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Issue

# NEWSLETTER

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## FOREWORD

Dear DBA members,

It is already June-end, and the half of the year 2021 is over! Probably, like me, many of you feel that time is running so fast... I hope you and your families are well, and I hope your businesses could find ways to cope, to overcome pandemic circumstances of almost 15 months.

So far, in 2021 Covid19 continued to be a determinant factor for all of us, both in the life and the business. However, we are glad to see the positive outcome of the efforts to administer Covid19; Covid19 cases reduced significantly in recent months and meanwhile accelerated vaccinations increased our hopes regarding overcoming the pandemic. Nowadays we can see some more light for the end of the tunnel...

While having some more positive sentiment both in Turkey and the world, and while talking about the reflections of the pandemic, there are two important topics that I would like to mention briefly.

Firstly, the pandemic underlined the importance of the digitalisation to the whole world and accelerated the transformation for many sectors as well as the individuals. Even the ones meeting digital channels for the first time realised how functional these systems are. Undoubtedly, the companies making a difference in terms of digitalisation journey would be ahead in the future.

Secondly, the pandemic also demonstrated in a clear and dramatic way how each action we take may have adverse effects on the environment and how sustainability should be an integral part of all companies' strategies. We need a collective perspective and action towards the goal of achieving a sustainable world. We as all institutions, all individuals need to look to the environmental and social impacts of our operations; in other words, it is the time to undertake greater responsibility for the future of the world.

In the difficult times, and while mostly working from home and lacking face-to-face interactions, we as the DBA believe in importance of being connected. The DBA is/will be trying to support the members by organising webinars, networking events.



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In this respect, the second quarter was active and productive; we held three Board meetings and we had many virtual events bringing us together and enabling us to follow up valuable subjects, new trends. Highlights of the events organized during this quarter:

- Şaban Küçük, Ceyda Tabak and İsmail Barınır of Taxia provided valuable insights about “Updates on Tax”.
- Begüm Kurt, expert nutritionist, and Figen Çınarlı of Healthy Fit talked about “Wellness - Healthy Diet in Pandemic1 and informed us about how to eat to strengthen immune system and control our diet during the pandemic period.
- Turkey is becoming a hot spot for startups while the Netherlands ranks as one of the best European countries for startups; Mahmut Özdemir of Koç University, Alexandra Belicova of Partnership & Events at Startup Amsterdam and Martin in ‘t Veld of RVO talked about “Startup Ecosystems in Turkey and the Netherlands and Talent Acquisition, and we got insight about programs and policies by the Turkish government to support startup ecosystem.
- Big Data Analytics and Fraud Detection by Kağan Demirdöven of MED Group covered proven strategies for spotting red flags indicating fraud and information on big data culture.
- Economic Webinar by Murat Kayacan provided updates about Turkish economy.

On another subject: I would like to note the DBA’s decision to choose TEV (Turkish Education Foundation) as the charity for 2021. In the difficult times, we as both individuals and companies have more social responsibilities than ever before, and in this respect, the DBA will be supporting the education of children through TEV.

Last but not the least, on behalf of the Board of Directors, I also would like to warmly welcome new members joining the DBA. Newcomers in the second quarter of 2021: FTD Bilisim, LeoTeam Real Estate Solutions and Unique Logistics. Welcome aboard and we look forward to a longlasting relationship.

While concluding, let me note that suggestions, ideas, concerns from all our members are valuable; please share them with us.

I wish we leave these challenging, uncertain pandemic times behind and move forward at full speed all around the world.

Looking forward to coming together in person soon.

Stay safe, healthy... and I hope you all would relax and enjoy summer period...

With kind regards,

Ayşegül Akay

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## DBA NEWS

# CERAMICS FOR ANIMALS



The Dutch Consulate General in İstanbul organized an exhibition to sell ceramics made by Thessy Ries and other ceramic artists. All donations will be used to improve the living conditions of the stray animals of İstanbul. DBA Turkey is happy to make a donation to the chosen charity Yedikule Hayvan Barınağı.

We would like to thank Thessy Ries for this wonderful event, our Consul General Bart van Bolhuis for hosting the exhibition and our Board members Nurdan Erbuğ (Anadolu Hayvancılık) and Korkut Yetkin (Asya Lale) for sponsoring.



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## NEW MEMBERS

### FTD Bilişim

FTD Bilgi Teknolojileri ve Bilişim Sistemleri Ltd. has been established in 2017 by Information Technology Senior Experts in the Financial Sector in İstanbul, Turkey. Our vision is to make a difference and be successful by being an IT solution partner that provides tailor made solutions to Turkey's leading and pioneering enterprise companies. Target markets are the Financial services Bank, Securities, Insurance, Factoring, etc. ), Telecom, and General Sectors.

