

42. INTERNATIONALER
HANSETAG NEUSS
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Documentation
42nd International Hanseatic Day Neuss 2022
In the flow of time

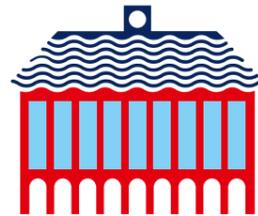


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Mayor Reiner Breuer

Dear Readers,

Together with many people from Neuss and numerous guests from Germany and Europe, we celebrated the 42nd International Hanseatic Day in Neuss with a wonderful festival. After two years of pandemic, people were grateful to finally be able to come together again and spend a peaceful weekend with dear friends and hundreds of thousands of visitors from many countries and to forget their everyday worries for a few hours.

More than 1000 delegates from around 100 Hanseatic cities in 14 countries not only experienced a beautiful festival, but also lived the spirit of the Hanseatic League as both a living and cultural community of cities. In doing so, they are making a contribution to the economic, cultural, social and national unification of Europe. Just how important this is is shown today by Russia's war against Ukraine, and thus against a free Europe, which has been raging in Europe for months.

My special thanks go to all those who have helped to make the International Hanseatic Day 2022 in Neuss a complete success. In addition to the team at the Hanseatic Office and Neuss Marketing, who have prepared everything over the years, developed ideas for the festival and ensured its successful realisation, I would especially like to thank the countless volunteers. Without the volunteers from among the citizens of Neuss, but also from other cities in Germany and Europe, as well as from the city administration, we would not have been able to hold the event. This shows me again that the people of Neuss form a functioning urban community that we can always rely on. That is why I am proud to be mayor of this Hanseatic city!

Your

Reiner Breuer
Mayor of the Hanseatic City of Neuss

Neuss, September 2022

The Hansa

The Hanseatic League was initially an association of North German merchants that was transformed into a community of cities in the mid-14th century. In its heyday, the Hanseatic League included over 220 maritime and inland towns in northern Europe. The area extended from England to what is now Belgium and the Netherlands, the Rhineland, the Gulf of Finland, the Baltic Sea and Thuringia. Representatives of the towns gathered for the first time in 1356 for the Hanseatic Day.

The long-distance merchants had come together in the league of towns in order to jointly pursue their economic interests and to trade. Once a year, the representatives of the Hanseatic towns met at the Hanseatic Day to deal with all the important matters of the community. The Hanseatic Day was the supreme authority and the body of the community at which its interests were negotiated, decided and enforced. These include, in particular, the ratification of treaties, the negotiation of trade privileges, negotiations with foreign rulers, decisions on peace, war and economic blockades, the establishment of economic regulations and admission to or exclusion from the community.

For over 400 years, the Hanseatic League helped shape economy, trade and politics until it lost its importance in the 17th century. The last Hanseatic Day took place in 1669.

But today the Hanseatic League is alive again. The Hanseatic Days of New Time are the meetings of the New Hanseatic League held annually in one of the member cities. Former Hanseatic cities re-established the Hanseatic League in the Dutch city of Zwolle in 1980 to revive the cross-border Hanseatic idea, to promote the self-confidence of the Hanseatic cities and to develop cooperation. With over 190 cities from 16 countries in Northern Europe, the New Hanseatic League is the world's largest voluntary association of cities. The aim of this league of cities, THE HANSA, is to contribute to the economic, cultural, social and national unification of Europe.



The Hanseatic City of Neuss

Even though Neuss was not an official member of the historical Hanseatic League of Cities, the city had enjoyed the “Hanseatic privilege” from 1475, according to which Neuss had the same “honour, dignity, advantage, law and justice” as other Hanseatic cities. Neuss owes its Hanseatic privilege to Emperor Frederick III, who granted it to the town in 1475 after it had successfully repelled the siege of the

Duke of Burgundy. Neuss never took part in the historic Hanseatic Days because, as a “special case”, it was not an official member of the “league of towns”. Since 1980, however, the city has been part of the “New Hanseatic League” and in 2009 became a founding member of the Rhenish Hanseatic League. The 42nd International Hanseatic Day 2022 was the second Hanseatic Day hosted by Neuss.



Opening event



Presenter Wolfram Kons, known from the RTL telethon and the TV-Show “Guten Morgen Deutschland” (Good Morning Germany) and a true “Nüsser Jung” (young man from Neuss), led the opening event in the RennbahnPark. He introduced the Hanseatic cities as they marched in, announced the motto song of the 42nd International Hanseatic Day 2022 in Neuss and handed over to Mayor Reiner Breuer. As host, Mr Breuer welcomed the numerous guests from all over Europe and officially opened the Hanseatic Day together with the President of the Hanseatic League, Jan Lindenau.



Afterwards, the Deutsche Kammerakademie Neuss am Rhein gave a great open-air concert on the big stage in the RennbahnPark. In a similar vein to the Rosengarten concert, the orchestra, under the direction of chief conductor Christoph Koncz, thrilled the audience with a rousing programme true to the Hanseatic Day motto “In the flow of time”.





