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Interdisciplinary Seminar and Workshop  
for Czech and German Young Professionals

June 24 – 28, 2015 (Leipzig/Prague)

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# **Great Energy Challenge in Europe**

In search for efficiency and sustainability  
in regional and European level

*Program of the Second Workshop of the Sixth Year  
of Czech-German Young Professionals Program  
(24 - 28 June 2015)*



## **ABOUT CGYPP**

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The Czech-German Young Professionals Program (CGYPP) is an international network for young professionals from Germany and the Czech Republic. The program links the fields of academia, business, media, public administration bodies and NGOs. Twelve young professionals from Germany and the Czech Republic are invited to participate in a series of workshops and to collaborate on relevant economic, political and social issues. Participants have a unique opportunity to enter into discussion with distinguished experts and to acquire practical advice, ideas and stimulus for their future professional careers. CGYPP brings together people with varying professional backgrounds. By exchanging and sharing experience and perspectives, participants will not only broaden their horizons but will also increase their social capital.

**[www.cgyp.eu](http://www.cgyp.eu)**

**[www.facebook.com/cgyp.eu](https://www.facebook.com/cgyp.eu)**

**#CGYPP**

## PROGRAM

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### Wednesday, June 24, 2015

- before 15:30      Arrival to Leipzig
- 15:30 - 16:00      Snacks and refreshments  
RAMADA Hotel Leipzig City Centre  
*Gutenbergplatz 1-5, 04103 Leipzig*
- 16:00 - 16:30      **Welcome and introduction to the program**  
Weronika Priesmeyer-Tkocz, EAB  
Michal Vít, AMO
- 16:30 - 18:45      **“Earth, Wind and Fire”**  
**German and Czech insights into energy and climate protection policy in Europe**  
Workshop and change of perspective in groups  
Weronika Priesmeyer-Tkocz, EAB
- 20:00 - 21:30      Dinner at the restaurant “Zuckerhut”

### Thursday, June 25, 2015

- 10:00 - 11:30      **How to provide citizens with sustainable energy and environmental technology in Europe: A best practice example**  
Prof. Dr. Hans Jochen-Schneider, CEO, EnergieCity Leipzig
- 11:30 - 12:30      **European trade center for energy: A short introduction**  
Alois Tost, independent energy consultant
- 12:30 - 13:30      Lunch at Café Wagner
- 14:30 - 16:30      **Energy consulting in Leipzig – Solidarity, sustainability and transparency under one single roof**  
Daniel Iglhaut, EnergieForen Leipzig
- 16:30 - 18:30      **Energizing the people – On the tracks of the peaceful revolution**  
Walking tour in the city
- 18:30 - 20:00      **“Love is like oxygen” – What is your fuel for life?**  
Highlights of the day, reflection and analysis
- 20:00 - 21:00      Dinner at Ratskeller Leipzig

## PROGRAM

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### Friday, June 26, 2015

- 09:00 – 10:30     **The energy saving municipality of Zschardraß: A textbook example for Europe?**  
Hans-Peter Kiesel, City council of Colditz
- 10:30 – 13:30     Reflection and discussion on the way to Prague
- 14:00 – 15:00     Arrival to Prague, check-in to hotel  
*Hotel U tří korunek, Cimburkova 28, Prague 3*
- 15:00 – 16:30     **Physical and mental energy in professional sport career**  
Šárka Strachová, World champion in slalom in alpine skiing
- 16:45 – 18:00     **Energy policy of the EU towards Russia – Unclear future**  
Michael Romancov, Lecturer, Faculty of Social Sciences, Charles University in Prague
- 19:30 – 21:00     **Czech energy policy making**  
Working dinner with Petr Skočdopole, Journalist, motejlek.com

### Saturday, June 27, 2015

- 08:30 – 12:30     **Simulation game: Electricity on stock market**  
Alois Tost, independent energy consultant
- 13:00 – 14:00     Lunch
- 14:30 – 16:30     **Internal workshop II**
- 18:00 – 22:00     **Teambuilding and dinner**

### Sunday, June 28, 2015

- 10:00 – 12:00     **Evaluation and preparations for next workshops**  
Weronika Priesmeyer-Tkocz, EAB  
Václav Bacovský, AMO
- after 12:00     Departure

## BIO - PARTICIPANTS

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**Lena BELEKE**

Lena works as a Concept Designer and Copywriter at communication agency Roth & Lorenz in Stuttgart. She studied communication design at the University of Applied Sciences and Arts in Dortmund in Germany and at Tomas Bata University in Czech Republic. During her studies she became a skilled visual communicator and developed practical and conceptual skills across a variety of media and communication platforms. She mainly focused on photography, graphic design, animation and film. She is an alumni of treibhaus 0.9, Germany's leading postgraduate program for Concept Designers working in the field of below-the-line marketing.

