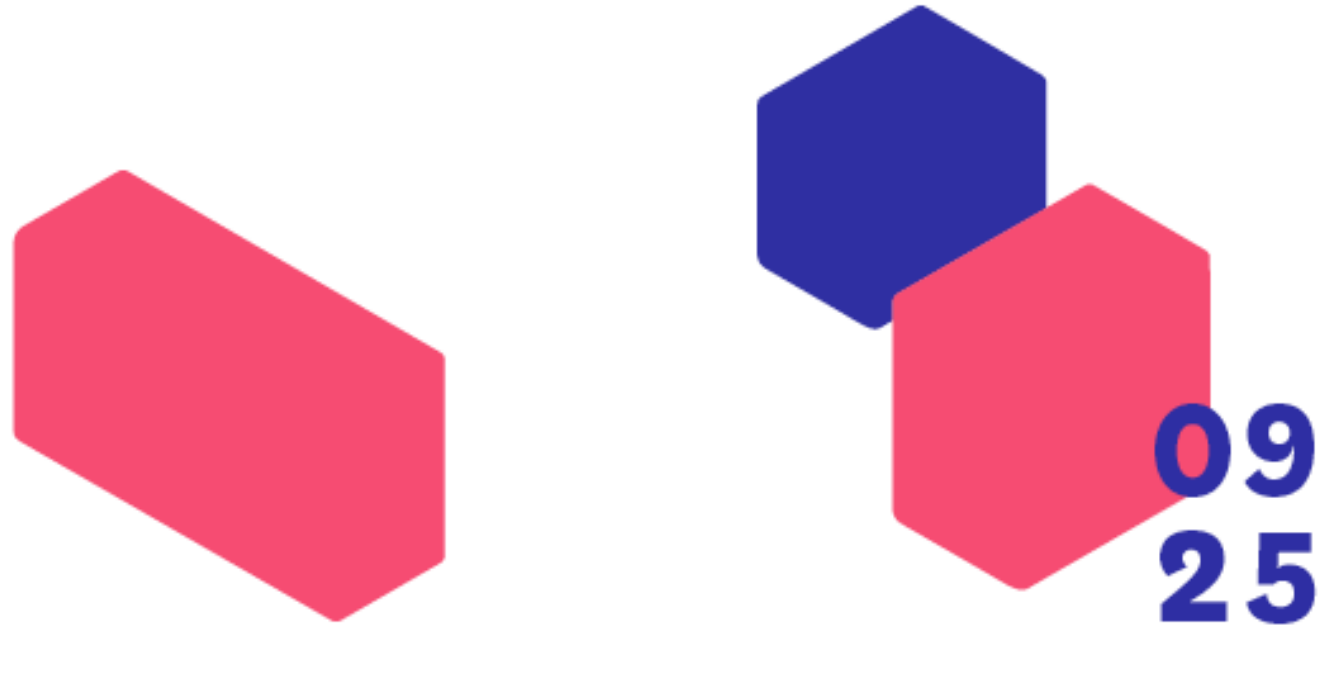




Hello dear CityLAB Community,

Just like in a 3-star kitchen, CityLAB works with countless ingredients to refine one dish — or in our case, digital Berlin. In this issue, we're serving up delights such as projects, prototypes, and behind-the-scenes insights. From AI solutions like BärGPT to creative participation formats to international guests from Beijing and Shanghai — everything's on the menu to spice up digital everyday life. To top it off, we're adding a few fresh event-herbs to give your October that final kick of flavor.

Bon appétit while reading!

