

## Hello dear CityLAB Community,

Your New Year's resolutions were probably something like this: exercise more, eat less sugar, and enjoy more quality content. Well, you're in the right place! We've started the new year full of energy and already have plenty to share. In the first edition of our newsletter, we'll take a look at the challenge of bridging vision and reality, how cave dwellers became data visualizers, and the potential impact of AI on climate protection. But, of course, a great start to the year wouldn't be possible without you! Check out our Open Call to learn how you can be part of our Sommerkonferenz 2025.

Happy reading!

**You know exactly what you want? Go directly to**

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### Spotlight 1



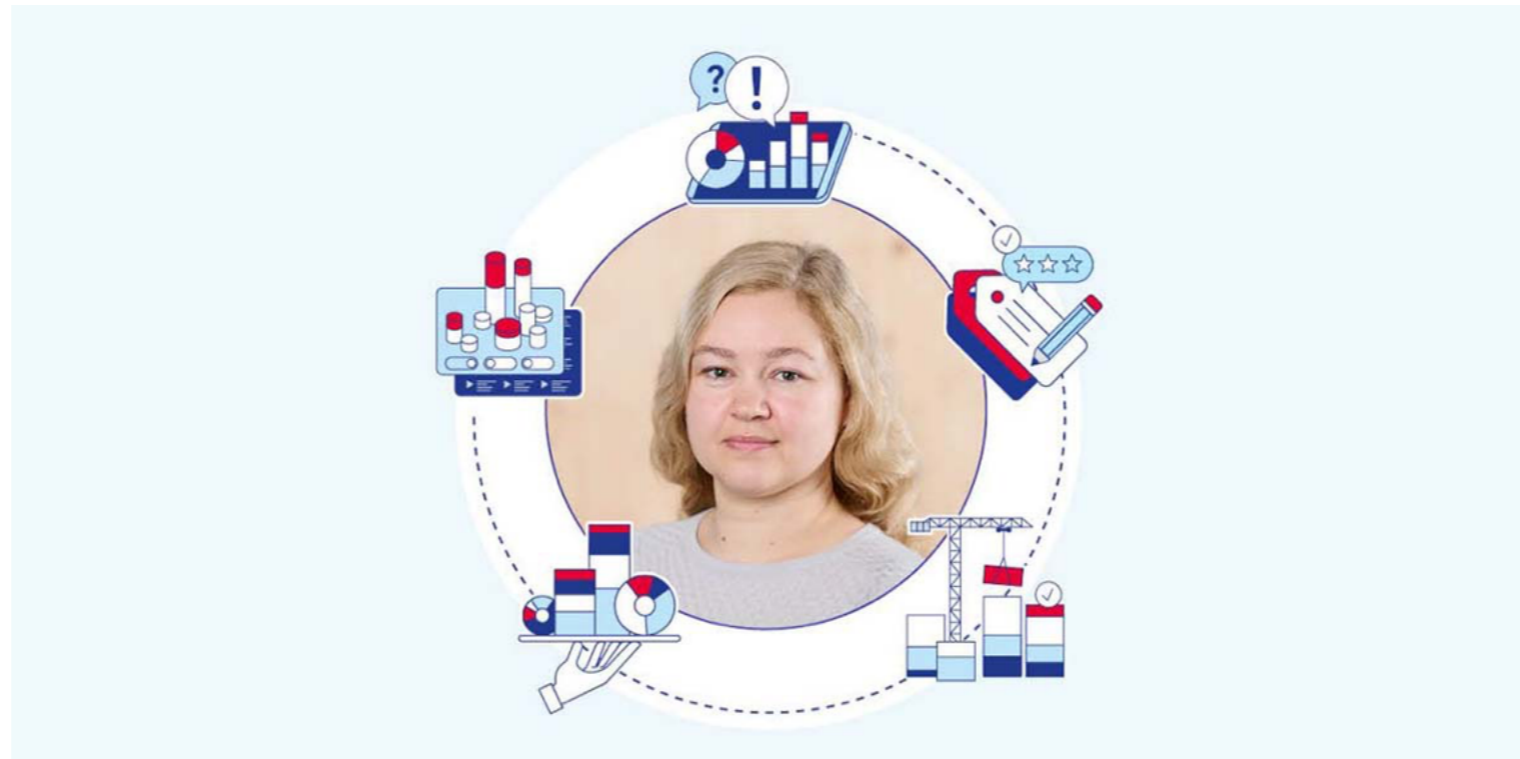
**Blog**

#### Vision vs. Reality: Testing Ideas in Practice

Theory is patient; practice is less forgiving – just think about the history of Berlin's BER airport. What started as a showcase project became a cautionary tale of how far planning and reality can diverge. The same is often true for innovation projects: ideal visions meet unexpected hurdles. So, how can we bridge this gap? In our latest article, Smart City Designer Anja Lüttmann and public innovation expert Pauline Boos share insights from their work, showing how to move from theory to practice – and when it's better to take a step back and rethink the basics.

[To the blogpost](#)

### Spotlight 2



**ODIS-Column**

#### The Art of Data Visualization: From Mammoth to Matrix

Campfires, cold nights, and hungry hunters – seasoned readers might immediately think of the Open Data Informationsstelle (ODIS) team. In this column, however, we look back at our ancestors and how they used visual communication to share knowledge and pass on information. While we no longer paint on cave walls, the principle remains the same: data visualizations help us understand complex information and make decisions. But what makes a good visualization? Anna Meide shows us how data visualization can be both an art form and a tool for empowerment.

[To the blogpost](#)

### Spotlight 3




**Annual Review**

#### CityLAB 2024 – Plus 1,000 Aura

According to trend barometers, we're at the top in 2024! Wondering why? Check out our spectacular annual review: five years full of innovation, creativity, and forward-thinking ideas for Berlin. In this half-decade, CityLAB has become a vibrant hub actively shaping the digital transformation of the capital – and we couldn't be prouder. If you haven't had a chance to view our annual review yet, now is the time!

[To the review](#)

