



ARTMAPS

Booklet



Impressum

This booklet results from an international collaboration dedicated to reimagining quality leisure spaces for young people. Participants from Belgium, Croatia, Latvia, and Spain have explored their cities through a service-learning approach, using artistic mapping to highlight spaces that foster healthy, inclusive, and engaging activities. These ArtMaps reflect young people's perspectives on their communities, bridging the gap between youth and meaningful leisure experiences.

What the Fun! Mapping the Opportunities for Quality Leisure Time through Service Learning

Project No. 2023-1-BE05-KA220-YOU-000166921

Partner consortium: Vzw Elegast (Belgium), Udruga Prizma (Croatia), Kuldigas Novada Pasvaldiba (Latvia), Fundacion Splora (Spain), Fundación Universidad de Valladolid (Spain).

Website: www.mapthefun.eu

Graphic design: Udruga Prizma

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1. Introduction

What the Fun! is an innovative project designed to create a dynamic, supportive environment for collaborative learning and creation among young artists, youth workers, social workers, and youth leaders. At its core, **the project addresses a significant challenge:** the declining motivation and initiative among young people to seek out and engage in meaningful leisure activities. Our primary **aim** is to raise awareness about quality leisure opportunities while developing a digital tool that helps young people identify and access these spaces. Through artistic expression and digital innovation, we're bridging the gap between young people and enriching leisure experiences. **The project runs** from September 1, 2023, to October 31, 2025. It operates under **project number** 2023-1-BE05-KA220-YOU-000166921 as an Erasmus+ KA2 Strategic partnership, **co-financed by the European Union**. The project's main outputs are: **1. ArtMaps** - The artistic maps showcased in this booklet, represent communities through youth perspectives; **2. Online Platform** - A digital tool to help young people discover quality leisure spaces; **3. Quality Badge** - A recognition system for identifying exceptional youth leisure opportunities. **Partner consortium:** Vzw Elegast (Belgium), Udruga Prizma (Croatia), Kuldigas Novada Pasvaldiba (Latvia), Fundacion Splora (Spain), Fundación Universidad de Valladolid (Spain).

2. ArtMaps workshops

Welcome to a vibrant showcase of imagination, creativity, and youth expression! This booklet presents 20 unique artworks that map our communities in ways traditional cartography never could – through the eyes and artistic vision of young people just like you. **What's Inside?** Over the past months, young artists, creators, and dreamers from urban neighborhoods and rural villages across multiple countries gathered in workshops to reimagine their communities. They asked themselves important questions: Where do we hang out and spend quality leisure time? What spaces matter to us? How can we represent our world in a way that speaks our language? **The result?** Twenty stunning ArtMaps blend artistic expression with practical information about leisure spaces, meeting points, and community resources that matter to young people. Each artwork tells a story about the places that shape youth experiences – from skateparks and music venues to quiet green spaces and cultural centers. **What is the Journey Behind the Art?** These ArtMaps emerged from 13 dynamic workshops where more than 50 young participants collaborated with youth workers and artists. Working across four countries – from the coastal city of Zadar in Croatia to the historic streets of Valladolid in Spain, from the picturesque town of Kuldīga in Latvia to creative spaces in Antwerp in Belgium – participants transformed their local knowledge into visual artworks. Some used traditional art techniques like painting and drawing, while others experimented with graffiti, digital design, and mixed media approaches. Each workshop became a laboratory for creative expression, where participants learned new skills while contributing their unique perspectives on what makes their communities special. **Why ArtMaps Matter?** These aren't just beautiful pictures – they're practical tools created by young people for young people. They highlight spaces where you can meet friends, develop new skills, explore creative interests, or simply find a quiet moment. By putting youth perspectives at the center, these ArtMaps celebrate the places that might be overlooked by traditional maps but are essential to young people's lives. **We invite you** to explore communities with fresh eyes. Maybe you'll discover a new hangout spot in your neighborhood inspired by what you see here. Perhaps you'll be motivated to create your own ArtMap. Most importantly, we hope these 20 artworks remind you that young people's perspectives matter – that your unique vision of your community deserves to be seen, shared, and celebrated. **Welcome** to our creative journey through communities – as seen, felt, and imagined by young people just like you!

