

## Short biography of MURCS 2019 cohort

**Irmak Ozkan** was born and lived in Istanbul, Turkey, an **Environmental Engineer**, graduated in 2014 from Marmara University in Istanbul. She has worked as a **wastewater treatment and biogas plant designer** then she became a **Business Development Specialist at Stantec** (former MWH Global). She worked for proposals on energy, water and sustainability projects around the world, funded by International Financing Institutions like the World Bank and the EBRD.



I am **Nadin Iskenderoglu**, from Istanbul, Turkey. I am an **environmental engineer**. I completed my bachelor's degree in **Environmental Engineering in 2014** at Marmara University, Istanbul. After graduation, I started my career as a **wastewater process engineer** and since then I took part in the design **projects of treatment plants and feasibility studies for environmental infrastructures**. Moreover, I also gained **experience in World Bank Group IFC projects** and in Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance (IPA) projects supported by EU.



**Melis Suher** is an **urban planner** from Ankara. After graduating from City and Regional Planning in METU, she completed **Master degree in the same university on Urban Policy Planning** with honours. She has worked in **private planning offices** and took part in a variety of projects from urban transformation to urban development for several Turkish cities. She has **started her PhD** in the same department and went on an exchange to study in **KU Leuven in Belgium** for the 2016-2017 academic year. Returned to Turkey and **started working in ISLEM GIS**, an Esri gold partner that led me to develop an interest in GIS applications.



**Aira Valdez** worked as an architect in the Philippines for four years before taking her master's degree in Europe. She graduated cum laude from **the University of Santo Tomas with a bachelor's degree in Architecture in 2015**. After graduation, she **worked as a design architect** at WTA Architecture + Design Studio and Stateland Incorporated, and later on as a project architect at Suntrust Properties Incorporated, a development company. The latter made her more aware of the environment and its architectural implications, which then motivated her to study sustainability on a deeper level.



**Abinet Assefa** has been working as **lecturer of urban development and management at Hawassa University, Ethiopia** before joining the Erasmus master program of Urban Climate and Sustainability (MURCS). In his previous studies, He has earned a **bachelor of Education Degree in Geography and a master degree in urban development and management** in his native Ethiopia and has a strong interest in the field of Urban Climate Adaptation and Mitigation.



**Sonam Dagay** was born at Haa, the western most district of Bhutan. He has a **Bachelor of Science from the University of Delhi**. He has been working with the **National Environment Commission in Bhutan**, specifically dealing with matters related to climate change since May 2009.



**Anna Mackenzie** is an architect based in Glasgow. She is Norwegian, Scottish and a little bit Danish and has grown up and worked on both sides of the North Sea. For the last few years, she has been working predominantly on social housing projects. She enjoys getting into the outdoors: skiing, hiking and climbing.

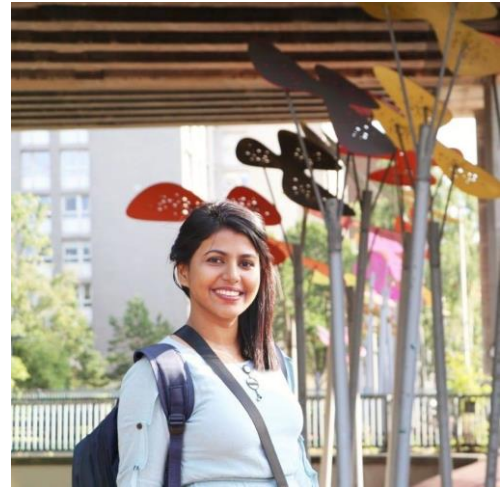


**Oksana Ananyeva** built her career in Kyiv, Ukrainian capital. She graduated with honors from the National University of Kyiv-Mohyla Academy in Kyiv (Ukraine) with a **MSc degree in Ecology and Environmental Protection** and dedicated almost 8 years to the work in **environmental health research**. In her recent position of the research scientist at the State Institution "O.M. Marzieiev Institute for Public Health of the National Academy of Medical Sciences of Ukraine" Oksana was involved in the studies focused on **minimizing the impacts of environmental factors, as the key determinants of public health**, within modern cities. She has participated in a series of international research projects on **assessment of health risks** resulting from **industrial air pollution** in Ukrainian cities, which were conducted in cooperation with U.S. EPA and World Bank in Ukraine. Over the past 5 years Oksana has worked on several **environmental consultancy projects for industry and supervised a research on the assessment of health effects of traffic-related air pollution within Kyiv city**.

