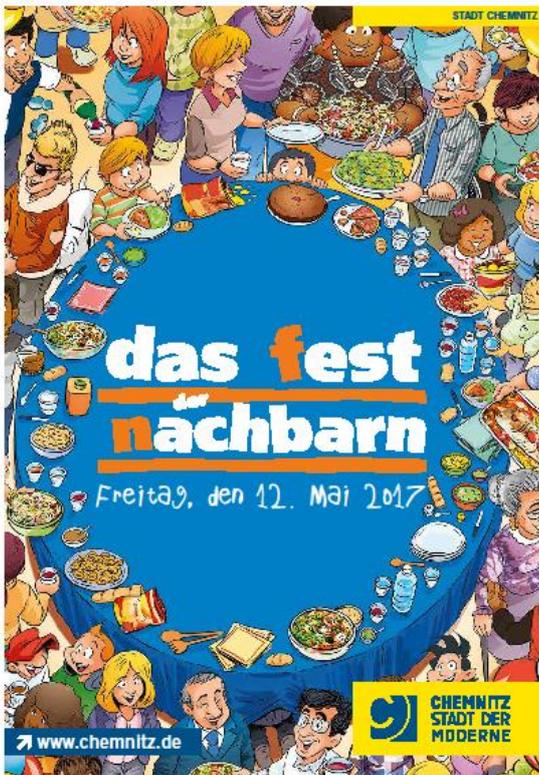




Discussion as part of the Europe Days for Culture and Youth Work
Photo: Tim Plagemann



A busy schedule lies ahead for Europe Week and European Neighbours' Day

This year it's hard to choose which events to attend from the Europe Week programme since quite a few of them overlap. First up, the children and family festival "Welcome to Chemnitz" gets the week of activities off to a vibrant and multicultural start. From 2 pm on 6 May 2017, Chemnitz residents will be able to spend a day together to celebrate "a cosmopolitan and tolerant Chemnitz" in the Stadthallenpark. As usual, the Kinderfilmhaus cinema is screening European films in their original language for young viewers. To answer young people's questions about living, working or studying abroad, the solaris Support Centre for Young People and the Environment (FZU) is devoting Europe Day, the 9 May 2017, to an information event about European Voluntary Service.

The slogan for this year's Europe Week in Saxony is "60 years on from the Treaties of Rome – What does the future hold for Europe and European integration?" and invites residents to join the discussion. Professors from Chemnitz University of Technology will give talks debating issues such as immigration, refugee policies and the legal consequences of exiting the EU. The Odradek Reading Café is hosting a series of events entitled "Human Rights and Democracy in Europe", featuring film showings with accompanying discussions, as well as a reading and a concert. This year, the Europe Days for Culture and Youth Work organised by the Network for Culture and Youth Work have been extended to two full days of talks and workshops to inspire enthusiasm for Europe and provide information on funding programmes.

And finally, to bring Europe Week to a close, the people of Chemnitz will celebrate European Neighbours' Day. The theme for 2017 is "Language Unites", and it brings together a varied programme featuring songs and poems in various languages performed by the Gebrüder-Grimm Primary School, the project "Klangwege ins Leben" (Sound Paths to Life), a performance by the sign-language choir Monael & Friends, a reading from the book "Mit der Vogelrede" and a chance to join in with the activities, including writing your own name in Braille. Neighbours' Day is rounded off with an event held at the city library titled "Neighbouring Literature – Introducing Polish Writers", which will present the Polish authors Cyprian Kamil Norwid and Julian Tuwim.

Hitting the right note together on EUROPE DAY

With a flash mob-style campaign, the City Music School (Städtische Musikschule) and the EU Office are inviting the people of Chemnitz to join in with the music and singing at Neumarkt square on 9 May 2017. At 4.30 pm, the European anthem will be played and sung outside the Town Hall. Pupils from the Music School's brass band will lead the way, ably accompanied by members of the school's own choir. All choirs, orchestras and ensembles in the city are invited to join in gradually to give a rousing rendition of Ode to Joy. The hymn music comes from Ludwig van Beethoven's Ninth Symphony, which he composed to accompany a famous poem by Friedrich Schiller. The Council of Europe chose Beethoven's Ode to Joy as its anthem in 1972, and EU heads of state and government adopted it as the official anthem of the European Union in 1985. In order not to favour one EU language over any other, they agreed on an instrumental version. Using the language of music alone, it expresses the European values of freedom, peace and solidarity. However, the German lyrics will be sung at the event in Chemnitz. The EU Office will be distributing information leaflets at the event.