VERANSTALTUNGSBEREICHE

- Hansemarkt
- Hafenmarkt
- FairTrade-Markt
- Kulturmeile
- Zeitsprünge
- HANSEartWORKS
- youthHansa
- Hanse-Jahrmarkt
- Hauptbühne
- Hansekids

SEHENSWÜRDIGKEITEN

- Quirinusmünster
- Zeughaus
- Rathaus
- Alte Post
- Obertor
- Stadthalle

ORIENTIERUNG

- Parkplatz
- Parkhaus
- Fahrradständer
- WC barrierefrei
- Informationsstand
- Rundweg



hansetag2022.com



A Hanseatic Day of short distances

In one of the oldest cities in Germany a major international event is taking place with a variety of events and things to see, so the question arises as to what one can discover as a visitor. It was important here that no either/or question should be asked. The idea was to create a Hanseatic Day of short distances in Neuss so that visitors could explore everything.

The 42nd International Hanseatic Day 2022 in Neuss was based on the aim of efficiently connecting the most popular sights of the city and the event areas of the Hanseatic Day. This is how the idea of a Hanseatic circular route came about. Or rather: The idea of a "Hanseatic footpath." On a route of 1.6 km, it was possible for visitors and delegates alike to explore all the event areas of the Hanseatic Day and to visit at the same time the most beautiful corners of the city on foot without requiring any great navigational effort or distance covered. A blue wavy marking on the floor served as a guide.

For example, from the Obertor (upper gate), you could reach the lower market via the "culture mile" on Oberstraße and the square at the

RomaNEum with the FairTrade market. From here, the route led to the harbour to the harbour market, the Hanseatic fair and main stage in the RennbahnPark or from harbour basin 1 to the Hanseatic market in the shadow of St. Quirin with the pagoda tents of almost 100 Hanseatic cities in Europe. Through the city centre and the Neustraße with its small cafés and shops, you quickly reached the Alte Post and thus HANSEartWORKS as well. In the green area behind the Alte Post was the "Playground for Hansa kids". From there, the circular route continued through the green space along the Erftmühlengraben to the "time jump" medieval market behind the Clemens Sels Museum. On the stage there, the artists not only took you back to historical times but the children's theatre found its stage as well. Behind this area, you could return to the town hall for official meetings of the delegates or begin again at the Obertor.

In cooperation with the city's inclusion officer, the path was designed in such a way that it was barrier-free and thus also accessible for people with restricted mobility.



A round trip to over 80 cities



The Hanseatic market was a large tourism fair. A total of 83 cities of the Hanseatic League presented themselves from Friday to Sunday on Münsterplatz, Freithof and Damenstiftsplatz. In addition to 62 cities from Germany, guests from Belgium, England, Estonia, Finland, France, Iceland, Lithuania, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland and Sweden had also registered. The visitors experienced a programme that was colourful and lively and also attractive in a culinary sense, so they were able to gather ideas for their next city trip.



Brilon presented itself with a large tepee. This town in Sauerland would actually have hosted the International Hanseatic Day 2020, which could only take place virtually due to the Corona pandemic. A successful joint presentation was provided by the North German Hanseatic village with Hanseatic cities of the Nordic region.



On two stages, cultural groups, shanty choirs, jazz bands and folklore dance groups put on a varied programme on all three days. It was moderated by NEWS-89.4 presenter Timo Gerke and cabaret artist Harry Heib.







Rhenish Hansa

The four Rhenish Hanseatic towns of Emmerich, Kalkar, Neuss and Wesel could be found at the Hanseatic market with a view of the St. Quirinus Minster. Since 2009, these cities have joined forces in the Rhenish Hanseatic League. The aim is to jointly promote the economy, tourism and awareness of the Hanseatic League in the Rhenish homeland as well.

Since then, the **Rhenish youthHansa** has pursued the goal of bringing young people into contact with the Hanseatic League in order to identify themselves as Hanseatic citizens and thus discover the potential of the New Hanseatic League for themselves. Through joint activities in the respective cities and by appearing together at city festivals, the young people can get to know their Hanseatic neighbours in the region. In this way, they are contributing to the long-lasting and sustainable revitalisation of this league of cities.





The Fair Hansa - a project within the Hanseatic League

Goods from all over the world were - and still are - traded and shipped in the Hanseatic cities. However, the conditions for production and workers are not equally good everywhere. Fair Trade products provide a safeguard against these problems and the Hanseatic League has also committed itself to these and at the 38th International Hanseatic Day in Rostock it adopted common guidelines. The FairTrade Market at the RomaNEum reflected this important aspect as part of the Hanseatic Day in Neuss. Extensive information was provided in lectures and workshops and at the market stalls. GEPA, The Fair Trade Company from Wuppertal, was also among the exhibitors. The company is a pioneer in the field and has been trading in fair products for over 40 years.

The goods were also brought closer through food and drink tastings and a cooking show on Saturday afternoon. The chef of the Holiday Inn Neuss, Ulf Spelter, prepared a fair trade menu. A prominent guest, the former professional footballer and native of Neuss, Wolfgang Funkel, visited the Fair-Trade Market as patron of a campaign in which all the mayors of the Hanseatic cities were invited to take part in goal wall shooting.



