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## AgendaForum: 10<sup>th</sup> Agendaforum

The 10<sup>th</sup> Agenda Forum took place on the 25<sup>th</sup> of June at the FahRADhaus inside the Viennese Planungswerkstatt. The main focus lied on the **conclusion of the first LA21 Plus phase** that took place in the districts Wieden, Alsergrund, Donaustadt and Liesing and the **10-year anniversary of the Association LA21 Wien**.

The beginning was marked by a panel discussion about **“Participation and cooperatie Planning – more than a temporary fashion”** with city councilwoman Jennifer Kickert, city-psychologist Cornelia Ehmayer as well as urban planner Rudolf Scheuvs. Cornelia Ehmayer emphasised the importance of mutual trust and **strong social networks** for the success of participation processes. That these factors lead to success, is shown by the Lokale Agenda 21 Wien for many years. Rudolf Scheuvs pointed out, that **participation acts in particular as a communicative process** between planners, politicians and citizens. That's why transparency of procedures, the early inclusion of the population and the visualisation of results are especially important. For Jennifer Kickert politicians have the task to create a **suitable framework for participation**, and have to take an active part in communication processes with citizens.

Afterwards, teams consisting of politicians and citizens could test their knowledge of sustainable development and LA21 Plus at a **million-idea-show**. Questions like “When did the first LA21-process in Vienna start?”, or “How many people took part in the online survey for Wieden?” had to be answered, and with a little help from the audience and “phone-a-friend” all answers were found.



Finally, the **long lasting commitment** for a sustainable city- and district-development **of the four LA21 Plus districts** was honoured with the presentation of the “Agenda”, a custom made bronze statue, fabricated by the Viennese artist and Agenda-activist Angelika Rattay. To celebrate the 10-year anniversary of the Verein Lokale Agenda 21 Wien, managing director Andrea Binder-Zehetner presented a birthday cake, which was shared and enjoyed by all attendants.

Foto-Highlights

## AgendaFocus: 5<sup>th</sup> Viennese Neighbour's Day

On June 1<sup>st</sup>, in the context of the 5<sup>th</sup> Viennese Neighbour's Day **over 60 events** took place in Vienna. Countless Viennese took the opportunity to party, chat and play together. The program included different activities like festivals, district walks, sporting events, exhibitions and a lot more. Beyond that it was possible to participate in discussions about the **"Wiener Charta for a positive cohabitation"**.



For example the Neighbour's Day at Arenbergpark in the 3<sup>rd</sup> district used this event to a high extent. Moreover the gardeners of the new **neighbourhood-garden** informed about their project. The festival was framed by live-music, culinary delicacies and numerous activities for all ages. In the 22<sup>nd</sup> district **"Districtworlds in Shoe-Boxes"** could be gazed at: People living and working in Aspern visualised their view on their urban quarter in small format. An extensive program including dance shows, a musical and other performances took place at the festival-stage.

The Viennese and their celebration for the Neighbour's Day are in good company. Last year **more than 12 million people from 1.200 cities** worldwide joined the initiative! Together they took a symbolic stand for practised solidarity and a good neighbourhood.



In Vienna the Neighbour's Day is organized by the Lokale Agenda 21 Plus by the Wiener Hilfswerk, the Verein Wiener Jugendzentren, the Gebietsbetreuung Stadterneuerung, the wohnpartner and many private initiatives.

[www.nachbarschaftstag.at](http://www.nachbarschaftstag.at)



## AgendaNetworking: LA21 Summit at Graz

„More Citizens – More Value“ was the slogan of the 7<sup>th</sup> Austrian Lokale Agenda 21 Summit that took place between the 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> of July in Graz. Mayors, city councillors, dedicated citizens, policy makers at federal-, regional- and local level as well as process consultants were discussing over two days the significance of participation and the future viabilities of urban networks. A rich program consisting of **lectures, workshops and excursions** made sure there was enough variety and distinct impressions.

**Peter Filzmaier** gave a pointed lecture on democracy and participation that provided a lot of food for thoughts. Josef Ober reported on the Styrian “**Vulkanland**” as an example for a region that is setting out for a bright future and Gerhard Rüscher, councillor of finance of Graz, talked about the innovative approach of civic participation in his city.



The excursions took the attendants to the town of Kapfenberg where the **LA21-process “Living together at the Mürzbogen”** is taking place. With a process focusing on a community work approach it is made possible for local people to **actively shape their living environment**. Other field trips led to the South-Styrian wine-growing country or to the natural Park Almenland at Arzberg.

[www.landentwicklung.steiermark.at/cms/ziel/72806848/DE/](http://www.landentwicklung.steiermark.at/cms/ziel/72806848/DE/)



## AgendaGlobal: UN-Conferenz Rio+20

Between the 20<sup>th</sup> and the 22<sup>nd</sup> of June 2012, the “**Rio+20 United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development**” took place. The central topics were “**Green Economy**”, which means sustainable economic activity and employment creation in such fields, as well as “**Environmental Governance Reform**” where institutional changes of the United Nations were discussed.



**RIO+20**  
United Nations  
Conference on  
Sustainable  
Development

In advance the conference had to withstand **severe criticism**, because important political actors like the US-American president Barack Obama, the German Federal Chancellor Angela Merkel and the British Premier David Cameron stayed absent. In addition the Austrian Foreign Minister Nikolaus Berlakovich cancelled his visit at short notice.

**Beyond that the host country Brazil raised resentment, because it brought up a final declaration in advance without any precise goals or timetables.**

Many **NGOs demanded clear and measurable sustainability goals** for water, food and energy, for the further process of international negotiations. Furthermore they claimed the usage of natural resources and social costs have to be included into the economic calculations of governments and companies.

In Austria the conference was accompanied by the “Initiative Rio+20”. The LA21 Plus Wien supported the youth-interest-group JUMP, which made it possible for two adolescents to visit the conference and work out their own positions.

[www.uncsd2012.org/rio20/index.html](http://www.uncsd2012.org/rio20/index.html)

[www.rioplus20.at](http://www.rioplus20.at)

[www.jugendumweltplattform.at](http://www.jugendumweltplattform.at)