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#ORGATEC

New ORGATEC study: One in three people date at work

Friendships, flirting, dates and relationships are part of everyday working life for many employees. The social function of offices is highlighted by the findings of a YouGov study based on a representative sample of the German population, commissioned by ORGATEC. When it takes place in Cologne from 27 to 30 October, ORGATEC - the leading international trade fair for modern workspace and contract solutions - will explore the role played by today's working environments and how they can actively encourage communication, collaboration and human contact.

Offices aren't only spaces in which to hold meetings, work on projects and focus on tasks - they are evidently also venues where interpersonal relationships can blossom. Conducted on behalf of ORGATEC, the nationally representative survey of more than 2,000 participants clearly shows that connections extending beyond the professional context are widespread in the workplace.

Dating and relationships at work

Flirting in the workplace is not unusual: 40.88 per cent of respondents reported having flirted with colleagues, with 47.33 per cent of men and 34.75 per cent of women admitting to doing so. It often doesn't stop there - dating between colleagues is also widespread. Around one-third of the study participants (33.11 per cent) who were already in employment had been on a date with someone from their working environment. It's not uncommon for such dates to develop into long-term relationships, with just under 29 per cent having entered into a romantic relationship with a colleague at some point in their working life. 15.86 per cent of respondents met their current or a former partner in a professional setting.

Flirting in the office - where encounters happen

Personal connections are particularly likely to develop in situations that lend themselves to casual interactions. 40.24 per cent of respondents identified company events and after-work get-togethers as the settings with the greatest potential for flirting, followed by break rooms (27.67 per cent) and typical workplaces (24.61 per cent).

At the same time, there are certain workplace locations that are especially well-suited to relaxed conversation and bonding. Many employees considered seating areas with corner sofas and lounge furniture (34.67 per cent), outdoor workspaces or terraces (34.44 per cent) and communal tables and shared desks (24.06 per cent) to be particularly conducive to interacting and socialising.



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These areas also play a key role in fostering team spirit. 65.65 per cent of respondents stated that informal meeting spaces such as lounges, coffee stations or communal areas have a strong or even very strong influence on team cohesion and interpersonal relationships.

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Designing working environments as social spaces

The survey results clearly indicate that interpersonal interaction is a key component of everyday working life and that it is closely linked to workspace design. People spend a significant part of their lives at work, so it's natural that they should forge connections, form friendships and sometimes even develop relationships in this context. Despite the increasing popularity of remote working and hybrid models, the physical workplace remains a key location for face-to-face encounters.

Certain working environments provide the conditions needed for dialogue, collaboration and social bonding. In addition to their role in fostering interaction, informal zones, open-plan spaces designed to facilitate communication and flexible room layouts also promote creativity and team dynamics. As a result, workplace design is becoming an increasingly important element of business strategy.

ORGATEC 2026: From rooms to relationships

ORGATEC 2026 picks up on precisely this topic with its theme: "From rooms to relationships: designing spaces in an ever-changing world." The trade fair will demonstrate how functional environments can be transformed into areas that facilitate genuine human connections, strengthening collaboration and feelings of belonging - and how adaptive solutions can ensure these spaces are able to respond to future needs in an era of constant change. As a key platform for business and innovation, ORGATEC encourages dialogue, knowledge sharing and new perspectives on workspace and contract solutions. Leading companies, planners, designers and international experts will present holistic concepts that intelligently combine form, function and use. From 27 to 30 October 2026, Cologne will once again become the global industry hub for everyone actively contributing to the evolution and design of working environments and contemporary workspaces.

Survey methodology

This data is based on an online poll conducted by YouGov GmbH on behalf of ORGATEC (Koelnmesse GmbH). A total of 2,079 people were surveyed for this study in March 2026. The results are representative of Germany's resident population aged 18 and over.

Koelnmesse - Global Inspiration for Living, Contract and Public Spaces

Koelnmesse is the world's top trade fair organiser for the areas of Living, Contract and Public Spaces. Leading international trade fairs such as ORGATEC, interzum, FSB, aquanale and spoga+gafa come together at the Cologne trade fair location to form renowned and established industry meeting points. This strong portfolio is further enhanced by imm cologne and idd cologne, both of which are also held in Cologne. These fairs comprehensively represent the interior and design segment, the furniture and interior construction industries' supplying sections, the kitchen world, all topics for the modern working world, garden lifestyle as well as modern

work environments, the garden lifestyle, public spaces, sports and leisure facilities, along with saunas, pools and wellness centres.

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Beyond that, Koelnmesse is strategically expanding its portfolio in international growth markets. The imm brand family includes imm india and IFFINA+ powered by imm cologne in Indonesia. The ORGATEC brand has established a global footprint with ORGATEC Tokyo, ORGATEC India, and ORGATEC WORKSPACE Saudi Arabia. The international presence of the interzum brand extends to interzum guangzhou, interzum bogota, interzum jakarta, and the interzum forum italy. The FSB brand is also internationally active, with the FSB Sports Show Riyadh and the FSB Forum Italy in Bergamo. Furthermore, the portfolio features La Feria De Diseño Medellín powered by idd cologne in Colombia

Further information: www.orgatec.com/trade-fair/portfolio-worldwide/

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