



# Applying a Combination of AHP, ANP, and PROMETHEE Methods to Find the Optimal Location for Solar Power Plant

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## Abstract

One of the well-known renewable energy resources is solar energy which has been developed rapidly in recent years. Turkey is one of the high energy consumer countries where has a good potential for using solar power due to its geographical location. Choosing the right location is one of the main issues related to the solar power plant problem. The main objective of this study is to select the optimal location to install a solar power plant among the five cities (Antalya, Nigde, Konya, Mersin, and Isparta) in the south of Turkey, which all of them are considered as potential locations because of receiving a high amount of solar radiation. To accomplish this task, three well-known multi-criteria decision-making methods (AHP, ANP, and PROMETHEE) are used to find the best location considering six different criteria. To simplify and improve the accuracy of calculation, SuperDecisions and VisualPROMETHEE Programs are utilized for analyzing the data. The program results show that Mersin is selected as the best location and the second one is Antalya. Besides, the lowest scored city is Nigde which is considered as the least preferred alternative.

**Keywords:** Solar power plant, MCDM, AHP, ANP, PROMETHEE.

## AHP, ANP ve PROMETHEE Yöntemlerinin Bir Kombinasyonunun Uygulanması, Güneş Enerjili Elektrik Santrali için En Uygun Yerin Bulunması

### Öz

Güneş enerjisi, son yıllarda hızla gelişen popüler yenilenebilir enerji kaynaklarından biridir. Türkiye, coğrafi konumu nedeniyle güneş enerjisini kullanma potansiyeli ve enerji tüketimi yüksek ülkelerden biridir. Güneş enerjili elektrik santrali sorunu ile ilgili temel konulardan biri doğru yer seçimidir. Bu çalışma, Türkiye'nin güneyindeki beş şehir (Antalya, Mersin, Niğde, Isparta ve Konya) arasından, çoğunun iyi bir oranda güneş radyasyonu aldığı, güneş enerjili elektrik santrali kurmak için en uygun yeri seçmeyi amaçlamaktadır. Bu görevi gerçekleştirmek için, altı farklı kriteri göz önünde bulundurarak en iyi konumu bulmak için iyi bilinen üç çok kriterli karar verme yöntemi (AHP, ANP ve PROMETHEE) kullanılır. Hesaplamanın doğruluğunu basitleştirmek ve geliştirmek için, verilerin analizinde SuperDecisions ve VisualPROMETHEE Programları kullanılmaktadır. Çalışmanın sonuçları, Mersin'in ardından Antalya'nın en iyi alternatif olduğunu göstermektedir, Niğde ise en az tercih edilen alternatif olarak değerlendirilmek üzere en düşük puanı almıştır.

**Anahtar Kelimeler:** Güneş enerjili elektrik santrali, Çok kriterli karar verme, AHP, ANP, PROMETHEE

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## 1. Introduction

As human population growth, the demands for energy will increase. There are various types of energy we use. The main energy resources are fossil fuels, for instance: coal, oil, and natural gas. However, fossil fuels cause environmentally unsafe compounds in the atmosphere which harm the environment and public health. Global warming and climate change are some of those negative impacts.

Renewable energies (solar, wind, etc) are other sources of energy that can be transformed into electricity that is a necessity to our daily life. Renewable energies not only reduce the progress of global warming but also won't deplete when used. As the cost of solar and wind power continue to decline significantly, the rapid growth of using them is come out (BP Outlook, 2019). Therefore, renewable energies have been appealed to great attention recently. Based on the reports of renewable energy policies, the total investment in renewable energies around the world was 279.8 billion dollars in 2017 (Finance BNE, 2018).

One of the well-known types of renewable energies is solar energy, which is one of the potential resources that provides ultimate energy and it can replace fossil fuel soon (Jung et al., 2019; Raugei et al., 2012). In addition to the environmental contribution, it is more economical compared to fossil resources (Soydan, 2021). A recent study by (Lu & Zhao, 2018) estimated that the international share of solar energy usage will be reached to 16 % by 2050. In this respect, solar energy will be one of the main resources of energy in the near future (Campana et al., 2019).

Turkey is one of the best geographical locations which receive a high portion of solar radiation. Therefore, it has a great potential source of solar energy. However, it is considered poor in terms of fossil fuel resources (Soydan, 2021). Besides, Turkey's economic growth, industrialization, high energy demands, and increasing population forces Turkey to be more dependent on renewable energy resources. Around 50% of imported natural gas is used for electricity production over the past decade in Turkey, and it proves the high dependence on imported natural gas (*Energy Report of Turkey*, 2017a). According to a report that is published in 2018 by the Ministry of Energy, only 5.7% of the power was produced from solar resources (*Energy Report of Turkey*, 2017b).