She likes design thinking and develops progressive ideas and concepts that connect brands and people through emotion, active participation and direct encounter. Clients she worked for include Mercedes-Benz Bank, the State Ministry of Baden-Württemberg and the Robert Bosch Stiftung.

As a creative Lena is naturally interested in trends and futurology that aim to make our planet a smarter and more sustainable place.



**Sabine DOMKE**

Sabine is a desk officer at the German Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy in the Department of Energy Efficiency. Currently, her main area of work is developing strategies to promote energy efficiency in the buildings sector. Before that, Sabine worked in the Federal Ministries of Transport and Environment as well as the Foreign Office on international and bilateral questions in the fields of energy policy and climate protection for many years. In 2008 she supported the French Ministry of Sustainable Development with regards to the French presidency of the European Union, handing over to the Czech presidency in 2009. Her academic background of "International Business Studies" (Maastricht and Tokyo) and "International Relations" (Berlin) helps her looking at energy policies from various perspectives. For her, the energy challenge consists in finding appropriate solutions to adjust sustainable energy production and societal needs.



**Daniel IGLHAUT**

Since early 2013 Daniel works as a consultant in business development in a medium sized company (R & D service provider for the energy utilities in Germany). Within this, he gained very good understanding of the German energy market and the ongoing and deep change of the utilities indicated by the energy turnaround. Among his focuses is innovation management in utilities and the impacts of demographical changes on the German energy market, especially on the financing of the electricity grids.

Previously he finished the M.Sc. "European Economic Integration of Central and Eastern Europe" in Leipzig and Warsaw. The master program focused on the ongoing process of the widening of the Union towards the CEE region and its economic implications as well as European law and the functioning of the European Union. Energy policy in German utilities is almost exclusively focusing on national issues. He applied for the CGYP in order to strengthen the need of a European perspective and the need of cross border cooperation in terms of energy issues.

## BIO - PARTICIPANTS

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**Tomáš HÁJEK**

Tomáš is responsible for Public Diplomacy and Communication at the Austrian Embassy in Prague. Before joining diplomacy, he was member of the Cabinet of the Czech Minister of Agriculture and also spent several months in the European Commission in Brussels. Tomas graduated from the University of Economics in Prague focusing on EU affairs and diplomacy. During his studies, he spent also few months at Vienna University of Economics and Business. Energy issues belong to his major topics at the Embassy and he believes that the participation at the CGYPP could substantially increase his knowledge about the German concept of energy security. Moreover, he looks forward to meeting inspiring colleagues with different backgrounds from Germany and the Czech Republic. In his leisure time Tomas draws energy from occasional guiding tourists in the mountains in Nordic countries and organising discussions about travelling. He is also co-founder of a civic association „Uličník“ focusing on creative ideas to improve public spaces in Czech towns as well as identifying best practices from abroad.



**Filip JIROUŠ**

Filip works as a Consultant in the Policy Department at eclareon, a Berlin-based consultancy focusing on renewable energy and energy efficiency. At eclareon, he analyzes the political, legal and administrative framework conditions for the development of renewable energy across the EU. Filip is responsible for the implementation and management of projects on behalf of the European Commission, the GIZ as well as German federal ministries. Due to his language skills, he is mainly in charge of research and consulting activities covering the countries of Central and Eastern Europe (Czech, Republic, Slovakia, Poland and Bulgaria). Filip studied Eastern European Sciences and Political Science in Berlin and Wrocław. He is a native speaker of both German and Czech.



