

International Conference in Vienna Explores Pathways to Livable Cities

At “Caring for the City”, taking place at FHWien der WKW in late September, the focus will be on sustainable urban and tourism development. Lectures and guided walks invite participants to get involved.

Vienna, September 1, 2025 – FHWien der WKW is hosting the conference “*Caring for the City: Entangled Challenges for Sustainable Urban and Tourism Development*” from **September 24 to 26, 2025**, on its campus. The event is organized together with the Sociology of Cities and Social Inequality sections of the Austrian Sociological Association. It will bring together experts in urban research, tourism, administration, and business from Austria, Italy, the Netherlands, Portugal, the United States, and beyond. The conference also addresses all those interested in how cities can become livable places for both residents and visitors. Registration (fee required) is possible online until September 5.

Vienna – a model for sustainable tourism

Vienna is considered a pioneer of tourism that takes into account the needs of residents, visitors, and the economy alike. “Vienna is an example of best practice for a sustainable travel destination in international comparison,” says Cornelia Dlabaja, Endowed Professor of Sustainable Urban and Tourism Development at FHWien der WKW. “With this conference, we want to foster dialogue between tourism and urban planning, academia and practice, as well as politics and society,” adds Dlabaja, who is also providing academic support for the Vienna Tourist Board’s Visitor Economy Strategy.

High-profile dialogue as kick-off

The conference opens on September 24 at 5:00 p.m. with three short keynotes and a panel discussion under the motto “*Caring for the City – in Times of Multiple Crises.*” Participants include Norbert Kettner (Vienna Tourist Board), Ulrike Rauch-Keschmann (Federal Ministry of Labor and Economy), Cornelia Dlabaja (FHWien der WKW), Dominic Schmid (Vienna Chamber of Commerce), Julia Girardi-Hoog (City of Vienna), Wencke Hertzsch (Democracy Capital), and Christoph Stoik (Austrian Sociological Association).

How public spaces become livable places

The conference concludes on September 26 at 5:00 p.m. with a keynote by Ethan Kent from New York, followed by a roundtable discussion. Kent specializes in placemaking—the collaborative design of public spaces with local communities to create livable places that truly meet people’s needs.

Experiencing urban development in practice on guided walks

In addition to keynotes and panels, the program includes guided city walks with experts from academia, administration, and business:

PRESS RELEASE



- **“City at Night”:** On September 26 at 8:00 p.m., a guided tour through Vienna by night.
- **“In Circulation!”:** This program point takes place the day after the main conference, on September 27 from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., in cooperation with the association Landluft. The walk explores sites and buildings in transition, including Vienna’s Funkhaus.

The registration link (fee required, available until September 5) and the detailed conference program can be found on the FHWien der WKW website:

fh-wien.ac.at/caring4city

Image:

“Vienna is an example of best practice for a sustainable travel destination in international comparison,” explains Cornelia Dlabaja from FHWien der WKW at the announcement of the conference “Caring for the City”, which will take place in Vienna at the end of September 2025.

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