

Voluntary Local Review

Kiel 2022

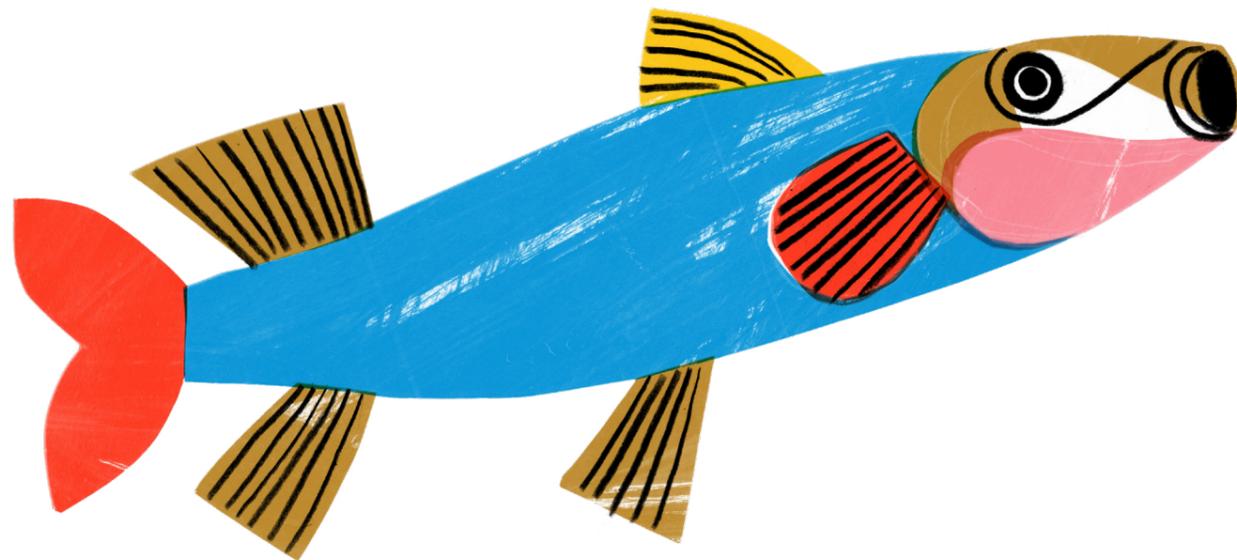


FOR KIEL AND THE WORLD.

Thinking globally, driving change locally

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Preface

Cities and municipalities are drivers of sustainable development. While municipalities are the first to feel the impacts of the changes brought on by climate change and global crises, they are also the level of government where concrete, hands-on creative approaches are being tested and developed in order to tackle these challenges.

Cities and municipalities can do much to shape the living conditions of their citizens. Affordable housing for all, the successful integration of refugees, equitable access to education and new, sustainable forms of mobility – all these issues are being addressed by cities and municipalities.

Building on their commitment, cities have a pioneering role to play, and the City of Kiel is ready to take on its share of responsibility. Since signing the 2030 Agenda in 2017, we have been working to implement the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) locally, guided by our slogan, “For Kiel and the world: Thinking globally, driving change locally”. Our aim is to align our daily administrative activities with the SDGs in order to support the much-needed transition towards a socially and ecologically more just future. By implementing the measures outlined in our climate action strategy and our Zero Waste plan, we are making an important contribution to reducing CO2 emissions. We are also attempting to minimize the global impact of our local activities by ensuring that publicly procured goods and services consistently meet social and ecological standards across each supply chain. In a connected world, municipalities are gradually becoming global actors, too. Kiel actively fosters its international relations by nurturing collaboration with its twin cities, sharing experiences in city networks and launching joint projects with a focus on sustainable development. One of the communities we are twinned with is Moshi District in Tanzania, where we have supported the construction of a new maternity ward that was opened in early 2022.

The 17 SDGs, which have been endorsed by all 193 UN member states following an extensive participatory process, are an ideal and legitimate framework for this endeavour. Yet they contain a number of conflicting targets that we will need to prioritise as we move forward. Which investments in climate-friendly technologies can we afford given our limited municipal budget? Can we promote economic competitiveness and at the same time sanction carbon-intensive industries? Do we want to fund affordable housing schemes or home retrofitting programmes? Ultimately, it remains the municipalities’ responsibility to balance out the social inequalities resulting from their policies.

With its first Voluntary Local Review (VLR), the City of Kiel wants to share the progress it has achieved in implementing the SDGs and join the international group of progressive cities whose VLRs are highlighting the significant role played by cities as drivers of sustainable development. The robust facts and data underpinning the review have given us a clearer picture of our strengths and weaknesses and will guide us as we transition towards a sustainable future. We also want to use Kiel’s first VLR as an incentive to engage in broader international dialogue with other cities and work together to find solutions to our shared challenges. At the same time, we want to encourage other cities and municipalities: They play a pioneering role in implementing the SDGs, and the VLR can play a critical role in engaging their citizens and other cities.

I would like to thank all the staff from the various departments, along with everyone involved in putting together our first review. Together we have put Kiel on track to becoming a sustainable city.

Dr Ulf Kämpfer
Mayor of Kiel



Summary – Highlights – Main Messages

1. Voluntary Local Review, Kiel, Schleswig-Holstein, Germany

“For Kiel and the world: Thinking globally, driving change locally” – this slogan sums up the guiding principles behind Kiel’s sustainability efforts and municipal activities.

Since signing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development: Building Sustainability at the Local Level, which was launched by the Association of German Cities (Deutscher Städtetag), Kiel has been working to align its daily administrative activities with the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). One key aspect of this process has been to boost citizen engagement through a broad range of projects. In order to make Kiel’s commitment more visible on an international level, inspire other municipalities and share knowledge and experience, the city is publishing its first Voluntary Local Review (VLR) on the SDGs prioritised by the High-Level Political Forum, i.e. goals 4, 5, 14, 15 and 17.

Kiel’s achievements so far – SDGs 4, 5, 14, 15 and 17



4 QUALITY EDUCATION

Making education inclusive and equitable has been among the city’s priorities long before the Covid pandemic forced schools to go into extended lockdown. For example, a diverse range of projects has been introduced to ensure that young people successfully make the transition from school to the world of work. However, the outreach of these programmes needs to be increased to ensure that pupils leave school equipped with the relevant skills and qualifications. Since education is the cornerstone of a sustainable and future-oriented society, the city is also working hard to establish a local Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) network.



5 GENDER EQUALITY

Gender equality is a key priority in Kiel, both inside and outside the municipal authority. Particular focus is given to enhancing equal opportunities, preventing domestic abuse and enacting the Istanbul Convention. Throughout the year, publicity campaigns and events on gender equality issues and gender equity take place to raise awareness and generate attention. Alongside its ongoing efforts to foster gender equality within the municipal authority, it was possible to expand the places in the women’s shelter, which helps women to escape domestic abuse. The management principles of the City of Kiel are currently being redrafted and supplemented by the inclusion of an explicit management principle on diversity, gender equality and equality.



14 LIFE BELOW WATER

As a coastal city, Kiel is especially motivated to protect marine life. A number of projects launched by research institutions, companies, business associations, community groups and the Kiel municipal authority are focused on deepening our understanding of the oceans and promoting marine protection. Bringing these diverse actors together is one of the city’s key concerns, although providing the necessary funding to back this initiative (and coordinate networking efforts, for instance) remains a challenge, as marine protection is not a core municipal responsibility.



15 LIFE ON LAND

For over a century, Kiel has been aware of the benefits that green spaces bring to humans and animals. In 2022, Kiel will celebrate the city’s 100-year-old green belt, then and now a popular recreational area boasting lakes and forests along with sport and park facilities. Today, creative ideas are being put into practice in these areas. One plan involves cultivating flower meadows for bees instead of simply grassing over areas of land. Internationally, too, Kiel is taking its responsibility for the natural world seriously by supporting the creation of a tree nursery in Tanzania’s Moshi District. Accommodating – and prioritizing – conflicting interests when it comes to land use remains a challenge the city is aiming to solve.



17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS

Kiel’s international work is reflected in the projects the city is working on together with its twin cities. At the municipal level, Kiel’s efforts play an important part in promoting intercultural dialogue, fostering peace, building cooperation across Europe and supporting the implementation of the SDGs. The current war in Ukraine has once again highlighted how crucial it is to work for peace, which cannot be taken for granted (any longer) in Europe. This goes for all levels of government, including municipalities. Cities have an important role to play in enabling their citizens to establish international contacts and to promote mutual understanding. In addition to regularly sharing experiences with other city administrations in networks such as the Union of the Baltic Cities, Kiel hosts the annual International Cities Forum, which provides the city and its international partners with a forum for focused discussions on municipal topics. The theme for 2022 centres on promoting sustainable mobility in cities.

The way forward: Kiel’s goals for the future

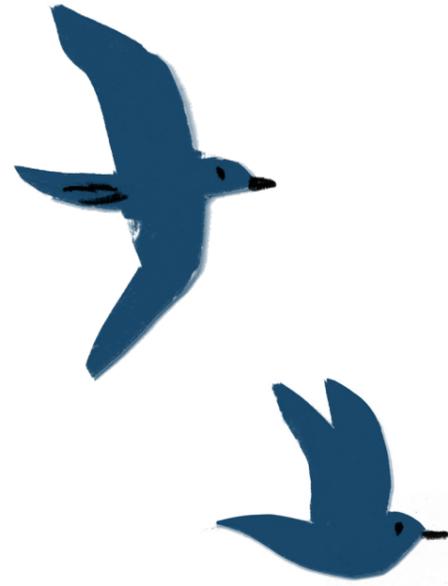
In 2022, Kiel will review its international strategy, giving key consideration to the growing role played by cities in international diplomacy. We can only make the transition to sustainability if we succeed in implementing the SDGs locally.

Having recognised this fact, Kiel’s main priority for the coming years will be to align its municipal policies – in areas including urban planning, education, sustainable transport, housing, and environmental and climate action – with the SDGs and to ensure that its citizens, the local economy and research institutions actively support and engage in this process.

Kiel is embracing this challenge and considers its first VLR as an incentive to engage in broader international dialogue with other cities and to work together to find solutions to our shared challenges.

Introduction

Kiel is the state capital of Schleswig-Holstein and is Germany's most northerly city. The City of Kiel has tasked itself with turning sustainability into a compass to guide all municipal activities, even in turbulent times. In line with the slogan we are using to communicate our sustainability efforts, "For Kiel and the world: Thinking globally, driving change locally", we believe we have a particular responsibility to contribute to the Sustainable Development Goals at local level.



Kiel facts



Germany's most northerly state capital



Germany's only state capital by the sea



248.000

inhabitants



17

kilometre fjord



Winner of the Most Sustainable City in Germany award 2021



The happiest people in Germany live in Schleswig-Holstein



Kieler Woche the biggest festival in Northern Europe, the world's largest sailing event, 3 million visitors from 50 countries,



4.000

sailors



Nearly **1.000** hectares of forest



A science park that is home to 70 companies



Schleswig-Holstein Business Academy which educates

23.000

students each year



Miles of beaches



More than **166.000**

in paid work, 7.100 tax-paying businesses



3 universities with more than

33.000

students



1.800

courses annually offered by the Volkshochschule Kiel

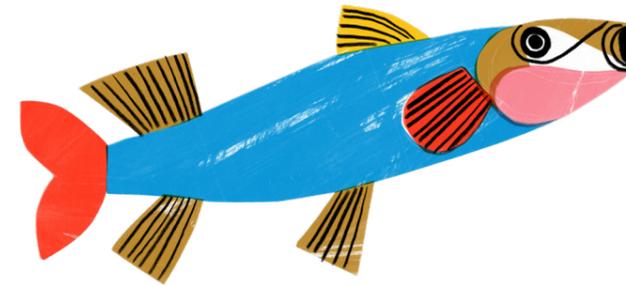
Home of the annual **Global Economy Prize** and the City of Kiel Culture and Science Award



In 2015, faced with multiple global crises, the 193 member states of the United Nations adopted the 2030 Agenda with its 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and 169 targets, which had been drawn up in advance in a process lasting several years. Under the 2030 Agenda and the 17 SDGs, the heads of state and government are committed to advancing social and environmental transformation worldwide by 2030. The success of this ambitious project relies on the involvement of a large number of stakeholders at different levels. Local authorities, towns and cities play a crucial role because they are in a position to have a direct influence on the lives of local residents.