The total installed electricity capacity of turkey in 2016 was 78,498 MW, which has reached 88,569 MW in 2018 (TMMOB, 2018). That shows a 12.8 % increase in the amount of electricity capacity, and the main reason for such an eminent growth in electricity demand are economic growth and the high rate of population (TMMOB, 2018). The total electricity demand in turkey in 2018 was 304,200 GWh, of which 69% of the electricity generation is because of the fossil fuel-based power stations (Celik & Özgür, 2020). It is predicted that the annual average electricity demand will reach 376 billion kWh and billion in 2039 in 2023 and 2039 respectively (BAĞCI, 2019). It is possible to conclude that, renewable energy resources such as solar energy can be the right alternative for fossil fuels for Turkey.

Regarding solar energy in Turkey, various studies have been done. Some of them are based on cost analysis, such as a study done by (Baka et al., 2019). Some other studies on solar power plants focus to determine a suitable site for the plant. For instance, in a study by (Koc et al., 2019) Multi-criteria decision-making

(MCDM) method is used to find the best location for a wind-solar site using a GIS-AHP-based approach with an application in Iğdir Province, Turkey. In another study by (GEÇEN, 2019) geographic information systems (GIS) is used to find a suitable area for constructing a solar power plant in Hatay Province, Turkey. In a case study by (Colak et al., 2020a) a combination of GIS and AHP methods is employed to select the best location for a photovoltaic power plant in Malatya province, Turkey. A similar study is done by (Colak et al., 2020b) in Kahramanmaraş province. Although there are many types of research related to solar power plant location selection, most of them focused on the particular province.

The primary objective of this study is to find out the optimal location for a power plant by applying a combination of AHP, ANP, and PROMETHEE methods. Five cities in Turkey that receive a sufficient amount of solar radiation are considered for potential locations. Five cities are evaluated based on various criteria (using pairwise comparison) that are chosen considering the literature review and experts' opinions.

## 2. Material and Method

### 2.1. Material

In this section, the data collecting procedures are introduced. First, the potential alternatives are listed, and then the procedures of selecting effective criteria for pairwise comparison are described.

#### 2.1.1. Alternatives

In this study, five different cities are selected as alternatives in the south region of Turkey. All of them are receiving a good amount of solar radiation and have sufficient area available for installing a power plant. Table 1 shows the name of cities selected as alternatives.

Table 1. Selected alternatives

Alternatives	City
A1	Antalya
A2	Isparta
A3	Konya
A4	Mersin
A5	Niğde

#### 2.1.2. Criteria

One of the important subjects in MCDM is selecting the criteria. According to many types of research, the main criteria that involve solar power plant location are, geographical, environmental, and economical. The following are the list of criteria that were used by different researchers in literature to decide about the location of solar power plant:

- Solar radiation (Bakirci, 2012; Kleidon, 2018; Soydan, 2021)
- Average Temperature (Akçay & Atak, 2018; Nowzari et al., 2015; Sánchez-Lozano et al., 2015)
- Average annual sunshine (Akçay & Atak, 2018; Soydan, 2021; Yilmaz et al., 2015)
- Land cost (Al Garni & Awasthi, 2017)
- Earthquake risk (Soydan, 2021)

- Population density (Colak et al., 2020b; Erdoğan & Kaya, 2015)

Although various factors might affect the solar plant location selection problem, by considering the expert's opinions and due to data availability six of them are considered for further

evaluation. The detailed information for each criterion and the data source are shown in Table 2. To have more accurate and reliable data for the first 3 criteria ( $C_1$ ,  $C_2$ ,  $C_3$ ) the average of the last 12 months' data is considered.

