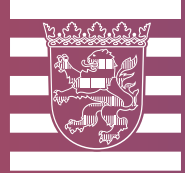


Hessian Government

HESSEN



Hessen is ...

...

cosmopolitan → 7

an economic powerhouse → 13

innovative → 19

a centre of education → 25

sustainable → 31

rich in culture → 37

scenically diverse → 43

steeped in traditions → 49

committed to voluntary work → 55

sporty → 61

democratic → 67



Welcome to Hessen.

This brochure is designed to give to everyone interested an initial overview of our state nestled in the heart of Europe. What is special about Hessen? What are its strengths? What is its history? What kind of landscapes and scenery is it home to? You'll find answers to these and many other questions right here.

Hessen is one of the strongest economic regions in Europe. One of the continent's most important financial centres is located here. Hessen is where international traffic flows connect, where leading service and industrial companies are based and where science and culture have a home. Hessen is a strong and diverse state.

I hope all readers enjoy discovering Hessen. I wish everyone visiting our state a successful and enriching time.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, which appears to read 'Boris Rhein'. The signature is stylized and fluid.

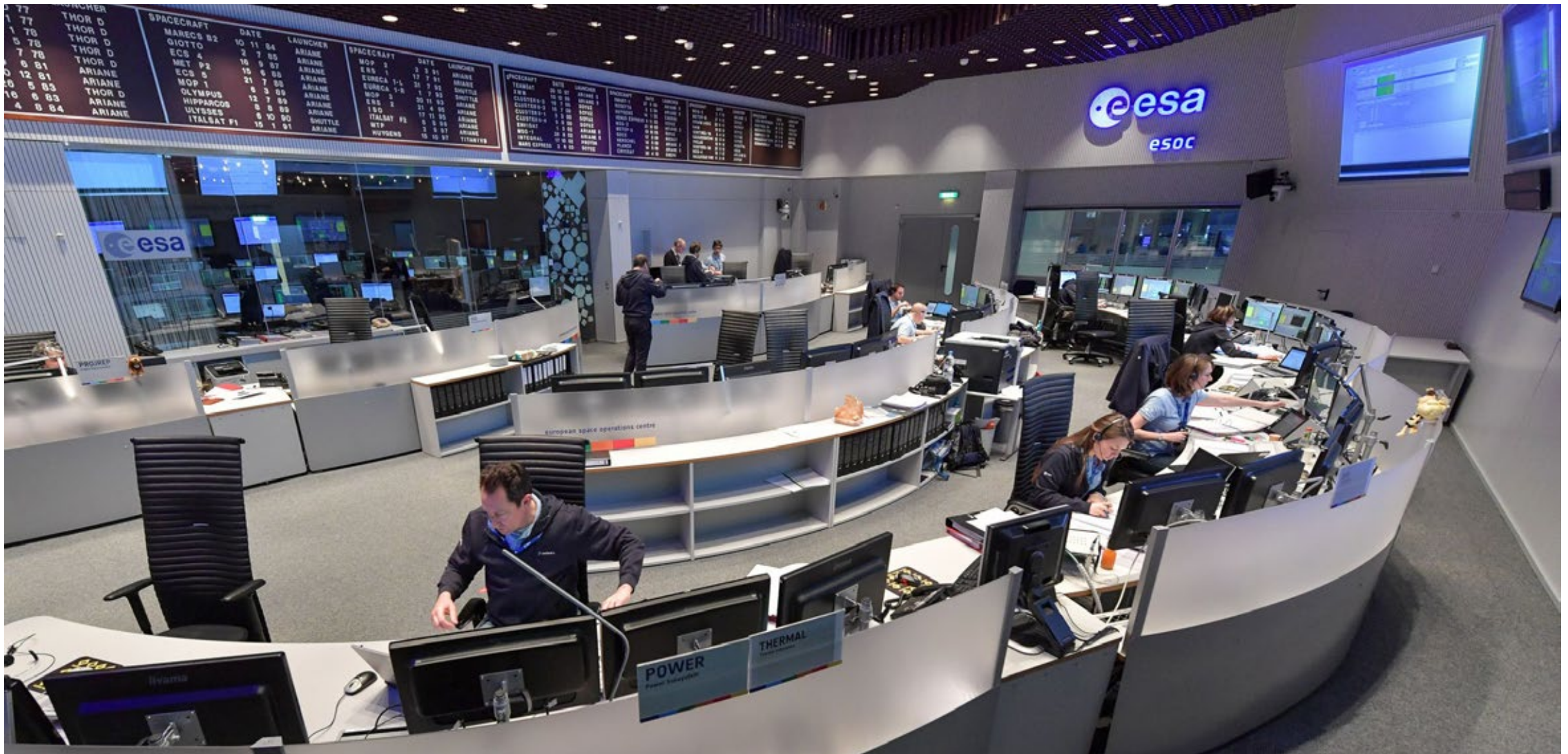
Boris Rhein
Minister President of the State of Hessen

Hessen is

cosmopolitan.



Its central location at the heart of Europe and a strong infrastructure connect Hessen with the whole world.



Be it by rail, road or water, in the air or digitally - Hessen is one of the most important transport hubs in Europe. Numerous European institutions such as the European Central Bank and the satellite control centre of the European Space Agency (ESA) are also based here.

This integration in Europe is one of our strengths and we intend to preserve it. That is why in Hessen we are committed to ensuring that going forward the European Union continues to secure peace, freedom and prosperity on our continent and remains a strong partner in international competition.