International Hanseatic Day and Global Trade - an occasion for discussion

A week before the International Hanseatic Day, the Forum Ernährungsrat (Nutrition Council) of Neuss, agenda 21 had extended invitations to the cultural forum 'Alte Post' for the 22nd Neuss City Talk. The event entitled "Food from all over the world and our region - from the field to the plate, often a long way" - was met with great interest by around 50 citizens. Speaker Dominik Groß from the Christian Initiative Romero explained the complex topic of global trade, supply chains and opportunities for local economies by means of a comprehensive presentation. On the podium, ecotrophologist Julia Sticker from the Nutrition Council, kitchen manager Holger Böker, organic farmer Heinrich Hannen and Gerd Fa-

ruß from terre des hommes engaged in discussion together with the audience. Dorle Gothe from Regionalwert AG Rheinland was the moderator. Active climate and environmental protection as well as species extinction and biodiversity challenge us to rethink and redirect our shopping and eating behaviour. This was what this city talk called for and at the same time gave valuable suggestions and examples.

It is hard to imagine the Hanseatic League without a port. That's why there was a harbour market at the International Hanseatic Day in Neuss, where gourmets got their money's worth. Whether fine wines, high-proof gin, good food or a heavenly dessert - the small gourmet mile with many regional offerings at harbour basin 1 with a view of the city's landmark - the St. Quirinus Minster - a Ferris wheel and the harbour invited visitors to linger and enjoy on two levels.

Harbour market

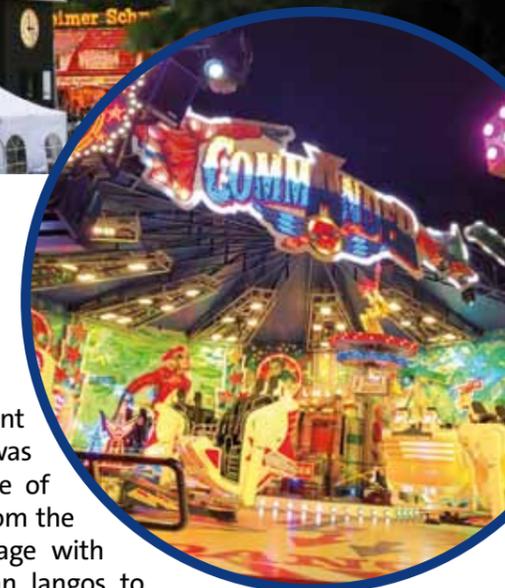




Hanseatic fair

The Hanseatic fair served as a link between the Hanseatic market, where the different Hanseatic cities presented themselves, and the large main stage. With the blessing of the Ferris wheel, as it went on its journey for the first time, the Hanseatic fair opened here on May 25th. Finally, after a two-year break, that funfair feeling was back again in Neuss. The smell of fresh popcorn, the whizzing of the fast rides, the announcements of the stallholders - the Hanseatic fair offered all of this to Neuss residents and delegates on their way to the main stage. As well as the Ferris wheel, the "Flying Carpet" (1001 Nights) provided a little more adrenaline at a height of 30 metres. There was also plenty of action at the "Musik Express" and the "Commander". And for children as well, carousels and classic game booths, such as duck fishing or camel races, offered up a lot

of fun on the event grounds. There was also a wide choice of food and drink. From the classic curry sausage with chips to Hungarian langos to potato pancakes or crêpes, there was something for everyone.





HANSEartWORKS “Performance Lounge” at the Kulturforum Alte Post

HANSEartWORKS 2022 was all about performance: Twelve Hanseatic cities sent their artists and artist groups to Neuss and provided a very varied programme. The participants focused not only on the Alte Post, but also on the surrounding urban space and involved the entire city centre of Neuss with a wide variety of events.

The Alte Post invited people to “drop in” and linger in the performance lounge, as it was a meeting place, a space for synergies, spontaneity and improvisation. Just as the curatorial team had planned and wished it to be. Many new contacts were made between the participating artists and the enthusiastic audience, who, as is usual with performance, were able to experience art up close. The idea of HANSEartWORKS was fully realised: International understanding and sustainable networking through personal encounters. The Performance Lounge in Neuss 2022 will still echo to many a cultural reverberation.

Participants: Jérôme Abel (La Rochelle, France), Anke Ames (Dortmund), Billeneeve (Pärnu, Estonia), Astrid Brünner & Marcus Schramm (Greifswald), famka (Neuss), Janine Gerber (Lübeck), Edith de Jong (Hattem, Netherlands), Kerstin Möller (Hanover), Lydia Klammer (Wismar), Leonardo (Pärnu, Estonia), Malefikanten (Stade), Honorata Martin (Gdansk, Poland), Theodor Ryan (Visby, Sweden), Toruńska Orkiestra Improwizowana (Toruń, Poland)





Open-air concerts on the main stage in the RennbahnPark

In addition to the markets, there were various stages on which different artists performed for four days. In addition to the official opening and closing ceremonies, a wide variety of concerts with free admission took place on the main stage in the RennbahnPark on all of the days.

The opening event with Mayor Reiner Breuer and the President of the League of Cities "THE HANSA" and Mayor of Lübeck, Jan Lindenau, was moderated by the well-known television presenter Wolfram Kons from Neuss. Afterwards, the Deutsche Kammerakademie Neuss played on the Rhine from 8 pm. True to the motto of the Hanseatic Day "In the flow of time", chief conductor Christoph Koncz had put together a rousing programme for a large symphony orchestra.