Table 2. Criteria code, description, unit, and data source

Criteria code	Criteria description and unit	Data source
$C_1$	Solar radiation (kWh/m <sup>2</sup> /year)	<a href="https://www.mgm.gov.tr">https://www.mgm.gov.tr</a>
$C_2$	Average Temperature (C°)	<a href="https://www.mgm.gov.tr">https://www.mgm.gov.tr</a>
$C_3$	Average annual sunshine (hrs/year)	<a href="https://www.mgm.gov.tr">https://www.mgm.gov.tr</a>
$C_4$	Land cost (TL)	<a href="https://www.gib.gov.tr">https://www.gib.gov.tr</a>
$C_5$	Earthquake risk	<a href="https://www.afad.gov.tr">https://www.afad.gov.tr</a>
$C_6$	Population density	<a href="https://www.nufusu.com">https://www.nufusu.com</a>

## 2.2. Method

MCDM is considering different factors while making a decision. Various techniques are used in MCDM. There are specific steps to solve MCDM problems. The schematic demonstration of those steps are shown in Figure 1 by (Kumar et al., 2017)

Although there are several techniques in MCDM, some of the popular ones are the “Analytical Hierarchy Process” (AHP), “Analytical Network Process” (ANP), “VIekriterijumsko KOmpromisno Rangiranje” (VIKOR), “Simple Additive Weighting” (SAW), the “Technique for Order of Preference by Similarity to Ideal Solution” (TOPSIS), “Preference Ranking Organization Method for Enrichment Evaluation” (PROMETHEE), and “Elimination et Choice Translating Reality” (ELECTRE).

This study employed the combination of AHP, ANP, and PROMETHEE as an approach for the MCDM. Table 3 shows the different fields and researchers that used AHP, ANP, and PROMETHEE for the decision-making approach. In the following sections, each technique is introduced in detail.

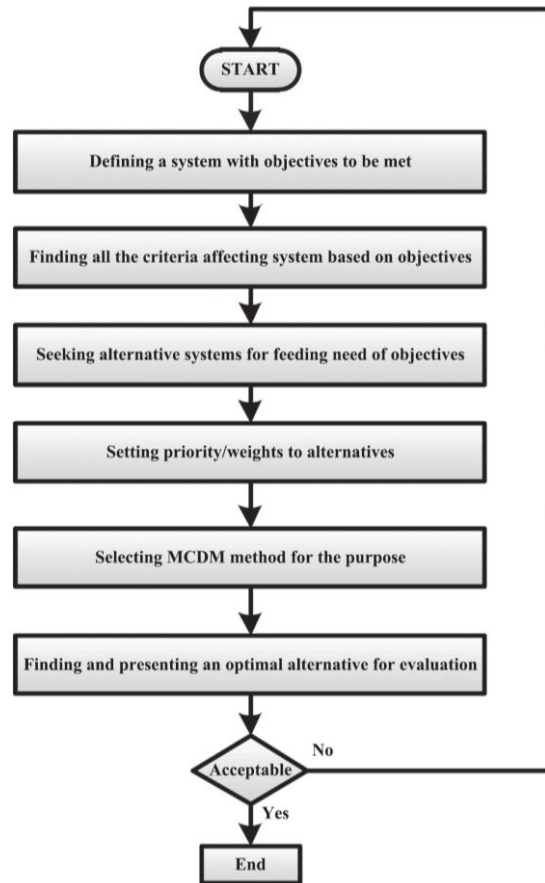


Figure 1. The procedure for solving the MCDM problem (Kumar et al., 2017)

Table 3. AHP, ANP, and PROMETHEE methods that are used in a different area

Technique	Fields	Researchers
AHP	Selecting a location	(Mousavi et al., 2013) (Sennaroglu & Varlik Celebi, 2018) (Hosseini et al., 2013) (Ka, 2011)
	Ranking determination	(Kang & Lee, 2007) (Rosenbloom, 1997) (Sinuany-Stern et al., 2000) (Leung & Cao, 200)
ANP	Ranking determination	(Chung et al., 2005) (Dou et al., 2014) (Poonikom et al., 2004) (Sevkli et al., 2012) (Sevkli et al., 2012)
	Risk management	(Akhisar, 2014) (Hasan et al., 2016) (Reza & Majid, 2013)
PROMETHEE	Resorce mangement	(Hyde & Maier, 2006)
		(Fontana & Morais, 2016)
		(Hajkowicz & Higgins, 2008)
	Ranking determination	(Spengler et al., 1998) (Vego et al., 2008) (Vaillancourt & Waaub, 2002)
Risk management	(Albadvi et al., 2006) (Kalogeras et al., 2005) (De Smet & Guzmán, 2004) (Doumpos & Zopounidis, 2004)	

2.2.1. AHP

The analytical hierarchy process was introduced by (Saaty, 1984) that analyzes and evaluates complex alternatives with different characteristics based on the mathematical model. It helps the decision-maker to realize and solve the problem and select the most appropriate alternative that meets the goal. The steps of applying AHP for decision-making procedure are described as follows:

Step 1: Creating pairwise decision matrix *D*. The fundamentals scale that is used to construct the pairwise comparison matrix is provided in Table 4.

