

**IMPACT OF ENERGY EFFICIENCY IN INDUSTRY 4.0 ERA:
EUROPEAN UNION COUNTRIES AND TURKEY**

Doğa FEHİM^a ve Ersin ÇAĞLAR^b

Article Information

Article Type:
Research Article

Submission Date:
15/11/2025

Acceptance Date:
09/12/2025

Keywords: Industry
4.0, Information and
Communication
Technologies, GDP
Per Capita, Foreign
Direct Investment,
Energy Efficiency

Abstract

Industry 4.0, or in other words, the Digital Revolution, is the name given to the fourth industrial revolution. The concept, which combines digital and physical technologies, can support productivity, flexibility and efficiency. So, this study analyses the impact of energy in Industry 4.0. In the study, quantitative variables were used for panel data analysis. This study aims to investigate the effects of energy efficiency between 2011 and 2022 in Turkey and European Union Countries. The results of the analysis show that technology innovation has an impact on energy efficiency, but on the other hand, Gross Domestic Product (GDP) per capita doesn't have any effect.

^a European University of Lefke, Lefke/KKTC, dogasytmz@gmail.com – ORCID: 0009-0008-9676-7332

^b Asst. Prof. Dr., European University of Lefke, Lefke/KKTC, ecaglar@eul.edu.tr – ORCID: 0000-0002-2175-5141 (Corresponding Author)

ENDÜSTRİ 4.0 DÖNEMİNDE ENERJİ VERİMLİLİĞİNİN ETKİSİ: AVRUPA BİRLİĞİ ÜLKELERİ VE TÜRKİYE

Makale Bilgisi

Özet

Makale Türü
Araştırma Makalesi

Gönderim Tarihi:
15/11/2025

Kabul Tarihi:
09/12/2025

Anahtar Kelimeler:
Endüstri 4.0, Bilgi
ve İletişim
Teknolojileri, Kişi
Başına GSYİH,
Doğrudan Yabancı
Yatırım, Enerji
Verimliliği.

Endüstri 4.0 veya diğer adıyla Dijital Devrim, dördüncü sanayi devrimine verilen addır. Dijital ve fiziksel teknolojileri bir araya getiren bu kavram, üretkenliği, esnekliği ve verimliliği destekleyebilir. Bu nedenle, bu çalışma Endüstri 4.0'da enerjinin etkisini analiz etmektedir. Çalışmada, panel veri analizi için nicel değişkenler kullanılmıştır. Bu çalışma, Türkiye ve Avrupa Birliği ülkelerinde 2011-2022 yılları arasında enerji verimliliğinin etkilerini araştırmayı amaçlamaktadır. Analiz sonuçları, teknoloji inovasyonunun enerji verimliliği üzerinde bir etkisi olduğunu, ancak kişi başına düşen Gayri Safi Yurtiçi Hasıla'nın (GSYİH) herhangi bir etkisi olmadığını göstermektedir.

1. INTRODUCTION

Industrial revolutions have significantly impacted production processes since their inception and will continue to do so. The First Industrial Revolution, which began with the usage of steam and water power, was replaced by the Second Industrial Revolution with the usage of electricity for mass production. With the adoption of automation and digital technologies, the Third Industrial Revolution emerged. So today, Industry 4.0 is a representation of a transformation by physical and digital technologies into production (Yang & Gau, 2021; Klingenberg et al., 2022).

In general, Industry 4.0 contributes to environmental sustainability. Environmental contributions include technologies such as digital twins and big data that make the supply chain process more transparent and responsive. Therefore allows for the preservation of economic competitiveness while also becoming more ecologically efficient. (Bai et al., 2020).

Thus, Industry 4.0 is compatible with global sustainability goals (Hidayatno et al., 2019). Because the integration of renewable energy and smart technologies has enabled production systems to achieve both operational efficiency and environmental responsibility (Fawna, 2023). Consequently, the widespread use of smart systems has increased flexibility and reduced energy waste.

As a result, Industry 4.0 aims to ensure both economic and environmental sustainability through digitalised production systems. However, the adoption of these technologies brings with it certain challenges, such as high implementation costs, a lack of knowledge, and system integration difficulties. Despite these challenges, the long-term benefits of Industry 4.0 are of strategic importance in shaping the future of the industry.

