Artistic Minds

Mapping Tool

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Introduction

The ArtisticMinds project is focused on the cultural and creative industries play a vital role in shaping both national and international economies. These sectors don't just enrich our lives with art, music, and storytelling—they also play a critical role in shaping local identities, strengthening communities, and driving economic growth at both national and international levels. Supporting and sustaining these industries is not only a cultural necessity—it's an economic and social imperative. It is therefore essential to preserve and support these sectors globally.

Yet, the COVID-19 pandemic revealed just how fragile the cultural sector can be. Performances were cancelled, venues closed, and countless artists found themselves without platforms or audiences. Among those hit hardest were young people with intellectual disabilities and mental health challenges, who already face significant barriers to accessing cultural spaces and opportunities.

Artistic Minds responds to these challenges with a clear and compassionate mission: to promote sustainable digitalisation in the cultural sector, ensuring that no one is left behind. The project embraces digital tools not just as a workaround, but as a means to empower, include, and uplift disadvantaged youth, helping them engage with culture both as active creators and valued audiences.

By fostering inclusivity, accessibility, and digital innovation, the project envisions a cultural landscape where every young person, regardless of ability, has a place and a voice.

The project brings together a rich network of collaborators from different backgrounds and expertise, including:

- **Cultural and Creative Sector professionals**, who are encouraged to adopt inclusive, forward-thinking practices
- **Young artists with intellectual disabilities (ID)**, whose creative potential deserves visibility and celebration
- **Professionals in the disability and mental health sectors**, who play a vital role in facilitating access, support, and advocacy

Through training, collaboration, and shared learning, Artistic Minds seeks to build bridges between these groups, unlocking new possibilities in the cultural sphere and helping reshape it into a more inclusive, resilient, and future-ready space for all.

Overview

The Artistic Minds e-Mapping Tool (https://artisticminds.eu/mapping-tool/) is an innovative digital platform with a geographical map of the EU, designed to bring together and showcase inspiring practices from the Culture and Creative Sector (CCS). It highlights initiatives that have been implemented not only across the European Union but also more specifically within each of the project's partner countries—Cyprus, Greece, Spain, and Belgium (Brussels).

The tool serves as a bridge between cultural innovation and social inclusion. It focuses on programs and practices that promote digital transformation, accessibility, and mental health support, with a strong emphasis on creating opportunities for young artists from disadvantaged backgrounds, including those living with intellectual disabilities or mental health challenges.

By mapping out successful and inclusive cultural initiatives, the tool aims to inspire policymakers, cultural organisations, educators, and community leaders. It offers a growing database of examples that show how the arts can be a powerful driver for inclusion, personal growth, and social change, especially when combined with modern digital tools and a commitment to equity.

