



FINAL REPORT 2019

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An affiliated partner of the G20 Global Partnership for Financial Inclusion (GPII)



Global leaders made opening speeches

It was a great honour to listen to the opening speeches of three distinguished guests:

[H.E. Dr Mehmet Kasapoglu, Youth and Sports Minister of Turkey; H.E. Kadri Veseli, President of the Grand Assembly of Kosovo; and H.E. Kolinda Grabar-Kitarovic, President of Croatia.](#)

It was rewarding to see that governments of today give special importance to the startup economy and recognise the importance of angel investors in fuelling early-stage economies. Special thanks go to these three leaders for their unwavering support for startups and angel investors.—



Two inter-governmental agreements signed

The Congress hosted two important signing ceremonies for agreements at the governmental level. The first was the Global Partnerships for Financial Inclusion and Economic Cooperation Agreement to boost startup economies and innovation in South East Europe and West Africa. This was signed by the Government of Kosovo, the Government of Ghana, and the World Business Angels Investment Forum. I firmly believe [this comprehensive economic collaboration](#) will create more opportunities for startups, scaleups, SMEs and high-growth businesses.

The second agreement was initiated by the World Business Angel Investment Forum, who developed a Master Plan for African Economies to unleash the real potential of the continent's entrepreneurs, to tailor innovative financial instruments for Africa, and to lay out a roadmap for governments to convert their economies to 'smart' economies. [The Country Implementation Agreement](#) on the WBAF Master Plan for African Economies to ease access to finance for startups was signed by the Government of Ghana and the World Business Angels Investment Forum. We are confident that, with the right policies and the right strategic approach, the social and economic progress of recent years can be the prelude to long-lasting, sustained prosperity in Africa.

Before signing these important agreements, we were privileged to listen to [a message from Queen Maxima of the Netherlands](#). Her Majesty, as Chair of the G20 Global Partnership for Financial Inclusions (GPII), highlighted the importance of financial inclusion to empower the world economy.

3 more agreements

The World Business Angels Investment Forum interacts with leaders in all areas of society, first and foremost in business and political spheres, to help assess needs and establish goals, bearing in mind that the public interest is of paramount importance. WBAF engages a wide range of institutions –

public and private, local and international, commercial and academic – to help shape the global agenda of early-stage equity and capital markets.

One way WBAF does this is through its Country Offices. Launching a Country Office involves embracing activities that are designed to serve the global community of startups, angel investors, innovators, SMEs and entrepreneurs. By combining contributions from the many dynamic WBAF Country Offices around the world, all of us benefit from shared learning, better networks and increased exposure.

The Congress hosted the signing ceremonies for [the WBAF Nigeria Country Office](#) and [the WBAF Sudan Country Office](#).

WBAF also collaborates with regional and global institutions. ASCAME, for example, is the main representative of the Mediterranean private sector. It works to intensify and enlarge its institutional relationships with relevant actors in the region for the benefit of its members and its network, and for the development of the Mediterranean region. [ASCAME and WBAF signed a Memorandum of Understanding \(MOU\)](#) at the Forum to join forces to advance the economic development of Mediterranean startups, scaleups, entrepreneurs and SMEs. The parties will work together to promote a more favourable funding environment, establish a durable mechanism for dialogue, and to participate in a variety of joint events.

We believe these three agreements will ease access to smart finance of the countries in the respective regions.



6 keynotes from 6 global leaders in the private sector

It was exciting to hear important insights from six leaders of the world economy. Husnu Ozyegin, known as the wealthiest person in Turkey, offered important insights [in his speech](#) from his own entrepreneurial journey, having started virtually from scratch to achieve around \$10 billion in wealth. Hans van Grieken, EMEA Technology Research & Insights Leader at Deloitte gave a [speech](#) on the DNA of startups and innovators. Carsten Borring, Associate Vice President of Listings EMEA and Head of Listings & Capital Markets of Nasdaq, gave a [speech](#) on the anatomy of an SME IPO in capital markets. Paul Doany, CEO of Turk Telekom, [spoke](#) on the transitioning of CEOs of G20 economies to angel investors whose aim is to fuel economic development. Matthew Gamsler, CEO of the SME Finance Forum of the International Finance Corporation (IFC), [outlined](#) the differences between startup finance and SME finance. Brad Bulent Yasar, Co-founder of the Blockchain Investors Consortium (BIC), [presented ideas](#) on how investors can benefit from the worldwide blockchain movement.