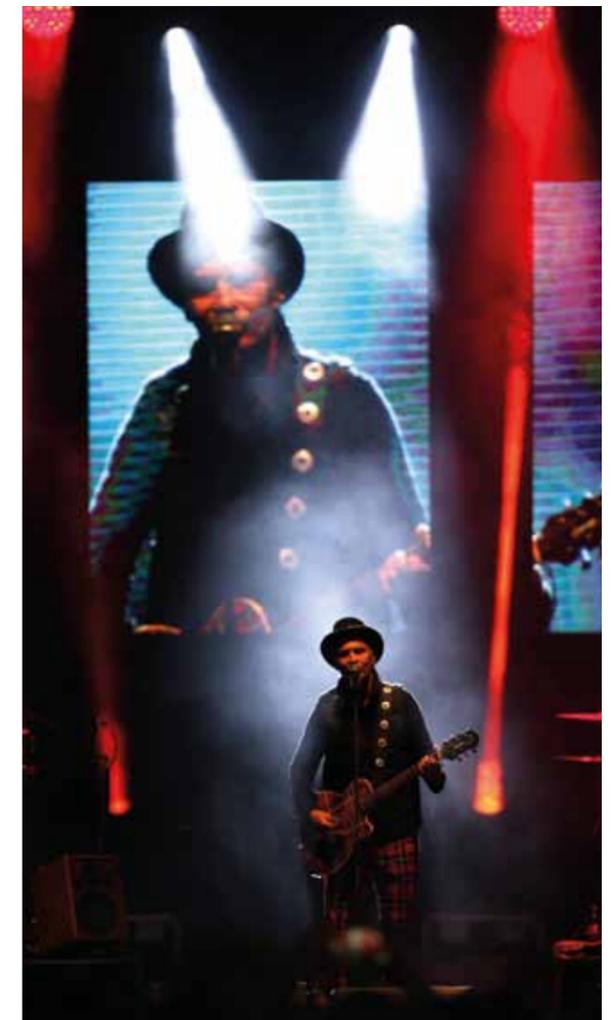




On Friday, popular bands from the region played under the motto "Rhenish Evening". The Rabaue from Grevenbroich, who are best-known for their numerous performances and successful titles in the Rhenish carnival, started at 4 pm. This was followed by the performance of the big band "The Fantastic Company" from Neuss, who set off musical fireworks with well-known and current titles from rock, pop and party.

From 6 p.m., the Räuber, who regularly perform in Neuss, were on stage under the motto "Räuber 3.0 - 30 years and not a bit quiet". Tracksuits, trainers and horns - that's the "Rhythmusportgruppe" from Düsseldorf, who then brought a lot of movement to the stage. The crowning highlight of the evening was the concert by the "Cologne" cult band Brings. They thrilled the audience until 10.30 pm with well-known hits such as "Superjeilezick", "Kölsche Jung" and "Liebe gewinnt".

The motto for Saturday was "ESC and more". The energetic singer, guitarist and songwriter Clara Krum, winner of the City of Neuss's Art Promotion Award, started from 3 p.m. in the supporting programme with good rock-pop music and spread good vibes. At 4.30 pm, the Betrayers of Babylon, a German reggae and ska band, took over. The main acts in the evening and known for the Eurovision Song Contest (ESC) were Malik Harris





and Michael Schulte. Shortly before the Hanseatic Day, Malik Harris represented Germany at this year's ESC in Italy with his song ROCKSTARS, which he also presented in Neuss on the big stage in the RennbahnPark. Afterwards, Michael Schulte, known for his great success at the ESC 2018 and as a coach on The Voice of Germany, thrilled his fans with the songs "Back To The Start" and "You Let Me Walk Alone", for which he received Gold Awards.

On Sunday, the 42nd International Hanseatic Day ended with a grand closing programme on the main stage from 5 pm. The musical programme was arranged by the Neuss Music School, including a specially formed big band, and included the handing over of the Hanseatic flag to the upcoming host Hanseatic city of Toruń in Poland.





Time jumps

From the green space in front of the Clemens Sels Museum to the "little pizza tower", visitors were able to take a journey through time in the Stadtgarten (town garden). The medieval market, an indispensable part of the International Hanseatic Days, found its place here, as did many experiences relating to the history of the city of Neuss from the Romans to the present day. The artists of the Traber family circus took the audience back





to days gone by, the ensemble of the Jardin des Epoques transported the visitors to another time with historical dance and fencing duels, and Mo Kuta provided amusement with humorous drama scenes involving elaborate dressing with a rococo wardrobe.

A special highlight on Sunday was "The Holy Mass anno 1500" by the Komturei Heppenheim.



Children's theatre in the city park

On the stage in the green area behind the Clemens Sels Museum, where the performers of the "Time jumps" also gave their performances, the children's theatre found its stage as well. The Youth Office made it possible for four children's plays to be performed here. These were presented by different artists from the area. Children from the age of four experienced performances here that were adapted to the theme of the Middle Ages. The Nieder-rhein Theatre from Brüggen performed the play "König Drosselbart" (King Thrushbeard), the Kreuz und Quer Theatre from Duisburg performed "Der Fischer seine Frau und das Fischstäbchen" (The Fisherman, his Wife and the Fish Stick). The Töfte Theatre from Halle-Westf. presented "Knight's helmet compulsory for little dragons" twice on Sunday.