Figure 1 : Artistic Minds e-Mapping Tool is an innovative digital platform with a geographical map of the EU, designed to bring together and showcase inspiring practices from the Culture and Creative Sector (CCS).
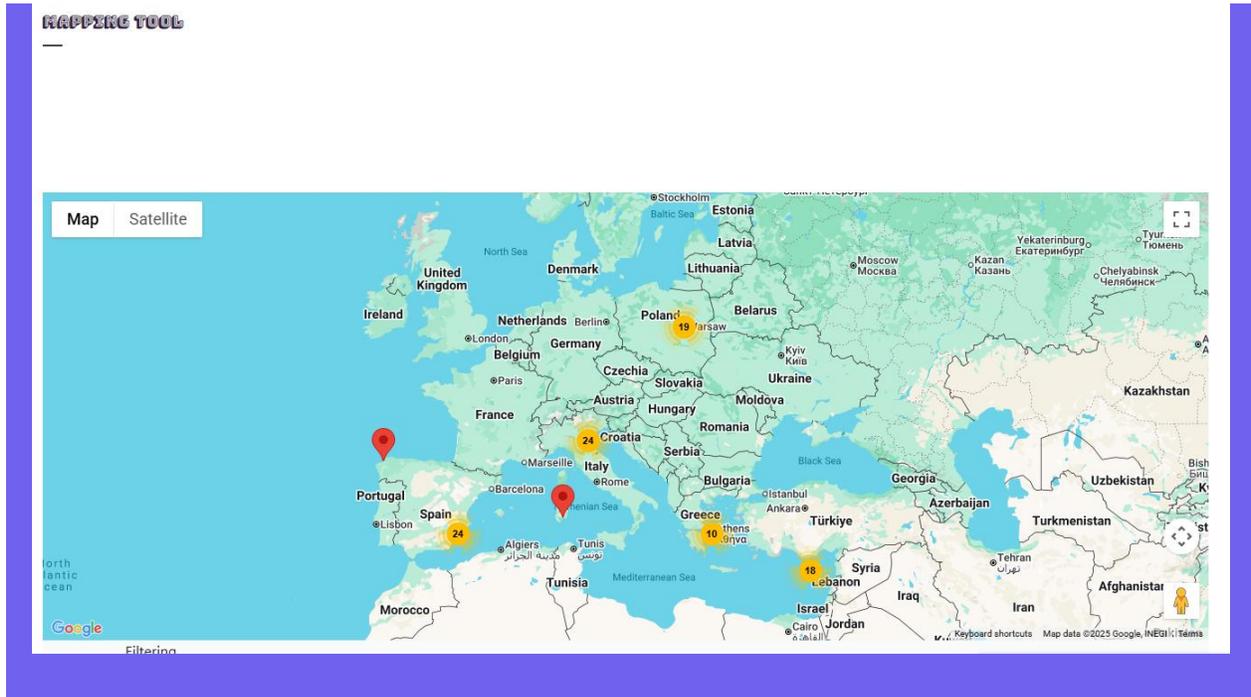
User Interface & Experience

Interactive map navigation

The Artistic Minds Mapping Tool features an intuitive and interactive map that allows users to visually explore a wide range of cultural and creative initiatives across Europe. With just a few clicks, users can navigate through different countries, such as Cyprus, Greece, Spain, and Belgium, and discover inspiring projects aimed at digital inclusion and social engagement.

Each entry on the map includes detailed descriptions, key outcomes, and links to the organisations or initiatives involved.

Whether you're a cultural professional, educator, policymaker, or simply curious, this map makes it easy to dive into real-world examples of inclusive practices in the creative sector.

The platform offers an intuitive interactive map, allowing users to explore relevant initiatives and organisations geographically. This visual approach makes it easy to identify practices across the participating countries - Cyprus, Greece, Spain, and Belgium (Brussels), as well as other European contexts.

Each mapped entry provides key information in a clear, structured format, including:

- Country
- Organisation Name
- Type of Organisation
- Target Group
- Organisation Description
- Telephone, Email, and Physical Address
- Website and Social Media Links

This structure ensures transparency and encourages direct engagement between users and featured organisations.
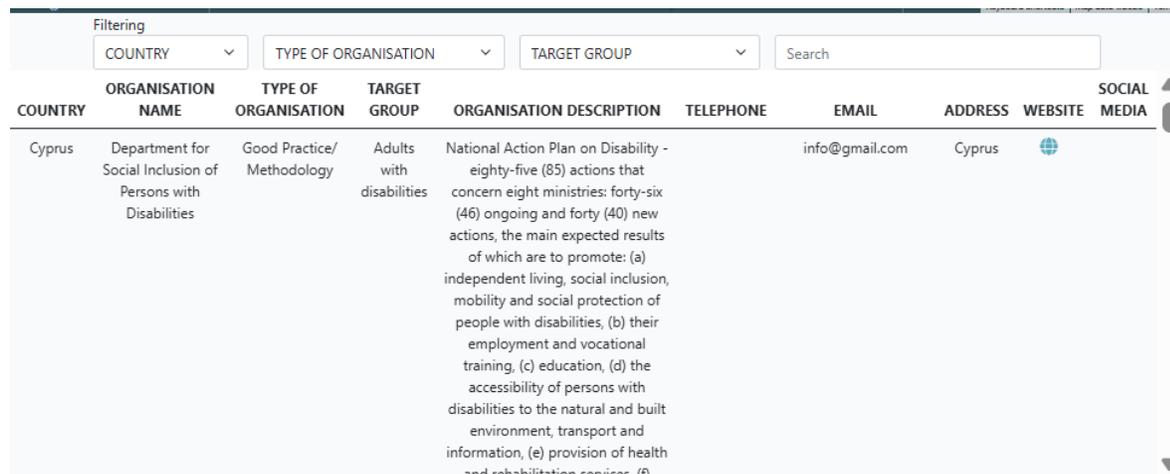
Filtering options

