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This project is co-funded by the European Union
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NEWSLETTER #13 | January 2021

Dear Colleagues and Stakeholders of TEBD,

We hope this letter finds you in good health.

In this newsletter, we will provide some insights on our SME Workshops held on EU and Turkey Rural Development Policy' and the Solvency Audit Programme. We also present you with the success story of the "Intereuropean Concept Innovation Network" Chamber Partnership Project that has been developed and implemented by Trabzon Chamber of Commerce and Industry (Turkey) in partnership with Bulgarian Chamber of Commerce and Industry (Bulgaria) and Kaunas Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Crafts (Lithuania). They all perform extremely well despite this challenging past year.

We hope you will enjoy this latest edition of our newsletter and we wish you continued strength. Stay safe and take care of each other!

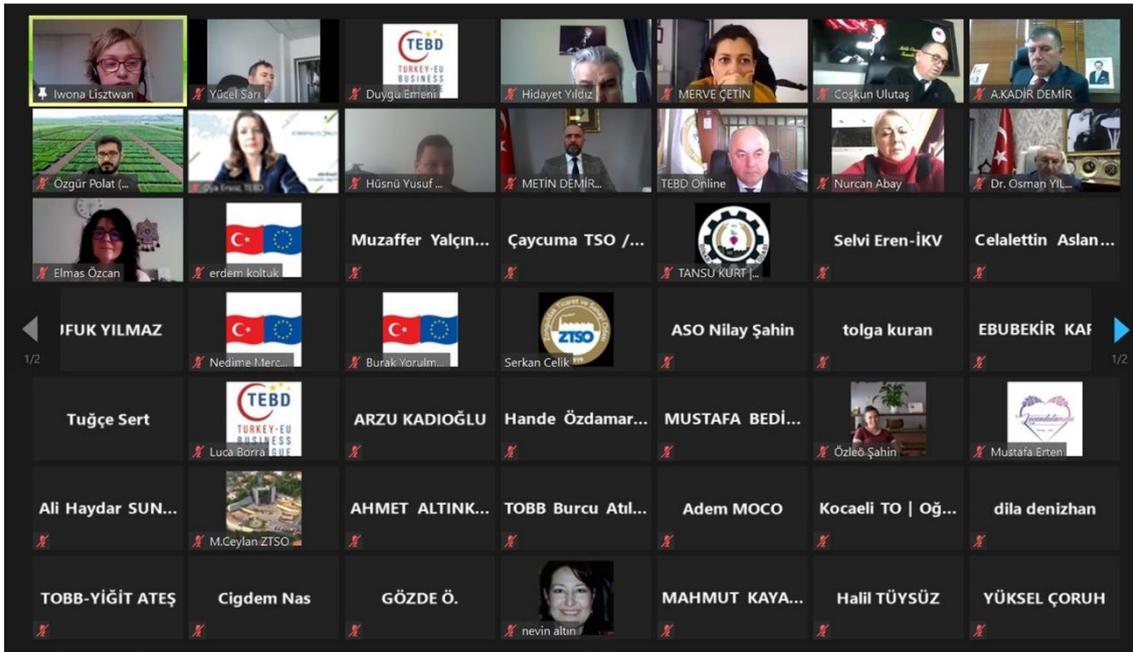
Oya ERSÖZ - TEBD Project Director

RECENT ACTIVITIES

SME Workshops

TEBD Workshop for SMEs - Zonguldak, Turkey

Zoom platform | 20 January 2021



Zonguldak Chamber of Commerce and Industry hosted a very interactive and fruitful SME Workshop on 'EU and Turkey Rural Development Policy' on 20 January 2021 in the scope of the TEBD Project. The workshop attracted around 50 participants.

