



Hello dear CityLAB Community,

For anyone who was expecting an Abba song in the subject line of our first newsletter of the new year, we have to put a bit of a damper on things: we didn't draw our inspiration from the latest AI-generated Beatles hit. But our **new prototype Parla** can still do some pretty amazing stuff with **artificial intelligence**: thanks to a powerful large language model (LLM), the AI tool is able to access over 10,000 public documents from the current election period complete with search and filter options. The focus here is on Parliamentary Questions, Written Questions and the minutes of the main committee meetings – also known as Rote Nummern ("red numbers"). *Parla* displays the information clearly, making it more accessible to anyone interested in current decisions and measures taken by the Berlin Senate. We describe below what else *Parla* has to offer. And we have little New Year present up our sleeve, too: our biggest event of the year – the **CityLAB-Summer Conference – will be back again in 2024** and we've already set a specific date. **Mark down June 27** in your calendar – more on this in the Save the Date section!

You know exactly what you want? Go directly to

- [Spotlight 1: Parla](#)
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Spotlight 1



Prototyping

Parla: new AI tool for administration

What sustainability goals is the Berlin Senate pursuing with a view to reducing CO2 emissions? How is the shortage of teachers impacting the city? Or: how many raccoons are currently thought to be living in Berlin? Official answers to these and other political, social and animal-related questions already exist – in the form of so-called "Written Questions". These are uploaded to the website of the Berlin parliament in PDF format. Our new prototype *Parla* facilitates the search with the help of artificial intelligence. The result: the application lists documents matching the search query based on the content-related hit rate, even generating a brief answer. As with all current AI-supported language models, it's advisable to take a closer look at the sources listed, but nonetheless: we'd still like to encourage everyone – whether administrative staff, members of parliament or interested citizens – to give *Parla* a try. Have fun researching!

[To Parla](#)

Spotlight 2



Network

Mange tak, København – insights into our CityLAB delegation trip

Copenhagen is exemplary when it comes to combining urban development with digitalization and designing sustainable cities with people's needs in mind. So it was hugely exciting for members of our team to be invited to the Danish capital last December to meet with some of the key players there from administration, civil society and business who are working on issues relating to digitalization and sustainable urban development. We came back with a fresh perspective, a greater willingness to experiment and numerous points of reference for our work at CityLAB. Read this blog post to find out who we met and what ideas we swapped!

[To the blog](#)

Spotlight 3



CityLAB 2023

The incredible journey of a bustling innovation lab – CityLAB 2023

"You have to let go of the old if you want to embrace the new." Well, that might well be true – but we're not quite ready to let go of 2023 just yet. The year simply had too many highlights – like the first tour of the *Kiezlabor* through the various neighborhoods of Berlin, our summer conference, and the first measures implemented under the strategy *Gemeinsam Digital: Berlin*. We're all set and ready to get down to hard work on new projects of course, but we'd still like to indulge in a nostalgic retrospective and reminisce together – so we warmly recommend our review of the year to you once again. If you haven't had the chance to browse through it yet, we can assure you that you're in for a wild ride through a thrilling year!

[To the review](#)

Events



29.02.

Open Data

Maptime Berlin x Open Data Day 2024

29.02.2024, 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m., CityLAB Berlin

Attention mapping friends and open data enthusiasts! Celebrate the international Open Data Day 2024 with us at our Maptime Meetup at CityLAB! We expect inspiring talks about visualisations, applications, platforms, tools and hacks around maps and (open) data! Come by for pizza, lemonade and data-enthusiastic exchange!

[More Information](#)

27.06.

Conference

CityLAB-Summer Conference 2024

Save the date: June 27 at Haus Ungarn!

We once again invite you to this year's big CityLAB-Summer Conference, featuring our usual illustrious mix of administration, academia, business and Berlin civil society! This time we'll be meeting right in the heart of the city: we look forward to welcoming you to Haus Ungarn on Alexanderplatz on June 27, where we will be engaging in dialog with you about smart city issues, open data, digitalization, and innovations in and for Berlin – at hands-on workshops where we'll be trying out ideas together in practice.

Our Kiezlabor will once again be in on the action, showing its strengths and inviting participants to explore what it has to offer. The program will follow shortly, but for now: download the Save the Date and block the day in your calendar! We can hardly wait!

[Save the Date](#)

Looking ahead

You're probably still surprised at the potential there is in AI applications for administration and can hardly wait to try out *Parla* for yourself! We look forward to your feedback and hope you enjoy testing it!



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