20 Years

Initiativkreis Mönchengladbach

[Image of multiple individuals]
The idea

The Initi ativkreis Mönchengladbach was founded in 2003 by a handful of local business representatives. By financing exceptional events they wanted to raise more awareness for their home town.

Today, there are as many as 32 individual members building the Initi ativkreis. Their aim remains the same: to maintain and cultivate the city’s positive image and to shape the future of the region, its infrastructure and support science and peace.

Driven by their common commitment, the Initi ativkreis has set up a series of top events which have been an inspiration for the city and the citizens of Mönchengladbach ever since 2003. The Initi ativkreis has definitely helped to improve the town’s image. As an ambassador the Initi ativkreis seeks to promote outstanding projects which have a unique and lasting influence on the region.

The goals:
- Preserve regional characteristics
- Promote innovation
- Encourage investments by improving the region’s soft factors
- Support measures in the area of youth, culture and science
- Improve the image of the city and the region
- Improve the infrastructure
The members
Nobel prize laureates in Mönchengladbach

In the series of events "Nobel prize laureates in Mönchengladbach" the Initiativkreis regularly welcomes outstanding international personalities who have been honoured with the Nobel Prize for their achievements.

Whether it's a Nobel Peace prize laureate or an outstanding scientist who visits Mönchengladbach – a speech of a Nobel prize laureate always guarantees a fascinating event, with interesting and often personal insights to the speaker’s life time achievement.

**Guests in Mönchengladbach to date:**

**Prof. Dr Günter Blobel**  
Nobel prize laureate in Medicine, 1999  
May 4th, 2003, Haus Erholung

**His Excellency Lech Walesa**  
Former President of the Republic of Poland  
Nobel Peace prize laureate, 1983  
November 9th, 2003, Theatre Mönchengladbach

His Excellency Lech Walesa

His Excellency Oscar Arias Sánchez

Prof. Dr Günter Blobel
His Excellency Frederik Willem de Klerk
Former State President of the Republic of South Africa
Nobel Peace prize laureate, 1993
May 8th, 2004, Kunstwerk Wickrath

His Excellency Oscar Arias Sánchez
President of Costa Rica
Nobel Peace prize laureate, 1987
November 7th, 2004, Haus Erholung

Prof. Dr Richard R. Ernst
Nobel prize laureate in Chemistry, 1991
November 13th, 2005, Haus Erholung

His Excellency Shimon Peres
Former President of the State of Israel
Nobel Peace prize laureate, 1994
February 3rd, 2006, Kunstwerk Wickrath

Prof. Dr rer. nat. Theodor Hänisch
Nobel prize laureate in Physics, 2005
November 10th, 2006, Haus Erholung
Nobel prize laureates in Mönchengladbach

Prof. Dr Peter Grünberg
Nobel prize laureate in Physics, 2007
November 5th, 2008, Kaiser-Friedrich-Halle

Dr Shirin Ebadi
Nobel Peace prize laureate, 2003
February 28th, 2009, Kaiser-Friedrich-Halle

His Excellency Michail Gorbatschow
Former President of the Soviet Union
Nobel Peace prize laureate, 1990
June 28th, 2007, Kaiser-Friedrich-Halle

Prof. Dr Robert Huber
Nobel prize laureate in Chemistry, 1988
October 17th, 2007, Haus Erholung

Prof. Harald zur Hausen
Nobel prize laureate in Medicine, 2008
November 17th, 2009, Kaiser-Friedrich-Halle
His Holiness the 14th Dalai Lama
Nobel Peace prize laureate, 1989
May 17th, 2008
Mönchengladbach Airport
Nobel prize laureates in Mönchengladbach

Kofi Annan
Former U.N. General Secretary
Nobel Peace prize laureate, 2001
June 4th, 2010, Kaiser-Friedrich-Halle

Dr Venki Ramakrishnan
Nobel prize laureate in Chemistry, 2009
November 19th, 2010, Kaiser-Friedrich-Halle

Prof. Christopher Pissarides
Nobel prize laureate in Economy, 2010
September 20th, 2011, Kaiser-Friedrich-Halle
Prof. Muhammad Yunus
Nobel Peace prize laureate, 2006
November 21st, 2011, Kaiser-Friedrich-Halle