Table 4. Rankig Comparison Scale (Saaty, 1990)

Ranking number	Descriptions
1	Equally peferred
2	Equally to moderately
3	Moderately preferred
4	Moderately to strongly
5	Strongly preferred
6	Strongly to very strongly
7	Very strongly preferred
8	Very strongly to extremely
9	Extremely preferred

In matrix *D*,  $a_{ij}$  represent the relative importance criterion *i* over criterion *j*, and  $i, j=1,2,\dots,m$ . Thus, in matrix *D*,  $a_{ij} = \frac{1}{a_{ji}}$  for all *i* and *j*. For all  $i=j$ ,  $a_{ij} = 1$ .

$$D = \begin{pmatrix} a_{11} & a_{12} & \dots & a_{1m} \\ \cdot & \cdot & \dots & \cdot \\ a_{m1} & a_{m2} & \dots & a_{mm} \end{pmatrix} \tag{1}$$

Step 2: Calculating the priority vector with the use of the eigenvalue method, which calculates for the primary eigenvector *w* of matrix *D*. The importance vector indicates the weight of each criterion.

$$D \times w = \lambda_{max} \times w \tag{2}$$

Where  $\lambda_{max}$  is the maximal eigenvalue.

Step 3: Calculate the consistency index (*CI*) and consistency ratio (*CR*) to check for the extent of consistency of the matrix. Note that, a matrix is considered to be inconsistent if the *CR* value is less than 0.1.

$$CI = \frac{\lambda_{max}-m}{m-1} \tag{3}$$

$$CR = \frac{CI}{RI} \tag{4}$$

Where random index (*RI*) value is used for calculating consistency ratio. Table 5 depicted the value of *RI* for different matrix sizes.

Table 5. Random index table (Saaty & Tran, 2007)

Size	RI	Size	RI	Size	RI
1	0	6	1.25	11	1.52
2	0	7	1.35	12	1.54
3	0.52	8	1.40	13	1.56
4	089	9	1.45	14	1.58
5	1.11	10	1.49	15	1.59

2.2.2. ANP

The analytical network process is a multi-criteria decision-making technique introduced by (Saaty, 1996), and it is used to drive precedence scores of absolute numbers from case-by-case assessment. It is an important tool for expressing our analysis of a decision problem. The main advantage of ANP is providing the degree of dependence between both the criteria and alternatives in the problem (Saaty, 2004).

The steps of applying ANP for the decision-making procedure are similar to AHP with some differences. In the AHP technique, there is a source node (main goal) and a sink node (alternatives) that represent alternatives. Also, there is a linear relationship structure from top to down with no feedback from the sink node (higher level) to the source node (lower level)(Saaty, 2004). Unlike AHP, in ANP there is no particular arrangement order among clusters. The network expands in all directions and

makes it possible influence to be extended within a cluster too (Saaty, 2004). Although, in ANP the alternative cluster may or may not have feedback to other clusters.

2.2.3. PROMETHEE

The “preference ranking organization method for enrichment evaluation” I that is called partial ranking and II that is called complete ranking techniques were developed by (Brans, 1982). Later, several applications of these methods were used in the field of health care by (D’Avignon & Mareschal, 1989). A few years later PROMETHEE III that is called ranking based on intervals, PROMETHEE IV (continues case), PROMETHEE V (segmentation constraints), and PROMETHEE VI which is called the representation of the human brain were developed as an extension of types I and II for different aims (Brans & Mareschal, 2005). In the following, the general ranking procedure by PROMETHEE is explained (Brans & Mareschal, 2005).

Let us consider the following multicriteria problem:

$$Max \{ C_1(a), C_2(a), \dots, C_m(a) | a \in A \} \tag{5}$$

Where  $A$  is the finite set of potential alternatives  $\{a_1, a_2, \dots, a_n\}$ , and  $\{C_1(), C_2(), \dots, C_m()\}$  are a set of evaluation criteria. The aim is to find the best alternative while maximizing or minimizing criteria based on their characteristic. The evaluation matrix  $E$  is represented below:

$$E = \begin{bmatrix} C_1(a_1) & C_2(a_1) & \dots & C_m(a_1) \\ C_1(a_2) & C_2(a_2) & \dots & C_m(a_2) \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ C_1(a_n) & C_2(a_n) & \dots & C_m(a_n) \end{bmatrix} \tag{6}$$

