

Fab Fest in Vienna 5th & 6th of May 2018

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Table of contents

Concept for Fab Fest Vienna	3
Short overview of the Fab Fest	4
Impact and benefits	11
Sustainability and transferability	11
Lessons learnt	12
Stop Doing	12
Keep doing	12
Start doing	12

Concept for Fab Fest Vienna

We are planning to connect DT312 Fab Fest to the Maker Faire Vienna on the 5th and 6th of May 2018. We want to have a big area where partners can present their projects and work and where we also have the possibility to present the FabLabNet project.

We have a big 100 qm tent where partners that are planning to join the event could be located in and also offer workshops.

How the partners can participate:

Every one of the partners or their associated partners or community member who is planning to join the event needs to register until the 14th of February the latest. All partner need to register online in our Call for Makers.

We also have a open call for Makers in which Makerspaces, Fab Labs or individuals could apply for a booth, workshop or talk to join the event and present their projects. In addition we will get in touch with initiatives that are focusing on kids and the maker movement for a dedicated kids area during the event.

Short overview of the Fab Fest

On the 5th and 6th of May the Fab Fest took place in Vienna in the Metastadt, Dr. Otto-Neurath-Gasse 5, 1220 Vienna. The Fab Fest was linked to the Maker Faire Vienna, an already established Maker event in the community to help us reach more visitors and get more publicity for the project. During the opening hours from 10am to 6pm nearly 12.000 people visited the venue on both days.

Besides different Makers and Makerspaces from all over central Europe some partners and associated partners from the project attended the event with the following program:

Fablab Croatia (booth)

Fablab Croatia is first and at this moment only official Fablab in Croatia and with three missions: education related called “Education (r)evolution”, “Give-a-Hand” local community oriented, and Do Local Go Global, entrepreneurial related.

Fablab.sk (booth)

FabLab Slovakia offers the general public an opportunity to discover modern technology of digital manufacturing, realize their projects and materialize their dreams. FabLab encourages and supports creativity, experimentation and innovation.

FabLab Brno (booth)

FabLab Brno has been opened in 2017 making it the first FabLab in Czechia. We would like to show you what is happening in Brno makers community. What projects are being developed and what are we planning to do in 2018.

Muse (talk) - Marco Fellin

FabLabs & FabLabNet: innovations for people, business, education.

Saturday 5.05.2018 13:15

The EU project FabLabNet connects FabLabs in central Europe for unlocking their innovation capacity. Communities of people, Business enterprises, Education system are stimulated to innovate by unprecedented Project Pilot Actions.

FabLab Budapest (talk) - David Pap

From analogue to digital - Birth of a concrete furniture

Saturday 5.05.2018. 11:00

In 2016 FabLab Budapest teamed up with the concrete furniture manufacturer VPI to make something unique. This is a story of a birth where analogue technologies met the digital.



RogLab, Ljubljana (workshop) François Friderich

Sunday 6.05.2018 12:00

Nine fablabs from all over Central Europe are working on setting up the first Central European network of fablabs. In 2019 it will open to other fablabs of the region. What will be its mission? Who will benefit from it? How to join? Come to meet FabLabNet and brainstorm with us on these open hot topics!

The Fab Fest and the Maker Faire Vienna together had 220 booth where around 900 Makers presented their projects. 115 out of the 220 booths offered some hands on experience for the visitors, like DIY soldering small electronics, upcycling projects, creating your own knit pattern or try out a self made music instrument.

In 38 talks during the two days visitors could get some insides on future technological trends and get inspired by talks like “How To make Educational Materials and Games in a FabLabs” or learn more about ways of “Sustainable Entrepreneurship” in the Maker Movement.

In 40 workshops the visitors could get some hands on experience and take some time to learn and build something directal step by step from an expert or experience new tools.

In the big tent in the outdoor area we had e.g. the City Garden Workshop from Poland: “Join us and build your own vertical garden, create a glass plant pot or start a crack garden. Check out how to upgrade your garden to make it partly or entirely autonomous. In the meantime talk to one of our green minions in our Garden Lab. Pop-in - join any time.”.

On Sunday visitors had the opportunity to build their own stools with the “Werksalon” from Vienna: “The upholstered stool “die schnelle PAULA” can be created within 3 hours out of natural materials in a smart and sustainable way. The floor panel is pre-built out of solid beechwood and will be filled with coco mat and palm fiber during the workshop. *Participation only possible via online competition.” Just to mention two of many workshops that were offered during the event.











Impact and benefits

During the two days 12.000 visitors joined the event where 900 Makers presented their work of the last year. Besides that several Makerspaces and Fab Labs from all over Austria but also e.g. from Serbia, Germany, Hungary, Poland, Czech Republic, Slovakia or Croatia joined the event with their Maker Community. The event was a great opportunity to get in touch with Makers from all over the region, exchange experiences, projects, ideas or just get inspired. This goes for the exhibitors as for the visitors.

In our survey we got the feedback that over 90% of the visitors were very satisfied or satisfied with their visit. Nearly 80% were visiting to be inspired and learn about new technologies and futures trends. 44% wanted to network and get in touch with makers and initiatives that exhibited at the event.

Sustainability and transferability

In the concept for the event in our chapter of the Joint Methodology DT311 we summarized the five main engagement tools for such an event that worked very well for us in the past:

1. Maker exhibition
2. Workshop program
3. Talks
4. Kids area
5. Internal get together for Makers

This approach connected with an open call for Makers can be transferred to different communities in different areas. Depending on a thematic focus or a specific ecosystem that the organizers are connected to or want to highlight they can get in touch with different initiatives and communities.

We manage to establish a growing Maker community and strong connections to Makerspaces and Fab Labs from all over Central Europe, that allows us to establish a sustainable structure for the future.



Lessons learnt

From the content point of view, logistic, ...

Stop Doing

- Try to please the space needs and wishes of everybody that is exhibiting
- Inviting schools to present their projects, since we had a very low feedback. As visitors pupils are coming, but just a few schools followed our call and encouraged their students to present their projects

Keep doing

- Connecting and inviting different initiatives and spaces from all over the CEE region
- Looking for initiatives that have good networks to join the event
- Focusing on a few main areas in the programme that are highlighted

Start doing

- Trying to encourage more Makers to offer workshops for a more diverse workshop program
- Highlight the talk program so more people join the talks, since there were a few once with no so many visitors