The City of Kiel is also committed to the 2030 Agenda and the 17 SDGs. In March 2017, following a resolution by Kiel City Council, the Mayor of Kiel, Dr Ulf Kämpfer, signed the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development: Building Sustainability at the Local Level, which had been proposed by the Association of German Cities (Deutscher Städtetag) and the German Section of the Council of European Municipalities and Regions. In doing so, Kiel affirmed its willingness to take steps to implement the Sustainable Development Goals in the city. The aim is to align the economy with ecology and social justice since that is the only way to achieve real sustainability.

The Association of German Cities is the largest network in Germany to represent the interests of cities and local authorities vis-à-vis the federal government. By signing the 2030 Agenda proposed by the Association of German Cities and the German Section of the Council of European Municipalities and Regions, German local authorities can commit to sustainable development locally and globally.



The City of Kiel decided to report its progress in implementing the Sustainable Development Goals locally in 2022 with its first Voluntary Local Review. This first Kiel Voluntary Local Review concentrates on the strategic focus areas of the UN's High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF). The HLPF reviews the progress on the SDGs each year and all UN member states are invited to discuss global sustainability policy. Each year, there is a focus on different SDGs. The focus in 2022 is on the following:



The Kieler Förde



Sustainability in Kiel – Milestones



Strategy and context

Kiel on course for sustainability

Based on the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals, and fully conscious of them, Kiel has set out to become a sustainable city by the sea. The City of Kiel's approach to sustainability rests on three pillars and covers the various concepts and strategies that have been embedded in the city administration and defined as focus areas.

1. We combine global and local responsibility

The City of Kiel is part of the German **2030 Agenda Municipalities** network and uses the Sustainable Development Goals as a policy framework for its sustainable development. Projects and the impact-oriented integration of the SDGs in the budget help implement the SDGs at local level.

The City of Kiel is widely connected in terms of international cooperation and is actively engaged with its 13 sister cities and several (unilaterally nominated) friendly towns. The **Kiel International Concept** pursues three overarching goals: Kiel takes on global responsibility in the areas of intercultural dialogue and sustainability. It is committed to Europe and strengthens the city as a location through international cooperation. It also assumes responsibility locally: together with other German seaports, Kiel has declared itself a "safe harbour" for refugees rescued from the sea.

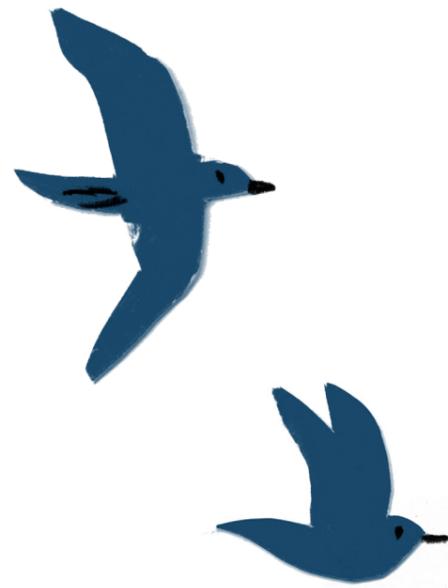
Kiel believes it has a responsibility to help with recent political challenges as well. It is currently hosting Ukrainian refugees and opened an arrivals centre in the city centre shortly after the war began. Unbureaucratic processes allow refugees in Kiel to apply for a residence permit that gives them access to accommodation and the right to work, offering security and future prospects.

Kiel is strongly influenced by its seaside location. So it makes sense that the global issue of marine conservation plays a particularly important role here. Although marine and coastal conservation in Germany fall within the remit of the German state and federal governments, Kiel is actively taking steps to protect marine life and also positions itself politically as a **marine protection city**. Furthermore, the Port of Kiel is an impressive gateway to the world with a sustainable Blue Port concept and 100 per cent green on-shore power facilities.

Sustainable consumption is another component of global responsibility, along with the associated question of whether the products we consume, which often come from distant countries, are produced fairly. Kiel has been a **Fairtrade City** since 2013 and advocates for fair trade at local level. It is also a **Zero Waste City** and was the first German city to join the ZeroWaste community. With its **Zero Waste Concept**, Kiel is playing a pioneering role in implementing a sustainable circular economy. The city has set itself specific waste-reduction targets, which it pursues in collaboration with a large number of stakeholders. In 2019, Kiel launched the biggest recycling initiative for takeaway coffee cups in Schleswig-Holstein under the slogan "Kiel geht Mehrweg" (Kiel re-uses). Customers in participating shops can buy hot drinks in returnable cups and return the empty cups to another participating shop. The cups are made from food-safe, neutral-tasting polypropylene and carry the Blue Angel environmental label.



"Plastikfrei" returnable cup scheme



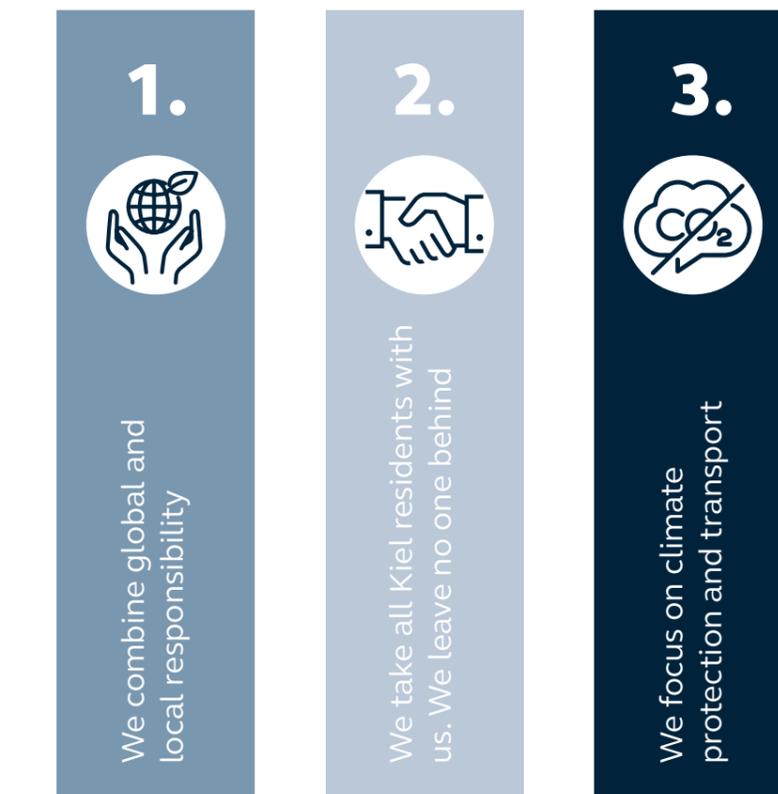
2. We take all Kiel residents with us. We leave no one behind

As well as the global aspect, the "leave no one behind" principle of the 2030 Agenda is about giving all residents the opportunity to help shape their city and to share in the life of the community, regardless of their financial means. This is a good fit for Kiel because improving equal opportunities for all Kiel residents is one of the city's strategic aims.

Included in this aim are measures to fight social injustice. The annual **Kiel Social Report** creates transparency by reporting on the city's social challenges. These include child poverty, long-term unemployment, the successful integration of refugees and the creation of sufficient affordable housing. As well as general welfare benefits, the city uses a number of measures to tackle social inequality. There are **development schemes for disadvantaged districts** and a large number of targeted projects for low-income individuals, such as support for families in difficult circumstances and free sports and cultural activities for children from disadvantaged families.

In addition, there are a number of **civic engagement** instruments at various levels. Kiel residents can take part in political decision-making processes through a multitude of official, formal committees, and all Kiel residents are invited to play an active part in helping to shape Kiel's development towards a sustainable, future-proof city. The city provides various funding programmes for residents for this purpose, including "Kiel gemeinsam gestalten" (building Kiel together), which aims to promote sustainable improvements, neighbourly collaboration and safe communities.

Kiel's sustainability approach



3. We focus on climate protection and the transition to sustainable transport

Sustainability and climate protection have a long tradition in Kiel: it has been a **city for climate protection** since 1995 and, thanks to an active civil society, became the first German state capital to declare a **climate emergency** in May 2019. Through its **100% Climate Protection Masterplan** and **Mobility Masterplan**, Kiel has launched a number of measures to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 9 per cent compared with 1990 and to turn the car-centred city into a people-centred one. The aims of switching to sustainable transport are to protect the climate and improve quality of life. To achieve this, the City of Kiel is focusing on sustainable travel options and a sustainable local transport network. It plans to have a new public transport system up and running by 2030. The aim is that, in future, all residents will be able to

use local transport to get from A to B conveniently, quickly and sustainably. Whether this will be by tram or by express bus, and which routes will be covered are questions currently being considered in a route-planning study. Kiel also promotes cycling: the consistent expansion of bike lanes and cycle routes is making public spaces greener and more attractive for all residents.

Kiel reached a milestone in reducing final energy consumption when the new Küstenkraftwerk gas power station opened. The new combined heat and power station has cut carbon emissions by 70 per cent and will switch to non-fossil gas from 2040.



In 2021, Kiel won the German Sustainability Award in the major cities category. The prize is awarded to municipalities that respond to the transformation and challenges on the road to more sustainable ways of living and doing business with a comprehensive, sustainable urban development strategy. The jury awarded the prize to Kiel for its outstanding engagement, including in the fields of climate protection, resource conservation and social justice.

“The award gives us confirmation that we are on the right track and motivates us to carry on leading the way. But it is also clear that we are still at the start of this exciting journey towards becoming a truly sustainable city.”
Dr Ulf Kämpfer, Mayor of Kiel

Method and process

VLR process



The VLR was carried out with the support of Engagement Global’s Service Agency Communities in One World (SKEW). SKEW works on behalf of the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ). One of its aims is to strengthen the commitment of municipalities across Germany to produce VLRs and implement the SDGs at local level. Kiel was one of the first German cities to use the VLR to bring greater international visibility to the local level and the SDGs, enabling stronger networking between local communities around the world.

The Voluntary Local Review is a tool for highlighting the opportunities and challenges in implementing the Sustainable Development Goals in Kiel. The report is intended to serve as a basis for reviewing progress and defining the next targets.



Progress in achieving the SDGs



SDG 4 - Quality education | **S. 16 - 25**



SDG 5 - Gender equality | **S. 26 - 31**



SDG 14 - Life below water | **S. 32 - 41**



SDG 15 - Life on land | **S. 42 - 47**

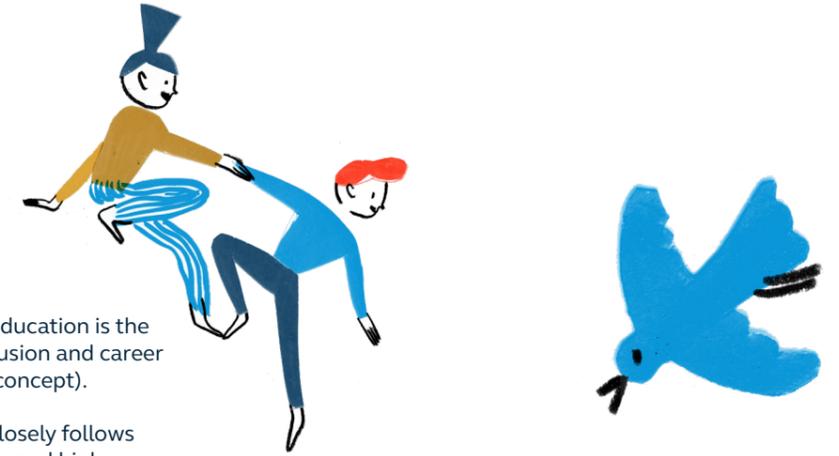


SDG 17 - Partnerships for the goals | **S. 48 - 61**

4 QUALITY EDUCATION



Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all



SDG 4 in Kiel

“As a lifelong personal development process, education is the key to personal opportunities in life, social inclusion and career prospects.” (Kiel Regional Education Network concept).

Education is embedded in Kiel’s strategy and closely follows SDG 4 of the 2030 Agenda – inclusive, equitable and high-quality lifelong learning. The city focuses on the concept of lifelong learning, which covers all phases from early childhood to adult education. Inclusion and tackling illiteracy are also important aims pursued by Kiel City Council in collaboration with the wider state of Schleswig-Holstein.

In addition, Kiel has been an Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) model municipality since 2021. By signing the ESD target agreement, the city – as one of 50 model municipalities in Germany – commits to systematically developing and implementing Education for Sustainable Development in order to empower people to think and act sustainably. This work is pursued in collaboration with internal and external local stakeholders

“As a lifelong personal development process, education is the key to personal opportunities in life, social inclusion and career prospects.”

