UNESCO Creative Cities Network, World Health Organization Global Network of Age Friendly Cities and Communities, European Regional Cooperation Programme, European Association of Historic Cities and Regions, European Village and Small-Town Council, International Association of Urban and Regional Planners and Cittaslow International Network are among these programs and organizations. are the prominent ones (Senetra & Szarek-Iwaniuk, 2020). Mayors and local leaders of small cities are in constant contact with local residents due to their low population. In this way, they can closely know their needs and expectations. In addition, local administrators and leaders seek a sustainable development strategy based on internal social capital, unique tangible cultural heritage and the value of the natural environment. Small cities in today's reality; they can be a remedy for information overload, noise, excessive consumption of products and services, and uniformity. The "cittaslow" movement can be called "sustainable tourism", "green tourism" and can develop the dynamically growing world trend. Therefore, "cities"; appears to be a possible development path in creating a tourist offer based on sustainable, environmentally friendly and responsible tourism. It is also known that the great potential lying in the relationship between tourism and the natural environment of cities is gradually developing (Zawadzka, 2017: 91). The "cittaslow" movement; it can be regarded as part of a larger trend in which cities and towns are experimenting with development strategies that provide an alternative to pro-growth capitalism. Agenda 21, a voluntary program launched at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in 1992, includes cities and towns that aim to change consumption patterns, promote health and engage a wider audience in decision-making. Like cittaslow, it is an international movement that prioritizes sustainability in Agenda 21 (Servon & Pink, 2015: 328). In addition, the development conditions of cittaslows provide not only the optimal use of local internal resources, but also the development of multi-level cooperation in various fields (Farelnik, 2020: 268).

In this study, it is aimed to determine the emergence of the cittaslow philosophy and its status at the national and international level. Within the scope of this purpose, content analyses were carried out according to the information available on the cittaslow.org website. The aim of the study is to contribute to the literature in this context and to make predictions about the future of the cittaslow philosophy.

2. CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK

2.1. Cittaslow Movement

"Cittaslow", which consists of the word "citta" meaning city in Italian and the word "slow" meaning slow in English, is also the name of a movement (Ekinci, 2014: 180). Cittaslow was founded in 1999 with Paolo Saturnini (Mayor of Greve in Chianti), Orvieto (Stefano Cimicchi), Bra (Francesca Guida), Positano (Domenico Marrone) and slow food president and founder (Carlo Petrini). Saturnini saw the need to preserve the qualities and characteristics of smaller urban districts. He recognized that in the long run, cities would suffer by becoming large global metropolises with no local connections. In other words, cities will become "communities everywhere", losing the sense of place that has defined them for centuries. As Saturnini states, "all cities become uniform and lose their identity and soul" (Radstrom, 2011: 91). For the cittaslow philosophy, campuses with a population of less than 50,000 are chosen, which are dedicated to improving the

quality of life of their residents. However, joining a group of cittaslow cities is only possible if the candidate cities meet a few other requirements. These conditions relate to different topics, from environmental issues to infrastructure issues and areas of people's consciousness. To achieve the favorable state of the natural environment, an environmental policy (as specified in the acceptance criteria) is designed to include an air, water and soil quality assessment system to support the development of alternative energy sources. E.g; the desire to create public green spaces in the field of urban infrastructure, the restoration of the original conditions of historical urban development, the development of urban infrastructure suitable for living comfort and functionality and the creation of an architectural space for the disabled (Grzelak-Kostulska et al., 2011: 188). There are 72 criteria divided into seven main categories concerning destinations that want to be included in the Cittaslow International Network (Küçükergin & Öztürk, 2020: 751).

