

The International Lend Conference “**Lingue per un cuore europeo** (Languages for a European Heart) will take place in Torino on **28th-30th October 2011**.

For a fortunate coincidence in the same year Italy celebrates its 150 years of the country unification and Lend its 40 years of life.

Since 1971 Lend has steadily worked to keep together theory and practice, attention to research in such theoretical fields as second language acquisition, cognitive psychology, text-, socio- and pragma- linguistics as well as to multilingualism and interculture, as testified by its involvement in a multiplicity of European projects. In the same line, the autumn Lend conference will focus both on the new perspectives opened up by such fields of research as neurolinguistics and second language acquisition as well as on the contribution that intercultural studies bring to the profession, holding firm the focus on learning and teaching, on affective and cognitive factors.

The aim is to provide teachers and teacher trainers with tools for the development of cognitive, social, and affective strategies and to raise awareness of the positive impact that learning more languages has on perceptions, ways of thinking, attitudes and values.

How do European pupils communicate in a multicultural world? What kind of language do they need? What impact have the new technologies on learning? Is learning a side product of feelings and emotions? How can teachers deal with affective factors?

Speakers from different European countries (Italy, France, Germany, Great Britain and Spain) will try and answer these questions in the plenary sessions, while teachers will involve participants in practical work in the afternoon workshops trying to integrate theory and practice, reflection and action.

Participants at the Conference will also have the opportunity to take part in ‘Esperienza Italia’, a great event on Italian past and present identity. LEND Torino will welcome its guests at the regional Centro Congressi for the plenary sessions and at the former railway workshops OGR (Officine Grandi Riparazioni Ferroviarie) for the workshops, where they will also have the opportunity to visit the exhibitions and enjoy a fascinating journey into the process of the building of Italian identity over the last 150 years.