The children's theatre performances were a great success. Even when the weather was unstable, the performances were always well attended; both the visitors and the artists got their money's worth here and experienced beautiful and happy hours in the flow of time.





Culture and tradition on the Oberstraße



From the Rheinisches Landestheater to the Ober-tor, but also at other places and squares in the city, Neuss cultural institutions presented themselves and there were exhibitions and offers to be had as well on customs or tourism. For example, the city archive presented in its rooms the remarkable exhibition "In the network of the Hanseatic League - on the history of long-distance trade in Neuss on the Rhine". It showed the development of Neuss from an important long-distance trading town in the Middle Ages with Roman roots to today's modern business location that is integrated into global trade flows. The exhibition focused on the influence of geographical location factors, above all the location on the Rhine and its changes, but also the connection to trade routes over land as well as the inner-city infrastructure with harbour and markets, scales and department stores'. Special attention was paid to the ambivalent relationship with the great neighbour Cologne and not least to the "Hanseatic privilege" granted by Emperor Frederick III in 1475, which makes Neuss an interesting special case in the history of the Hanseatic League of Cities. The exhibition will be on display in the City Archive beyond Hanseatic Day until March 2023.

As an eye-catcher, a historic tram was placed directly in front of the door where an exhibition was housed with photographs of the 4th International Hanseatic Day 1984 in Neuss. The Rheinisches Landestheater offered young visitors a water world course that was full of surprises.

On the Platz der Deutschen Einheit, the Neusser Bürgerschützen invited everyone to the Neusser Schützen-treff (riflemen's meeting) with a colourful programme all about marksmanship. At the "Schützenent-treff" opposite Haus Rottels with the office of the Neusser Bürger-Schützenverein and the Rheinisches Schützenmuseum (Riflemen's museum), visitors could find out about traditional customs in Neuss or just simply "chat". Guided tours were offered to guests in the Rheinisches Schützenmuseum, and drinks such as Schützenbräu, Schützensekt and Schützenwein, as well as soft drinks to quench thirst, were served at a historic fire engine. Small Schützen (riflemen) souvenirs could be purchased and taken home as souvenirs of Neuss.

The Rhein-Kreis Neuss (Rhine district of Neuss) presented cultural and touristic events as well as other important recreational opportunities in Neuss and the other towns and municipalities in the district in front of the Kreishaus (District Hall) on Oberstraße.



Harbour sounds

The harbour - transshipment point and place of longing for goods and dreams and the gateway to the vastness of the seas...

With Hafenklänge (harbour sounds), the musicians Markus Andrae and Jannike Münstedt have presented a concert evening with poetic-melancholic songs about ports and seafaring, love and wanderlust, seafaring myths and the longing for the endless horizon, beyond maritime kitsch and shanty sentimentality.

With acoustic guitar and cello, they sang and interpreted popular and unknown ballads, songs of all genres, creating their very own sound between chanson and folk.



Playground for Hansa kids

Organised by the Neuss Youth Office, a medieval family festival took place on the green area behind the Alte Post. This was aimed in particular at families and their children aged four to twelve. At the "Playground for Hansa kids", numerous children's and youth facilities offered a colourful selection of hands-on activities.

The Lebenshilfe-KiJuZe Allerheiligen, the youth centre Upside Down/Martin-Luther-Haus, Das InKult, Das Spielmobil, Further Hof - AWO Neuss, Haus Derikum, Kontakt Erfttal, youth centre of the Reformation Church, Ev. Neuss-Süd parish, Norf youth centre, Versöhnungskirche children's and youth centre, Gladbach-Neuss Protestant church district youth department, German Child Protection Association - Neuss and other volunteers offered leisure activities for the children based on the Middle Ages. These included activities such as archery, marbles, felting, coordination games and much more. Of course, face painting and a bouncy castle were also part of the programme.

youthHansa-Café

Closely linked to the idea of youthHansa is the idea of young people getting to know each other and networking. The aim was to put this idea into practice in Neuss beyond the youth delegate status. Stemming from this aim, youth delegates and young residents from Neuss were brought together in a "youthHansa Café" in the largest municipal youth facility, the Greyhound Pier 1 - and very easily accessible for all, centrally located at Harbour Basin 1, in the middle of the event area. Here the young people could talk to each other away from the hustle and bustle of the event, get to know each other, exchange ideas and share their experiences.



A total of 76 youth delegates from 32 European cities took part in the 42nd International Hanseatic Day in Neuss. Together with the Youth Office of the City of Neuss and the Hanse-Gesellschaft Neuss e. V., a programme had been designed for the delegates based on the three pillars of adventure, economy and sustainability. There was a rafting tour on the Rhine, various company visits to renowned firms in the city and workshops on sustainable nutrition.

Items that should not be missing from any youthHansa programme, such as the delegates' meeting and the youthHansa party, were also on the agenda in Neuss. As a Hanseatic city with a strong commit-

ment to sustainability, the youth delegates were pleased that the delegates' meeting in the town hall voted for a permanent implication of sustainability.