- ✓ *Energy and environmental policies:* parks and green spaces, renewable energy, transportation, recycling, etc.
- ✓ *Infrastructure policies:* alternative mobility, bike lanes, street furniture, etc.
- ✓ *Quality of urban life policies:* re-sufficiency and marginal areas, cable networks (fiber optic, wireless) etc.
- ✓ *Agriculture, tourism and craft policies:* banning the use of genetically modified organisms in agriculture, increasing the value of working techniques and traditional handicrafts, etc.
- ✓ *Hospitality, awareness and education policies:* good welcome, raising awareness of operators and traders (transparency of offers and applied prices, clear visibility of tariffs), etc.
- ✓ *Social cohesion:* support of the disabled, the poor, discriminated minorities, integration, etc.
- ✓ *Partnerships:* cooperation with other organizations promoting natural and traditional foods, etc.

Cittaslow; it includes a series of activities that emphasize the authenticity and place values of cities. The cittaslow philosophy consists of an orange snail design that includes historical and modern buildings as a symbol (Kabacık, 2015: 34). The cittaslow philosophy aims to improve the quality of life in cities and to ensure sustainable development. Since the beginning of February 2020, there are 264 cities from 30 countries that have joined the cittaslow association (İnce et al., 2020: 174). When the cittaslow philosophy is applied to a city; attention is paid to the general principles of ecotourism, namely nature conservation, education, economic benefits for local communities, availability of cultural resources, minimum environmental impact and maximum environmental sustainability, participation of local people, natural areas, culture and small-scale tourism (Mackiewicz & Konecka-Szydłowska, 2017: 298). Cittaslow member cities or destinations can maintain their accreditation by periodically verifying their compliance with the rules every five years (Park & Kim, 2016: 353).

2.2. Cittaslow Movement in the World

In addition to meeting regional and national needs, cities have to adapt to social and economic changes and processes occurring on a global scale. Big cities play a particularly important role in the development of countries and their potential is being exploited to meet the goals of the Europe 2020 strategy for sustainable and inclusive growth. Small towns and cities, on the other hand, seek their own development paths that take into account local potential, identity and needs and enable towns and cities to face modern challenges (Senetra & Szarek-Iwaniuk, 2020).

The concept of “cittaslow”, which was founded in 1999 and called the “slow city movement”, is inspired by an urgent need for the ever-increasing fast pace of life in contemporary society, and the “slow food” movement that started in Italy in 1986 (Park & Kim, 2016: 352). Considering their local and authentic nature, touristic values and riches can truly be considered as a unique resource for tourism. If the tourism industry is properly organized, natural and historical resources not only increase the value of a destination but also increase its own value (Yurtseven & Karakaş, 2013: 91). According to the information on the official cittaslow website, the cittaslow movement, which started with four cities in 1999, has reached 278 cities from 30 countries and regions by 2021. It is predicted that the number of cities to be included in the Cittaslow International Network will increase in the coming years (Cittaslow, 2021a).

2.3. Cittaslow Movement in Turkey

For the last two decades, Turkey has focused heavily on mass tourism, emphasizing several main destinations famous for their 3S (sun, sea and sand) products, especially Antalya, Muğla, Aydın or İzmir. As

the capacity in coastal touristic areas increases every year and the bargaining power of tour operators and large travel agencies grows, an increasing pressure for lower prices that no one wants has concentrated in these destinations (Karabağ et al., 2012: 64). Turkey's intensive use of its resources in the field of tourism, the increasing prevalence of cittaslow throughout the world and the awareness of countries and people on this issue have been effective in Turkey's participation in the cittaslow movement. In this context, cittaslows were created with the idea of creating towns where the local people live more humanely and enjoy life by adopting the philosophy of slow life and protecting the local heritage. Thanks to the opportunities provided by the present and the future, the discourse of "Hurry slowly" (Festina lente) from the Renaissance Period, which expresses the benefit of the knowledge and cultural heritage of the past, is valid for cittaslows (Yalçın, 2019: 210). With cittaslow, it will be possible to develop tourism, new touristic trends or small settlement areas, especially in rural areas or rural areas. In this context, the pressure of the negativities created by climate change supports cittaslow in making cities more livable and sustainability in all areas of life (Çorumluoğlu & Kazma, 2020: 9). Turkey is trying to take an active part in the cittaslow movements. Turkey's first cittaslow area is Seferihisar in 2009 joined the Cittaslow International Network (Tunçer & Olgun, 2017; Küçükaltan & Pınar, 2016). 17 cities from Turkey from 2009 until 2021; Akyaka, Ahlat, Gerze, Eğirdir, Göynük, Gökçeada, Halfeti, Gündül, Mudurnu, Köyceğiz, Şavşat, Persembe, Taraklı, Uzundere, Yalvaç, Yenipazar and Vize joined the Cittaslow International Network. With these participations, Turkey has been included in the Cittaslow International Network with a total of 18 cities (Cittaslow, 2021a; Cittaslow, 2021b).

