

No. 3 / February 2026, Cologne

#didactamesse

From multi-professionalism to media literacy: didacta 2026 presents the full spectrum of educational themes



didacta
die Bildungsmesse

didacta 2026, Europe's biggest education trade fair, opens its doors in Cologne from 10 to 14 March. With a programme that focuses on education along the entire education chain, it once again proves to be a must-attend event for professionals, decision-makers and education pioneers. Under the motto "Everything undergoing change. Education under focus", the trade fair combines a dialogue on the current challenges and developments with impulses and solutions for the constantly changing educational tasks. It sets highlights in the scope of interactive special events and special hands-on formats. The RoboCup German Open 2026 will be a technological and team highlight.

Facets and diversity of educational spaces along the entire educational biography

The programme on early education demonstrates the spectrum with which the exhibitors represent the educational sections at the trade fair.

The school and extra-curricular education section focuses on topics like media literacy, digital infrastructure and inclusion. Special events demonstrate, for example, how extra-curricular learning spaces - such as museums or foundations - can enrich everyday school life. But not only the potential of different learning environments is addressed, attention is also paid to the interplay between various areas of expertise. The special event "One school for everyone - multi-professionalism as an opportunity" by the Didacta Association provides answers to the question of how schools can be designed so that all children and youths can learn successfully. Boasting a diversified specialised and interactive programme on all five days of the trade fair, it offers many inspiring examples of how different professions - from special education to school psychology - can work together effectively.

A further special event invites participants to engage in an exchange on social responsibility and an open discussion about how to inspire young people to take an active role. The National Advisory Committee (NBG) recognises the need for young people to have a say, contribute their ideas and participate in the decision-making. How to succeed in encouraging them to actively participate will be discussed at the event on Friday, 13 March, using the topic of searching for a location for a nuclear waste repository in Germany as a case study.

In the Vocational Training and myQ Qualification section, answers to pressing

didacta
10.03. - 14.03.2026
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questions like securing skilled labour and modern qualification methods will be discussed and digital tools as well as concepts for sustainable further training will be presented. In the scope of the "Discover your future" special event, in cooperation with WorldSkills Germany e.V. and the Gerda Stetter Foundation, the Didacta Association is placing a special focus on the topic of career orientation. The "Kosmos:KARRIERE" special event on the last day of the trade fair invites visitors to experience vocational and further training again under the perspective of modern challenges: The theme day offers a broad overview ranging from orientation in structural change to relevant future skills.

RoboCup German Open: Experience the future of robotics up close

The RoboCup German Open that is being staged for the first time during didacta in Cologne this year under the patronage of the German Federal Minister for Research, Technology and Aerospace, Dorothee Bär, provides exceptional insights into robot technology and AI evolution. Over 50 teams from universities and technical colleges as well as the top 200 school teams from nine pre-qualifying tournaments will compete against each other with autonomous and intelligent robot systems in various disciplines and on different challenges. Visitors will experience, for example, how humanoid robots play football, rescue robots can provide support during operations or how service robots master complex tasks in the home. The technology event in Hall 9 is accompanied by the 2nd German Robotics Conference in Hall 6, which promotes both expertise and an inter-disciplinary exchange. The competitions and the conference turn the trade fair into a future-oriented hotspot and demonstrate that education today is far more than merely acquiring knowledge.

The "Journal" on didacta's website offers further and comprehensive perspectives on the themes of Europe's most important education trade fair. For example, an interview with Dr. Turid Knaak, former German national football player, examines the connection between school and health with a view to the lacking exercise of children.

"With didacta we offer all stakeholders in the education sector a platform for an intensive exchange, new impetus and contemporary solutions for the entire education chain," said Dinah Korb, Chief Operating Officer of Didacta Ausstellungs- und Verlagsgesellschaft mbH. "In doing so, we are addressing urgently needed perspectives on how our education system can become more resilient and future-proof."

There are only 3 weeks to go before the industry event of the year - register and plan early.

didacta 2026 combines classic and extraordinary aspects of education on over 60,000 m² of space. Tickets are already available online at www.didacta-messe.de. Information on travel and accommodation is also available on the website. The list of exhibitors enables professionals and visitors to search for offers in a targeted manner and plan their trade fair experience individually. All relevant industry representatives will be present on-site including renowned publishing companies such as Cornelsen, Klett or Georg Westermann, the Education and Science Union and

the Ministry for School and Further Education, as well as innovative start-ups. Over 700 exhibitors and more than 1,600 events will once again represent the diversity of the industry in 2026.

About didacta - the Education Trade Fair

As the biggest and most important education trade fair in Europe, didacta presents all the relevant education themes and promotes the dialogue within the education sector. didacta covers all segments from early learning, to school education including extracurricular facilities, through to vocational education and training. It thus promotes lifelong learning. At the same time, the trade fair serves as the biggest European further education event and is the central industry meeting point for educational staff, education providers, decision-makers and people interested in co-shaping the future of education.

As the industry sponsor, the Didacta Association supports didacta, curates the programme of five trade fair forums and as the association of the education sector represents the interests of around 250 member companies and organisations in Germany and abroad.

Note for editorial offices:

didacta photos are available on the Internet at <https://www.didacta-cologne.com/imagedatabase>

Press information is available at: <https://www.didacta-cologne.com/pressinformation>

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