

Burgan Bank enters into collaboration with Ashoka Turkey in order to support social entrepreneurship ecosystem

Burgan Bank and the world's first and widest social entrepreneurship platform Ashoka are going to bring into existence a social enterprise inuring to the benefit of Turkey. In partnership with Ashoka, Burgan Bank is to support for a term of 3 years a social entrepreneur offering an innovative, permanent and game changer solution for a social problem, thereby contributing also to social entrepreneurship ecosystem in Turkey. At the same time, by this partnership, Burgan Bank becomes the first institution in Turkey which enables social entrepreneurs to meet with the global Ashoka Network and to fully make use of global supports of Ashoka.

Offering products and services specifically designed according to needs of consumers with boutique banking approach, Burgan Bank enters into collaboration with Ashoka Turkey offering effective, efficient and permanent solutions for the leading social problems, and finding and supporting social entrepreneurs. Burgan Bank is going to support a social entrepreneur working on the focus of **"Technology and Human"** under Ashoka Fellowship Program.

Five basic criteria for social entrepreneurs from Ashoka Network

Within its Fellowship Program, Ashoka manages its selection process focusing on such criteria as innovative idea, social impact, creativity, entrepreneurship and ethical tissue. Social entrepreneurs included in Ashoka Network are not only a part of an international network, but also eligible for making use of volunteer advisory services and if needed, financial support for a term of three years from pacemaker persons and entities.

"We are looking for impact-focused solutions for problems created by technology"

*"We, as a bank, have adopted it as a part of our priorities to focus on development, aside from needs, of our community. In this direction, we crossed paths with Ashoka. In tandem with digitalization goals of our Bank, focusing on **"Technology and Human"** theme, we are going to give support to a social entrepreneurship expected to be helpful to our country and citizens. Through our collaboration, we will support both financially and professionally a social entrepreneur who coincides with our corporate culture, deals with technology in the interests of humans, and is mobilized to offer solutions to technology-oriented problems and equality of opportunity. In partnership with Ashoka, we believe we shall realize the dreams of a social entrepreneur, thus creating awareness in many issues in our country, and hence being the starting point of a lot of changes in positive direction. Another important aspect of this collaboration is that our Bank is the first institution in Turkey enabling the supported social entrepreneur to meet with the global Ashoka Network and to fully make use of global supports of Ashoka" says Murat Dinç, General Manager of Burgan Bank.*

Effective and permanent solutions for social problems

*“Since 41 year, we are hosting social entrepreneurs who are catalysers of social transformation,” says **Zeynep Meydanoglu, Ashoka Turkey Co-director**: “It is very important for the future of ecosystem to act collectively for increasing capacity of and for the sake of sustainability of social entrepreneurship area in Turkey, and to support long-termed interventions capable of transformation at system level. From this perspective, our collaboration established with Burgan Bank with the aim of supporting the growth of leading social entrepreneurs of Turkey, and their businesses, and the benefits created by them both excites and gives hope to us. To find social entrepreneurs focusing on technology and human, being one of the most complicated problems of our day, and offering solutions having the potential of leading to transformation of system for this problem, and to provide them with the financial support they need with the contributions of Burgan Bank is very valuable. We hope Burgan Bank also inspires other institutions with its so visionary support in these days when cross-industry cooperation and collaboration are needed most.”*

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