### Social Media Highlight



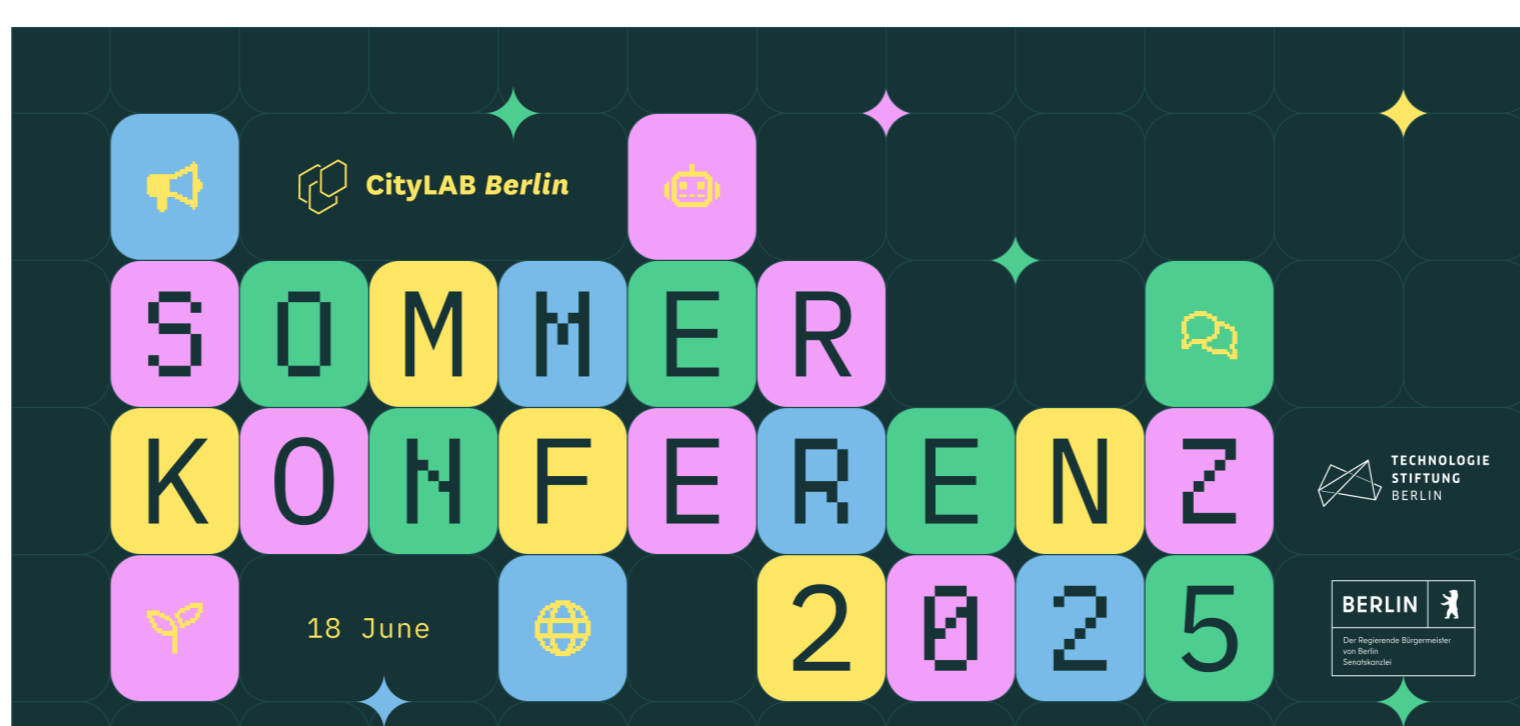
**Instagram**

#### Crime Scene: CityLAB

Our New Year's celebration was all about solving a thrilling mystery! Over a delicious meal, the entire team came together with the same passion we bring to our projects to crack a challenging case. And the suspect you see in the post? They're back at work, shaping the Berlin of tomorrow with enthusiasm!

[To the post](#)

### Events



## 18.06.2025

**CityLAB Sommerkonferenz**

### Registration and Open Call – We're Searching Again

09:00 - 22:00 pm., Umweltforum Berlin

No summer without the Sommerkonferenz! On June 18, we're hosting our biggest event of the year once again. After last year's great success, we can't do it without you, which is why our Open Call is back for a second round. We're looking for public sector employees from Berlin and beyond to design their own program sessions. Whether it's a best practice presentation, workshop, or exchange format – the stage could be yours! Submit your proposals by February 28, 2025, and be part of CSDS (CityLAB Searches for the Superstar).

[Register here](#)

[Open Call Details](#)

## 03.04.

**Save the Date**

### Girls' Day

CityLAB Berlin, Platz der Luftbrücke 4, 12101 Berlin

Girls, girls, girls – that's exactly who we need for the future! That's why, together with our colleagues from the Technologiestiftung Berlin, we're inviting young women to the nationwide Girls' Day. On April 3, we'll welcome 10th- to 13th-grade students interested in data and visualization to our historic spaces in the former Tempelhof Airport. More details coming soon!

[What We Learned Last Year \(German only\)](#)

### Looking ahead

**Even if you don't stick to your other resolutions, staying updated with your favorite lab is a must! 2025 is all about diverse projects, formats, and events, and we're excited to have you along for the ride. Don't forget: good resolutions are meant to be shared! Feel free to forward this newsletter to someone who's just as passionate about innovation and Berlin's future as we are.**

#### Contact

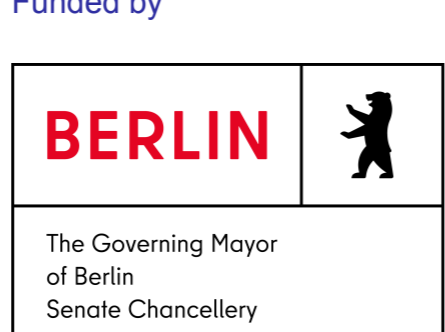
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#### Imprint

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