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## Cultural capitals meet in Chemnitz - collecting data for sustainability

From [Jens Kassner](#)



**How can the success of a Capital of Culture year be measured? What can future title holders learn from previous ones? Experts spent two days discussing these questions in Chemnitz.**

Chemnitz. Rita Orlando has travelled from Matera. The small city in the south of Italy was the European Capital of Culture in 2019. "It's a long journey from the application to the legacy," she says in her lecture at Wirkbau Chemnitz. Her view therefore extends to 2035. It is also essential for Chemnitz that the lights do not go out at the end of 2025, but that lasting effects remain, commonly referred to as legacy.

At the end of the two-year Cultourdata project, representatives from seven Capital of Culture cities, applicant cities and other experts as well as a representative of the EU Commission met in Chemnitz on Wednesday and Thursday together. The topic sounds brittle, but it is important for the evaluation of processes that involve a lot of money. It's about how to collect reliable data, what the criteria should be, how to analyse it and what to do with this knowledge.

### Bundled expertise

Beatriz Garcia, who now works at the University of Liverpool, has spent 25 years in various roles dealing with the preparation, implementation and sustainability of European Capitals of Culture. "The project is geared towards recognising where there are continuities and where there are gaps," she says. "It is essential to examine what we have achieved and what is missing."

Beatriz Garcia sees a great opportunity for us in Chemnitz to learn from others. "There are a lot of lessons that can be analysed."



## Learning in the process

Boris Kaiser, who organised the meeting for the CWE, agrees. He was able to learn a lot about handling data. Not all of the guests are cultural or tourism managers; there are also IT specialists, including Rui Barroso from Evora in Portugal. Although the city will not be organising the event until 2027, he is already in the process of setting up the basics of statistical recording.

There have been several pilot projects within the programme. For example, employees of the Hotel Chemnitzer Hof were asked about their expectations. "We were able to derive important insights from this," says Kaiser. Above all, it is important to provide the stakeholders with a broad basis of information. The survey will be repeated at a later date. (kas)

[Home page](#)