

TRAINING ACTIVITIES OF TURKISH STATISTICAL INSTITUTE

The well-trained specialized personnel are always necessary for improvement and continuity of collection, evaluation and analysis of statistical data.

Turkish Statistical Institute (TurkStat) was first established as "Public Statistics Directorate" in 1926 and reorganized in 1962. In 1963, Training Center of TurkStat started its activities with the aim of training its own personnel as well as the personnel who study in the field of statistics both in public and private sectors by means of statistical training activities, on-side training courses, seminars and meetings.

Training Center conducted "Applied Specialization Program in Statistics" to fulfill the demand for statisticians in the country between 1964-1965 and the 1996-1997 academic years. Totally 582 participants (357 from SIS, and 225 from outside) have been attended to this program.

TurkStat Training Center had provided assistance to statistics departments of universities in preparing their curricula between 1963 and 1970. Although number of the departments of statistics at universities increased in 1970's, SIS continued its training activities in statistics. With the reorganization of the center in 1998, "Applied Specialization Program in Statistics" was abolished.

Based on the Regulation on Foundation, Duties and Study Principles of Education and Research Center of Turkish Statistical Institute Organization, related unit was established by 04/06/2006 date and 26188 number of Official Gazette. According this regulation, Training and Research Center (TRC) responsibilities are summarized as below:

- To prepare and carry out programs for candidate employees in TurkStat,
- To prepare and carry out expertness area training program for the assistant experts,
- To organize training programs in the context of Official Statistics Program for the institutions or establishments,
- To organize seminar, conference and training activities by international protocols.

1) Board of Directors

The Board of Directors is the competent authority of decisions about all training activities of TRC. President of TurkStat directs it and the members are the related Department Heads. The Board determines the main policies about training program, courses and researches, main targets, basic approaches and the principles of training activities and methods.

2) Board of Trainers

The Board of Trainers is working on the training programs and their applications in the framework defined by the Board of Directors. The Board is preparing proposals on training activities for offering to The Board of Directors and TRC. President of TurkStat or the Vice President who is responsible from TRC also directs this Board and the members are the

trainers of training programs. These trainers are from specialists of TurkStat and university professors.

3) Training and Research Center (TRC)

The TRC is a non-profit international vocational training center which was organized with the aim of training the participants, who study in the field of statistics by means of statistical training activities, on-side training courses, seminars and meetings.

Objectives of the Center are;

- To increase the knowledge, experience and productivity of the personnel who is working in the field of statistics in national and international organizations,
- To coordinate vocational training activities in collaboration with universities, statistical societies and international statistical institutes,
- To teach the statistical methodologies and techniques,
- To organize national and international seminars and conferences on statistics and TurkStat's activities.

The TRC usually uses its own classrooms (2 classrooms, 1 computer laboratory and 1 meeting room) and the TurkStat Conference Hall.

Training Activities

The following four types of training activities are rendered by TRC in collaboration with the other units of TurkStat:

I. Training Programs for TurkStat Staff: Short or long term courses, seminars and conferences on the statistical methodology, data analysis, classifications, computer science, foreign language (English), newcomers etc. TRC arranges these courses in collaboration with the other units of TurkStat, universities or national/international organizations.

TurkStat has been carrying out Training of Expertness Area (TEA) for the Assistant of Experts since 2007. TEA program has two semesters. Autumn semester starts at the beginning of October and lasts three months. Spring semester starts at the beginning of May and also lasts three months. Seven different Expertness Areas were created. Each expertness area consists of minimum 20, maximum 25 lessons. Almost each expertness area has equal assistant experts, because the distributions of frequency were analyzed before the preparation of program. At the end of the each semester a satisfaction survey is applied and a detailed evaluation report is prepared. These reports are shared with participants and Regional Offices. TEA program given in the context of e-learning system is called Interwise.