The Goal of this study is to examine the economic and technological factors affecting energy efficiency in the Industry 4.0 era. Study examines the relationship between energy efficiency and GDP, ICT, foreign investment, and technological innovation in Turkey and the European Union between 2011 and 2022. The study used panel data methods to evaluate the long-term relationships and impacts of the variables. Furthermore, the dynamic link between energy efficiency and the technological innovation indicator (TECH), derived from brand and patent data, was investigated. The results of analysis shows that technological innovation and ICT increase energy efficiency, while GDP has no significant impact. In this respect, the study contributes to the sustainability literature by highlighting the role of digital transformation on energy efficiency.

The layout of the rest of the paper is as follows: Section II presents the literature review. Section III describes the method applied in the study. Findings, results and discussions located in the section IV and V. Finally, conclusions and future works explanations are in section V and VI.

2. LITERATURE REVIEW

Industrial operations and sustainability became global with the birth of Industry 4.0. With this global effect, Industry 4.0 has become a huge research pool for researchers, especially in the field of energy efficiency and sustainability models (Cezanne et al., 2020). Besides this huge research pool, with the integration of technology, Industry 4.0 improved productivity, reduced waste, and customised production

As mentioned above, Industry 4.0 creates a huge research pool for researchers. Teng et. al. (2021) propose smart energy savings with digital twin-based infrastructures. Because sensor-related systems present difficult challenges, it affects collaboration among stakeholders. Similarly, Hidayatno et. al. (2019) also state that the adoption effects of renewable energy integration in developing countries with Industry 4.0. The proposed model builds on economic and environmental indicators. This model emphasises the role of technological investment in clean energy and emissions. The findings of researchers highlighted the crucial role of advanced technology in industrial transformation.

Another many studies apply quantitative models to assess environmental impacts on energy efficiency. Researchers (Song and Wang, 2018) implemented a mathematical approach to assess Environmental-Biased Productivity (EBP). This approach has been increase technological efficiency cost strategically and also increasing emission reductions. Another research group (Bai et. al., 2020) developed Triple Bottom Line (TBL) framework for the comparison of various Industry 4.0 technologies. The results of research proofs that blockchain and mobile technologies offer high economic and social sustainability potential. On the other hand, another popular technologies like cloud computing, artificial intelligence, and big data analytics contribute significantly to environmental goals.

Morevore these studies, Chen and researchers (2021) focus on the MENA region, how innovation and structural economic development drive energy efficiency, though negatively affected by the shadow

economy. Similar study done by Miśkiewicz and researchers (2021). Researchers explore how teal organizations promote energy efficiency through technological innovation and inclusive corporate culture. Also, Adedoyin et. al.(2020) investigate how ICT and foreign direct investment (FDI) contribute to economic growth. The results of study underscores the need for sustainable aviation and energy policy reforms in light of increasing environmental awareness.

Finally, the European Green Deal and the global energy crisis have accelerated Industry 4.0 adoption. So, Turkey has committed to the Paris Agreement and launched its Green Deal Action Plan to align with EU sustainability directives (Arana-Landín et al., 2023; Şahin et al., 2021). The transition towards a digital, low-emission economy demands a coordinated effort across nations to minimize carbon leakage and promote circular economic practices.

3. METHODOLOGY

This study, examined the impact of energy efficiency during the industry 4.0 era among European Union member states and Turkey between 2011 and 2022. To collect data Eurostat and the World Bank were used. The variables used in the research are presented in table 1. In Table 1, “*i*” denotes the country and “*t*” the time period.

Table 1. Variables of the Study

Variables	Explanations	Sources
EE_{it}	Energy Efficiency (Annual)	Eurostat
GDP_{it}	Annual GDP per capita (constant LCU)	The World Bank
FDI_{it}	Foreign Direct Investment (Annual % of GDP)	The World Bank
ICT_{it}	ICT service exports (BoP, current US\$)	The World Bank
TR_NR_{it}	Trademark Applications (Non-resident)	The World Bank
TR_R_{it}	Trademark Applications (Resident)	The World Bank
P_NR_{it}	Patent Applications (Non resident)	The World Bank
P_R_{it}	Patent Applications (Resident)	The World Bank

