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Newsletter #2 · July 2014

Foreword

Dear Sir or Madam,

In this second edition of the German-Turkish Year of Science newsletter you can discover which projects are being launched as part of the joint Year of Science, learn about what interesting individuals are doing to enhance German-Turkish cooperation, explore upcoming events, and much more. The newsletter covers news and events in both Germany and Turkey.

"Education and research are increasingly important for German-Turkish relations," explained German Federal Minister of Education and Research Johanna Wanka on her trip to Turkey with Federal President Joachim Gauck for the opening of the German-Turkish University. The Turkish-German University (TDU) was formally opened in Istanbul on 29 April 2014 by Federal President Joachim Gauck and Turkish President Abdullah Gül – a highlight of the Year of Science.

You can learn more about other key players in German-Turkish cooperation in our interviews. Especially interesting is the interview with [Professor Fuat S. Oduncu](#), who has been Head of Haematology and Oncology in the Department of Medicine IV at the Ludwig Maximilian University (LMU) Hospital since 2007. As General Secretary of Erich-Frank-Gesellschaft e.V. (EFG), a not-for-profit organisation at LMU, he is also involved in building German-Turkish relations in medicine. The EFG project "[Intercultural skills in medicine: Turkish and German perspectives](#)" is being promoted by the Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF) as part of the [ideas competition](#) in the joint Year of Science.

Other interesting topics in this newsletter include the idea sketches which have been received in Germany for the second round of the ideas competition and are now

being evaluated by the jury, a preview of the "Turkish Weeks" at German universities, tips and dates.

Our topics in this issue are:

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

A bit of background information on the German-Turkish Year of Science (GTYoS):

The "[German-Turkish Year of Research, Education and Innovation 2014](#)" (GTYoS) is a joint initiative of the [BMBF](#) and the Turkish [Ministry of Science, Industry and Technology](#). It is supported by a total of around [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 countries 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. You can find detailed information on the Year of Science [here](#).



Bundesministerium
für Bildung
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Türkiye Cumhuriyeti
Bilim, Sanayi ve Teknoloji Bakanlığı

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A variety of [events](#) are taking place in Germany and Turkey as part of the Year of Science, with the aim of deepening scientific contacts and establishing new cooperation.

We hope that you enjoy reading this newsletter, and the additional topics and background information that are available on the trilingual portal for the Year of Science.

We look forward to your active participation in the joint Year of Science, your reports and suggestions.

Your GTYoS editorial team

Highlights

Exchange at all levels – Federal Minister Wanka's visit to Turkey

German Federal Minister of Education and Research Prof. Dr. Johanna Wanka visited the Turkish cities of Istanbul and Ankara between 27 and 29 April 2014. She accompanied Federal President Joachim Gauck at the opening of the German-Turkish University (TDU) and attended various political meetings to discuss bilateral co-operation between the two countries. Her itinerary also included visits to German institutions and meetings with scientists.

The German-Turkish Year of Science has time and again shown one thing to be true: that nothing works better than a face-to-face meeting. With this in mind, Federal Minister Wanka met her Turkish counterpart Mr Fikri Işık, the Turkish Minister of Science, Industry and Technology, and Nabi Avci, the Turkish Minister of National Education, on 28 April in Ankara. The political talks focused on co-operation in science and research as well as in vocational training – both during the German-Turkish Year of Science and beyond.

"I am delighted to be able to gain an impression of the diversity of the German-Turkish partnership on science and education here in Turkey," said Wanka. "Talks with my fellow ministers have shown that education and research are becoming increasingly important in German-Turkish relations". Read more [here](#).

On 29 April, Wanka took part in the official opening of the TDU by Federal President Gauck and Turkish President Abdullah Gül in Istanbul. In her address, she announced that the Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF) will be providing additional support for the TDU over the next two years in the form of €1 million per year. Read more [here](#).

Now it's official: inaugural ceremony of the Turkish-German University takes place

On 29 April 2014, German Federal President Joachim Gauck and Turkish President Abdullah Gül opened the Turkish-German University (Türkisch-Deutsche Universität, TDU) in Istanbul. Naturally, the Minister of Education and Research Johanna Wanka was also there. One thing's already certain: the inaugural ceremony of the TDU is a highlight of the German-Turkish Year of Research, Education and Innovation 2014.

