

## Risk Management and ISO 31000 in Turkey

Interview conducted for isotc262 with

### Alpaslan Menevse, chairman of the Turkish mirror committee to TC 262



Alpaslan Menevse is currently the Head of Risk Management Department at Sekerbank T.A.S., a large Turkish bank. He is responsible for implementing ISO 31000 throughout the organization. Alpaslan has 28 years of experience in information systems, both as an academic and as a practitioner. During his academic career, as a computer and aeronautics engineer, he was involved in several Information and Communication Technology (ICT) projects and completed his master's thesis in EUCLID RTP 11.3 artificial intelligence project of F-16 fighter jet simulator development, where he modeled pilot behaviors of risk assessments in BVR (beyond visual range) flight. He also led different sizes of IT Risk Management projects during 1995–2004, specializing in business continuity and disaster recovery management. Alpaslan is the chairman of the Turkish Standards Institute TS ISO 31000 MTC 132 Risk Management National Mirror Technical Committee.

**isotc262.org:** *Alpaslan, you are a member of the Turkish mirror committee to ISO/TC 262. Can you briefly introduce TSE the Türk Standardlari Enstitüsü, your national standardization organization, please?*

**Alpaslan:** Turkish Standards Institution (TSE) is a public institution founded by Law in 1960. It is the sole authorized body for standardization in Turkey, operating in diverse fields providing certification, testing and training as well as surveillance and inspection activities. TSE is an active member of the world standardization community; with its full membership of International Organization for Standardization (ISO) and International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) since 1956, Standards and Metrology Institute for the Islamic Countries (SMIIC) since 2010, European Committee for Standardization (CEN) and European Committee for Electrotechnical Standardization (CENELEC) since 2012.

TSE, as a standardization body, provides the standards aimed at enabling industrialists to produce goods and services in compliance with rules, laws, codes and standards applicable in global markets. TSE's work enables clients to gain access into the European and Gulf market by ensuring their products meets all CE mark requirements according to European Directives/Regulations and G mark requirements according to GSO regulations.

As a lead Conformity Assessment Body with the responsibility of seeking public interest always as a priority, TSE focuses its efforts on providing all kinds of services that industrialists/exporters need in their trade relations with other countries.

isotc262.org: *You have been a »regular« at TC 262 meetings in the past but were prevented from coming to Amman – will you be back at the next meeting?*

**Alpaslan:** For some time, there have been different objectives of the members of TC 262. This ended up with many subjective directions being pursued within the working Group and caused me to suspend my attendance to see the settlement. I am planning to join this year.

isotc262.org: *What is risk management based on in Turkey (e.g.: are there any laws, regulations, national standards or other rules)?*

**Alpaslan:** Most Turkish regulations are sector specific. The ISO 27000 family and the ISO 9000 family are the most common standards applied in Turkey. The financial world follows Basel regulation and uses a COSO based approach. More recently the accounting world has joined the field of end-users with IFRS continually gaining momentum.

isotc262.org: *What is the impact of risk management and in particular ISO 31000 in Turkey?*

**Alpaslan:** ISO 31000 is almost an educational standard for risk management, with most universities teaching the subject with case studies.

isotc262.org: *Who are the key stakeholders of risk management in Turkey?*

**Alpaslan:** The financial sector has the best knowhow as I mentioned above, accounting standards encompass many applications of risk management and are gaining acceptance among its members.

isotc262.org: *What are the biggest obstacles for integrating risk management in all organizational activities for managers in Turkey?*

**Alpaslan:** Human resistance to change and unwillingness to learn new subjects. Additionally, people first have to learn to manage risks, eventually adjusting instead of adopting standards.

isotc262.org: *ISO 31000 quickly became one of the bestselling and most well recognized standards in ISO. What do you think about the future of the standard and how will it change to adapt to new challenges?*

**Alpaslan:** My humble view is that, ISO 31000 needs to redefine itself with new objectives if it wants to expand its horizon. IFRS has had an enormous effect on risk management

and is widely accepted because of its practical application. Also accounting is well organized and has a major role in companies of all sizes.

**isotc262.org:** *Is there a message that you want to give to the risk management community?*

**Alpaslan:** Yes, better communication with key stakeholders such as accounting, academia and the audit world needs to be established. Understanding the real needs of both the public and the private sector should be one of the main objectives of the risk management community.

**isotc262.org:** *What advice can you give to interested parties in Turkey who want to offer their input to the work of ISO/TC 262 and who should they address?*

**Alpaslan:** TSE has been sending invitations to all potential interested parties periodically. We have members from different sectors and academia. They all work within their own sector and try to align themselves with the standard. They usually like to work with workgroups within their specific area of interest, instead of at strategic level.

**isotc262.org:** **Thank you very much!**

**Alpaslan:** You're welcome. Good luck with establishing new communication channels with all stakeholders.