You can [download the Deloitte Report](#) on the DNA of Startups and Scaleups for your future use.



Global Investor Lunches: 2 guest speakers and 2 presentations

The Global Investors lunches hosted two important guests this year. H.E. Besim Beqaj, the Minister of Innovation and Entrepreneurship of Kosovo, [enlightened us](#) about opportunities in Kosovo for global investors. H.E. Juan Espadas, Mayor of Seville, gave [a comprehensive explanation](#) of how the city of Seville positions itself in the global innovation ecosystem.

It was rewarding to listen to the presentations of representatives of two development agencies, each of which engages with the startup economy in their region. [Helena Matusa](#), WBAF Croatia Country Director and Executive Assistant of the Zagorje Development Agency of Croatia, and [Dr Hasan Maral](#), Secretary General of the Karacadag Development Agency of Turkey, each gave a presentation on how their development agencies support angel investors and startups at the regional level.

Kosovo and the city of Seville are great role models for other countries in South East Europe and for all other European cities as well. Both presentations provided creative ideas for ways to benefit from regional development agencies so as to boost innovation at the regional base.



The WBAF Ministerial Roundtable brought together 4 ministers and 4 global leaders

This WBAF Ministerial Roundtable included government ministers from various countries, angel investors, policymakers, and representatives of innovation and science parks, chambers of commerce and industry, and government investment promotion agencies. The discussants explored ways to develop an international dialogue between public and private institutions that will empower early and post-early stage equity markets in response to the worldwide digital transformation.

[The roundtable](#) was moderated by H.E. Mehmet Simsek, Former Deputy Prime Minister of the Republic of Turkey.

Discussants were H.E. Alhaji Mohammed Ibrahim Awal, Business Development Minister, Republic of Ghana; H.E. Besim Beqaj, Minister of Innovation and Entrepreneurship, Republic of Kosovo; H.E. Zoran Sapuric, Minister in charge of Regulations, Republic of Macedonia; Baybars Altuntas, Chairman, World Business Angels Investment Forum (WBAF); Peter Cowley, President, the European Trade Association of Business Angels (EBAN); Matthew Gamser, CEO of the SME Finance Forum - IFC, World Bank Group; Dr Hashim S. Hussein, Head of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO); and Abdul Malek Al Jabaar, President of the Middle East Trade Association for Business Angels (MBAN).

22 Panel Discussions with 88 international speakers from 72 countries, plus a Nasdaq Talk

The Angel Investors Conference of the Forum offered three panel discussions:

- [Knowledge Digitization as the Future Norm in Investment Management: Optimizing the Decision-Making of Angel Investors, Crowdfunders, Private Equity Funds and VCs](#)
- [Empowering the Early and Post-Early Stage Investment and Equity Markets: Providing a Better Environment and Better Tools for Angel Investors – Private Equity Funds Co-Investments in Start-Ups, Scale-Ups and High-Growth Businesses](#)
- [Startup Stock Exchanges or Startup Private Markets?](#)

The CEO Investors Summit of the Forum hosted four panel discussions:

- [Today's CEOs as Tomorrow's Qualified Angel Investors: Fostering Economic Development by Involving CEOs in Early-Stage and Post-Early Stage Equity Markets](#)
- [Leveraging Corporate Innovation by Engaging with External Ecosystems: Entrepreneurs, Start-Ups, Scale-Ups, High-Growth Businesses, Crowdfunders and Angel Investors](#)
- [Entrepreneur-In-Residence Programmes to Cultivate Intrapreneurship: An Option for Accelerating Corporate Innovation from Within](#)
- [Corporate Innovation Accelerators: A Win-Win Opportunity for Start-Ups and Corporate Ventures](#)