Econometric model of this study contains EE, GDP, FDI, ICT, and technological innovation (TECH) variables. The TECH variable was developed using PCA (principal component analysis), which combines trademark and patent application data from resident and non-resident applicants (Jaadi, 2024). PCA is a data reduction and machine learning technique that reduces the number of variables in a dataset while preserving major trends and patterns. A correlation analysis was conducted to explore the relationships between variables. The analysis determines the direction (positive or negative) and strength of the relationships, categorized into weak, moderate, strong, and very strong correlation levels (Kaya, 2013; Prestes et. al., 2021).

$$EE_{it} = GDP_{it} + FDI_{it} + ICT_{it} + TECH_{it} \quad (1)$$

Few analysis used in this study such as Stationary, Augmented Dickey-Fuller (ADF) and etc. Stationarity, tests were performed to assess whether the data series were stationary or not. (Tate, 2024; Iordanova, 2009). ADF test was applied to detect the presence of unit roots (Prabhakaran, 2019). After the finding of unit roots, series were transformed into stationary form using differencing or logarithmic transformation to stabilize variance and mean (Hyndman & Athanasopoulos, 2013). Following this, a cointegration test was conducted to assess whether there existed a long-term relationship among the variables (Tu et al., 2019).

The study adopted the Generalized Method of Moments (GMM) for parameter estimation (Genaro et. al., 2022). GMM is a flexible econometric technique designed to estimate model parameters under theoretical constraints, and it is particularly effective for addressing endogeneity, heteroskedasticity, and autocorrelation (Rodrigues, 2024; Allison et al., 2019; Zsohar, 2012). The J-statistic test was employed to evaluate the validity of instruments used in GMM, ensuring that they are uncorrelated with error terms (Dumitrescu et. al., 2013). So, this section declared detail explanation about source of data, variables and approaches. Findings section shows and explains the results of analysis.

4. FINDINGS

This section contains empirical results about European Union countries and Turkey between 2011–2022. Analysis focus on the relationships between variables (energy efficiency, economic indicators, and technological innovation).

Descriptive analysis contains correlations among the variables which is shown in Table 2. Energy efficiency (EE) is positively correlated with all technological variables, including information and communication technologies (ICT), patent applications, and trademark applications, with strong correlations ranging from 0.7 to 0.89. In contrast, EE demonstrates negative correlations with FDI and GDP per capita. Following the construction of the “TECH” variable through principal component analysis (PCA), incorporating both resident and non-resident patent and trademark applications, the analysis proceeds using this composite measure.

Table 2. Correlation

	EE	FDI	GDP	ICT	P_NR	P_R	TR_NR	TR_R
EE	1.000	-0.121	-0.116	0.800	0.751	0.884	0.764	0.849
FDI	-0.121	1.000	0.098	-0.105	-0.045	-0.072	-0.132	-0.101
GDP	-0.116	0.098	1.000	-0.080	-0.069	-0.097	-0.123	-0.133
ICT	0.800	-0.105	-0.080	1.000	0.737	0.781	0.427	0.584
P_NR	0.751	-0.045	-0.069	0.737	1.000	0.957	0.477	0.500
P_R	0.884	-0.072	-0.097	0.781	0.957	1.000	0.604	0.660
TR_NR	0.764	-0.132	-0.123	0.427	0.477	0.604	1.000	0.885
TR_R	0.849	-0.101	-0.133	0.584	0.500	0.660	0.885	1.000

Stationarity of the data is evaluated using the ADF test. Table 3 shows that at their levels, only FDI and TECH are stationary, while the other variables are non-stationary.

Table 3. ADF Test – Unit Root Test (Level)

Variables	Unit Root Test (Level)
EEit	0.6500
GDPit	1.0000
FDIit	0.0209
ICTit	0.9997
TECHit	0.0474

After first differencing, all variables become stationary as indicated in Table 4, with p-values below the 0.05 significance threshold. For subsequent analysis, the first differences of EE, GDP, and ICT are used, while FDI and TECH are employed in their original forms.

Table 4. ADF Test – Unit Root Test (1st Difference)

Variables	Unit Root Test (1 st Difference)
DEEit	0.0001
DGDPit	0.0000
FDIit	0.0209
DICTit	0.0001
TECHit	0.0474

Descriptive statistics provided in Table 5 reveal that all variables are leptokurtic with positive skewness, and Jarque-Bera test results confirm non-normal distributions for all series.

