

Science Bridging Nations

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Newsletter #1 · April 2014

Foreword

Dear Sir or Madam,

In this and subsequent newsletters, we would like to keep you up-to-date with the many different activities taking place as part of the "German-Turkish Year of Research, Education and Innovation 2014" – providing you with a regular overview in three languages.

The newsletter focuses on current topics; we report on existing and planned scientific cooperation, give best-practice examples and use interviews and profiles to present individuals, experiences and backgrounds. We also inform you about future key dates and provide practical information, for example, about research, study and funding opportunities in and with Turkey. In short: we want you to use this newsletter to find information and form networks, wholly in line with the joint Year of Science motto: "Science Bridging Nations".

Our countries are closely connected culturally and economically, meaning that there is a great deal of public interest in the German-Turkish Year of Science (GTYoS). This has already been demonstrated by the hugely positive response to the opening event held on 23 January 2014 at the Berlin E-Werk, in which around 600 guests took part. ([Watch the film](#))

The main focus of this first issue of the GTYoS newsletter is, as could only be expected, the opening event held on 23 January 2014 at the Berlin club E-Werk.

Our topics in this issue are:

- Highlights
- Profiles & interviews
- Projects
- Tips & dates

Some background information on the GTYoS to start:

The [Year of Science](#) is a joint initiative of the [German Federal Ministry of Education and Research \(BMBF\)](#) and the [Turkish Ministry of Science, Industry and Technology \(MoSIT\)](#). It is supported and financed by over 40 [German and Turkish partners](#), by universities, scientific and intermediary organisations, associations and unions, and any other entities that advocate the joint Year of Science concept.

Germany and Turkey are working together under the motto "Science Bridging Nations" to pursue several [goals](#) during the joint Year of Science: both partners are committed to bringing attention to the importance and successes of their collaboration and building on the existing cooperation within research, education and innovation through forward-looking projects.

The German-Turkish Year of Science primarily focuses on issues for the future that affect everyone: these issues play a major role in the research agenda of both countries and, because of their significance for the well-being of mankind, they are relevant not only on a regional scale but a global one too. The range of topics covers application-oriented research in key technologies ([topic cluster 1](#)), global change ([topic cluster 2](#)) and social change ([topic cluster 3](#)). In order to mobilise as many forces as possible, the "interdisciplinary topics" are given particular attention: the



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interaction between research and industry, education and training in economics, science and research, and the interface between science and society.

Numerous [events](#) are planned in Germany and Turkey throughout this Year of Science. Scientific, educational and intermediary organisations will thus have the opportunity to strengthen their network of scientific contacts and establish new partnerships.

We are pleased to invite you to enter your event in the online calendar of the GTYoS portal.

With the aim of launching new projects within the Year of Science itself, the BMBF and MoSIT are each running an [ideas competition](#) with an agreement to provide funding. The first round of projects has already been selected.

We hope you enjoy reading this newsletter and look forward to your active participation in the joint Year of Science.

Your GTYoS editorial team

Highlights

The German -Turkish Year of Science 2014 kicked off in Berlin

On 23 January 2014, around 600 guests from the worlds of politics, science and economics were invited to attend the launch of the German-Turkish Year of Research, Education and Innovation 2014 at the Berlin E-Werk, with around 200 of the guests coming from Turkey.

The launch event, mirroring the nature the German-Turkish Year of Science as a whole, focused on a discussion of topics ranging from application-oriented research in key technologies, to challenges in global change, all the way up to humanities and social sciences. The launch event also gave particular attention to the interaction between research and industry, education and training in economics, science and research and the interface between science and society.



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All these fields were represented by distinguished guests from both countries: ministers, representatives from scientific institutions and intermediary organisations as well as experts from the fields of economics, science and research sat down around a table at the launch of the Year of Science to discuss ideas for specific topics and projects.

The accompanying exhibition, the specialist forum with three parallel workshops and the subsequent evening reception provided plenty of opportunities for networking.