The aim of our company is to provide IT consultancy and Implementation support on improving business and IT processes. Our company exist of senior consultants with a wealth of experience in IT management, project management and sector knowledge.

# FTD BİLİŞİM

We are specialized in project/program management, implementation services of software solutions and establishing new IT services, especially in the financial sector.

We are a Siemens partner for Mendix, a low-code/no code software platform that is provided by the Rotterdam based company Mendix. A low-code/no code software platform enables business units to quickly create their own solutions, as well as making it easier for Information Technologies to reduce the total development cost of IT clear the pending work list, and modernized with a focus on innovation and transformation.

We have also strong relationships with several other global and local IT firms in Turkey in the areas of Application, Infrastructure, Information Security and Software Services.

#### *Funda DEMİREL*

Co-founder and managing partner of FTD Bilişim, is senior expert in the Financial Sector and other sectors in Turkey. She graduated from Bachelor of Science in Mathematical Engineering, İstanbul Technical University in İstanbul. She started her career as an IT Manager in TUSIAD. Then she was Senior IT Manager at Burganbank (Eurobank Tekfen). After Burganbank, she worked as IT Group Director at Tüvtürk & TDB Sigorta Bokerlik & TDB Kalibrasyon, providing IT consultancy in the areas of IT Budget, Vendor & Contract Management and Outsourcing.

#### *Berrin WALRAVEN*

Managing Partner of FTD Bilişim, is senior expert in the Financial Sector. She graduated from the Bachelor of Science, Statistics Department, Middle East Technical University in Ankara. She started her career at the IT Department of CBRT (Central Bank of the Republic of Turkey) in Ankara. In the following years, she worked as CIO & member of the Executive Committee of the Burganbank (Eurobank Tekfen). In 2012 she started as IT Director of ODEA BANK, a newly established bank in Turkey. At Odeabank she was responsible for establishing and managing the full application portfolio, infrastructure for the Head Quarter, Branches (50), Call Center and Data Centers (İstanbul & Ankara-DRC), supporting all business lines.



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## NEW MEMBERS

### LeoTeam Real Estate Solutions

LeoTeam Real Estate Solutions with its partner Yapıcı Management & Consultancy provides boutique (trans)national facility management services/consultancy.



With over 40 years of experience in Facility Management services, we provide a wide range of services to support the Client for a trouble free operation of its real estate. Our wide range of services include FM consulting, commercial, technical and infrastructural facility management along with a full range of services to optimize the operation of real-estate properties such as energy management, waste management and more.

We provide these boutique management services for businesses that do not have their own administrative affairs department, want to get external support, have more than 5 employees in the office or retail area, covers 1-2 floors in an office building or shopping center and/or is more than 200 m2 in size.

The scope and cost of service are determined by selecting the services that businesses needs and each service is designed and tailored to the needs of the business, thus providing our customers with flexibility and cost advantages.

In addition to the FM services and consultancy, we also provide UK-origin Quintex energy saving and grease management products for commercial kitchens providing energy savings of up to 50% for exhaust hoods.



*Erik Radstake*

As an Industrial Engineer, Erik has a 38 years international track record of which more than 20 years in Real Estate and Facilities Management. Within facility management he has held senior operational and management positions with national and international managing FM operations and large FM contracts. He has a proven track record in generating sustainable and cost saving opportunities and efficiencies whilst simultaneously improving quality and service standards.

*Berk Arihan*

Starting in 1999 he worked as a manager in projects providing holistic facility management services for various companies, managing large contracts in which all management, administrative works, technical, cleaning and security services for telecom infrastructure facilities, various production facilities, residential sites, office buildings were provided as integrated FM. He provided FM consultancy services to national and international (Saudi Aramco) institutions. Starting from 2015, he worked as an Executive Board Member and Operations Group Director at TSP.



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## ECONOMIC UPDATE

Turkey, like the rest of the world, has been deeply impacted by Covid-19 since 2020 first quarter. Due to aggressive monetary expansion put in place, Turkish economy recovered very quickly. As of 2021 first quarter, despite of tight monetary policy the strong economic momentum continue which assured 7% GDP growth year on year term. The strong momentum so far, positive base effects in second quarter and recent upward revisions in global growth forecasts reinforce upsides risks on markets' Turkish economic growth expectations of 5.3%.

