

# Press Texts Waterkant Festival 2020

\_virtual edition



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## Background

The Waterkant Festival is an initiative of the independent education cluster [opencampus.sh](https://opencampus.sh), which is committed to alternative education formats and the development of the start-up ecosystem in the German federal state of Schleswig-Holstein. Since 2016, the festival has taken place annually in June, shortly before the Kieler Woche international sailing event. Since 2017 the festival has been taking place in on the former site of the German Naval Flight Wing 5 (MFG5) in Kiel Holtenau. From a modest start of 300 participants, the festival has grown to a fan community of over 1000 visitors traveling from several European countries for the Waterkant experience.

The Waterkant Festival aims to make the future tangible by constructively framing societal changes, such as sustainability and digitalisation, into potential futures realised by a dynamic, engaged, community. The festival brings international, and particularly Scandinavian, thinkers and entrepreneurs together with innovative technical developments and concepts proposed by young start-ups from Schleswig-Holstein and Northern Europe. It thrives on the multitude of different perspectives of people who inspire and learn from each other. Interactive workshops, talks and informal meetings take place in a relaxed atmosphere, where everyone can get involved. New products, ideas and technologies are available for all visitors to try out and experience!

**The Ministry of Economic Affairs, Transport, Employment, Technology and Tourism of Schleswig-Holstein, along with local and supra-regional partners make it possible to fund the Waterkant Festival, which is organised by [opencampus.sh](https://opencampus.sh).**

## Key Information

**When:**

5.-26. June,  
every Monday to Saturday

**Where:**

online at your favorite place,  
<https://live.waterkant.sh>

**For whom:**

for all curious people

**By whom:**

[opencampus.sh](https://opencampus.sh)

**Information and program:**

[www.waterkant.sh](https://www.waterkant.sh)

**Questions:**

[info@waterkant.sh](mailto:info@waterkant.sh)

**Press:**

[press@waterkant.sh](mailto:press@waterkant.sh)

## 2020 Long Version

[272 Words]

Since 2016, the annual Waterkant Festival has become a showcase for innovation in northern Germany.

Due to the current situation around CoVid19, the 2020 festival will take place as a online *virtual edition* throughout the month of June. From June 5-26, talks, panel discussions, workshops and meet-ups will take place online every day, which visitors can join from their living room, balcony or their favourite spot in the park. There are even live yoga and cooking sessions to follow online. Over 100 sessions featuring speakers from all over Europe are planned. The program can be viewed at [www.waterkant.sh/program](http://www.waterkant.sh/program) and you can join every session online at <https://live.waterkant.sh>.

This year's themes include digital ethics, sustainability, the futures of education and work, health and digitalisation, ocean tech, learning to code and artificial intelligence.

The purpose of the festival is build a community of deeper networks and cooperation between companies, start-ups, education and civil society in order to initiate and evolve projects together that generate value for the wider region. But even if just want to learn about the future, Waterkant Festival is the place to be. At Waterkant you can hear, see and above all experience how Schleswig-Holstein and the North want to and will create futures. No matter who you are - founder, student, employee, entrepreneur - and what your exact profession is: at Waterkant Festival, everyone will find something that will help them advance, inspire them and make them have fun.

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## 2020 Short Version

[160 Words]

Waterkant Festival 2020 \_virtual edition is the first online version of the popular festival in Kiel, which every year becomes a showcase for innovation in the north of Germany. From 5th to 26th June, a program of 100 talks, panels, workshops and meetups will take place around the themes of digital ethics, sustainability, the futures of work and education, health and digitisation, ocean tech, extended reality, learning to code and AI. There are even live yoga and cooking sessions to follow online. The festival connects international, and particularly Scandinavian, thinkers and entrepreneurs with innovative technical developments and concepts proposed by young start-ups from Schleswig-Holstein and Northern Europe. At Waterkant you can hear, see and above all experience how Schleswig-Holstein and the North want to and will make the future.

**The Ministry of Economic Affairs, Transport, Employment, Technology and Tourism of Schleswig-Holstein, along with local and supra-regional partners make it possible to fund the Waterkant Festival, which is organised by [opencampus.sh](http://opencampus.sh).**

## 2020 Super Short Version & Numbers [40 Words]

Waterkant Festival 2020 \_virtual edition is the first online version of the popular festival in Kiel and takes place from June 5 – 26. International thinkers and entrepreneurs are invited to talk in and with Kiel! Join us, too!

### Waterkant Festival 2019 in numbers

1,100 visitors from 16 countries // 1,408,151 online impressions // 142 speakers // 68 startups // 52 companies // 110 workshops and sessions // 31 meetups

## Web & Social Media

### website:

www.waterkant.sh

### twitter:

waterkant\_sh

### livestream:

live.waterkant.sh

### linkedin:

waterkant-festival

### instagram:

waterkant.festival

### facebook:

waterkant.festival

## Kontakt

For any questions or inquiries contact us at [press@waterkant.sh](mailto:press@waterkant.sh).