

re:publica 2015 opened in Berlin with more than 6,000 participants

Berlin, May 5, 2015 – Today the re:publica 2015 was opened at the STATION-Berlin. The participants of Europe's leading Internet conference are just as diverse as the digital society itself – more than 800 speakers on 17 parallel stages will spark the debate with over 6,000 participants. With a total of 450 hours of program, the event is running until Thursday, May 7, 2015.

Gathering different communities together in one place to talk about our digital present and future, bringing people together who otherwise rarely meet – bloggers and architects, politicians and hackers, executives and activists, artists and scientists – this is but one aspect of the success story of re:publica.

The ninth edition of the re:publica in 2015 is taking place under the heading "Finding Europe", with the explicit aim of discovering the new within the 'Old World'. This includes the question of whether there is a single European digital society, whether digital Europe is a distinct cultural space. So the Europe of today and tomorrow is a central topic of many of the scheduled talks and discussions as well.

Besides tracing current net political debates, the program also incorporates important and socially pertinent issues from different European perspectives: Refugees, migration, or the city of the future are as much a topic for the re:publica as the digital domestic market, net neutrality, or privacy. And this year, the re:publica's ties with the concurrent international [MEDIA CONVENTION Berlin](#) are even closer. Not only is the media topic explored across conferences, but the introduction of a joint ticket for both events for the first time this year will further enhance this productive partnership.

Notable speakers at #rp15 include: internet researcher Ethan Zuckerman (MIT), political scholar Ulrike Guérot (European Democracy Lab), internet anthropologist Gabriella Coleman, Russian journalist and security expert Andrei Soldatov, astronaut Alexander Gerst (ESA), science fiction author and blogger Cory Doctorow (BoingBoing), the vice-president of the German Bundestag, Claudia Roth, architecture researcher Carlo Ratti (MIT), and sociologist Zygmunt Bauman.

In the opening ceremony, the four re:publica founders each highlighted different aspects of the motto, Finding Europe.

Markus Beckedahl, editor-in-chief of the netzpolitik.org blog, says: “A European digital society worth living in needs to address freedom of speech, net neutrality, privacy, and not least, safeguards against mass surveillance. And the re:publica is the place to discuss different ways to achieve that”.

“Glancing into any classroom today is like a glimpse into the future of our society: one third of all school kids in Germany already have migration backgrounds today. And if we are in favour of a free and open Europe, we should be happy about that,” says Tanja Haeusler, founder of Spreeblick Verlag KG and author of a guidebook for networked parents, “Netzgemüse”.

Andreas Gebhard, managing director of the re:publica, comments: “The state of Europe is causing us headache in a lot of places. But in the coming days, we will all work together, on our visions of a digital Europe – so that the dream of this free space of expression does not turn into a nightmare.”

“The re:publica is held in a city once surrounded by walls – those have luckily been demolished in the meantime. It is high time for the boundaries enclosing Europe today, where people are dying every day, to be torn down in just the same way,” says Johnny Haeusler, founder of Spreeblick Verlag KG and co-author of the “Netzgemüse” guidebook.

The first re:publica took place in 2007 with 700 participants. For re:publica 2015, we are expecting more than 6000 attendees.

Finding Europe – Program Highlights at #rp15

MEDIA CONVENTION Berlin – the international congress for the media industry

The MEDIA CONVENTION Berlin this year has become even more international, innovative and diverse. Numerous events on three stages, all about film, television, platforms, digitization, regulation, or new journalism formats, will take place on May 5th and 6th. In terms of contents, this year the conference is particularly concerned with the tension between creative and technological processes: from algorithms and social networks to motion picture strategies for the YouTube generation, from Video on Demand to the future of television.

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The MEDIA CONVENTION Berlin is the most important media conference in the German capital, and one of the largest assemblies of the media industry in Europe. The two-day event is organized by the Media Institute Berlin-Brandenburg (mabb) and the re:publica as part of the [Berlin Web Week](#).

Future City – The Science Year 2015 Sub-Conference

#rp15 participants can find out more about the city of the future, in the intersection of technology, society and sustainability, as part of the German Science Year 2015 – Future City. There will be a separate track on the topic with interesting talks, panels and workshops.

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The Science Year 2015 – Future City is a joint initiative by the German Ministry of Education and Research, BMBF, and Wissenschaft im Dialog (Science in Dialogue), and is dedicated to supporting research and sustainable development in civil society.

Wearables and More: #FASHIONTECH BERLIN @ re:publica

The term Wearables, referring to a blending of fashion and technology, is gaining importance. #FASHIONTECH BERLIN identifies points of contact between these two areas, once so strictly separated: new techniques, exciting trends and innovative projects all around gadgets, hacking and design are presented here. One of the talks is by Thomas Andrae, Director of 3M New Ventures, for example, on the latest developments in the field of Internet of Things and Wearables. [More...](#)

FASHIONTECH BERLIN was founded in collaboration with the international fashion trade shows PREMIUM and SEEK, and the re:publica. After the successful launch event with more than 1,200 visitors in January, the follow-up FASHIONTECH event is now taking place as a sub-conference during re:publica.

Innovators From All Over the World Coming to Berlin: Global Innovation Gathering

For the third time, the Global Innovation Gathering (GIG) will be connecting innovation hub managers, hackers, makers and entrepreneurs from Asia, Africa and Latin America, and inviting them to present their innovative (technology) projects at re:publica. A network of participants has developed out of GIG that stays in touch throughout the year. [More...](#)

The sub-conference is enabled by the Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) and the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ).

re:cord MusicDay

With our new re:cord MusicDay, there will be a special focus on music for the first time at re:publica! Big Data, streaming services, Open Source, and many other related topics will all be discussed on May 7th, the third day of #rp15, within this new sub-conference. One of the highlights is Music Tech Fest founder, Michela Magas, speaking about Big Data for talent scouting in record companies. [More...](#)

The Future of Journalism: Public Value Journalism

The sub-conference Public Value Journalism will address nothing less than the future of journalism. Like in the years before, the re:publica again organizing a special sub-conference track in collaboration with the German Federal Agency for Civic Education. Last year's focus topic was "Network Surveillance", for instance. And at this year's #rp15, the sub-conference is about "Journalism and the Public Contract". Highlight topics include a discussion of new formats for presenting journalistic contents, based on freedom of expression; network journalism and crowd-funding; political opinion forming through video platforms like YouTube; or "Collaborative Journalism".

About re:publica:

re:publica is the largest conference dedicated to the Internet and the Digital Society in Europe. It perceives itself as a political as well as cultural event, but especially as a very young event, which nevertheless attracted more than 6,000 participants last year. - re-publica.de

The ninth re:publica is taking place from May 5th to May 7th, 2015, at the STATION-Berlin.

more information:

<http://re-publica.de/presse>

<http://www.facebook.com/republica>

<http://twitter.com/republica>

trailer:

<http://bit.ly/12kRK2r>

press pictures:

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/re-publica>

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