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I am Assistant Professor at Sakarya University, FEAS, Department of Public Administration, Division of Urbanization and Environmental Problems, Turkey.

I spent 10 months in Bologna University – Center for East-Central and Balkan Europe, Forli Campus as visiting researcher from October 2018 to August 2019. My research aimed at focusing on the development policies and project preparation methods of the Emilia-Romagna Regional Development Agency (Ente Regionale per la Valorizzazione Economica del Territorio - ERVET). So getting data through observation and interview in ERVET was crucial to reach reasonable conclusions. Professor Bianchini made initial contacts with ERVET officials. Following the permissions, I visited ERVET and made interview with Dr. Roberta Dall'Olio who is head of European Union International Territorial Cooperation and Social Innovation in ERVET. ERVET provided some reports and publications on their projects, which are very important source of data for my research. Moreover, upon Mrs. Dall'Olio's invitation, I attended the program related to the project evaluation of "Competenza, Inclusione, Nuove Generazioni" (Competence, Inclusion, New Generation). Among the attendees, in addition to organizers, there were regional and local government officers, members of local non-governmental organizations and academicians. I made short interviews with the presenters and attendants.

In order to deepen the research and to have a full picture, I contacted professionals outside the ERVET. Upon this direction, I contacted Francesco Cossentino who is co-editor of "Local and Regional Response to Global Pressure: The Case of Italy and Its Industrial Districts" (1996). I made an extensive interview with Mr. Cossentino through which he shared his thoughts on Emilian Model, peculiarities of Emilia-Romagna's economic development and social capital.

In addition, I carried out interview with Raffaele Giardino who is expert at directorate of economy in Region of Emilia-Romagna. Mr. Giardino is the author of an article on the role of the foreign investment in Emilia-Romagna. He interpreted the findings of my research. I made an interview with Lodovico Gherardi who is the coordinator of the European Territorial Cooperation and Adriatic Managing Authority. Mr. Gherardi shared his thoughts on Emilia-Romagna's economic peculiarities and his experiences on EU projects.

I visited NOMISMA which is a prominent research centre in Bologna. Its expertise focus on economic innovation, labour market, EU programmes' project planning and management, and EU programmes' monitoring and evaluation. In order to get some detailed information, I contacted Concetta Rau who is the coordinator of project innovation and Lucio Poma who is an expert on industrial innovation in NOMISMA.

In sum, the observations and first-hand information that I received in Bologna is vital for my research. When I arrived in Bologna, I intended to focus on institutional aspects of regional development but following the interviews I changed my initial framework of the article, because I concluded that without focusing on social capital and regional political culture, the research would be incomplete. So, the period I spent in Bologna contributed much to grasp the crucial details of Emilia-Romagna's administrative patterns.

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