Table 5. Descriptive Statistics

	DEE	DGDP	DICT	FDI	TECH
Mean	0.117700	6382.648	4.57E+08	6.700432	0.013132
Median	0.030000	515.8358	2.23E+08	2.726919	-0.0684601
Maximum	13.49000	303515.0	6.76E+09	280.1455	6.959094
Minimum	-15.84000	-182438.3	-3.42E+09	-103.1567	-1.145211
Std. Dev.	3.045379	36664.83	1.08E+09	27.69194	1.781978
Skewness	-0.973472	4.266139	1.909566	6.463654	2.554343
Kurtosis	13.91915	35.31077	13.16410	60.18984	8.891686
Jarque-Bera	1091.789	9911.475	1046.316	30510.42	539.6944
Probability	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000
Sum	25.07000	1359504	9.74E+10	1427.192	2.797024
Sum Sq. Dev.	1966.159	2.85E+11	2.48E+20	162570.9	673.1946
Obs.	213	213	213	213	213

The Pedroni residual cointegration test is applied to determine long-run relationships among variables, with results displayed in Table 6. The null hypothesis of no cointegration is tested across seven different statistics. Six of the statistics report p-values below 0.05, suggesting evidence of long-run relationships, while five indicate otherwise. Given these mixed results, the majority-based interpretation is that there exists a long-term equilibrium relationship among the examined variables.

Table 6. Cointegration Tests

Common AR coeffs. (within dimension)				
	Stat.	Prob.	Weighted Statistic	Prob.
v-Stat.	-2.789683	0.9974	-2.832076	0.9977
rho-Stat.	2.947323	0.9984	3.142481	0.9992
PP-Stat.	-12.93671	0.0000	-5.870474	0.0000
ADF-Stat.	-8.531326	0.0000	-4.780768	0.0000

Individual AR coeffs. (between dimension)		
	Stat.	Prob.
rho-Stat.	5.135016	1.0000
PP- Stat.	-8.470501	0.0000
ADF- Stat.	-5.074599	0.0000

The estimation stage employs the GMM to analyze the dynamic panel data model, with results summarized in Table 7. The dependent variable is the first difference of energy efficiency (DEE), and instruments include the second lag of DEE, first lag of DGDP, first lag of FDI, and first lag of TECH. The coefficient estimates indicate that ICT has a strong and statistically significant positive effect on DEE, while FDI and TECH have significant negative effects. GDP per capita change (DGDP) is not statistically significant in explaining DEE. The GMM output further shows a J-statistic value of 16.58 with a p-value of 0.48, implying that the overidentifying restrictions are valid and that the chosen instruments are appropriate. Overall, the findings highlight the strong link between energy efficiency and technological indicators, the importance of ICT in enhancing energy efficiency, and the potential negative influence of FDI and certain technological innovation measures when aggregated as the TECH variable.

Table 7. GMM Output

Variable	Coefficient	Std. Error	t-Statistic	Prob.
DEE(-1)	-0.467823	0.003398	-137.6850	0.0000
DGDP	1.96E-06	4.50E-06	0.435353	0.6677
DICT	8.07E-10	9.37E-12	86.09090	0.0000
FDI	-0.019742	0.005352	-3.688658	0.0014
TECH	-1.134591	0.030230	-37.53253	0.0000

Effects Specification	
Cross section fixed (first differences)	
Mean dependent var	0.110305
S.E. of regression	4.243190
J statistic	16.57792
Prob(J-statistic)	0.483297
S.D. dependent var	3.637270
Sum squared resid	2862.741
Instrument rank	22

5. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The energy efficiency data is from Eurostat, and the GDP per capita, foreign direct investment, information communications technologies, and technological innovation data are from the World Bank.

To conduct the analysis, first, the variables that are not stationary, that has unit root, made stationary by taking their first differences. Then, the cointegration test was conducted to determine whether the series has a long-term correlation.

The cointegration test results shows that six test statistics have p-values less than 0.05 and five test statistics have p-values more than 0.05 critical value. With mixed results one should look at all results and decide on the verdict of the majority. This means since the p values is less than 0.05 critical level, we reject the null hypothesis and there is a cointegration. Which also means that there is a long-term relationship between the variables.³⁶ Having confirmed the existence of this long-term equilibrium, the next step is to proceed with an appropriate estimation technique that accounts for this relationship. After establishing the cointegration, the generalized method of moments used for regression analysis.

