

Resilient SMEs, Strong Tomorrows – Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

Draft – 19.01.2021

1. What is “Resilient SMEs, Strong Tomorrows” Project?

The overall aim of the project , offered by TÜRKONFED and SPARK, and funded by Qatar Fund For Development, is to matchmake 50 SMEs (25 SME’s operating in Turkey whose majority partnership is Syrian capital will be matched with 25 SME’s with Turkish capital) with the Turkish business ecosystem. This is done in response to unprecedented circumstances and complex emergencies emerging, such as the pandemic and the economic shrinkage, as well as to boost the impact of social cohesion through the creation of jobs for increased economic inclusion and livelihood development and to facilitate access to the labor market.

In the scope of the project, activities will be organized in line with needs analysis, business plans for the growth targets will be prepared through coaching meetings and experience sharing and social cohesion will be tried to be reached through matchmaking.

In line with project activities, 6 online training in 6 different modules, 6 webinars, 12 coaching meetings, 12 matchmaking meetings will be organized.

At the end of the project, approximately 30.000 TL fund support will be given to each participant to meet the determined infrastructure needs of participating companies.

The duration of the project planned is eight months in total and it is foreseen to be completed on 31 August 2021.

2. Who can apply for participation to the project?

The project is open for application of all SME’s regardless of the sector they are operating in. Following the applications, approval is given by making a selection among the applicants within the framework of the criteria determined by TÜRKONFED and SPARK.

3. Is it necessary to pay any participation fees for the project?

No. Participation in the project is free. Companies determined to meet the participation criteria in the evaluation will be invited to participate, and no fees will be charged from the selected companies.

4. How will the activities within the scope of the project be organized?

All project activities will be organized digitally.

The training curriculum will be determined in line with the need analysis.

The language of the activities will be Turkish and English.

5. Is there a limitation regarding the number of people that will attend activities from each company?

To the project activities (training, webinars, coaching meetings, and matchmaking meetings), it is required that each company will appoint one person to attend activities and will also be addressed as the contact person.

6. Is there an obligation to participate in the activities? How much time is expected to be allocated for participation?

It is obligatory to attend 80% of the activities that will be held within the scope of the project. To provide the fund support envisaged being given to the participants at the end of the project, 80% participation in the activities will be required.

Each participant assigned by the companies is expected to allocate approximately half a day each week for project activities throughout the project.

7. How will the coaching meetings be carried out?

Coaching meetings will be organized digitally.

Planning will be made by considering the structure of participating companies and their growth needs. In this way, an action plan will be created for each participating company in line with its growth targets and their needs will be determined.

8. How will the matchmaking be carried out?

To increase prospective cooperation, trade and social cohesion between SME's operating in Turkey whose majority partnership is Syrian capital will be matched with SME's with Turkish capital, matching will be made by taking into account the fields of activity of the companies.

9. How will fund support be provided?

Fund support will be started to be given as the coaching period is completed and action plans towards growth targets and needs analysis are determined accordingly. Projected time for this is May 2021.

Since the purpose of the fund support is to meet the growth needs of companies, raw material purchase, purchase of materials/machinery for trade, etc. it is not allowed.

To receive fund support, continuity is essential to the activities organized within the scope of the project and 80% participation is required.

The amount of the funding support is determined as approximately 30.000 TL for each participant according to the determined infrastructure needs. There will not be any cash payment directly to the participants. The invoice for the service received by the participants will be made on behalf of TÜRKONFED and the payment will be made to the service provider by TÜRKONFED accordingly.

10. How will project applications be made? What is the application deadline?

The application process will be completed by filling in the "Application Form" from the attached link and submitting the specified documents.

Applications will be evaluated within two weeks after the deadline and an invitation letter and activity program will be sent to the participants.

Deadline for applications is February 19, 2021.

11. What are the required documents for the application?

*Fully filled application form

*Trade registry gazette (The most recently published newspaper containing the establishment and the latest changes)

*Chamber of Commerce Registration Certificate

*Tax certificate

*If exists - Document regarding the modifications made to the company title

*If exists - The company's last 5-year activity report

*If exists - Management organization chart

*If exists - Company ethical rules