The Fintech Summit of the Forum featured four panel discussions:

- [Increasing the Role of Fintechs for Financial Inclusion: Creating an Innovation Ecosystem to Explore Innovations in Financial Technology for Democratizing Access to Finance Worldwide](#)
- [Scaling-Up: The Challenge of Fintech Start-Ups](#)
- [Finding the Best Model for Fintech–Startup Collaboration: Matching the Strategic Vision and Business Goals of Wealth Management Firms and Banks](#)
- [Cashless Economies: Global Perspectives and Future Trends](#)

The Impact Investment Summit of the Forum had six panel discussions:

- [Mobilizing Private and Public Capital in Innovative Ways for the Social Good](#)
- [Empowering Women Financially: The Why and the How](#)
- [How Can We Help Women Take Action Through Innovation?](#)
- [Developing a Collaboration Model for Impact Investors and Fintech Start-Ups to Create More Social Good for the Unbanked](#)
- [Responsible Finance and Impact Investment: The Future of Smart Finance for Social Entrepreneurs](#)
- [Women Leading the Way in Impact Investing](#)

The Take Invest Summit of the Forum hosted five panel discussions and a Nasdaq Talk:

- [Key Concepts for Start-ups: Understanding the Investment Strategies of Angel Investors, Angel Investor Groups, VCs, Private Equity Funds and Co-Investment Funds](#)

- [The Importance of a Well-functioning Early-stage Ecosystem for Creating More Liquidity for Entrepreneurs — From Seed Funding to IPO](#)
- [Enhancing Innovative Cultures Through Entrepreneurship: Innovation Education for Non-Business Students and Founders of Start-Ups, Scale-Ups and High-Growth Businesses](#)
- [Unicorn or Mini-corn? Overcoming the Challenges of Creating a Unicorn Business by Focusing on Creating a Mini-corn](#)
- [Increasing the Financial Inclusion of Migrants Through Innovation and Entrepreneurship](#)
- [Nasdaq Talk: Anatomy of an SME IPO](#)



2 Masterclasses from EIF and BIC

The WBAF Academy hosted two important masterclasses this year. Cyril Gouiffes, Impact Investment Manager of the European Investment Fund (EIF) in Luxembourg, gave [a special masterclass](#) on how to structure a co-investment fund to attract finance from the EIF. [Another special masterclass](#) was given by Brad Bulent Yasar, founder of the Blockchain Investors Consortium (BIC) in the U.S. The topic was new methodologies for picking winners when angel investing in blockchain-powered projects.

We found both masterclasses particularly valuable in terms of their direct relevance to angel investors from 82 countries. Both included compelling case studies from the field.

5 international workshops from 5 global leaders

The WBAF Academy also hosted five workshops from five global leaders of early-stage equity markets. [The workshop by Callum Laing](#) from Singapore, Partner in Unity Group Private Equity, focused on making big returns from investing in small businesses and by taking an entrepreneurial approach to investing. [The workshop by Ian Sosso](#), Founder of Monte Carlo Capital, was on combining the best of angel investing and venture capital. The workshop by Patrick Kedziora, WBAF High Commissioner for France, showed us 'how to steal like Steve Jobs' and how to create the next unicorn. [The workshop by Michael O'Connor](#), CEO of Ireland's CorkBIC, outlined 7 steps to scale your startup and provided advice on investing early and adding value to smart teams to get returns. Last, but certainly not least — [the workshop by Marcel Dridje](#), President of the Sophia Business Angels–France, was on transforming yourself into an angel investor and what you need to know in order to become a qualified angel investor.

We are certain that all angel investors, venture capitalists, seed funders and startups will find value in these workshops, so I encourage you to [watch them](#) at your earliest convenience.