The results of generalized method of moments shows that the probability of J statistic is 0.48 and the J statistic value is 16.57 which means that the instruments are valid at any conventional significance level.

According to the output, the first difference in GDP per capita is not statistically significant at a 5 percent significant level with a p-value of 0.6677, which is higher than 0.05. The first difference of ICT, FDI, and TECH shows that they are statistically significant at a 5 percent significant level with p values 0.0000, 0.0014, and 0.0000 respectively. These statistical findings indicate that only certain variables demonstrate meaningful explanatory power within the model. This means that the changes in these variables have an observable effect on energy efficiency.

6. CONCLUSION

While creating regression, the variables of GDP per capita, information and communication technologies, foreign direct investment, and technological innovation were used to determine their effect on energy efficiency. In this study, GMM approach used to create an analysis framework. To measure the interaction between variables, Dynamic panel model and system GMM method are used. By establishing this methodological structure, the study positions its findings within a broader scholarly context. This research contributes to the expanding literature that investigates efficiency, sustainability, and Industry 4.0.

The outcomes of the study proofs that technological innovation has an impact on energy efficiency as showing in the literature, but GDP doesn't have an effective effect on energy efficiency. Finally, outcomes of the study, shows the impact on energy efficiency on technological innovation. But, according to outcomes, GDP per capita does not have a significant impact. So, outcomes proofs the importance of digital transformation in the industry 4.0 era.

From the management information systems perspective, the study offers how information technology contribute to operational efficiency and sustainable resource management. By analyse the interaction between information technology and energy efficiency through a decision-support framework, the study shows how technological innovations can guide strategic energy management across countries by strengthening the link between Industry 4.0 applications and MIS.

7. FUTURE WORK

To expand the focus of this study, future research could conduct both country and sector base analysis to to identify the differences in the field of technology adoption, economic structures, and policy environments. Furthermore, maximize the dataset beyond 2022, could provide a deeper understanding of how Industry 4.0 technologies impact energy efficiency. Additionally alternative indicators such as R&D expenditures, digital skills, or smart manufacturing intensity will make analysis more meaningful.

On the other hand, methodologically, usage of nonlinear models, machine learning approaches, or spatial econometric techniques will effect and make deeper outcomes. Also integrating environmental parameters like carbon intensity or renewable energy will also effect future findings.

REFERENCES

- Adedoyin, F. F., Bekun, F. V., Driha, O. M., & Balsalobre-Lorente, D. (2020). The effects of air transportation, energy, ICT and FDI on economic growth in the industry 4.0 era: Evidence from the United States. *Technological Forecasting and Social Change*, 160, 120297.
- Allison, P. D., Williams, R., & Moral-Benito, E. (2017). Maximum likelihood for cross-lagged panel models with fixed effects. *Socius*, 3, 2378023117710578.
- Arana-Landín, G., Uriarte-Gallastegi, N., Landeta-Manzano, B., & Laskurain-Iturbe, I. (2023). The contribution of lean management—Industry 4.0 technologies to improving energy efficiency. *Energies*, 16(5), 2124.
- Bai, C., Dallasega, P., Orzes, G., & Sarkis, J. (2020). Industry 4.0 technologies assessment: A sustainability perspective. *International journal of production economics*, 229, 107776.
- Cézanne, C., Lorenz, E., & Saglietto, L. (2020). Exploring the economic and social impacts of Industry 4.0. *Revue d'économie industrielle*, (169), 11-35.
- Chen, M., Sinha, A., Hu, K., & Shah, M. I. (2021). Impact of technological innovation on energy efficiency in industry 4.0 era: Moderation of shadow economy in sustainable development. *Technological Forecasting and Social Change*, 164, 120521.
- Dumitrescu, E. I., Hurlin, C., & Madkour, J. (2013). Testing interval forecasts: A GMM-based approach. *Journal of Forecasting*, 32(2), 97-110.