Kiel Regional Education Network concept



1st Kiel ESD Conference – My actions, our future

SDG 4 projects and activities

Kiel's Regional Education Network

The City of Kiel has set itself the aim of expanding and optimising education options for every individual in the Kiel region. This starts with support for pregnant women and young families and continues after completion of mandatory schooling, throughout a person's life, in the various areas of formal and non-formal life and learning.

Numerous stakeholders are involved in helping to develop the education landscape for Kiel residents. Through its Kiel Regional Education Network concept, the city brings together the various stakeholders to work towards improving the quality of education in the region. The 6th Kiel Education Conference will be held in 2022, this time with a focus on the transition from kindergarten to school.

Besides connecting stakeholders in education, another important aim of the conferences is to spark new ideas and work with the experts to develop innovative courses of action for specific challenges.



Topics covered by the Kiel Education Conferences since 2011

- 1st Education Conference 2011: Kick-off of the Kiel Regional Education Network
- 2nd Education Conference 2013: Transition from school to work
- 3rd Education Conference 2014: Strong families in Kiel – from the outset
- 4th Education Conference 2017: Integration through education
- 5th Education Conference 2021: Education during Covid-19
- 6th Education Conference 2022: Transition from kindergarten to school

Short legs, short journeys

The distance children travel to primary school should be as short as possible, in line with the principle "short legs, short journeys".

All Kiel school children – but especially those at primary school – are to be supported so that they can walk to school. The City of Kiel has its own children's route concept that sets standards for pedestrian and children's routes. Pupils at many of the city's primary schools were involved in developing these standards. Children can use a daily travel diary to record the routes they take and their experiences along these routes. They are also asked about how they travel to school, how they get around in their free time, what they particularly appreciate about their neighbourhood and whether they like walking. The results of these surveys influence the design of the city's concept for pedestrian and children's routes.

Population-weighted distance to the closest primary school as the crow flies



590 metres



Source: www.sdg-portal.de

School transport management in Kiel

In addition, residents are encouraged to keep contributing their ideas for safer school routes, and these ideas are implemented on an ongoing basis. For instance, Kieler Kuhle street was turned into a children's route by blocking off the part by the playground to traffic (2018) and carrying out permanent improvement works, including upgrading the pavement with play elements and planting trees (2021).

Neumühlen-Dietrichsdorf is the first Kiel district to develop a master plan for play areas. The aim is to create good public play, exercise and recreation spaces for children and young people, with the involvement of the local community. A child-friendly neighbourhood has short, safe routes, many different types of space and a high general level of safety.



Play-friendly concrete elements along "Kieler Kuhle"

Transition from school to work

As far back as 2009, Kiel set up an alliance to improve the transition from school to work and provide support for young people through concrete measures.

What career guidance options are available in Kiel?

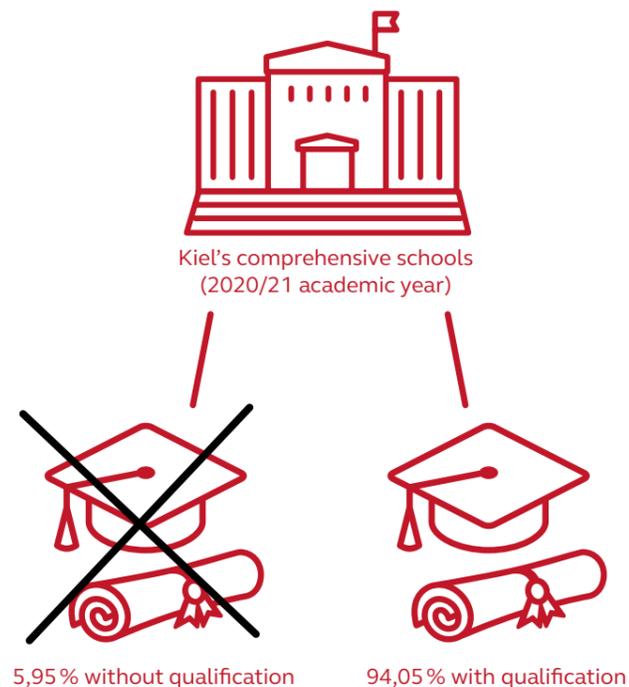
- Advisory services provided by, for example, Kiel's Youth Employment Agency, which supports young people starting apprenticeships, university or work
- Career and apprenticeship fairs (recently online)
- New career guidance formats, such as a digital apprenticeships open day and virtual reality glasses for career guidance in class.



Comprehensive school leavers

Regular updates on this work are published in the Kiel "Übergang Schule - Beruf - Studium" [education reports](#). The 2021 report also highlights the impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic on the education system.

For the past ten years, Kiel has also been collecting data on selected indicators to measure its progress towards meeting its targets. One of these indicators is the share of pupils leaving comprehensive school without qualification, which the city has successfully reduced to below 6 per cent for the 2020/21 academic year. In future, this indicator is to be extended to other types of schools.



Education for sustainable development (ESD) in Kiel

"The transformation to sustainable development will only succeed if sustainability is established and implemented at local level." (National Action Plan on ESD)

There is a global consensus that education is a vital key to practising and implementing sustainability at local level. What conditions does education need to create for everyone to be empowered to do this? This is where ESD comes in: it promotes the competencies that are needed to analyse and evaluate issues in an increasingly complex world and take responsible decisions. To embed ESD globally, UNESCO launched the ESD for 2030 roadmap, which is being implemented in Germany through the National Action Plan on ESD. As an ESD model municipality, Kiel is playing a direct role in its implementation.

A focus of this work in Kiel is to improve the links between the many different stakeholders in the community to make ESD in the region more visible and develop the relevant skills. In addition, places of learning of all kinds can be certified as ESD learning centres and can develop an ESD concept to publicise their work for sustainable development. The first Kiel ESD Conference took place in May 2022.



"The transformation to sustainable development will only succeed if sustainability is established and implemented at local level."

National Action Plan on ESD



Exhibitors at the BNE Conference in May 2022

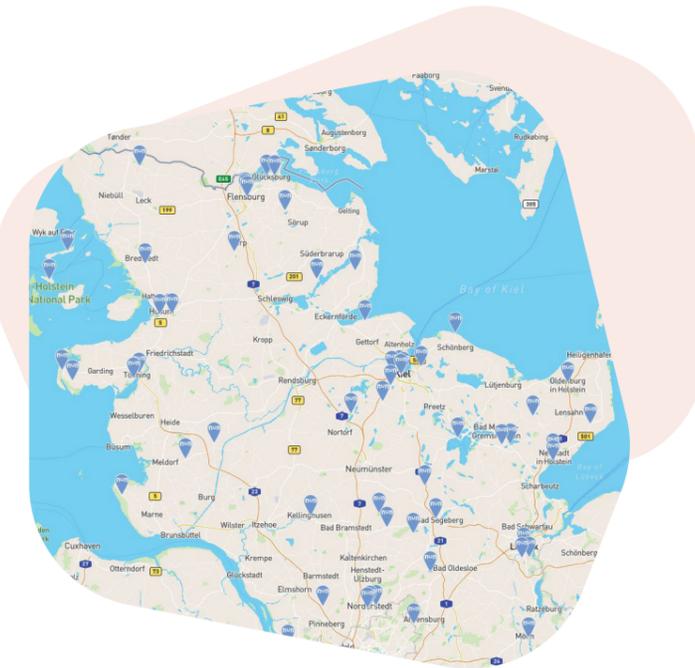
NUN, which stands for “norrddeutsch und nachhaltig” (North German and sustainable), is a no-cost quality development and certification scheme for actors offering non-formal ESD. The four countries behind the the NUN partnership – Hamburg, Mecklenburg-Vorpommern, Schleswig-Holstein and Saxony-Anhalt – jointly developed the quality standards underpinning the programme and now provide NUN certification.

In Schleswig-Holstein, there are more than 60 non-school places of learning alone that have been certified as ESD centres. They offer a wide range of courses on topics as diverse as wastewater, food, waste and forests.

The city has worked with local stakeholders to develop programmes for the different target groups: kindergarten children, school pupils and adults. These include workshops on the SDGs, digital treasure hunts linked to climate and marine protection, and support for schools aiming to become zero waste schools.

Taking a whole-institution approach, the City of Kiel plans to give educational establishments more support in future to involve everyone in thinking about sustainable development. In this approach, it is not just an institution’s educational programmes that are aligned with the sustainable development concept, but also the way in which the entire institution is run, including, for instance, responsible management of resources and sustainable catering.

NUN certification May 2022



NUN certification in Schleswig-Holstein – www.nun-zertifizierung.de

ESD certification in Kiel at May 2022

 An infographic with a red and white color scheme. It features icons for a school building, a rocket, a balance scale, a house, a person with a certificate, and a graduation cap.

- 10** certified day-care centres* (with a balance scale icon)
- 23** Schools for the Future (with a school building icon)
- 5** certified non-school places of learning (with a person holding a certificate icon)

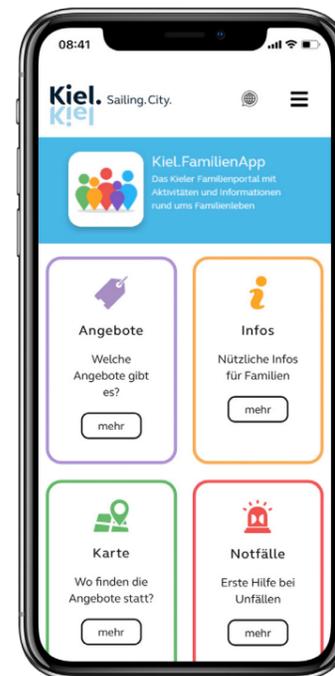
* Day-care centres with the Kita21 certificate (with a house icon)

Kiel education apps for families



Kiel Kompass App

Kiel-Kompass is a free, multilingual app that offers information for new residents about local education programmes. The app is available in English, Arabic, Turkish and Kurdish (Sorani). All points of interest (POIs) can be reached easily thanks to a direct link to nah.sh, the public transport portal for Schleswig-Holstein.



Kiel Family App

The free Kiel.FamilienApp provides comprehensive education programmes and general everyday information for expectant parents and families with children aged 0 to 12.

The app is available in German and Turkish and was developed in easy-to-read language.



Supporting civil engagement

Kiel supports civil engagement in various ways, including through education. In 2022, the city is setting up an annual project fund of EUR 50.000 to support sustainability projects.

The aim of the funded projects is to raise awareness of sustainable action in civil society and to motivate citizens to imitate these actions and to get involved, but also to try out innovative sustainable ideas in pilot projects for the Kiel region.



Outlook

The Covid-19 pandemic and its impacts are still evident in education. Educational equality and participation have become key issues again. Major differences have become visible, for instance, in learning conditions for home schooling. Challenges that existed before the pandemic have become even more prevalent. For instance, participation in the education system and even success at school are much more dependent on social background in Germany than in other countries. The City of Kiel works with a wide range of local stakeholders on a day-to-day basis to help achieve greater educational equality and to prevent child and youth poverty.

Work to improve the educational opportunities for children in day-care in the Gaarden area of Kiel has been running very successfully since 2019. Additional remedial staff are deployed in this area, which has the highest levels of child poverty in Kiel, to assist children who are particularly in need of support, and to work with their parents. Now there are plans to study the impacts of the improved quality on children's learning behaviour and personal development.

Digitalisation also plays an important role right along the education chain and it is here to stay. In future, it will be vital to give all Kiel residents the ability to use digital media. General media literacy and a healthy relationship to digital media must be taught right from the start. But even beyond formal education, the aim is to make sure no one is left behind and to empower everyone, including senior citizens and refugees. The same applies to the world of employment, where digitalisation is continuing to place ever-higher demands on employees. Companies that offer apprenticeships must adapt to these demands and keep upskilling.

Education is key to the future viability of Kiel residents and Kiel as a city. Education extends into all areas of private and professional life and, as a cross-cutting issue with strong links to the other SDGs, is extremely relevant. This is something Kiel recognised a long time ago, as evidenced by the way education is embedded in the city's strategy, and by the work in the Kiel Regional Education Network and for ESD.



5 GENDER EQUALITY



Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls.