2.4. Related Studies

In Chi & Han (2020) research; they investigated slow city traits in China and the role of discovered traits in forming behavioral intentions. The study concluded that for slow cities in China, increasing positive tourist behavior helps to demonstrate how inventing efficient strategies. In his research Farelnik (2020) tried to identify the main areas of cooperation for slow cities in Poland. He analyzed the cooperation between 28 cities that are members of the Polish National Cittaslow Network. In this context, he mentioned the importance of joint logo and promotion, organization of cultural events, exchange of experiences, implementation of a revitalization program for several "slow cities" from Warmia and Mazury, and active cooperation. İnce et al., (2020) in their research; they examined the effects of the cittaslow philosophy on promoting sustainable tourism development in Northern Cyprus. The research focuses on the effects of cittaslow practices on the support of sustainable tourism development with their socio-cultural, economic and ecological dimensions. As a result of the research, it has been determined that the residents living in the slow cities (Yeni Boğaziçi, Mehmetçik, Lefke, Geçitkale and Tatlısu) in Northern Cyprus are satisfied with cittaslow applications. In the research of Küçükergin & Öztürk (2020); they investigated the perceptions of local people's social change in a cittaslow city (Seferihisar). They also investigated whether the dimensions of social change differ according to gender and settlement. As a result of the research, they concluded that the local people's perception of social change differs according to their gender and the length of their stay in Seferihisar.

Park & Kim (2016) in their research on the city of Goolwa in South Australia, the first cittaslow outside of Europe; they concluded that local community involvement in the decision-making processes of cittaslow accreditation and accompanying practices is required, while at the same time it is possible to revitalize the locality of Goolwa by promoting local specialties and products, particularly food and wine. In the research of Sarvon & Pink (2015); they investigated whether the experiences from the towns of cittaslow and globalization come together. In the research; it has been concluded that cittaslow towns actively benefit from the intertwining of the global and the local. In Ekinci (2014) research; he examined the cittaslow philosophy in terms of sustainable tourism development. In the research; Uzungöl, Hasankeyf, Safranbolu, Ürgüp and İznik destinations were stated to be particularly good candidates for cittaslow membership. In addition, Tatvan, Midyat, Alanya and Fethiye were suggested as potential cittaslow cities, although they could not meet the population criteria. In the research of Yurtseven & Karakaş (2013); which Carlo Petrini, the founder of slow food philosophy, visited in 2006; in order to transform Gökçeada into a slow destination in line with good-clean-fair principles, they examined the practices of Gökçeada in the process of becoming a sustainable gastronomy destination. In the research of Karabağ et al., (2012); based on the slow food movement, they examined the criteria of the cittaslow movement, which was established in Italy in 1999, and its possible effects on place branding, which is of great importance for cultural tourism. In the related research, they also investigated how cultural assets in small towns and local communities in Turkey could be protected, marketed and benefited from this process with the help of the cittaslow movement.

3. METHOD

3.1. Purpose of the Research

Within the scope of the research, it is aimed to reveal the emergence, development and future situation of the Cittaslow International Network. In line with the related purpose, content analysis was carried out according to the continents and countries where the cities in the Cittaslow International Network are located. In the literature review, it is understood that there are many studies on cittaslow (Chi & Han, 2020; Farelnik, 2020; İnce et al., 2020; Küçükergin & Öztürk, 2020; Park & Kim, 2016; Ekinci, 2014). However, it is thought that this study differs from other studies in the literature both in terms of scope and content and in terms of analyzing the current situation and developing suggestions for the future.