Leymah Roberta Gbowee
Nobel Peace prize laureate, 2011
November 16th, 2012, Kaiser-Friedrich-Halle

Martti Ahtisaari
Nobel Peace prize laureate, 2008
March 10th, 2012, Kaiser-Friedrich-Halle
Nobel prize laureates in Mönchengladbach

Mohamed ElBaradei
Nobel Peace prize laureate, 2005
June 5th, 2013, Kaiser-Friedrich-Halle

Prof. Thomas Südhof
Nobel prize laureate in Medicine, 2013
August 29th, 2014, Kaiser-Friedrich-Halle

Médecins sans Frontières
Nobel Peace prize laureate, 1999
May 5th, 2014, Kaiser-Friedrich-Halle
Prof. Jody Williams
Nobel Peace prize laureate, 1997
May 5th, 2015, Kaiser-Friedrich-Halle

Prof. Stefan Hell
Nobel prize laureate in Chemistry, 2014
November 27th, 2015, Kaiser-Friedrich-Halle

Kailash Satyarthi
Nobel Peace prize laureate, 2014
April 7th, 2016, Kaiser-Friedrich-Halle
Nobel prize laureates in Mönchengladbach

NWI Conference
Female Nobel Peace prize laureates in Mönchengladbach
May 10th to May 16th, 2017, Kaiser-Friedrich-Halle

Prof. Jody Williams
Nobel Peace prize laureate, 1997

Shirin Ebadi
Nobel Peace prize laureate, 2003

Rigoberta Menchú Tum
Nobel Peace prize laureate, 1992

Mairead Maguire
Nobel Peace prize laureate, 1976

Tawakkol Karman
Nobel Peace prize laureate, 2011

Prof. Ben Feringa
Nobel prize laureate in Chemistry, 2016
April 25th, 2018, Audimax Hochschule Niederrhein
Nobel prize laureates in Mönchengladbach

Gérard Albert Mourou
Nobel prize laureate in Physics, 2018
October 26th, 2021, Kaiser-Friedrich-Halle

Prof. Dr. Benjamin List
Nobel prize laureate in Chemistry, 2021
November 23rd, 2022, Kaiser-Friedrich-Halle
Special Event in celebration of the 10th anniversary of the Initiativkreis Mönchengladbach

President Mahmud Abbas
October 19th, 2013,
Kaiser-Friedrich-Halle

President Mahmud Abbas
signing the golden book of the city of Mönchengladbach.
Pioneers of the World in Mönchengladbach

A non-stop balloon flight around the globe, the stratosphere jump from a height of 9,800 meters or the discovery of the sunken Titanic – just a few examples of outstanding achievements. Under the title "Pioneers of the World in Mönchengladbach" the Initiativkreis introduces people with outstanding achievements, whose pioneering work functions as other peoples' role model.
Dr Robert Ballard  
Underwater Archaeologist  
May 24th, 2011, Kaiser-Friedrich-Halle

Dr Jane Goodall  
Behavioural Scientist  
June 6th, 2012, Kaiser-Friedrich-Halle

Jimmy Wales  
Founder of Wikipedia  
March 6th, 2013, Kaiser-Friedrich-Halle

Dr Jane Goodall  
Behavioural Scientist  
June 6th, 2012, Kaiser-Friedrich-Halle
Pioneers of the World in Mönchengladbach

Felix Baumgartner
Base-jumper
March 25th, 2014, Kaiser-Friedrich-Halle

Vivienne Westwood
Fashion Designer
June 9th, 2015, Kaiser-Friedrich-Halle
Prof. Heinz Mack
International Artist
September 17th, 2015,
Kaiser-Friedrich-Halle

Garry Kasparov
Former World Chess Champion
June 2nd, 2016, Kaiser-Friedrich-Halle

Prof. Markus Lüpertz
Artist
November 8th, 2016,
Kaiser-Friedrich-Halle
Pioneers of the World in Mönchengladbach

Jens Voigt
Former Professional Cyclist
April 4th, 2017, Kaisersaal – Haus Erholung

Dr Bertrand Piccard
Adventurer and Scientist
June 27th, 2017, Kaiser-Friedrich-Halle
David Mayer de Rothschild
Adventurer and Environmental Activist
June 12th, 2018, Kunstwerk Wickrath

