11AM ISTANBUL TIME

**PRESS RELEASE**

**IMPACT INVESTMENT SUMMIT**

***PART OF THE WORLD BUSINESS ANGELS INVESTMENT FORUM ANNUAL CONGRESS 2018***

20 February 2018, Istanbul

**Mobilizing private and public capital in innovative ways for the social good**

***The United Nations has set 17 sustainable development goals for 2030. The estimated cost of implementing these goals over the next 10 years is $50–$70 trillion; the Paris Climate Agreement alone is expected to cost over $12 trillion over the next 25 years. Governmental budgets for aid and development can only go so far towards financing such projects, and even with philanthropic funds, a huge gap remains that needs to be filled.***

(WBAF World Congress 2018 – Istanbul) The United Nations has set 17 sustainable development goals for 2030. The estimated cost of implementing these goals over the next 10 years is $50–$70 trillion; the Paris Climate Agreement alone is expected to cost over $12 trillion over the next 25 years. Governmental budgets for aid and development can only go so far towards financing such projects, and even with philanthropic funds, a huge gap remains that needs to be filled.

Now is the time to focus on developing ways to finance all these social investments. The WBAF invites angel investors, corporate venture executives, fund managers, stock exchange executives and public institutions to the Impact Investment Forum 2018 to discuss a broad array of related issues.

**Key topics to be discussed at the Impact Investment Summit of the WBAF World Congress 2018 include:**

* Mobilizing private sector capital in new and more efficient ways
* Global perspectives: Challenges and opportunities in impact investment for supporting innovation in early stage equity markets
* Regional focus: Financing innovation through impact investment in South East Europe
* The increasing role of technology in impact investing and social entrepreneurship
* What does impact mean to different stakeholders? Corporate ventures, family offices, angel investors, private equities, crowdfunding platforms, stock exchanges
* Building an investment portfolio that measures impact in every investment
* Responsible finance and impact Investment: The future of smart finance for social entrepreneurs
* Women leading the way in impact investing
* Developing partnerships between public and private institutions to fuel innovation for the social good and public policy to support impact investors
* Industry scope: How can impact investors take more active role in achieving good health and well-being as defined in the Sustainable Development Goals of the United Nations

**WBAF World Congress 2018**

Drawing together hundreds of the world’s top business leaders, WBAF 2018 shape the global agenda of the world early and post-early stage equity markets in the year ahead. For the first time ever, The World Business Angel Investors Forum Annual Congress 2018, the world’s biggest annual gathering of early stage equity and investment markets, will have 5 important summits running concurrently and will host more than 1000 delegates from around the world.

The WBAF Annual Conference 2018 will focus on angel investors partnering with family offices and wealth management institutions. Start-ups, scale-ups and angel investors will be able to connect at the TAKE INVEST SUMMIT. The CEO-PRENEURSHIP SUMMIT will focus on transforming CEOs into angel investors, while the FINTECH SUMMIT will deal with issues of financial inclusion and ways to democratise access to finance. And don’t miss the opportunity to generate innovative ideas to mobilise private and public capital for the social good at the IMPACT INVESTMENT SUMMIT. WBAF will also salute the global successes of the year at the World Excellence Awards & VIP Gala Dinner at the Swissotel The Bosphorus Istanbul.

As a global organisation, the World Business Angels Investment Forum brings together key players of the equity market to discuss the benefits and challenges to the angel investment community’s achieving successful growth for their businesses and to discuss what more can be done to connect the early-stage market ecosystem.

Speaking ahead of the event, WBAF Chairman Baybars Altuntas comments:

“Building on the success of the 2017 World Business Angels Investment Forum (WBAF), this year’s forum will focus on the theme ‘Unlocking the Potential for Innovation: Angel Investors Partnering with Family Offices and Wealth Management Institutions.’

The discussions will explore how family offices and wealth management institutions can foster open innovation and deliver more business value through partnerships with angel investors, start-ups, scale-ups, high-growth businesses and SMEs.

“By working together across borders, with a common vision, and with these smart dynamics in mind, we are well placed to create positive change in the global economy.”

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|  | **Editor’s Notes**  EVENT AND SPEAKER DETAILS: Further details on the event, including the event agenda, speakers and proposed topics call all be found at http://www.wbaf2018.istanbul/ |
|  | **About the World Business Angels Investment Forum**  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, startups, 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](http://www.wbaforum.org) |
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