

Annual Activity Report on the Global Compact Network in Turkey

The Global Compact was launched in Turkey during 2002. There are 48 signatories most of them being SMEs. Benefiting from seed funding granted by the Swiss Cooperation Agency, through the UN Global Compact Office-HQ, UNDP Turkey drafted a preliminary report analyzing the potentials for the Global Compact in Turkey in October 2005. According to the report, the Turkish Global Compact signatories are overall interested in the topic of CSR and in the Global Compact as a tool to address CSR. However, the level of awareness on Global Compact is very low. There was a uniform requested for greater leadership from UNDP Turkey to increase their company's level of awareness and know-how on implementing the Global Compact principles and strengthen their Corporate Social Responsibility outputs.

UNDP Turkey is in the process of mobilizing champions for a network, and will guide companies through the process of its establishment. UNDP Turkey has opened a project office in Istanbul to broaden its outreach to companies. UNDP Turkey has also created a project that has its aim to establish a Global Compact Network in Turkey. At this stage, UNDP Turkey is waiting for UN Global Compact TTF Funds to be released in order to pursue activities towards establishing a Local Global Compact Network.

A notable achievement of the CO's dealing with the Private Sector throughout 2005 was Koc Holding's decision to become a member of the Global Compact. The native Fortune 500 company was to sign the GC during a signing ceremony presided by the Secretary General in January 2006. However, due to Mr. Annan's schedule the signing ceremony has been delayed.

In the meantime the interested subsidiary foreign GC multinationals have agreed to play a lead role in contributing to the definition of the TORs of the Local GC Network (notably Aviva and Lafarge). Moreover, a working relationship has been established with CSR Directors and Focal Points in other regions, notably England (Aviva HQ, Littlewoods, and the Nordic Network) towards a mentoring scheme.