

**Press-Information No. 1**

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**World's largest games event SPIEL in Essen grows by around 75 percent in 2022  
Pre-Corona levels already reached again this year**

Exhibition space at the world's largest board and card games convention, SPIEL '22, grows by an impressive 75 percent, returning to pre-Corona levels faster than expected.

Last year's SPIEL already impressively demonstrated how important it is for suppliers of board and card games to present their products annually at the world's leading trade fair for parlor games. Because despite extensive travel restrictions and hygiene regulations, hundreds of game publishers from 41 nations found their way to the Essen Exhibition Center in 2021. Visitors and exhibitors reported an exuberant mood and excellent buying and ordering business shortly before the Christmas season, which is so important for the industry.

"Last year's successful staging ensured that a high volume of bookings for SPIEL '22 was already clear in January of this year. Today, the show can report a 75 percent growth in exhibition space, catching up to pre-Corona 2019 levels sooner than expected. We were particularly positively surprised by the high level of commitment from exhibitors from non-EU countries. Thus, we will be welcoming a variety of game publishers from Asia, North and South America, Africa and Australia. Many exhibitors from countries such as Vietnam, Armenia, Kuwait, and Qatar are on board for the first time," reports Dominique Metzler, Managing Director of the organizer Friedhelm Merz Verlag, a subsidiary of Spielwarenmesse eG.

The wealth of new board, card and role-playing games already announced promises game enthusiasts and retailers another diverse year of new games releases that caters to every taste and age. Thousands of tables will be ready on site, inviting visitors from all over the world to try and buy.

The supporting program for SPIEL is being consistently expanded. So, on Friday, 7/10/22, EDUCATORS' DAY will be taking place once again. This is aimed at educators, teachers and other interested parties. Practical lectures and discussion sessions will show how board games can be used in the classroom as well as in community and senior citizen work. A panel held by Asmodee Research will present games designed for people with cognitive disorders and present recent research in this area.

Saal Europa will be available for educators to use on the Friday. There, publishers will present games that can be used positively in the classroom at specially supplied game tables. Last but not least, educators will have access to the New Release Show in Hall 1A on Friday, where they will have an overview of all the latest board game innovations.

Things will become scientific on Saturday, 8/10/22. Under the title "More than just a pastime? Boardgame Research in Germany" Boardgame Historian invites to the Saal Panorama for Research Day during SPIEL '22. In four panel discussions, the topics "History in Board Games", "Board Game Collections", "Representation in Board Games" and "Potentials of Board Game Research for the Industry and Game Designers" will be discussed with experts from academia and the gaming scene. Following the panel events, there will be time for questions and discussion.

After last year's break, families with small children can look forward to numerous motivational play areas in the "Galeria" again this year. An intergalactic play-along journey, a juggling studio, 20,000 wooden building blocks

that invite visitors to build spectacular sculptures, bridges and buildings, a ball pool and much more provide XXL play fun.

We will continue to keep you updated in upcoming press releases and are already looking forward to a great SPIEL '22, which we cordially invite you to attend.

Until then, we wish you a wonderful summertime. If you have any questions, please contact Ms. Dominique Metzler at +49 (0)228/342273, e-mail: [info@merz-verlag.com](mailto:info@merz-verlag.com).

Kindest Regards,  
Yours sincerely,  
Friedhelm Merz Verlag  
(Organizer SPIEL '22)

Dominique Metzler