

4th Congress on Participation Research – 2026 in Siegen

Organisational Information for Participants

Dear participants,

we are already looking forward to welcoming you to the 4th Congress on Participation Research in Siegen this September. On-site preparations are now entering the "hot phase." We would like to provide you with some information that we believe will be helpful for your stay at the congress and in the city.

You may have already visited Siegen and gained an impression of the city and region. Or perhaps you are coming to green Siegen for the first time; to the district town of Germany's [most forested county](#), and "the town beneath the [little crown](#)" (on [St. Nicholas' Church](#)). Here, "[Henner & Frieder](#)" on the Sieg bridge bear witness to the region's mining history – where until the early 2010s the "Sieglplatte" covered the river in favour of parking areas. Two castles were bestowed on the town by former sovereigns – the Obere Schloss ([Upper Castle](#)) above the upper town, and the Untere Schloss ([Lower Castle](#)) on the way from the lower town to the upper town. Siegen's university has a young [history](#). Since 2003 a "university," it goes back to the Gesamthochschule Siegen founded in the early 1970s, which in turn was rooted in, among others, the Pädagogische Hochschule Westfalen-Lippe, Siegerland Department (founded 1962), and the Höhere Fachschule für Sozialpädagogik (founded 1970). With several campuses, the University of Siegen still occupies the Haardter Berg in Siegen-Weidenau today. For just over a decade, the university has also been based in the city centre and at the Untere Schloss, enlivening the centre. It is there, in the [Friedrichstraße building](#) and at the [Campus Untere Schloss](#), that the participation congress will also take place.

Alongside Siegen's advantages and positive developments in recent decades, one essential characteristic of the city should be highlighted: Siegen is quite hilly. And: when it comes to "accessibility," there is still room for improvement in Siegen.

The following information and descriptions may not be sufficiently tailored to your individual needs. In that case, please feel free to contact us directly. Together we will try to find "good" options for you!

Accessibility arrangements (needs reported to us)

Via the congress registration form, we have received individual notes regarding accessibility (wheelchair use; accompaniment by assistance staff; translation option for English-language key-notes). We are already taking these needs into account in our planning. No notes have been received via the Pre-Conference registration form. If we receive no feedback, we cannot make arrangements.

Please therefore let us know by 07 August at the latest if further accessibility arrangements are needed – e.g. in connection with visual or hearing impairments, Easy Language, neurodiversity, or other impairments. We will treat your information confidentially. Contact: teilhabe-kongress-2026@zpe.uni-siegen.de or 0271 740-2228.

Verkehrsbetriebe Westfalen-Süd (public transport)

Bus public transport in the city and region is provided by Verkehrsbetriebe Westfalen-Süd. Information on, e.g., accessibility, stops, the route network map, and the timetable enquiry service can be found online. Users among our colleagues describe using the smartphone (mobile view) as good.

Arrival for the Pre-Conference Event on 09.09.2026, Friedrichstraße building (Building F-S)

The Pre-Conference is held exclusively in English. The venue is the Friedrichstraße building (F-S, Sandstraße 16–18). Sandstraße is in the "lower town." There are no notable inclines to overcome from the train station.

Arrival for the Congress on 10 & 11.09.2026, Lecture Hall Centre at Campus Untere Schloss / accessible parking

The campus lies between the lower town and the upper town. [The site plan](#) indicates inclines/steps with symbols (see legend in the site plan). *Please assume that – regardless of the direction from which you approach the Untere Schloss – notable inclines or declines must be overcome.*

The bus stops "AOK," "Stadtbad Am Kölner Tor," "Kölner Tor," and "Löhrtor" are the ones closest to the lecture hall centre. *Inclines must be overcome from all four stops – including from the "Löhrtor" stop.*

In the vicinity of the lecture hall centre there are accessible parking spaces on the street "Unteres Schloss" (2 spaces) and on "Grabenstraße" in front of the "Food Court" (1 space).

There are also two accessible parking spaces on "Obergraben." From here, the difference in level to the lecture hall centre at the Untere Schloss can be overcome via the lift and/or the stairwell in Building M (canteen, Food Court).

From the "Obergraben" car park, a stairwell leads up to the exit onto the forecourt of the Untere Schloss. *The car park's lift is, based on experience, unfortunately very unreliable.*

At and in the car park on "Löhrtor" street near the indoor swimming pool, a small number of parking areas are designated as accessible parking spaces. Some areas on one floor are interrupted by individual steps the height of a high kerb (e.g. access to the lift on the ground floor). On the upper floors, parking areas are marked in colour (blue) and designated as "parent-and-child parking spaces." They are wider than standard parking spaces. *The top floor is connected to "Obergraben" street via a pedestrian bridge.*

Arrival at the Siegerlandhalle (Thursday evening)

The Siegerlandhalle is located in the lower town at Koblenzer Str. 151. The nearest bus stop is called "P + R Siegerlandhalle." A number of [parking spaces](#) are available around the hall (please note the differing address depending on the car park!).

The restaurant there (Accenta Gastronomie) will welcome us on Thursday, 10.09.2026, from 19:30 via [Entrance B](#) for the joint dinner. Dinner is included in the congress fee. The entrance is at ground level. An accessible toilet is available.

Catering (needs reported to us)

Notes on vegetarian and vegan diets, as well as on individual intolerances and allergies (gluten, peanuts), have been taken into account.

Catering on 10 & 11.09.2026

We will provide hot and cold drinks and pastries throughout the day. In the afternoon we will offer cake or fruit. This catering is included in the congress fee.

You are responsible for organising your own lunch; it is not included in the congress fee. In the [immediate vicinity of the lecture hall centre](#) you will find some catering options, e.g. on "Kölner Straße" (Asian snack bar, chip shop, ramen and sushi, kebab shop), on "Alte Poststraße" (pizza, Vietnamese). The [Food Court](#) on Grabenstraße will also be open on 10.09.2026.

A supermarket with a bakery and hot food counter can be found towards the upper town: "Am Markt 9." Further into the upper town there are cafés and restaurants open at lunchtime, e.g. on "Marburger Straße." Further catering options are available in the lower town (e.g. on "Kölner Tor" street, in Kunstweg, on Bahnhofstraße and surrounding area, on Europastraße).

General information on the Lecture Hall Centre at Campus Untere Schloss

We will set up a congress office/info point. There you can register and get information. Room information and signage will be provided as notices. There will also be on-site contact persons available to help with orientation.

Please also keep an eye on the congress website. We will also publish information there (e.g. the room numbers of the topic forums and research workshops).

You can store your coats and, if necessary, luggage at a cloakroom. On site there will be a room serving as a retreat and quiet area. At Campus Untere Schloss there are sanitary facilities designated as [accessible toilets](#). In the lecture hall centre the toilet is located in room US-C 182, in the Food Court in room 0186.

Note on check-in at the [Adapt Hotel](#)

In the past there have occasionally been challenges with self-service check-in at the self-service terminal on the ground floor (touchscreen controls, limited reach while seated, technical faults, poor accessibility of service staff). There is a reception service on the second floor, staffed Monday to Friday from 8 to 11 a.m. and 2 to 8 p.m. There is also the option of online check-in in advance.

Invitation to mindfulness

We hope for an event in which all participants treat themselves and one another mindfully. Our "Awareness Concept" will shortly be available on the homepage.

For questions, you can reach us by e-mail at teilhabe-kongress-2026@zpe.uni-siegen.de or by phone: 0271 740-2228 (Heike Krütt).

Warm regards, on behalf of the whole ZPE organising team,

Lena Bertelmann, Heike Krütt & Martin Reichstein