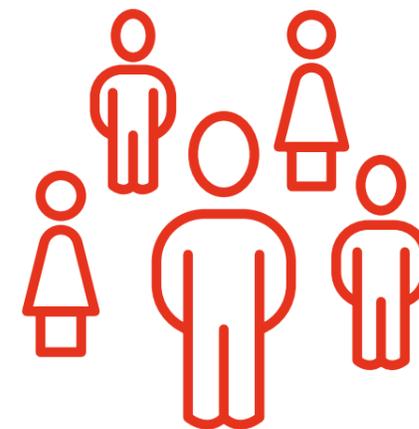


SDG 5 in Kiel

Gender equality is a cross-cutting issue and all political decision-makers have a duty to take it into consideration before taking any decisions. In Kiel, the central contact point for all questions concerning gender equality is the Department for Gender Equality and its equality officers. The department deals with the legal and strategic implementation of gender equality in the city administration and beyond, and advocates at political level for the rights and interests of the city's female residents. It makes sure that administrative and political bodies take the concerns of women and girls into account when making decisions, including when it comes to practical issues of selection and organisational processes (for instance job sharing). In addition, events are regularly organised for internal professional development and on gender aspects of current issues. There are also direct, free advisory services available for residents and staff.

The legal basis for the equality work in Kiel is Art. 3 of Germany's Basic Law. In Kiel, the work on gender equality is also shaped by the city's overall strategy, local implementation of the Istanbul Convention on preventing violence against women, and the "Kiel 2042: Equitable city" target.

The Kiel Women's Alliance (Frauenbündnis Kiel), under the auspices of the Department for Gender Equality, plays an important role in this area. It pools Kiel's strengths in the field of women's policies and advocates for the promotion and equal treatment of all women. The overarching goal of the Women's Alliance is to influence political decisions in the interests of women and to connect politically active women and women's groups. It organises joint campaigns, cultivates contacts with political authorities and keeps an eye on whether resources are allocated fairly.



40,68 %

Proportion of women in the City Council administration (at 2022)

Kiel also has a broad range of advisory services and events on gender equality in the context of diverse identities. For instance, the Christopher Street Day Parade will be back in July 2022, after a year's absence due to the Covid-19 pandemic. And there is a wealth of educational programmes and events for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex and questioning (LGBTIQ+) individuals organised by Haki e.V., the Echte Vielfalt round table and other organisations.

SDG 5 projects and activities



Implementing the Istanbul Convention on preventing violence against women

Preventing violence against women is still an extremely important issue. SDG 5 aims to end all forms of discrimination against women and girls. It has a special focus on explaining the link between discrimination and violence and on breaking down structural discrimination as a cause of violence against women and girls. There is a network of assistance and advisory services in the city, some provided by the City Council, to help victims. The construction of a second women's refuge will mean we can offer a safe place to more women fleeing violence in the future.

In addition, annual campaigns educate people about the issue and raise awareness of the help on offer through effective, low-threshold channels, including messages printed on the paper bags that fresh bread rolls are sold in.



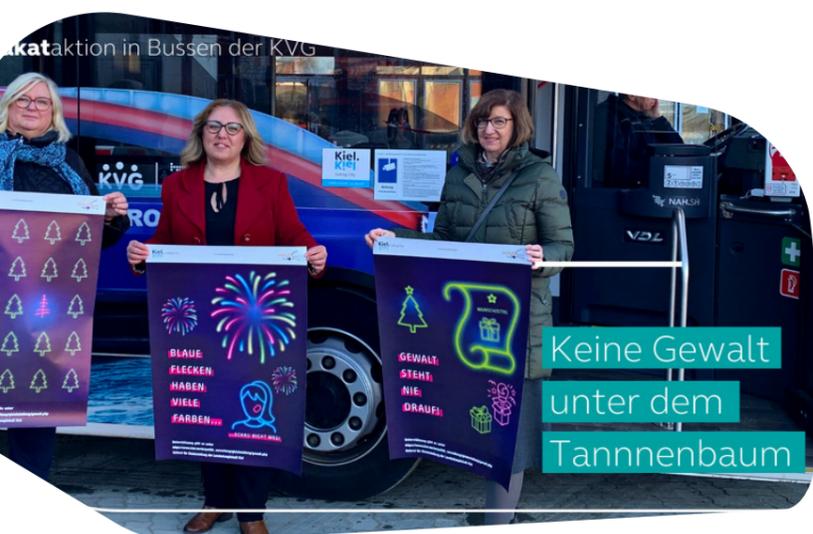
Breastfeeding-friendly spaces

A network of breastfeeding-friendly, safe spaces is being set up for parents and infants. The network of private and public spaces is designed to make Kiel an even more lively, family-friendly city that is attractive to both residents and visitors. These spaces make it easier for young families to participate in society.

Public relations

PR campaigns and specialist events on gender equality issues and gender justice take place all year round. For example, from mid-December 2021 to mid-January 2022, a campaign on "No violence under the Christmas tree" saw posters displayed on Kiel buses to raise awareness of the issue.

Kiel also organises a diverse programme of events for International Women's Day on 8 March each year. In 2022, the focus was on encouraging women to vote in the Schleswig-Holstein regional elections.



Bus poster campaign

Advisory services

The Department for Gender Equality offers initial consultations and refers people to a city-wide network of advice centres and specialist facilities for women and girls. During the Covid-19 pandemic, there was a noticeable increase in enquiries about combining family and work, home schooling and working from home, and about how to cope with the dual burden. Together with the Young Feminist Alliance and the Kiel Youth Council, the Department for Gender Equality also advocates for women and girls at the political level.

Improving pay for council cleaning staff

Cleaners are often women, and the situation at Kiel City Council is no different. To improve the situation for the city's cleaners, Kiel has already increased their pay twice. The aim is to help increase the value of and the recognition for the work they do. In addition, better pay helps prevent poverty in old age and promotes social inclusion.

Women's refuges

Every woman has the right to a life free from violence, no matter what her nationality and her religious or cultural background. The women's refuges aim to offer a safe haven and comprehensive assistance to women and children affected by domestic violence, to enable them to escape the violent situations they find themselves in. In 2022, the number of spaces in the women's refuge was increased from 33 to 42. Financing the women's refuges and specialist women's facilities in Kiel is a challenge, as it is for Schleswig-Holstein as a whole. This is a task that concerns the whole of society, and the federal state and municipalities need to act together to implement the aims of the Istanbul Convention.



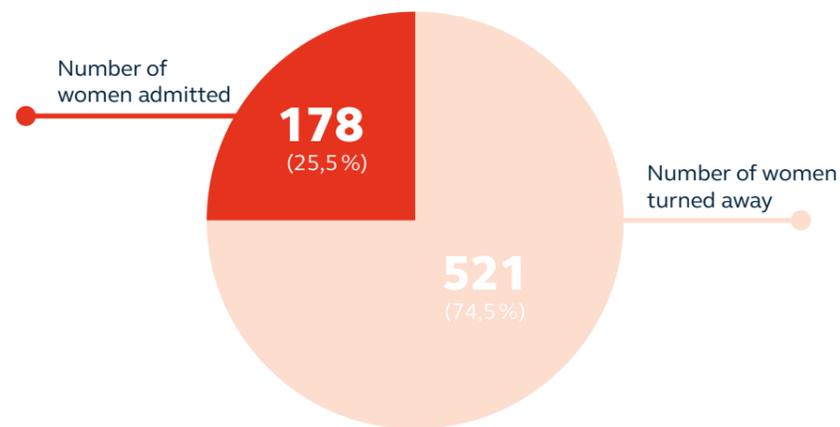
SDG 5 plans

Achieving gender equality and gender justice remain central tasks in the City Council and beyond. The Covid-19 pandemic has raised important questions about how to make digitalisation fair in terms of gender equality. The next Women's Promotion and Equality Plan will include new indicators to make the differences between the sexes even more visible. They will be measured and used to review and, where necessary, adapt ongoing measures, but also to reflect the current situation more accurately. Examples include the number and proportion of female senior managers in the city administration and a breakdown of school dropout rates by gender.

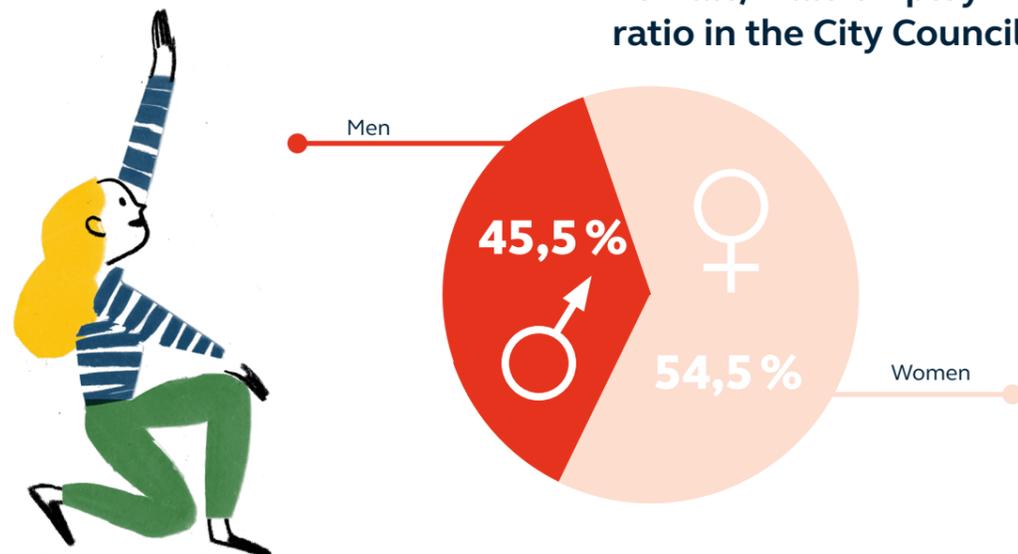
The City of Kiel's management principles are currently being revised with the help of the equality officers and expanded to include an explicit management principle on diversity and gender justice/equality. Senior managers act fairly in terms of gender equality and, through their work and conduct, ensure equal treatment of women and men in the City of Kiel.

To mark the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women on 25 November 2022, the city is planning a PR campaign inspired by Italy's Panchina Rossa (red bench) initiative. Red benches symbolising the rejection of violence against women will be installed around the city.

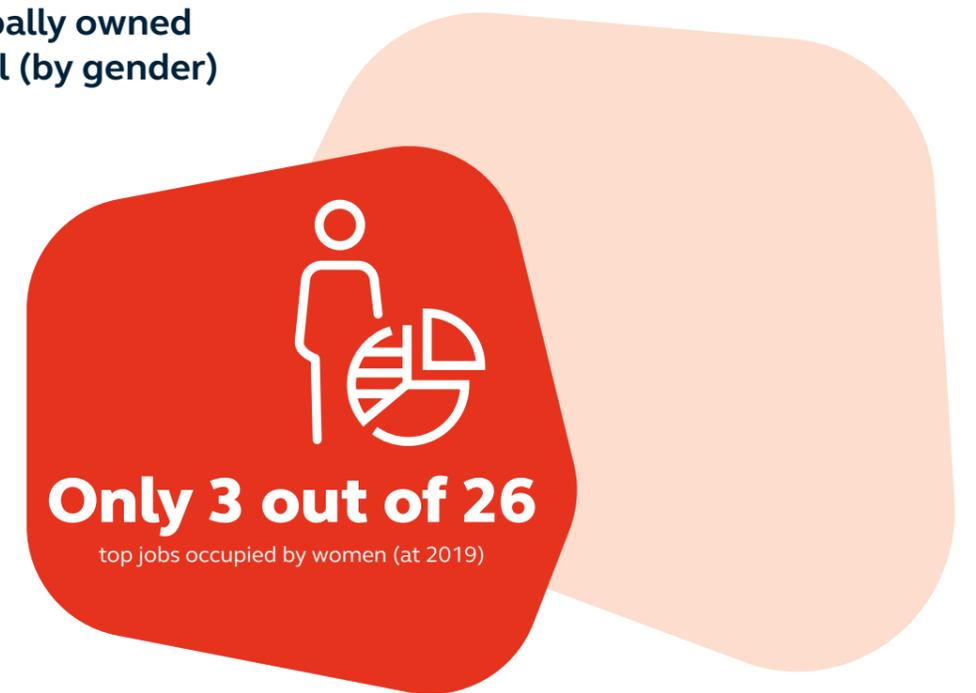
Women's refuges in Kiel 2021



Female/male employment ratio in the City Council at 31 Dec. 2020



Top jobs in municipally owned corporations in Kiel (by gender)



Outlook

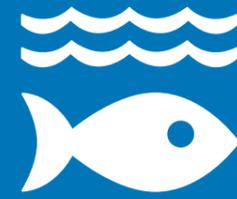
Gender planning – taking gender justice into account in politics and society – throws up constant challenges, and Kiel is no exception. Raising awareness of gender equality in society and creating a gender-equal culture are permanent tasks for the equality officers and all members of staff. Nevertheless, the road from lip service to concrete action and equality as a lived experience is sometimes bumpy, even in Kiel, as can be seen in the low proportion of women in the Kiel City Council and in top jobs at municipally owned corporations.