**Jakub KUČERA**

Jakub works as an Economics Commentator at RSJ, a Prague-based investment company with interests in the energy industry. In this capacity, he publishes articles on various economic topics, including energy issues. In addition, Jakub is a PhD candidate at Charles University in Prague where he is specialising in the energy policy of the Russian Federation, in particular on the interplay between its energy sector and the economy as a whole. In Jakub´s opinion, markets should play a major role in the energy industry. Unfortunately, today´s prices on the energy markets do not reflect all the costs of energy generation, distribution and consumption. For instance, electricity prices at the Leipzig exchange depend heavily on the cost of power generation, while customers pay for the other costs, such as distribution, on a non-market basis. Not to mention the virtual exclusion from the market system of some energy policy goals, such as foreign-policy issues.

## BIO - PARTICIPANTS

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**Anna LAUGKS**

Anna works in customer management by 50Hertz, one of the transmission system operators in Germany. She is responsible for the application of the German subsidy for renewable energies and has to deal with the relevant stakeholders in the energy sector. She holds a Master's degree in Business and Law and studied prior to that Public Management in Berlin. By participating in the CGYPP, she wants to discuss current themes about the energy change in Europe and to have a closer focus on the Czech-German economic and cultural relations.



**Katharina  
RICHTER**

Katharina works as a project coordinator for a non-governmental organisation with a strong focus on research funding in the STEM fields and medicine, where she manages the application and funding processes. She gained her first professional experience by coordinating an interdisciplinary research centre at the Freie Universität Berlin. Katharina studied German studies, political science and sociology in Berlin and Prague. By participating in the CGYPP she seeks to deepen her knowledge in sustainability, and exchange ideas on societal and individual possibilities to actively change the ever growing energy consumption.



**Helena  
SCHULZOVÁ**

Helena works as an analyst and research coordinator at EUROPEUM Institute for European Policy. She graduated from International area studies and American studies at Charles University in Prague where she continues in a doctoral program. She has taught seminars on modern US society and contemporary issues of central Europe both at Faculty of Social Sciences at Charles University. Helena has focuses her research work on topics related to both on US and European energy policies but has also conducted research on various issues including reforms of diplomatic networks in EU member states. Thanks to her work at EUROPEUM, she has been able to take part on projects in Germany, Poland, Ukraine, Bosnia and Armenia.

In Europe, energy has been for a long time a puzzle of balance between security – sustainability and economic profit. Energy Union however has a potential to change that and add solidarity to this riddle. Solidarity is however a double-edged sword and requires a lot of responsibility, trust and understanding from all joining parties.

## BIO - PARTICIPANTS

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**Lukáš VÁLEK**

In his professional life Lukáš follows three main directions, at the moment. He is co-founder, manager of voluntary projects and lecturer in non-profit organization KURO Hradec Králove (KURO - Culture and Development in Czech language) which aims to promote voluntary experience as a real work and life experience and it supports and organizes cultural and educational events. The second occupation is related, and it is Regional representative for Erasmus+ for Královehradecký kraj. As a third occupation can be considered research of non-mainstream ways of economy especially time banks.

The current topic of CGYPP is very consistent with aforementioned interdisciplinary. It is about cooperation across the fields and borders that good ideas are supported and nourished, and not trampled down into dust of the past. With new sources of energy and new ways of economy, humanity has chance to develop models of both, which would be more humane and safer, decentralizing power to a sustainable framework for future.



**Robert VINICKÝ**

Robert works for E.ON Czech, where he heads up the Technical Development and Operation Department. In his role he is responsible for Innovation in the area of technical development & testing of products focused on Distributed Energy Products / Energy Solutions (e.g. Batteries, Renewables, Local Energy Systems), E-Mobility charging infrastructure development and Public Lighting business realization. Previously he was Managing director of his own startup and worked in Law Companies in Prague and Berlin, always concentrating on Renewable Energy Sources (PV and Biogas), Clean Mobility and Clean Technology Scouting and Implementation.

Robert decided to join the CGYPP program to connect with interesting people, to discuss and exchange about the many variations Energy in the Age of Globalization. When looking at energy from the global perspective, there are many things to discuss and think about, just like - What will be the price of energy when implementing renewables and new technologies? what will be the prices of energy transmission?