▲ Representative Office of the State of Hessen to the European Union

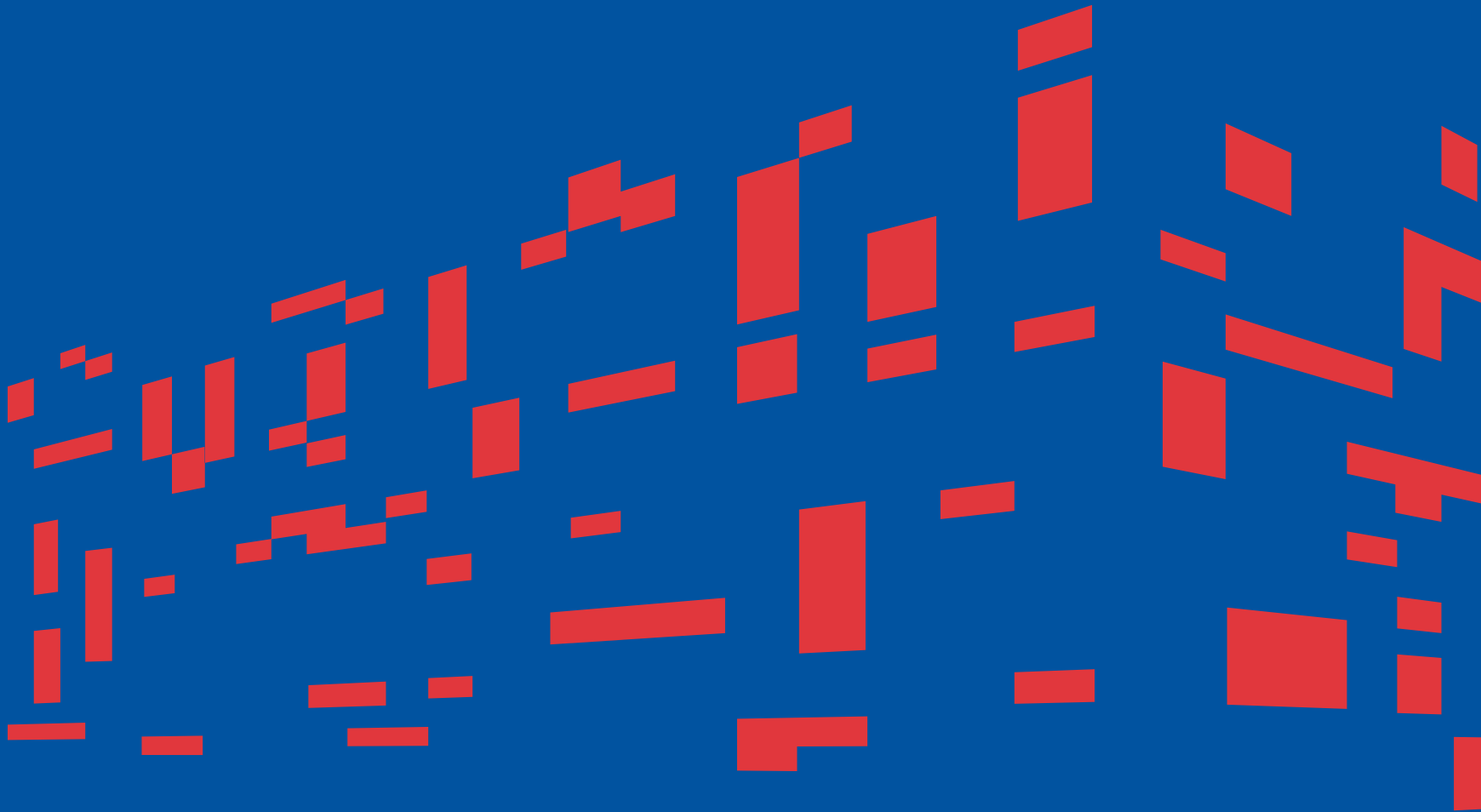


- People from **190 nations** live in Hessen.
- Around **13,000** foreign companies have establishments in Hessen.
- The Hessian Consular Corps boasts **more than 100** representative offices, making it the second largest consular corps in Germany.
- There has been a Representative Office of the State of Hessen to the European Union in Brussels **since 1989**.
- From Hessen, you can reach any European metropolis in a **maximum of three hours**.
- Used by **300,000** vehicles **daily**, Frankfurt intersection is the largest motorway junction in Europe.
- Hessian partner regions: Nouvelle-Aquitaine, Emilia-Romagna, Bursa, Yaroslavl (suspended since the start of the Russian war of aggression against Ukraine in February 2022), Vojvodina, Wielkopolska and Wisconsin.

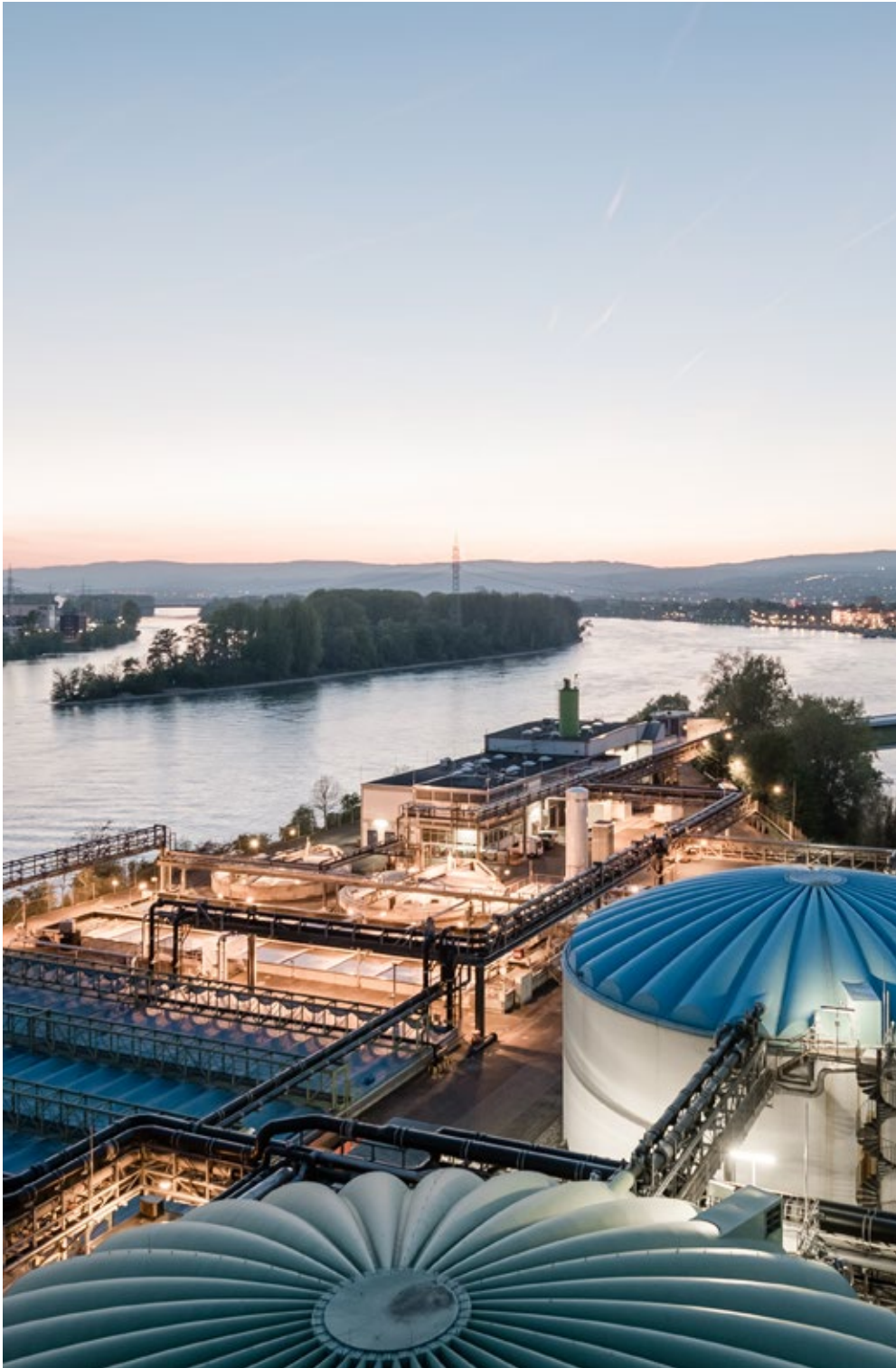
Hessen is

...

an economic powerhouse.



A successful economy creates jobs
and gives people the chance to lead
the life they want.



▲ Kalle-Albert Industrial Park, InfraServ, Wiesbaden

This secures our prosperity and our quality of life whilst also ensuring greater cohesion and justice in our society.

