

Chemnitz, 2 May 2016



May 4th is the European Day of Cultural, Youth Work and the Creative Industries Photo: City



The Kolorit Club is taking part in the Festival of Neighbours again in 2016 Photo: Mike Hillebrand



Europe Week and European Neighbours' Day with a very varied programme

“Who will become the European champions?” – This is the motto of one of the events during the Europe Week in Chemnitz, which takes place this year from 30 April to 9 May 2016. To clarify this question the Children's and Family Centre in the Chemnitz Multigenerational House organising a “learning by doing” exercise and a quiz on European topics. On the same day the Philosophical Faculty and the European Studies Initiative of the Technical University of Chemnitz are discussing the question “The End of the Road for Europe?” in talks and panel discussions on the Campus in the Reichenhainer Strasse and look forward to welcoming many interested guests.

Almost every day during Europe Week the Odradek Book Café extends an invitation to film screenings, exhibitions or concerts. With the “Odradekian Existences: Artistic Interventions from the Margins of Society” Exhibition, which has been created by artists of Syrian and Iraqi origins followed by a concert by the Danish pianist Mikkel Almholt the Book Café opens its programme on 1 May. On 5 March 2015 young people from Chemnitz and Ústí nad Labem approached the topic “War and Peace” in an exchange project and developed a theatrical performance. The results of this project can be viewed in a photo exhibition by all visitors to Chemnitz Town Hall from 2 to 20 May.

Just a few days after the conclusion of Europe Week, on 13 May 2016, the European Neighbours' Day will be celebrated in Rosenhof, Chemnitz, from 2.00 p.m. until 6.00 p.m. The central theme is “Social Culture Unites” and under this slogan the festival offers a wide range of contributions that are worth hearing and seeing by creative artists from Germany, Poland and the Czech Republic. Parallel to a stage show including among other things a performance by the Dance Group of the Jewish Community of Chemnitz there will be various “listening posts” where authors such as Radek Fridrich and Petr Mikšicek will give readings from their books. Sign-language interpreters will contribute to the barrier-free organisation of the European Neighbourhood Festival.

[Detailed programme](#) of the Europe Week and the European Neighbours' Day

New EU-sponsored vehicles purchased for the Chemnitzer Modell

With a subsidy from the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) eight new hybrid tram/trains, which can run on both tram and railway tracks, are being purchased. Of the total costs of €42.8 million the ERDF provided the major share, €32 million. The Transport Association of Central Saxony (VMS) acquired these tram/trains for the routes of Stage 1 of the Chemnitzer Modell, which will connect the surrounding railway network with the Chemnitz tram network and make it possible to link the towns Burgstädt, Mittweida and Hainichen with the city centre of Chemnitz. The Chemnitzer Modell was launched in 2002 on the pilot route from Chemnitz to Stollberg, and after the passenger numbers had developed satisfactorily, it has been successively extended and developed in order to steadily improve the links between the surrounding area and the City of Chemnitz. So now the first construction work for Stage 2 of the Chemnitzer Modell has started to open the link to the university campus and the future connection to the town of Thalheim.



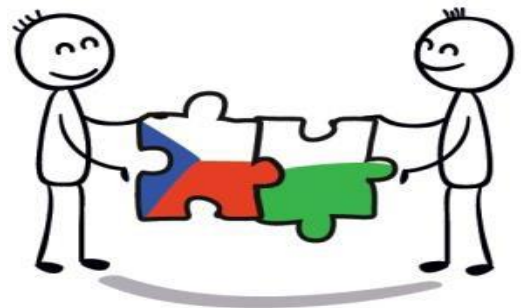
Commissioning of the new vehicles on the Chemnitz-Mittweida route
Photo: VMS



Dual-system "Citylink Chemnitz" vehicles manufactured by Vossloh
Photo: VMS

German-Czech simulation game for young people

With partners in Germany and the Czech Republic "Die Brücke" association has developed a project for a simulation game which is intended to enable young people aged 11 to 15 to experience and test democracy together in a playful environment. The project is primarily aimed at years 5 to 9 and its goal is to promote positive experiences in personal encounters with people from different nations. Especially in this age group good experiences are an advantage since this is a time when views and opinions can be consolidated on a lasting basis. In the simulation social competence, respect for others – no matter what nationality – tolerance and conflict management will be learned in direct interaction. In addition to the development of the game the project offers the opportunity to become qualified as a simulation game trainer. Training courses for teachers are also planned. During the events an interpreter will be present to help with communication. The society is pleased to arrange partners in the Czech Republic. Those who are interested in project week during the 2016/2107 school year should get in touch with ["Die Brücke e. V."](#).



