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This project is co-funded by the European Union
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NEWSLETTER #18 | November & December 2021

Dear Colleagues and Stakeholders of TEBD,

The year of 2021 is coming to the end and unfortunately it ends in a similar way it started with a new wave of the Covid-19 pandemic. Nevertheless, despite continuing difficulties caused by the ongoing pandemic, TEBD project has been showing a strong performance in most areas of our activities.

New activities and project are being cooked by the TEBD Team for 2022.

This month, we are pleased to present another success story of TEBD Chamber Partnership Project on the "Improve Networking Opportunities through Enhanced Digital Information Management System" has been developed and implemented by Artvin Chamber of Commerce and Industry in partnership with Arad Chamber of Agriculture, Commerce and Industry.

TEBD team wishes you a relaxing holiday season and a happy new year! Take care and stay safe! See you next year!

Oya ERSÖZ - TEBD Project Director

**Happy Holidays & New Year
from the TEBD Team**



RECENT ACTIVITIES

SME Workshops

Business Management, Financial Resources Management in SMEs in Turkey and the EU during the COVID-19 Pandemic Process - Malatya, Turkey

Malatya Chamber of Commerce and Industry Virtual | 11 November 2021

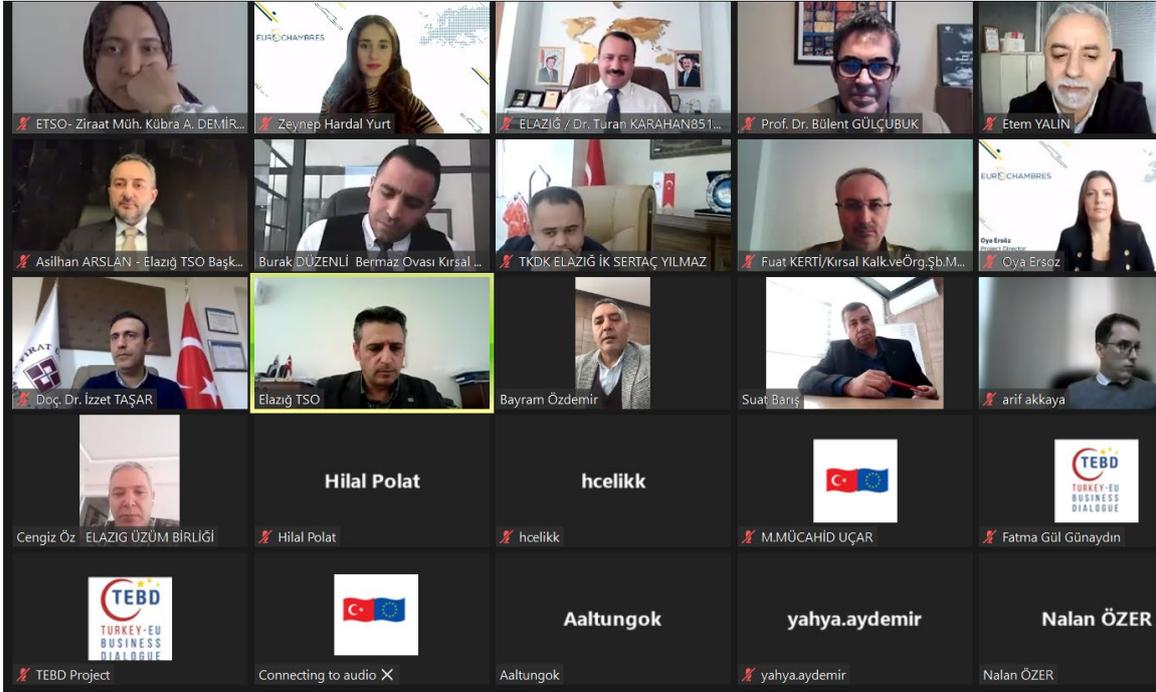


Malatya Chamber of Commerce and Industry hosted a virtual TEBD SME Workshop on “Business Management, Financial Resources Management, and Human Resources Management in SMEs in Turkey and the EU during the COVID-19 Pandemic Process” in the scope of the TEBD Project, on November 11, 2021.

