



Photo: Dra. Evelyn Patricia Cuitérrez Soto/UNED
Dr Stefan Cramer: the geologist completed not one but two assignments this year – in Costa Rica and Bolivia. This was made possible by our coronavirus safety concept.

A retrospective of 2021

More than 12,000 volunteers – over 4,200 assignments in Germany and abroad

In short, the first eleven months of 2021 saw a growing pool of experts, the cautious resumption of international activities and solid assignment figures for Germany. Given the circumstances, this is very pleasing.

This issue of SES today contains all the relevant figures showing how the second year of the coronavirus pandemic developed. For the purpose of comparison, the figures for 2020 and 2019 are also included. Of course, the impact of the pandemic is clear. However, a number of very positive trends are also noticeable.

For instance, we are delighted to have 12,317 experts on our register now. We also experienced virtually unchanged, high demand for our programmes in Germany and were even more pleased with the very successful launch of online tools for events and for those preparing for international assignments.

There were other highlights in 2021 too. Our involvement in the African-German

Youth Office (AGYO) is a significant milestone. This programme was rolled out by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) on 24 June and opens up a whole new sphere of activity for us (see SES today II 2021).

Several important staffing decisions were also made. Our long-standing chief Dr Susanne Nonnen retired on 1 April and we welcomed Dr Michael Blank as her successor. Furthermore, Holger Schwannecke, Secretary General of the German Confederation of Skilled Crafts (ZDH), was elected as the new Chairman of the SES Foundation's Board of Directors at the Board of Trustees' meeting on 18 November. He will take over from Dr Franz Schoser on 1 January.

Dear readers,

We all wish things were different but, unfortunately, Covid-19 still dominates the way in which we live and work. Just a few days ago, we cancelled all our in-person events again and switched to online formats wherever possible.

That can be done in no time at all these days: an e-mail, a link and a few clicks are all it takes to organise a videoconference. Of course, virtual meetings cannot compare with the real thing, but for now they are the only viable alternative.

Yes: we too have become much more digital since coronavirus hit and have learned how to use various online tools. In that way, the crisis has also made us much more modern. Despite setbacks, this instils confidence: we know that we are needed and that we can help – and we can do it digitally, if need be.

I would like to thank everyone who supported and helped to shape our recent changes. Special thanks are due to our experts, employees and volunteers in Germany and elsewhere, and all our supporters and friends.

Everyone at SES wishes you a merry Christmas and a happy, healthy and successful 2022. We are confident about what the future holds.

Dr Michael Blank
Executive Director, SES GmbH

A retrospective in figures

Register of experts: upward trend continues

Register	*2021	2020	2019
Experts	12,317	11,685	10,909
Weltdienst 30+ professionals	1,606	1,504	1,336
New registrations	958	1,076	1,582
Leavers	341	325	**3,695
Average age	68.7	70.4	70.1
Percentage of women	24	23.3	22.6

Good news: Fortunately, Covid-19 did not affect our register of experts. It grew significantly in the last eleven months and we hope that trend will continue. We are always on the lookout for experts from all sectors – especially those with a background in training, skilled trades, plastic, food and renewable energy.

* As of 01/12/2021

** Leavers as a result of new regulations when the EU General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) came into effect

International: no assignments in high-risk areas

International assignments	*2021	2020	2019
Africa/MENA**	105	218	707
Asia/Central Asia	26	113	994
Europe/Caucasus	65	45	233
Latin America/Caribbean	9	77	272
Total	205	453	2,206
Preparation for assignments online	671	395	0

Safety first: Unfortunately, the trend in international assignments reflects the far-reaching consequences of coronavirus. Many assignments had to be cancelled or postponed to protect our experts. However, the figures also show that we are working on our international development remit despite the crisis: we have prepared for 1,066 assignments online since the pandemic began. This means we are well positioned and ready to act as soon as international travel becomes possible again.

* As of 01/12/2021

** Middle East and North Africa

Germany: strong performance thanks to VerA

Assignments in Germany	*2021	2020	2019
VerA training initiative***	3,764 (**2,270)	4,113 (**2,545)	5,001 (**2,967)
Companies/chambers/organisations	33 (**8)	34 (**10)	30 (**7)
Integration assistance****	0	0	158 (**156)
Programme for schools	208 (**127)	271 (**211)	383 (**230)
Total	4,005 (**2,405)	4,418 (**2,766)	5,572 (**3,360)
Digital events	175	42	0

Almost business as usual: Relatively speaking, our programmes in Germany did not suffer too much during the second year of the coronavirus pandemic. Special mention should be made of our VerA initiative, which is dedicated to preventing apprentices from dropping out of their courses. This remained our most successful single programme in 2021. Both our scheme 'Neue Impulse für Schülerinnen und Schüler' for schools and our private-sector assignments were well received. Digitised events are making very good progress.