We were lucky enough to secure a number of distinguished guests for the podium discussion ([watch the live stream](#)) on the topic "German-Turkish Cooperation in Education and Research: Perspectives and Challenges" which took place as part of the official launch. These included the former President of the German Bundestag, Prof. Rita Süßmuth and the Director of DAI-Labor (Distributed Artificial Intelligence Laboratory) and Chief Executive Director of the GT-ARC (German-Turkish Advanced Research Centre for ICT), Prof. Sahin Albayrak, alongside the two initiators, Federal Minister Johanna Wanka and Fikri Işık, Minister of Science, Industry and Technology of the Republic of Turkey. The unanimous conclusion was that the Year of Science provides a wealth of opportunities to advance the cooperation, bring together various disciplines and sectors and develop new solutions.

The opening ceremony also coincided with the signing of three joint agreements. [More](#)

You can find photos of the launch event on the website in our [Media Library](#).

Lights out, spotlight on: Presentation of German-Turkish projects and work currently being undertaken

As with all International Years of Science, the German-Turkish Year is also based on cooperation and success stories going back many years. During the opening event, the developments and achievements to date of universities, research institutes, intermediary organisations and companies were demonstrated in the "Science Bridging Nations: German-Turkish Cooperation in Practice" parallel exhibition. It was opened by Thomas Rachel (Parliamentary State Secretary of the BMBF) together with Prof. Ersan Aslan (Undersecretary at the Ministry of Science, Industry and Technology of the Republic of Turkey). [More](#)



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The results of the specialist forum in a nutshell

As part of the launch event, key players summed up the success factors and improvement potential of the German-Turkish collaboration in the specialist forum on "German-Turkish Cooperation: Knowledge Transfer in Research, Education and Innovation". The three workshops (working group 1: Applied Research for a Paradigm Shift in Industrial Development and Production; working group 2: Knowledge Transfer between Germany and Turkey in Science, Research and Innovation; working group 3: Knowledge Transfer in Higher Education – German-Turkish Transnational University Cooperation) were organised by the BMBF (German Federal Ministry of Education and Research) in cooperation with the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD), the Fraunhofer Institute for Industrial Engineering (IAO) and the Institute for Textile Technology at RWTH Aachen. Their recommendations will influence how the scientific ties between Germany and Turkey will develop. [More](#)



Discover the online portal for the "German-Turkish Year of Research, Education and Innovation 2014"



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Education and Innovation 2014

The joint logo for the German-Turkish Year of Research, Education and Innovation 2014 unites details that are specific to both countries through a mix of colours and shapes. Our [website](#) unites too!

Always well-informed. Our [special highlights](#) present the most recent events linked to the Year of Science and

the [Media Library](#) provides information in the form of audiovisual media and selected photographs.

[Science Network](#) – keep in touch, share your views and create synergies! In our Science Network, you can introduce yourself, your institution and your field of research to other scientists from Germany, Turkey and other countries. Subscribe now and play an active role in the German-Turkish Year of Research, Education and Innovation 2014. You can also search for other members by name, country or subject area and invite them to network with you and exchange contact details.

Destination Turkey 2014: TÜBİTAK workshop in Berlin

On 24 January 2014, the [Scientific and Technological Research Council of Turkey](#) (TÜBİTAK) held the "Destination Turkey 2014" workshop in Berlin. The event



focused on brain circulation and funding programmes, with the Turkish Minister for Science, Industry and Technology (MoSIT), Fikri Işık, introducing the political programme set out by the Turkish government.

TÜBİTAK president [Prof. Yücel Altunbaşak](#) then went into detail about the situation in Turkey regarding science and research, providing information on the individual mobility programmes and diverse funding schemes offered by TÜBİTAK. More than 250 participants were involved in the event at the Turkish House in Berlin. [More](#)

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Profiles & interviews

Voices of the year



In this section, we would like to regularly introduce you to different active participants in the German-Turkish Year of Science and tell you about their involvement. One of the first interviewees is Thomas Rachel, Parliamentary State Secretary in the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research.

Take a look at the video interview with him here, where he describes the special features of the German-Turkish relationship and talks in detail about the potential benefits of the collaboration, with a view to the global challenges.

