

Science Bridging Nations

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Newsletter #4 · May 2015

Foreword

Dear Sir or Madam,

On 12 March 2015, the official closing ceremony for the "German-Turkish Year of Research, Education and Innovation 2014" took place in Ankara.

This newsletter informs you how the German-Turkish Year of Science has helped strengthen bilateral cooperation in the fields of science, education and innovation and about plans for the future.

More than 120 projects were and are supported as part of the [ideas competition](#) to expand collaboration in the [three areas that were the focus of the Year of Science](#) and to promote young talents. Many projects in the [2nd round of the ideas competition](#) on the German side have only just started. We are presenting some of them in this newsletter.

The [MIDETI Project](#), launched in Istanbul in December 2014 and set to continue until February 2016, looks at the potential of re-migration for science and the economy. One other exciting project, which has only just begun, looks at [population-related health research in Germany and Turkey](#). The research and treatment of rare diseases are also a topic of the joint Year of Science: With funding from the ideas competition, the Care-for-Rare Foundation is carrying out a two-level awareness project for children with rare diseases in Turkey. Find out more in our interview with [Professor Christoph Klein, founder and chairman of the Care-for-Rare Foundation](#).

With [Professor Onur Güntürkün](#), who was awarded the Communicator Prize by the German Research Foundation (DFG) in 2014, we discussed biopsychology, how to communicate complex scientific topics to the public and the "umbilical cord" between Germany and Turkey. Other topics in this newsletter include: an interview with the [KAUSA Media Prize winner Marie-Charlotte Maas](#), the [anniversary congress](#)

[of the German-Turkish Society for Psychotherapy, Psychiatry and Psychosocial Health](#) (DTGPP) funded by the ideas competition, and the [8th meeting of the German-Turkish working group on vocational training cooperation](#).

At this point we would like to thank you for your commitment and interest in the joint Year of Science.

We wish you all the best and every success with your German-Turkish projects,

Your GTYoS Editors

This edition includes:

- Highlights
- Profiles & interviews
- Projects

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

The "[German-Turkish Year of Research, Education and Innovation 2014](#)" (GTYoS) was a joint initiative of the [BMBF](#) and the Turkish [Ministry of Science, Industry and Technology](#). It was supported and promoted by a total of around 40 [German and Turkish partners](#), including universities, scientific and intermediary organisations, associations and unions, and other entities that advocate the joint Year of Science concept.



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Deutsch-Türkisches Jahr der
Forschung, Bildung und Innovation 2014
German-Turkish Year of Research,
Education and Innovation 2014

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Germany and Turkey worked together under the motto "Science Bridging Nations" to pursue several [goals](#) during the joint Year of Science – and they continue to do so: 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.

The German-Turkish Year of Science primarily focused on issues for the future that affect everyone: The range of topics covered application-oriented research in key technologies ([topic area 1](#)), global change ([topic area 2](#)), and social change ([topic area 3](#)). In order to mobilise as many forces as possible, the "interdisciplinary topics" were

given particular attention: the interaction between research and industry, education and training in economics, science and research, and the interface between science and society.

More than 200 [events](#) took place in Germany and in Turkey during the Year of Science.

Find further topics and background information on the trilingual [GTyoS Portal](#).

Highlights

Closing ceremony sets the stage for more German-Turkish cooperation

On 12 March 2015, the "German-Turkish Year of Research, Education and Innovation 2014" (DWTJ) officially came to an end. Around 500 guests took part in the closing ceremony at Meyra Palace in Ankara, which was attended by several ministers.

Find out how the German-Turkish Year of Science has helped strengthen bilateral cooperation in the fields of science, education and innovation and about plans for the future in the linked report on the official [closing ceremony](#) in Ankara and also in this newsletter.

Closer collaboration in vocational training

Closer collaboration in vocational training, bundling existing strengths in science, industry and society, and mobilising new forces for sustainable development – those were some of the main priorities of the German-Turkish Year of Science. This of course also applies to securing the requisite experts. The

question of how German-Turkish collaboration in vocational training can be expanded was the focus of the experts at the eighth meeting of the German-Turkish working group for vocational training cooperation (BB-AG) in Bonn on 12 and 13 November 2014. Read more [here](#).