The workshop was opened by **Oğuzhan Ata SADIKOĞLU**, Chairman of Malatya Chamber of Commerce and Industry. Afterwards, The TEBD project was presented by **Oya ERSÖZ**, TEBD Project Director. **Cahit CEREN**, TOBB SME Research and Consultancy Center Manager, gave an insightful presentation on EU’s Green Deal, digitalisation, importance of standardization in production lines, sustainability, and internationalization as well as public financial support on these topics. The participants had a chance to have a deeper understanding and a different perspective about the mentioned topics. The workshop was held online due to Covid-19 restrictions, and it attracted 20 participants.

Adaptation of Food Producers to the EU Standards Isparta & Elazığ, Turkey

Isparta Chamber of Commerce, Physical | 09 December 2021
Elazığ Chamber of Commerce, Virtual | 22 December 2021



Isparta Chamber of Commerce and Industry hosted a physical TEBD SME Workshop on “Adaptation of Food Producers to the EU Standards” in the scope of the TEBD Project, on December 9, 2021, considering all current Covid-19 measures. Another workshop was also hosted virtually by Elazığ Chamber of Commerce and Industry, on the same highly demanded topic, on December 22, 2021.

The workshop held at the Isparta Chamber of Commerce Meeting Room was opened by **Nihal ISPIR**, Isparta Chamber of Commerce and Industry Secretary General and **Burcu ATILGAN**, TOBB Project Coordinator gave a presentation on the TEBD Project.

The virtual workshop hosted by Elazığ Chamber of Commerce and Industry was opened by **Asilhan ARSLAN**, Chairman of Elazığ Chamber of Commerce and Industry. Afterwards, The TEBD project was presented by **Oya ERSÖZ**, TEBD Project Director.

These were followed by an informative presentation given by **Prof. Dr. Bulent GULCUBUK**, Manager of Development Studies Application and Research Center, Department of Agricultural Economics, Ankara University, Faculty of Agriculture. Prof. Dr. GULCUBUK offered actionable insights and valuable solutions concerning the topic, such as Food Safety in the EU and in Turkey, and the Responsibilities of the Food Producers. The workshop attracted more than 20 participants in Isparta and over 35 participants during the virtual workshop hosted by Elazığ CCI.

Events

Global Europe Webinar Virtual | 30 November 2021

“Global Europe – EU funded projects supporting businesses to look beyond the EU and internationalize” webinar was organized by EUROCHAMBRES on November 30, 2021, in conjunction with the Czech Chamber of Commerce and Industry. The program has aimed to give a better understanding on how SMEs can find international opportunities for their organization and support their European business.

The participants were welcomed by **Radek JAKUBSKÝ**, Vice President of the Czech Chamber of Commerce. TEBD project was presented by **Oya ERSÖZ**, TEBD Project Director. Ms ERSÖZ highlighted business opportunities for Czech companies in Turkey, how to collaborate with Turkish companies and also how to benefit from TEBD activities accordingly.

During the webinar some crucial topics were discussed as how to access EU-funded, effective, free, and professional services that will kickstart the internationalization of SMEs to critical markets such as Latin America, China, India, Turkey, and Eastern European countries.

The SMEs had a chance to ask their questions during the webinar and network for the possible international opportunities and services.

Bartın Chamber of Commerce and Industry hosted a successful interactive SME Workshop on “Post COVID-19 Turkey's place in the EU Value Chain - Business opportunities, risks, and challenges for Turkish SMEs, and the Importance of E-Commerce After Covid” in the scope of the TEBD Project. The workshop attracted around 25 participants.

The workshop was opened by **Halil BALIK**, Bartın Chamber of Commerce and Industry President Of Board Of Director. **Ayşegül TAŞÖZ DÜŞÜNDERE**, Project Coordinator at TEPAV (Economic Policy Research Foundation of Turkey), participated as speaker and gave a comprehensive presentation and answered questions from SMEs on different topics such Turkey's Place in the EU and the World Value Chain, Economic Opportunities, Customs Union, Import and Export, barriers and opportunities that may arise post COVID-19, Target Markets, what kind of Economic Structure Bartın has encountered with Covid-19 (Province and SMEs), Digitalization, and so on. The TEBD project was presented by **Oya ERSÖZ**, TEBD Project Director and ended with an interactive Question and Answer session.



Trainings

Solvency Audit - Task force meeting , Virtual | 15 December 2021

The objective of Solvency Audit activity is to develop capacity within Turkish Chambers to offer a first line service to companies who face difficulties. This service is based on the existing Early Warning Mechanism developed for EU SMEs. The objective is to develop a diagnostic toolkit, which allows the Chamber and the company to evaluate its risk for insolvency or bankruptcy.