A continuing focus of the work in this area will be the prevention of violence against women. Moreover, the impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic on gender justice are not yet fully understood.

Another important topic is digitalisation and its impacts on women's jobs in the city administration. Work is underway in the impact-oriented management project to collect more gender-specific data and generate more detailed breakdowns, for example in the area of gender budgeting and financial control. The idea is that developing these indicators will make it easier to monitor the effectiveness of projects and is an important step for developing future measures and adapting current ones.



14 LIFE BELOW WATER



Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development



SDG 14 in Kiel

Kiel is the only German state capital by the sea. Although marine protection is not actually part of the city's remit, in June 2020, the City Council confirmed its aim to position and develop Kiel as a marine protection city and as a competence centre for marine policy. Kiel has a very diverse stakeholder base for marine protection.

Because of its coastal location and associated tourism, Kiel has included marine protection and sustainable coastal tourism in its Tourism Development Concept (TDC). On top of that, Kiel hosts the world's biggest sailing event, Kieler Woche, which, with its broad reach, offers an ideal platform.



On 31 December 2020, the United Nations General Assembly declared that 2021 to 2030 would be the UN Decade for Ocean Sciences. The aim is to bring together all the projects that contribute to SDG 14 around the world and to reinforce the important role that the ocean plays in the SDGs and for the climate.

SDG 14 projects and activities

Project funding for marine protection

Since 2020, the City of Kiel has been offering two funding programmes with an annual budget of EUR 50.000 each.

1. Initiatives and institutions that help position Kiel as a centre of competence for marine protection and international climate protection.
2. Preliminary projects for the Ocean Visualisation Centre.

Projects funded in 2021 included the Ocean Summit Festival, which was organised by community groups, a project to create art installations from ocean debris, a project to teach city tour guides about marine protection and raise awareness among them, and a discussion forum on dealing with munition in the Baltic Sea.



Over 150 stakeholders from science and research, the maritime sector, cultural institutions, civil society, politics and administration and NGOs are represented in Kiel. The city sees connecting existing stakeholders and projects and combining their strengths as an important task.



In 2023 the Ocean Race Project, one of the world's toughest sailing regattas, is planning a fly-by of Kiel.

Culture, sport and tourism

Kiel Fjord Welcome Centre

The Welcome Centre is dedicated to the concept of Kiel as a marine protection city and sustainability. As part of the city's Tourism Development Concept 2030, art installations are also being used to draw attention to the SDGs in Kiel.

Sailing camp

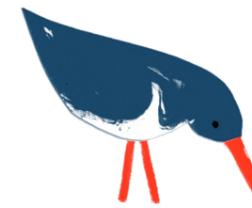
Each year between May and October, the Camp 24/7 sailing camp takes place in the heart of Kiel, on the fjord itself. As well as sparking enthusiasm for sailing among children and adults, it provides a range of educational programmes on marine protection topics.

CineMare International Ocean Film Festival

In late April/early May each year, more than 50 films about the ocean are shown here to raise awareness of the importance of marine protection. CineMare also has close links, via a virtual festival, to the IOFF International Ocean Film Festival (IOFF) of San Francisco, one of Kiel's sister cities. The Surf Film Festival of Brest, another sister city, is also involved in the event in Kiel.

Ocean Summit

The Ocean Summit Festival was launched in Kiel in 2020. The aim is to generate enthusiasm for marine protection among all Schleswig-Holstein residents all year round via a wide range of analogue and digital events, and to connect the various initiatives.



Sailing course, Camp 24/7 Kiel



Kiel's promenade during the Kieler Woche

Kieler Woche

The world's largest sailing event draws over 400,000 visitors to Kiel each year. In 2019, Kieler Woche was awarded platinum-level Clean Regattas certification by Sailors for the Sea. But that was just the beginning: there is an ongoing commitment to make the event even more sustainable and to be a role model in this area.

Industry meets science

The City of Kiel is involved in the **Maritime Technology Centre TransMarTech** Schleswig-Holstein GmbH (TMT), which has been Schleswig-Holstein's incubator for maritime technologies since 2021. TMT focuses on SDG 14: "Our goal is to enable technology-driven innovations and the development of products, services and systems [...] that make life by and in the sea sustainably better." TMT brings together science and industry, and supports start-ups established by higher education and scientific institutions.

Kieler Wirtschaftsförderungs- und Strukturentwicklungsgesellschaft (KiWi GmbH) is a company that promotes the city's maritime sector. As a link between industry, government and higher education, it advises businesses on matters relating to starting up, location, innovation and financing.

Education

Education for sustainable development (ESD)

In collaboration with Bündnis Eine Welt Schleswig-Holstein, the office of the leader of the City Council offers free workshops on the SDGs for Kiel schools, with a focus on SDG 14: "A goal for Kiel – Kiel, the sea and the world".

Furthermore, GPS treasure hunts take place around Kiel on the themes of climate protection, the SDGs and marine protection.

Marine research in Kiel is very diverse

The **GEOMAR** Helmholtz Centre for Ocean Research investigates the physical, chemical, biological and geological processes in the ocean and their interactions with the ocean floor and the atmosphere. It also researches the impact of microplastics on marine organisms. GEOMAR is playing an active role in the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development (2021–2030): "The ocean we need for the future we want".

Kiel University (CAU) pursues a number of different projects on marine protection and adaptation to climate change. It is the lead organisation behind the Future Ocean Network, an association of researchers and partners from the fields of politics, business and civil society. The university is also home to **Kiel Science Factory's ocean:lab**, which kindles school children's interest in current marine research topics, in collaboration with the Leibniz Institute for Science and Mathematics Education (IPN). The annual international **Coastal Cleanup Day**, involving more than 500 people, is one of the events organised here.

BlueHealthTech connects ocean research and health to improve the treatment of chronic diseases through innovative health technologies. It draws on the wealth of knowledge in the Kiel area concerning marine-derived active substances that are of relevance to health. From the end of 2021, the BlueHealthTech innovation alliance, consisting of GEOMAR, CAU, University Hospital Schleswig-Holstein and Stryker Trauma GmbH, will receive EUR 15 million over six years through the Wir! funding programme of the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research.

Since November 2020, Kiel and the wider Kiel region have been part of **Smart Cities Model Projects**, a programme funded by the German government that aims to improve people's quality of life through everyday digital solutions. One of the three focus areas is coastal and marine protection because, despite having 105 km of coastline, there is much that happens in the ocean that people here are not aware of. The idea is to use digital technologies, such as modern sensors and virtual reality, to bring the Baltic Sea to life for people and help raise awareness of the issues.

Networking events

Kieler Marktplatz

The "Kiel Marketplace" is held several times a year. Organised jointly by the Future Ocean Network, the Schleswig-Holstein branch of the Maritime Cluster Northern Germany and the Kiel Science Centre, it brings together academics from Kiel's higher education institutions, business representatives from the maritime sector and political decision-makers to exchange ideas.

Maritime Forum Kiel e. V.

Together with the Kiel branch of Germany's Maritime Alliance (Maritimer Verbund), the Maritime Forum aims to develop future strategies in Kiel to secure jobs in the maritime sector, improve the region's attractiveness, especially in terms of its maritime aspects, and to raise awareness of the importance of maritime issues in Kiel and the opportunities associated with them. There is a frequent focus on marine protection.

The Kiel Science Centre

also supports collaboration between science and industry, promotes knowledge and technology transfer, and provides space and know-how. The CAPTN Kiel project is one of the projects supported here.

Transport

CAPTN Kiel is expanding the integrated clean autonomous public transport network of water- and land-based modes of transport in the city centre by developing interchanges between waterborne and terrestrial forms of public transport. In 2023, a prototype waterborne test vessel, the Wavelab, will start operating on the Kiel Fjord. It is fully electric, powered by batteries and hydrogen fuel cells and is semi-autonomous.

Port of Kiel and shipping The Port of Kiel has set itself the target of becoming climate neutral. Key elements for this are the on-shore power facilities at the Norwegenkai and Ostseekai terminals, which deliver climate-neutral hydroelectric power and save 8,000 tonnes of CO2 each year. Another power facility is planned for the Ostuferhafen terminal in 2023/24.



Two "Floating Platform" ferries in the Kieler Förde

Kiel is working with the municipally-owned company Schlepp- und Fährgesellschaft Kiel (SFK) to implement the further development strategy that was approved in May 2021, as an integrated part of the local public transport system. The ships, some of which are more than 40 years old, are being replaced and new ones are being added to the fleet. Following deliveries in 2021 and 2022, Kiel will have two all-electric ferries and three plug-in hybrid passenger liners for regular services. Two more plug-in hybrids and another electric ferry are planned for 2025/26. The new ships will reduce carbon emissions significantly.

Waste prevention on beaches and in the sea

BluePort Kiel

As a Blue Port, the Port of Kiel's ship wastewater treatment plant, which was put into operation in 2017, is more modern than any other wastewater treatment plant on the German coast. The Port of Kiel treated 11,698 m³ of wastewater in 2021.



Port of Kiel



The SeeKuh catamaran tackling marine litter

The SeeKuh, a specialised catamaran belonging to the One Earth – One Ocean association, collects marine litter in the Kiel Fjord. Built in 2016, it has even been to Hong Kong – the 12mx10m vessel can be dismantled and transported anywhere in the world. The maritime waste collection concept aims to tackle marine litter worldwide and to remove plastic waste, microplastics, oil and chemicals from the water.



SeeKuh 1, from above, serves as a dive base for the recovery of ghost nets from the Baltic Sea

Zero.Waste.Kiel

In May 2021, Kiel became Germany's first official Zero Waste Candidate City. Its Zero Waste Concept was developed through an inclusive process. The zero waste measures are also intended to tackle the increasing problem of litter in the seas and oceans.

So far, more than 70 initiatives have been identified in Kiel that are working towards waste prevention.



Kiel is on track to becoming a Zero Waste City

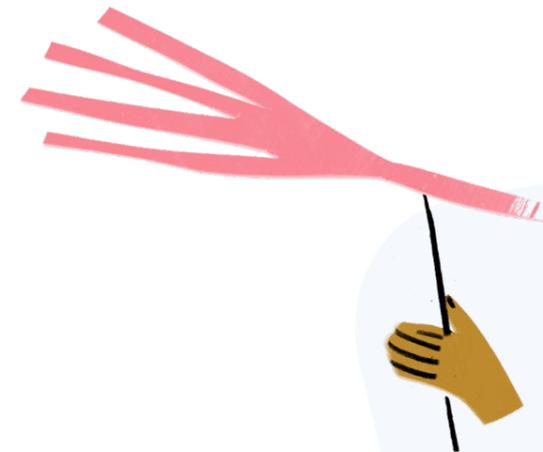
SDG 14 plans

The City of Kiel is currently developing a Climate Change Adaptation Concept, which includes a field of action dedicated to the protection of waters.