On 9 May 2017 at 4.30 pm, Neumarkt square will be transformed into a resounding platform for music
Graphic: City



The Youth Brass Orchestra from the Music School will strike the first note
Photo: Music School

“Climate Chasers” with the KINDERVEREINIGUNG® Chemnitz e. V. (Chemnitz Children’s Association)

The future begins where you let it – and the same is true for climate protection. Together with its project partners from Chodov and Chemnitz's twin city in Ústí nad Labem (both in the Czech Republic), the Chemnitz Children's Association is offering suggestions for places to start. The project [“Na stopě klimatu – Dem Klima auf der Spur”](#) (Climate Chasers) gives children, young people and families from the German-Czech border region a host of opportunities to become environmentally aware at an early age and to understand the impact of processes in our daily lives – all through group activities and exciting campaigns. Together, children and young people can find out about their own ecological footprint at events and camps, follow the journey of recyclable resources and engage with environmental topics in a fun way. However, the project also relies on people to disseminate this knowledge in the educational field – social education workers, educators and teachers are invited to continue their own professional development and to get actively involved in developing educational modules, which will be included in a specialist publication.



Group visit to a waste processing plant
Photo: Kindervereinigung Chemnitz e. V.



A fun way to explore the climate
Photo: Kindervereinigung Chemnitz e. V.



The theme of the conference: the new paradigm for mobility – “A city for all” Photo: City



Visit to a building site: a car park is being turned into an underground garage with a public park Photo: City



Many Cultural Forum events were easily accessible on foot in Tallinn Photo: CWE



Study tour through the Kumu, Estonia’s biggest art museum Photo: CWE

EUROCITIES Mobility Forum in Lisbon from 15 to 17 March

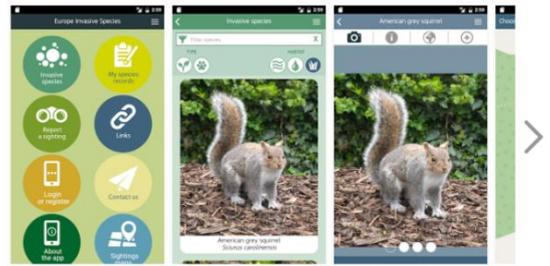
In big cities where pedestrians, cyclists, drivers and public transport must share the roads, conflict is perhaps inevitable. How should a city be planned, built and organised so that it is fair to everyone? This was the question posed by Mobility Forum in Lisbon. Eva Gräfer and Cornelia Siegel from the Mayor’s Office took part in the three-day conference. Best-practice examples highlighted new trends in public transport, including new intelligent services and shared services. Participants in the forums discussed barrier-free construction and sustainable urban transport planning. A number of study tours through the city demonstrated how Lisbon must and wishes to change, for example by introducing traffic calming on the city’s transport routes and giving the space back to citizens. It became clear that many European cities are currently faced with the task of planning, assisting and supporting the transformation process in public space.

Eurocities Culture Forum in Tallinn from 29 March to 1 April

When 129 people from 65 European cities come together for a cultural exchange, the dimensions of what is culture sometimes become visible rather by accident: when a Pole explains Snapchat to you at a Russian dinner, when you find yourself discussing issues in artistic projects in Lithuania in your slippers, or when debating the relocation of trade and industry to a region at lunch with a Swede. At this point, you soon realise that culture goes far beyond opera, theatre or museums. It is what affects us all on a daily basis; it is how we live and engage with one another. An exchange examining how other European cities deal with problems, encourage their citizens to participate in culture or implement creative concepts of culture can’t hurt. This is precisely what the Culture Forum was all about. Chemnitz was represented there, too: Ms Voigt from the Cultural Section visited the newly founded Public Art working group, and Ms Schaub from the CWE visited the Creative Industry working group. In addition to talks on new concepts in participation and vivid examples of a range of formats from other Eurocities cities, there was ample opportunity to get to know the other participants. Sometimes you discover your own city’s strengths when talking to other people: that unoccupied areas can be an advantage, that green spaces are in no way to be taken for granted and that many people would welcome having the space to realise ideas in their city.

New app for monitoring invasive animal and plant species

The EU Commission's Joint Research Centre (JRC) has developed a new app to monitor invasive animal and plant species. The Invasive Alien Species Europe app enables EU citizens to identify invasive species with the aid of descriptions and photos, and to determine their location using the satellite navigation functions on smartphones and tablets. The app is intended to give EU researchers information about the spread of animal and plant species and thus prevent threats to local flora and fauna. By monitoring the species, the idea is to generate distribution maps and raise awareness of emerging problems.



"Citizen scientists" can download the app free of charge here:

<http://digitalearthlab.jrc.ec.europa.eu/app/invasive-alien-species-europe>

Selected events from Europe Week 2017

6 May 2017 2 pm - 8 pm Stadthallenpark
"Welcome to Chemnitz" – A colourful, multicultural day for children and families to celebrate a cosmopolitan and tolerant Chemnitz

9 May 2017 4 pm - 10 pm Mehrgenerationenhaus
Europe to GO_ Helping and learning across Europe.
European Voluntary Service (EVS) in Europe

10/11 May 2017 9 am or 9.30 am - 7 pm SMAC
Europe Days for Culture and Youth Work – Culture and Youth Work Symposium

11 May 2017 7 pm - 8.30 pm TU Chemnitz
Staged reading on the life of a refugee on Lampedusa



The detailed programme for Europe Week and European Neighbours' Day:

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

Contact/site notice

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