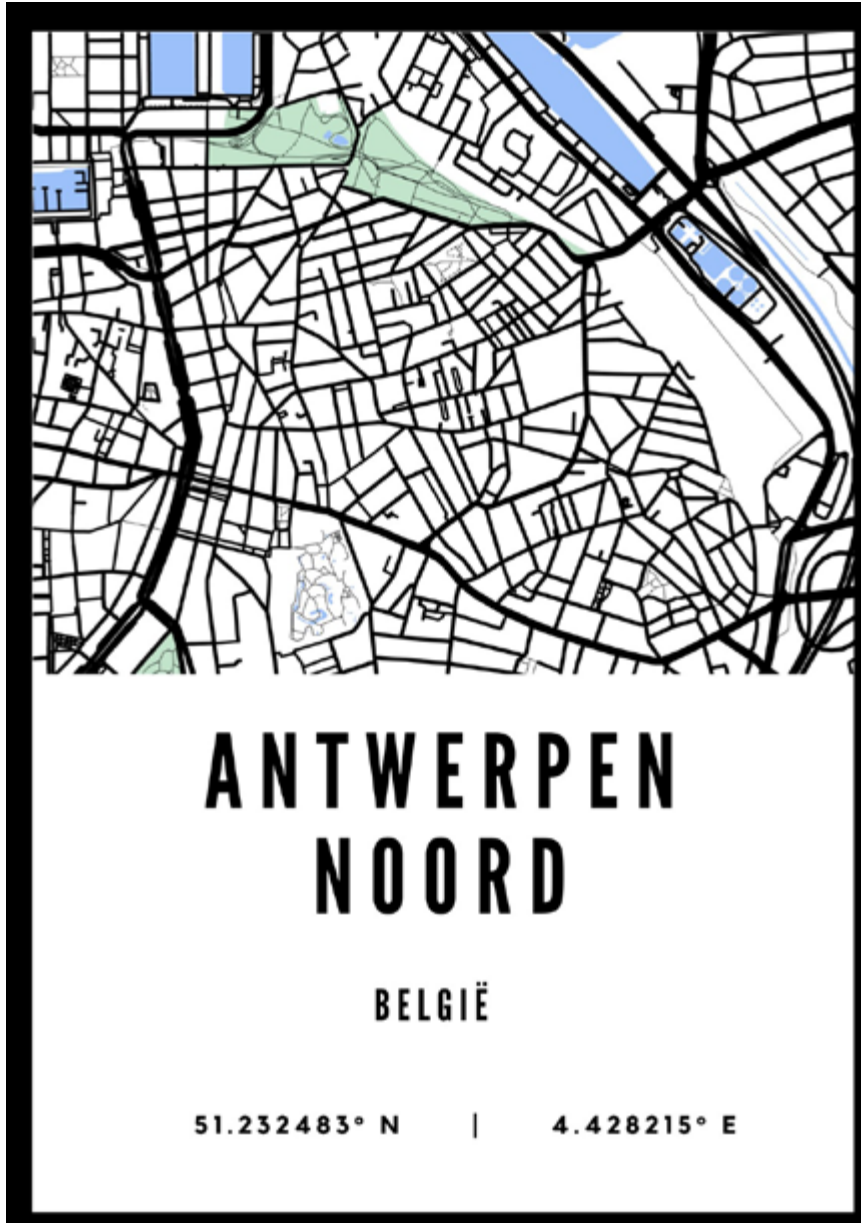
3.1. Antwerpen, Belgium



Title: Antwerp Dam

Author: David Tristan Gago

Follow: @buurtwerking.elegast.den.dam



Title: Antwerp North
Author: Joris Govaerts
Follow: @buurtwerking.elegast.den.dam



Title: Dam Community

Author: Team BE - WTF

Follow: @buurtwerking.elegast.den.dam



Title: Antwerp Dam, leisure time

Author: Youngsters Elegast-Centre

Follow: @buurtwerking.elegast.den.dam

3.2. Kuldīga, