

Chemnitz, 06 February 2017



“Kosmos Chemnitz” panel discussion at Chemnitz City Pool on 13/12/2016 Photo: Kristin Schmidt



The audience heard talks from two previously nominated cities Photo: Kristin Schmidt



Christoph Thoma at the Town Hall debate on 11/01/2017 Photo: Kristin Schmidt

Chemnitz bids to be named European Capital of Culture 2025

32 years ago, Athens became the first European Capital of Culture. The idea for the award was born following a conference for European culture ministers, when the then Greek minister of culture Melina Mercouri and her French counterpart Jack Lang felt that there were simply not enough opportunities for this kind of meeting. They suggested creating a series of events to draw greater attention to cities around Europe. Ever since then, the European Commission has used the “European Capital of Culture” scheme to highlight cultural diversity and demonstrate how culture can unite people across the continent. Since Athens, some 56 cities have benefitted from the initiative, contributing to urban renewal projects, raising their international profile, improving their image amongst their own people, revitalising culture in new ways and encouraging tourism.

Mayor Barbara Ludwig, CEO of the Culture Department Ferenc Csák and General Director of the Chemnitz Theatres Dr Christoph Dittrich announced last year that Chemnitz would be running for European Capital of Culture 2025. The city is a perfect example of a central European theme: the struggle between identity and change. Many players from the worlds of art, culture, socio-culture and sport have already declared their support for the bid, having attended the two public events in December 2016 and January 2017. During a panel discussion, Dr Simona Neumann, General Director of the Timisoara 2021 campaign, and Jiří Suchánek, General Director of the Pilsen 2015 bid, encouraged the people of Chemnitz to support the city’s application, with Christoph Thoma of CULTURELAB e. U., Austria adding his voice during the debates.

The guidelines for cities applying for the European Capital of Culture title state that their programmes should focus on a European dimension. The planned activities should promote the cultural diversity of the continent, intercultural dialogue and mutual understanding amongst Europeans. They should shed light on shared aspects of culture, heritage and European history. Cooperation with stakeholders or cities in other countries is also strongly encouraged. Programmes should be designed to target a wide European and international audience. The European Capital of Culture is awarded financial support in the form of a €1.5 million donation in honour of Melina Mercouri.

School class redeems grand prize from European Mobility Week competition

Many of you have probably been to the Chemnitzer FC stadium, but very few will have had the chance to go much further than the stands. On 12/01/2017, class 7B from the Annenschule redeemed the prize they had won for taking part in a tour of the inner city during European Mobility Week. The 23 schoolchildren and their teacher got to explore every part of the facility. Their questions were answered very patiently by CFC press spokeswoman Nicole Oeser. She took the group through the press conference room, the home and away team locker rooms, and of course, the pitch itself. The children were even able to sit in their heroes' seats in the changing rooms. Then they got to take part in a CFC press conference. When their teacher asked whether they planned to participate in European Mobility Week 2017, the response was a resounding "yes".

New blog: "ES-Spiegel –The magazine of European Studies"

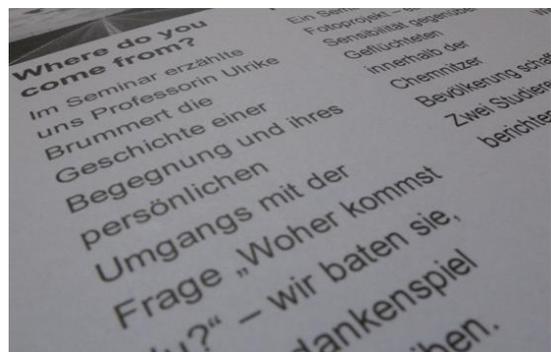
What do you actually learn on a European Studies course? Is Europe even an important concept these days? These are questions that don't have a simple answer. Questions that the editors of the ES-Spiegel have struggled with themselves. But their new blog could help provide some clarity. It has been designed to give readers an insight into what is studied as part of the course and also give its authors an outlet to take a critical look at the European construct and put their theoretical knowledge into practice. You can find the online magazine at <http://es-spiegel.tu-chemnitz.de>. The second edition is due to be published in late February and will focus on the burgeoning phenomenon of disenchantment with Europe. But why are they doing all this? "We are proud to be European, but we also want to take a critical look at the EU. The rise in disenchantment and (right wing) populist tendencies doesn't sit well with us. We want to use the blog to help create openness within Europe", says the editor. By having their opinions published and read, the team aims to help actively shape the discourse around Europe and the EU. As well as a guest column from EU correspondent and blogger Eric Bonse, the magazine will also include an interview with Chemnitz's EU Co-ordinator and scientific articles from various professors. The team behind the ES-Spiegel looks forward to hearing your suggestions and critiques.