Although Turkey is among few countries that posted real GDP growth last year and fastest growing country after China, the cost of the growth is the damage in financial stability in general and currency depreciation in specific. The Lira's performance is a function of monetary policy, macro-economic news flow in developed markets and geopolitical issues in general.



Considering pricing developments and currency performance, the question is whether current monetary policy is tight enough because both growth realization and leading economic indicators do not support that it is tight. Deteriorating sentiment following unexpected central bank governor change in March 2021 and rehearsing some noise about cutting rates within months bring about a chain effect for Turkish economy starting from currency depreciation and higher inflation numbers.

The higher inflation is a global reality in 2021 due to increasing commodity prices, rising logistic costs and demand pressure. After months of Covid-19 lockdowns, there's a risk that policy makers run their economies hot in developed markets, only to backtrack with sharper-than-expected rate hikes down the line. Depending on covid-19 and vaccination's success, the global economic recovery might be sharp in near future but unequal due to increasing interest rates and high debt positions of countries in mid-term perspective.

A normalization in international relation will help to repair sentiment for Turkey and to increase risk appetite for Turkish assets. There are visible signs that Turkey tries to lower tension both between USA and neighbour countries but uncertainties remain.

While Turkish assets offer significant upside to both domestic and international investors, it may require patience, due to lack of policy anchor, unfavourable expectations for the near term and monetary policy changes in developed markets.

*Developed by Rabobank*

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## PAST EVENTS

### Updates on Tax - 2021 by Taxia

Our speakers Şaban Küçük, Ceyda Tabak Metin, İsmail Barınır shared their valuable and informative insights about updates on tax.

You are invited to join our webinar on  
"Updates on Tax - 2021"



Guest Speaker  
Şaban Küçük  
Sworn in CPA, Chairman Tax Services



Moderator  
Ceyda Tabak Metin  
Attorney at Law



Guest Speaker  
İsmail Barınır  
Sworn in CPA,  
Independent Auditor, Partner

Thursday, 22 April 2021  
14:00 – 15:00 pm (TR time)  
RSVP: <https://forms.gle/SvaXgz8wvti9jipF6>



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## PAST EVENTS

### Wellness Talks - Healthy Diet in Pandemic

Our speakers Begüm Kurt (Exp. Nutritionist) and Figen Çınarlı (Sr. Business Development Director at Healthy Fit) talked about eating habits and nutrition questions in pandemic. They gave information about how to eat to strengthen the immune system and control you diet during pandemic.

Health Fit

Dutch BUSINESS ASSOCIATION Turkey

**WELLNESS TALKS**

**HEALTHY DIET IN PANDEMIC**

**20.05.2021 / 12:30-13:30**

*Begüm Kurt*

*Figen Çınarlı*

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## PAST EVENTS

# Startup Ecosystems in Turkey and the Netherlands and Talent Acquisition

In this webinar, we talked about promising Startup environments in Turkey and the Netherlands and the variety of programs and policies by both governments to support the Startup ecosystem.



Alexandra Belicova  
Partnership & Events at  
StartupAmsterdam



Martin van 't Veld  
Advisor International  
Talent and Startups,  
RVO



Mahmut Özdemir  
Director KWORKS, Koç  
University İstanbul

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## PAST EVENTS

# Startup Ecosystems in Turkey and the Netherlands and Talent Acquisition

As Turkey is becoming a hot spot for Startups, The Netherlands ranks as the best European country for Startups, while Amsterdam is Europe's fastest growing Startup ecosystem.

This joint event was organized by:



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**BUSINESS ASSOCIATION**  
Turkey



Kingdom of the Netherlands



**EduNed**  
*Connect and Learn*



**KWORKS**  
KOÇ ÜNİVERSİTESİ  
GİRİŞİMCİLİK ARAŞTIRMA MERKEZİ

**NL** Netherlands

startup  **amsterdam**

By the City of Amsterdam

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## PAST EVENTS

# Big Data Analytics and Fraud Detection by MED Group

In this webinar, Kağan Demirdöven and Ercan Piliçer talked on proven strategies for spotting red flags that indicate fraud and information on big data culture.



Kağan Demirdöven  
CIO, MED Group



Ercan Piliçer  
Data Analyst and Project  
Manager, MED IDEA

We want to thank our speakers and our member MED Group for this insightful event.

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## PAST EVENTS

### Economic Outlook for Turkey

Economist Murad Kayacan (CPA) shared his valuable insights on inflation rate and economic effects of COVID-19 on Turkey.