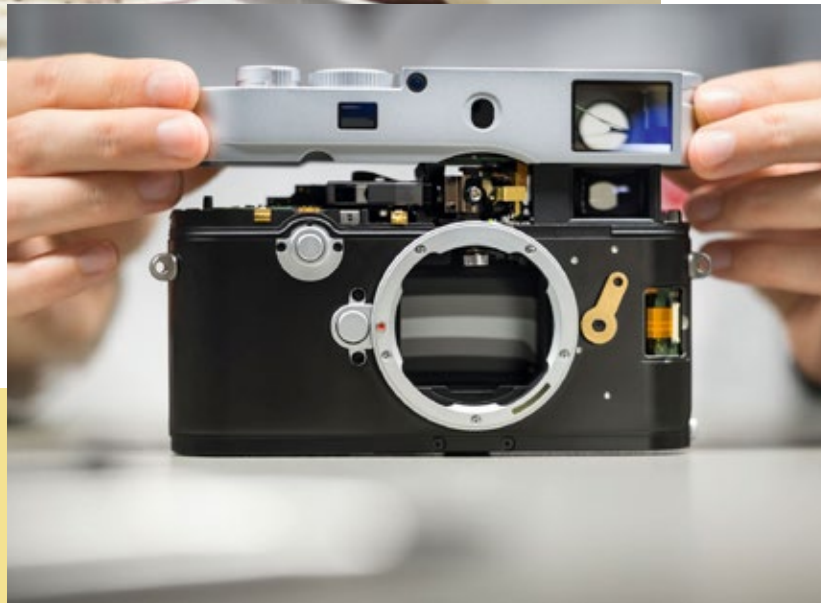


▲ Frankfurt Airport

Hessen is one of the strongest economic regions in the EU. This is thanks in particular to the service providers and industrial plants in the Rhine-Main region, the financial sector and the airport in Frankfurt as well as the logistics and mobility sector in northern Hessen.

Be it an international corporation or a medium-sized family business, traditional industry or innovative technology of the future - Hessen offers the optimum conditions for economic success.

▼ Antonius Bakery, Fulda



▼ Leica Camera AG, Weizlar

▼ Merck, Darmstadt



▼ Opel Astra production, Rüsselsheim am Main

→ Frankfurt Airport is Germany's largest workplace with around **81,000 employees**.

→ The financial hub of Frankfurt is one of the most important financial centres in the world. More than **64,000 employees** work at more than **200 banks** here.

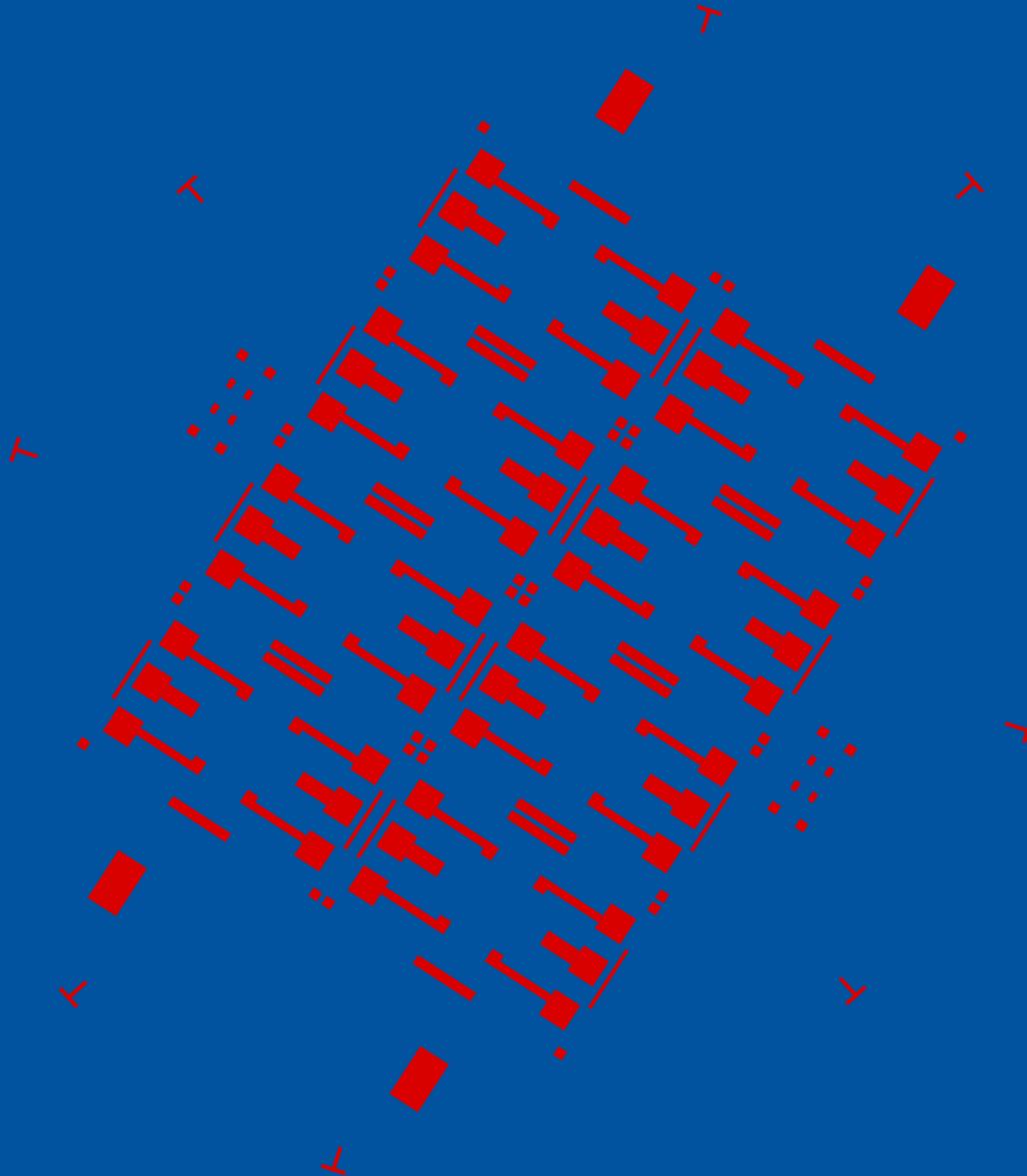
→ The Frankfurt Stock Exchange is one of the **world's largest trading centres** for securities.
→ Ever since the Middle Ages, Frankfurt has been one of the **most important trade fair cities** in Europe.

→ In northern Hessen, more than **one in ten employees** work in the logistics sector - there is no higher density of logistics employees anywhere else in Germany.

Hessen is

...

innovative.



Findings and insight from science and research benefit us all.

They make a crucial contribution to developing solutions for the complex challenges of our time and secure the jobs and prosperity of tomorrow.



▼ DE-CIX/data centre, Frankfurt am Main

▼ LOEWE-Centrum DRUID, Marburg

That is why we support our state's bright minds in a variety of ways.

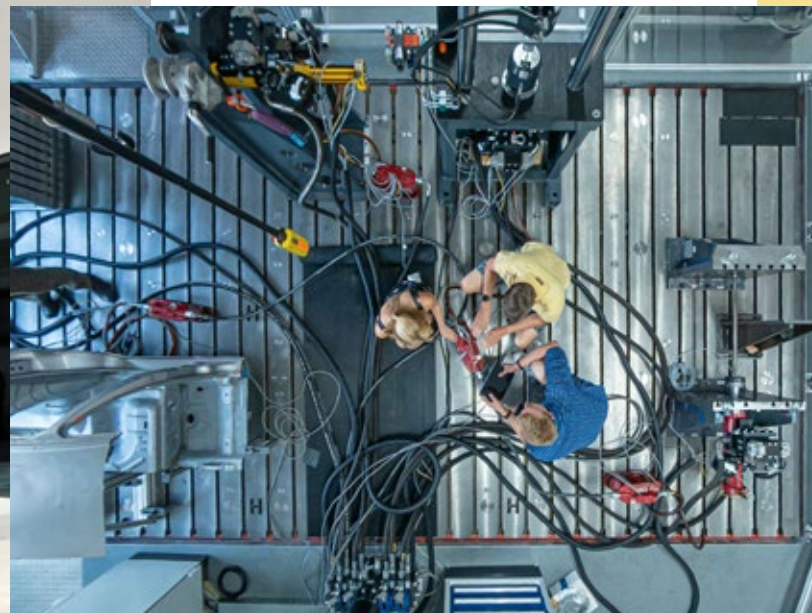
We support our universities, for instance, because they are a strong driver of innovation, competitiveness and fostering young talent.

