Press Release, 08.11.2011.

The Balkan print media community shows a huge potential

The sixth Balkan Print Forum (BPF) event under the patronage of manroland AG and the first meeting of the Initiative for Printers' Education and Qualification (InPEQ) within the 6th BPF took place on October 27–28, 2011 in Belgrade, Serbia.

186 participants from 17 countries attended the 2-day event. For the first time this year representatives of all 11 member countries met at the Balkan Print Forum. The guests were offered the possibility to get up-to-date information, to exchange experience and know-how, to intensify and establish direct contacts to the manufacturers, and to discuss important professional issues.

Fourteen European and local sponsors and supporters presented interesting and innovative information under the motto: “Technological competence and innovation for product differentiation and quality assurance”. The audience highly appreciated also the interesting discussion about “New technological applications for value added printing”.

Thomas Hauser, Vice President Corporate Marketing & Communications, manroland AG, pointed out the importance of networks like the Balkan Print Forum for manroland and the whole branch. “This forum is a clear commitment of manroland to the Balkan printing industry and this year especially to Serbia.” At the press round table before the beginning of the forum manroland AG and Océ Printing Systems highlighted their global strategic alliance in the area of inkjet-based digital printing solutions for the graphic arts industry and answered the numerous questions of the fifteen journalists from six Balkan Print Forum member countries.

The participants were really impressed by the presentations of the highly professional speakers who showed a lot of technological innovations, future trends of development, statistical and analytical information, as well as important news about the printing industry in the Balkan countries. The song of drupa 2012, the most important and ground-breaking print show worldwide, brought a very fresh and optimistic mood to the audience.

Most of the important discussions took place in smaller groups during the coffee breaks and at the dinner. Many old friends met again and many new contacts were established. Among the most positive comments made at the event should be outlined the following: “It is not easy to be a printer today but the high value of our products and the willingness to introduce changes and to face challenges in the industry are the guarantee for our success!”

The first meeting of the Initiative for Printers' Education and Qualification on October 28 was qualified by the almost 80 participants as an unique meeting which intends to bring together the interests of three important pillars of the printing business: first, education and qualification institutions; second, manufacturers of equipment and materials and third, printing companies. Representatives of 11 print media schools and universities from 7 European countries exchanged information under the motto: “Professional education and qualification for long-term success”. Professors, experts and print managers discussed different possibilities for a better print media education in the Balkan countries, for collaboration and for knowledge exchange.

Next year the Balkan Print Forum community will meet twice. On May 8, 2012 the patron manroland AG is organising a Balkan Print Forum drupa event at its booth. The seventh Balkan Print Forum event under the patronage of manroland and the second InPEQ meeting will take place on October 18–19, 2012 in Sofia, Bulgaria.