In order to assess the impact of the pilot actions of this Solvency Audit activity activity, and the potential to further expand across Turkey, TOBB with the support of EUROCHAMBRES aimed to create a Task Force, involving TOBB senior staff and local chambers.

In this regard, Solvency Audit Task Force Zoom Meeting has been organized by TOBB and EUROCHAMBRES on 15 December 2021 with the participation of EU Experts and 5 local chambers executives which have participated to the solvency audit trainings of the project and carried out solvency assistance cases to 10 companies in their region.



CHAMBER PARTNERSHIPS

Success Stories

Improving the Networking game

TEBD Chamber Partnership Project on the "Improve Networking Opportunities Through Enhanced Digital Information Management System" has been developed and implemented by Artvin Chamber of Commerce and Industry in partnership with Arad

Chamber of Agriculture, Commerce and Industry.

This project is among the 19 projects entitled to receive grant support within the scope of the Turkey-EU Business Dialogue Grant Program. Financed by the European Union, it aimed to increase the capacity of Artvin Chamber of Commerce and Industry by establishing a Digital Information Management System, to create a network and exchange of best practices by creating cooperation and information exchange between Artvin Chamber of Commerce and Industry and Arad Chamber of Agriculture, Commerce and Industry.

Overall, the "Improve Networking Opportunities Through Enhanced Digital Information Management System" project was an incredible success that managed to efficiently adapt to continuously changing environments, whilst accomplishing all of its aims. Artvin Chamber of Commerce and Industry's Board was conscious that the international cooperation is one of the key the managerial development in current world. With this in mind, "Improve Networking Opportunities Through Enhanced Digital Information Management System" project was carried out from April 1, 2019 up until February 28, 2020.

The project has aimed to strengthen mutual knowledge and understanding between Turkish Chambers and Romanian chambers by establishing international partnerships. This was achieved through activities that varied from vocational training programs, surveys, study tours, and raising awareness activities. Business development, enhancing cooperation, and information exchange were key parts of the project in helping SMEs become more competitive by establishing international partnership.



Despite all hardships thrown their way by the current sanitary crisis, project partners achieved several milestones in the project implementation period.

In order to improve their service quality, Artvin Chamber of Commerce and Industry increased their capacity by adding new services to better serve and represent its members and using IT technology on digital archiving methods and reporting methods. Artvin Chamber of Commerce and Industry's technological infrastructure has supported by establishing DIMS to make sure that members' documents are digitally archived.

In this age, where digitalization has gained much more importance due to the current conditions, the chambers have now a better and a more efficient access to their members thanks to this project.

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](#).

ANNOUNCEMENTS

27-28 January 2022, Online TEBD Agri-Food Networking Event



Within the scope of the TEBD Capacity Building activities, the “**TEBD AGRI-FOOD NETWORKING EVENT**” will be organized virtually on **27 and 28 January 2022**. The aim of the event is to discuss key topics in the Agri-Food sector and enhance networking between companies and transactional cooperation for improving participants access to new markets, suppliers, traders, organizations, and so on.

The TEBD Agri-Food Networking Event is organized by the **Turkey-EU Business Dialogue (TEBD) Project**. This networking event is organized as the continuation of the online “TEBD Agri-Food Forum” held on 21-22 April 2021, to bring companies together from a wide range of countries. The event is a unique opportunity to generate new business contacts and contracts, to find partners, and also to learn about the latest developments & new ideas, and more.

6 sessions of interest, facilitating practical and interactive discussions among companies from both EU and Turkey will be organized on the following topics:

1. Geographical Indication (GI) products
2. Dried Fruits and Nuts
3. Aromatic Plants and Herbs
4. Frozen Foods (including aquaculture)
5. Health and Lifestyle Nutritional Products (vegan, gluten-free, diabetic, and so on)
6. Bio-organic Food

This event is suitable for companies from the EU and Turkey related to the Agri-Food sector, and on the topics that will be addressed during the event.

Turkish and English interpretation will be provided during the sessions. Nevertheless, English speaking and listening abilities by participants is highly recommended for the B2B Meetings and fruitful networking.

Visit www.tebd.eu to find out more about the project and activities.

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For questions concerning the newsletter, please contact tebd@eurochambres.eu

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