We are also forging ahead with digitalisation in our state to make the best possible use of the resulting opportunities for the good of the people.

All these measures are paying off:
Hessen is one of the most innovative regions in Europe.



▼ University of Applied Sciences of Central Hessen



- Around **110** universities, research institutes and institutes for academic education offer attractive study conditions in Hessen.
- With our LOEWE research funding programme, **which is unique in Germany**, we foster cutting-edge research and the dovetailing of science, research and business.
- The Fraunhofer Institute SIT in Darmstadt is one of the **world's leading** research institutions for cybersecurity and data protection.
- Measured by the quantity of data exchanged, the DE-CIX in Frankfurt is the **world's largest Internet node**.
- Hessen is one of the **leading European locations** for data centres.
- **"AI made in Hessen"** is our trademark for responsible artificial intelligence.

Hessen is

...

a centre of education.

Education gives us the key to
successfully living the life we want.

In Hessen, our goal is to enable all children and young people to discover their personal talents, preferences and abilities and to develop them in the best possible way.

Education is a priority in Hessen. This is also reflected in how much the Hessian government invests in education. In 2024, for the first time the education budget will exceed 5 billion euros. Adding more childcare places, a better work-life balance, sufficient teachers and well-equipped schools are key policy priorities.

We are also forging ahead with the digitalisation of our schools and supporting young people in finding the career that is the best match for them.





→ Our pilot school subject "**Digital World**" makes us pioneers in Germany. Pupils learn how digital technologies can be used to help solve social, economic and environmental problems.

→ More than **646,000** young people are taught by around **64,000** teachers at around **1,860** schools in Hessen.

→ In Hessen, there are the **fewest** school dropouts nationwide.



Hessen is

...

sustainable.

It is up to our generation to
leave our children and grandchildren
a Hessen worth living in.

If we want to limit the consequences of climate change, if we want to protect our children from worse yet, and if we still want to offer them the freedom to decide how they want to live their lives, then we must act now.

That is why climate protection is at the heart of our policymaking. One of our core aims is to combine business and ecology in a socially responsible way.



We want to turn our economic powerhouse Hessen into a climate-neutral centre of industry by 2045 to secure its competitiveness, innovativeness and prosperity going forward.



▼ eTicket Hessen

- With the special school student, university student, state and senior citizen travel passes, **more than 50 %** of all Hessians have access to an affordable flat-rate travel pass. As such, Hessen was a role model for the nationwide Deutschlandticket.
- Our new Climate Act means Hessen's climate targets **are now enshrined in law for the first time**.
- The Hessian public administration is to become climate-neutral **by 2030**.
- Hessen is the **first eco-model state** in Germany.
- The world's **largest fleet of fuel cell trains** is operated in Hessen.
- The Integrated Climate Protection Plan Hessen 2025 comprises **140 measures** for better climate protection.
- More than **50%** of electricity in Hessen already comes from renewable sources such as **wind and solar energy**.
- The financial hub of Frankfurt is set to become the leading location in continental Europe for **green and sustainable finance**.
- The **Hessian Energy Agency (LEA)** provides information and support for measures promoting climate protection, energy efficiency and energy saving or the expansion of renewable energies.



Hessen is

...

rich in culture.

A free and diverse culture gives us the chance to see things from the perspective of different times, different people and different opinions, and so to see the world in a new light.

This can help not just to strengthen your own identity, but also to respond openly and respectfully towards other cultures or points of view.



▼ Grimm, *A German fairy tale*, Staatstheater Kassel

Hessen's cultural landscape is diverse and vibrant, and we want it to stay that way for a long time to come.

To preserve valuable traditions whilst still making room for new ideas, we are developing a Masterplan for Culture in Hessen, for instance, in concert with all those who want to get involved.





- The **documenta**, which takes place every five years in Kassel is considered the world's largest and most prestigious exhibition of contemporary art.
- There is **state theatre** in each of the **historic seats of power** of Darmstadt, Kassel and Wiesbaden.
- In addition to the Hessian state museums in Wiesbaden, Darmstadt and Kassel and the two houses of the archaeological state museum (Saalburg Roman fort and Keltenwelt am Glauberg), there are around an additional **400 museums and collections**.
- The Senckenberg Museum in Frankfurt is one of the **largest natural history museums** in Germany.
- The State Palaces and Gardens of Hessen preserve a historical heritage spanning **2,000 years**.
- **Johann Wolfgang von Goethe**, one of Germany's most important poets, was born in Frankfurt am Main on 28 August 1749.
- **Brothers Jacob and Wilhelm Grimm**, who were born in Hanau and lived in Kassel for several years, are among the leading lights of German literature and language.

Hessen is

...

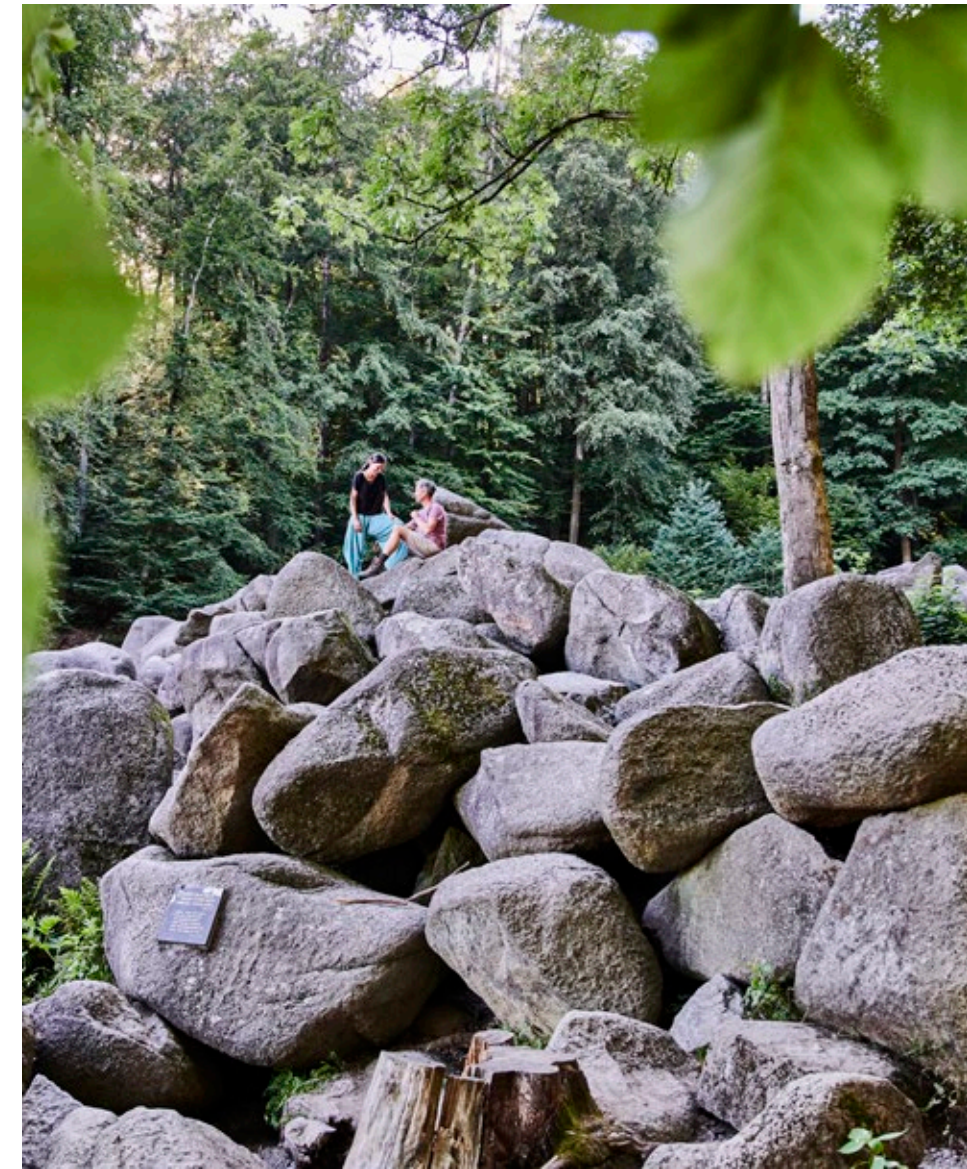
scenically diverse.

