

NEWSLETTER

EU Office, Chemnitz

Chemnitz, 4 February 2019



A reception for Culture Forum attendees will be hosted in the Town Hall Photo: City of Chemnitz



The 12th Ikarus Festival will be adorned with European flags and crafts Photo: Neighbourhood Management



Photo project by the Capital of Culture Office and Tampere during Europe Week Photo: Petri Nuutinen

Chemnitz is helping itself to an extra slice of Europe this spring with a series of guests and events

Looking through Chemnitz's calendar of Europe-themed activities for 2019, there's plenty to be excited about. The Cultural Management Division of Chemnitz City Administration, an active member of EUROCITIES since 2007, has been successful in its bid to host the city network's [Culture Forum](#) this year. More than 100 representatives from major European cities will be descending on our city from 10 to 13 April 2019. They will discuss how culture is taking hold of our urban spaces and explore the role that it plays in developing and supporting networks for local cultural organisations right here in Chemnitz. The organisers want to encourage discussion of how city administrations can bring cultural and creative organisations together to develop local networks of cultural and creative spaces and actors. The Chemnitz team is also looking forward to showing off best practices in study visits.

Also in the spring, residents of the Kappel and Helbersdorf districts will be holding their annual Ikarus Festival, this time with a European theme. On 25 May 2019, child-care centres, schools, local venues, associations, property management companies and small firms will come together on Ikarus Boulevard for a range of sports and games designed to provide a taste of Europe. The [Neighbourhood Manager](#) invites groups with European links and local associations to get involved and reach new audiences. One month before the festival, the South Chemnitz Residents' Network will launch its "Heckert cleans" campaign. The campaign, organised by the local waste management company ASR, will encourage residents to come together to clear rubbish from the area on 13 April 2019. The event is part of the Europe-wide [Let's Clean Up Europe](#) initiative, which aims to draw attention to litter.

As usual, the city's EU Office will be holding its annual [Europe Week](#) series of EU-themed events from 4 to 12 May 2019, in partnership with local groups. Events submitted to the Saxon State Chancellery by 15 February 2019 will be added to the Saxon event calendar. The state can provide funding for events under its [Funding for international and cross-border collaboration and European culture](#) guidelines. Interested groups are invited to contact the EU Office with their ideas. Europe Week will also coincide with the European Neighbours' Day celebrations on 10 May 2019. The festivities this year will focus on our Czech neighbours.

Learning Space – Library Information Platform project completed in December 2018

Scientific and research libraries have gained growing importance as communication centres and learning spaces over recent years. The libraries involved in this project – Chemnitz University Library as the lead partner, Zittau/Görlitz University Library, the University Library at the University of West Bohemia in Pilsen, the Regional Research Library in Liberec and the University of Liberec Library – formed the first German-Czech consortium to facilitate the cross-border use of electronic books. The project focused on open access and information literacy. All of the project results have now been published in a book by Chemnitz University Press and can also be read in an [open access publication](#).

The EU's ENTeR project – site visits and strategic agenda

The [ENTeR – Expert Network on Textile Recycling](#) project launched in July 2017. Alongside the lead partner, the Italian institute CENTROCOT S.p.A., the consortium also includes nine other research partners and associations from Germany, Italy, Poland, the Czech Republic and Hungary, including the Sächsisches Textilforschungsinstitut e. V. (STFI) in Chemnitz. Its first work package, “Textile Waste and Recycling”, was completed in summer 2018. In addition to compiling reports on the current waste management situation in the textile industry and textile recycling across the regions involved, the group also made site visits to companies and stakeholders in the industry. The regions were then able to exchange what they had learned about textile recycling. The results from the first package have been synthesised in a strategic agenda, which the group has used to determine lines of action for improving the textile waste situation across the project regions.

“EU for you?!” project for schoolchildren in Year 10 and above

A group from Initiative Europastudien e. V. is partnering with schools to offer workshops on the topic “What does the EU do for me?”. Taking a very different approach to traditional classroom teaching, the workshops give university students the chance to discuss the opportunities that the EU offers and its direct and indirect effects on us with the younger generation. Using practical examples and game-based techniques, the abstract concept of the EU is broken down to an accessible and relatable level. Interested schools can register [via email](#).