In addition to the basic data include in the evaluation matrix, decision-maker (DM) impression is important in the solution of a multicriteria problem. Consequently, the natural dominance relation (preferences) is required as decision aid which is defined as follows:

For each  $(a, b) \in A$ :

$$\begin{aligned} & \{ \forall i: C_i(a) \geq C_i(b) \\ & \{ \exists j: C_j(a) > C_j(b) \} \Leftrightarrow aPb, \\ & \forall i: C_i(a) = C_i(b) \Leftrightarrow aIb, \\ & \{ \exists i: C_i(a) < C_i(b) \\ & \{ \exists j: C_j(a) > C_j(b) \} \Leftrightarrow aRb, \end{aligned} \tag{7}$$

Where  $R$ ,  $I$ , and  $P$ , stand for incomparability, preference, indifference, and preference respectively.

Another important factor that affects the ranking is the weight of the criteria. Assume that the set  $\{w_1, w_2, \dots, w_m\}$  represent the weight of each criterion. The weights are positive numbers, independent from the measurement unit of criteria, and the sum of the weights must be equal to one.

$$\sum_{k=1}^m w_k = 1 \tag{8}$$

Because pairwise comparisons are the main structure for PROMETHEE for each criterion the following function is held:

$$P_k(a, b) = F_k[d_k(a, b)] \quad \forall a, b \in A \tag{9}$$

Where:

$$d_k(a, b) = C_k(a) - C_k(b) \tag{10}$$

and for which:

$$0 \leq P_k(a, b) \leq 1. \tag{11}$$

The aggregated preference indices can be calculated as follows:

$$\begin{cases} \pi(a, b) = \sum_{k=1}^m P_k(a, b)w_k, \\ \pi(b, a) = \sum_{k=1}^m P_k(b, a)w_k. \end{cases} \tag{12}$$

Where  $\pi(a, b)$  presents the degree of preference of  $a$  over  $b$  nad  $\pi(b, a)$  presents how  $b$  is preferred to  $a$ . Then, for positive and negative outranking flow the following formulas are used:

$$\phi^+(a) = \frac{1}{n-1} \sum_{x \in A} \pi(a, x), \quad \phi^-(a) = \frac{1}{n-1} \sum_{x \in A} \pi(x, a) \tag{13}$$

Finally, the net outranking flow can be calculated as their differences  $\phi(a) = \phi^+(a) - \phi^-(a)$ . The higher the net flow, the better the alternative.

3. Results and Discussion

SuperDecisions and VisualPROMETHEE are two programs that were used in this study as solver package to find the best alternative. The decision matrix and criteria weights were constructed by data collected from the database mentioned in Table 2 and with the help of decision-makers who are experts in renewable energy and energy management. Table 6 represents the decision matrix and weight of each criterion.

Table 6. Decision matrix and weights of criteria

Alternative	Criteria and their weight					
	$C_1$ (0.26)	$C_2$ (0.19)	$C_3$ (0.19)	$C_4$ (0.16)	$C_5$ (0.09)	$C_6$ (0.11)
A1	1	0.978	1	0.124	0.001	1
A2	0.932	0.626	0.880	0.133	0.002	0.183
A3	0.933	0.549	0.880	0.147	0.003	0.922
A4	0.981	1	0.880	0.671	0.002	0.739
A5	0.932	0.568	0.882	0.526	0.003	0.149

In the first step, two models were developed in SuperDecisios program for AHP and ANP techniques. Figure 2 demonstrates the developed model for AHP and Figure 3 shows the ANP model.