The [Turkish-German University \(TDU\) in Istanbul](#) is a state-run university which was founded on the basis of an intergovernmental agreement between Turkey and the Federal Republic of Germany ([founding agreement](#)) and which is subject to Turkish higher education legislation. Its aim is to combine the best elements of Turkish and German university traditions in research and teaching, and sees itself as a research university. The TDU started teaching on 16 September 2013, offering three Bachelor's degree courses and two Master's programmes to its first 135 students.

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"The Turkish-German University marks the next step on the path to internationalisation – as is the case with other universities with a connection to Germany, it is an instrument of bilateral cooperation. This means that the Turkish-German University is already an example of a successful partnership between our countries. Through exchange with German partner universities as well as excellent performance in research and teaching, it has the chance to become a flagship for academia. Through close cooperation with Turkish and German companies it can also help to boost and further strengthen economic relations between our countries," said Federal President Gauck in his [speech at the opening of the TDU](#).

The TDU is comprised of five faculties: Law, Natural Sciences, Economics, Cultural and Social Sciences, and Engineering (please see the [TDU brochure](#) for more details

and plans). The [deutsche Konsortium \(K-TDU\)](#), or German Consortium, which consists of 29 member universities and the DAAD presided over by Rita Süßmuth, is doing its part to fulfil the German-Turkish intergovernmental agreement and is supporting the Turkish side in the setting up and running of the TDU. On the German side, the TDU receives funding from the Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF).

You can find more information about this in the [BMBF press release on the opening of the TDU](#) on our GTYoS portal.

Profiles & interviews

Voices of the year



The list of his qualifications, fields of work, honours and memberships is long: Professor Fuat S. Oduncu, Dr. med., Dr. phil., MA, EMB, MBA, born 1970 in Midyat (Turkey), moved to Germany in 1974, studied and received his doctorate in Medicine and Philosophy at the Ludwig Maximilian University in Munich (LMU), qualified as a "European Master" in Bioethics (EMB), also as a specialist in Medicine and, a short while later, in Haematology and Oncology –to name but a few key facts.

As Head of Haematology and Oncology in the Department of Medicine IV at the LMU University Hospital, Professor Oduncu focuses all his skills, energy and conviction

upon the well-being of his patients – and not just there. You can read all about what he is achieving for German-Turkish cooperation in Medicine with Erich-Frank-Gesellschaft e.V., a not-for-profit organisation, about his hopes and about how he wants to help young medics along their way in this [interview](#).

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Projects

Response to ideas competition exceeds expectations

The response to the ideas competition has been overwhelming, with an incredible 128 project proposals from the German side submitted to the Federal Ministry of Education in the second round of the [ideas competition](#) – twice as many as in the first round! As in the first round, in the second call for proposals the Federal Ministry of Education invited German universities and non-academic research institutions and companies based in Germany, especially small and medium enterprises (SMEs), to develop project ideas that are especially suited to highlighting and building on German-Turkish cooperation in the fields of research, education and innovation.

Whereas in the [first round of the ideas competition](#) the social sciences were particularly strongly represented in the project proposals, in this round a balanced picture has emerged with ideas for projects covering all three fields. Numerous ideas were also submitted on 'interdisciplinary topics', that is addressing the interface between science and industry as well as between science and society.

The 128 ideas for projects are now being carefully explored and evaluated, both internally and by external experts. It is anticipated that the selection process will be ongoing until the end of June. It will be fascinating to see which and how many of the ideas for projects will receive funding from the Federal Ministry of Education and Research during the Year of Science. The ideas competition is also entering the second round on the Turkish side, and we will keep you posted on events here.

Selection process for Turkish Weeks projects at German universities also ongoing

There are already several hundred collaborative partnerships between German and Turkish universities, but there is very little awareness of the potential of these

partnerships beyond the university circles involved. That is all set to change with the "Turkish Weeks" due to be held at German universities starting in the autumn. These will take place in the context of the German-Turkish Year of Science, with funding from the Federal Ministry of Education and Research and coordinated by the German Rectors' Conference (Hochschulrektorenkonferenz – HRK).

The "Turkish Weeks" will raise awareness of the potential of collaborative partnerships between German and Turkish universities, inform people about studies and research in Turkey, stimulate interest in a study or research placement in Turkey as well as help Turkish speaking students and researchers to integrate into German academic life.

German universities had until 25th April 2014 to submit their project applications for participation in the "Turkish Weeks" to the [HRK](#). Details of which universities will be involved and in which activities will be announced around the beginning of July 2014. We look forward to reporting on this in the next newsletter!