Our nature in all its diversity is a valuable resource worth protecting. In fact, it is the very basis for life.

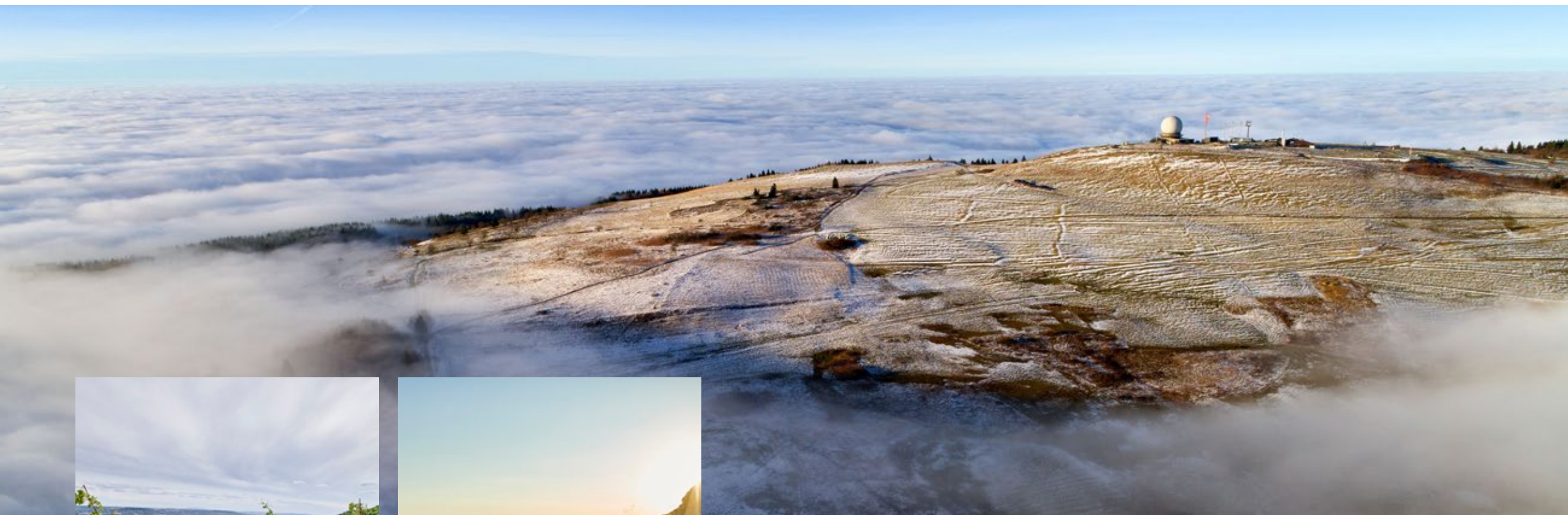
Hessen is known far and wide for its unique nature and beautiful and diverse landscapes.



These include the low mountain ranges of the Rhön, Spessart, Vogelsberg and Odenwald, the floodplains of the Rhine, Werra, Fulda, Eder and Lahn, the vineyards of the Rheingau and the Bergstrasse or the lakes of Waldecker Land.



They don't just offer Hessians a pleasant place to live and relax, they are also popular holiday destinations for visitors from all over the world.



▼ Vineyards, Rheingau



- Occupying **42 % of the state's land (894,180 hectares)**, Hessen is one of the most densely forested states in Germany, together with Rhineland-Palatinate.
- At **2,500 km²**, the Vogelsberg is the largest contiguous volcanic area in Central Europe.

▼ Vogelsberg



- The Kellerwald-Edersee National Park protects one of the **largest** contiguous **beech forests** in Central Europe.
- Hessen fosters sustainable agriculture that protects the climate, conserves soil and water and preserves biodiversity. Around **16 % of farming land** has already switched to **organic farming**.

▼ View of Eschbach, Usinger Land



Hessen is

...

steeped in tradition.

Only if we know the past can we understand the present and shape our future. The people of Hessen show how tradition and innovation can be successfully combined.



▲ Arolsen's flea and cattle market



▼ Erbach Wiesemarkt celebrations

Especially in our globally connected and digital world, which is constantly presenting us with new changes and challenges, traditions can also serve as valuable anchors.

They offer security at a time when many things feel uncertain.

- **UNESCO World Heritage in Hessen:** Lorsch Monastery, Messel Pit, Upper Middle Rhine Valley, Upper Germanic-Raetian Limes, Kellerwald-Edersee, Wilhelmshöhe Mountain Park and Mathildenhöhe Darmstadt.
- The **three state archives** in Wiesbaden, Darmstadt and Marburg hold important written records.
- The Hessian State Archives hold almost **150 shelf kilometres of files**, more than **800,000** maps and plans and around **240,000** documents for viewing.
- With more than **150,000 objects**, the **Hessenpark Open-Air Museum** showcases village life in centuries past.
- Hessen is the state with the **greatest variety of traditional costumes** in Germany.
- Hessentag is the **oldest and largest state festival** in Germany.





Hessen is

...

committed to voluntary work.

Volunteering has many different faces, but one thing always holds true: helping others strengthens solidarity and turns a society into a community.



Volunteering also gives people the opportunity to help shape their own region and in turn our home state of Hessen as a whole.

What's more, many parts of our daily lives would be inconceivable without volunteers.

We are grateful that so many people in Hessen are involved in voluntary work.

That is why fostering and recognising this kind of commitment is especially important to us.



→ Around **42 %** of Hessian citizens **aged 14** and over are active volunteers.