QBAC+ Qualified Angel Investor Course participants were the best ever

Immediately following the Forum, WBAF hosted a QBAC+ Exclusive Course. The programme was a huge success, with 11 participants from 7 countries finishing with flying colours. The proficiency test results were the highest of all editions of the course so far (previous editions were held at the London Stock Exchange Group and the Qatar Development Bank). Hugo Mendes of Portugal made the highest score (94), followed by Sulaiman Adetotun of Nigeria (93), Ibrahim Kadioglu of Turkey (92), Maryam Najafi of Iran (91), Hasan Agaoglu of Turkey (90), Sakari Oikarinen of Finland (88), Mohammed Elsayed of Sudan (80), Tahir Mahmood of UAE (80), Olayemi Keri of Nigeria (75), Kelvin Balogum of Nigeria (70) and Sabetha Mwambenja of Tanzania (70). Congratulations to all on their impressive achievement!

The overall evaluation of the quality of the course was 97, reflecting exceptional satisfaction on the part of participants.

We congratulate the participants and the WBAF Academy team for the outstanding result. It is my expectation that this cohort of the QBAC+ will yield new trainers for future courses.

You can [read a comprehensive interview](#) about QBAC+ and visit the following link for more about it: www.businessangel.academy

In case you were unable to take advantage of the QBAC+ opportunity in Istanbul, don't worry — you have another chance! I am pleased to inform you that a QBAC+ boot camp will be held in Croatia 19–25 May, 2019. The QBAC+ Boot Camp includes the standard QBAC+ course, *plus* visits to science

parks in Croatia and the Chamber of Commerce and a meeting with the Economy Minister. These provide a unique opportunity to learn more about both the Croatian and EU innovation and entrepreneurial ecosystems. We will also have lunches with prominent guest speakers, panel discussions, roundtable discussions, and tea talks with university students are all special features of the boot camp. I am confident there will be great interest in this boot camp, which promises to be an unforgettable training program. You can register here: www.croatia.wbaforum.org



The Grand Assembly of the World Business Angels Investment Forum

The World Business Angels Investment Forum interacts with leaders in all areas of society — first and foremost in business and political spheres — to help assess needs and establish goals, bearing in mind that the public interest is of paramount importance. WBAF holds that, with the participation of individuals and institutions from multiple sectors and from all parts of society, real progress can be achieved. One way WBAF does this is through its high commissioners and senators.

The 2019 General Assembly of the World Business Angels Investment Forum hosted WBAF leaders from around the world, making it possible for them share best practices. The session on Sunday aimed to connect board members, high commissioners and senators for open learning with different insights from different regions of the world. Fifty-two high commissioners and senators out of a total of 87 were present at the General Assembly. Thus, 49 countries were represented.

This Assembly also hosted the annual meeting of three international committees:

- the Global Woman Leaders Committee
- the Global Innovation and Technology Leaders Committee
- the Global Startup Committee

Each committee elected their president, vice president and secretary general. They will now develop their meeting schedule for 2019 and inform the WBAF community about their global action plan. A more detailed report about each committee's administrative and governance team and their action plans will be communicated to you in the near future.

We believe this gave each participant a great opportunity to learn more about current developments in the global early and post-early stage equity markets. The Assembly was also a superb opportunity for high commissioners and senators to network before the conference.

The Community Dinner 2019

The 2019 Community Dinner was scheduled at a restaurant that specialises in traditional Turkish cuisine. This event gave all community members the chance to get to know each other better and provided a perfect networking opportunity. Around 60 high commissioners, senators and WBAF board members enjoyed good company, and good conversation.



The WBAF High Commissioners and Senators Ceremony

Becoming a WBAF high commissioner or senator involves embracing activities that are designed to serve WBAF members and the global community. By combining regular, small contributions from numerous dynamic high commissioners and senators around the world, we all benefit from shared learning, better networks and increased exposure. WBAF now has 87 high commissioners and senators in 60 countries.

The World Excellence Awards and Gala Dinner included an [official recognition ceremony](#) to welcome recently appointed high commissioners and senators.

The local startup economies of 60 countries are now more connected with the global investment market, and I am sure these great colleagues will do their best to connect startups and scaleups of their countries with qualified investors around the world. A well-deserved applause goes to each and every one of them!



The 2019 Global Fundraising Stage

For the first time ever, the World Business Angels Investment Forum provided a unique opportunity to 53 selected startups and scaleups to pitch their business on the Global Fundraising Stage (GFRS) of the World Congress of Angel Investors. We were pleased to provide them with this opportunity to connect with highly qualified angel investors.