In order to offer the youth delegates a pleasant Hanseatic retreat and overnight accommodation, the Hanseatic Society of Neuss e. V. chartered the hotel ship MS Calypso exclusively for them. This was anchored at the new pier next to the UCI cinema, i.e. in the middle of the event centre - the harbour area. Thus, true to the motto of the Hanseatic Day of short distances, there were also short distances for the youthHansa!

youthHansa and the Nutrition Council

The YouthHansa had requested an educational programme on the topic of "sustainability". For this purpose, experts from the Nutrition Council of the Rhine District of Neuss offered several workshops on the topic of "sustainable nutrition". These workshops focused on topics such as up-cycling, ways to save food waste and food preservation, making probiotic soft drinks and herbal salts, as well as general and awareness-raising information on food production conditions in developing countries. The large number of questions and conversations speak for a great interest of the delegates in the important topic of sustainability.





The Assembly of Delegates and other committees

The Assembly of Delegates

The large municipal hall of Neuss provided the perfect setting for the Assembly of Delegates, the legislative body of the Hanseatic League of Cities - the first in three years with the delegates present. In addition to reports on past and future Hanseatic Days as well as on the activities of the various working groups and committees, the Russian war of aggression on Ukraine and dealings with the Russian and Belarusian Hanseatic cities were naturally on the agenda.

The presidium of THE HANSA had published a position paper on this in the run-up to the Hanseatic Day, which, after intensive discussions in which the two former presidents of the Hanseatic League, Michael Bouteiller and Bernd Saxe, also took part, was supported and thus confirmed by the overwhelming majority of the delegates.

Other committees

In preparation for the Assembly of Delegates, the Hanseatic Commission held its meeting in the City Council Chamber, where the Commission members also signed the Golden Book of the City of Neuss. The presidium of the Hanseatic League and various Hanseatic working groups such as the city archivists, HANSEartWORKS, the Hanseatic Guild and the Fair Hansa also met in Neuss. The Sustainable Hanseatic Working Group was also established in Neuss. The meeting of the HanseVerein e. V., youthHansa and a tourism seminar rounded off the extensive Hanseatic meetings.



Receptions of the cities of Neuss, Lübeck and Toruń

Traditionally, the host Hanseatic city invites visitors to a welcome reception before the grand opening on Thursday afternoon. Mayor Reiner Breuer welcomed the delegates from the Hanseatic cities to the historic Zeughaus (armoury), the city's "parlour", with the Hanseatic League's president (Vormann), Lübeck's mayor Jan Lindenau, at the forefront. The reception was marked by the great joy of seeing each other again and the anticipation of the long-awaited event after the two year "Hanseatic Day break". The reception given by the city of Neuss proved therefore to be a harbinger of a successful international Hanseatic Day.

The traditional Lübeck Evening was hosted in the old council chamber in Neuss town hall. Every year, the "Queen of the Hanseatic League" faces the challenge of always offering something new for her reception. And the guests' expectations were not disappointed in Neuss either: In addition to the musical enrichment by the "Troubaduo", there was delicious labskaus and rollmops with fried egg and finally a birthday cake for the European Hanse Museum Lübeck.

The Hanseatic City which will host the next International Hanseatic Day in the coming year was honoured to host its own reception on the Saturday of the Hanseatic Day. The Polish city of Toruń presented its motto for the 43rd International Hanseatic Day 2023 in the Zeughaus - accompanied by rousing folkloric music and dances - in reference to Toruń's most famous son, Nicolaus Copernicus: "Toruń. In the orbit of cities".





Mayor Reiner Breuer, Sigmar Gabriel



Prof. Julian Nida-Rümelin



“Turning point” in the Zeughaus.

Business congress with top-quality speakers and an exciting discussion panel

The philosopher, former Minister of State for Culture and Deputy Chair of the German Ethics Council, Prof. Julian Nida-Rümelin, presented “Europe as a cosmopolitan project” in his speech. He caused thoughtful faces in the city’s historic armoury, in view of the war in Ukraine, but also expressed his hope that this would bring Europe closer together again and thus enable it to emerge stronger from this crisis.

Around 140 participants from business and politics attended the business congress in the Neuss Zeughaus, which was prepared and organised by Neuss Marketing together with the Neuss-Düsseldorfer Häfen and the Hanse-Gesellschaft Neuss. In addition to Professor Rümelin’s philosophical discourse, the former German Foreign Minister expressed his views in a lecture entitled “Quo vadis, Europe”. As a friend of clear words, Sigmar Gabriel stated that Putin was acting outside international law with his invasion of Ukraine. In his eyes, he is conducting politics in 2022 “with the means of the 19th century”.

The congress was not only filled with big names; the participants agreed that they were also in the presence of big ideas. Moderator Tom Hegermann rounded off the topic of “Europe” with a

panel discussion, for which he invited not only Prof. Nida-Rümelin but also Dirk Lange, General Manager of 3M, and Prof. Sebastian Jürgens, Managing Director of Lübecker Hafen-Gesellschaft, onto the stage. A moderated panel consisting of Bodo Middeldorf (Managing Director of Zukunftagentur Rheinisches Revier), Susanne Thywissen (Vice President of IHK Mittlerer Niederrhein), Dirk Brügge (District Director of Rhein-Kreis Neuss) and Volker Backs (Managing Director of Speira GmbH) dealt with the very concrete consequences of major policies at a local level. “What challenges, but also what opportunities, are associated with structural change in the Rhenish mining area?”