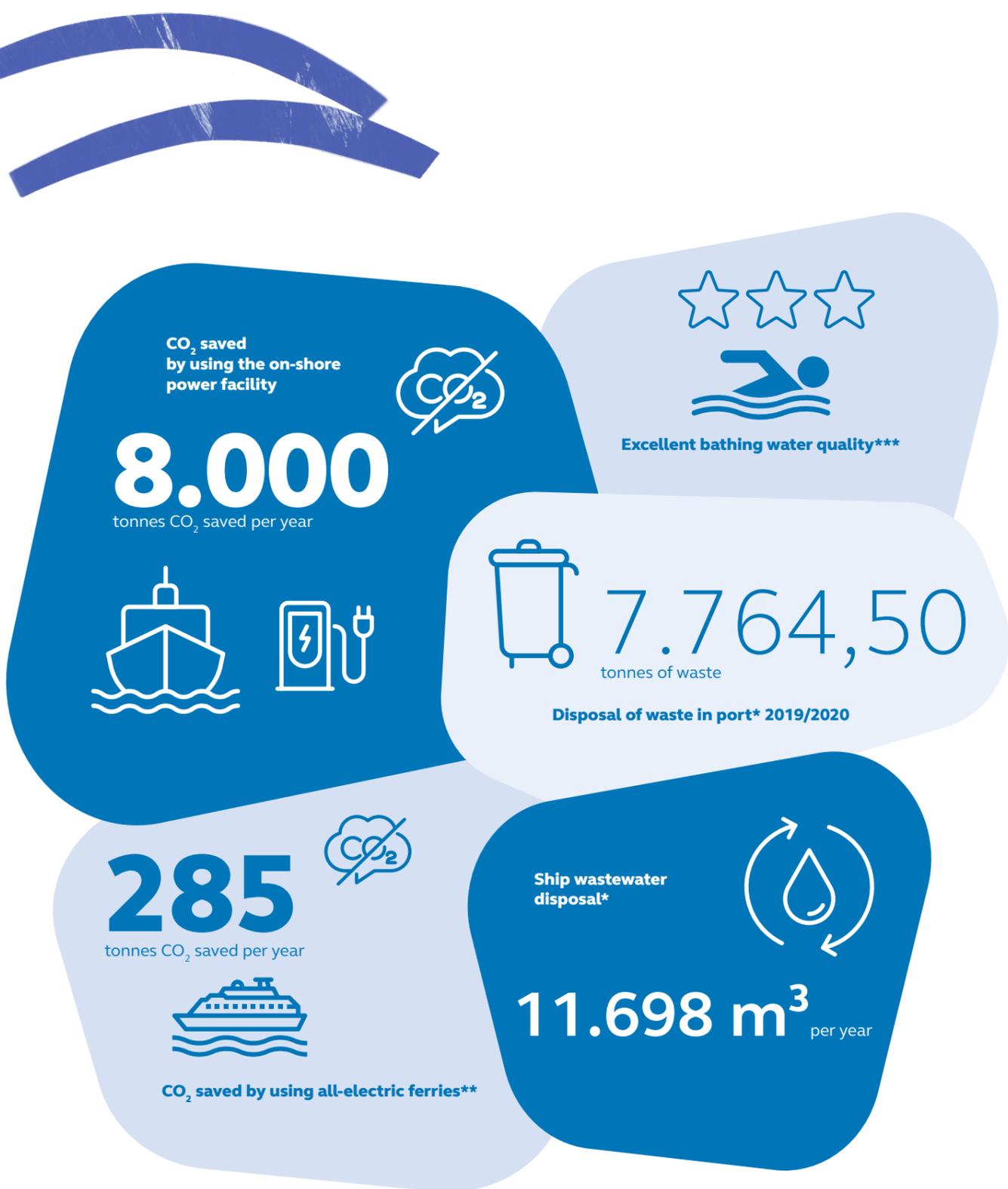
Maritimes Technologie- und Transferzentrum Schleswig-Holstein GmbH (MTTZ) aims to provide targeted support through knowledge transfer for maritime innovations that close transfer gaps in order to become the central maritime innovation platform for science and industry.

The aim of the planned **Ocean Visualisation Centre** is to bring the ocean to life in all its complexity in a way that people can experience for themselves. In addition, visitors will find comprehensive information about the situation of the oceans and their importance for international climate protection. Preliminary studies for the potential realisation of the centre are already underway. A feasibility study is planned for 2022/23. If the centre is built, it could play a key role in positioning Kiel as a marine protection city.

Kiel intends to stop using sewage sludge in agriculture altogether and is investing around EUR 5.25 million in building a new **sludge dewatering plant** and sludge storage facility. One of the aims is to further reduce the amount of pollution entering the Baltic Sea via rivers.



Falckenstein from above



Beach life at Kiel's Schilksee

The aim of developing Kiel as a marine protection city and a centre of competence for marine policy encompasses the aim of taking responsibility for marine protection – a core climate protection issue – and, in so doing, making an important contribution to tackling climate change.

As Germany's largest coastal city and a location with numerous stakeholders in marine protection, marine research, marine communication and the maritime sector, Kiel intends to play a pioneering role in Germany.

Outlook

Kiel wants to position itself as a marine protection city and, to this end, plans to bring on board the various stakeholders in the city, administrative units, citizens and the tourism and city marketing bodies. It also aims to do more to include SDG 14 in Kiel's international city partnerships and networks through the office of the leader of the City Council and the Department for Economic Affairs. In this way, Kiel hopes to raise awareness of the important role of the ocean for our wellbeing, the climate and sustainability.

Kiel City Council is planning to develop a marine protection platform, establish and coordinate a "Marine Protection in Kiel" network and generally make the issue of marine protection more visible. To reach as many residents as possible, the city is also keen to develop new formats, for instance on art and the ocean and, in the area of education, to connect and integrate non-school places of learning.

A continuing challenge is that marine protection is not a core task of the city administration. Responsibility for coastal and marine protection lies with the federal and state authorities. This is a particular problem for the allocation of resources within the city administration. Despite this challenge, Kiel intends to play an active role in positioning marine protection as a central element of sustainable living. **Because the time for action is now!**

*Source: Port of Kiel Waste Management Plan 2019/2020 **Source for calculation: CO2 Emission Factors for Fossil Fuels, published by the German Environment Agency (UBA), Wörlitzer Platz 1, 06844 Dessau-Roßlau ***Source: Bathing water quality at Kiel's five bathing sites. Throughout the 2020 and 2021 seasons, water quality at all bathing sites was rated excellent (3 stars). Tests were conducted between May and September. (www.kiel.de/de/gesundheitssoziales/gesundheitsvorsorgen/heilen/umweltthygiene/badegewaesserqualitaet.php)

15 LIFE ON LAND



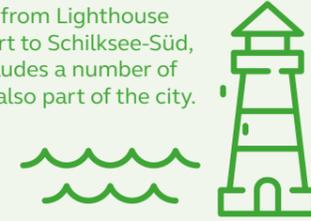
Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss



SDG 15 in Kiel

Kiel is a green city

✓ The **landscape conservation area** reaching from Lighthouse Friedrichsort to Schilksee-Süd, which includes a number of beaches, is also part of the city.



Kiel is a green city surrounded by a 100-year-old green belt that links it with the surrounding countryside. Forest makes up

10% of the city's overall area.

Kiel also has five animal parks, more than **100 km** of hiking trails, some 60,000 trees, countless small rivers and lakes, and an abundance of green spaces, parks and cemeteries.



The "Alte Stadtgärtnerei Kollhorst", a nature education centre, and the university's botanic garden are also great places to enjoy **Kiel's urban green spaces** in all their diversity.



As a growing city with limited space, Kiel needs to accommodate – and prioritise – conflicting interests when it comes to land use: Businesses need commercial and office space, citizens need space to live, and the value of recreational areas and green spaces as places to connect with nature is appreciated by all. As more areas are being built up, habitats are being lost. This undermines the targets defined in SDG 15.

As part of its strategic targets to combat climate change, Kiel has pledged "to improve the sustainable use of natural resources in our city". Building on several strategies, Kiel is therefore seeking to balance out these conflicting interests, for instance by ensuring that urban planning processes take into account local conservation regulations at an early stage. Trees above a certain size are protected and can only be felled if a licence has been obtained (Tree Preservation Ordinance). 133 particularly large and old trees have been identified as natural monuments and are protected by stricter legislation.

Together with its neighbouring municipalities, Kiel has been able to designate a number of shared green areas that will be placed under protection (under the Freiräumliches Leitbild [Open Space Guidelines]). Kiel joined the Alliance of Municipalities of Biological Diversity in 2010 and ensures that the city's green spaces are managed as naturally as possible. The parks and gardens department, which is responsible for managing the city's green spaces, phased out the use of herbicides 30 years ago. In addition, a project monitoring climate-resilient trees was launched in 2016. Initiatives run by local civil society groups complement the city's public relations and environmental education work.

SDG 15 projects and activities

Kiel's green belt



The city's green belt known as Kieler Grüngürtel will celebrate its centenary in 2022 through various events.

In 2022, Kiel will celebrate the city's 100-year-old green belt, known as the **Kieler Grüngürtel**. Back in 1922, the proposals contained in the Green Belt Plan presented by Kiel's city architect Willy Hahn and landscape architect Leberecht Migge fundamentally reshaped the way the city approached its future urban development. One of the plan's core ideas was to create a green belt around today's city centre consisting of allotment gardens, sport and recreational facilities as well as parks and cemeteries. The green belt was seen as a means to improve the population's health and wellbeing, while ensuring the city would be able to produce all the food it needed to become self-sufficient.

Over the past 100 years, many areas along the green belt have been built upon, but in its basic layout it has been preserved and remains an important recreational area that not only helps to regulate the city's climate, but also serves as a key local nature and species conservation site.

In 2014, Kiel launched its **Bee Protection Action Plan** in order to create better conditions and improve habitats for (wild) bees and other insects. Across the city, bee-friendly flower meadows are being created as part of every new construction and renovation project – to date, more than 30,000 square metres have been recultivated, and more will come. In addition, larger numbers of nectar- and pollen-rich specimen flowering shrubs are being planted in public green spaces. These particular shrubs provide flower-visiting insects with nourishment all year round. The city has also produced a leaflet providing information on how to behave around wasps, hornets, bees and bumblebees.

In 2019, the **18 Flower Meadows for Kiel** programme (18 Blühwiesen für Kiel) was adopted by the Kiel City Council, which aims to convert an additional 18 public green spaces across Kiel into flower meadows. The public will be actively involved in selecting suitable sites and implementing the plan, which will be backed by a public relations campaign that will help to promote the scheme in Kiel's local district councils. The progress made by the project and other bee-friendly initiatives will be documented through further research projects.



The **Kieler Umweltberatung** is an advisory service that has been helping residents to protect nature and the environment for 30 years, providing tips on how to save electricity, where to buy seasonal produce or how to avoid and reduce waste. It also organises monthly events covering a range of topics, including a seed exchange festival which takes place every March.

The **Kieler Online-Umweltwegweiser** is an online environmental guide with more than 400 entries that residents can consult to learn more about how to dispose of products such as paint, waste, pesticides, etc.

Set up in partnership with the Untere Naturschutzbehörde (Kiel's local nature conservation authority), the **Kieler Naturschutzdienst** is the city's nature conservation service. It consists of a group of volunteers who monitor the city's green spaces and support the enforcement of state conservation law by reporting negative environmental changes and impacts. Interested residents can apply to join the group for a minimum of two years.

Kiel's virtual nature trails: Using digital tools to boost interest in nature conservation, the city's environmental protection agency has developed six online trails that allow visitors and residents to discover threatened plants and animals as well as interesting landscapes and natural areas throughout Kiel.

As part of our **partnership with Moshi District** in Tanzania, Kiel helped to revive a community-based tree nursery in Himo in 2018, which had previously lain fallow for several years. 9,000 saplings were raised and a digital tree inventory was created. The aim of the nursery is to produce trees for Moshi District and create jobs for the local population. The trees will later be planted in public spaces to prevent soil erosion. In 2019, a gardener from Kiel's parks and gardens department visited the project for three months to help set up the nursery.

Kiel's city forest, the **Kieler Stadtwald**, spreads across the entire city area, covering approximately 1,000 hectares, or 10 per cent of the Kiel area. Through its current city forest management plan, Kiel has decided to adopt a close-to-nature management approach that recognizes the forest's value as a popular recreational area.

For many years now, the city administration has been committed to preserving and replanting **trees in the city area**, especially along streets and in public spaces.

Kiel has five forest kindergartens and one beach kindergarten. Children can spend the entire day outdoors, discovering and exploring the city's urban green spaces, forests and beaches all year round. During wet or freezing weather, the groups have a warm cabin or a trailer at their disposal.