You are cordially invited to join our  
**"ECONOMIC OUTLOOK for TURKEY"**  
webinar  
on Tuesday, 29 June 2021 15:00 – 16:00 pm

[REGISTER](#)

**Economist Dr. Murad Kayacan (CPA)**

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## FUTURE EVENTS

- Webinar on **“On-Site Covid-19 Testing Services”** by Doruk Baglan, S&M Manager Eurocross Turkey, July 8 at 16:00-17:00 (Istanbul time)
- **“Chairman Chat”** to increase personal contact with the members, planned for August and September.
- **“Back in Business”** event planned to be organized in September at Palais de Hollande.
- Seminar in cooperation with Women of Orange and Professional Women’s Network and DBA about impact of tele-working on women’s work-home situation by Prof. Mahmut Bayazit from Sabanci University in September.

**SAVE THE DATE**  
**International Travel Regulations**  
**&**  
**On-site Covid-19 Testing Services**  
**Thursday, July 8th**  
**16:00 – 17:00 (TR time)**

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## HR UPDATES

### Video Interviews: How to do it right?

Applied for your dream job and been invited to a video interview? Congratulations! The video interview is one of the many tools employers use to get a better sense of who you are. Check out the following tips to ensure everything goes smoothly.

#### Preparation is key

Prepare for a video interview the same way you would if you had been invited to a face-to-face interview. Read through all the information you get from the employer regarding the interview carefully and get your CV ready.

#### "Check, Check, 1, 2, 3"

Technical issues during a video interview are annoying and make people nervous. That's why you should check your webcam and microphone and make sure you've got a good internet connection.

#### Lights, Camera, Action!

Make sure it's quiet and, where possible, eliminate background noises, interruptions and street noise. Put yourself in the right light (the light source should be in front of you) and ensure you have a neutral background. After all, you don't want the interviewer being distracted by a picture in the background. The focus should be on you.

#### Outfit and body language

Want to make a competent and professional impression? You can! Even if you're sitting at home at the kitchen counter and not in a meeting room. The clothes you would wear for a face-to-face interview also work for a video interview. Make sure you maintain an upright posture, keep your arms on the table and use appropriate gestures to emphasize what you're saying.

#### Eye contact through the camera

Maintain eye contact with your interviewer as much as possible, especially when giving answers. To maintain eye contact, you need to be looking into the camera, not at the monitor. Don't read your answers out, speak freely and into the camera.

#### Enunciation

When we're nervous, our voice often gets higher and we talk faster. Make sure you have clear and slow enunciation. Put a glass of water nearby. This will help if you get a dry mouth or if you need a moment to think.

We wish you the best of luck at your next digital interview. One final tip: Don't forget to smile :-)

*For more information on the content, you may contact **Randstad Turkey**  
Secil Alp Sonmezer, Mar&Com Manager - [secil.alp@randstad.com.tr](mailto:secil.alp@randstad.com.tr)*

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## LEGAL UPDATES

Brief summary of important legal developments under Turkish law in the second quarter.

### I. Tax Law:

- As per the Provisional Article 13 of Corporate Tax Law No. 5520, the corporate tax rate has been increased from %20 to 25% for 2021 and to 23% for 2022.
- Tax Amnesty is once again in force. A new legislation provides a limited time opportunity (until August 31, 2021) for taxpayers and enables them to restructure their own tax debts. Such restructuring opportunity includes the following debts: Income, Corporate, Customs, Real Estate and Sanitation, VAT, Motor Vehicles and Special Consumption Taxes, all administrative fines, and Treasury receivables which were accrued before 30.04.2021. It is necessary to apply to the relevant administration until 31.08.2021 to benefit from the restructuring opportunity.
- The period for application of 8% VAT rate for workplace rentals has been extended until 31.07.2021.
- It has been decided to apply 1% VAT for accommodation, food & beverage services until 31.07.2021.
- The withholding tax rate on rental income shall continue to be applied as 10% until 31.07.2021.

### II. Banking Law:

- A new Regulation on Prohibiting the Use of Crypto Assets in Payments entered into force on April 30, 2021. The regulation stands out as the first regulation about crypto assets in Turkey. However, a very important point to state here is that the new Regulation does not prohibit trade of crypto assets (purchasing or selling crypto assets), but it bans the use of crypto assets as a payment tool.
- The purpose of the Regulation is to prevent any damages to be arisen out of use crypto assets (such as Bitcoin, Ethereum, Ripple, Dogecoin) in payments because: (i) they are not subject to any regulation and control mechanism, (ii) the market of crypto assets is extremely volatile, (iii) they may be used in illegal activities due to their anonymous nature, (iv) wallets can be stolen or used illegally without the knowledge of their owners, and (v) transactions are irreversible. Another purpose, though not mentioned under the Regulation, is to control capital flow to avoid tax evasion.
- Branchless banking system has been introduced as an innovation to the banking system in Turkey on April 01, 2021. Considering the effects of the Covid-19 and the burden of branch operations, this innovation is deemed as a breakthrough in banking sector.

