



Austrian Chairmanship  
Council of Europe  
November 2013 – May 2014  
Présidence de l'Autriche  
Conseil de l'Europe  
Novembre 2013 – Mai 2014



Invitation to the

# Symposium

**Municipalities and Regions  
as the Foundation of Modern Civil Society**

February 7, 2014

***Conference Venue: Europasaal***  
***Location: Edmundsburg, Salzburg***



**STADT : SALZBURG**

The Congress  
  
Le Congrès



**UNIVERSITÄT  
SALZBURG**

# Symposium Programme

## 9.00h Welcome

**Prof. Dr. Heinrich SCHMIDINGER**  
*Rector of the University of Salzburg*

**Dr. Heinz SCHADEN**  
*Mayor of the City of Salzburg*

**DDr. Herwig VAN STAA**  
*President of the Congress*  
*President of the Land Tyrol State Legislature*

**Dr. Brigitta PALLAUF**  
*President of the Land Salzburg State Legislature*

**Helmut MÖDLHAMMER, Mayor**  
*President of the Austrian Association of Municipalities*

## 9.20h

***Citizen Participation, from a Comprehensive Perspective***  
***Exploring and analyzing how to activate civil society***

**Lectures:** **Prof. Dr. Klaus POIER**  
*University of Graz*

**Prof. Dr. Anna GAMPER**  
*University of Innsbruck*

**Remarks:** **Mag. Manfred HELLRIEGL**  
*“Zukunftsbüro”, Government of the Land Vorarlberg*

**Moderation:** **Prof. Dr. Reinhard HEINISCH**  
*University of Salzburg*

## 11.00h Coffee Break

## 11.20h

***Is the Political Discourse Comprehensible Enough to Allow for a Civil Society?***  
***The role of transparency and media when communicating politics and communal values***

**Address:** **Anders KNAPE**  
*President of the Swedish Association of Local Authorities and Regions*  
*Vice-President of the Congress*

**Remarks:** **Merve Serire TOPDAŞ**  
*Member of the Youth Regional Network of the Assembly of European Regions (AER)*

**Manfred PERTERER**  
*Editor-in-Chief, Salzburger Nachrichten*

**Moderation:** **Dr. Andreas KIEFER**  
*Secretary General of the Congress*

**13.00h Midday Break, Luncheon Buffet provided**

**14.30h**

***Citizen Participation Internationally***

*The role of participation in questions of location development and as a socioeconomic driver*

**Lecture: Prof. Dr. Norbert KERSTING**  
*University of Muenster*

**Remarks: Blanca Soláns GARCÍA**  
*Director General for Citizen Participation, the Government of the Autonomous Community of Aragon*

**Dr. Angelika POTH-MÖGELE**  
*Director of Policy, Council of European Municipalities and Regions (CEMR)*

**Moderation: Gudrun MOSLER-TÖRNSTRÖM**  
*Second President of the Land Salzburg State Legislature*  
*Head of the Austrian Delegation in the Congress*

**16.00h Final Reflections**

**16.30h Conclusion**

**How to register**

Via the Internet module: [http://gemeindebund.at/fg\\_form.php?formID=60](http://gemeindebund.at/fg_form.php?formID=60)

Contact: Nicolaus Drimmel, Österreichischer Gemeindebund  
[office@gemeindebund.gv.at](mailto:office@gemeindebund.gv.at); Tel.: +43-1-5121480; Fax: +43-1-5121480-72

**Accommodations**

For conference participants requiring accommodations, a number of hotel rooms have been made available for booking until January. Nonetheless, early booking is recommended. All hotel arrangements include breakfast and are within easy walking distance (max. 10 minutes) from the conference venue.

*Conference Hotels:*

<b>Hotel Stein:</b> € 129 per room; <a href="http://www.hotelstein.at/de/info">http://www.hotelstein.at/de/info</a> <b>Book by January 5, 2014</b> under <a href="mailto:reservation@hotelstein.at">reservation@hotelstein.at</a> , reservation number: "51448"
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<b>Star Inn Hotel:</b> € 76 per person; <a href="http://starinnhotels.com/star-inn-hotel-salzburg-zentrum">http://starinnhotels.com/star-inn-hotel-salzburg-zentrum</a> <b>Book by January 13, 2014</b> under <a href="mailto:salzburg.zentrum@starinnhotels.com">salzburg.zentrum@starinnhotels.com</a> , booking code „Kongress der Gemeinden & Regionen 60977“
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<b>Altstadthotel Kasererbräu:</b> € 89/double € 69/single <b>Book by January 6, 2014</b> under <a href="mailto:info@kasererbraeu.at">info@kasererbraeu.at</a>
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<b>Gablerbräu Star Inn: Standard:</b> € 73/single € 99/double; Business: € 88/single € 114/double <a href="http://starinnhotels.com/star-inn-hotel-salzburg-gablerbraeu">http://starinnhotels.com/star-inn-hotel-salzburg-gablerbraeu</a> <b>Book by December 23</b> only (!!) under <a href="mailto:c.tuppinger@starinnhotels.com">c.tuppinger@starinnhotels.com</a>
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The Land Salzburg and the Austrian Association of Municipalities in cooperation with the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe, the City of Salzburg, and the University of Salzburg have the pleasure of inviting to a Symposium on

***Municipalities and Regions  
as the Foundation of Modern Civil Society.***

On November 14, 2013 Austria took over the six-month Presidency of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe during which the strengthening of democracy at the local and regional level will be a particular priority. For this reason, the organisers intend this symposium to be a forum for tackling questions of enhancing democratic participation and thereby advancing the public good.

Municipalities and regions have the distinct advantage of being in close touch with the people and, thus, a better idea not only of how to bring about a culture of community and togetherness but also about where societal change is pushing us to find new pathways for participation. Clearly, we need to provide people both with the capacity to participate and the impetus to actively shape their environment and future.

By drawing on noted experts from politics, public administration, and the academia, the symposium will give an account of the legal, institutional, and empirical context of citizen participation, introduce various concrete examples of innovative participation, and take issue with the role of the media in democratic development.

**Conference venue:**

**Edmundsburg, Mönchsberg 2,  
5020 Salzburg;**

Visitors arriving by car are asked to park in "Altstadtgarage Mitte" (Section B) and then proceed through the tunnel toward the exit "Ausgang Festspielhäuser (Toscaninihof)" to find the lift to the venue about 50m prior to the exit on the right. One may also exit the tunnel and walk up the stairway immediately to left of the exit ("Clemens-Holzmeister-Stiege").