The GFRS is essentially a co-investment platform for angel investors, startups, scaleups and high-growth businesses. In case you were unable to attend the GFRS, it isn't too late to contact the excellent startups that were featured there. To examine the executive summary of each startup that pitched on 19 February, simply download the Investor Booklet, which includes all summaries, [from this link](#). You can also contact startups directly to request the video of their pitch. You are sure to find great start-ups to invest in!

<https://wbaf2019.istanbul/Wbaf-Download>



The Investment Readiness Workshop

The Global Startup Committee delivered a special intensive workshop for startups of the Global Fundraising Stage the day before they were to pitch. The workshop, led by Maryam Najafi, Consultant at Karaya Angel Investors in Iran, and Christoph Drescher, CEO of Dealmatrix in Austria, was fantastic!

You can [overview the workshop documents](#) delivered by Maryam Najafi.



The World Excellence Awards

The World Excellence Awards salute those who stand out in imagining, discussing, and shaping the future of an entrepreneurial world. Given the diverse challenges the world is facing in the twenty-first century, it is important to recognise that entrepreneurship can have a major impact on our future, offering new ways to increase economic opportunities and to foster social justice.

One Grand Award and 3 Global Awards were presented at this year's Forum.

Her Excellency Kolinda Grabar-Kitarovic, President of Croatia, was [the recipient of the Grand Award](#): The Best Woman Leader of the World Supporting Entrepreneurship and Innovation. His Excellency Kadri Veseli, President of the Assembly of the Republic of Kosovo, was [the recipient of the award](#) for Best Leader of South East Europe Supporting Economic Development Through Digitalisation. His Excellency Dr Ibrahim Mohammed Awal, Minister for Business Development of the Republic of Ghana, was the [recipient of the award](#) for the Most Business-Oriented Minister of Africa Designing Economic Development Through Innovative Solutions. The City of Seville, Spain was [the recipient of the award](#) for the Best Startup-Friendly City of Europe; His Excellency Juan Espadas Cejas, Mayor of Seville, accepted the award on behalf of the city.

The Grand Award: The Best Woman Leader of the World Supporting Entrepreneurship and Innovation

The Grand Award of 2019 was the World Business Angels Investment Forum's highest recognition for individual achievement. This award acknowledges and celebrates the exemplary leadership of an individual who has made a significant and positive impact by implementing investments in the future of the world. This award is made at the discretion of the WBAF Recognition Committee, which may choose to grant one award, no award, or multiple awards in any given year.

During one of the sessions of the United Nations, Her Excellency Kolinda Grabar-Kitarovic, President of Croatia, noted that women have a huge potential and can achieve their aims despite all obstacles. She is sure that women's empowerment will contribute to the world's economic development. She is the first woman in her country to become president and is also Croatia's youngest-ever head of state. One of her major activity directions is women's empowerment.

Her Excellency has showed a unique vision for the future of women's entrepreneurship and has set an outstanding example for all world leaders, for which reason the board members of the World Business Angels Investment Forum were unanimous in nominating her for its Grand Award.

The Best Leader of South East Europe Supporting Economic Development Through Digitalisation

Digitalization can lead to significant gains in productivity. G20 leaders have stated that the digital economy is an increasingly important driver of inclusive economic growth and plays a significant role in accelerating the productivity growth of existing industries, opening up new markets and nurturing new industries, and contributing to global development and new job opportunities.

Kosovo's KODE Project is an innovative initiative to turn the economy of the country into a digital economy. Its aim is to improve access to better quality high-speed broadband services and online knowledge sources, services, and labour markets for Kosovo's citizens and public and academic institutions. A product of the futuristic vision of His Excellency Mr Kadri Veseli, President of the Assembly of the Republic of Kosovo, this project has been implemented through his leadership, .

His Excellency was the recipient of the award for Best Leader of South East Europe Supporting Economic Development Through Digitalisation.