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



Objective: to create a cross-border learning environment
Photo: TU Chemnitz/Rico Welzel



Tour of the SOEX Textil-Recycling GmbH plant in Bitterfeld-Wolfen
Photo: STFI



The team has already spent many days and hours working in our schools
Photo: IES



EUROCITIES Annual General Meeting – 28 to 30 November 2018 in Edinburgh: “Creative Competitive Cities”

The latest edition of the conference focused on creativity and social innovation as key tools for developing new solutions to help cities conquer challenges such as unemployment, climate change and political alienation. The “creative conversations” gave the 500 attendees from 120 cities, including around 100 politicians, the chance to discuss and exchange their experiences. Outstanding examples were once again awarded prizes by the network in the categories cooperation, innovation and participation. This year’s winners included Chemnitz’s twin city of Ljubljana for its [RogLab](#) project, which supports companies and creatives with prototype production and runs educational programmes for children and young people. Ljubljana was also once again voted onto the EUROCITIES Executive Committee (EXCOM). Anna König Jerlmyr, the Mayor of Stockholm, was elected president of the city network for the next two years.



The Scottish contingent invited attendees to dance on the opening evening
Photo: Sandy Young/Eurocities

The network also evaluated the results of its “Cities4Europe – Europe for citizens” campaign, which involved more than 90 cities. The mayors signed the Declaration on Citizens’ Engagement and will attend a summit in Brussels from 20 to 21 March 2019 to bring the campaign to a conclusion. For the first time, young ambassadors from the member cities were given the opportunity to voice their opinions on the future of Europe. Some 60 young people from 50 cities took up the opportunity to discuss their views with city representatives and politicians, and to form new friendships. The highlight of the event for the young ambassadors was a plenary discussion with the First Minister of Scotland, Nicola Sturgeon. She made it clear that Scotland will retain its close links to Europe even after the UK withdraws from the EU and that Scottish cities are open to cooperation.



Signing the Declaration on Citizens’ Engagement
Photo: Sandy Young/Eurocities

The Managing Director of C³ Chemnitzer Veranstaltungszentren GmbH, Dr Ralf Schulze, learned about the latest cultural developments in Europe at the conference. Discussions were also held in the offices where the Edinburgh Festival is organised. In April 2019, Chemnitz Culture and Congress Centre will become one of the host venues for this year’s EUROCITIES Culture Forum, and the conference in November also offered opportunities for delegates to find out more about the meeting in Chemnitz and to talk to other attendees. It was clear that there is great interest in learning about the cultural activities on offer in our city and how they are managed. In a reading corner in the foyer of the conference centre, delegates were able to get their first impressions of Chemnitz from two illustrated books.



Nicola Sturgeon talks to the young ambassadors
Photo: Sandy Young/Eurocities

European elections on 26 May 2019: join the campaign

... and encourage others to vote. The European Parliament is calling on people to become campaign volunteers for the upcoming elections. Europe is currently facing a great number of challenges, including migration, climate change, data privacy and youth unemployment. As there are so many different opinions on each of these areas, the Parliament is calling on everyone to make sure their voice is heard in the European elections. There have been few other moments when it has been so important to gain a true impression of what all European citizens actually think. Many hope for a better future, but this can only be achieved if we all come together to share the responsibility for change. If you would like to help, would like more information, or even want to organise your own event on the European elections, please sign up on the campaign's website.

Dates for your diary for 2019

5 February – 5 March 2019 14-18 WAR WAS exhibition with documents, readings and performances at Chemnitz Town Hall

4 – 12 May 2019	Europe Week
9 May 2019	Europe Day
10 May 2019	European Neighbours' Day
16 – 22 September 2019	European Mobility Week
23 – 30 September 2019	European Week of Sport

Around 15 October 2019 European Local Democracy Week

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Europawahl

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All events hosted as part of the 14-18 WAR WAS. Shared Memories exhibition are listed at: www.14-18warwas.de/