Photo: L. Babini

David Coulthard
Formula 1 Racer legend
September 19th, 2018, Red Box

Photo: C. Witt

Photo: G. Coscia
Pioneers of the World in Mönchengladbach

Tony Cragg, Visual Artist
June 18th, 2019, Kunstwerk Wickrath

Stefan Glowacz, Mountain Climber/Adventurer
September 25th, 2019, Monforts Quartier

Photo: G. Coscia
Photo: T. Ullrich
Photo: MGMG
Laura Dekker
Youngest Circumnavigator
January 15th, 2020,
Kaiser-Friedrich-Halle

Henry Maske
Box Legend
November 20th, 2019,
Kaiser-Friedrich-Halle
Thomas Gottschalk
Showmaster Legend
June 14th, 2022, Kaiser-Friedrich-Halle

Dirk Steffens
Journalist and TV host
November 16th, 2022, Kaiser-Friedrich-Halle
Choirs of the World in Mönchengladbach

Choirs of international reputation performed in Mönchengladbach since 2004. The young artists inspire their audiences in the venerable atmosphere of the city's beautiful churches. Organized by the Initiativkreis, it is the acoustics and the flair of these churches which make the choir concerts unforgettable.

Guests in Mönchengladbach to date:

Thomanerchor
July 5th, 2004,
Cath. Main parish church St. Mariae Himmelfahrt

Dresdner Kreuzchor
July 18th, 2005,
Cath. Main parish church St. Mariae Himmelfahrt
Choirs of the World in Mönchengladbach

Regensburger Domspatzen
October 12th and 13th, 2009,
Basilica Münster St. Vitus

St. Paul’s Cathedral Choir, London
April 19th, 2007,
Ev. Mother Church, marketplace Rheydt

Tölzer Knabenchor
December 16th, 2011,
Ev. Mother Church, marketplace Rheydt
African Angels  
December 16th, 2016,  
Kaiser-Friedrich-Halle

Wiener Sängerknaben  
December 10th, 2013,  
Ev. Mother Church, marketplace Rheydt

Vatican Choir  
March 29th, 2014,  
St. Marien church

African Angels  
December 16th, 2016,  
Kaiser-Friedrich-Halle
Choirs of the World in Mönchengladbach

Windsbacher Knabenchor & Salaputia Brass
December 3rd, 2018
St. Marien church

King’s College Choir Cambridge
December 2022, St. Marien church
Soloists and Orchestras of the World in Mönchengladbach

Not only famous orchestras make their guest appearance in this series of events in Mönchengladbach: top class soloists share the stage with outstanding orchestral musicians, creating fascinating and unforgettable classical evening concerts.

Guests in Mönchengladbach to date:

Tschaikowsky Symphony Orchestra
Director Vladimir Fedoseyev
April 7th, 2005, Kaiser-Friedrich-Halle

Renaud Capuçon, violinist and Gautier Capuçon, cellist with the Orchestre National des Pays de la Loire
Director Isaac Karabtchevsky
March 26th, 2006, Kaiser-Friedrich-Halle
Soloists and Orchestras of the World in Mönchengladbach

Frank Peter Zimmermann, violinist
with the Rundfunk-Sinfonieorchester Berlin
Director Marek Janowski
September 12th, 2007, Kaiser-Friedrich-Halle

Bernd Glemser, pianist
with the Polish Kammerphilharmonie
Director Michal Dworzsinsky
March 9th, 2008, Kaiser-Friedrich-Halle
Sabine Meyer, clarinetist with the Arcos Chamber Orchestra New York
March 11th, 2010, Kaiser-Friedrich-Halle

Lise de la Salle, pianist
June 4th, 2009,
Kaiser-Friedrich-Halle
Soloists and Orchestras of the World in Mönchengladbach

Alice Sara Ott, pianist
November 20th, 2011,
Kaiser-Friedrich-Halle

BBC Philharmonic Orchestra
Director Juanjo Mena
May 9th, 2012, Kaiser-Friedrich-Halle
Jan Lisiecki, pianist
September 24th, 2013,
Kaiser-Friedrich-Halle

Violin Concert
with Sarah Chang and
the Filarmonia de
Cámara de Valencia
November 27th, 2014,
Kaiser-Friedrich-Halle
Soloists and Orchestras of the World in Mönchengladbach