Traditional voice, web and video conferencing tools are too expensive and too limited to meet company-wide needs. Interwise Connect changes that with a highly-scalable native IP software architecture, centralized management, efficient network performance and a full breadth of communication and collaboration features, Interwise Connect turns conferencing

into an integral workplace application that is used internally by executives, employees and teams as well as externally with customers, partners and suppliers.

At the end of the training, “Qualifying Examination” is going to be carried out. For this exam, a question bank will be created.

For the question bank, “Guide for the Preparation of Questions” was prepared by the Training and Research Center Division. It is important that the questions should be acceptable by evaluation and measurement criteria. Also these questions must be correct both scientifically and grammatically. Question bank studies are going to be executed via data base.

Interwise training method is being used in TEA, survey application training, evaluation of survey application, newcomers training.

Computer Science: The aim of this program is to improve and renew the knowledge and experiences of technical staff about information technologies and its applications. Regular courses are organized on the subjects of Windows, Word, Excel, Access, and Power Point. The number of participants in these courses was 280 in 2008. The number of participants in SAS was 598 in 2008 in central office and regional offices.

Newcomers Training: The newcomers to the TurkStat during the first two/three months adapt certain basic rules and regulations. This program is organized by the TurkStat in co-operation with the Presidency of the State Personnel and Information and Communication Technologies Department. It includes topics like state organization, law, and organizational structure of TurkStat, etc. Also Interwise training method is being used in this type of training program. Newcomers’ training was given by Interwise to 37 newcomer employee in TurkStat in 2008.

Modular Training: The purpose of the courses is to provide necessary information on data collection methods, statistical methodologies and techniques and data analysis and to improve capabilities of the participants within the Official Statistics Program. 4 different training programs are being organized by TRC as Module-1 household, Module-2 business statistics, Module-3 agriculture and Module-4 administrative registration.

II. Training Programs for Other Institutions: The purpose of these programs is to train people who need to have sufficient background in statistics and user training. TRC is planning to organize courses for users of statistics on household, business, agriculture and registration for almost 850 participants. The trainers will be TurkStat experts. Each module is going to be organized in two sessions and training period will be minimum 5 days, maximum 11 days.

III. International Training Programs: TurkStat has accelerated its activities of international training programs and technical assistance especially for Caucasian, Balkan, and Central Asian Countries and other transition countries. In this context, TRC provides necessary facilities such as classroom, equipment and training materials for the workshops, seminars and on the job training programs.

TurkStat is also a member of the annual bulletin on the ‘Training Opportunities in the OIC Member Countries’, which is published, by the Statistical, Economic and Social Research and Training Center for Islamic Countries.

TurkStat held five training programs in the context of the MEDSTAT Program in 2001 and 2006. These programs were;

- Business Statistics (26-30 March 2001)
- Geographical Information Systems (4-15 June 2001)
- Household Labour Force Survey (8-19 October 2001)
- Basics of Optical Data Entry Systems (19-23 November 2001)
- Adding Value through Strategic Management (4-8 December 2006)

IV. Journal of Statistical Research

Journal of Statistical Research (JSR) is a refereed journal published by Turkish Statistical Institute. In order to be listed in the basis of Science Citation Index (SCI), which is an important indication for scientific and professional journals in international platform, a new strategy has been developed for the form of the journal and the selection of articles. Journal will be published twice a year beginning from 2007, one is in July and the other one is in December. The deadline for manuscript submission is 31st of January for the first issue, and is 31st of July for the second issue. Articles in both Turkish and English are accepted in the Journal.

The aim of JSR is to increase the quality of statistical researches, to improve the statistical methodology and applications, to strengthen the communication between researchers in the field of theory and application. In JSR, the studies in basic and applied sciences are covered, which are categorized in 6 different groups, namely *original research and review* articles, *technical notes*, *critical compilation*, *discussions* and *new topic translation* articles.

Journal website serves all type of documents; principles and rules, guidebook, evaluation forms etc.