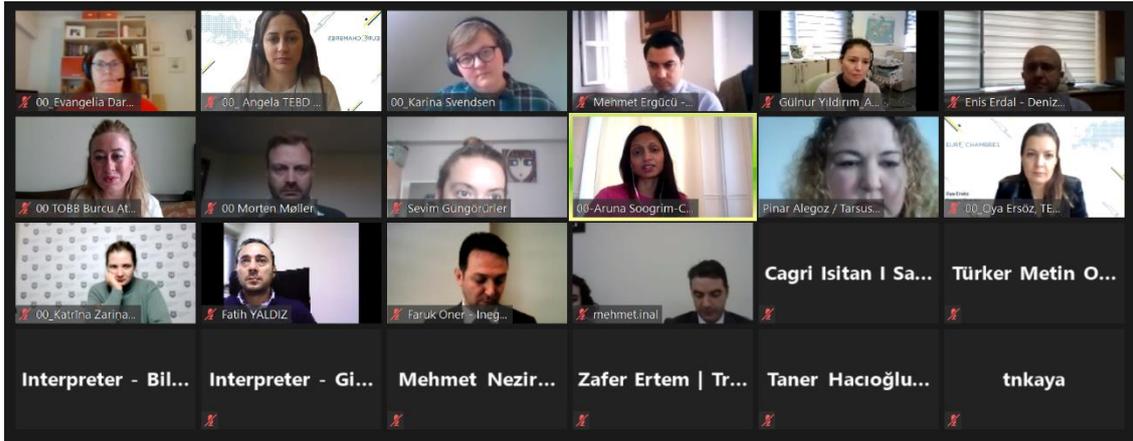
The workshop was opened by **Mr Metin DEMİR**, President of Zonguldak Chamber of Commerce and Industry. Under the moderation of **Mr Muharrem SARIKAYA**, Zonguldak Chamber of Commerce and Industry Secretary General, **Ms Iwona LISZTWAN**, IPA Rural Development Programme Manager for Turkey in the Directorate-General for Agriculture and Rural Development of the European Commission and **Dr Osman YILDIZ**, Head of Managing Authority of IPARD Turkey in the Turkish Republic Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry,

provided insightful information on the topics of Rural development policy in the European Union and in Turkey, the local expectations from IPARD in Turkey and EU Strategies, changes in the approach of the European Commission after Covid-19, priorities and cross cutting areas, the European Green Deal, and many more. The TEBD Project was presented by **Ms Oya ERSÖZ**, TEBD Project Director. The workshop was finalized with an interactive question & answer session.

Solvency Audit

Third Training: Module 5

Zoom platform | 12 January 2021



The third Solvency Audit training, organized by the [TEBD](#) Project, and supported by [TOBB](#) and selected EU Solvency Experts, took place on 12 January 2021. Turkish Chamber/Exchange Executives selected across Turkey attended the third and final training given by four EU Solvency Experts.

Following the previous and second training (module 3 and 4), each Turkish Chamber/Exchange had committed to carry out 10 solvency assistance cases (all online) among different Turkish companies who face difficulties, evaluating its risk for insolvency or bankruptcy and offering assistance using the diagnostic toolkit provided by the EU Solvency Experts, which based on the existing Early Warning Mechanism developed for EU SMEs.

The third and final training (module 5) took place after the Turkish Chamber experts had their first assistance cases with their Chamber members (SMEs) that were facing difficulties. During this training, Turkish Chamber experts were given the opportunity to share their experiences, difficulties, lessons learned, and best practices faced during their first assistance cases with the other participants. They also did troubleshooting and most importantly discussed about the suitability and applicability of the diagnostic toolkit. Among others, which tools were used during these first assistance cases and which were not applicable, the level of easiness of using the toolkit, what difficulties the Turkish Chamber experts faced with the SMEs, and if any tool was not well adapted to the Turkish context.

Following these shared experiences and discussions, it was also addressed if and how this activity could be possibly improved, what other tools could be included, and potential solutions to attract more SMEs to participate and request the support of the Early Warning tool.

Taking note of all the discussions and case outcomes, the four EU Solvency Experts have started drafting the final report with potential recommendations, and further actions to be taken.

CHAMBER PARTNERSHIPS

Success Story

Innovation, Cooperation, and Sustainability

The “Intereuropean Concept Innovation Network” is a project that has been developed and implemented by Trabzon Chamber of Commerce and Industry (Turkey) in partnership with Bulgarian Chamber of Commerce and Industry (Bulgaria) and Kaunas Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Crafts (Lithuania). It is one of 19 Chamber Partnership projects which is being supported by the European Union in the framework of TEBD.

"The Intereuropean Concept Innovation Network project has been a very important development for my career. Thanks to the project, I got information about the projects in different countries. I was especially honored to be in the competition held in 3 different countries." - **Kemal BAYRAM,** Turkish entrepreneur.