Alison Balsom, trumpeter and the Westdeutsche Sinfonia
March 19th, 2015, Kaiser-Friedrich-Halle

Khatia Buniatishvili, pianist and the Kammerphilharmonie Amadé
January 19th, 2016, Kaiser-Friedrich-Halle
Joseph Moog, pianist
Young Artist of the Year 2015
(Gramophone Classical Music Awards)
March 29th, 2017, Kaiser-Friedrich-Halle

SIGNUM Saxophone Quartet &
Alberto Casadei, cellist
February 20th, 2018, Kaiser-Friedrich-Halle
Soloists and Orchestras of the World in Mönchengladbach

Zukerman Trio  
April 29th, 2019,  
Kunstwerk Wickrath

Alexandra Dovgan, pianist  
May 9th, 2022,  
Kaiser-Friedrich-Halle
The Campus Talk

The Campus Talk act as a platform for the exchange of ideas between Mönchengladbach’s business representatives and the city’s academic youth. The aim of the meetings is to provide practical insight into the job market.

The panel discussions with important business professionals are a joint project of the Initiativkreis Mönchengladbach and the local University of Applied Sciences.

The Campus Talk in Mönchengladbach to date:

The Campus Talk 2003
November 19th, University Niederrhein
Subject: "Social competences – top on the job!"

The Campus Talk 2004
November 24th, University Niederrhein
Subject: "Innovation and technology – who will be the winner?"

The Campus Talk 2005
November 23rd, University Niederrhein
Subject: "The power of media"

The Campus Talk 2006
November 22nd, University Niederrhein
Subject: "Fashion and economy – success factors in fashion"

The Campus Talk 2007
November 21st, University Niederrhein
Subject: "Europe – which chances arise from the youth community?"

The Campus Talk 2009
May 11th, Haus Erholung
Subject: "Germany and Europe – an analysis"

The Campus Talk 2011
May 5th, Haus Erholung
Subject: "Women’s soccer" with Dr Theo Zwanziger

The Campus Talk 2013
May 23rd, University Niederrhein
Subject: "Advantage technology – the future of fabrics"

The Campus Talk 2015
June 9th, University Niederrhein
Subject: "Innovation capitalism and how the world runs"

The Campus Talk 2013
Andreas Schmitz (Willy Schmitz Tuchfabrik), Thomas Rath (Designer), Kevin Lobo (Hugo Boss AG), Dunja Hayali (moderator), Christian von Daniels (van Laack GmbH), Gerhard Weber (Gerry Weber AG) (from left to right)
The Campus Talk
Ulrich Kienzle (Political journalist),
Martin Lohmann (Journalist and moderator),
Klaus Bresser (Political journalist)

The Campus Talk 2013

Rolf Königs (Aunde Group), Dr Jens Baganz
(State secretary Ministry NRW),
Gerhard Weber (Gerry Weber International AG),
Lord Mayor Norbert Bude, Anja Gockel (Fashion Designer),
Peter Paul Polte (Publisher of the magazine
Textilwirtschaft), Klaus Brinkmann
(Brinkmann-Gruppe) (from left to right)

Andreas Kronthaler,
Vivienne Westwood
(Fashion Designer),
Dunja Hayali (German TV host)
(from left to right)
The award "Rising Stars Mönchengladbach" was originated by the Initiativkreis Mönchengladbach in 2006. It is a cooperation with the European cultural foundation EUROPAMUSICALE. The award is presented every other year to excellent young European musicians.

Rising Stars 2006
Valentina Babor, piano
Kathy Kang, violin
Daniel Blendulf, violon cello
August 18th, 2006, Haus Erholung

Rising Stars 2008
with the Bach Collegium Munich
Zhao Jing, violon cello
Director Anu Tali
October 26th, 2008, Kaiser-Friedrich-Halle

Zhao Jing, violon cello,
with the Bach Collegium Munich

Anu Tali, Director
Rising Stars 2010
Niu Niu, piano
Lena Wignjosaputro, cello
Xiangzi Cao, violin
October 1st, 2010, Kaiser-Friedrich-Halle

