

Lusine Fljyan

Armenia

## "GERMAN READINGS" IN ARMENIA

Within the framework of German Days in Armenia which started on the 14th of September and will last on the 3rd of October on the day of German Reunification a series of events have been organized in the schools and higher education institutions of Armenia which are aimed to promote the German language and the German Literature and Culture in Armenia.

On the 20th of September the Austrian Library of Yerevan Brusov State University of Languages and Social Sciences hosted Matthias Kiessler, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Germany to Armenia who read and lectured on the book "The Death Ship" written by the German writer B. Traven. The book is a adventurous story about the American sailor who has lost his passport, was harassed by police and hounded across Europe until he found an 'illegal' job shoveling coal in the hold of a steamer bound for destruction. The event description is available at <https://www.facebook.com/events/692716187559659/>

The members of the German Chair and around 100 students majoring and minoring in German were present at this event which was followed by the discussion of some issues related to this politically charged novel.

The meeting was organized with the support of the Austrian Library and Miss Liana Safaryan, its coordinator.

Nowadays there is an increasing interest towards learning German in Armenia, and this is due to the support of German Embassy, the Ministry of Education and Research of Germany, which implements the programmes of learning German in Armenian schools. The Goethe Institute Representative in Armenia organizes the training of school teachers as well as provides the schools with textbooks and technical equipment which may be used while teaching and learning German. These German and Austrian organizations organize the training of German teachers in Austria and Germany as well as organize student exchange programmes.

Miss Liana Safaryan, who is German Professor at Yerevan Brusov State University of Languages and Social Sciences has authorized to organize the Austrian German exam in Armenia for those who wish to get an internationally recognized language proficiency certificate in the German language. The average number of the applicants per exam (the exams are held 4 times per year) is around 60 people.