

SCIENTIFIC INFORMATION

V.I Chechetka., A.I. Guschina

The First All-Russian Forum of Russian Teachers and Lecturers of the German Language «Foreign Language – the Way to Partnership», organized by Goethe-Institute together with the Ministry of Education and Science timed for the Year of Germany in 2012-2013 (Moscow: November 17-18, 2012)

November 17-18, 2012 Goethe-Institute together with the Ministry of Science and Education of the Russian Federation conducted the First All-Russian Forum of the German language teachers and lectures in Moscow. The Forum was held within the framework of the Germany's year in Russia 2012/13 and as the consummation of All-Russian Educational Initiative "learn German: Lern' Deutsch!" The Forum was attended by some 1,500 participants and guests.

Dmitry Livanov, Minister of Science and Education of the Russian Federation, Ulrich Brandenburg, Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany, and Ryudiger Bolts, Director of Goethe-Institute in Moscow, solemnly opened the Forum their welcoming speeches.

It was noted that some 2,3 million people study German in Russia: (the second one after Poland). There are nearly 20,000 German language teachers in Russia. The deciding factors for further developing studying German in Russia are the motivation of an individual teacher and the importance that the Russian Educational System attaches to foreign languages study.

Leader of the Department of Culture and Mass Communications of the Foreign Affairs Ministry of FRG Bernd Noymann and Hildergard Jacob, the Chairman of the Federal Commission of Germany, that cooperates with the schools abroad, delivered their reports to the themes "German in the world" and "Significance of foreign languages in Germany."

Mrs. Jacob, her German and Russian colleagues Alexander Kondakov (President of the Publishing House "Prosveshchenie", member of the Russian Academy of Education and manager of the "Higher Education Reform"), Evgeniy Ugrinovich (Director of the International Department of the Ministry of Science and Education), Vladimir Klassen (Deputy Minister of Science and Education of the Samara Region) and Marcus Ozegovich (general Director of the Concern "Volkswagen group Rus") discussed in the open debate the study of foreign languages in the system of state education in Russia and Germany. Julia Elsner took charge of the discussion. Julia Elsner is a representative of Goethe-Institute in Moscow and a consultant of the project "Schools": partners of the future" of the FRG Foreign Affairs Ministry.

The discussion underlined the significance of poly-linguistics in the globalization epoch and outlined the prospects for learning foreign languages in the context of the education reform conducted.

Minister of Science and Education of the Russian Federation Dmitry Livanov noted that mastering foreign languages makes a person more successful and more able to compete. "It is very important for our schools to use the possibilities that open new education standards, specifically, the chance of learning the second foreign language as a compulsory component of the curriculum", - the minister said. In the new education model the first and the second foreign languages will be made equal in their significance: "I am very glad that we were able to defend learning the second foreign language. [...] the first and the second foreign languages [...] are now under equal conditions: they may be studied to the same depth extent," – Alexander Kondakov said.

Vladimir Klassen told about a very interesting experience of the Samara Region: “The project of the new education law has no types variety of schools. There is one type “general educational institution”. We have already prepared the project, according to which we may give the status of Gymnasia by our regional decision provided that not less than two foreign languages are studied at the given educational institution.

The hit of the first day programme of the Forum was a solemn awarding the winners of the contest “The best teacher / lecture of the German language 2012”, connected for the first time in Russia. The contest, the aim of which was to mark the achievements of the teacher/lectures making efforts to promote the German language, was organized by Goethe-Institute together with the Ministry of Science and Education of the Russian Federation and also by the German and Russian enterprises.

Correspondent of the telechannel “My planet”, journalist Andrey Ponkratov made a speech at the Forum. He told about the importance of Germany and of the German language in his life. The role of Germany and the German language in her personal life and professional activities was described by actress Chilpan Khamatova in her teleinterview.

The performances of the cabaret-duet “Kabbaratz” and actors of the group “Musicisthelangee” and of the puppet theatre “Strings Attached” defused the situation of the serious reports and official speeches and brightened the auditorium.

The program of the second day included a number of seminars and master classes. The most important topics of the seminars and master classes should be singled out: “Ten ways for keeping interest toward the German language study” (Elvira Roundenko, the Republic Bashkortostan), “Conception of “global teaching” as an expansion of the conception “intercultural teaching” at the lessons of the German language as of the foreign one” (prof. Almut Khille, Berlin), “To the question of evaluating the language teaching quality at the nonlinguistic institution of higher learning” (associate professor O.V. Myasnikova Alt S.Un., Barnaul) etc. The aim of the reports consisted in considering practical usage of the German language in comparison with the English language within the framework of the “conception of the global teaching”. The speakers suggested some innovative ideas in the practice of teaching the German language, the purpose of its popularization at the educational institutions of the Russian Federation included.

The visitors of the Forum were given a chance to become acquainted with the novelties in teaching foreign languages at the display-fair. The exhibitors involved Publishing Houses, book shops, producers of office goods and modern equipment for classrooms and also representatives of educational organizations. They presented and spread their goods and organized information, interactive and entertainment steps. The atmosphere of the exhibition was pleasing for contacts and attractive for new acquaintances and ideas exchange.

During the second day of the Forum the visitors were proposed to listen to the lectures, to take part in various seminars, discussions and master classes dedicated to methodical and didactic aspects of theme “Teaching German as a foreign language”, the aim of which is the professional exchange of experience and knowledge.

The All-Russian Forum of teachers and lectures of the German language was organized and conducted on a high level. Its results, of course, are effective, fruitful and constructive. They were of great practical use for the participants as they made possible to establish scientific and personal contacts, to exchange information, to get acquainted with the new current trend in the methods of teaching the German language as a foreign one, to discuss questions of the German language position abroad and in Russia, to plan specific steps for further developing and strengthening the status of the German language in Russia.

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The Forum of Russian teachers of the German language and presentation of the premium “The best lecturer of the German language” became the main projects of the Year of Germany in Russia 2012/13. The Forum showed that a large number of people learning German in our country is the achievement of every lecturer interested in promoting and developing this language at schools and higher educational institutions. Having a high qualification and love for the language they teach, these teachers maintain for many years the understanding of the importance of the German language in their pupils, their parents and also in managers of educational institutions. They confirm that the German language is an investment to the future and knowledge of minimum two foreign languages is the world’s educational standard in the 21st century.

More detailed information about the Forum and the materials of the Forum may be taken on the Russian portal of Goethe-Institute www.goethe.de/rusland.