Rising Stars 2012
Won-Ho Kim, violin / David T. Schmidt, piano / Julia Bremm, flute
September 11th, 2012, Kaiser-Friedrich-Halle

Rising Stars 2015
Norbert Bienen (patron), Richard Münchhoff (drums), Déborah Ester Ñancupil Troncoso (saxophone), Rebecca Rohner (saxophone), Sophie Pacini (piano), Amadeus Indetzki (film music composer), Lord Mayor Hans Wilhelm Reiners (from left to right)
October 21st, 2015, Kaiser-Friedrich-Halle
Rising Stars 2017
With the Youth Orchestra of NRW and the Youth Choir of the dome of Cologne
November 2nd, 2017, Kaiser-Friedrich-Halle

Rising Stars 2019
5 young pianists: Anna Handler, Alica Müller, Iva Zurbo, Arthur Zimmermann and Julius Schepansky. Surrounded by Mayor Michael Schroeren (left), and patron Norbert Bienen (right)
October 31st, 2019, Kaiser-Friedrich-Halle
Children's events in Mönchengladbach

Every year the Initiativkreis Mönchengladbach supports different projects for the children of Mönchengladbach. Whether the aim is to take away the fears of school beginners or to introduce first-graders to the multiplication-table: The different ensembles always raise enthusiasm for science and technology among children and youngsters.

"1x1 with Rumpelstil"
Music theatre "The Maths-Show"
April 28th, 2010, Kaiser-Friedrich-Halle

Children's theatre
"Laura starts school"
May 26th, 2009, Kaiser-Friedrich-Halle

Augsburger Puppenkiste "Steffi ein Sommermärchen"
May 11th, 2011, Haus Erholung

"The little Medicus"
December 21st, 2008
Kaiser-Friedrich-Halle
Children's events in Mönchengladbach

"r@usgemobbt.de and r@usgemobbt 2.0" Children's theatre about cyberbullying
May 30th, 2012, Kaiser-Friedrich-Halle

"The weather-rescuer!?" Children's theatre
March 19th, 2014, Kaiser-Friedrich-Halle

"Sesame Street celebrates 40 years"
May 28th, 2013, Kaiser-Friedrich-Halle

"Freddy Fuchs" Children's theatre
March 26th, 2015, Kaiser-Friedrich-Halle

"r@usgemobbt.de and r@usgemobbt 2.0"
Children's theatre about cyberbullying
May 30th, 2012, Kaiser-Friedrich-Halle

"Physikanten & Co.,
Physics show for children
May 30th, 2017, Kaiser-Friedrich-Halle

"Freddy Fuchs" Children's theatre
March 26th, 2015, Kaiser-Friedrich-Halle

"Sesame Street celebrates 40 years"
May 28th, 2013, Kaiser-Friedrich-Halle

Physikanten & Co.,
Physics show for children
May 30th, 2017, Kaiser-Friedrich-Halle
Physikanten & Co.,
Physics show for children
May 24th, 2019,
Mehrzweckhalle Eicken

"Der verrückte Obstkarren" Children’s theatre
May 15th, 2018, Mehrzweckhalle Eicken

Torch concert,
open-air show for children
September 15th, 2018,
park of the Volksbank
September 18th, 2022,
park of the Volksbank

"r@usgemobbt.de",
Children’s theatre about cyberbullying
May 8th, 2021,
Kaiser-Friedrich-Halle

"Abgeschnallt",
Children’s musical about traffic education
May 24th, 2022,
Kaiser-Friedrich-Halle

Christmas torch concert,
music show for children
December 4th, 2019,
Kaiser-Friedrich-Halle
December 8th, 2022,
Kaiser-Friedrich-Halle
Highlights in Mönchengladbach 2022

There are even more event highlights with world-famous personalities enriching the cultural life of Mönchengladbach and attracting transregional attention. This year we are very proud to welcome:

Alexandra Dovgan
Pianist
May 9th, 2022, 8.00 pm
Kaiser-Friedrich-Halle

Herta Müller
Nobel prize laureate in Literature
May 17th, 2022, 8.00 pm
Kaiser-Friedrich-Halle

Thomas Gottschalk
Showmaster Legend
June 14th, 2022, 8.00 pm
Kaiser-Friedrich-Halle

