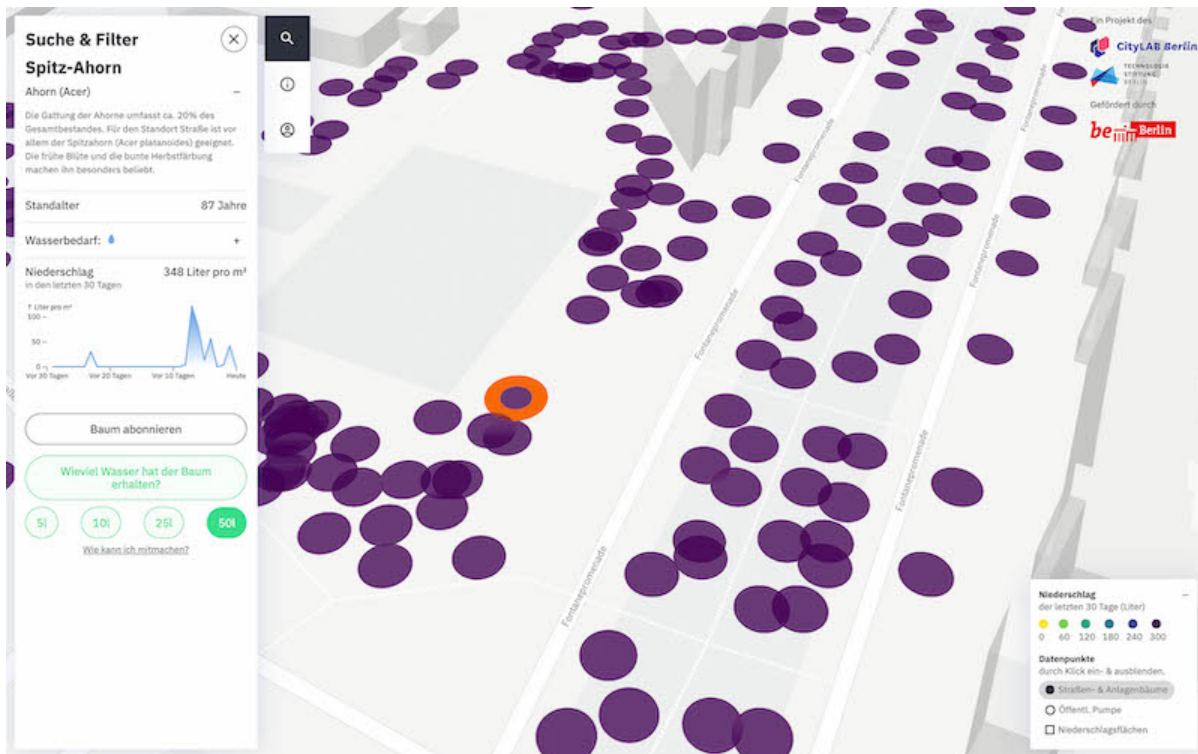


## News from the CityLAB May 2020



Hello , dear CityLAB Community,

Summer is drawing ever nearer, and we've got a sparkling new prototype to help kick it off: we're launching [giesdenkiez.de](https://giesdenkiez.de), a web platform that aims to help citizens and local governments in Berlin keep the city's more than 625,000 trees adequately watered during dry weather. You can use

the platform to learn about what types of trees are in your neighborhood, and you can “subscribe” to an individual tree and let everyone on the platform know when you’ve watered it. The platform also integrates daily precipitation data from the German Weather Service (DWD) to make it easier for you to see what the current water needs of local trees are.

As Berlin’s summers endure the effects of climate change and the increasingly hot and dry weather it produces, our local trees are suffering the consequences and struggling to survive. Many Berliners have already been trying to do their part and have been regularly watering trees in their neighborhood. With ["Gieß den Kiez"](#) (engl. "Water your neighborhood"), we’re exploring how we can use technology to support these existing efforts, communicate important knowledge about the environmental health of our city, and make it easier to coordinate new initiatives. So for all of you who cherish this city’s greenery: join in! Subscribe to a tree, grab a hose or a watering can, and let everyone else see your valuable contributions. The trees will surely thank you!

If you want to get in touch with other users of the platform, we’ve set up a [Slack space](#) for you to use. And if you’re interested in helping us develop this project further or in adapting this platform for other cities, this project is [open source and available on GitHub](#). You can also read the project’s press release [here](#).

