

Austria



Primary National Organiser: Austrian Physical Society (OePG)

Other National Partners: Photonics Austria

Estimated number of IYL 2015 activities organized:
>80 events

Number of people reached by IYL 2015 activities:
8,000 people

General overview of IYL 2015 activities in Austria

The International Year of Light (IYL 2015) reached the people of Austria by way of a number of events. Although constraints in funding and in particular, manpower, largely precluded the organisation of mass gatherings, there were events that targeted groups ranging from the man on the street and teachers to industrial stakeholders and scientists. Many of these events arose from the actions of individuals, groups, or small companies, and it is hardly possible to cover them all in a brief report. Some events were specially organised as official events, while others featured special IYL 2015 contributions.

The official kick-off of the IYL 2015 in Austria was a Day of Photonics on 21 October 2014 which celebrated the awarding of the Nobel Prize in Physics in 2014 to the inventors of blue light-emitting diodes. Appropriately, this event took place in a building at the Vienna University of Technology completely illuminated by LEDs.



LED trolleybus. CREDIT: Photonics Austria, U. Trog.

Several awards covered the design and architectural aspects of light: The International VELUX Award for Students of Architecture (with more than 800 participants) featured the topic “Light of Tomorrow.” In conjunction with the 75th anniversary of trolleybuses in the city of Salzburg, the Salzburg AG invited young folks with innovative ideas to design a unique exterior for a trolleybus. The winning project was later showcased on



Urania Lux Lecture Series. CREDIT: Wolfgang Ernst, TU Graz.

one of these busses. A number of industrial events—workshops, seminars, and the like—dealt with various aspects of lighting.

Several scientific conferences about physics throughout 2015 focused particularly on topics related to light. Most of these conferences featured public lectures on light-related subjects.

There were also numerous public lectures by high-level scientists on various aspects of light. These lectures not only focused on physical and technical aspects of lighting, some also covered the physiological aspects of light, or of light in art.

Many universities and industrial enterprises focused their respective public events on light and light-related phenomena or technologies wherever possible.

Later in 2015, a series of six public lectures took place in Graz on the topic of the IYL 2015, which also covered various aspects of light from philosophy to science theory and architecture to physics and astrophysics.

Last but not least, a rather large number of events targeted teachers and children, paving the way for the younger generation to develop an understanding of light and its phenomena.