

## **Projects of future from Blockchain Deniz Aquarium to be designed with the cooperation of BAU BlockchainIST Center**

Deniz Aquarium, the innovation office of DenizBank, launched cooperation with **İstanbul Blockchain Technologies and Innovation Practice and Research Center (BlockchainIST Center)**- the first university Blockchain center in Turkey under Bahçeşehir University.

**Studies will be carried out to develop practices for the finance sector by producing Blockchain-based projects in 'Blockchain Lab' founded in Deniz Aquarium.**

Founded by DenizBank in an effort to contribute to the ecosystem by supporting its entrepreneur staff and external potential initiatives, Deniz Aquarium Innovation Center held cooperation with Istanbul Blockchain Technologies and Innovation Practice and Research Center (BlockchainIST Center) that was opened by Bahçeşehir University which marks a first in Turkey.

Accordingly, studies will be carried out in 'Blockchain Lab' platform founded in Deniz Aquarium to design and launch the practices of Blockchain technology in the finance sector, increase the number of experts in the market and produce corresponding projects. Along with developing projects in the center involving expert figures from Turkey and the world, more efficient and secure practices will be developed in the finance sector, studies that fit the banking approach of the future will be carried out.

**"Powered by technology, we are aiming to reach the best in the next decade"**

Noting that innovation, agility and investments made from today onwards in the new generation technologies constitute a must for the future of institutions, **DenizBank Digital Banking Senior Vice President and President of Innovation Committee Gürhan Çam** stated that they focus on blockchain technology which will shape the banking sector along with artificial intelligence and fintechs. Mr **Çam** further commented; "As DenizBank, we gathered our innovation endeavors which is embedded into our DNA under a single structure and in order to grow it, we launched our Deniz Aquarium Innovation Center online. With Blockchain Lab which we set up under Deniz Aquarium, we are preparing programmes to raise new generation entrepreneurs and design innovative blockchain projects. At this point we are moving forward with the vision of designing products and services which will serve the customer of the future by joining our forces with BlockchainIST Center which work to raise the blockchain experts of the future dominating nationally and internationally and determine the strategic priorities of the public and private sector in terms of blockchain. The ideas on the new areas of use of the Blockchain technology in banking motivate us too. Adding the requests of our customers to this vision, 'we will continue to develop projects which will lead the sector by feeding on the synergy we will create around Blockchain Lab.'"



**BlockchainIST Center Director Assistant Professor Bora Erdamar said** "it is our top priority to implement projects in Blockchain technology area which are translated into the daily life and are as popular as online apps in the society. We believe that we will launch the most important Blockchain and Fintech projects in Turkey with "Deniz Aquarium Innovation Center team" with which we join forces under this shared vision. While a large number of banks in the world continue their endeavors in this field, it is very important that in Turkey, the conventional finance and finance practices of the future cross paths under the leadership of DenizBank. We are very excited about this cooperation which will ensure that Blockchain entrepreneurs will be supported, Blockchain services which can be used together by the private sector and public institutions will be developed and bank customers will be able to use the cutting edge financial technology products."

#### **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.*

#### **About BlockchainIST Center**

*BAU Blockchain Technologies Practice and Research Center (BlockchainIST Center) started its activities in 2018 as the first Innovation and Research center founded within a university in this field which is a first time in Turke. Raising Blockchain experts as the contractor of "Istanbul Blockchain School" project of Istanbul Development Agency in 2019, Blockchain IST also continues to provide education services with FinTech graduate programme. "Continuing the first academic researches in Turkey in the Blockchain Technologies field with "Tübitak 2244 Industry Doctorate Programme", BlockchainIST Center carries out cooperations with a number of local and international institutions, provides consultancy service for its public institutions and contributes to determining the strategic targets and priorities of Turkey in the Blockchain technology.*

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