

Corporate Social Responsibility Project (Istanbul)

Implementation of the CSR project, under the slogan "SME Transformation", continues apace. In an effort to finance investment projects and the capital needs of SMEs in Turkey, Halkbank and the French Development Agency have signed an agreement on February 19, 2008. The aim was to develop sustainable corporate practices of Halkbank and SMEs.

The main objectives of the Loan Program and CSR Project are to support the development of SMEs in Turkey, help reduce developmental disparities between regions, support raising SME and Halkbank employees' awareness through the CSR program, and contribute to social development. RISK MED and Adelphi Consult will provide training and consulting services for the CSR project.

The services provided by consultants will consist of two main components: a CSR Program within Halkbank and a CSR Program for SMEs. The services provided within each program include describing all of the aspects of CSR, the two important sub-topics of CSR, environmental legislation and occupational health and safety legislation, and the relevant management systems. This will provide both the bank management and employees and also SME representatives the opportunity to understand the importance and necessity of CSR. Moreover, the services aim to provide both parties with the requisite awareness to encourage the implementation of a CSR program.

To date, nearly 1,000 SME representatives have attended seminars held in Bursa, Gaziantep and Çorum as part of the SME Transformation program. In these three cities, one-day workplace due diligence assessments were made with 30 companies for free. In addition, two SMEs have begun to benefit from free training and consulting services which will be provided for one year.

The fourth of seminar series, covering 15 cities, will be held in Istanbul.