

## I- Private Public Partnerships

### ➤ Pipeline and new programme development

***Bridging the Digital Divide: Empowerment of Youth for the E-Transformation of Turkey Project:*** The new initiative that aims to bring IT learning to 1 million young people in Turkey succeeded in mobilizing USD 750,000 financial resources from Vodafone. As agreed with Vodafone, UNDP, in partnership with Youth for Habitat and Microsoft, will establish and maintain an online Learning Management System to increase the computer literacy of Turkish youth in support of Turkey's transformation into an information society and for digital inclusion.

***Partnership Development with the Business Sector Project-2<sup>nd</sup> Phase:*** The LPAC (Local Project Appraisal Committee) meeting for the second phase of the "Partnership Development with the Business Sector" was held on February 28<sup>th</sup>. As agreed by the parties, in the second phase the project will increase its focus on building new public private partnerships, while continuing its support to the advancement of corporate social responsibility among Turkish business. The second phase will last for three years and be implemented by the Municipality of Besiktas.

***Business in the Community-UNDP Meeting:*** Business in the Community, which is a movement of over 800 UK's companies which aim to improve their positive impact on society and environment, visited UNDP Istanbul Office on February 16, 2006. The participants discussed potential areas for collaboration, with the involvement of the UK companies operating in Turkey.

***Connected Industries:*** A group of consultants from Cisco conducted a fact finding mission to Turkey between 12 and 15 February to scope a Connected SMEs strategy focused on value chain transformation of SMEs. As the project is being defined, UNDP and Cisco will orchestrate public private partnerships (PPPs) to address the social and economic needs of the Textile and Clothing (TC) sector, one of the country's largest in terms of total GDP, net exports and employment (25%).

This demand-driven sector is highly fragmented with a highly disaggregated value chain that is dominated by SMBs (90+ %). Despite the complex interactions required, this sector has low levels of IT penetration among the SMEs. The strength of the Turkish Lira, shifting consumer and market demand lack of value chain visibility and the reduction and, soon removal of, quota protections that shielded Turkey from lower-cost

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producers is causing significant disruptions to the TC sector. Given the current trends, Turkey TC companies must adapt to become more transparent to the market needs. However, many SMEs are not well-prepared and may be particularly hard hit due to access to capital, limited market visibility, weak value chain integration, and poor management skills.

ITKIB (the Union of Textile and Apparel Exporters Union) will be the beneficiary and the sponsor of this initiative, aiming at improving the competitiveness of the TC sector through improved value chain visibility and integration of SMEs.

### ➤ Ongoing initiatives

**Growing Sustainable Business Project:** In February 2007, micro finance and fair trade projects were concluded and identification and development of potential GSB areas for further development were maintained.

- *Fair Trade Project*
  - According to the agreement between the Suvarli Farmers' Cooperative (Suvarli is a small village near Adiyaman, close to the Syrian border of Turkey) and Alter Eco, the biggest fair trade company of France, four tones of raisins were transported to France in January 2007 and the farmers were paid in two installments. Packaging has been undertaken by the packaging center of Alter Eco in Le Havre where handicapped people work. Dry raisins will soon be launched in French supermarkets.
- *Microfinance*
  - *Garanti Bank:* A follow-up meeting was held with Garanti Bank with an increased focus on microfinance for women. UNDP presented a concept paper to the Bank. A response is expected in the course of March.
  - *TEB & GYIAD:* A concept paper and a draft budget were presented to TEB (Turkish Economy Bank) and GYIAD (Young Entrepreneurs Association) and agreed on by both organizations after an intense negotiation process. An MOU is under preparation to be signed by parties in March.

## II- Global Compact

**Business Ethics in the Age of Globalization, Tehran:** UNDP Turkey was invited to participate in the Business Ethics Conference in Tehran, Iran on 18 and 19 February. At the meeting, UNDP Turkey shared its experience and lessons learned on the implementation of the Global Compact; the strategies for promoting the corporate social responsibility among business, institutionalization of the initiative and managing partnerships.

### III- Other Issues

**Address Change:** UNDP's business partnership project office in Istanbul moved to a new location, offered by the Municipality of Besiktas free of charge. The new contact information is provided below:

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