To support purposeful exploration, the tool includes a set of advanced **filters and a keyword search function**, enabling users to tailor their experience. Entries can be filtered by:

- **Country** – to focus on specific national contexts

- **Type of Organisation** – including NGOs, cultural institutions, educational bodies, and more

- **Target Group** – such as youth with intellectual disabilities, individuals with mental health needs, or other marginalised populations

- **Search Feature** – to locate organisations or projects by name, topic, or keyword

These features allow users, from cultural practitioners and policymakers to educators and researchers, to efficiently access initiatives most relevant to their interests or professional focus.

Figure 2: The e-mapping Tool filtering and information provided for each good practice.

Co-funded by the European Union

Adding New Locations

To ensure the ongoing relevance and diversity of the **Artistic Minds Mapping Tool**, the platform is open to new submissions from organisations, institutions, and initiatives that align with the project's mission of promoting inclusion, accessibility, and innovation in the cultural and creative sectors.

This participatory approach enables the tool to grow organically, reflecting a broad and evolving range of practices from across Europe and beyond. The e-mapping tool is open to contributions from external organisations that meet established inclusion criteria and wish to share their work with a broader network of practitioners, policymakers, and community stakeholders.
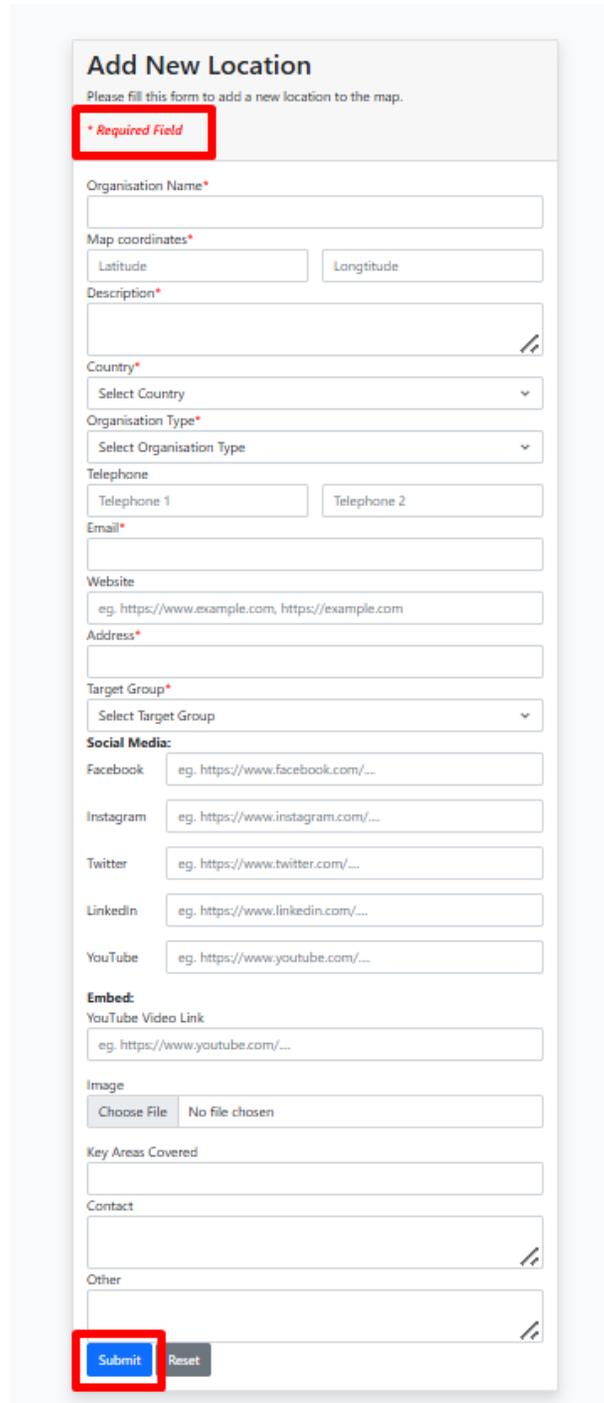
Submission Guidelines

