

Dima YANKOVA

Carrer de Finestrat 29, Valencia 46006

+359 893 553 212

dnyankov@doctor.upv.es

EDUCATION

- 10/20 – 01/24 **POLYTECHNIC UNIVERSITY OF VALENCIA** Valencia, Spain
PhD in Local Development and International Cooperation
Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions Fellow, [POLISS ITN](#)

Thesis: Exploring the dynamics of regional R&D networks: a closer look at
Valencia's inter-organizational partnerships
Supervisors: Dr. Pablo D'Este and Dr. Mónica García Melón
- 10/16 – 8/17 **UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE, KING'S COLLEGE** Cambridge, UK
MPhil Engineering for Sustainable Development

Thesis (recognized with distinction): Lessons from countries in the Sustainable
Development Quadrant - Exploring the role of the Ecological Footprint
Supervisor: Dr. Dai Morgan
- 9/12 – 6/16 **UNION COLLEGE** Schenectady, NY, USA
B.S. Mechanical Engineering
Organized Theme Minor in Environmental and Political Science
GPA: 3.85/4.00
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ACADEMIC AND NON-ACADEMIC SECONDMENTS

- 03/22 – 06/22 **UNIVERSITY OF PÉCS** Pécs, Hungary

Visiting research fellow under the supervision of Dr. Katalin Erdős, Deputy Dean at
the Faculty of Business and Economics
- 10/21 – 12/21 **REGIONAL INNOVATION COUNCIL VALENCIA** Valencia, Spain

Research fellow under the supervision of Dr. Sonia Tirado González, General
Director of Innovation in Valencia region
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ADDITIONAL TRAINING

- 06/23 (2 weeks) **POLISS summer school, INGENIO (CSIC-UPV)** Valencia, Spain
06/23 (1 week) **POLISS course on natural language processing in economics** Valencia, Spain
01/23 (1 week) **POLISS winter school, University of Stavanger** Stavanger, Norway
11/22 (1 week) **POLISS course on text mining with Python** Valencia, Spain
09/22 (2 weeks) **POLISS summer school, University of Pécs** Pécs, Hungary
07/22 (1 week) **POLISS winter school, Bocconi University** Milan, Italy
09/21 (2 weeks) **POLISS summer school, Utrecht University** Utrecht, Netherlands

ONGOING RESEARCH PROJECTS

1. **“Towards a new facet of social proximity: the effect of failed project applications on organizations’ collaborative behavior in R&D networks”** in collaboration with Pablo D’Este (Polytechnic University of Valencia) and Mónica García Melón (Polytechnic University of Valencia)

This study investigates (1) how social proximity, measured by joint experience in project application and joint experience in project execution influence tie formation, and (2) how this relationship plays out for partners with different levels of cognitive and institutional proximity.

2. **“Does repetition equal more of the same? Challenging assumptions on strong ties in R&D networks”** in collaboration with Pablo D’Este (Polytechnic University of Valencia) and Mónica García Melón (Polytechnic University of Valencia)

This paper employs natural language processing techniques to investigate whether and under what conditions organizations use repeated engagements to explore new topics (what we call diversification), as opposed to deepening their expertise in a single one (specialization).

3. **“Sourcing insights elsewhere: The positive role of academic engagement for scientific impact”** in collaboration with Carolin Nast (University of Stavanger), Oscar Llopis (University of Valencia) and Pablo D’Este (Polytechnic University of Valencia)

This paper explores to what extent scientists’ engagement with non-academic actors contributes to academic performance in terms of impact.

4. **“Joining evenly while remaining unlike: the influence of balanced inter-sectoral research collaborations on scientific performance”** in collaboration with Fredrik Niclas Piro (Nordic Institute for Studies in Innovation, Research and Education), Alfredo Yegros (Centre for Science and Technology Studies, Leiden University), Siri Brorstad Borlaug (Nordic Institute for Studies in Innovation, Research and Education) and Pablo D’Este (Polytechnic University of Valencia)

This study examines how the balanced involvement of partners from different institutional sectors (firms, universities, research centers) influences the production of high-impact scientific outputs.

5. **“Does a rising tide lift all boats? The role of EU Framework Programme beneficiaries in regional knowledge networks”** in collaboration with Milad Abbasiharofteh (University of Groningen)

This paper tests whether greater integration in the EU’s competitive R&I landscape drives top-performing firms away from engaging with less knowledgeable or less experienced regional actors.

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

01/24	GEOINNO conference	Manchester
10/23	9 th European Conference on Corporate R&D and Innovation CONCORDi	Seville
06/23	2023 Regional Studies Association Annual Conference	Ljubljana
06/23	DRUID23	Lisbon
03/23	WIPO workshop on the future of innovation policies for smart specialization	Geneva
12/22	10th PhD Workshop in Economics of Innovation, Complexity and Knowledge	Turin
11/22	Third Joint EU Cohesion Policy Conference	Zagreb
08/22	61st ERSACongress	Pécs
06/22	Global Conference on Economic Geography	Dublin
12/21	9th PhD Workshop in Economics of Innovation, Complexity and Knowledge	Turin
08/21	RGS-IBG Annual International Conference	online

CONFERENCE ORGANIZING EXPERIENCE

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| 02/23 | Eu-SPRI Early Career Conference
President of the Organizing Committee | Valencia |
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- Led the organization of a three-day long in-person conference with 4 external speakers and 70 international participants.

PRIOR WORK EXPERIENCE

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| 11/19 – 9/20 | CIVITTA
Analyst, Public Sector | Sofia, Bulgaria |
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- Recruited in an international project to monitor and support the preparation of the Urban Innovative Actions (UIA) application of two Latvian municipalities.
 - Organized and facilitated 1 cross-border focus group and 2 workshops with eligible beneficiaries to identify priorities in the preparation of the next Interreg V-A program Bulgaria-Romania.
 - Conducted independent data collection, and data analysis using advanced Excel features, to analyze the economic, cultural and political obstacles to the cross-border transfer of innovation and technology between Bulgaria and Romania.
 - Contributed to the implementation of multiple EU-funded projects in Latvia, Lithuania, Romania, and North Macedonia with smaller desk research tasks.
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| 2/18 – 1/19 | LA MARINA DE VALÈNCIA
Project Associate. Ideas & Strategy Team | Valencia, Spain |
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- Assisted in the elaboration of La Marina's first institutional Sustainability Plan.
 - Researched the benefits and the role of living labs in fostering participative co-creation processes particularly in the context of newly-formed innovation hubs, which are disconnected from their surrounding urban environment.
 - Assisted in elaborating the theoretical framework and launch of La Marina Living Lab under the supervision of researchers from Western Sydney University.
 - Prepared La Marina's successful application for adherent membership to the European Network of Living Labs in the 13th wave of applications.

ADDITIONAL SKILLS

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| Languages | English, Spanish, Bulgarian |
| IT | MS Office (Word, Excel, PowerPoint), LaTeX, MATLAB, R, JavaScript, HTML5/CSS, Adobe Illustrator |

AWARDS

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| Academic | Davis Scholarship recipient (academic excellence)
Seward Scholar (academic excellence)
Mortimore F. Sayre Prize recipient (engineering field) |
| Non-academic | Davis Projects for Peace grant recipient
2016 U.S. National Ethics Bowl Championship Quarter-Finalist (debating) |