### III. Competition Law:

- On April 20, 2021, The Turkish Competition Board has launched a new investigation against 32 companies all across Turkey to examine so-called the gentlemen's agreements claimed to be exist and concluded by and between prominent companies in the field technology, e-commerce, media and entertainment industries, such as Google, Zomato, Yemek Sepeti and Trendyol to prevent transfer of employees from one company to another.

### IV. Labour Law:

- As the COVID-19 pandemic has continued to affect working life adversely in Turkey, the following COVID-19 measures will continue to be in force until 30.06.2021: (i) Short-term employment allowance implementation period, (ii) Period of prohibition on termination of employment, (iii) Unpaid-leave period.

### V. Human Rights:

- Human Rights Action Plan was published on April 30, 2021. The purpose of the plan is to give momentum to the efforts towards harmonization with the European Union regulations.

For more detailed information regarding the above matters, please contact Att. Selim Dündar via [sdundar@dundarsir.com](mailto:sdundar@dundarsir.com).

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## CULTURAL UPDATE

### A Climate-adaptive Gazhane, Play the City - Istanbul



From June 2020 on ‘Play the City’ will start with a climate adaptation game for visualizing unique climate adaptive solutions in and around Gazhane. The Hasanpaşa Gazhanesi [1891] is one of the oldest industrial facilities on the Anatolian side of Istanbul, and it is today gearing to become Turkey’s first Climate Adaptation Center.

Play the City is a city game as a form of co-creation where not only the host organisations of Gazhane but also active local community, climate initiatives from Kadiköy, and from the city at large can join and actively engage in potential climate adaptive initiatives for Gazhane in the long term. This project is empowered by The Consulate General of the Netherlands and Istanbul Metropolitan Municipality.

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## CULTURAL UPDATE

# Public Spaces and Low Carbon Mobility Centers for a Healthy City: ThinkBike Workshop



The Dutch Consulate General has engaged in the "Public Spaces and Low Carbon Mobility Centres for a Healthy City" pilot project in Kadıköy district together with Istanbul Metropolitan Municipality and Kadıköy Municipality on July 3, Saturday, which aims to increase the quality of life of public spaces, to make the integration between different types of transportation and to make it more efficient with low-carbon mobility, and to contribute to the accessibility of public space in partnership with the Danish Consulate.

This VIP Bike Tour event where we aim to emphasize smart and green mobility associated with cycling and raising awareness about the environment and climate within the framework of the UN Sustainable Development Goals that could fit well with ING Bank's KPIs and priorities. Also, our corporate members Eureka Sigorta and KLM will be sponsoring to the tour.

If you are interested, please get in touch with us.

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## THE HISTORY OF THE TULIP

*How the Turkish tulip became synonymous with Holland*



There are many flowers associated with various countries in world history. Many flowers in nature, like lilies, roses and thistles, have influenced cultural codes. With the arrival of the spring months, these colorful plants burst into flowers and awaken a world of feeling and thought.

Let's take a look at the history of tulips, one of the eye-catching flowers of spring, and how they are reflected in culture and art.

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## **REAL SULTANS WEAR TULIPS**

When the tulip arrived in Turkey from Iran, Afghanistan and Kazakhstan, it was soon adopted by sultans as the finishing touch on their outfit: they would stick a tulip in their turban. This is why the flower was given the name ‘tulipan’, which means ‘turban’.

## **A LONG JOURNEY**

In 1550 Turkey was a powerful state. The palace gardens of the sultan Suleiman were filled with the most beautiful tulips. Sultan Suleiman had considerable status, and this powerful man very occasionally gave a guest the gift of tulips.

One lucky recipient was a nobleman from Flanders. This nobleman then gave the floral treasure to a friend who was in charge of the Emperor of Austria’s herb garden.



## **GRAB AND RUN**

The friend moved from Austria to the Netherlands to take up a professorship at the University of Leiden, where he was also put in charge of the university’s herb garden. Naturally, the tulips travelled with him. He tended and studied the remarkable flowers as if his life depended on it, so it came as a great shock when he discovered one morning that the tulip bulbs had been stolen from his garden. The Dutch trade in tulip bulbs had begun.

### References:

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