The "Intereuropean Concept Innovation Network" project was launched back on April 1st of 2019. The specific aims of this initiative are to enhance the capacity of the Trabzon, Bulgarian, and Kaunas Chambers of Commerce and Industry; enriching and broadening their services, including, but not limited to, innovation management, IPR, design and commercialization. To do so, this project has its focus on the promotion of cultural development, as well as nourishing the innovative entrepreneurship spirit through trainings, consultancy services and the exchange of knowledge and best practices.

A bond was built between the three chambers through visits, where entrepreneurs had the chance to learn on subjects such as IPR, design, entrepreneurship and Project Cycle Management in Trabzon, Sofia and Kaunas.



Within the framework of the project an Entrepreneurship Competition was organized with a partial aim to create an opportunity to announce innovative ideas to the authorities who are pioneers of their working areas/sectors. Its accomplishment was carried out by the implementation of Innovative Entrepreneurship Contest, as well as Conferences themed on

Technology and Innovation, and Consultancy on Preparation and Submission of Business Plans of Innovative Entrepreneurs. These practices allowed the Trabzon Chamber to fulfill its aims of capacity building of the chambers to better serve and represent their members; and ultimately to display an exchange of knowledge and best practices in the field of commercialization, research and development, innovation, transfer of technology, and IT technology.

Many were the gains and lessons of this project. During this process, participants developed abilities on dealing with force majeure, since a vast majority of the activities consisted of physical meetings and travels, which were banned due to the sanitary crisis that we live in. However, in order to rise upon the unexpected, these activities were held online.



Every project has its challenges, and the **Intereuropean Concept Innovation Network** soared upon them all, leaving an incredible outcome behind, and transforming many lives in the process.

“I am very grateful for the opportunity to participate in the study visit to Trabzon, Turkey. I received valuable insights on how our partners and business support organizations successfully develop their technology centers and support their innovators. Another great contribution of this study visit is that we managed to build a sustainable partnership with our colleagues and other organizations from Turkey. This partnership currently continues with more interesting initiatives and projects dedicated to increase the capacities and

opportunities for innovation and entrepreneurship development in our countries.”
- **Blagovesta DZHABIROVA**, Expert, Enterprise Europe Network (Bulgarian Chamber of Commerce and Industry).

Find more information on the Intereuropean Concept Innovation Network [HERE](#).

In the framework of TEBD, the European Union is supporting 19 partnership projects involving Chambers in Turkey and Chambers in the EU Member States.

For more information about **Chamber Partnerships**, please see the [TEBD website](#).

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

TEBD High-Level Business Dialogue

Zoom platform | 10-11 March 2021

SAVE THE DATE
10-11 MARCH 2021

This project is co-funded by the European Union and the Republic of Turkey

TEBD TURKEY-EU BUSINESS DIALOGUE

EU-TURKEY HIGH LEVEL BUSINESS DIALOGUE
EUGREENDEAL

CFPU EUROCHAMBRES CIVIL SOCIETY SECTOR

On **10-11 March 2021** the **EU-Turkey High Level Business Dialogue** will be organized by the [TEBD](#) project, co-financed by the European Union and the Republic of Turkey, and implemented by [EUROCHAMBRES](#) in close cooperation with [TOBB](#).

The EU-Turkey High Level Business Dialogue will bring EU Commissioners, Turkish Ministers, and Business Leaders together discussing challenges and opportunities on the **EU GREEN DEAL**.

Did you know that Turkey is the sixth largest partner for EU exports of goods and the sixth largest partner for EU imports of goods? Also, that the EU is Turkey's number one import and export partner? The European Union's Green Deal plan will have a direct impact on Turkey's trade and economic relations with the EU. This event will draft recommendations from the business community towards policy-makers, with the aim of improving EU-Turkey relations and economic cooperation, and thereby contributing to the further development of the Customs Union and moving forward with Turkey's EU accession process.

The **EU-Turkey High Level Business Dialogue** will commence with an opening session with high level participation and continue with the following four engaging and interactive thematic sessions:

- EU-Turkey Economic and Trade Relations and Common Challenges in the view of EU Green Deal
- Skills for EU Green Transition
- Recovery, Investment and Sustainable Finance
- Circular Economy

View the agenda and register by clicking on the below button.

Turkish and English simultaneous translation will be provided during the event.

[AGENDA & REGISTRATION](#)

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EUROCHAMBRES

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TURKEY-EU BUSINESS DIALOGUE

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