

## Finding Europe – Europe visiting the re:publica 2015

**Berlin, May 7, 2015** – This year, the re:publica outdid itself. Instead of the initially expected 450 speakers from 45 countries and a program of 300 hours, a total of 850 international speakers from 60 countries made up the 500 hour long program. This is the highest number of speakers so far, making 2015 a record-setting year for re:publica. Young and old alike were represented on re:publica's 17 stages - from the youngest speaker of 11 years to the renowned Zygmunt Bauman aged 89.

From Iceland to South Africa, from the US to Singapore – the re:publica 2015 brought together people from all continents. From 5<sup>th</sup> till 7<sup>th</sup> May 2015, around 7000 participants and around 700 accredited international journalists bustled around the fully packed STATION-Berlin – a festival of superlatives!

The conference offered 50 sessions on this year's motto *Finding Europe*. 197 digital spaces from all of Europe's cultural sphere came to Berlin for the event. Markus Beckedahl sums it up: "Europe and the internet have a lot in common. Both were positive utopias which became fractured. We discussed this for three days at the re:publica. How we wish to shape our future is up to us and our commitment."

Tanja Haeusler adds: "Europe was and is a rewarding topic. The re:publica never was more versatile than this year. Thanks to Alexander Gerst, we even had a view of Europe from space! It won't be easy to top this at the tenth re:publica – but the team and I look forward to the challenge!"

Johnny Haeusler notes: "The re:publica distinguishes itself not only by a wide range of topics but also by our guests whose huge variety continues to move and fascinate me. Kids, the elderly, artists, scientists and even astronauts show up. I would say: It's going well. I would especially like to thank our team who did an incredible job over the last few days. Next year: Number 10!"

Andreas Gebhard points to the importance of the conference for society: "The re:publica 2015 may be physically over but it lives on through our full video and audio documentation of nearly all sessions. What is more: the re:publica is a document of the Zeitgeist recording the state of the digital world. We will derive inspiration from the re:publica for the rest of the year and it will give us food for thought. With it, we will anticipate the big bang, our tenth anniversary, in 2016."

We would like to disclose more numbers of the European societal conference: The sessions were not only broadcast on stage but also via wireless as a live stream to over 9000 devices

of our guests. The data traffic in and around the STATION-Berlin amounted to about 6 terabytes with a peak value of 700MB/s. The successful implementation of the conference would not have been possible without the help of close to 500 assistants.

The collaboration with [MEDIA CONVENTION Berlin](#) which also took place at the STATION-Berlin on 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> May, deserves a special mention here with CEO of Netflix, Reed Hastings, director general of ARD, Lutz Marmor, Media activists Pussy Riot, YouTube star LeFloid, blogger Stefan Niggemeier, state secretary Brigitte Zypries, investigative journalist Günther Wallraff, actress Meret Becker and Christoph Keese, Manager at Springer, among others contributing with exciting aspects on the complex issue of media.

This year's conference program's highlights were, amongst others, speeches from Ulrike Guérot, Ethan Zuckermann, Tricia Wang, Claudia Roth, Carlo Ratti, Jillian York and of course von Alexander Gerst and Zygmunt Baumann.

The Maker Space of the Global Innovation Gathering (GIG) was extremely popular. Here, visitors who were interested could exchange ideas with innovators from all over the world and were encouraged to build a 3D printer from electronic scrap, for instance, or a simple mobile charger.

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#### 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 around 7,000 participants last year. - [re-publica.de](http://re-publica.de)

**The ninth re:publica is taking place from May 5<sup>th</sup> to May 7<sup>th</sup>, 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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