Submissions are welcome from a variety of organisations operating at the intersection of culture, creativity, and social inclusion. To be considered for inclusion on the map, contributors must meet the following criteria:

- **Sector Relevance**: The organisation must operate within or contribute to the **Culture and Creative Sectors**. This includes (but is not limited to) organisations involved in visual and performing arts, cultural heritage, media, digital arts, design, or interdisciplinary creative practices.

- **Focus on Inclusion and Accessibility**: The organisation must demonstrate a commitment to one or more of the following focus areas:

  - Fostering **inclusion of disadvantaged or marginalised youth**

  - Supporting **young people with intellectual disabilities and/or mental health challenges**

  - Advancing **digitalisation** and **innovative practices** in cultural access and participation

○ Enhancing **accessibility** to cultural activities and spaces for underrepresented groups

● **Legal and Ethical Standing**: The organisation should be a legally registered entity (e.g., NGO, non-profit, foundation, cooperative, social enterprise, public institution, or creative collective) and operate in alignment with ethical standards for inclusion, equality, and human rights.

● To ensure consistency, transparency, and usability, all submissions must include the following data:

  ● **Country**

  ● **Organisation Name**

  ● **Type of Organisation** (e.g., NGO, public institution, cooperative)

  ● **Target Group(s)** the organisation serves (e.g., youth with intellectual disabilities, mental health groups, migrants, etc.)

  ● **Organisation Description** – a concise summary of mission, activities, and inclusive practices (approx. 100–200 words)

  ● **Contact Information**:

    ○ Telephone

    ○ Email address

    ○ Physical address (including city and postal code)

  ● **Website** (optional but encouraged)

  ● **Social Media Handles** (if applicable)
  ● **Map Coordinates** – Latitude and longitude values with **up to six decimal places** to ensure geographic accuracy

The 'Add New Location' form can be found under the filtering and descriptions of the good practices.

Figure 3: Add New Location Form

Review and Approval Process

Each new entry undergoes a review to ensure alignment with the goals of the Artistic Minds project and to maintain the overall quality and integrity of the platform. The review process includes:

- **Initial screening** for completeness and relevance

- **Quality assurance check** for clarity and consistency

- **Language and terminology editing** (as needed) to ensure accessibility and comprehension

Please allow **up to five (5) working days** for the review and publication process. In cases where submissions are incomplete or require clarification, the review team may contact the applicant for additional information.

Data Accuracy and Updates

Maintaining an accurate and up-to-date mapping tool is essential for long-term impact. Organisations featured on the map are encouraged to:

- **Notify the project team of any changes** to their contact details, organisational focus, or project activities

- **Submit updated descriptions** or media links if their work evolves

- **Participate in follow-up surveys or feedback opportunities** to assess platform effectiveness and relevance

A **periodic review process** will be implemented by the project team to audit the entries, identify outdated listings, and ensure the ongoing quality of the mapping resource.

Ethical and Inclusive Representation

In line with the core values of **Artistic Minds**, the platform prioritises respectful and equitable representation of all featured organisations and communities. Submissions should:

- Use inclusive and non-discriminatory language

- Accurately reflect the experiences of the target groups served

- Avoid promotional or commercial content that is not relevant to the goals of the project

The Artistic Minds team reserves the right to **decline or remove entries** that do not meet these standards or that misrepresent the organisation's role in advancing inclusion, accessibility, or digital innovation.

Conclusion

The Artistic Minds E-Mapping Tool stands as a pioneering initiative aimed at bridging the gap between cultural innovation and social inclusion. By offering a dynamic and user-friendly digital platform, it not only showcases inspiring practices but through intuitive navigation, advanced filtering, and inclusive submission features, the tool empowers organisations and individuals across Europe to connect, collaborate, and share impactful work. Upholding the values of accessibility, equity, and digital transformation, the Artistic Minds project contributes to a more inclusive cultural landscape—one where every voice is heard, every talent is recognised, and no one is left behind.