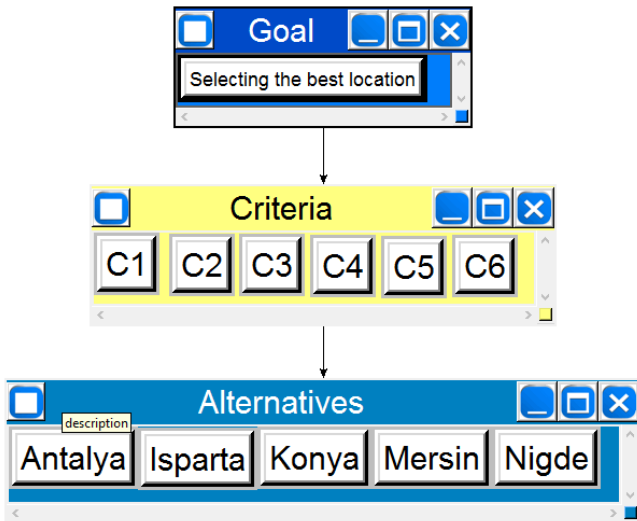


Figure 2. The AHP model

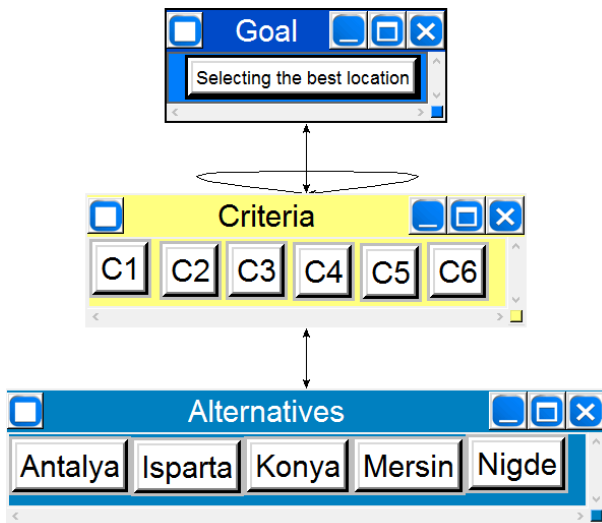


Figure 3. The ANP model

As it can differentiate between Figure 2 and Figure 3, in the AHP method there is a linear relationship structure from upper levels to lower levels with no feedback. However, in the ANP method, there are feedbacks from lower levels to higher levels, and also there are relationships within criteria.

After developing the models for AHP and ANP in the SuperDecisios program, the data for the decision matrix is entered to solve the model and rank the alternative. The results of ranking information for AHP and ANP methods are shown in Tables 7 and 8 respectively.

Table 7. AHP ranking results

Alternatives	Total	Normal	Ideal	Ranking
<i>Antalya</i>	0.2311	0.2311	0.9593	2
<i>Isparta</i>	0.1611	0.1611	0.6687	5
<i>Konya</i>	0.1933	0.1933	0.8025	3
<i>Mersin</i>	0.2409	0.2409	1	1
<i>Nigde</i>	0.1737	0.1737	0.7214	4

According to the results of the AHP method, it is possible to conclude that the best alternative is Mersin with a total score of 0.2409 followed by Antalya as the second-ranked with a score of 0.2311.

Table 8. ANP ranking results

Alternatives	Total	Normal	Ideal	Ranking
<i>Antalya</i>	0.2262	0.2262	0.9573	2
<i>Isparta</i>	0.1689	0.1689	0.7147	5
<i>Konya</i>	0.1891	0.1891	0.8002	3
<i>Mersin</i>	0.2363	0.2363	1	1
<i>Nigde</i>	0.1795	0.1795	0.7597	4

The SuperDecision results for the ANP method are similar to AHP's results. The best alternative is Mersin, and the second one is Antalya followed by Konya, Nigde, and Isparta.

In the last step, ranking procedures were done by using Visual PROMETHEE package version 1.4.0.0. The program solution for the final ranking are shown in Table 9.

Table 9. PROMETHEE ranking results

Alternatives	$\phi(a)$	$\phi^+(a)$	$\phi^-(a)$	Ranking
<i>Antalya</i>	0.5932	0.7966	0.2034	1
<i>Isparta</i>	-0.1471	0.4264	0.5736	3
<i>Konya</i>	-0.1851	0.4075	0.59250	4
<i>Mersin</i>	0.4343	0.7172	0.2828	2
<i>Nigde</i>	-0.6954	0.1532	0.8477	5

As illustrated from Table 9, each alternative is given  $\phi^+(a)$ ,  $\phi^-(a)$ , and  $\phi(a)$  that means positive outranking flow, negative outranking flow, and net ranking flow respectively. An alternative with the highest value of  $\phi(a)$  is selected as the most preferred alternative. In our case study, the best alternative is Antalya and followed by Mersin as the second one.

One of the advantages of the Visual PROMETHEE package is the graphical analysis and multidimensional presentation of the decision problem. In the following, different sensitivity analyses were performed using GAIA (Graphical Analysis for Interactive Aid).

