

# Halkbank takes over Ziraat Banka A.D. Skopje

Halkbank has taken over Ziraat Banka A.D. Skopje with all of its assets, liabilities, branches and personnel through its subsidiary in Macedonia, Halk Banka A.D. Skopje. With the acquisition of Ziraat Banka A.D. Skopje through this merger operation, Halk Banka A.D. Skopje has become the sixth largest bank in Macedonia. Halkbank has also increased the number of its branches and employees in Macedonia to 27 and 365, respectively, by opening a new corporate branch in the country, which will allow the bank to better serve its corporate customers.

Stating that their goal is to make Halk Banka A.D. Skopje one of the three largest banks in Macedonia, Halkbank's General Manager **Mr. Süleyman Aslan** said, "**The Balkans is extremely close to us both geographically and culturally, which we consider as an opportunity that would contribute to the growth and development of both countries.**"

## Halkbank will continue to expand in the Balkans

Emphasizing that they will continue to expand their activities in other countries across the Balkans, **Mr. Aslan** said, "**We have obtained the required legal authorization to open a representative office in Belgrade and plan to commence our operations in this country as soon as possible. We are also exploring expansion opportunities in Kosovo and other countries across the region.**"

The takeover process of Ziraat Banka A.D. Skopje by Halk Banka A.D. Skopje was launched in January 2012 and completed in October 2012 with the approval received from the Commission for Protection of Competition of the Republic of Macedonia.