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#didactamesse

Shaping education. Securing the future. didacta 2026.

didacta
die Bildungsmesse

From 10 to 14 March 2026, Cologne will become the hub for forward-looking education. didacta 2026 will examine how education provides guidance in times of radical changes and is itself facing significant transformation. Digitalisation, health and inclusion not only characterise the content of education programmes, they are also redefining the framework conditions of learning. As the leading trade fair, didacta presents innovative approaches and solutions for a sustainable and viable educational future.

didacta
10.03. - 14.03.2026
www.didacta-cologne.com

didacta 2026 is delighted to welcome you to the official opening at 10:00 a.m. on 10 March in the Konrad-Adenauer-Saal. The audience will be greeted and guided through the opening ceremony by the host, Dr. Matthias Degen. The guests will then be welcomed by Gerald Böse, Chief Operating Officer of Koelnmesse and Dr. Hans-Joachim Prinz, President of the Didacta Association. A keynote by Christoph Holz will conclude the opening ceremony. Entitled "Education ist relationship work" and the guiding principle "In an artificial world nothing is more important than human relationships," the event focuses on the significance of trust, proximity and genuine encounters. The Allerwelt-Ensemble Duisburg will provide the musical accompaniment throughout the programme. In the subsequent talk, Dorothee Feller, NRW Minister for School & Education, and Dr. Hans-Joachim Prinz will discuss current education policies, before MP Mareike Lotte Wulf, Parliamentary State Secretary and Germany's Children's Commissioner, holds the official opening speech, heralding in five trade fair days full of education-related dialogue, inspiration for professionals and forward-looking perspectives.

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Chairman of the Supervisory Board:
Mayor of the City of Cologne
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Headquarters and place of jurisdiction:
Cologne
District Court Cologne, HRB 952

A strong platform for all education sections.

The education trade fair in Cologne is clearly structured into the three areas of education Early Education, School and Extra-curricular Education as well as Vocational Education and myQ-Qualification, thus addressing education in its entirety: Integral elements include learning environments ranging from day care centres to university campuses, didactics and curriculum design, analogue and digital materials as well as direct networking between practice and policies. In four exhibition halls, over 720 companies, associations and institutions will present innovative learning materials, modern tools, equipment solutions and qualification offers. The interplay between established market leaders and start-ups reflects the diversity and dynamism of the education sector.

Top themes, event formats and the supporting programme

With well over 1,000 lectures, panels and workshops, the programme holds something in store for a multitude of professions in the education sector. The focus lies on the top themes of the trade fair, which illustrate how education is caught in a dynamic environment of change:

Future and basic skills: Relevant skills and democratic education as central learning content and guidelines for the further development of curricula, concepts and didactics.

Health and well-being: Promotion of resilience, well-being and participation as education content and at the same time as a benchmark for the further development of learning environments, structures and formats.

Digitalisation and artificial intelligence: Technical tools, the conveyance of digital skills and the question of how digitalisation is changing schools, lessons and the education sector itself.

Education for Sustainable Development (ESD): Sustainability and global responsibility in curricula and the strategic integration of the UN goals into educational work.

didacta 2026 offers special highlights for those interested in STEM subjects and anyone who wants to discuss the technological future of learning and teaching: The RoboCup German Open 2026 and the 2nd German Robotics Conference will bring humanoid robotics to life. The Start-up Area in Hall 7 also serves as a looking glass into the digital world of education. At the same time, new approaches to inclusive and barrier-free learning are awaited here.

A similar level of content diversity will be showcased in the special event "Discover. Try. Explore - empowering children for a changing world" in Hall 8 with practical impulses for STEM education, speech development and reading skills, nutrition knowledge and education for sustainable development. Also in Hall 8, "Hands-on learning" opens up an experience area for extra-curricular learning environments and provides suggestions for lessons and exciting school trips, from natural sciences and environmental education, to culture and society. In Hall 7, the special event "One school for all - multi-professionalism as an opportunity" places the focus on inclusive learning through interdisciplinary teams and invites the visitors to participate in informative and interactive formats on all five days of the trade fair.

Visitors can find all programme details, times and the speakers at www.didacta-koeln.de/events.

Networking, awards and inspiration

didacta 2026 brings industry experts together and highlights the current challenges. Targeted networking formats, curated meeting points and after-show events promote the direct contact between planning, management, the industry and practice regarding the solutions, visions and concrete models of what sustainable education could look like in an uncertain future. Such visionary ideas will be recognised with the Didacta Start-up Award in Hall 7 on 12 March. The Pitch Day on

the Thursday offers the opportunity to explore the market, find inspiration and share the excitement of the participants. The exhibitor party at the Gürzenich on the third day of the trade fair not only promises to be fun, it will also offer diverse networking opportunities: The tickets, including an additional quota, sold out within just a few days.

Tickets and programme information

Tickets for didacta 2026 are available from the online ticket shop at www.didacta-koeln.de/die-messe/tickets

The full event programme and list of exhibitors are also available online in the event data base at www.didacta-koeln.de/events/eventsuche/.

Everything undergoing change Spotlight on education

didacta 2026 is bringing transformation to life and demonstrates that education itself is on the move. In Cologne challenges will become transparent, potential revealed and the next steps will be clearly defined so that learning places, didactics, contents and technologies can grow together and empower people to confidently acquire the skills to encounter the requirements of today and tomorrow. Those, who want to help shape the future of education will find many points of contact and a strong network in Cologne.

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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