The children take part in a "real" CFC press conference
Photo: City



Behind the scenes at the CFC stadium
Photo: City



Extract of an article from the online magazine
Photo: Ellen Hieber



The first edition of the magazine was published in the summer semester 2016
Photo: Ellen Hieber



Speed networking in the partially-renovated hall at the Royal Palace
Photo: Eurocities



Tour of a coworking space in a former factory building
Photo: City



Meeting of the four working groups that form the "Urban Platform"
Photo: City

"Sharing Cities" annual general meeting in Milan, 16 to 18 November

In their opening speech, Milan's mayor Giuseppe Sala and Eurocities General Secretary Anna Lisa Boni declared that cities become more resilient when they work together in networks. This year's annual general meeting was attended by Toni Rotter, representing the Chemnitz City Council in the Europe working group at the city administration, Sören Uhle, Managing Director of the Chemnitz Economic Development Corporation, and Pia Sachs, the city's EU Co-ordinator. During a speed networking event, representatives from Bilbao explained a new process designed to help integrate the city's administrative offices into EU projects more effectively. Milan's representatives discussed how 30,000 people had voted for more than 40 concrete suggestions from 700 ideas for investment at the round table session. And during a plenary session, Cecilia Malmström, European Commissioner for Trade, explained how 31 million jobs in the EU depend on exports.

"Integrated Urban Development" working group meeting in Brussels, 29 and 30 November

Participants focused on topics such as the status and perspective of the working group within the network. Through discussion and with support from the head of the policy and strategy department, Dorthe Nielsen, the team was able to agree to better coordination and a shared vision going forward. Spatial planning will now be anchored more heavily in current EU topics. More active formats such as hands-on workshops and excursions will be employed to encourage better collaboration between the members. The results of the three working group projects on regeneration, redensification and transformation were summarised and presented to the other forums. From now on, the working group will be part of the cooperation forum. The metropolitan areas, cohesion policy, integrated urban development and urban agenda working groups will form a new "Urban Platform", focusing on the consequences of the Brexit for future EU structural funding, and partnerships under the New Urban and EU urban agendas. Through this structural reform, the network intends to strengthen its profile and therefore put strategic urban development in a stronger position. The EUROCI-TIES Urban Platform will respond with a mutual statement on the direction of the cohesion policy for the new funding period by mid-2017. Thomas Mehlhorn from Chemnitz's urban planning office found the presentation of the new EU report – ["The State of European Cities 2016"](#) – by the General Director of Regional Policy for the European Commission, particularly interesting.

Redesign for the “Wege ins Ausland” website

The “Wege ins Ausland” working group has unveiled its redesigned website. The group is a joint initiative supported by the “Lernen und Helfen in Übersee“ e. V. working group, the DAAD, Engagement Global gGmbH, Eurodesk, the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit, the Informations- und Beratungsstelle für Auslandsaufenthalte in der beruflichen Bildung, the “kulturweit“ international volunteer service, the Pädagogischer Austauschdienst and the Federal Employment Agency’s International Placement Services. It provides personalised, tailored assistance to help people who want to work abroad to find the right person to contact and a programme to suit them. It also provides information on scholarships and sponsorship programmes.

Events, February to April 2017

07/02/2017 13:00-14:00 DAStietz Foyer
“Mit Licht geschossen | 31. Bildpräsentation” One photograph per month – held at a number of public places around Chemnitz throughout the entire period of historic reflection, 2014-2018

09/02/2017 19:00-21:00 Lokomov
“Das Kapital 2.0 – Crowdfunding in Karl-Marx-Stadt“ with Anja Thonig from Crowdfunding Campus and two Chemnitz-based projects

07/03/2017 19:00 Villa Esche (€8.00 / €5.00)
“Horizonte öffnen: Chemnitz als Europäische Kulturhauptstadt“ with Ferenc Csák, CEO of the Chemnitz Culture Department

Contact/site notice

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The next newsletter will be published on 01/05/2017.



WEGE INS AUSLAND ARBEITSKREIS

The website provides information and advice on working abroad:

www.wege-ins-ausland.org

EUROPÄISCHE
MOBILITÄTS
WOCHE
16-22 SEPTEMBER

das fest
der
nachbarn

ELDUW
Europäische Woche
der Lokalen Demokratie

#BEACTIVE
Europäische Woche des Sports

You can find an overview of the events being held during the action weeks and days we coordinate throughout the year on our website:

www.chemnitz.de > Die Stadt Chemnitz > Europaarbeit > [Aktuelles](#)