- Fawna, H. (2023). The impact of industry 4.0 on the economy. *International Journal of Science and Society*, 5(3), 125-133.
- Genaro, A. D., & Astorino, P. (2022). A tutorial on the Generalized Method of Moments (GMM) in finance. *Revista de Administração Contemporânea*, 26, e210287.
- Hidayatno, A., Destyanto, A. R., & Hulu, C. A. (2019). Industry 4.0 technology implementation impact to industrial sustainable energy in Indonesia: A model conceptualization. *Energy Procedia*, 156, 227-233.
- Hyndman, R. J., & Athanasopoulos, G. (2013). 8.1 Stationarity and differencing. *Forecasting: Principles and practices, Melbourne, Australia, OTexts*.
- Iordanova, T. (2009). Introduction to stationary and non-stationary processes. Retrieved September, 19, 2013.
- Jaadi, Z. (2024). Principal Component Analysis (PCA): A step-by-step explanation. *Ανάκτηση*, 9(06), 2024.
- Kaya, S. S. (2013). Türkiye’de Savunma Harcamalarının İktisadi Etkileri Üzerine Nedensellik Analizi (1970–2010). *Trakya Üniversitesi Sosyal Bilimler Dergisi*, 15(2), 17-38.
- Klingenberg, C. O., Borges, M. A. V., & do Vale Antunes Jr, J. A. (2022). Industry 4.0: What makes it a revolution? A historical framework to understand the phenomenon. *Technology in Society*, 70, 102009.
- Miśkiewicz, R., Rzepka, A., Borowiecki, R., & Olesiński, Z. (2021). Energy efficiency in the Industry 4.0 era: Attributes of teal organisations. *Energies*, 14(20), 6776.
- Prabhakaran, S. (2019). Augmented dickey fuller test (adf test)–must read guide. *Let’s DataScience*.
- Prestes, P. A. N., Silva, T. E. V., & Barroso, G. C. (2021). Correlation analysis using teaching and learning analytics. *Heliyon*, 7(11).
- Rodrigues, L. F. S. (2024). Why and when to use the Generalized Method of Moments. *Towards Data Science*. (Accessed on 6 May 2024).
- Şahin, G., Taksim, M. A., & Yitgin, B. (2021). Effects of the European Green Deal on Turkey’s electricity market. *İşletme Ekonomi ve Yönetim Araştırmaları Dergisi*, 4(1), 40-58.
- Song, M., & Wang, S. (2018). Measuring environment-biased technological progress considering energy saving and emission reduction. *Process Safety and Environmental Protection*, 116, 745-753.
- Tate, A. (2024). Understanding the importance of stationarity in time series. Accessed: May 12th, 2023.

- Teng, S. Y., Touš, M., Leong, W. D., How, B. S., Lam, H. L., & Máša, V. (2021). Recent advances on industrial data-driven energy savings: Digital twins and infrastructures. *Renewable and Sustainable Energy Reviews*, 135, 110208.
- Tu, C., Fan, Y., & Fan, J. (2019). Universal cointegration and its applications. *IScience*, 19, 986-995.
- Yang, F., & Gu, S. (2021). Industry 4.0, a revolution that requires technology and national strategies. *Complex & Intelligent Systems*, 7(3), 1311-1325.
- Zsohar, P. (2012). Short introduction to the generalized method of moments. *Hungarian statistical review*, 16, 150-170.

GENİŞLETİLMİŞ ÖZET

ENDÜSTRİ 4.0 DÖNEMİNDE ENERJİ VERİMLİLİĞİNİN ETKİSİ: AVRUPA BİRLİĞİ ÜLKELERİ VE TÜRKİYE

Endüstri 4.0 ile birlikte üretim süreçlerinde yaşanan dijital dönüşüm, enerji yönetimi ve verimliliği üzerinde önemli etkiler yaratmıştır. Otomasyon, nesnelerin interneti, yapay zekâ, büyük veri analitiği ve siber-fiziksel sistemler gibi teknolojilerin yaygınlaşması, enerji kullanımının daha akılcı, daha şeffaf ve daha optimize edilmiş bir biçimde yönetilmesini mümkün kılmıştır. Enerji verimliliği günümüzde maliyetlerin azaltılması, sürdürülebilirlik hedeflerine ulaşılması, iklim değişikliği ile mücadele edilmesi ve rekabet gücünün korunması açısından kritik bir gösterge hâline gelmiştir. Bu çerçevede çalışma, dijitalleşmenin ve teknolojik yeniliklerin ülkelerin enerji performansını nasıl şekillendirdiğini belirlemeyi amaçlamaktadır.