The Most Business-Oriented Minister of Africa Designing Economic Development Through Innovative Solutions

With a population of more than 30 million, Ghana was cited as Africa's most peaceful country on the Global Peace Index. It is one of Africa's most promising economies. The International Monetary Fund's World Economic Outlook announced Ghana as having the world's 6th best GDP growth in 2018. Ghana's location in the West African sub-region provides a unique advantage for the development of the country's infrastructure as a hub for regional and international trade and commerce.

His Excellency Dr Ibrahim Mohammed Awal, the Minister for Business Development, is the first African minister to bring the concept of empowering startup economies through angel investment to the agenda of the government. Angel investors, startups, scaleups and high-growth businesses are now perceived as key drivers of the Ghana economy.

His Excellency was the recipient of the award for the Most Business-Oriented Minister of Africa Designing Economic Development Through Innovative Solutions.

The Best Startup-Friendly City of Europe

Seville is the home of numerous historical figures, famous and infamous ones alike. The legendary Don Juan, for example, started out from Seville to conquer the hearts of women across all Europe, and Christopher Columbus set sail from a port near Seville to discover a new world. Prosper Merimée's Carmen, who couldn't decide between the officer Don José and the bullfighter Escamillo – you can still watch the consequences today in opera houses – was a worker in Seville's old tobacco factory.

Seville has recently added a new value to its history. Innovation! Sevilla Futura, an entrepreneurial city project in partnership with Cisco, Airbus and IBM, is just one example. Another is the Magalanes Center project, which will restore a landmark historic building from the 18th century to create an entrepreneurial hub.

The city of Seville was the recipient of the award for the Best Startup-Friendly City of Europe. His Excellency Juan Espadas Cejas, Mayor of Seville, accepted the award on behalf of the city.

The WBAF Investment Fund – Launched for the 2020 Global Fundraising Stage

We are delighted to announce that a WBAF Investment Fund was launched at the Grand Assembly of the World Business Angels Investment Forum on 17 February. The main goal of the Investment Fund is to discover the best startups and scaleups of the 2020 Global Fundraising Stage and invest in them.

Paul Doany, CEO of Turk Telekom, kindly accepted the position of president of the WBAF Investment Fund. The WBAF Investors Committee is now developing rules and procedures for the fund.

The most rewarding aspect of this new development is the incredibly positive response from the WBAF community. The Grand Assembly decided on a minimum of \$10K for contributions to the fund, and in two days \$420K was raised. This is an indication that the size of the WBAF Investment Fund will likely be more than \$1M by 2020. I will be very happy to make co-investment agreements with WBAF's global network to leverage the size of the fund to \$10M by next year. (I hope you understand that \$10M is our goal.)

Here is the list (in alphabetical order according to surname) of WBAF investors who have already committed to the fund:

- Abdul Malek Al Jabaar, President, The Middle East Trade Association for Business Angels, Jordan, 10K
- Adnan Akdemir, President, Sifisan Entertainment Investments, Turkey, 10K
- Baybars Altuntas, Chairman of Board of Directors, World Business Angels Investment Forum, Turkey-10K
- Charles L. Sidman, MBA, PhD, Managing partner of ECS Capital Partners, USA, 10K
- Etienne Kouadio Doh, General Manager, Francophone West Africa, MainOne, Cote d'Ivoire
- Francisco Malesela Kgoboko, Founder and CEO of FMK Global Holdings, Botswana, 10K
- Hauwa Yabani, Chief Executive Officer of Abuja Technology Village FZ Co., Nigeria, 10K
- Lucy Chow, Director, Women's Angel Investor Network (WAIN), UAE, 10K
- Marek Rusiecki, co- founding partner at Xevin Investments, Poland, 250K through
- Mohammed Elhadi, Member of the Advisory Board of Khartoum State's Ministry, 10K
- Paul Doany, Chief Executive Officer, Turk Telekom, Turkey, 10K
- Prof Nikhil Agarwal , Senior Advisor of the Indian Chamber of Commerce, India, 10K
- Rina Neoh, Co-founder of the Ficus Venture Capital, 10K
- Sabetha Mwambenja, Former Chairperson of the Tanzania Trade Development Authority, Tanzania, 10K
- Sabur Khan, Chairman of Daffodil Family, Bangladesh, 10K
- Mohammed Sh. Al-Rashidi, Founder and Executive Chairman of One Global Group, Kuwait, 10K
- Tahir Mahmood, Head of the Business Development Department of Nasdaq Dubai, 10K