3.2. Research Data Collection Process

The universe of the research consists of all the cities in the Cittaslow International Network. All of these cities, which were accessed from the information on the official website of the Cittaslow International Network (Cittaslow, 2021a; Cittaslow, 2021b), were classified according to the research method. During the data collection process of the research (01-15 September 2021), all of the cittaslow cities on the official website of the Cittaslow International Network were analyzed according to their “continent”, “country” and “seven geographical regions of Turkey”.

3.3. Analysis Process of Research Data

Content analysis is a widely used method in qualitative research. In this method; data are presented with a descriptive approach by adhering to the original form of the data obtained as much as possible and by quoting directly from the statements of the participants when necessary (Tayfun & Acuner, 2014: 49). The basis of the content analysis method used in this research is based on the classification system. The purpose of content analysis, on the other hand, is to reveal the existence of the categories on which the classification system is based, as well as what they mean and what weight they have for the general view (Yeniçikti, 2016: 103). Through content analysis, data is tried to be defined and facts that may be hidden in the data are tried to be revealed. The basic process in content analysis is to gather similar data within the framework of certain concepts and themes and to interpret them in a way that the reader can understand (Dündar & Sert, 2018: 80).

4. RESULTS

When the distribution of cittaslow cities by continents (Table 1) is examined; it is understood that 214 cities from 20 countries in the European continent are members of cittaslow. In addition, it has been determined that five countries from the Asian continent, three from the Americas, two from the Oceania continent and one from the African continent are cittaslow.

Table 1. Distribution of Cittaslow Cities by Continent

Continent	Countries	Countries (n)	Cities (n)
Europe	Germany (23), Italy (87), Belgium (7), Austria (3), United Kingdom (England) (5), Portugal (4), Ireland (1), Hungary (1), Poland (35), France (12), Denmark (2), Spain (11), Netherlands (11), Sweden (1), Finland (1), Iceland (1), Norway (2), Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus (5), Russia (1) and Turkey (1)**	20	214
Asia	Japan (2), South Korea (16), China (13), Taiwan (4) and Turkey (17)**	5	52
America	United States (2), Canada (4) and Colombia (1)	3	7
Oceania	New Zealand (1) and Australia (3)	2	4
Africa	South African Republic (1)	1	1
TOTAL		31**	278

Source: Cittaslow, (2021b).

** Due to its geographical location, Turkey is located within the borders of both Asian and European continents. Therefore, the cittaslow cities within the borders of Asia and Europe are included in the continent they are located in.

According to Table 2, where the distribution of cittaslow cities by country is given; it has been determined that the most cities (87) with the title of cittaslow are located in Italy, where the cittaslow movement began. The country with the most cittaslow cities after Italy is Poland with 35 cities. On the Asian continent, it was determined that Turkey with 17 cities and South Korea with 16 cities took part in the cittaslow movement. Since the city of Kırklareli is located in the European continent, the city of Vize cittaslow, which is connected to it, is included in the European continent data. Therefore, a total of 18 cities from Turkey in the Asian and European continents are included in the cittaslow movement.