Johann-Andreas Werhahn presented an outstanding example of civic and entrepreneurial engagement with the presentation of the “Kompass D” initiative. Afterwards, the participants could visit the companies 3M or Rheinmetall/Pierburg, take a harbour tour or visit the open-cast mine in Garzweiler.

Special thanks go to the Mittlerer Niederrhein Chamber of Industry and Commerce and the Rhein-Kreis Neuss as supporters of the event.

Die Hanse-Gesellschaft Neuss e. V.

The Hanse-Gesellschaft Neuss (Hanseatic Society of Neuss) set itself the task of making the citizens of Neuss aware of the international, cosmopolitan and transnational city connection of the Hanseatic League and fostering relations with other Hanseatic cities at home and abroad.

The society was involved in many ways at the International Hanseatic Day 2022 in Neuss. For example, the Hanse-Gesellschaft, together with the Sparkasse Neuss, made it possible for young people to drop anchor in harbour basin 1 and visit renowned companies in the harbour area. They also supported the business congress, featuring top-class speakers, which was organised by Business Development in the Zeughaus.

VHS + City Library

Especially in the run-up to Hanseatic Day, the adult education centre and the municipal library prepared the people of Neuss for the event in a relaxed and informative way through lectures, excursions and hands-on activities.

Exhibition “The port of Neuss”

A special exhibition by photographer Thomas Mayer was on display in the departmental hallway of the town hall. Under the title “The port of Neuss”, Mayer showed how diverse, interesting and exciting the industrial port is. It has made possible the economic development of Neuss. It was only through the port that trade relations in the Middle Ages with the Hanseatic cities in Europe were possible.





Final day





Inclusion

In order to enable people with disabilities to participate in the 42nd International Hanseatic Day in Neuss, the inclusion officer of the City of Neuss, Mirjam Lenzen, was involved in the planning at an early stage. For example, an overview map with barrier-free toilets and routes or information on the accessibility of events was created. For this purpose, mainly barrier-free cable bridges were laid. Sign language interpreters translated at the opening and closing events, and activities such as theatre and painting workshops were also open

to people with disabilities. The city tours in “easy language” were also well received. The use of simple expressions makes understanding particularly easy.

The volunteers were made aware of the topic in advance by the inclusion officer. So they were able to accompany people over the days, help with access to exhibitions or other events and give advice and support.



Accreditation office

A few days before the official opening of the Hanseatic Day, the accreditation office was set up in the town hall, which was the permanent contact and information point mainly for the more than 1,000 delegates, but also for representatives of the press and interested visitors. Participant passes, delegate bags, information material and other materials were handed out to the Hansa attendees by municipal employees and numerous volunteers. The volunteers also had their own meeting place here. The detailed security concept also included the permanent coordination group with representatives of the public order authorities such as the police and fire brigade, the Hanseatic Office and the municipal press office, which was also docked to the accreditation office in the town hall.

Volunteers

An event of this size with many different and international participants and extensive activities is unthinkable without volunteers. The volunteers were each in their own way responsible for the success of the Hanseatic Day with their tireless commitment. The tasks assigned to them were very diverse: From packing bags for delegates in the run-up to the event to assisting with accreditation of event guests, being contact persons for visitors and ad-

vising them at information points, as well as providing support with traffic issues such as road closures or pedestrian crossings. Also very important was the supervision of the various events and the work for the project leaders at the respective locations, the support of foreign delegations during the event and the support as well of the respective project teams during the implementation stage.



The Hanseatic League as a guest of the Heimatfreunde (local history group “friends of the homeland”)

Under the motto “From the historical Hanseatic League to the new League of Cities”, the Heimatfreunde Neuss, in cooperation with the Hanseatic Guild in the League of Cities “THE HANSA” and the Rhenish Hanseatic League, presented a series of lectures for visitors to the Hanseatic Day. Thematically, the arc went from “The Hanseatic League in Neuss”, trade across the Rhine and “Merchants and Artists on Hanseatic Pathways” to the Hanseatic cities on the Ijssel, in Salzwedel or Braunschweig as well as the Hanseatic League as a theme of city society. The lectures were intended as an invitation to talk, and so many a lively discussion ensued.



“Faces of Europe”

On Saturday, portraits of European Union citizens - including celebrities and non-celebrities - were projected onto an outside wall of the RomaNEum.

With the project entitled “Faces of Europe”, the photo artist Carsten Sander wants to set an example for integration and humanity. A statement for human rights, common values and peaceful coexistence.



“ERoica”

A very special project of the Neuss Music School took place on Friday night with great effort and ambition, which also addressed the current war in Ukraine and wanted to set a sign of peace: “ERoica” - live music and video art on the stairs. The basis of this music and video project was Mauricio Kagel’s “10 marches to miss the victory”. Ralf Beckers composed nine pieces based on Beethoven’s nine symphonies, which were played as intermezzi alternating with the Kagel marches. The various musical ensembles of the music school were supported by live visuals and artistically interpreted visually.

