

## **Big BREATH of air for SMEs from DenizBank amidst the fight against Coronavirus**

**In an effort to contribute to the restriction of the economic impacts of the Coronavirus pandemic, DenizBank has become a participant bank in its 'TOBB Nefes Loan' which was launched to offer low-interest loan to SMEs within the scope of Economic Stability Shield Package which is conducted under the coordination of Ministry of Treasury and Finance as announced by the President's office.**

**The Bank will take responsibility again in this sensitive period, lending at an annual interest rate of 7.5% with TOBB and KGF support and provide a fresh breath of air to SMEs. The loan will have 6 to 8 months of grace period in 2020 and the repayment will be made in 12 equal monthly instalments in 2021.**

With the awareness of the added value provided by the SMEs to the national economy and having it as one of its priorities to offer easy, quick and reasonable cost for the needs of the self-employed and small businesses, DenizBank signed a new deal led by TOBB for this purpose.

While TOBB Nefes Loan is relaunched which provided a fresh breath of air to SMEs in the previous years with attractive maturities and interest rates, DenizBank, having taken part in both of the previous projects, became a participant bank this time.

Within the scope of the cooperation held with TOBB and KGF, **NEFES Loan** will be provided exclusively for SMEs that are members to the Union of Chambers and Commodity Exchanges of Turkey (TOBB) with 6 to 8 months of grace period in 2020 and 12 equal monthly instalments in 2021 at an annual rate of 7.5%.

### **"Our SMEs fulfilled their share and now it is our turn"**

The CEO of DenizBank Mr Hakan ATEŞ commented about the NEFES Loan launched under the leadership of TOBB which they have taken part for the third time; "In order to stand by our SMEs which are the backbone of our economy and shoulder the burden of the employment, production and export, we have always been in the front lines across all projects that are realized below the market interest ratios. Our SMEs have voluntarily shut down their businesses by making a big sacrifice for our country in this sensitive period where the fight against the Coronavirus has peaked. Lots of stores and factories have not been able to operate for a long time. They did their share and now it is our turn to take on our responsibility as we make our living with what is produced on this land.

“We are an institution which has assumed an important mission in creating sustainable development and social balance in Turkey with the support we provide for SMEs and small self-employed in particular up to now. With the strength we draw from this valuable heritage, taking an important initiative once again with the support of TOBB and KGF, we are now a bank which is launching “TOBB Nefes Loan” with an annual interest ratio of 7.5% with an upper limit ranging between 50,000 and 100,000 TL. We do not close our umbrellas in the rain and are proud to stand by our SMEs once again in 2020.”

Mr Ateş continued, “When we were introduced to the first Nefes Project in which we offered low interest advantage to SMEs in 2017, we took our part as the only private bank without any hesitation and lent **1,1 billion TL loan to 12 thousand SMEs** in total by taking responsibility for this revolutionary operation. In 2018, while the deposit interest ratio in the market was close to 15% and the loan interest ratios were about 17-18%, we came together again to bring a fresh breath of air to SMEs with a monthly interest rate of 0,99%. Thanks to the support of TOBB which over 1,3 million businesses are a member of, our Treasury Undersecretariat and Credit Guarantee Fund, 4 banks including our bank and 2 participation banks joined forces and we took part as the only private bank along with the public banks. We lent 1,2 billion TL loan to 8 thousand SMEs in total in this project. And now; we will work as hard as we can to transfer 3 billion TL loan to our SMEs which need it as part of the Nefes Loan project which is being implemented for the third time.”

***Information Note:*** *In an effort to reduce the busy hours and provide services in a healthier manner for our customers throughout the Nefes Loan campaign. The business hours in our branches have been reorganized to be from 09:00 to 17:00*

### **About DenizBank**

*DenizBank started its journey when it was acquired by Zorlu Holding in 1997 in the form of banking license from the Privatization Administration. The Bank was acquired by Dexia, one of the leading finance groups of Europe, in October 2006; and then its shares were sold to Russia’s largest bank SberBank on September 28, 2012. As of July 31, 2019, the Bank was transferred to ENBD, again one of the largest institutions in its region.*

*Aiming to create a “financial supermarket” gathering various financial services under one roof, DenizBank Financial Services Group has 749 branches in total including the branches of subsidiaries and close to 14 thousand employees operating in 81 provinces of Turkey, five domestic and three international financial subsidiaries, six domestic non-financial subsidiaries and a branch in Bahrain. DenizYatırım, Deniz Real Estate Investment Trust, DenizPortfolio Management, DenizLeasing, DenizFactoring, Intertech, DenizKültür, Ekspres Bilgi İşlem ve Ticaret, Deniz Card Payment Systems, Açık Deniz Radio – TV and Bantaş are the group’s domestic subsidiaries while Eurodeniz, DenizBank AG and DenizBank Moscow are its international subsidiaries.*

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