Table 2. Distribution of Cittaslow Cities by Country

Germany	23	Bad Schussenried, Bad Essen, Berching, Bad Wimpfen, Bischofsheim, Deidesheim, Blieskastel, Homberg (Efze), Hersbruck, Maikammer, Lüdinghausen, Michelstadt, Nördlingen, Meldorf, Schneverdingen, Schwetzingen, Penzlin, Stollberg, Überlingen Spalt, Waldkirch, Zwingenberg and Wirsberg
Italy	87	Acqualagna, Abbiategrosso, Altomonte, Acquapendente, Amelia, Amalfi, Asolo, Anghiari, Barga, Baiso, Borgo Val di Taro, Bra, Belluno, Caiazzo, Brisighella, Casalbeltrame, Capalbio, Castelnuovo nè Monti, Castelnuovo, Berardenga, Castel Campagnano, Castiglione Olona, Castiglione in Teverina, Castel San Pietro Terme, Chiavenna, Cerreto Sannita, Cisternino, Chiaverano, Città Sant'Angelo, Città della Pieve, Controguerra, Civitella in Val di Chiana, Cutigliano - Comune di Abetone Cutigliano, Farra di Soligo, Cortona, Follina, Ficulle, Francavilla al Mare, Fontanelato, Gioi, Galeata, Gravina in Puglia, Giuliano Teatino, Grumes - Comune di Altavalle, Greve in Chianti, Levanto, Marradi, Guardiola, Monte Castello di Vibio, Massa Marittima, Morimondo, Montefalco, Novellara, Mulazzo, Orvieto, Orsara di Puglia, Pellegrino Parmense, Parrano, Perito, Penne, Pollica, Pianella, Pratovecchio – Stia, Positano, Ribera, Preci, San Miniato, Salorno, Santarcangelo di Romagna, San Potito Sannitico, Santa Sofia, San Vincenzo, Sperlonga, Suvereto, Stio, Tirano, Teglio, Tolfa, Todi, Torgiano, Travacò Siccomario, Trani, Trevi, Usseglio, Turbigo, Zibello - Comune di Polesine Zibello and Vigarano Mainarda
Belgium	7	Silly, Jurbise, Maaseik, Lens, Estinnes, Chaudfontaine and Enghien
Austria	3	Horn, Hartberg and Enns
U. Kingdom	5	Berwick upon Tweed, Aylsham, Perth, Llangollen and Mold
Portugal	4	Silves, Sao Bras de Alportel, Viana Do Castelo and Tavira
Ireland	1	Clonakilty
Hungary	1	Hódmezővásárhely
Poland	35	Bartoszyce, Barczewo, Biskupiec, Braniewo, Działdowo, Bisztynek, Głubczyce, Dobre Miasto, Górowo Iławeckie, Goldap, Kalety, Jeziorany, Lidzbark Warminski, Lidzbark, Morąg, Lubawa, Nidzica, Murowana Goślina, Nowy Dwór Gdański, Nowe Miasto Lubawskie, Olsztynek, Olecko, Pasym, Orneta, Rejowiec Fabryczny, Prudnik, Rzgów, Reszel, Ryn, Sianów, Sepol, Szczytno, Sierpe, Wydminy and Węgorzewo
France	12	Saint Antonin Noble Val, Cazaubon, Simorre, Créon, Labouheyre, Samatan, Labastide d'Armagnac, Loix, Lectoure, Valmondois, Mirande and Segonzac
Denmark	2	Svendborg and Mariagerfjord
Spain	11	Balmaseda, Artà (Isle of Majorca), Begur, Begues, Bubión, Benabarre, Mungia, Lekeitio, Villa de La Orotava (Isle of Tenerife), Rubielos de Mora and Pals
Netherland	11	Borger-Odoorn, Alphen-Chaam, Eijsden-Margraten, Echt-Susteren, Heerde, Midden-Delfland, Peel en Maas, Gulpen-Wittem, Vianen - Vijftheerenlanden Town Hall ve Westerwolde (Former Bellingwedde and Vlagtwedde Town Halls) and Vaals
Sweden	1	Falköping
Finland	1	Kristinestad
Iceland	1	Djupavogshreppur - Múlaþing Municipality
Norway	2	Ulvik ve Sokndal
N. Cyprus	5	Lefke, Geçitkale, Yeniboğaziçi, Tatlısu and Mehmetçik
Russia	1	Svetlogorsk
Japan	2	Maebashi-Akagi and Kesenuma
South Korean	16	Chuncheon City (Sille Village), Cheongsong County (Pacheon-myeon), Gimhae (Bongha Village & Hwapocheon Wetland Eco Park), Damyang County (Changpyeong-myeon), Jecheon City (Susan-myeon & Bakdaljae), Hadong County (Akyang-myeon), Mokpo City (Oedal Island/ Dali Island /Modern historical & cultural area), Sangju City (Hamchang-eup, Gonggeom-myeon, Ian-myeon), Jeonju City (Jeonju Hanok Village), Shinan County (jeung-do island), Seocheon County (Hansan-Myeon), Wando County (Cheongsando Island), Yeongyang County (Seokbo-myeon), Taean County (Sowon-myeon), Yesan County (Daeheung & Eungbong-myeon) and Yeongwol County (Kimsatgat-myeon)
China	13	Changjia (Gaoqing County), Changshan – Zigang _In progress, Shimenshan (Qufu city), Songbai (Shennongjia Forest District), Fuli (Fuchuan Yao Autonomous County), Erdaobaihe (Changbai Mountain), Yuhu (Wencheng County), Maolin (Yudong New District), Jingyang (Jingde County), Yanyang (Meizhou city), Yaxi (Gaochun County), Luzhi (Wuzhong District) and Yingpan (Zhashui County)
Taiwan	4	Fonglin, Dalin, Sanyi ve Nanzhuang
Turkey	18	Akyaka, Ahlat, Gerze, Eğirdir, Göynük, Gökçeada, Halfeti, Gündül, Mudurnu, Köyceğiz, Şavşat, Perşembe, Taraklı, Uzundere, Seferihisar, Yalvaç, Yenipazar and Vize
USA	2	Sonoma and Sebastopol
Canada	4	Naramata, Cowichan Bay, Wolfville and Lac-Mégantic
New Zeland	1	Matakana (Rodney District)
Australia	3	Katoomba, Goolwa and Yea
Colombia	1	Pijao
South Africa	1	Sedgefield
Total Cities		278