At the Sixth Balkan Print Forum Thomas Hauser, Vice President Corporate Marketing & Communications, manroland AG, gave an interview for the Serbian RTV.
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Press round table of manroland AG and Océ Printing Systems at the Sixth Balkan Print Forum: (from left) Gerhard Gocek, Executive Vice President, Head of Market Organization manroland Group, Thomas Hauser, Vice President Corporate Marketing & Communications, manroland AG; Nicole Hytry, Chief Marketing Officer, Océ Printing Systems; Steffen Dögel, Executive Director Strategic Alliances, Océ Printing Systems.
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Fifteen journalists from six Balkan Print Forum member countries participated in the Press round table of manroland AG and Océ Printing Systems at the Sixth Balkan Print Forum.
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Dr. Rossitza Velkova, Coordinator of the Balkan Print Forum, opened the sixth BPF event.
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Dušan Pavićević, President of the Union of Graphical Engineers and Technicians of Serbia welcomed the participants in the sixth Balkan Print Forum.
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186 participants from 17 countries attended the Sixth Balkan Print Forum Event under the patronage of manroland AG and the First InPEQ Meeting 2011 on October 27-28, 2011 in the Serbian Chamber of Commerce, Belgrade.
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Thomas Hauser, Vice President Corporate Marketing & Communications, manroland AG, presented his “Perspective Print – Innovations in Technology and Services” at the Sixth Balkan Print Forum Event in Belgrade, Serbia.
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The poster of the sixth Balkan Print Forum and the first InPEQ meeting.
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Jürgen Noll, Marketing Manager Hardcover, Muller Martini, presented “Grow with innovation” at the Sixth Balkan Print Forum event.
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Steffen Dögel, Executive Director Strategic Alliances, Océ Printing Systems, presented “Océ and manroland: Join the Strategic Alliance for Digital high-speed Color Printing”.
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Daniel Siegel, Senior Manager Technical Sales Central Europe, UPM, presented “Expand the limit by cooperation“.
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Manuel Mataré, Director drupa 2012, presented “one world – **one drupa**” at the Sixth Balkan Print Forum event.
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Beatrice Klose, Secretary General, Intergraf, presented “Economic Developments in the European Graphic Industry and Recent INTERGRAF Activities”.
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Nikola Marinković B., Ing. specialist graphic technology, Politika a.d., presented “Application of environmental laws in the printing plant Politika a.d.”
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Eike Bühring, Head of Press-related Sales, ABB, presented “Modular Press Retrofit Solutions”.
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Dr. Klemens Peters, Siegwerk, presented in cooperation with Arben Graphic Systems “Omniline and Aridas - new inks for the advanced printing technology”.
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Discussion panel of the Sixth Balkan Print Forum: (from left) Thomas Hauser, Vice President Corporate Marketing & Communications, manroland AG; Steffen Dögel, Executive Director Strategic Alliances, Océ Printing Systems; Prof. Bernd Juergen Matt, Stuttgart Media University; Dr. Rossitza Velkova, Coordinator of the Balkan Print Forum.
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Tomasz Galant, CEO manroland CEE & Nordic, presented “manroland in Adriatic” on the second day of the sixth Balkan Print Forum.
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Bojan Panov, manroland Sales Manager, Serbia, presented “How to be successful in printing”.
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Harald Hesper, Executive Vice President TOP - Performance, manroland AG, presented “The potential analysis for skills of employees” on the second day of the sixth Balkan Print Forum.
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Opening of the first InPEQ meeting within the 6th BPF on October 28,2011.
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Prof. Miodrag Todorović, Belgrade Polytechnic, welcomed the participants in the first InPEQ meeting.
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Prof. Dr. Borivoje Rodic, Belgrade Polytechnic, presented "Higher Education in Graphic Engineering and Design" at the first InPEQ meeting.
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Msc Živko Pavlović, University of Novi Sad, presented his "GRID department - past, present and future".
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The "Presentation of Bachelor's, MSc and Ph.D Degree Education in Printing Arts at Department of Printing Arts, Pulp and Paper in University of Chemical Technology Metallurgy, Sofia, Bulgaria" was given by Dr. Iskren Spiridonov.
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Prof. Bernd Juergen Matt, Stuttgart Media University, presented "Higher Education in Printing Technology and Management".
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Prof. Dr. Ulrich Moosheimer, Munich University of Applied Sciences, presented his University and the Department Print and Media Technology.
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Mirela Marica, managing director, Asociatia Tipografilor "Transilvania" presented "Revision of vocational coaching standards for graphic arts high schools in Romania" and the programme "Support 4learn printing".
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Dr. Csaba Horvath, Óbuda University, Hungary, Institute of Media Technology, presented "New ways at the collaboration in higher education of graphic arts for the Central and South-East European universities".
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Prof. Dr. Gorazd Golob presented his "Institute of Textile and Graphic Technology and Design at the Faculty of Natural Sciences and Engineering, University of Ljubljana"
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Doc. Dr. Lidija Mandić presented her "University of Zagreb, Faculty of Graphic Arts".
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Almost 80 participants attended the the first InPEQ meeting on October 28, 2011 in the Serbian Chamber of Commerce, Belgrade.
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