



# Kiel

## Culture and Resilience Action plan summary

Kiel, with 250.000 inhabitants, is the capital of Schleswig-Holstein. The northernmost major city in Germany is located at the Baltic Sea and the Kiel Fjord reaches into the heart of the city – opening up horizons for people, is an important hub and builds bridges to Scandinavia and the Baltic States.

### Topics that move Kiel

Despite many potentials, Kiel faces challenges as a medium-sized city. These relate to the high demands on the city's integration policy and intercultural dialogue due to the division into east and west shores, a massive structural change in the shipbuilding industry, migration backgrounds and unemployment rates. Social conflicts, discrimination and marginalisation lead to divisions within the urban population and impair social resilience. Therefore, broad participation and integration through intensive and regular dialogue is desirable in order to increase the resilience of our urban society. A liveable city with a diverse and culturally active urban society is not a state, but an ongoing process.

Moreover, the effects of the covid-19 pandemic are still evident in deficits in the cultural education of children and young people. There is a need for access and targeted programmes, especially for those who are already affected by child poverty (25.5% in 2022). Cultural education plays a crucial role.

In many places in the city, culture is already visible as a means of improving social cohesion and social communication. However, there is a lack of visibility for these offers for the public and a lack of exchange among the actors. Kiel is committed to showing the existing and intensifying the cultural connections around the Baltic Sea Region to make the whole region more connected and resilient in troubled times. A diverse cultural life is the basis for good cohesion, and we want to anchor this message in Kiel with the help of the BSR Cultural Pearls project.



## Social Resilience

Empowering children and young people through cultural learning is one of the key aspects for building long-term and sustainable social resilience. *Children's Sailing Picture Parade* - a project in collaboration with a school, involves children submitting drawings, which are edited into a stop-motion film by a professional filmmaker and shown at a film screening. The action strengthens the identity with the environment, the Baltic Sea and the major sailing event Kiel Week. It also enhances the children's presence in the city and thus increases their sense of belonging and social participation.

The social divide in society and culture is another aspect that concerns Kiel. Marginalised groups and people with fewer economic resources are particularly affected by a lack of cultural offerings. However, participation is very important for a sense of belonging and local identity. Thus, we want to bring all cultural and social stakeholders together at a kick-off barcamp. The aim is to show what is actually possible and already exists in the cultural landscape and to encourage the players with their ideas and projects to continue, multiply and push even further.

Last but not least, promoting the inclusion of people with disabilities is a crucial task that must be prioritised in the upcoming project year. It is important to strengthen their visibility because only through the participation and belonging of all people in our society can we achieve social resilience in times of challenge. Therefore, a public concert series is planned every month at different locations, tailored to people with special needs. The communal aspect of singing verifiably strengthens the sense of belonging and its visibility is emphasised through the public performances.