**Marta VOJTOVÁ**

Marta works at the Embassy of the Netherlands, where she supports Dutch businesses in the Czech Republic and works on strengthening ties between Dutch and Czech entrepreneurs. Before, she worked in business associations in Brussels (Eurochambres) and Prague (Czech Chamber of Commerce) as well as in the Czech public sector. She studied international relations in Prague and Copenhagen. She is an avid reader of the print media and if her baby boy allows her any free time she enjoys watching films and TV series such as Borgen or House of Cards.

She views the topic of sustainable energy from two perspectives: promoting Dutch business ideas, which very often revolve around the environment and sustainable energy solutions. On the other hand, she has found out in her private life that combining work and a baby requires energy management of a different, but nevertheless demanding sort. In both cases the outcome is similar, since in our world we need to find the most effective solutions for using the energy we have at our disposal without needing to resort to means that damage our environment.

### **Hans-Peter Kiesel**

Hans-Peter Kiesel has been working in public service for 25 years. He became main head official in 1994 and has since then seen various mergers of municipalities. The last merger took place in 2011 and involved the city of Colditz, the municipality of Zschadraß and parts of the municipality of Großbothen. Since 2006, Hans-Peter Kiesel has also been in charge of matters concerning energy issues (e.g. projects like the European Energy Award). Hans-Peter Kiesel is 59 years old, married with two grown-up daughters and two grandchildren. Before 1990, he worked as a metalworker for a big agricultural company.

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### **Šárka Strachová**

Šárka Strachová was born to a family with a plan: to mould a champion skier. It is no surprise then that the Czech alpine skier specialises in the slalom event and she shot to fame in the same discipline in the World Championships. In 2005 she claimed her first medal and that of her country with a bronze in the slalom at the World Championships and placed fifth in the combined. Two years later, she clinched the gold in the slalom and narrowly missed out on a double medal performance when she finished 4th in the super combined by a mere 0.2 seconds. Then in 2009, she took the only medal missing from her collection, the silver. In 2010 Olympics she placed third in the slalom. She repeated the bronze medal at 2015 Worlds after she successfully underwent a complicated brain surgery. In 2015, she co-founded VO2MAX, a company which provides entire holistic therapy and training system.

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### **Michael Romancov**

Michael Romancov, Ph.D is a lecturer at Institute of Political Studies, Faculty of Social Sciences, Charles University in Prague and at the Department of International Relations and European Studies at the Metropolitan University Prague. His main fields of interest are political geography and geopolitics, and political and social development in post-Soviet area.

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### **Petr Skočdopole**

Petr Skočdopole works as a journalist at the project Motejlek.com that focuses on Czech and Slovak billionaires and business as such. Previously, he was editor in chief of weekly Instinkt. Among his main fields of interests belong energy issues. Recently he did an extensive investigation of outsourcing activities of the ČEZ energy company.

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### **Earth, Wind & Fire**

Earth, Wind & Fire is an American band that has spanned the musical genres of R&B, soul, funk, jazz, disco, pop, rock, Latin, African and gospel. They are one of the most successful and critically acclaimed bands of the 20th century. Rolling Stone Magazine has described them as “innovative, precise yet sensual, calculated yet galvanizing” and has also declared that the band “changed the sound of black pop”. Earth, Wind & Fire is known for the dynamic sound of their horn section, their energetic and elaborate stage shows, and the interplay between the contrasting vocals of Philip Bailey’s falsetto and Maurice White’s tenor. The kalimba (African thumb piano) is played on all of the band’s albums. The band is also known as having been the first African-American act to sell out Madison Square Garden and to receive the MSG Gold Ticket Award. President Barack Obama invited Earth, Wind & Fire to perform at the White House for the first social event of the new administration. [Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia]

