

EYDK Initiates Transformation in the Business World with the SDG Impact Standards!

SDG Impact Standards Training becomes a prerequisite for EYDK Membership. Throughout the month of February, EYDK member organisations will be eligible to receive certification after attending accredited training sessions organised by EYDK in Istanbul and Ankara.

Our world is currently facing a series of interconnected crises, including the climate crisis, ecological issues, and various social and economic challenges. However, reversing these challenging processes and building a sustainable future is possible, and the business community must take responsibility and play a critical role. In this context, the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) announced in 2015, aiming to be achieved by 2030, are reshaping the priorities of the business world.

Transitioning to a more sustainable operational system for businesses and determining their impact on society and the environment is no longer just an option; it has become a necessity. The SDG Impact Standards developed by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) assist businesses and investors in leading this change. These standards ensure that businesses not only focus on profitability but also act with consideration for their social and environmental impacts.

Operating as the National Advisory Board for The Global Steering Group for Impact Investment (GSG) in Türkiye, EYDK aims to bring together ecosystem stakeholders to position measurable social and environmental impact at the forefront of the business world through innovative, inclusive, and impact-focused economics. In this context, EYDK is making SDG Impact Standards Training mandatory for its members, aiming to enhance the skills of all sectors in measuring and managing social and environmental impact in their investments and to prioritise "impact" in decision-making processes.

EYDK Chairperson of the Board, Şafak Müderrisgil stated, "EYDK took the first step to integrate social and environmental impact management into the corporate systems and decision-making mechanisms of organisations in Türkiye! EYDK's ultimate goal is to ensure accessibility to the SDG Impact Standards Training, globally implemented by UNDP SDG Impact, for all organisations that desire it, prioritising its member organisations."

SDG Impact Director Fabienne Michaux mentioned, "We are delighted to see others, including EYDK, increasingly recognizing the transformative power of the SDGs in a world increasingly defined by sustainability challenges and opportunities and the potential of UNDP's SDG Impact Standards as a guiding framework to help businesses and investors embed sustainability, the SDGs, and managing for impact into organisational decision-making in a holistic and systematic way."

President and CEO of Kale Group Zeynep Bodur Okyay commented, "In this time when we must take better care of our world, we need to approach our investments with consideration for their impact on the people and planet. I find EYDK's (Impact Investing Advisory Board) initiative, making certification mandatory in this regard, very valuable. I believe that the emphasis on impact investing will further increase in importance in the upcoming period."

Continuing its efforts within EYDK, the "SDG Impact Standards Platform" is implementing mandatory SDG Impact Standards Training for its members starting in 2024. In this regard, the Information Session for C-Level executives of EYDK member institutions will be held on February 13th, 2024 hosted by Zeynep Bodur Okyay, President and CEO of Kale Group. Subsequently, throughout February, SDG Impact Standards Training for member institution representatives will take place from February 15-17th, 2024, hosted by Sabancı Arf in Istanbul, followed by sessions on February 21-23rd, 2024, hosted by ODTÜ Teknokent in Ankara.

For further information, please contact ceren.toraman@eydk.org