## #HackTheCrisis-Activities



Our [#HackTheCrisis initiative](#) has spawned some [exciting projects](#), but it’s also been a launchpad for us to host some great conversations and other initiatives around the current pandemic crisis. We hosted a discussion with [Fraunhofer FOKUS](#), [wirhelfen.eu](#) and [CoronaPort](#) on how to set up neighborhood support platforms and what learnings can be drawn from academic research as well as current experiences (you can view the whole conversation [here](#)). At a digital round table, we brought together representatives from five different volunteer mask-sewing initiatives to talk about their experiences in coordinating the sewing and donating of cloth masks (see the image above for a glimpse into that discussion). With the colleagues from [ODIS](#) we’ve analyzed and visualized open data on [sidewalks in the city](#) to see where the prescribed minimum distance of 1.5 meters from others is even possible. We also sat down (virtually, of course) with [Prof. Kaufmann from the Max-Planck-Institute for Infection Biology](#) to learn about the latest developments in pandemic research, prospects for a COVID-19 vaccine, and what life after this pandemic might look like. And of course we featured one of the topics nearest and dearest to our hearts: together with the [ITDZ Berlin](#) we presented an overview of the city’s ICT architecture to help developers and startups better understand the technical requirements for software used in the government. Couldn’t make it? We’ve got you covered – the video is [here](#).

## Online Event-Highlights

### 19.05.2020, 16:00 - 17:00 h, Online Werkstatt @CityLAB: "Offenes Ohr"

In the Technologiestiftung's online "Werkstatt @CityLAB: Offenes Ohr", all your questions on hardware will be answered by our amazing head of the open workshop, Sara Reichert (masters in electrical engineering!). How did that work again with the plus/minus in the circuit diagram? Why is nothing flashing? What does this error message mean in the Arduino? Which components do I need for the traffic lights on my toy highway? You're of course also welcome to use this time to work further on projects from previous editions of the open workshop!

Language: German

More information and free registration [here](#)

### 20.05.2020, 16:00 - 17:00 h, Introduction to Web Scraping in R

Web scraping is an indispensable tool to collect, store and analyse web data for research purposes. Our workshop provides an introduction to web scraping using R, an open-source programming language which is primarily used for data-analysis. Always wanted to learn R but never quite sure where to start? Join us and get to know the basics!

Language: English

More information and free registration [here](#)

### 26.05.2020, 15:00 - 17:30 h, LabCamp: Networking meetup for public innovation labs

In recent years, numerous innovation labs and teams have sprung up at the local, federal and state level. These labs are breaking new ground, trying to move beyond the entrenched structures of government bureaucracy. In the first LabCamp, CityLAB and the Digital Innovation Team of the Federal Ministry of the Interior ([PG DIT](#)) invite practitioners from public innovation labs to exchange experiences.

Language: German

More information and application for the free LabCamp [here](#)

### 19.06.2020, Save the Date: CityLAB Summerfest on Digital Day 2020

We would have loved to celebrate with you in real life, but that will have to wait! We are planning a completely digital summer party for the first anniversary of the CityLAB, and we have put together a packed program for you: We'll present our fresh-off-the-presses handbook on administrative innovation, talk about innovative procurement processes, discuss pop-up bike lanes and related initiatives or talk about [#WirVsVirus](#) for Berlin. Workshop topics will include IoT for the smart city or security online and our head of data science, Sebastian Meier, will show you how to understand data and interpret studies correctly.

**Save the date and write it in your calendar** - more information will follow soon!

## New in our Co-Working Space: Building Health Lab





© chuttersnap

Not every street in Berlin is pedestrian friendly. The **"Urban Care" project** of **Building Health Lab** has set its sights on changing this: Using a web-based platform, the project aims to improve the quality of life in Berlin's districts through pedestrian-friendly infrastructure. The platform is intended to alert decisionmakers to obstacles pedestrians face in their communities and to help guide the process of improving walkability. The project is using our Co-Working Space since our reopening. More information about the project can be found [here](#).

Our **exhibition** has reopened for visitors with new policies in place in order to uphold the Berlin Senate's current health restrictions and regulations. We're looking forward to seeing you all there once again – from a safe distance, of course!

**Visit us** at Platz der Luftbrücke 4, Building H2rund, 12101 Berlin (U Platz der Luftbrücke).

**Opening hours of the exhibition:** Wed-Sa, 10-17h; admission is free.

**Still have questions?** Write to us at: [info@citylab-berlin.org](mailto:info@citylab-berlin.org)

We wish you a fantastic and safe rest of May!

Your CityLAB-Berlin Team

#### Legal note

Technologiestiftung Berlin  
Grunewaldstrasse 61-62  
10825 Berlin

Phone +49 30 209 69 99 0  
Mail: [info \(at\) citylab-berlin.org](mailto:info@citylab-berlin.org)

Foundation register Berlin:  
AZ 3416/464 83

USt-Id-Nr.: DE 187 459 128

A project by



Sponsored by



If you don't want to receive these E-Mails anymore, you can unsubscribe [here](#).