



25/09/2017

Fair Didacta Italy - The councillor for education Grieco, “good practices for school education and innovation in Florence”

Didacta is the largest Fair for school education in Europe. The event was created in Germany, where it has been held for more than fifty years. For the first time, this year it is going to be held in Italy, in the da Basso Fortress in Florence, from the 27 to the 29 September, under the initiative of Florence Fair, the Tuscany Region, Florence City Council and Indire.

Impressive numbers for the first edition of Fair Didacta Italy: on an exhibition area of about 25,000 sq. m there will be 150 institutional and associative exhibitors (the initial goal was 50) and space dedicated to workshops and seminars; about 400,000 teachers participating (results exceeded expectations); 100 workshops; 150 exhibitors; more than 8,000 individual bookings for the seminars; 5 tech rooms with 200 seats each and many fringe events in the squares and historical buildings of Florence, mainly addressed to students and families.

“We are proud and pleased that the first edition of Didacta Italy is held in Tuscany and in particular in Florence” – emphasised Cristina Grieco, councillor for Education, labour and training of the Tuscany region, during the press conference – “This is an important challenge also for the Tuscany region. For three days, the da Basso Fortress will be a place for dialogue and confrontation on school education and innovation. It is a sign of the opening up of the educational and training system to national and international confrontation, as a crucial step in order to manage the changes affecting Italian society and facilitate the growth of the new generations”.

“The Tuscany region – The Councillor, Grieco continued - is part of the organising committee of Didacta Italy 2017 and is going to be present at the Fair with its own stand, realised thanks to the European social fund [...] I intend to valorise the best practices of the Tuscan model for education and training, presenting the projects of some of our students, as part of integrated actions of the region. A very rich programme of technical seminars for all those operating in the school sector is going to animate the Tuscany region’s area of the Fair offering also food for thought on the current situation and the future of training”.

Didacta Italia hosts companies operating in the education and training sectors: publishing houses ICT technologies, furnishings, catering. There will be workshops on the innovation of the educational model, robotics, the collaboration with European schools and the study of integrated technologies. Ample space will be also dedicated to methods and techniques to improve educational processes.

During the three days of Didacta Italy, in the da Basso Fortress there will be national conventions open to everyone on various themes, from the Erasmus Programme to E-twinning, Educational Avant-garde, small schools and Traineeship. The events outside the Fortress, Didacta off, are mainly addressed to young people and offer seminars, theatre shows and film projections.

“This is an important first time for us – the Deputy mayor Cristina Giachi commented – it is a source of pride that Didacta chose Italy and Florence in particular to get out of Germany. The Fair, which under the proposal of Florence’s Mayor, Dario Nardella is dedicated to the priest Lorenzo Milani, innovator before his time, is the practical example that school doesn’t only belong to teachers and students but to all the citizens. For this reason Didacta is not a fair like all the others but it encompasses everything, including food education, with a dedicated day. For all this, and for the hard work done to create this great event we invite everyone to participate”.

“This fair is the living example that when we work in an integrated way we realise important actions to promote our territory – the councillor for tourism, fairs, marketing and investment, Anna Paola Concia declared - Didacta is a great pride for Florence, which becomes a reference point in Italy for school education, and next year will be extended to other Mediterranean countries [...] it is a high quality fair going towards the direction we have chosen, that is to promote conference and fair tourism – the councillor concluded – this event is open to all the city with the fringe events of Didacta off, scattered around the area surrounding Palazzo vecchio, the Complesso delle Murate and the Santa Apollonia auditorium, where themes related to school education will be presented to students and to all the citizens”.

Today’s press conference was attended by the President of Indire Giovanni Biondi - who emphasised the international character of the event and the participation of teachers from all parts of Italy - and the General Director of the School Regional Office, Domenico Petruzzo - who stressed that the reflection on school education is part of a more general one on a fast changing world. There was also Giacinto Bosco, representative for Florence Fair who emphasised that Didacta Italy, like its German version is addressed to the world of business, and has a strong scientific content.

Fair Didacta Italy is organised by Florence Fair together with the main institutions of the territory: Tuscany Region, Florence City Council, Florence Chamber of Commerce; and Didacta International, with the support of the Italian Chamber of Commerce for Germany (Itkam) and Florence Convention & Visitors Bureau. Fair Didacta Italy is sponsored by the Miur; the European Policy Department of the Presidency of the Council of Ministers; the Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany in Italy; the Italo-German Centre Villa Vigoni; Unioncamere, the Italian Union of Chambers of Commerce, Industry, Handicrafts, and Agriculture; and Assocamerestero, the Association of Italian Chambers of Commerce Abroad.

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