### **The Simpsons**

The Simpsons is an American animated sitcom created by Matt Groening for the Fox Broadcasting Company. The series is a satirical depiction of a middle class American lifestyle epitomized by the Simpson family, which consists of Homer, Marge, Bart, Lisa, and Maggie. The show is set in the fictional town of Springfield and parodies American culture, society, television, and many aspects of the human condition. Since its debut on December 17, 1989, the series has broadcast 574 episodes, and the 26th season began on September 28, 2014. The Simpsons is the longest-running American sitcom, the longest-running American animated program, and in 2009 it surpassed Gunsmoke as the longest-running American scripted primetime television series. The Simpsons has received widespread critical acclaim. Time magazine named it the 20th century’s best television series,[8] and The A.V. Club named it “television’s crowning achievement regardless of format”. On January 14, 2000, the Simpson family was awarded a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame. It has won dozens of awards since it debuted as a series, including 31 Primetime Emmy Awards, 30 Annie Awards, and a Peabody Award. Homer’s exclamatory catchphrase “D’oh!” has been adopted into the English language, while The Simpsons has influenced many adult-oriented animated sitcoms. [Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia]

### **Energy Metropolis Leipzig: a European centre of energy**

Leipzig aims to become one of Europe’s leading energy centres. It was in order to achieve this aim that the Power & Environment Cluster was set up. One of the cluster’s members is the City of Leipzig’s Office for Economic Development – other members are small, medium-sized and large enterprises and top energy research centres. The private sector, science and the local authority are all pulling together to boost the city’s energy sector. Expertise and intensive communication form the basis for fruitful cooperation. The annual Energy Metropolis Leipzig expert meeting attracts cluster members and partners from far and wide. Cluster work focuses on translating innovative ideas into viable projects. [<https://www.energiemetropole-leipzig.de/index.php/home.html>]

### **EnergieCity Leipzig**

EnergieCity Leipzig is a marketing and distribution platform as well as a centre of excellence for energy efficiency, renewable energy, and sustainable construction and refurbishment. Although a small firm with about ten members of staff, we work together with a large group of partners (over 50 companies) who support our activities financially as well as with equipment and expertise. The main focus of our activities is building and running EnergyEvent Centre Leipzig. In the first phase, we are erecting a two-storey cube-shaped exhibition building as an information hub and venue adjacent to the main railway station in central Leipzig. When complete, EnergyEvent Centre will contain 400 square metres of exhibition space, including 100 square metres for lectures and other events. The

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building is designed as a Plus-Energy House and will be equipped with several pioneering technical features. We expect to attract more than 26,000 visitors annually. In addition, the building will be regularly used as a venue for special events by our partners from industry, business, and public and private institutions as well as chambers of commerce, professional bodies and private educational establishments. In the long term, we plan to build a large technology centre that will also serve as an interactive exhibition for energy efficiency, renewable energy and sustainable building and refurbishment. In the shape of 'spindle building' (similar to the Guggenheim/Mercedes Benz Museum), it will contain floor space of about 8,000–10,000 square metres. Our goal is to create an interactive exhibition where visitors can explore sophisticated themes such as the energy transition and climate change using state-of-the-art equipment. We intend to make consumers aware of their power and encourage them to act. We want to highlight how even small steps can make a big difference if enough join in, and that a more sustainable lifestyle doesn't necessarily mean a lower quality of life. Another aim is to provide a networking platform for employers, policymakers, non-profit organizations and other actors working for the energy transition. We find that interdisciplinary teams are the best way to forge innovative solutions. EnergieCity Leipzig is also participating in several research and development projects focusing on innovative energy technology. We mostly focus on the role of demonstration partner in these projects, developing strategies to communicate the project findings and presenting them to professionals and the general public in our exhibition.

The region around the city of Leipzig is an important area for Central Germany's energy sector. Leipzig has an energy and environmental technology cluster consisting of commercial companies, administrative bodies and research organizations like the German Biomass Research Centre and the Helmholtz Centre for Environmental Research. Leipzig is also known as the cradle of the 1989 Peaceful Revolution, which ultimately led to the reunification of Germany. We're determined to spark another 'peaceful revolution' among consumers choosing a sustainable path to the future – and to become a driving force for greater energy efficiency and the use of renewable energy sources. [<http://www.energiecity-leipzig.de/introduction.php>]

### **Energieforen Leipzig**

Die Energieforen Leipzig GmbH ist tragender Bestandteil der Leipziger Foren Gruppe. Diese hat ihren Ursprung mit den Versicherungsforen Leipzig, die vor 13 Jahren aus der Universität Leipzig ausgegründet wurden. Die Energieforen sind neutraler Partner für Forschung und Entwicklung in der Energiewirtschaft. Innerhalb der „Leipziger Forengruppe“ gibt es ferner die Gesundheits-, Medien- und Softwareforen. Als Impulsgeber für die Energiewirtschaft zeichnet uns unser Praxis Know-how der Energiewirtschaft, wissenschaftliche Interdisziplinarität und Neutralität aus und bilden dabei die Grundlage für unsere anwendungsorientierte Forschungs- und Entwicklungsarbeit.

