



re:publica 2017: Three Days of Love Out Loud!

The eleventh re:publica: 9,000 participants from 71 countries ++ 500 hours of programme ++ Over 1,000 speakers +++ Let's re:connect EUROPE!

Berlin, 10 May 2017 – The eleventh re:publica came to an end today, closing out an event that welcomed over 9,000 participants from over 70 countries to the STATION-Berlin.

Over 1,000 speakers presented 500 hours of programme on 20 stages, dealing with questions concerning the digital community. The re:publica 2017 “Love Out Loud!” motto combined with 47% female speakers and 244 talks in English to make a statement for commitment, engagement and emancipation in the digital society. The highlights included talks by Kübra Gümüşay, Carolin Emcke and Elisabeth Wehling. Gümüşay encouraged the audience to conceive of their own topics instead of just reacting to right-wing provocations. Carolin Emcke reflected on re:publica's “Love Out Loud!” motto, and cognitive scientist Elisabeth Wehling explained the power of linguistic pictures. There was also a big turnout for the net political dialogue between Minister of the Interior Thomas de Maizière, Constanze Kurz and Markus Beckedahl.

Political topics once again found their way into the programme due to the global resurgence of restrictions on freedom of the press and communication. Standing up for a free and open society, and against hate speech and fake news was a common theme throughout the entire conference programme.

“It isn't enough to simply fight hate and violence. Positive alternatives are needed that people can say “yes” to. The re:publica programme presented countless examples of how to do this under the motto of “Love Out Loud!” and we're excited to see what will develop from it” – Tanja Haeusler.

“One of our goals and wishes for this re:publica was to offer a space where we could discuss and exchange ideas for possible solutions and strategies in dealing with negative phenomena such as hate speech or fake news on the web. We would be more than happy if our participants headed home motivated and used the rest of the year to show civic courage, both digitally and in analogue form, to stand up for an open society and for our democracy”, stated Markus Beckedahl, co-founder of the re:publica.

The diversity in the range of topics at the re:publica showed just how far digitalisation has permeated all areas of society. Besides current politics, topics concerning net culture, the future of work and virtual reality were also discussed. The events at the **re:health** and **re:learn** track generated a lot of interest this year, touching on digital healthcare and education. Participants were able to witness just how present modern technologies are in marine research and why environmental issues belong in the digital society at the **sub:marine** – our sub-conference in cooperation with the Science Year 2016*17 on the topic of Seas & Oceans. The science:fiction track was another highlight this year. It focused on the intersection of technological innovation and society and how the two push each other forward.

This year, over 40 makers, hackers and entrepreneurs from around the world came together at the fifth **Global Innovation Gathering (GIG)** to swap know-how, innovations and discuss issues concerning social innovations and the maker movement. The makerspace, hosted in cooperation with the FabLab Berlin, was home to numerous workshops where participants could tinker, solder and learn more about innovations in hardware.

Andreas Gebhard, Director and co-founder of the re:publica, summed up: "I'm truly overwhelmed by the international direction this year's re:publica took, with participants from over 70 countries, and I look forward to a further internationalisation of the re:publica through our re:connecting EUROPE project. I'm even more excited about the fact that we'll already be able to present our inclusive approach at different locations in Europe this year."

re:connecting EUROPE

Thanks to the support from Federal Foreign Office, we were able to bring together activists, founders, entrepreneurs and artists from all over Europe in the [re:connecting EUROPE Space](#) so that they could discuss and exchange ideas, projects and future possibilities. The connections formed at the space will then be carried back to both Dublin and Thessaloniki in September: the second edition of the #rpDUB, the Irish offshoot of the Berlin community conference, will take place on 7 and 8 September in Dublin. From 11 to 13 September, re:publica will then head from Europe's Northwest to the South-east: to Thessaloniki, for the first re:publica in Greece!

MEDIA CONVENTION Berlin

The turnout was huge: This year's MEDIA CONVENTION Berlin (MCB) was held over three days, covering topics such as successful new platform models and brands, journalism and diversity of opinion, artificial intelligence and algorithms, virtual and augmented reality, as well as new possibilities for storytelling. Various workshops offered the opportunity to discover topics like games or journalism. And for everyone who couldn't be there in person: all the MCB17 sessions were recorded by [ALEX TV](#), are available on [YouTube](#), and will be up on the MCB website soon: mediaconventionberlin.com

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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.

About MEDIA CONVENTION Berlin (MCB):

MEDIA CONVENTION Berlin (MCB) is one of Europe's pioneering media congresses. It is held by Medienboard Berlin-Brandenburg (MBB) and Medienanstalt Berlin-Brandenburg (mabb) and is taking place for the fourth time in cooperation with re:publica at STATION Berlin this year. From 8 to 10 May 2017, the stages of #MCB17 are dedicated to current issues of media and Internet politics, market trends and developments of digital media society. MCB and re:publica are once again expecting about 8,000 visitors from over 60 countries.

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