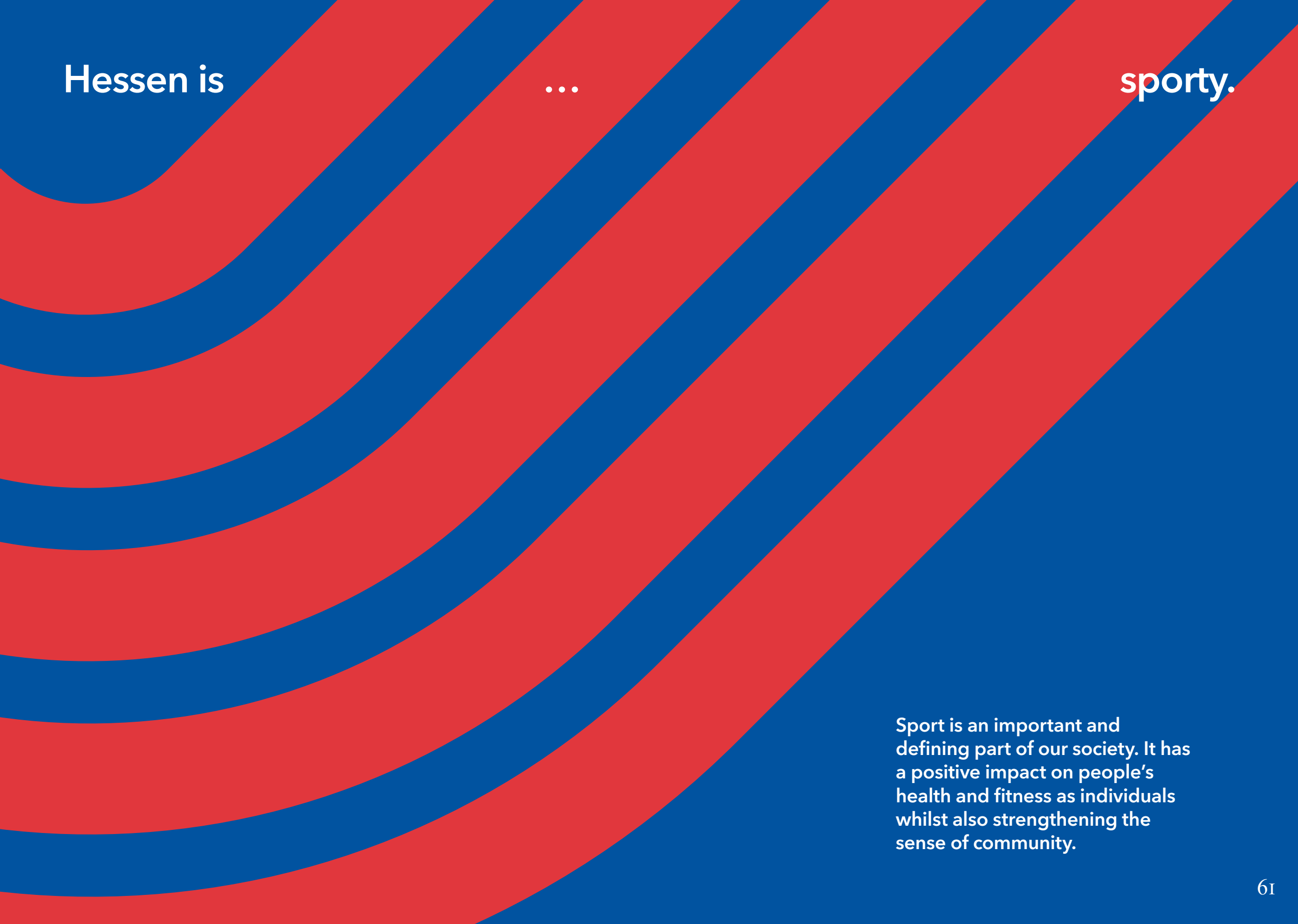
→ The **Hessian Volunteer Card** has been a special way of recognising and thanking people who volunteer since **2006**. It offers many different discounts and has already been **issued more than 20,000 times**.

→ The **State Volunteering Agency of Hessen (LEAH)** is the central point of contact for local authorities, associations, clubs and other organisations.

→ With the **volunteer search engine**, you can find the right volunteering job with just a few clicks.

→ With **37 foundations per 100,000 inhabitants**, Hessen is the number one state for charitable foundations in Germany.

→ **"Miteinander in Hessen"** is our state-owned foundation fostering civic engagement.



Hessen is

...

sporty.

Sport is an important and defining part of our society. It has a positive impact on people's health and fitness as individuals whilst also strengthening the sense of community.

Sport brings together people from all walks of life who might otherwise have never met.

And values that are crucial for respectful interaction, such as team spirit, consideration for others, tolerance and helpfulness, are also taught and practised here as second nature.

So sport is important for integration and solidarity in our society. That is why we are fully committed to promoting both recreational and top-level sport in Hessen.





▲ VC Wiesbaden

- Over **two million people** do sports in the more than **7,500 clubs in Hessen**.
- Around **578,000 people volunteer** at Hessian sports associations and clubs.
- In 2021, Hessen provided around **61 Millionen Euro** in funding for recreational and top-level sport.
- **Frankfurt is a capital of sport**: numerous important top-level sport associations such as the German Olympic Sports Confederation, the German Football Association, the German Football League and the German Gymnastics Federation are headquartered here.

- Clubs such as Eintracht Frankfurt, SV Darmstadt 98, FSV Frankfurt, SV Wehen- Wiesbaden and Kickers Offenbach are real **spectator magnets** in Hessian football.
- The **Eintracht women** are one of Germany's **top teams**.
- The **World Cup ski jumping competitions** in Willingen wow spectators every winter.
- The basketball players of the **Skyliners from Frankfurt** or the **46er from Gießen** offer successful basketball.
- Handball fans are willing to travel far and wide to the games of **HSG Wetzlar** and **MT Melsungen**, whilst volleyball fans get their fix at **VC Wiesbaden**.