- Tuba Terekli, International Executive Consultant and Angel Investor, Saudi Arabia, 10K

If you are interested in contributing to the WBAF Investment Fund for Global Fundraising Stage Startups, please email me at Baybars.Altuntas@wbaforum.org

Great media coverage at the international level

The world's fifth biggest news agency, AA (Anadolu Agency, the 'Reuters of Turkey'), covered the Congress with 23 journalists and communicated in 8 languages. The global reach of AA is incredible! The Croatian media also followed the Congress on 3 TV channels with coverage by 8 journalists. And the Kosovo media covered the Forum on the official radio and television broadcasting company of the country. Montenegro too followed the Forum via its National TV. Jordan covered the Forum with one of its best-known journalists. And, of course, the Financial Times was also present in the corridors of the Congress.

Turkish Airlines covered the Forum in its [March issue](#). Skyline of Turkish Airlines reach more than 500 thousand passengers of 328 destinations globally.

Just Google WBAF or World Business Angels Investment Forum in any of the following languages to have an idea about the global reach of the Forum: English, Turkish, Croatian, Montenegrin, Arabic, Russian, Bosnian, Albanian, German, French.

Here are some samples we selected from hundreds of news in the global media.

- [TRT News](#) – The main channel of Turkish Radio Broadcasting Company – 15 min live interview
- [RTL News](#) – One of main news channel of Croatia
- [RTCG News](#) – The main news channel of Montenegro

Important Supporters of the Forum

We are extremely grateful to the outstanding organisations whose generous support made a significant contribution to the success of this year's Forum. I would like to take this opportunity to thank each of them: our co-sponsors (Albarak and TEN BNP Baripas), our tech sponsor (Bilkent Cyberpark), our silver sponsor (QDB Qatar Development Bank), our fintech sponsor (Nexchange Group), our global startup sponsors (ICEX Invest in Spain, the Peppers & Rogers Group, and the Seville Municipality), our ecosystem sponsors (the Istanbul Chamber of Industry and the Istanbul Chamber of Commerce), our EU partner (Krapinsko-Zagorska, Zupanija – Croatia), our international partners (the ICC International Chamber of Commerce, the IFC International Finance Corporation, and the WAIPA World Association of Investment Promotion Agencies), our global communication partner (Anatolia Agency - AA), our global scientific partner (UNIDO) and our official airline (Turkish Airlines).

These important institutions and the World Business Angels Investment Forum share the same vision, so in the event you have occasion to interact with any of them, I am confident the experience will be positive.

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World Business Angels Investment Forum (WBAF)

An affiliated partner of the G20 Global Partnership for Financial Inclusion (GPI), the World Business Angels Investment Forum (WBAF) is an international organisation aiming to ease access to finance for businesses from start-up to scale-up, with the ultimate goal of generating more jobs and more social justice worldwide. It is committed to collaborating globally to empower world economic development by creating innovative financial instruments for innovators, start-ups, and SMEs. The Forum interacts with leaders in all areas of society, first and foremost in business and political spheres, to help assess needs and establish goals, bearing in mind that the public interest is of paramount importance. WBAF engages a wide range of institutions, both public and private, local and international, commercial and academic to help shape the global agenda.

www.wbaforum.org

G20 Global Partnership for Financial Inclusion (GPI)

The Global Partnership for Financial Inclusion (GPI) is an inclusive platform for all G20 countries, interested non-G20 countries, and relevant stakeholders that aims to carry forward work on financial inclusion, including the implementation of the G20 Financial Inclusion Action Plan endorsed at the G20 Summit in Seoul, South Korea. Her Majesty Queen Máxima of the Netherlands is the Honorary Patron of the G20 Global Partnership for Financial Inclusion (GPI).

www.gpi.org



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wbaforum.org