Ahoj sousede. Hallo Nachbar.
Interreg V A / 2014 – 2020



The Culture forum has invited its member to join in
Photo: City



“Art and Imagination” as headline of the Culture Forum from 16 to 19 March

Katrin Voigt of the Culture Management of the City of Chemnitz attended the Culture Forum in the Dutch cities Eindhoven and 's-Hertogenbosch. In addition to discussing internal and organisational issues concerning the Culture Forum such as the cultural strategy of the city network and the admission of new members such as Ostend in Belgium and Klaipėda in Lithuania, the cultural offerings of the host cities naturally played a big role. In Eindhoven the group visited the former Philips industrial complex, which is being transformed bit by bit to new uses in the fields of culture, leisure, education and the creative industries. In 's-Hertogenbosch the “Hieronymus Bosch – Vision of a Genius” exhibition about the well-known Dutch Renaissance painter was the occasion for an exchange on the topic eventfulness. The focus here is on methods of bringing cultural offerings to life and investigating knowledge in new ways. In the “Young People and Culture” working group there was a presentation on the “Watch that Sound” project. The next Culture Forum is planned for Oulu in Finland from 5 to 7 October 2010.

Environment Forum of 6 to 8 April focusses on living healthily in the city

This time the venue of the Environment Forum was Utrecht in the Netherlands. In this setting Grit Winkel from the Chemnitz Parks Department observed the meeting of the working group on “Green Areas and Biodiversity”. Among other things the topic described the EU Research and Innovation Programme HORIZON 2020, which also supports research in the field of environmental protection and sustainability. Utrecht presented its own experiences and successes in the protection and observation of various species of bats and swallows. The city also presented its efforts in the field of “healthy urban living”. These include, for example, the creation of new green areas and the promotion of cycling. A major point on the programme was “sustainable urban development”. Here the focus was on the latest trends in urban development in view of climate change and the resulting challenges for cities. Increasingly these were responsible for participating in environmental and climate protection with, for instance, measures for lowering CO2 emissions. There was also a discussion of the future of EURO CITIES as a close-knit platform for exchanging knowledge and opinions and for representing the interests of the European cities not just in the field of the environment. The next meeting is scheduled to take place in Ljubljana, the European Green Capital 2016, in October.



Excursion to urban mobility around the area of the Main Station
Photo: City



In Utrecht about 60% of the residents travel by bicycle
Photo: City

"Imagine Europe Without Borders" as a photo competition

Both professional and amateur photographers still being invited to participate in the European Photo Competition organised by the PES Group in the European Committee of the Regions (closing date: 30 June 2016). The competition focuses on the current topic "Europe Without Borders". From the entries a jury made up of members of the PES Group of the CoR will select three pictures which capture the topic best. In addition, the public will be able to select another picture for a fourth prize. The winners of the jury prizes will enjoy a trip to Brussels and photographic equipment to the value of €2,000. The winner of the public prize will win photographic equipment to the value of €500.



Further information and submission of entries:

<http://pes.cor.europa.eu/Meetings/Events/Pages/imagine-eu-without-borders.aspx>

English press release on the photo competition:

http://pes.cor.europa.eu/NEWS/Pages/NoBordersEU_EN.aspx

Events from May to July 2016

4 May 2016 7.00 p.m. in the the auditorium of the smac
Talk by Marian Nebelin: "Athens – the reinvention of a metropolis of Antiquity in the modern Era"

11 May 2016 7.00 p.m. in the Old Boiler House of the TUC
Talk by Prof. Dr. Winfried Thielmann: "European scientific languages – obstacle or competitive advantage in the global game?"

1 June 2016 7.00 p.m. in the Old Boiler House of the TUC
Talk by Prof. Dr. Miloš Řezník: "Poland, Europe and European politics of history"

6 July 2016 7.00 p.m. in the Old Boiler House of the TUC
Talk by Prof. Dr. Klaus Stolz: "Europe and the state unity of the United Kingdom"



The talk by Marian Nebelin is part of the [lecture series](#) "The City – a constructed way of living between past and future", which is taking place within the framework of the European Year "Europe is everywhere", organised by the Philosophical Faculty of the Technical University of Chemnitz.

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