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Press release #1

## **Vienna Summer of Logic 2014**

**Landmark conference on logic presents findings and trends in the hometown of Gödel and Wittgenstein • Unique scientific presentations along with popular outreach activities transform Vienna into the epicenter of logic • Special media briefings offered in preparation of conference**

The [Vienna Summer of Logic](#) (VSL 2014) is the largest conference in the history of logic, to be held in Vienna, Austria, from July 9 until July 24, 2014. This landmark scientific event will bring together approximately 2'500 researchers, academics and students from all over the world, gathering to present important findings, emerging trends and new challenges in computer science, artificial intelligence, and mathematical logic.

But what is logic? Very bluntly: logic is the science of correct reasoning. As an ancient intellectual discipline, logic was part of classic Greek philosophy with thinkers such as Aristotle studying the laws of rational argument. In the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, intellectual giants like David Hilbert and Bertrand Russell established mathematical logic as a foundation of mathematics itself. With the rise of computer technology, logic in various forms has become a central tool to make computers execute complex human tasks. Logic is indispensable in artificial intelligence, in databases, in computer safety and security, and even as a programming language. The deep connection between computer science, artificial intelligence and logic goes back to Alan Turing, the founding father of computer science.

Vienna has a remarkable tradition in the field of logic. In the 1920's the Vienna Circle, initiated by Moritz Schlick, and its concept of logical positivism attracted numerous intellectuals of its time, the two most thought-provoking and enduring scholars in this environment being Kurt Gödel and Ludwig Wittgenstein. In recent years contemporary scientists have re-connected with this notable past and have put Vienna back on to the global map of logic. The Vienna Summer of Logic therefore honors and commemorates the great minds of the past by presenting the progress of modern logic exactly where it all began.

The Vienna Summer of Logic, organized by the [Kurt Gödel Society](#), consists of three major blocks of conferences which represent the major currents in this

field: computer science, artificial intelligence and mathematical logic, epitomized by such renowned scholars as Turing award winners Edmund Clarke and Dana Scott. In the course of the VSL two major contests will be held: At the FLoC Olympic Games logicians will challenge each other at a solver competition. And the Kurt Gödel Society will award three fellowship prizes endowed with a 100.000 Euros each to the winners of the Kurt Gödel Research Prize Competition “Logical Mind: Connecting Foundations and Technology.”

In parallel to the scientific events, an elaborate social and cultural program will present the impact and the beauty of logic to a wider public by offering outreach activities such as a street party.

In preparation of this conference the Vienna Summer of Logic is offering media seminars in March and April with complimentary travel and lodging (upon prior request and approval). Members of the organizing committee will brief journalists on the basics of logic and the highlights of the conference in half-day seminars. For dates, arrangements and further information please contact

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