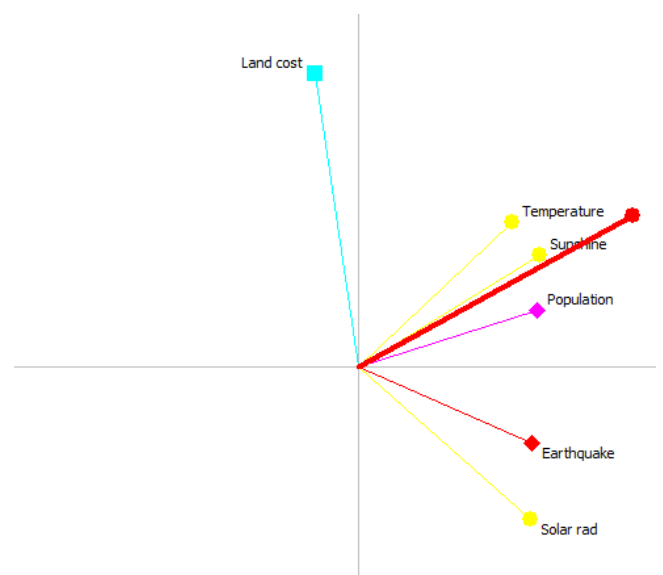
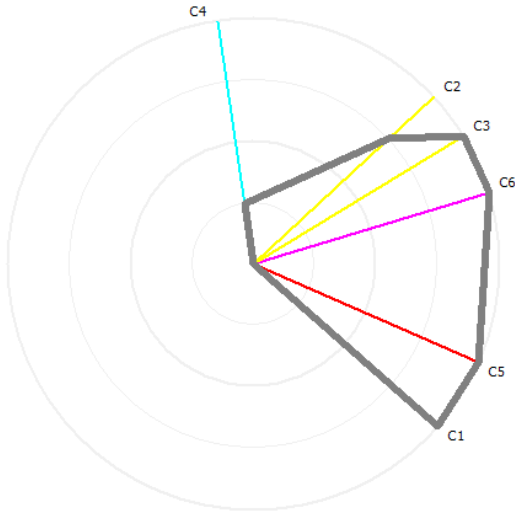


Figure 4. Criteria in the GAIA-plane

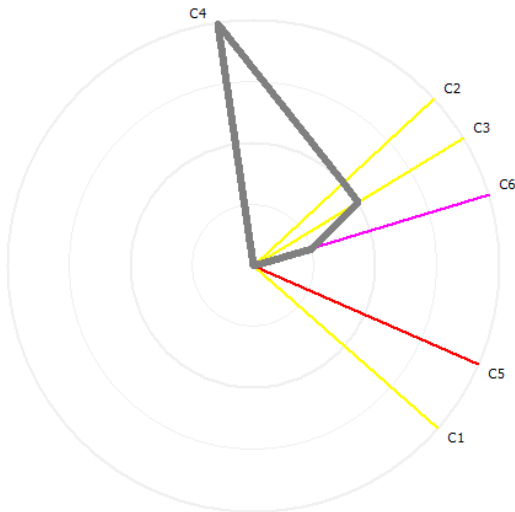
Each narrow line (axis) in figure 4 which is drawn from the center of the GAIA plane preset a criterion. The longer a line axis is, the more discriminating this criterion. for example the land

cost. Criteria expressing alike priorities are pointed in a similar or same direction. For instance, criterion 2 (average temperature) and criterion 3 (average annual sunshine) are expressing similar preferences. Oppositely, Criteria expressing contradictory relations are oriented in reverse directions of each other. The thick redline is called  $\pi$  the PROMETHEE decision axis, which presents the projection of the unit vector of the weights. If  $\pi$  is very long which is the case in this study, it is possible to conclude that the PROMETHEE decision axis line has strong decision power. Otherwise, if there exists a weak decision power, then it means that the criteria are highly contradicting with each other and it is difficult to select an appropriate alternative.

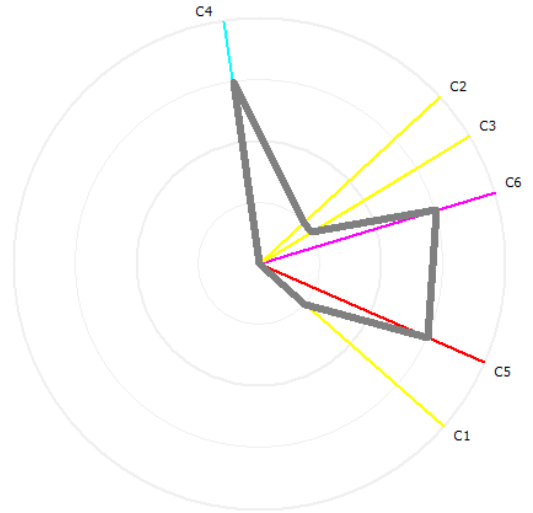
In the following figures, GAIA web is used as a graphical description to show the effect of the criteria in ranking the alternatives. The direction of the thick gray line (in Figures 5-9) that moves along with the criteria represents the strength and weakness of alternatives concerning the criteria. As the radius of the gray line increases, the performance of the alternative concerning that criterion increases as well. Though, when the radius decrease toward the center of the circle, it shows the weakness of alternative corresponding to that criterion.