Entry in the Golden Book



Gala concert by the choir from Bergen

Traditionally, the Academic Male Choir of the Norwegian Hanseatic City of Bergen invites to a gala concert every two years during Hanseatic Day. The concert of classical acapella pieces for male choir took place on Saturday afternoon in the well-attended old council chamber of the town hall of Neuss, which provided a worthy festive and acoustic setting for the event.

Concert by the European Hanseatic Ensemble

The Hanseatic League did not only promote economic interests. It also helped culture to blossom. On Saturday, the European Hanseatic Ensemble performed the concert SURREXIT-CHRISTUS in the Christuskirche, taking the audience on a journey to the great musical heritage of the 1600s and rediscovering it for our time. The ensemble of young international students played their historical instruments to great acclaim with works by composers who were active in the economic and cultural metropolises of the late Hanseatic period.



Urban Champs

Around 120 dancers from all over Europe delivered exciting battles on a stage at the head of Harbour Basin 1. The youngest participant, a boy from Ukraine, was just six years old. At the Urban Champs, two dancers always compete against each other and try to come out on top in the four categories “HipHop”, “Breaking”, “Popping” or “Krump”. As freestyles, the audience does not get to see any rehearsed choreographies. Within 30 seconds, the participants have to perform to unknown pieces of music and qualify for the next round. The battles were judged by an international jury, who also chose the overall winners.





Marketing and public relations for the International Hanseatic Day 2022



“For free and outdoors“ - that describes in a nutshell what should attract people to Neuss from all over the region as part of the International Hanseatic Day in Neuss. In order to introduce this event to the people in the region and make it better attended, numerous marketing campaigns were planned, designed and carried out in advance. Visitors to the International Hanseatic Day were treated to a 1.6-kilometre-long circular route marked by a blue wave on the ground with countless attractions and offers: Concerts, markets, lectures and exhibitions. The advertising media ranged from pens, saddle covers or printed bread bags to banners, posters, flyers, radio advertising, ads, videos on all social media channels to newspaper articles, special publications and bus advertising.



Without strong partners from the Neuss economy, such a festival would not be possible

Top-quality business congress

The diverse events would not be possible without the support of the Neuss business community and the city society. The Neuss Düsseldorf Häfen (Neuss Düsseldorf harbours), for example, have contributed to the Hanseatic Day in terms of content and finance and supported the business congress together with the Chamber of Industry and Commerce of the Mittlerer Niederrhein and the business development agency of the Rhein-Kreises Neuss (Rhine district of Neuss). The Rhein-Kreis also presented leisure activities and tourist attractions from Neuss and the district in front of the Kreishaus (District Hall) on Oberstraße.

youthHansa resided on a hotel ship in the harbour

Sparkasse Neuss supported the young Hanseatic people and, together with Hanse-Gesellschaft Neuss, provided the youthHansa participants with particularly unusual accommodation this year. For overnight stays, a hotel ship was anchored in harbour basin 1 at a new jetty. Stadtwerke Neuss provided the uniform and distinctive clothing for the volunteers and also provided a large video wall. The Rheinbahn was represented by historic trams on Oberstraße and the volunteers were provided with food and refreshments by the EDEKA stores in Neuss.

Classical music at the opening ceremony in the RennbahnPark

One of the “big players“ in Neuss, the multi-technology company 3M, made possible the large open-air concert by the Deutsche Kammerakademie Neuss am Rhein at the opening evening on the main stage in the RennbahnPark. 3M also addressed a topic of the future and made the development of “sustainable mobility concepts in cities“ the focus of its presentation at the market. Neusser Bauverein, Rheinpark-Center Neuss, Westnetz, Hanseatic prizewinner GfA ELEKTROMATEN GmbH & Co. KG as well as the non-profit housing cooperative Gemeinnützige Wohnungs-Genossenschaft Neuss participated in the Hanseatic Day in Neuss, and the furniture store Franz Knuffmann ensured safety on the event areas with its furniture vans. Last but not least, HARIBO sweetened the Hanseatic citizens' visit to Neuss, and the advertising association of the city centre traders, “Zukunftsinitiative Innenstadt Neuss“ (ZIN), took care of a beautifully designed city centre.

Without the support of all partners, the staging of this great city festival would not have been possible in Neuss this year.



Outlook

Neuss will continue to cultivate its Hanseatic activities. The Hanseatic Festival, for example, which takes place annually in autumn, is firmly anchored in the city's annual calendar together with the city-centre traders. But younger activities are also thriving:

The cooperation with the towns of Wesel, Kalkar/Grieth and Emmerich in an association of the Rhenish Hanseatic League recently got fresh wind in its sails with the newly opened Hanseatic cycle route. This starts in Neuss and runs from the Rhenish to the Dutch Hanseatic cities. The Rhenish Hanseatic Cities will also be presenting themselves together at the upcoming International Hanseatic Days.

The members of the Neuss Hanseatic League are already looking forward to next year in Toruń, Poland. The construction of the pier at harbour

basin 1 should also be seen as a long-term investment. In the future, hotel ships will be able to dock here and make Neuss a tourist destination.

And who knows, but after 1984 and 2022, it could be Neuss' turn again in 38 years to host the International Hanseatic Day in 2060 🤖. In any case, the Hanseatic tradition will live on in Neuss!



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