Source: Cittaslow, (2021b).

When the distribution of cittaslow cities in Turkey according to geographical regions (Table 3) is examined, it is concluded that five cities from the Black Sea region, four from the Aegean region, three from the Marmara region, two from the Mediterranean region, two from the Eastern Anatolia region, and one city from the Southeastern Anatolia and Central Anatolia regions have the title of cittaslow.

Table 3. Distribution of Cittaslow Cities in Turkey by Geographical Regions

City	Geographical Region
Mudurnu-Bolu	Black Sea Region
Göynük-Bolu	Black Sea Region
Şavşat-Artvin	Black Sea Region
Perşembe-Ordu	Black Sea Region
Gerze-Sinop	Black Sea Region
Köyceğiz-Muğla	Aegean Region
Akyaka-Muğla	Aegean Region
Seferihisar-İzmir	Aegean Region
Yenipazar-Aydın	Aegean Region
Gökçeada-Çanakkale	Marmara Region
Vize-Kırklareli	Marmara Region
Taraklı-Sakarya	Marmara Region
Eğirdir-Isparta	Mediterranean Region
Yalvaç-Isparta	Mediterranean Region
Ahlat-Bitlis	Eastern Anatolia Region
Uzundere-Erzurum	Eastern Anatolia Region
Halfeti-Şanlıurfa	Southeast Anatolia Region
Güdül-Ankara	Central Anatolia Region

Source: Cittaslow, (2021b).

5. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

In the research, it is aimed to reveal the emergence, development and future situation of the Cittaslow International Network. The cittaslow movement in outline; proper consumption of resources, transferring them to future generations, preserving the authenticity of regions and cities, participation of local people and keeping values alive, hospitality, protection of the environment, making necessary infrastructure investments, protection of handicrafts, etc. encompasses a range of sustainable activities. The cittaslow movement in the light of related variables; It aims to consume resources in the right way against famine and to raise people's living standards. The world is a whole with all its continents and its people. Every continent and people have responsibilities to each other as well as their needs. According to the findings obtained within the scope of the research, it is seen that the most cities in the Cittaslow International Network are located in the European continent. The prevalence of famine around the world, the unequal distribution of resources, and epidemics such as COVID-19, natural disasters, etc. These factors show more seriously that the whole world should be conscious of life and nature.

