2026 FOREIGN INVESTOR RESOURCE

Turkey Entity Selection Checklist

Compare a Limited Şirket, Anonim Şirket, liaison office, and branch before committing to a market-entry structure.

Prepared by Turkish Trade Lawyers

Contact: hi@turkishtradelawyers.com

Updated July 2026

1. Rapid structure comparison

Use this page to narrow the initial options. Sector-specific licensing, tax, employment, and foreign investment rules may change the outcome.

STRUCTURE	BEST SUITED TO	KEY CONSTRAINT	2026 STARTING POINT
Limited Şirket	Operating subsidiaries, SMEs, closely held ventures	Share transfers and public-debt exposure require careful structuring	Minimum capital: **TRY 50,000**
Anonim Şirket	Investment, scalable governance, fundraising and exits	More formal board, capital and governance requirements	Minimum capital: **TRY 250,000**
Liaison office	Market research, coordination, promotion and representation	Commercial activity and revenue generation are prohibited	Ministry permission; temporary authorization
Branch office	Direct Turkish operations under the foreign parent	Parent remains responsible; Turkish tax and accounting apply	Trade registry establishment and capital allocation

If you will invoice customers in Turkey	A liaison office is generally not appropriate. Compare a Turkish company and a branch.
If fundraising or share transfers matter	An Anonim Şirket commonly offers the more flexible long-term framework.
If you are testing the market only	A liaison office may work if every planned activity remains strictly non-commercial.

2. Formation readiness checklist

Mark what is already known. Unchecked items identify the questions to resolve before filing or applying for permission.

OWNERSHIP AND GOVERNANCE

- [ ] Founders or parent company identified
- [ ] Individual and corporate ownership percentages mapped
- [ ] Managers, directors, or branch representative identified
- [ ] Signing and representation powers decided
- [ ] Future investor, transfer, or exit expectations considered

BUSINESS MODEL

- [ ] Primary Turkish business activity described
- [ ] Need to invoice or earn revenue in Turkey confirmed
- [ ] Customers, suppliers, and contracting entity identified
- [ ] Employee and work-permit requirements estimated
- [ ] Regulated-sector permits or licenses checked

DOCUMENTS AND TIMING

- [ ] Passports and address documents available
- [ ] Foreign parent-company documents available
- [ ] Apostille, legalization, and sworn translation needs checked
- [ ] Registered office plan identified
- [ ] Target establishment date and operational launch date separated

TAX, BANKING, AND COMPLIANCE

- [ ] Expected Turkish revenue and costs estimated
- [ ] Bank account and KYC requirements considered
- [ ] Corporate tax, VAT, payroll, and social security reviewed
- [ ] Accounting support arranged
- [ ] Data protection and employment compliance considered

3. Questions that determine the right route

Prepare short answers before speaking with counsel. These points usually affect the recommended structure and establishment sequence.

1. What activity will be carried out in Turkey, and will it generate revenue?
2. Will the investor be an individual, a foreign company, or several shareholders?
3. Is limited liability at Turkish-entity level important, or can the parent remain directly responsible?
4. Will the business seek investors, issue different share rights, or plan an exit?
5. How many employees are expected, and will foreign work permits be needed?
6. Does the business need sector-specific licensing before it can operate?
7. What is the intended launch date, and which foreign documents are already available?
8. Will the Turkish operation import, export, hold inventory, or contract locally?

4. Your practical next step

A structure should be selected only after the planned Turkish activities, ownership, tax exposure, governance, and licensing requirements are reviewed together.

Send us	Your intended activity, shareholder or parent-company details, preferred structure if any, and target timeline.
We review	Whether a Limited Şirket, Anonim Şirket, liaison office, branch, or another route fits the proposed operation.
You receive	The recommended next practical step and the initial document path for the proposed structure.

Request structure guidance

www.turkishtradelawyers.com/setup-a-business-in-turkey.html

hi@turkishtradelawyers.com | +90 501 635 94 65

__Important:__ This checklist provides general information only and does not constitute legal, tax, or accounting advice. Requirements depend on the investor, sector, activity, documentation, and applicable law at the time of establishment.