Spotlight 1



Prototyping

BärGPT – Un-bear-lievably smart

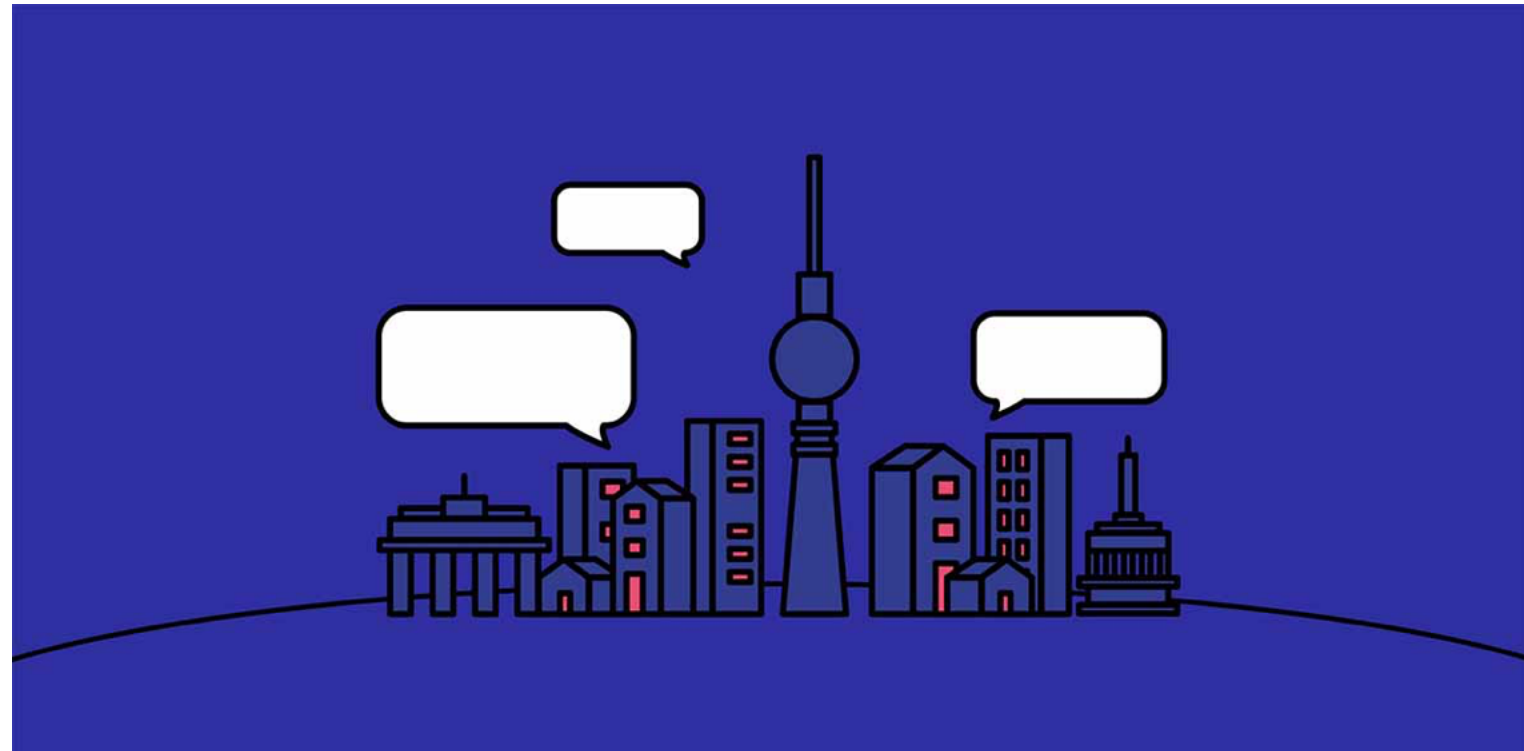
Staff shortages, bureaucracy, demographic change — the challenges for public administration are many. AI is knocking at the door as a potential game changer. But how can it really help? Together with civil servants, CityLAB is testing how artificial intelligence can make daily work easier. Alongside our AI tool *Parla*, we are currently trialing the AI assistant *BärGPT*. You can read on our blog what we've already learned about developing needs-based prototypes.

And what about the technical side of things? How did we manage to tame the wild AI bear? In our new **Devlog series**, CityLAB developers shed light on the technical aspects and features they've built into the AI prototype and share their expertise. This time: Data Scientist Malte Barth on how to train an AI chatbot with domain-specific knowledge.