**Shifana Simath** is an architect from Sri Lanka. After getting her Honours degree in Bachelor of Architecture from the University of Moratuwa, she joined a well-established **architectural consultation** firm, where I also qualified as a Chartered Architect during this tenure. After working for 4 years, in a wide range of projects including **masterplan developments for residential projects, apartment complexes and hospital projects**, she realized the importance of restructuring statutory policies and frameworks that promotes sustainability to ensure a proper sustainable development in the context of Sri Lanka, which is currently a hot attraction for many investors for development projects.



**Shammi Akter Keya**, born and raised in Bangladesh, completed her **Bachelor of Architecture** from the **Bangladesh University of Engineering & Technology**. She has worked as an architect in an architectural firm. Later she joined in Rajshahi University of Engineering & Technology, Bangladesh as **a lecturer in the Architecture Department**. As a faculty member, she has been involved in projects that include the future projection of the **urban development within the city with the collaboration of the municipality** and have experienced the gap between the theoretical idea and the real time implementation. She hopes to research more on this aspect and utilize my expertise gained through this in future sustainable built environment development.



**Roberto Stohmann** is a 32-year-old **civil engineer** from La Paz, Bolivia. He has also a **master's degree in Public Policy and Management**. He has worked in a consultancy firm in Santiago de Chile for a couple of years. Since 2013 he has been working in the public sector in La Paz. First, in **a national agency in charge of regulating water and wastewater utilities**. Then, his last job was in the Secretariat of Environment Management of the Municipality of La Paz, as a **technical advisor overseeing, coordinating, and managing projects, programs, and policies related to water and wastewater services**.



**Milagros Saloma** is a 28-year-old **architect with working experience in Airport Design, HVAC and Renewable Energy Projects**. She has double nationality: Peruvian and Mexican, and has worked, studied and lived in both countries. She has identified the lack of environmental considerations in architecture and urbanism. She thinks that the **application of sustainability in design** is an urgent need.



**Raju Bala** is an **Architect and urban design professional from India**, with three and a half years of experience in architecture and teaching. Previously, he was working as a **teaching associate at CEPT University**, Ahmedabad, India where, he was involved in teaching basic skills of urban planning and urban design for 156 master's students. After completing architecture, Raju was actively involved in designing and executing a variety of architecture and interior projects. His interest in **sustainability and climatology** encouraged him to choose this master's programme.

**Rabeya Begum** is born in a small village in Chandpur District of Bangladesh. She finished her **B.Sc. with Environmental Science** major from AUW (Asian University for Women) in 2014. She became a permanent employee of **H&M** in early 2016 as **Sustainability Developer for Environment**. Her role was educating and evaluating the compliance team of garment factories through trainings, onsite visit, and meetings. She had to audit various environmental compliance aspects such as energy, water, chemical use, air pollution, waste management, wastewater treatment etc. She also became the **master trainer on behalf of H&M for Facility Environmental Module**, an assessment tool facilitated by Sustainable Apparel Coalition. In her 3.5 years tenure, she completed more than 80 audits at various location of Bangladesh. She continued working at H&M until she received Erasmus Mundus Scholarship for MURCS.



**Abuzar Popal** is from Montreal, Canada. His background is in **physical geography and geomatics**. He has over four years of experience as a **GIS/Location Analyst**.



**Nichamon Rattanakijanant** is from Bangkok, a **landscape architect** in her hometown. Her previous works mostly focused on **integrating aesthetic and ecological functions** to mixed-use scale projects. She is interested to experiment and expand her understanding of how the landscape can function as a sustainable urban infrastructure.