German-Turkish innovation network for population-related health research gets under way

Another ideas competition project got under way on 12 to 14 January 2015: German and Turkish experts in the field of health research came together at Greifswald University Hospital to lay the foundations of an interdisciplinary network project on population-related health research. Concrete partnership plans for the [innovation network](#) have already been made.



Türk-Alman Araştırma,
Eğitim ve İnovasyon Yılı 2014
German-Turkish Year of Research,
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Türkiye Cumhuriyeti
Bilim, Sanayi ve Teknoloji Bakanlığı

Profiles & interviews

Interview with Marie-Charlotte Maas, KAUSA Media Prize winner 2014



Photo: © JOBSTARTER; photographer: Nils Krüger.

The KAUSA Media Prize is presented by the Federal Ministry of Education and Research to journalists who produce objective and balanced reporting on people with immigrant backgrounds. 11 of the 100 reports submitted for the KAUSA Media Prize 2014 were chosen by the jury for their originality, charismatic protagonists and journalistic finesse.

First prize in the "Text" category went to Marie-Charlotte Maas with her article "Bildung vom Büdchen" ("Knowledge from the news stand") published in "Die Zeit". We talked to her about her protagonist, Cologne-based kiosk owner Levent Kavur, his general knowledge quiz, and of course about the (intermediary) role of those who work in the media. [More](#).

Interview with Professor Onur Güntürkün



Photo: © Marion Nelle/RUB

Communicating complex research topics is an art in itself. One of the people who succeed magnificently in capturing the interest of the media and even the general public is biopsychologist Professor Onur Güntürkün. In 2014, Professor Güntürkün, based at the Ruhr University in Bochum, received the Communicator Award presented by the German Research Association and the Donors' Association for the

Promotion of Sciences and Humanities in Germany in acknowledgement of his exemplary communication of the research he has performed into the biological foundations of human and animal behaviour. You can find the interview [here](#).

Interview with Professor Christoph Klein



Photo: © Prof. Klein

Unfortunately, rare diseases are not all that uncommon: in Germany alone, about four million people suffer from one of the approximately 7,000 to 8,000 rare diseases known to date; in the European Union, the number of sufferers is around 30 million. One person who is dedicated to giving hope of cures to children with rare diseases both nationally and internationally is Professor

Christoph Klein. He directs the Clinic and Polyclinic for Paediatric Medicine at Dr von Hauner's Children's Hospital, part of the Ludwig Maximilian University in Munich. He is also the founder and chairman of the Care-for-Rare Foundation, which is now implementing a two-stage awareness project for children with rare diseases in Turkey with the support of the ideas competition. [Interview](#).

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20 years of German-Turkish psychiatry: barriers, bridges and perspectives

The German-Turkish Association for Psychotherapy, Psychiatry and Psychosocial Health (DTGPP) celebrated its 20th anniversary in Berlin on 7 and 8 November 2014 with the motto "20 years of German-Turkish psychiatry – barriers, bridges and perspectives". More than 140 experts from both countries, including 35 young scientists from Turkey, discussed the present state of migration research along with other psychiatric topics of current interest. And the dialogue continues. [More.](#)

Intercultural skills in medicine: students from Munich and Istanbul discuss the doctor/patient relationship in their respective countries

One consequence of globalisation is that doctors are increasingly having to treat patients whose cultural background is largely unknown to them. These patients may have special expectations of their physicians and treatments. Professors from Munich and Istanbul organised the project "Intercultural Skills in Medicine" to familiarise German and Turkish medical students with different perspectives when treating patients. This project is being sponsored by the Federal Ministry of Education and Research as part of the German-Turkish Year of Science.

To find out more information, including the four main factors that can lead to misunderstandings between doctors and patients according to Professor Adrian Danek from the Ludwig Maximilian University in Munich (LMU) and his colleagues Professor Fuat Oduncu and Ozan Eren, click [here](#).

Embracing re-migration: MIDETI project gets under way in Istanbul

"Brain gain" or "brain drain"? What happens when Turkish academics who have been living, studying and working in Germany go back to Turkey? Until recently, people were quick to talk about dwindling talent – the dreaded "brain drain". However, some current research projects indicate that re-migration could actually constitute an opportunity. The [project](#) "(Re-)migrants in the German-Turkish Innovation Network – Identification and Communication of Potential for Science and the Economy – MIDETI", which was selected as a winner in the ideas competition, explores this concept in more depth.



© Prof. Dr. Martin Franz



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