Mit dem Geschäftsfeld „Forschung“ stehen wir der Energiebranche für Trend- & Innovationsforschung, Studien & Umfragen sowie für spezifische Marktanalysen zur Verfügung. Wissenschaftliche Interdisziplinarität und Neutralität bilden dabei die Grundlage für unsere anwendungsorientierte Forschungsarbeit. Im Rahmen des Geschäftsfelds „Entwicklung“ übersetzen wir wissenschaftliche Erkenntnisse in anwendungsorientierte Management- und Beratungslösungen. Als Impulsgeber für die Energiewirtschaft entwickeln wir Innovationskonzepte und Geschäftsmodelle, Kundenbewertungsansätze durch Customer Touchpoint Management & Churnmanagement sowie Analytische Datenmodellierung sowie Software-Tools zur Kündigungsprävention und Marketingsteuerung für Energieversorger. Dem Netzwerkgedanken tragen die Energieforen insbesondere mit ihrem Angebot an User Groups, Workshops, Seminaren und Fachkongressen Rechnung. Damit bieten wir im Rahmen des Geschäftsfelds „Netzwerk“ themenspezifische Plattformen zum Gedanken- und Erfahrungsaustausch. Ein weiterer wichtiger Bestandteil des Netzwerks sind unsere Forenpartner, zu denen Energieversorger und branchennahe Dienstleistungsanbieter zählen. Ausgewählte Professuren und Institute ergänzen dieses Netzwerk um die wissenschaftliche Perspektive. [<http://www.energieforen.de>]

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### **Energizing the people – Monday Demonstrations in Leipzig**

Monday: Revolution! Leipzig and a moment of world history. On 9 November 1989 the Berlin Wall fell! What happened in Berlin – and moved the world – began in Leipzig.

Who were the people that brought a dictatorship to its knees with a peaceful protest? What were the causes of the end of the first ‘workers’ and farmers’ state on German soil’ – what was it in fact? At the original locations of historic events we follow in the footsteps of the demonstrators on their way to the Peaceful Revolution of 1989.

### **A Peaceful Revolution in Leipzig**

**By Andrew Curry in Leipzig**

Oct. 9 is a monumental day in German history. Twenty years ago, the residents of Leipzig took to the streets under the banner ‘We Are the People’ and sparked peaceful protests that would lead to the fall of the Berlin Wall only a few weeks later.

Pastors Christian Fuehrer and Christoph Wonneberger had never seen so many people in the Nicolaikirche, an 800-year-old church in downtown Leipzig. It was Oct. 9, 1989, and the two young pastors knew they were on the verge of something huge. “There were 8,000 people inside -- more couldn’t fit,” Fuehrer said. “When we came out of the church there were so many people expressing themselves and demanding their freedom.”

This was no spontaneous flash mob. By the summer of 1989, East German dissidents had been meeting at Leipzig’s 800-year-old Nikolaikirche for almost a decade to pray and talk politics. At times there were fewer than a dozen people in the church, but all through the 1980s the meetings happened every Monday without fail. Eventually, they attracted people eager to discuss a wide range of causes, from the environment to the right to travel freely.

By the fall of 1989, the prayer meetings had evolved into a nationwide movement centered in Leipzig. And on Oct. 9, Leipzig hosted the largest protest demonstration in East German history: Between 70,000 and 100,000 peaceful demonstrators braved warnings from the feared Stasi, or secret police, and thousands of armed riot cops to march around the city center. In the end, the police did nothing, setting the stage for a peaceful revolution that swept across East Germany.

On Friday, Leipzig is celebrating its pivotal role in the fall of communism with concerts, exhibitions, light shows and an anniversary march tracing the steps of the Oct. 9 demonstration that rocked East Germany and helped pave the way for the collapse of the Berlin Wall more than a month later. The events in Leipzig tend to be overshadowed by the sudden collapse of the Berlin Wall, which was photographed and filmed by hundreds of journalists and broadcast around the world. Leipzig was out of the way. There are just a few grainy tapes of the huge Monday Demonstrations, and outside of Germany they have mostly been forgotten.

