



re:connecting EUROPE – The re:publica Celebrates Europe Day

Berlin, 9 May 2017 – The re:publica will be taking a trip through Europe this September: the Irish edition of the Berlin community conference, the #rpDUB, will be taking place for the second time from 7 and 8 September in Dublin. Afterwards, the re:publica will travel from Europe's Northwest to the South-east and to Greece for the first re:publica in Thessaloniki, from 11 to 13 September! You can already get a taste of the exciting discussions, impulses and meetups we'll have in store, right now at the re:publica in Berlin: in the re:connecting EUROPE-Space.

67 years ago, on 9 May 1950, French Foreign Minister Robert Schuman proposed the foundation of a coal and steel production community – one that would later become the European Union: re:publica would like to celebrate the unification of Europe on this Europe Day and do its part in bringing Europe just a little bit closer together.

"Rethinking and integration were the founding pillars of the European Union. The fact that it came so shortly after the end of World War II is a truly remarkable achievement that should be celebrated. Europe today could do with another round of rethinking and networking, which is exactly what we're promoting with the re:connecting EUROPE Space. Our vision is to establish a Europe-wide network for the digital society", stated Simone Orgel, Project Head at the re:publica and responsible for international relations.

re:connecting EUROPE – The re:publica brings together European creatives

We're bringing together representatives from the Irish, Greek and German creative industries in the centre of Europe, at the re:publica 2017 in Berlin. We want to help promote a Europe-wide network of creative industries in our specially created re:connecting EUROPE Space - to help strengthen and further establish existing intersections and relationships to players and stakeholders in the Greek and Irish digital community. Thanks to the support from the Federal Foreign Office, we now have the chance to bring together activists, founders, entrepreneurs and artists from all over Europe to discuss ideas, projects and possibilities for exchange. We can then carry the created connections and ideas back to Dublin and Thessaloniki in autumn.

From 11 to 13 September, the Thessaloniki debut – #rpTHE

Due to the economic situation of the last years, Greece today conveys a similar feeling of creative awakening that Berlin had following the fall of the wall. Greece not only offers a multitude of innovations and creativity, but also a special connection to Berlin and, with it, the re:publica. As the birthplace of European culture, an intersection to the Balkans and beyond, Greece stands out as the next, relevant partner country. The port city of Thessaloniki, with its 2,300 year-old city history and multitude of creative legacies and innovations, makes it the ideal location for a long-lasting integration into the re:publica network.

"I've been visiting the city in the north of Greece together with other representatives from the Berlin creative scene for years now, and every time I catch myself thinking – I know this feeling from somewhere. The city always

feels special when you visit it. And what would fit better than organising a re:publica, with its special atmosphere, there. Done and done. I'm looking forward to our trip to Thessaloniki!" Andreas Gebhard, Director of the re:publica.

#rpDUB – A second round in Dublin on the 7 & 8 of September

After our first successful event in Dublin last year, the #rpDUB will be returning with a second edition on 7 and 8 September. We want to connect and network the Berlin community with Ireland and the world, with the local and international players and stakeholders from culture, society and politics. The re:publica Dublin offers us this opportunity: Dublin isn't just the connection to Europe's North, Ireland is also the European base for the big tech companies, as well as the gateway to the international creative and digital economy.

Tickets for the events in Dublin and Thessaloniki are already available on our website.

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About re:publica:

re:publica is the most exciting conference about the Internet and Digital Society in Europe. It brings together more than 8,000 participants to discuss the issues of the contemporary digital society. Here bloggers meet with politicians, scientists with entrepreneurs, artists with activists. The shareholders of republica GmbH, newthinking communications and Spreeblick Verlag, have been active in the field of net politics, digital culture and society for more than a decade. The next re:publica will take place in Berlin, on May 8-10, 2017.

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