



HANDS ON FESTIVAL FELLOWSHIP

FELLOWSHIP CALL "HANDS ON" FESTIVAL

for the Cultural & Creative Industries in Hesse, Germany

June 12-13, 2026 @ Nachrichtenmeisterei Kassel

Do you have a business idea or project in Hesse's cultural and creative industries? Do you want to exchange ideas with experts and experienced creatives? Are you looking for new inspiration for your professional development and creative work? Do you want to make your project more visible and build valuable contacts for future collaborations?

Apply for the Fellowship by Friday, May 1, 2026!

What does the Fellowship offer?

- Participation in the two-day **"Hands On" Festival** for the cultural and creative industries in Hesse (June 12–13, 2026, Kassel)
- **Waiver of the participation fee** (€190)
- Access to **lectures and workshops**
- **Peer consulting** and networking opportunities with creatives from Hesse and the nationwide network of **Kultur- und Kreativpilot*innen**
- Opportunity to **present your own projects** and initiate new collaborations (e.g., in the exhibition)
- **Digital 1:1 mentoring session** with an expert before the festival (May 22, 2026, 5–7 PM via Zoom; please save the date)
- **Digital 1:1 mentoring follow-up** (July 7, 2026, 5–6 PM via Zoom)
- **Travel expenses** may be covered or subsidized upon request

- **5 fellowships** will be awarded to individuals/teams/collectives, enabling peer-to-peer exchange
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Who can apply?

The call is open to **students, young professionals, and career changers** in the fields of cultural and creative industries, arts, culture, and media in Hesse. We welcome applications regardless of cultural or social background, age, religion, belief, or disability. We especially encourage people from marginalized groups to apply. Whether you are an individual, team, or collective — this fellowship is for everyone who wants exchange and mentoring.

What is the "Hands On" Festival?

- The two-day **"Hands On" Festival** for the cultural and creative industries in Hesse offers creatives from Hesse and experts from the **Kultur- und Kreativpilot*innen** network <https://kultur-kreativpiloten.de/netzwerk/> the chance to meet, exchange ideas, and learn from each other. <https://kultur-kreativpiloten.de/hands-on-festival/>
- **"Hands On"** means: We take the present into our own hands. Instead of frontal lectures, there is an open festival to explore and use freely — for intensive work sessions, in-depth encounters, and playful formats where we can try out together what works.
- Program tracks include:
 - **Hands On Networking – Meet people**
 - **Hands On Learning – Share knowledge**
 - **Hands On Science – Discover new research**
 - **Hands On Business – Exchange experiences**
 - **Hands On Democracy – Help society**
 - **Hands On Governance – Develop new network structures**
 - **Hands On Art – Create new works**
 - **Hands On Music – Listen to new music**
 - **Hands On Show – Present your products and projects**
 - **Hands On Play – Experience new games**

- **Hands On Fuck Up – Learn from old mistakes**
 - **Hands On Lunch & Dinner – Cook your food...**
 - The event will be held in **German spoken language**. Individual exchanges, such as 1:1 mentoring sessions, can also be conducted in English.
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How to apply?


Apply via this **online form**. Optionally, you can upload a short video, image, or personal text in German or English: [🔗 Application Form](#)

 **Application deadline: Wednesday, May 1, 2026**

 **Announcement of fellows:** beginning of May 2026

Important Dates

 **Digital 1:1 mentoring session:** May 22, 2026, 5–7 PM (Zoom)

 **Festival:** June 12–13, 2026 @ Nachrichtenmeisterei Kassel

 **Digital 1:1 mentoring follow-up:** July 7, 2026, 5–6 PM (Zoom)

Contact

For technical issues or questions, please contact: **teamkukpi@gmail.com** Contact persons: Susanne Stephani, Franziska Ritter, Ester Petri

We look forward to your application! Let's shape the future together.

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