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**FOSTER**  
PROJESİ | PROJECT

## PRESS RELEASE

April 2026

### **FOSTER II Project Provides up to EUR 43 Million Support to 1,962 SMEs: A New Employment-Oriented Era Begins**

Another important milestone has been reached under the *Empowering the Private Sector to Foster Social and Economic Cohesion II - FOSTER II* Project, which is financed by the European Union. Following the completion of the evaluation process within the "Employment Committed SME Support Programme-II", a total of 1,962 SMEs became eligible to receive up to EUR 43 million grant support.

The implementation period for winning SMEs officially began on February 1, 2026. SMEs that fulfill their employment commitments will be able to submit their first support payment requests starting June 1, 2026. Thus, the process will be carried out through a dynamic support model focused on employment participation and performance.

#### **Employment-Focused and Measurable Support Model**

FOSTER II SME Support Programme adopts a holistic approach that not only offers financial support but also instills employment responsibilities on SMEs. Winning SMEs are expected to formally create or retain jobs for Turkish citizens and foreigners under temporary or international protection and fulfill the determined criteria in a sustainable manner throughout the support period. This model aims to encourage SME growth in project provinces while also contributing to the increase in formal employment in the sectors to be supported within the project.

#### **Performance-Based Grant Mechanism within 4 Payment Periods**

The grant support provided under the program is disbursed in equal installments over four payment periods, each lasting four months, based on the SMEs' performance. SMEs that fully meet their employment commitments in each payment period will receive up to EUR 22,000 grant support in total.

#### **A Robust Implementation Structure Through International Cooperation**

The FOSTER II Project stands out for its multi-stakeholder structure. While the project is funded by the European Union, it is managed by the KfW Development Bank and implemented by





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KOSGEB in 20 provinces. This robust collaboration model ensures the project is implemented at international standards while also allowing effective solutions tailored to local needs.

### **Contribution to Social Cohesion and Sustainable Growth**

While the FOSTER II Project aims to strengthen the manufacturing, technology, and informatics-oriented capacities of SMEs supported, it also seeks to establish an inclusive economic structure that encourages the employment of both Turkish citizens and foreigners under temporary or international protection. In this respect, the project stands out not only to ensure SMEs' access to finance but also as a strategic tool that directly contributes to Türkiye's goals of social cohesion, employment, and sustainable development.