Considering the low number of cittaslow cities in Africa, America and Oceania continents and the problems related to scarce resources mentioned above, it is thought that awareness-raising activities should be carried out in order to increase the number of cittaslow cities in the relevant continents. As for awareness raising activities, Cittaslow International Network and country representatives can organize programs by acting jointly. In order for the cittaslow application file to pass the evaluation committee, 72 criteria are taken into account under seven main headings. A city can receive the title of cittaslow if at least one item from each criterion is successful and at least 50% success is achieved in total. The application files that ensure this success are sent to the headquarters in Italy. At the first stage, the basic condition for a city to enter the evaluation process is that its population is less than 50,000. In the examination made on the file, the cities that meet the necessary conditions are granted a certificate in the same year and their membership to the cittaslow association is accepted (Cittaslow, 2021a; Cittaslow, 2021b; Çolak, 2019). In addition, by checking the compliance of cittaslow cities with the criteria every five years, cittaslow titles can be extended as long as they meet the conditions and can be withdrawn if they do not meet the conditions. This situation encourages cities to keep themselves original, to carry out activities in accordance with the criteria and to make the understanding of sustainability permanent.

According to the findings obtained within the scope of the research, there is at least one cittaslow city in all seven geographical regions of Turkey. However, it is very important to increase the number of cittaslow cities in the relevant region due to the fact that only two areas of Isparta province are cittaslows, especially among the cities in the Mediterranean Region. Considering the conditions for being a cittaslow, Turkey has a

large number of cities that can meet the relevant criteria in all regions with its values. To these cities and areas; Gümüşhacıköy-Amasya, Harmancık-Bursa, Sinop city center, Gülnar-Mersin, Adilcevaz-Bitlis, Şebinkarahisar-Giresun, Kemaliye-Erzincan, Kaş-Antalya, Ağın-Erzincan, Ünye-Ordu, Sındırgı-Balıkesir, Ortaca-Muğla, Elmalı- Antalya, Ulus-Bartın, Mudanya-Bursa, Palu-Elazığ, Çaycuma-Zonguldak, Zile-Tokat, İnegöl-Bursa, Erkilet-Kayseri, Pazar-Rize, Arapgir-Malatya, Korgan-Ordu, Oğuzeli-Gaziantep, Küçükkuyu-Çanakkale, Examples include Gürpınar-Van, Cide-Kastamonu, Ermenek-Karaman, Tirebolu-Giresun, Çamlıhemşin-Rize, Şenpazar-Kastamonu and Pınarhisar-Kırklareli. It is extremely important to increase the number of cittaslow cities, especially in Turkey's European continent.

It is thought that the fact that the research was carried out to determine the emergence, development and future status of the cittaslow movement on a national and international scale will contribute to the literature and practice. Regarding the limitations of the research, it can be said that Cittaslow International Network and Cittaslow Turkey could not be included in the study due to the lack of information about the cities in the candidacy process on the official website. More comprehensive research can be carried out by adding the list of candidate countries to the relevant sites in the coming years and other studies to be carried out. It is understood that the most members in the Cittaslow International Network are located in the European Continent. In future studies, analyzes can be carried out according to new variables such as countries that are members of the European Union and those that are not. UNESCO Creative Cities Network such as the Cittaslow International Network in the World, World Health Organization Global Network of Age Friendly Cities and Communities, European Regional Cooperation Programme, European Association of Historic Cities and Regions, European Village and Small-Town Council, International Association of Urban and Regional Planners systems can be investigated. With the inclusion of new members in the Cittaslow International Network in the coming years, temporal comparative studies can be made with this research. In addition, studies containing content analysis can be brought to the literature according to the years in which the research was carried out.

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