

# IRL! THE MOST INSPIRING FESTIVAL FOR THE DIGITAL SOCIETY IS COMING TO DUBLIN.

re:publica



#rpDUB OCT 20

## First Programme Highlights of re:publica Dublin

- +++ Privacy, FinTech and Hate Speech: Hot topics in the German and Irish community
- +++ Live broadcast to the Irish Embassy in Berlin

**Berlin, September 28th, 2016** – Today, re:publica presents the first parts of its Dublin programme. At various stages in three unusual locations, talks and debates on surveillance, privacy or FinTech will take place. But subjects like hate speech and populism are equally important in both countries. More than 60 submissions from members of the German and Irish digital community have reached us in the past month through our “Call for Participation”.

### Pokemon Go, Blockchain and Video Surveillance

re:publica participants discuss data security in virtual environments, illustrated by the example of Pokémon Go. The latest version of the cult game connects a virtual gaming environment with the real world using augmented reality. But what if you find out your own house is registered in a globally accessible database?

The blockchain might well be the driving force behind the next-generation Internet. Shermin Voshmgir, founder of the Berlin Blockchain Hub, will speak at re:publica about how blockchain and similar technologies dovetail with existing legal structures.

The widespread use of video technology for surveillance of public spaces is still the topic of an open debate. Its main focus is on technological opportunities, on questions of data protection and the according current legislation, as well as public awareness.

Other highlights of the program include a discussion of the influence of algorithms on current political discussions, as seen with phenomena from #Trump to #Brexit, and a talk on how social media can be used as a tool for organizing protest movements.

### Guest speaker from Dublin and London

In addition to the topics from our “Call for Participation”, re:publica will feature several contributions from invited guest speakers. These include Rachel O’Dwyer and Peter Neumann. Rachel O’Dwyer, a researcher and faculty member of Trinity College Dublin, is sharing her insights into the development of electronic forms of payment and digital currencies, with a re:publica talk on how different digital payment technologies are changing society. Professor Peter Neumann, director of the International Centre for the Study of Radicalisation (ICSR) at King’s College London, and one of the world’s leading experts on extremism and radicalization, will explore the relationship between social media and terrorism in his presentation.

## Live broadcast to the Irish Embassy in Berlin

During the Opening Ceremony on the night before the first re:publica ever held outside Germany, the Irish Embassy in Berlin is hosting a discussion forum, with members of the European Parliament, members of the German Bundestag, and representatives from associations and corporations. re:publica is part of this forum and will participate via a live transmission from Dublin.

Ambassador Michael Collins in Berlin: "We are delighted that Berlin's internet and society conference, re:publica, has chosen Dublin for its first overseas conference which will take place on 20 October this year. Berlin and Dublin are both home to thriving start-up, digital and tech sectors with a flow of professionals, of business and of ideas between both cities. The re:publica conference offers a great opportunity to develop these links even further and to mark the occasion we will be hosting an event in our own Embassy in Berlin on the eve of the conference taking place."

Andreas Gebhard, CEO of republica GmbH: "School trip! For the very first time, we're going travelling, and taking all interested visitors from re:publica Germany to Ireland with us. I am looking forward to new networks, ideas and exchange on a European level. And maybe when the next re:publica in Berlin comes around in May 2017, there will already be first results of our cooperation visible which started in Dublin – that would be fantastic!"

## First re:publica in Dublin

re:publica is looking to internationalize its community even more. In the end, issues like net politics, digital rights, and the development of the digital society concern all of us. Therefore, on October 20, 2016, re:publica will be held outside of Berlin for the very first time. At the one-day conference in Dublin, participants from Ireland and abroad come together to discuss aspects of the digital society and connect.

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## About re:publica:

re:publica is the largest 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 and digital culture and society for more than a decade. They run two of the most well-known blogs in Germany: netzpolitik.org and spreeblick.com. The next re:publica will take place in Dublin, on October 20, 2016.

## Weitere Informationen und Pressekontakt:

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