

ESTA Newsletter IV
[28-10-2020]

Dear colleagues,

It has already been a year since our last update. And what a year! We hope that you and your loved ones are safe and well, first and foremost.

Unfortunately, the pandemic did not leave our work unaffected. As you know, we had planned to present and discuss the results of the Western Indian Ocean pilot at the workshop in Bonn (May 2020), which had to be cancelled. The annual European Social Science History Conference (March 2020), where we had organized a panel session, has also been postponed until next year.

It is not all bad news, however, as the team was able to come to a functional model for the wider Indian Ocean and maritime Asia database after some testing and finetuning! We are currently working on the '[ESTA Editor](#)', a data-entry portal for the database. After some bugs have been fixed, we would like to invite you all to have a look and test the portal for yourselves. The attached Excel-sheet contains a sample dataset you could use for testing (please do not circulate), but you could also work with data of your own of course. The portal is only accessible with an authorized account, which you will receive by (automatic) e-mail in due course. Please be on the lookout for that e-mail in the coming days.

To discuss these developments and future plans for the database, we are planning to host an online seminar in December. Details will follow soon, but if you already know that you are hindered on certain dates, please let us know so that we can try to plan accordingly.

Last but not least, we would like to congratulate Samantha Sint-Nicolaas, who worked on developing the database model, with starting her PhD earlier this year! We are very glad that she remains involved with the database project, albeit less intensively.

Warm regards,
also on behalf of the ESTA-team,

Merve Tosun

For questions or suggestions with regard to the project, data or sources, please don't hesitate to contact us. Alternatively, if you have news you'd like to share with the network, please don't hesitate to get in touch! Contact: Merve Tosun (merve.tosun@iisg.nl) or Matthias van Rossum (mvr@iisg.nl).