* As of 01/12/2021

** Of which continued from the previous year(s)

*** VerA receives funding from the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF) as part of the initiative 'Abschluss und Anschluss – Bildungsketten bis zum Ausbildungsabschluss' (Initiative Bildungsketten)

**** On behalf of the German Coordination Centre for Vocational Training and Migration (KAUSA) – 01/08/2016–30/06/2019

SES Foundation

ZDH exec Holger Schwannecke to head up Foundation from 1 January



Holger Schwannecke, Dr Franz Schoser and Dr Achim Dercks (left to right)

Holger Schwannecke, Secretary General of the German Confederation of Skilled Crafts (ZDH) will become Chairman of the SES Foundation's Board of Directors on 1 January 2022. He will succeed Dr Franz Schoser, who held the voluntary position of Chair for many years. The SES Foundation's Board of Trustees decided on the appointment at its annual meeting on 18 November 2021.

"Our heartfelt thanks go to Dr Franz Schoser," said Holger Schwannecke in the eulogy to his predecessor. He went on to say that no one knew the SES as well as Dr Schoser, who was formerly Chief Executive of the German Association of Chambers of Industry and Commerce (DIHK). Mr Schwannecke added that, for decades, his predecessor had been the face of the SES for businesses, policy-makers and society and had made it what it was today: the largest German organisation of its kind.

Dr Franz Schoser chaired the SES Foundation since it was established and even held top positions in the executive bodies which preceded it. The position of chair became vacant due to his retirement.

A new Chairman also had to be appointed for the Board of Trustees at the annual meeting. Dr Achim Dercks, Deputy CEO of DIHK, was chosen for this role.

The SES Foundation is the sole shareholder of SES GmbH. It was established in 2003 as an independent foundation under private law and is based in Bonn.

The executive bodies of the SES Foundation are the Board of Directors, the Executive Director, and the Board of Trustees. All members of the executive bodies work for the Foundation in a voluntary capacity. They are leading figures from the German business world, its associations, its chambers, and the field of development policy.

The Board of Trustees is the Foundation's supervisory body. It is automatically made up of members representing the organisations which formerly held shares in SES GmbH:

- Federation of German Industries (BDI)
- Confederation of German Employers' Associations (BDA)
- German Association of Chambers of Industry and Commerce (DIHK)
- German Confederation of Skilled Crafts (ZDH)

SES

Sponsors' Association

In spite of coronavirus, the SES Sponsors' Association can present a very good balance sheet for the past year: between January and November 2021, its gross income totalled €79,778 (2020: €72,074, 2019: €67,107). The majority of these funds are ring-fenced donations for projects on the African continent.

Like any organisation of its kind, our Sponsors' Association is always looking to attract new members and financial contributions. It intends to tackle these challenges with fresh zeal in 2022 and has a lot of ideas already. Anyone who would like to join in this creative brainstorming is very welcome.

The Sponsors' Association would like to thank its members and donors for their support. It sends warmest season's greetings and best wishes for a happy, healthy new year.

The SES Sponsor's Association is run by volunteers with minimal administration costs. Membership fees and donations are used exclusively and directly for charitable purposes.

Bank account for donations

Verein zur Förderung des Senior Experten Service e.V.
Volksbank Köln Bonn eG
IBAN: DE50 3806 0186 2005 8200 17
BIC: GENODED1BRS

Events cancelled

Like many others, we felt that the latest trend in coronavirus figures left us no choice: on 22 November, the decision was made to cancel in-person events until further notice. Between now and the end of the year, this will affect three regional conferences and all the VerA training initiative meetings that cannot be held online. As usual, separate invitations will be issued for the digital conferences.

Good media response

In the first eleven months of 2021, the media reported on the SES and its activities 662 times (2020: 732, 2019: 1,153). This is equivalent to approximately 60 publications per month – an excellent result in the light of Covid-19. International assignments and training support via our VerA initiative generated the most media interest again this year.

Particularly pleasing: During the year to date, 348 experts have registered with us after hearing about us in the press, on the radio or online. This makes media reports our second best means of raising awareness. Only our experts are more effective ambassadors: 404 new registrations have been generated by word of mouth in 2021 to date.

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Buschstraße 2 – 53113 Bonn

Responsible for text:
Dr Heike Nasdala
+49 (0) 228 26090-51
presse@ses-bonn.de

Design: www.pinger-eden.de
Translation: www.gebrauchstext.de
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New contact details?

If you have moved home or changed your e-mail address or phone number, please let us know. Please submit any changes to:

Astrid Klingelhöfer:

+49 (0)228 2609 075, registrierung@ses-bonn.de