Bu araştırma, Avrupa Birliği ülkeleri ile Türkiye'nin 2011–2022 dönemine ait panel verilerini inceleyerek enerji verimliliği ile ICT ihracatı, doğrudan yabancı yatırım, kişi başına düşen gelir ve teknolojik inovasyon arasındaki ilişkileri analiz etmektedir. Bilgi ve iletişim teknolojileri ihracatı, ülkelerin dijital kapasitesini ve teknolojiyi üretim süreçlerinde kullanma potansiyelini yansıtırken; FDI değişkeni sermaye girişlerinin teknolojik yayılma ve enerji tüketimi üzerindeki etkisini ölçmektedir. GDP per capita ekonomik gelişmişlik düzeyini temsil etmekte, TECH değişkeni ise patent ve marka başvurularına dayalı olarak ülkelerin inovasyon kapasitesini ortaya koymaktadır. Bu değişkenler, enerji verimliliğinin ekonomik ve teknolojik belirleyicilerini kapsamlı biçimde değerlendirme imkânı sunmaktadır.

Enerji verimliliği verileri Eurostat'tan, ICT, GDP per capita ve FDI verileri ise Dünya Bankası'ndan elde edilmiştir. Patent ve marka verilerinden PCA yöntemiyle oluşturulan TECH göstergesi, inovasyon kapasitesini tek bir bileşen altında toplayarak analizin istatistiksel gücünü artırmaktadır. Veri seti, enerji verimliliğinin uzun dönemli makroekonomik ve teknolojik dinamiklerini incelemek için güçlü bir zemin sağlamaktadır.

Analizin ilk aşamasında ADF birim kök testi uygulanmış ve EE, ICT ve GDP değişkenlerinin seviyede durağan olmadığı, ancak birinci farklarında durağan hâle geldikleri belirlenmiştir. FDI ve TECH değişkenleri ise seviyede durağandır. Bu sonuçlar, karma bütünleşme derecelerine sahip panel veri modelleri için uygun bir zemin oluşturmuş, değişkenlerin durağanlaştırıldıktan sonra ilişki analizine devam edilmesine olanak tanımıştır. Ardından Pedroni eşbütünleşme testi, enerji verimliliği ile dijitalleşme, ekonomik gelişmişlik, doğrudan yatırım ve inovasyon arasında uzun dönemli bir denge ilişkisi olduğunu ortaya koymuştur. Bu bulgu, değişkenlerin uzun vadede birlikte hareket ettiğini ve enerji verimliliğinin ekonomik yapıdan bağımsız düşünülemeyeceğini göstermektedir.

Eşbütünleşme sonucunun ardından model Sistem GMM yöntemiyle tahmin edilmiştir. Sistem GMM, dinamik modellerde sıkça karşılaşılan endojenlik, otokorelasyon ve heteroskedastisite gibi sorunlara güçlü çözümler sunması nedeniyle tercih edilmiştir. Hansen J-istatistiği, modelde kullanılan araç değişkenlerin geçerli olduğunu ortaya koyarak tahminlerin güvenilirliğini artırmıştır. Böylece elde edilen katsayıların politika geliştirme açısından yorumlanabilir olduğu doğrulanmıştır.

Ampirik bulgular, ICT değişkeninin enerji verimliliği üzerinde güçlü ve pozitif bir etkiye sahip olduğunu göstermektedir. Dijitalleşmenin enerji performansını iyileştirmesinin arkasında farklı mekanizmalar bulunmaktadır. Akıllı sensörler sayesinde enerji tüketiminin gerçek zamanlı izlenebilmesi, IoT tabanlı üretim süreçlerinin verimliliği artırması, yapay zekâ algoritmalarının enerji yönetimini optimize etmesi ve veri analitiği yoluyla bakım faaliyetlerinin iyileştirilmesi bu mekanizmalar arasında yer alır. Dijital kapasitesi yüksek olan ülkeler enerji kayıplarını hızlı tespit edebilmekte ve daha düşük enerjiyle daha yüksek üretim yapabilmektedir.

Teknolojik inovasyonu temsil eden TECH değişkeni ise enerji verimliliğini kısa vadede negatif yönde etkilemektedir. Bu bulgu ilk bakışta çelişkili görünse de inovasyon süreçlerinin doğasıyla uyumludur. İnovasyonun başlangıç aşamaları genellikle yüksek enerji gerektiren laboratuvar çalışmaları, test faaliyetleri, altyapı dönüşümleri ve Ar-Ge harcamaları içerir. Bu nedenle kısa vadede inovasyonun enerji talebini artırması olağandır. Ancak literatür, uzun dönemde inovasyonun enerji verimli teknolojilerin geliştirilmesini sağlayarak enerji performansını artırdığını göstermektedir. Bu nedenle negatif etkinin geçici olduğu ve dönüşüm maliyetlerinden kaynaklandığı değerlendirilmektedir.