[More](#)

Also read the interview with Venio Piero Quinque, Executive Secretary of TU9 German Institutes of Technology e. V.



The founder and Executive Secretary of TU9 – the association of leading Institutes of Technology in Germany: RWTH Aachen, TU Berlin, TU Braunschweig, TU Darmstadt, TU Dresden, Leibniz Universität Hannover, Karlsruher Institute of Technology, TU München, Universität Stuttgart – talks about the numerous and diverse existing collaborations between TU9 universities and Turkish universities. [More](#)

Projects

New ideas wanted! The second round of the ideas competition gets underway

To initiate new projects at the start of the Year of Science, The Federal Ministry of Education and Research and the Ministry of Science, Industry and Technology of the Republic of Turkey are each holding an [ideas competition](#). The first round of projects was selected in December. The second round of the German competition will run until 30/04/2014.

More than 60 applications were received by the BMBF – clear evidence of the high level of interest within the German scientific community in further expanding the

already close links with Turkey, even beyond the official end of the joint Year of Science.

We will shortly be posting detailed reports on the GTYoS portal to keep you up to date on which projects are being funded and on what kind of influence the winners of the ideas competition would like to have.

[More](#)

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Bulletin: Turkish Weeks at German universities in 2014

During the 2014/15 winter semester, 'Turkish Weeks' will be taking place at selected HRK member universities as part of the German-Turkish Year of Research, Education and Innovation 2014. Applications for funding should be sent in digital format via the University Administration by 25 April 2014.

Source: [HRK](#)

[More](#)

Film Competition for the German-Turkish Year of Research, Education and Innovation 2014

As part of the 'Turkish Weeks' planned at German universities, the German Rectors' Conference has announced a film competition. The competition entries should directly correspond to the three core areas of the Turkish Weeks: Study and Research, University-Specific Cooperation Projects and Culture. The best short film will receive an award. The deadline for submitting film entries to the HRK is 15 July 2014. Source: [HRK](#)

[More](#)

Take part in the Science Network!

Create new partnerships, share ideas and stay in touch! In our [Science Network](#), you can introduce yourself, your institution and your field of research to other scientists from Germany, Turkey and other countries, and network with one another.

Send out an invitation to your event in the online calendar!

Are you organising a workshop, exhibition or other event that deals with one of the topics of the German-Turkish Year of Research, Education and Innovation 2014? [Announce your event in the official online calendar](#) and become a participant in the Year of Science.

Use the information and advertising materials of the Year of Science!

You can order free information and advertising materials for your event and download the official logo for the Year of Science from the German-Turkish Year of Research, Education and Innovation 2014 website. Your project will then fall under the umbrella of the German-Turkish Year of Science. [To the corporate design](#).

To order advertising material, primarily enter your event to the online calendar. By receiving the confirmation e-mail you will also get access to the ordering form. [To the online calendar](#).



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Other dates:

- **International symposium – "Anatolia – bridging the culture gap"**

2-5 June 2014: Bonn (Germany)

The symposium will deal with current research and perspectives on German-Turkish antiquity studies and is being organised by the German Research Foundation in collaboration with the Deutsches Bergbau-Museum Bochum (German Mining Museum in Bochum).

- **Christians and Muslims in discussion**

March-December 2014: Osnabrück, Erlangen-Nuremberg, Frankfurt am Main/Giessen and Tübingen/Stuttgart (Germany)

Under the general title "Christen und Muslime im Gespräch" (Christians and Muslims in discussion), the Eugen-Biser-Stiftung is planning a series of four activities running from March to December 2014. These events will each have three components: a workshop for students and young academics in the field of Islamic and Christian Theology and related disciplines, a public dialogue event and a round-table discussion between representatives of the respective local institutions and the Eugen-Biser-Stiftung, in order to sound out possible cooperation for future topics and projects.

[Find out about other planned activities here!](#)

To view all the events and for further information visit [the online calendar](#) of the German-Turkish Year of Science. [More](#)

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