But at the time, it helped that Leipzig was out of the spotlight. Although activists in Berlin had better contacts with Western journalists, the capital was under constant scrutiny. “Berlin was the showcase. In Berlin, everyone was minding their Ps and Qs for fear they’d get sent back to Karl Marx Stadt,” Peter Claussen, a US diplomat who worked in the American embassy in Berlin in the late 1980s, told SPIEGEL ONLINE. “People were more willing to take risks outside of Berlin.”

By the late 1980s, fueled in part by East Germans frustrated that they couldn’t leave the country, the Monday prayer meetings in Leipzig were attracting hundreds, and then thousands, of people -- the largest regular meetings in Germany. Average citizens began to take notice. So did the Stasi: Dozens were jailed for weeks for their involvement.

Fuehrer and Wonneberger, long the targets of intense secret police surveillance and pressure, were arrested in late September and told to call off the Monday meetings -- or else.

It wasn’t an empty threat. In the summer of 1989, East German politicians praised the Chinese decision to use violence against democracy activists camping in Beijing’s Tiananmen Square. In September and early October, East German police had cracked down forcefully on protesters in Dresden, Berlin and Plauen. Protesters marching in Leipzig on Oct. 2 were beaten by police. “People

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had seen pictures from Beijing," Jens Schoene, a historian and author of "The Peaceful Revolution: Berlin 1989/90 -- The Path to German Unity," says. "It wasn't at all clear it would be peaceful."

On Monday, Oct. 9, Fuehrer, Wonneberger and the others at the Nicolaikirche decided to go ahead with the scheduled protests. All of East Germany, it seemed, was holding its breath. "We were so worried they would come in and shoot everybody," said Dorothee Kern, then a graduate student in the nearby city of Halle. "We had goosebumps the whole day and the day before."

Dissidents prepared for the worst. Couples with kids made sure one parent stayed home, in case there was a police crackdown. Rumors flew around the city: Hospitals had been stocked with extra blood and beds; stadiums were readied to hold masses of arrested demonstrators. On his way home from work at the opera house in the middle of town that day, Leipziger Hans Georg Kluge remembers seeing the city filling with soldiers and police. "Everyone had to reckon with the state suppressing any demonstration," he says. "Violently, if necessary."

At 5 p.m., more than 8,000 people crowded into the Nicolaikirche. Four other Leipzig churches opened to accommodate thousands more protesters. After an hour-long service, Fuehrer led worshippers outside. The nearby Augustusplatz was jammed with demonstrators clutching lit candles. Prominent Leipzigers -- including Kurt Masur, the conductor of Leipzig's Gewandhaus Orchester -- read an appeal to protesters and police alike, urging them to keep the peace.

Slowly, the crowd began walking around Leipzig's ring road, past the Stasi headquarters and towards the train station. There were so many people on the road traffic and trams were blocked. Drivers left their cars in the middle of the streets and joined the march. Behind the scenes, police and Stasi officials were frantically trying to communicate with higher-ups in Berlin -- to no avail.

As the crowd made its way towards the city's century-old train station -- accompanied by thousands of helmeted riot police -- tension grew. But at the decisive moment, the police stood aside and let the protesters march by. "They didn't attack," Fuehrer says. "They had nothing to attack for." Organizers made sure the crowds gave the police no excuses. They carried nothing but candles and banners reading "We are the people." The Stasi planted plainclothes officers in the crowd to cause trouble, but they were all quickly surrounded and neutralized by protesters chanting "no violence." Historian Erhard Neubert later called that night East Germany's "October Revolution." At least 70,000 people -- perhaps as many as 100,000 -- took to the streets, making Oct. 9, 1989 the largest protest East Germany had ever seen. "People were on the streets and had the courage," Schoene says.