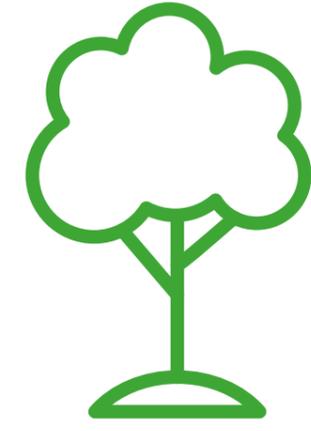
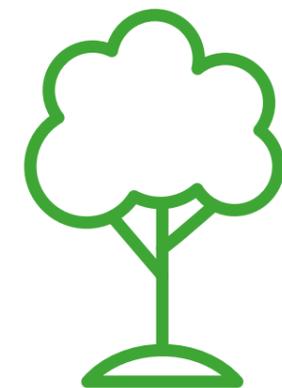
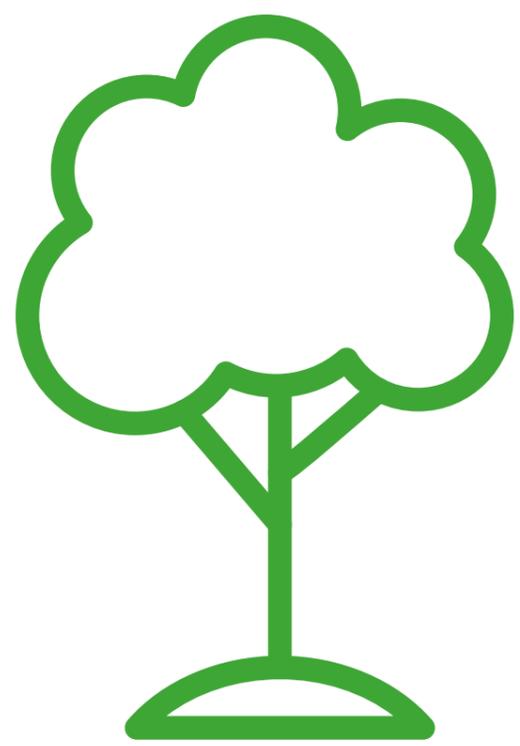


Hiroshima Park



60,000 trees

in the city area



The way forward

Liveable cities are impossible to imagine without green spaces. One of the key tasks faced by municipalities lies in balancing out a set of complex demands – the need to protect green areas, manage and monitor their proper use, and accommodate the needs of businesses, residents and nature. With climate change being one factor, Kiel will have to evaluate the quality of its green spaces and update its greening strategy.

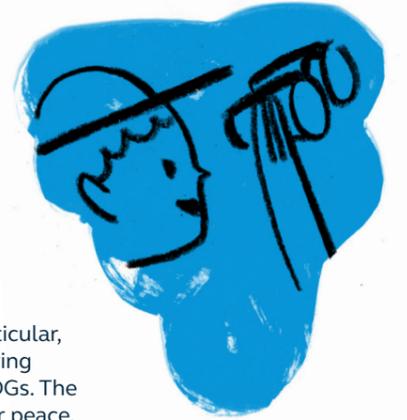
This task, which includes promoting research into climate-resilient tree species, is one of the challenges facing Kiel over the next years. In order to provide increased protection for Kiel's old trees, the city will launch a large-scale initiative to improve local habitat conditions. Identifying new urban sites and locations for greening is becoming an increasingly challenging task. We continue to be committed to planting and preserving more trees across the city area, even under quite narrowly defined conditions. Over the next years, we also plan to develop and implement an intelligent maintenance plan in order to improve flower meadow growth and protect fauna.

Internationally, too, Kiel is sharing experiences with its twin cities in order to find suitable approaches to making green spaces more resilient against climate change. One example is the tree nursery in Kiel's twin city Moshi District in Tanzania.

17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS



Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalise global partnerships for sustainable development



SDG 17 in Kiel

Kiel's international work, and especially the city's collaboration with its twin cities in particular, plays an important part at the municipal level in promoting intercultural dialogue, fostering peace, building cooperation across Europe and supporting the implementation of the SDGs. The current war in Ukraine has once again highlighted how crucial it is to continually work for peace, which cannot be taken for granted (any longer) in Europe. This goes for all levels of government, including municipalities. Cities have an important role to play in enabling their citizens to establish international contacts and to promote mutual understanding.

Kiel's broad approach to international cooperation is firmly embedded in the city's policies and laid out in the "Kiel International" concept.

Through its international work, Kiel is pursuing three overarching aims



We promote intercultural dialogue and sustainability, in awareness of our global responsibility.



We are committed to Europe.



We see international cooperation as an opportunity to strengthen Kiel.

The city's international activities are promoted both at the political and administrative levels and are supported by a broad alliance of partners, including universities and research institutions, private-sector businesses, community groups and civil society organisations in particular. Kiel is becoming ever more international, benefiting from ongoing dialogue and projects. Backed by project-related funding, international work has taken on a variety of forms, engaging residents of all ages and backgrounds both locally in Kiel and abroad.



SDG 17 projects and activities

Kiel looks back on a long history of establishing, maintaining and building partnerships

Its first partnership with Sonderburg (Denmark) dates back almost 100 years.

Today, the City of Kiel is twinned with 13 communities, including twelve twin cities and Moshi District in Tanzania as well as several (unilaterally nominated) friendly towns such as Riga, Vilnius, Gothenburg and Qingdao. It lends its support to joint development projects, has joined several city networks, promotes city-to-city cooperation and international projects and partners with governmental and non-governmental organizations and institutions. In recent years, the city has focused on project-related collaborations with its international partners as well as on inter-municipal learning. All this shows that Kiel is not only committed to the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) but is actively working to implement them at local and regional level.

Project funding – Projects strengthening twin city ties

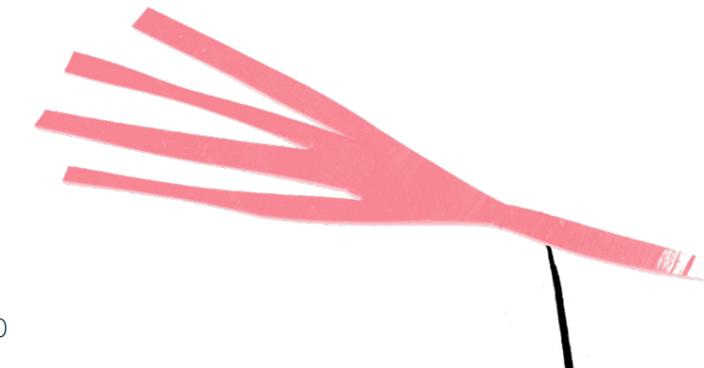
Civil society plays a key role in shaping Kiel’s international work.

Starting in 2018, the city has been making available €175,000 annually to foster and strengthen civic participation in Kiel’s partnership programmes. The total amount of funding requested by all projects significantly exceeds this limit, indicating a strong public interest in the city’s international work.

Funding is awarded to cultural initiatives and sport events, but also to projects fostering inter-municipal exchange on designated issues. These may take place either in Kiel or the twinned city involved in the project, or online (in response to the Covid-19 pandemic).

“The Kieler Förde reaches into the city’s heart – it opens people’s minds and connects us with the world.”

Ein Stadtporträt: Kiel ist Nord



Examples of projects that have been funded

upsideDown

In autumn 2021, the project upsideDown organised two online events that brought together actors from Kiel and its twin cities Brest (France), Hatay (Turkey), Moshi District (Tanzania) and San Francisco (USA), giving associations and volunteers from these cities the opportunity to share their views on sustainability and civic engagement.

The topics covered included sustainable modes of production and consumption, social inequality, ways to reduce water consumption, and responses to climate change.

Lighthouse Swim Open Water Kiel – San Francisco

Lighthouse Swim – Open Water Kiel took place in August 2021 and was the city’s first open water swimming event. All in all, 100 participants from Kiel and San Francisco joined the challenge in the Kieler Förde, acting as ambassadors for clean oceans. The event, organized by, among others, Kiel Marketing and the association The Bay Areas, which promotes the friendship between Kiel and San Francisco, aims to promote marine protection and strengthen the twin cities’ ties. Conceived as an annual event, the 2022 Lighthouse Swim was held in San Francisco Bay in April. Next year’s swim will take place in July 2023 in the Kieler Förde.

Tiny Rathaus – Aarhus

The Tiny Rathaus (Tiny City Hall) was first brought from Aarhus (Denmark) to Kiel in 2021 and set up on Rathausplatz, the square opposite Kiel’s City Hall, where it was intended to serve as the city administration’s first point of contact for residents. The idea of the Tiny Rathaus was developed by Sophie Mirpourian of the Anscharcampus, an ecosystem for artists and creatives working with a focus on sustainability and inclusion. Now plans are being drawn up to install the Tiny Rathaus permanently to create an inclusive space that allows the city administration and Kiel residents to interact more directly.



Tiny Rathaus, roofing ceremony

Kiel’s partnership fund 2021 Supporting civic participation in the city’s international work



requesting a total of

387.216 €*

in funding

*Source: Office of the City Council President, International Affairs and Sustainability, City of Kiel

Kiel – A Fair Trade Town

Kiel became a Fair Trade Town in 2013 and has since then successfully renewed its status three times, most recently in 2021.

Across the city, a network of community groups, associations, schools, churches, retail stores, cafés and restaurants has evolved that use or offer fair products and/or launch educational projects related to fair trade issues – and the network is continuing to grow.



Fair Trade Town Kiel steering group, July 2021, from left to right: Klaus Reu, Ann-Marie Dilcher, Martin Weber, Heike Hackmann, Hubert Reckmann, Nele Markwardt, Louisa Osburg, Nicoline Henkel

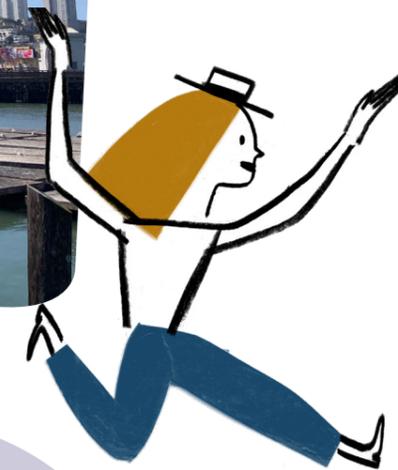
International Cities Forum

Every June, the City of Kiel hosts the International Cities Forum, which provides the city and its international partners with a forum for focused discussions on municipal topics. The theme for this year's Forum in June 2022 will centre on promoting sustainable mobility in cities, taking into view in particular the potential of high-quality and sustainable public transport services, water-borne mobility, ways to incentivize pedestrian and bicycle traffic as well as smart mobility.

The theme in 2021 was sustainability and explored the question: "How can cities contribute to a sustainable and future-fit world, and how can they help to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)?"



Pier 39 in San Francisco



International Cities Forum 2021, from left to right: Dr Ulf Kämpfer, Emma Döhler, Miriam Gyjamfi

Kiel's twin cities

2. Coventry

***1967** This partnership is built on the wish of both cities to foster reconciliation and intercultural dialogue and has paved the way for a variety of highly enriching encounters and cooperation between the two cities which were both heavily bombarded during the Second World War.

Projects:

Urban X-Change Networks Project:

The Volkshochschule Kiel and Coventry's Adult Education Service jointly organize exchanges and projects focused on promoting language acquisition and the linguistic integration of immigrants. Future plans include an exchange programme for foreign language teachers working at these institutions as well as workshops, networking events and a series of public, free admission events that give Kiel and Coventry residents insight into the history, culture, literature and architecture of their twin city.

Participation in the International Children's Games:

Kiel will send a delegation and team to participate in the "International Children's Games", which will be hosted by Coventry in 2022.

1. Brest

***1964** Both Brest and Kiel are port, naval and university cities and were largely destroyed during World War II. Their partnership has become second nature thanks to a long history of social, cultural, sportive, scientific and municipal encounters.

Projects:

Franco-German Voluntary Service:

In 2022, the cities of Brest and Kiel are joining the exchange programme run by the Franco-German Voluntary Service. Their aim is to give young people an opportunity to actively shape the cities' partnership and learn about how city administrations go about their international work. The programme will be launched in the fall of 2022, with participants staying for 12 months.

Inter-municipal exchange on education:

Several video calls have been organized to provide staff from the cities' education departments with the opportunity to exchange experiences on a range of educational issues, including educational continuity, parenthood, urban spaces for children and adolescents, and organic and locally sourced canteen meals.

3. Gdynia

***1985 with friendly relations dating back to 1971** Encounters between Kiel and Gdynia are taking place at all levels: Municipal delegations, the German-Polish Association, schools and universities, community groups and associations, the Chamber of Commerce and other institutions all maintain contacts and organize events and exchange programmes.

Projects:

The **Kiel-Park** has been created in Gdynia with both cities' parks and gardens departments collaborating during the project.

Several sports events, including the "Twin Cities Youth Championships", soccer tournaments, the "Golden Opti" and "Silver Opti" sailing regattas, and judo and sambo sports exchange programmes.

Fundraising campaign: In March 2022, Gdynia asked its twin cities for support in managing the influx of refugees fleeing the Ukraine war. Staff members of the Kiel administration launched an internal fundraising campaign, which enabled them to purchase and deliver the necessary relief supplies to Gdynia.

4. Tallinn

***1986, friendship city since 1972** Tallinn and Kiel have agreed to host alternating "Tallinn Days" in Kiel and "Kiel Days" in Tallinn once every three years. The aim is to bring together representatives from both cities and share experiences in seminars and expert discussions.