Dirk Steffens
Journalist and TV host
November 16th, 2022, 8.00 pm
Kaiser-Friedrich-Halle

Prof. Dr Benjamin List
Nobel prize laureate in Chemistry
November 23rd, 2022, 8.00 pm
Kaiser-Friedrich-Halle

“Anticipation” – Christmas torch concert, music show for children
December 8th, 2022, 6.00 pm
Kaiser-Friedrich-Halle

Herta Müller
Nobel prize laureate in Literature
May 17th, 2022, 8.00 pm
Kaiser-Friedrich-Halle

Gérard Albert Mourou
Nobel prize laureate in Physics
October 26th, 2022, 8.00 pm
Kaiser-Friedrich-Halle

Gérard Albert Mourou
Nobel prize laureate in Physics
October 26th, 2022, 8.00 pm
Kaiser-Friedrich-Halle

Prof. Dr Benjamin List
Nobel prize laureate in Chemistry
November 23rd, 2022, 8.00 pm
Kaiser-Friedrich-Halle

King’s College Choir
Cambridge
December 2022, 8.00 pm
St. Marien church
Event overview 2022

May 9th, 2022  
Soloists and Orchestras of the World in Mönchengladbach  
Alexandra Dovgan, pianist  
8.00 pm, Kaiser-Friedrich-Halle

May 17th, 2022  
Nobel Prize Winners in Mönchengladbach  
Herta Müller, Nobel prize laureate in Literature  
8.00 pm, Kaiser-Friedrich-Halle

May 24th, 2022  
“Abgeschnallt”, Children’s theatre about traffic education  
9.00 am & 11.00 am, Kaiser-Friedrich-Halle

June 14th, 2022  
Pioneers of the World in Mönchengladbach  
Thomas Gottschalk  
8.00 pm, Kaiser-Friedrich-Halle

October 26th, 2022  
Nobel Prize Winners in Mönchengladbach  
Gérard Albert Mourou, Nobel prize laureate in Physics  
8.00 pm, Kaiser-Friedrich-Halle

November 16th, 2022  
Pioneers of the World in Mönchengladbach  
Dirk Steffens, Journalist und Fernsehmoderator  
8.00 pm, Kaiser-Friedrich-Halle

November 23rd, 2022  
Nobel Prize Winners in Mönchengladbach  
Prof. Dr Benjamin List Benjamin List, Nobel prize laureate in Chemistry  
8.00 pm, Kaiser-Friedrich-Halle

December 8th, 2022  
“Anticipation” Christmas torch concert, music show for children  
with the Band Rumpels  
6.00 pm Kaiser-Friedrich-Halle

December 2022  
Choirs of the World in Mönchengladbach  
King’s College Choir Cambridge  
8.00 pm, St. Marien church
Present members of the Initiativkreis Mönchengladbach:

ALBERTO GmbH & Co. KG,
AUNDE Group,
Dr. Backes + Partner Rechtsanwälte mbB,
Batenborch International GmbH
BIENEN & PARTNER Immobilien GmbH,
Famos Immobilien GmbH,
Freisfeld vorm. Simon GmbH & Co. KG,
Herbrand Niederrhein GmbH & Co. KG –
Mercedes-Benz und smart Verkauf und Service,
Jagenberg AG,
Kalthöfer – IT I Sicherheitstechnik I Telekommunikation,
KARTEN DRUCK & MEDIEN GmbH & Co. KG,
Die Chefärztekonferenz Kliniken Maria Hilf,
Ernst Kreuder GmbH & Co. KG Bauunternehmung,
Lufthansa City Center Niederrhein,
NEW AG,
Rhenus Lub GmbH & Co KG,
F. Schaffrath GmbH & Co. KG,
Heinrich Schmidt GmbH & Co. KG,
Dr. Schrammen Architekten BDA GmbH & Co. KG
Stadtplaner – Generalplaner,
Seestadt mg+,

SMS group GmbH,
Stadtparkasse Mönchengladbach,
Trützschler GmbH & Co. KG,
van Laack GmbH,
vibrogruppe,
Volksbank Mönchengladbach eG,
Josef und Hilde Wilberz-Stiftung,
WWS Wirtz, Walter, Schmitz GmbH
Wirtschaftsprüfungsgesellschaft
Steuerberatungsgesellschaft