[Overview article](#)

[Technical article](#)

Spotlight 2



Column

Stadtgeflüster #6 – Let the monster out of the closet

Our Service Designer and Public Service Coach, Anja Lüttmann, knows all about complex problems and says: complexity has an image problem — when in fact it's full of opportunities. But how do you deal with the complexity monster that so often crosses our paths at work? Best like a new Netflix series hit: with curiosity and imagination for creative solutions. Sounds complicated? Don't worry — in her blog, Anja takes us by the hand and walks us step by step through concrete design thinking processes.

[To the blog post](#)

Social Media Highlight



The third “Gemeinsam Digital: Berlin” Annual Conference

Third time's a charm! Once again this year, the GD:B community gathered at Rotes Rathaus. At the heart of the conference was the question of how digital projects can be made sustainable and how digital transformation can be firmly anchored for the long term. Who joined the discussions? Plenty of familiar faces — check out our Flickr album!

[See the photos](#)

Spotlight 3



Networking

From Beijing to Shanghai – Delegations at the LAB

At first glance, Beijing, Shanghai, and Berlin couldn't be more different. With 22 and 30 million inhabitants, Berlin suddenly feels like a small village. Still, two delegations from Beijing and Shanghai came to CityLAB Berlin — not to talk about village life, but to learn how technological innovation in smart cities and administrative modernization can be successfully linked with citizen participation. Curious about what we learned from each other? Head over to the blog.

[To the blog post](#)

Events



30.09. – 02.10.2025

Conference

CityLAB goes Smart Country Convention (SCCON)

Messe Berlin / hub27

Chances are, you're reading this newsletter while on the train to SCCON. If not: the conference kicks off today — a must-attend event for anyone who wants to actively shape the digital transformation. You'll find us not only in the main program (including sessions on BärGPT) but also at the Smart City Berlin booth (407) — with no fewer than 11 program highlights, including more insights into how we develop AI projects at CityLAB.

[Program overview](#)

08.10.

Conference

“Better Sharing” – kulturBdigital Conference 2025

10:00–19:00, @ufaFabrik

A diverse cultural scene is indispensable for a livable Berlin. But how can it remain resilient despite limited resources? Under the motto “*Better Sharing*”, the kulturBdigital conference invites you to explore digital collaboration, sharing platforms, and new forms of knowledge exchange in the cultural sector. Expect talks, panels, workshops, and artistic impulses — including sign language interpretation for the stage program.

[More Information \(German only\).](#)

12.11.

Meetup

Maptime Berlin 2025

17:30–21:00, @CityLAB Berlin

Time to put the cards on the table! We're once again hosting the popular Maptime Meetup. Look forward to inspiring lightning talks on visualizations, applications, tools, and hacks — all about maps and (open) data. More details about the speakers will be announced soon on our website. Don't forget to invite your map- and data-enthusiast friends!

[Register here](#)

12.11.

Meetup

LABnight 2025

17:00–21:00, @CityLAB Berlin

Another must-attend event is just around the corner: our CityLAB LABnight! Join us in the evening to stroll through the exhibition, chat with the people behind CityLAB, and learn more about our projects. Plus, we've got some exciting program highlights in store. We'll keep the suspense until the next newsletter. For now: download the Save the Date and block your calendar!

[Register here](#)

03.06.

Save the date

CityLAB Sommerkonferenz 2026

all day

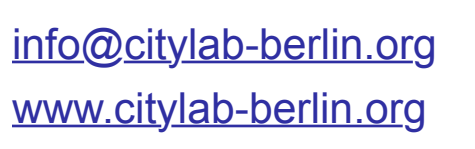
Only 216 more sleeps until it's time again: Summer Conference! To make sure you can sleep peacefully, download the Save the Date now. Next year's conference will once again offer a unique atmosphere, diverse program points, and plenty of opportunities to connect with our special community. Dreamy! We can't wait to experience this day with you.

[Save the date](#)

Looking ahead

Did you enjoy the feast and are you feeling full? Send a greeting back to the newsletter kitchen and share your thoughts with us on [Instagram](#) – we'd love to hear from you!

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