▼ MT Melsungen

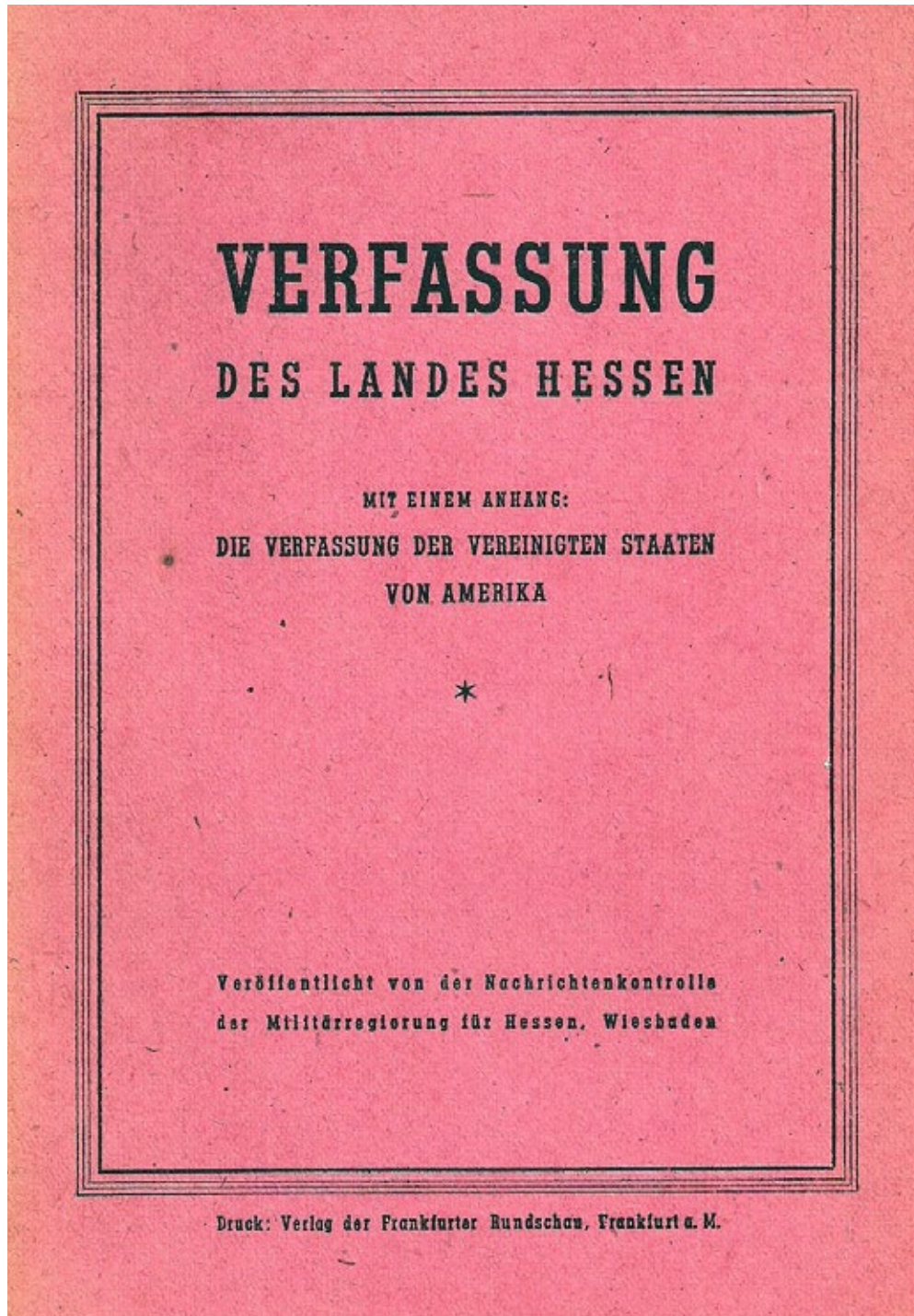
Hessen is

...

democratic.



After the First World War,
a democratic form of government
was also established in Hessen.



However, when the National Socialists seized power, all democratic achievements in the "People's State of Hessen" were destroyed.

Here, too, countless people suffered under the national socialist tyranny from 1933 onwards.

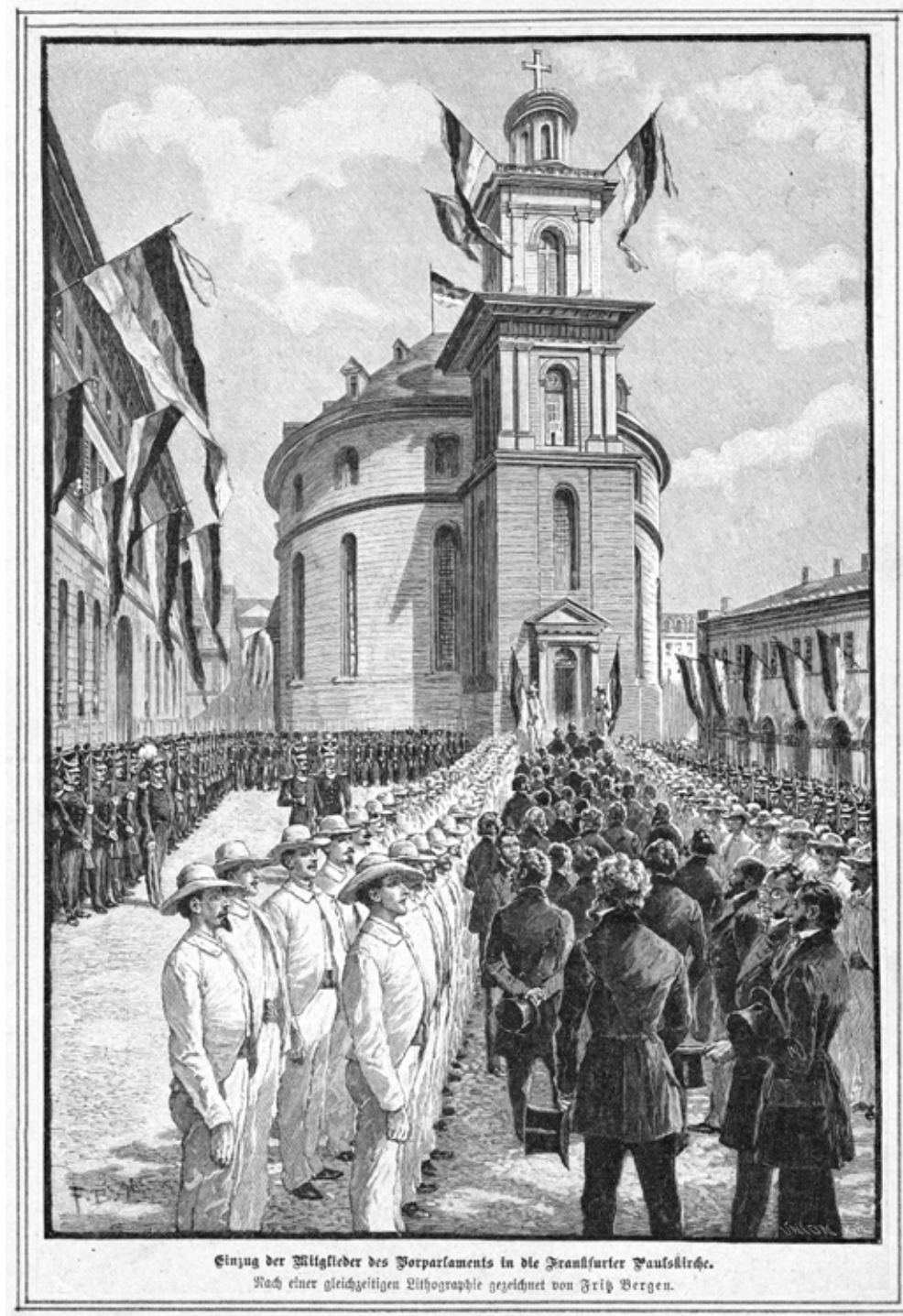
After the Second World War Hessen became part of the American occupation zone.

On 19 September 1945, the American military government founded the federal state of Hessen in its current form.

On 1 December 1946, the people of Hessen voted in a referendum to adopt the new democratic state constitution and the first state parliamentary elections took place.

Modern Hessen was born.

Today, Hessen is a successful democratic state people enjoy living in.



▼ Elisabeth Selbert



▼ Wilhelm Leuschner



- **Wilhelm Leuschner**, Minister of the Interior in the People's State of Hessen, was murdered in 1944 as one of the leading figures in the **resistance against National Socialism**. Today, the Wilhelm Leuschner Medal is the state's **highest honour**.
- On 1 July 1948, the military governors from the US, Great Britain and France presented the eleven minister presidents of the states of the three Western zones with what are known as the **Frankfurt Documents**, the founding mandate for the Federal Republic of Germany.
- The **Hessian constitution** is the **oldest** state constitution still in force in Germany.