The time for violence was over. Secretly recorded footage of the march was broadcast on West German television, inspiring Monday Demonstrations all over East Germany in the weeks to come. The demonstrations in Leipzig doubled in size every week, attracting protesters from all over East Germany. By Oct. 23, 1989, a little less than two weeks before the Berlin Wall came down, more than 300,000 people filled Leipzig's city center, carrying candles and banners. Leipzig was nicknamed "Heldenstadt," or "hero city."

No one knew it at the time, but the peaceful Leipzig demonstrations exerted irresistible pressure to reform on the East German regime -- and led directly to the fall of the wall five weeks later. "It was a self-liberation. We did it without the dollar or the DAX, without the US or Soviet armies," Fuehrer says. "It was the people here who did it." [<http://www.spiegel.de/international/germany/we-are-the-people-a-peaceful-revolution-in-leipzig-a-654137.html>]

### Love is like Oxygen

"Love Is Like Oxygen" is a song by the British band Sweet, co-written by the group's guitarist Andy Scott and Trevor Griffin, a musician who had played with various unsuccessful bands before becoming a roadie and sound engineer, and released in January 1978. The song was a departure from earlier recordings by the Sweet, which were more guitar-driven and featured high vocal harmonies. The extended album version of the song, which appeared on their album *Level Headed*, incorporates strings and has some disco elements. Later that year it was honoured with a Song of the Year

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nomination at the Ivor Novello awards, although beaten by "Baker Street" by Gerry Rafferty. The song is frequently included on greatest hits compilations, usually in its edited single version. [Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia]

### **Zschadross: Good practice from Saxony**

The commune of Zschadross is a small community nowadays belonging to the municipality of Colditz in Saxony. Zschadross is one of the most active communes when it comes to renewable energies and energy saving in Saxony. They are also very innovative in developing new concepts for communal energy production.

According to the Mayor Matthias Schmiedel the commune started looking into their potential of saving energy in order to reduce their operation costs. The local council decided to start with the most visible and the easiest: in this case the street lightening. After 12 pm street lights have to be turned off. After this they continued to observe the energy saving potential for communal building such as the gym and the school. Additionally, the commune was also looking for possibilities to keep the value added in the region which let also the vision of an energy self-sufficient commune in 2050. The council decided to base the heating of communal buildings on local biomass. The small heating is running with wood chips that are based on local biomass. Wood is collected in the territory of Zschadross when cutting trees and bushes on streets and parks. Citizens themselves are also bringing their wood from the gardens to the so called 'Biomassehof'. This provides two third of biomass needed. The rest is produced in short rotation forestry by local farmers. They harvest in this way 10 to 12 t of wood each year. The wood chips need to be dehumidified. Together with an engineering office the commune developed a system to allow self drying of the wood chips. That takes 6-8 weeks. The wood pallets are then used all year in the small heating in the basement of the school. Some years ago a new big wind engine of around 2 MW power has been installed. This tower is around 38 m high. The commune owns 20% of this wind engine and can provide free of charge kindergarten with the income of the sold energy. [...]

If well informed and involved the citizens are very willing to support council decision on changing energy production in the region and certainly also changing their own behaviour to become more energy efficient. [<http://energitee.eu/blog/good-practice-from-saxony-%E2%80%93-ex-cursion-to-the-commune-zschadross/>]

**REMARKS**

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## REMARKS

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## PARTNERS & ORGANISERS

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**The Czech German Future Fund** promotes understanding between the Czechs and the Germans in various ways by increasing the number of bilateral meetings and expanding co-operation through support of joint projects, thus actively contributing to the renewal and strengthening of Czech-German relations.

>>[www.fondbudoucnosti.cz](http://www.fondbudoucnosti.cz)

**AMO - the Association for International Affairs** is a Czech independent non-governmental organization founded in 1997 that promotes international cooperation, conducts research, and hosts educational programs in the fields of international relations and Czech and European foreign and security policy.

>>[www.amo.cz](http://www.amo.cz)

**The European Academy Berlin (EAB)** was founded in 1963 as a non-party, denominationally independent conference venue and international meeting place, for study and information on European affairs and for civic education for adults. Activities in civic education focus primarily on tasks and challenges in European cooperation and integration, together with issues of international current affairs and modern society.

>>[www.eab-berlin.eu](http://www.eab-berlin.eu)

The programme in Leipzig is taking place with kind support of the Federal Foreign Office.

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