

The 19th Expolingua Berlin Closes with a Clear-Cut Positive Assessment

Berlin. The nineteenth Expolingua Berlin, International Fair for Languages and Cultures, concluded on Sunday, November 19, after three successful days. A total of 15,193 visitors came to Berlin's Russian House of Science and Culture to gather information about language learning and teaching, exceeding last year's attendance. The 156 exhibitors from 27 countries presented their products and services – a new high in regard to international organisations. Providers from Luxembourg and South Africa were in attendance for the first time. Expolingua Berlin took place under patronage of Ján Figel', Member of the European Commission responsible for Education, Training, Culture and Multilingualism.

Silke Lieber, project head of Expolingua Berlin, expressed extreme satisfaction: "We are pleased that we were able to generate interest among so many visitors again this year. This demonstrates that foreign-language acquisition continues to be a topic of great importance for both private and professional purposes". Visitors and exhibitors alike were positively impressed by the event's relaxed communicative atmosphere. "The feedback was very positive from all sides", she added. "The direct contact between visitors and providers and the communication among individuals from the most distant corners of the world created a very pleasant ambience that repeatedly elicited enthusiasm from all participants."

Spain, this year's guest of honour, occupied a special place at Expolingua Berlin 2006, and more than 35 exhibitors from Spain introduced themselves at the fair, comprising about a quarter of the total exhibitors. Visitors at the booths had the opportunity to inquire about language courses in Spain and other points of interest. They could also dive directly into the country's languages by taking part in several mini-courses. Some exhibitors offered small Spanish culinary delicacies, and the presence of the various regions demonstrated Spain's great diversity of languages, cultures, and traditions.

The seminar programme that accompanied the exhibition - about eighty events in all - proved extremely popular. Highly qualified speakers provided information about language tests, Computer-Assisted Language Learning (CALL), and opportunities to study and do internships abroad. The language mini-courses were greeted with particularly positive resonance: Esperanto, Arabic, or Chinese, visitors crowded into the lecture rooms to gain insight into the new languages. The Spanish presentations and lectures about translation and interpretation also engendered particularly great interest.

EXPOLINGUA Berlin

19th International Fair for Languages and Cultures

19. Internationale Messe für Sprachen und Kulturen · 19^e Salon International des Langues et des Cultures

The last day of Expolingua Berlin basked in the light of a broad-ranging cultural program, and the English-language play “Family Impossible”, excerpts from which were performed by the Berlin group Platypus Theatre, was one of the highlights. Foreign-language films were also shown on the Sunday afternoon, giving those gathered yet another glimpse into the world of foreign tongues. Again this year, a special attraction for both exhibitors and visitors was the live broadcast from the fair of the radio programme “Reisefieber kompakt” (Holiday Fever Compact) by Expolingua’s media partner radiomultikulti.

The successful conclusion of the nineteenth edition opens the door to a milestone event: **two decades of Expolingua Berlin!** The twentieth anniversary of Germany’s largest language fair will be celebrated from **November 16-18, 2007**, at the Russian House of Science and Culture, and visitors can look forward to some surprises and innovations being planned for the occasion.

Expolingua Berlin 2006

17. – 19. November 2006

Russisches Haus der Wissenschaft und Kultur

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