- The **first German parliament** sat in the Paulskirche in Frankfurt in 1848/49.
- It is thanks to the Hessian lawyer **Elisabeth Selbert** that the sentence "**Men and women shall have equal rights**" was included in the German **Basic Law** in 1949.
- Hessian **Minister Presidents since 1945**: *Karl Geiler (appointed), Christian Stock, Georg August Zinn, Albert Osswald, Holger Börner, Walter Wallmann, Hans Eichel, Roland Koch, Volker Bouffier, Boris Rhein.*
- Elisabeth, the widow of the Thuringian landgrave, moved her residence to Marburg in **1228**. This is regarded as the **birth of Hessen**.

P. 4: *Boris Rhein, Minister President of the State of Hessen*
Hessian State Chancellery,
Sinah Osner

P. 8—9: *European Space Operations Centre (ESOC), Darmstadt*
ESA, J. Mai

P. 10 above: *Hessian Consular Corps*
Hessian State Chancellery,
Jonas Grom

P. 10 below: *Representative Office of the State of Hessen to the European Union*
Hessian State Chancellery

P. 11: *Central Station, FFM*
Pixabay

P. 14: *Kalle-Albert Industrial Park, InfraServ, Wiesbaden*
Martin Joppen, Sanofi

P. 15: *Frankfurt Airport*
Fraport AG

P. 16 above: *Antonius Bakery, Fulda*
Marzena Seidel

P. 16 below: *Leica Camera AG, Wetzlar*
Leica Camera AG

P. 17 above: *Frankfurt Stock Exchange*
Deutsche Börse AG

P. 17 left: *Merck, Darmstadt*
Merck KGaA, Darmstadt,
Germany

P. 17 right: *Opel Astra production, Rüsselsheim am Main*
Opel / Stellantis

P. 20 above: *DE-CIX/data centre, Frankfurt am Main*
DE-CIX

P. 20 below: *LOEWE Centre DRUID, Marburg*
Sascha Mannel

P. 20 - 21: *FAIR particle accelerator, Darmstadt*
D. Fehrenz, GSI FAIR

P. 22: *Fraunhofer Institute for Secure Information Technology, Darmstadt*
Fraunhofer SIT

P. 22 below: *Technische Hochschule Mittelhessen (University of Applied Sciences of Central Hessen)*
THM

P. 23: *University of Kassel*
Kassel Marketing GmbH, Can
Wagener

P. 27: *"Digital world" at the Carl-von-Weinberg School, FFM*
MinD, Jonas Diehl

P. 28 above: *Your future #real: digital*
MinD, Jonas Diehl

P. 28 below: *DigitalTruck on primary school tour*
MinD, Jonas Diehl

P. 29: *First day of school in Hessen*
Hessian State Chancellery,
Valerie Noack

P. 32: *Wind power; Diemelsee*
Hessen Agentur / Christof
Mattes

P. 33: *Photovoltaics, Lauterbach*
Hessen Agentur / Christof
Mattes

P.34: *The world's largest fleet of hydrogen trains at Infraserb Höchst's hydrogen refuelling station*
RMV, Arne Landwehr

P. 35: *Centre of Excellence Hof Tolle, Calden-Fürstenwald*
Hessian State Chancellery

P. 38: *Grimm. A German fairy tale*
Staatstheater Kassel, Nils
Klinger

P. 39: *Frankfurt Book Fair*
Niklas Görke

P.40- 41: *Städel Museum, FFM*
Städel Museum - Norbert
Miguletz

P. 40 below: *Eberbach Monastery*
Sven Moschitz

P. 41: *Brothers Grimm*
City of Kassel

P.44: *Edersee*
GrimmHeimat NordHessen /
Paavo Blåfield

P. 45: *Felsenmeer, Lautertal (Odenwald)*
Hessen Agentur / Hessen
Tourism / Roman Knie

P. 46 - 47: *Wasserkuppe, Rhön*
Rhön GmbH, Arnulf Müller

P. 46 left: *Vineyards, Rheingau*
Hessen Agentur, Hessen
Tourism, Roman Knie

P. 46 right: *Vogelsberg*
Hessen Agentur, Hessen
Tourism, Roman Knie

P. 47: *View of Eschbach*
Taunus Touristik Service e.V

P. 50 - 51: *Hessentag 2019, Bad Hersfeld*
Hessian State Chancellery,
Thomas Lohnes

P. 50 below: *Arolsen flea and cattle market*
Hessian State Chancellery,
Valerie Noack

P. 51: *Erbacher Wiesenmarkt*
Hessian State Chancellery,
Valerie Noack

P. 52: *Hessian State Archives Darmstadt*
Nasser Amini

P. 53: *Saalburg Roman fort, Bad Homburg*
Taunus Touristik Service e.V

P. 56-57: *Reception of the Hessian Highnesses at Biebrich*
Hessian State Chancellery,
Thomas Lohnes

P. 58 above: *Volunteer fire brigade, Wetzlar*
Hessian State Chancellery,
MinD

P. 59: *Wallau Midsummer Run*
Hessian State Chancellery,
MinD

P. 63: *Eintracht Frankfurt*
Eintracht Frankfurt

P. 64 above: *World Cup ski jumping in Willingen*
Hessian State Chancellery,
Valerie Noack

P. 64 below: *VC Wiesbaden*
VCW, Detlef Gottwald

P. 65: *MT Melsungen*
Alibek Kaesler

P. 68: *Constitution of the State of Hessen*
US-Military government
edition, public domain

P. 70: *Members of the Pre-Parliament entering Paulskirche*
Wood engraving by Fritz Bergen, c. 1848, ISG FFM Best.
P13 No. 716

P. 71 left: *Elisabeth Selbert*
Rudolph, Hessian Main State
Archives 3008/2 No. 17508

P. 71 right: *Wilhelm Leuschner*
Hessian State Archive
Darmstadt, R 4, 13702 UF

Person Responsible for the Publication
Tobias Rösman, State Secretary
Spokesperson of the Hessian Government

Editorial office
Bianca Jouaux, Klaus Euteneuer, Lisa Wegerle
Hessian State Chancellery

Design
merkmal.
Office for Design and Communication
Martin-Buber-Straße 87
64287 Darmstadt
www.merkmal.de

Translation
Mables translations,
Wiesbaden

Printing
Kümmel KG Druckerei
Offenbacher Landstraße 29
63512 Hainburg

Paper
Circleoffset premium white,
100 % recycled, FSC®-certified, awarded the
Blue Angel & EU Ecolabel

Status December 2023

This brochure has been published by the Hessian Government as part of its public relations activities. Political parties, parliamentary groups, elected officials or election campaigners are generally prohibited from using it for their own public relations activities – especially for election campaign purposes. This applies to state, federal and local elections as well as European Parliament elections.

In particular, distribution at election events, at party information stands and inserting, printing or attaching party information or advertising material is not allowed. Disclosure to third parties for the purpose of election campaigning is also prohibited.

Even if the timing does not coincide with an upcoming election, the publication may not be used in a way that could be interpreted as the state government taking sides in favour of individual political groups. The aforementioned restrictions apply regardless of how this publication is received by the recipient and of the number of copies.

The parties are, however, allowed to use the publication for the purposes of informing their own members.