FDI'nin enerji verimliliği üzerindeki etkisi de negatiftir. Bu bulgu, özellikle gelişmekte olan ülkelerde doğrudan yabancı yatırımların çoğunlukla enerji yoğun sektörlerle yöneldiğini göstermektedir. Yabancı sermaye, çoğu zaman düşük maliyetli üretim tesisleri kurmakta ve bu tesisler eski teknoloji kullanabilmektedir. Bu durum enerji talebini artırmakta ve verimlilik üzerinde baskı oluşturmaktadır. Dolayısıyla FDI'nin niteliksel yapısının iyileştirilmesi ve çevresel standartlara uygun yatırımların teşvik edilmesi önem taşımaktadır.

GDP per capita değişkeninin enerji verimliliği üzerinde istatistiksel olarak anlamlı bir etkisinin çıkmaması ise ekonomik büyümenin tek başına enerji verimliliğini artırmadığını göstermektedir.

Büyümenin enerji performansına olumlu katkı sağlayabilmesi için dijitalleşme, inovasyon, verimli üretim süreçleri ve sürdürülebilir politikalar ile desteklenmesi gerekmektedir. Bu bulgu, büyüme odaklı politikaların enerji verimliliği perspektifiyle yeniden düşünülmesi gerektiğine işaret etmektedir.

Çalışmanın genel bulguları değerlendirildiğinde, Endüstri 4.0 teknolojilerinin enerji verimliliğinin geleceği açısından belirleyici bir unsur olduğu görülmektedir. Dijitalleşme, enerji kullanımındaki verimsizlikleri görünür kılmakta, süreçleri optimize etmekte ve kaynak kullanımını makro düzeyde daha etkin hale getirmektedir. Inovasyonun kısa vadeli negatif etkisi ise politikaların zaman boyutunu dikkate alması gerektiğini göstermektedir; inovasyon desteklerinin sürdürülebilirliği uzun vadede enerji verimliliği üzerinde olumlu bir etki yaratacaktır. FDI'nin negatif etkisi ise yatırım çekme stratejilerinin niteliksel dönüşümünün önemine işaret etmektedir.

Tüm bu bulgular ışığında politika yapıcılara yönelik çeşitli öneriler sunulabilir. İlk olarak, ülkelerin dijital altyapı yatırımlarını artırmaları ve ICT tabanlı çözümleri enerji yönetim sistemlerine entegre etmeleri gerekmektedir. Dijital teknolojiler, enerji tüketimini optimize etmede en etkili araçlar arasındadır. İkinci olarak, doğrudan yabancı yatırımların niteliğinin iyileştirilmesi, yani yeşil teknoloji içeren yatırımların teşvik edilmesi büyük önem taşımaktadır. Üçüncü olarak, inovasyon politikaları uzun vadeli bir perspektifle ele alınmalı; Ar-Ge faaliyetleri desteklenmeli ve inovasyon çıktılarının ekonomik kullanım alanlarına hızla taşınması sağlanmalıdır. Son olarak, Endüstri 4.0'ın sunduğu teknolojik olanakların ulusal enerji stratejileri ile uyumlaştırılması, sürdürülebilir kalkınma hedeflerine ulaşmada önemli bir adım olacaktır.

Bu çalışma, dijitalleşmenin ve teknolojik dönüşümün enerji verimliliği üzerindeki etkilerini ampirik verilerle ortaya koyarak literatüre önemli bir katkı sunmaktadır. Bulgular, enerji verimliliğinin sadece ekonomik büyüme ile değil; dijitalleşme, inovasyon ve teknolojik yatırımlarla birlikte ele alınması gerektiğini göstermektedir. Gelecek araştırmaların sektörel düzeyde daha ayrıntılı veri setleri kullanması, inovasyon göstergelerini çeşitlendirmesi ve yapay zekâ tabanlı modelleri içermesi, literatüre daha derinlemesine katkı sağlayacaktır.