Projects:

Connecting Kiel-Tallinn 2021: Run jointly by Kiel's Hassee comprehensive school and the Tallinna Saksa upper secondary school, the project sought to bring together the residents of both cities online and make the friendship connecting the twin cities a tangible experience.

Sprat meets herring – A German-Estonian youth summer camp 2021:

The aim of the project was to bring teens from Kiel together with Estonian peers and give them a first taste of Tallinn and Estonia, promoting intercultural dialogue, tolerance and an awareness of European and democratic values.

5. Antakya/Hatay

***2012** The twin cities are both located in agricultural regions that are ideally suited to harness wind power. In addition, both are university towns.

Projects:

EXPO 2022: In 2022, Hatay will host an expo with a focus on agriculture. Kiel will be represented by a project launched by one of Kiel's gardens. With its slogan "Good food for a good life", it aims to educate Expo visitors on the importance of sustainable agriculture.

Construction of a school for child refugees from Syria 2015: A fundraising campaign in Kiel helped to fund the construction of a school and playground for 120 Syrian pupils in Hatay.

6. Moshi District

***2013 following several years of friendly relations**

The aim of Kiel's first non-European partnership is to deepen the cities' friendly relations and to support and promote the implementation of climate protection projects.

Projects:

With financial support from Engagement Global's Service Agency Communities in One World (SKEW), Kiel's parks and gardens department has been supporting the **establishment of a tree nursery since the project's inception in 2018**. The nursery produces trees for Moshi District and creates jobs for the local population.

Construction of a new wing for the "Mary Bennett" hospital ward in Kindi Ward and creation of professional development opportunities for medical staff: A number of measures have been outlined that will help to improve medical services, drawing on municipal funding and donations. The new wing was opened in the first half of 2022.

2.
Coventry,
United
Kingdom

3.
Gdynia,
Poland

4.
Tallinn,
Estonia

5.
Antakya /
Hatay,
Turkey

6.
Moshi
District,
Tanzania

1.
Brest,
France

Kiel's further twin cities are:

- 7 Vaasa (Finland, 1967)
- 8 Stralsund (Germany, 1987)
- 9 Kaliningrad (Russia, 1992)
- 10 Sovetsk (Russia, 1992)
- 11 Samsun (Turkey, 2012)
- 12 San Francisco (USA, 2017)
- 13 Aarhus (Denmark, 2019)

Kiel's friendly towns are:

- 1 Riga, Latvia
- 2 Vilnius, Lithuania
- 3 Gothenburg, Sweden
- 4 Qingdao, China
- 5 Oslo, Norway
- 6 Drammen, Norway
- 7 Malmö, Sweden
- 8 Hangzhou, China
- 9 Copenhagen, Denmark

City networks

Engaging in strategic cooperation with other cities in international networks is a pillar of Kiel's international work. The opportunity to promote shared interests and launch joint projects, exchange innovative best practices and create international visibility are crucial factors behind Kiel's motivation to participate in the EUROCITIES network, the Union of the Baltic Cities (UBC) and Mayors for Peace. International city networks have become important catalysts and platforms for cities. Sustainable development as envisioned in the 2030 Agenda certainly is one of the fundamental goals driving cooperation, but more generally, the topics that are discussed and addressed range from climate action, sustainable mobility, education and social issues to innovative business development and smart city concepts to youth participation.

Mayors for Peace

For many years now, the City of Kiel has been involved in the Mayors for Peace movement. On Flag Day, an initiative launched by German Mayors for Peace members, four flags bearing the Mayors for Peace logo are hoisted on the Mayor's balcony at Kiel City Hall. The current attacks on Ukraine have once again underlined how important the Mayors for Peace movement – a beacon for peace and nuclear disarmament – remains in this day and age.

EURO CITIES

Kiel has been a member of EUROCITIES, the network of large cities in Europe, since 2016. EUROCITIES links Kiel with over 200 other cities in 38 countries that together represent 130 million people. Joint activities, shared knowledge and coordinated activities across Europe give cities and their residents a voice in Europe. Kiel is a founding member of the EUROCITIES SDG Task Force and is actively involved in forums and activities focused on business and innovation, environment and culture. Among other things, Kiel has signed joint statements calling for more ambitious climate policies or additional funding to enable municipalities to tackle the global challenges brought on by climate change or pledging to take in refugees.

UBC | UNION OF THE BALTIC CITIES

Union of the Baltic Cities (UBC)

The Union of the Baltic Cities is the leading network of cities in the Baltic Sea region and has been successfully promoting cross-border cooperation since the early 1990s. More than 70 member cities from around the Baltic Sea are working in theme-based commissions to define the future of one of the world's most innovative regions. As a member of the UBC Executive Board, Kiel is actively shaping the development of the network. Key areas of cooperation include environment and sustainability, education, culture and sport. The City of Kiel is regularly involved in the activities launched by the various commissions. Together with our twin city Aarhus, Kiel chairs the UBC's economic committee. The Smart and Prospering Cities Commission brings together municipal economic and innovation experts and organizes regular events.

UBC Webinars on resilient cities and the future of tourism

The Covid-19 pandemic forced Kiel to find new ways to cooperate and participate in the UBC network – at a time when exchange between cities was as vital as ever. The aim of Kiel's economic committee was therefore to quickly switch to online formats. For instance, more than 50 participants from Kiel and the Baltic Sea region, including the Mayor of Kiel and representatives from other Baltic cities such as Aarhus, took part in an online discussion on resilience.

In the summer of 2020, more than 60 international experts from Kiel, Turku, Sylt and other cities discussed the future of tourism after Covid. One key takeaway for all participants was that sustainability is becoming a crucial factor across the entire tourism sector.



Business events, Aarhus



During the Covid-19 pandemic, exchange between cities switched to online formats

Municipal development cooperation

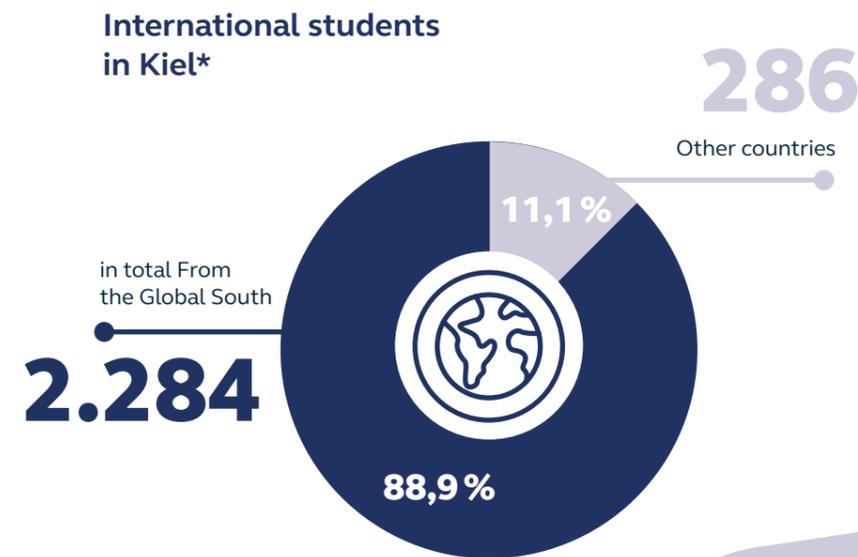
Aiming to strengthen municipal partnership and development cooperation, Engagement Global's Service Agency Communities in One World (SKEW) gives municipalities access to funding to encourage their involvement in development work. These municipal projects receive financial support from the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), meaning that municipalities only need to cover 10 per cent of all project-related costs.

Germany has committed to spending 0.7 per cent of its GDP (gross domestic product) on development cooperation. These financial commitments, known as Official Development Assis-

tance (ODA) grants, are forwarded annually to the OECD by the federal states. Since 2020, Schleswig-Holstein has been including ODA grants made available at the municipal level in its reports. This now allows Kiel to report its annual ODA grants to the state of Schleswig-Holstein, and thus to the federal government. These figures include the share of funding contributed to projects supported by the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development and funds from the municipal budget that were made available for projects in the Global South.



Kieler Förde at the garden expo in Hatay, Turkey



*Source: Christian-Albrecht University of Kiel, Kiel University of Applied Sciences and Muthesius University of Fine Arts and Design

Sum spent on Official Development Assistance (ODA)



*Source: Office of the City Council President, International Affairs and Sustainability, City of Kiel

The way forward

International municipal cooperation is and remains a priority for Kiel. The current global challenges (climate change, Covid-19) and political tensions (the war in Ukraine) once again underline how vital our existing networks, partnerships and collaborations are. It is our task to sustain, deepen and promote them together with our partners.

What does that mean?

The City of Kiel wants to contribute more actively to its city networks. Our aim is twofold: We want to help give cities a stronger voice at the national and international level in order to promote sustainability and the implementation of the 17 SDGs, and we believe that this can only be achieved by enabling city administrations to exchange experiences and share knowledge at the international level. To this end, Kiel intends to build on its already thriving partnerships throughout the city networks and on existing European and international partnerships in particular.

During 2022, we will also review and update our international strategy, "Kiel International". It will place greater emphasis on Kiel's municipal development policy, for instance, by strengthening cooperation with partners in the Global South, by focusing its commitment as a Fair Trade Town and by taking into view some of the global implications of local consumption.

Kiel is also aware that cities are playing an ever more important role in international contexts. The keywords here are "urban diplomacy". The municipal level creates opportunities for dialogue and exchange that complement efforts undertaken at national level, especially when they are blocked by political tensions. Fostering intercultural dialogue among citizens and addressing across borders the great challenges of our time – protecting the environment, conserving our oceans, and adapting to climate change, among others – is a crucial step on the way to forging a global community that respects our planet, acts sustainably and creates the conditions that future generations need in order to thrive. Given the current global challenges and political tensions, we are all being called on to take responsibility – and Kiel is proving how cities can step up and tackle these diverse and complex challenges.

Our goals for the future

Kiel's first Voluntary Local Review highlights the many actions the city has already taken on its path to implementing the 2030 Agenda. Preparing and compiling the review made visible the broad range of projects and activities that are today's and tomorrow's building blocks of our local 2030 Agenda. The VLR process has also proven to be a crucial tool to steer SDG measures and bring together the administration and civil society groups.

At the same time, we consider our VLR as an incentive and a commitment to continue integrating the 2030 Agenda into the city's work as we move forward.



Kiel city administration

Concepts and measures

Energized by the publication of our first VLR, Kiel will step up its efforts to transition towards sustainability. We are currently working on a number of concepts and measures, including our international strategy, Kiel's commitment as a marine protection city, our activities as an Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) model municipality, projects to increase the biodiversity of urban green spaces, and our gender equality and equal opportunities strategy.

Performance-oriented budgeting

In 2023, Kiel will launch a pilot phase to introduce performance-oriented budgeting in four areas: economic affairs, environment, education and development policy. This step will ensure that the city's budget takes into account the city administration's sustainability criteria and help to align Kiel's public spending with its SDG commitments.

Twin cities and city networks

Fostering exchange with Kiel's twin cities

Kiel takes its VLR as an incentive to promote the SDGs and the 2030 Agenda vis-à-vis its twin cities, especially when addressing municipal challenges.

Working together to find solutions to our shared challenges in Kiel's city networks

Kiel plans to seize the opportunities offered by the EURO CITIES network or the Union of the Baltic Cities, using them as platforms to share its VLR and promote exchange on local sustainability challenges.



Cherry trees in bloom at the old Urn Cemetery, Kiel

United Nations

International visibility

Every day, Kiel and cities around the world are learning how crucial work at the local level is in implementing the 2030 Agenda. With its VLR, Kiel wants to give greater visibility to this role at the level of the United Nations – for instance, by participating in the High-Level Political Forum's events in July 2022, via social media, and in international networks and organizations.

Kiel residents and community groups

Event in Kiel

We will seize the publication of the VLR as an opportunity to initiate a public dialogue on Kiel's transition to sustainability. The event will be organized in collaboration with local partners and stakeholders. This will give Kiel residents a concrete idea of the 17 SDGs and the 2030 Agenda – and inspire them to see themselves as part of Kiel's and the world's efforts to create a sustainable future.

The way forward Kiel's next VLRs

We plan to publish Kiel's second VLR no later than 2024 in order to share our progress in implementing the next set of SDG targets. In the coming years, our aim is to report on all 17 SDGs and give a full picture of Kiel's progress.

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