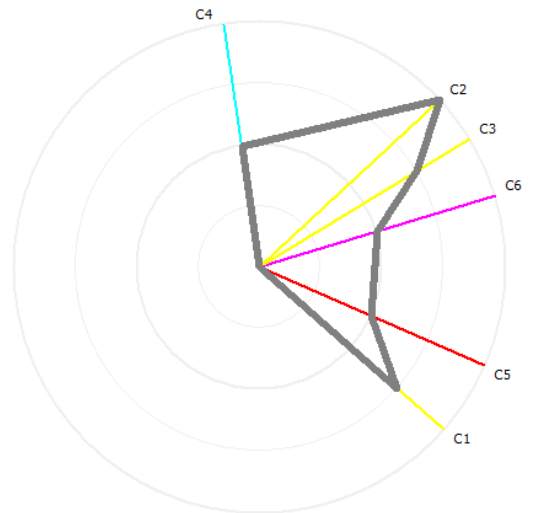
*Figure 5. Antalya GAIA WEB analysis*



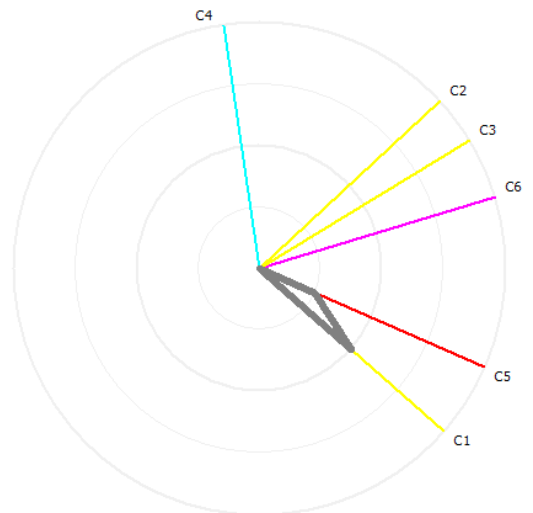
*Figure 6. Isparta GAIA WEB analysis*



*Figure 7. Konya GAIA WEB analysis*



*Figure 8. Mersin GAIA analysis*



*Figure 9. Nigde GAIA WEB analysis*

For instance, as is demonstrated in Figure 5, Antalya has extreme performance in criteria 1,3,5,6, and strongly on criterion 2, and weak (performance) on criterion 4. Instead, Nigde has the lowest performance on criteria 1 and 5 and poor performance in the rest of the criteria.

## 4. Conclusions and Recommendations

Solar energy is a sort of renewable energy resource which is obtained from the sun and it is one of the most promising ones. Turkey (because of its geographical location) is considered a potential place for the installation of a solar plant. Although there are installed solar power plants in Turkey, compared to its potential capacity, this number is small.

The main objective of this research is to use a combination of AHP, ANP, and PROMETHEE methods to find the best location of solar power plants among the five cities in Turkey that receive a sufficient amount of solar radiation. The study area includes five different cities in the south region of Turkey as alternatives. They are Antalya, Isparta, Konya, Mersin, and Niğde. Cities are evaluated and compared based on various criteria that are selected according to experts' opinions and literature review. The selected criteria are solar radiation, average temperature, average annual sunshine, land cost, earthquake risk, and population density.

To simplify and improve the accuracy of calculation, SuperDecisions and VisualPROMETHEE Programs are utilized for pairwise comparison. From the results obtained from AHP, ANP, and PROMETHEE methods, it is possible to conclude that the optimal location is Mersin, and the 2<sup>nd</sup> location is in Antalya. Although in the PROMETHEE result Antalya became the first ranking and Mersin is the second one, in two other methods (AHP and ANP) Mersin is selected as the best alternative. Also, the GAIA is used as a graphical description to show the effect of each criterion in the pairwise comparison and ranking. Also, It assists managers or decision-makers to assess the performance of the alternative based on each criterion.

Due to the size of Turkey, and in this case, only five cities in southern Turkey are considered. In the future, it is possible to diversify the evaluation with different criteria that can be added to the model or it is possible to consider more cities as alternatives.

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