German-Turkish working group for bilateral cooperation in vocational training

In 2005, the Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF) and the Turkish Ministry of Education (MEB) established the German-Turkish working group on vocational training. Since then, high-ranking representatives from the BMBF, the German social partners, the MEB and Turkish employers have been meeting, usually at regular intervals, to exchange views on current developments in the area of vocational training and to determine specific measures.

In February 2012, the BMBF and MEB signed a joint declaration of intent (Memorandum of Understanding) in Berlin on deepening cooperation in vocational training. As a result of the German-Turkish Year of Education, Science and Innovation 2014, the bilateral cooperation in vocational training has gained new momentum: in



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October 2013, an informal meeting was held at working level. Following this, the seventh working group meeting took place in Ankara on 3-4 February 2014. At this meeting, a bilateral alignment of curricula for mechatronics engineers emerged as a key topic for 2014/2015. At the heart of the bilateral cooperation is the organisation of a joint conference on vocational training, likely to take place in November 2014 in Turkey.

Further preparations for this conference will be made at the eighth working group meeting scheduled to take place in Germany on 11-12 September 2014.

TD-IHK: finding interns a specific placement

For several years now, bilateral trade between Germany and Turkey has been increasing and business contacts are becoming ever closer. It comes as no surprise, therefore, that interest in the placement of interns is increasing, both in Germany and in Turkey.

For this reason, the Turkish-German Chamber of Industry and Commerce ([TD-IHK](#)), in cooperation with the [TOBB University of Economics and Technology \(TOBB Universität für Wirtschaft und Technologie\)](#), has been running an [internship project](#) since 2013. Its aim is to find highly qualified Turkish students internship placements in companies in Germany. There are currently around 50 well-known German companies taking part in the project.

During their studies, students at TOBB University have the opportunity, for example, to do internships in three phases, each lasting three months, in Germany amongst other countries. The interns come from almost all faculties and have knowledge of Turkish, English and, for the most part, German too. They are selected based on their performance, and the financing comes from the EU Erasmus programme.

[Click here](#) to find out about the advantages of using the internship placement scheme offered by the TD-IHK, which is also a partner of the joint Year of Science, and how you can use it.

Tips & dates

First call for GTYoS creative competition: "Give a Face to German-Turkish Cooperation!"

There are a variety of ways to get involved with the German-Turkish Year of Science (GTYoS), including the newly announced online creative competition with the slogan "Bridging Nations – Give a Face to German-Turkish Cooperation!". It marks the first time that the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF) has announced an online creative competition on Jovoto, the online marketplace for creative ideas and achievements.

The competition will look to find the most creative poster with the highest number of "Likes" from the online community, with the winner receiving a trip to Istanbul. For ways in which you can give a face to German-Turkish cooperation, please [click here](#).

Final call for participation in the HRK film competition

Calling all budding film makers: Film Studies students at German universities have until the end of Tuesday, 15 July 2014 to submit their film contributions for the German-Turkish Year of Science (GTYoS) to the German Rectors' Conference (Hochschulrektorenkonferenz – HRK).

As part of the GTYoS, the German Rectors' Conference has announced a [film competition](#) in parallel with the [Turkish Weeks at German universities](#). Short film contributions, which should be no longer than ten minutes in length, should directly correspond to the focus areas of the Turkish Weeks at German universities, i.e. Study and Research, University-Specific Cooperation Projects and Culture.

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The first prize is a trip for two film makers to the closing ceremony of the GTYoS in Turkey.

More information and details can be obtained from Ms Vladislava Karmanova (e-mail: karmanova@hrk.de).

Science bridging nations – the people behind the Science Network

Introduce yourself, share ideas, create new partnerships and stay in touch! Our [Science Network](#) unites participants from every [International Year of Science](#) in a single network. You are invited to introduce yourself, your institution and your field of research to other scientists from Germany, Turkey and other countries.

Bring your event under the umbrella of the GTYoS

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? Then please let us know. You can propose your [event here](#). As a participant in the GTYoS, your event will appear on the [GTYoS calendar](#) and be seen by a wider audience.

As a participant in the GTYoS, you will receive access to the [logo of the GTYoS](#) and free-of-charge information and advertising material for your event.

Other dates:

- "Research in Germany" at the fifth "EuCheMS" Chemistry symposium
31 August – 4 September 2104, EuCheMS, Istanbul

The "Research in Germany" initiative will be attending the Chemistry symposium "EuCheMS" in Istanbul to provide information on the various research opportunities available in Germany in its capacity as a research location.

Between Sunday, 31 August and Thursday, 4 September, established scientists, junior personnel and representatives of research funding agencies will be providing insights into funding programmes and the current scientific community in Germany.

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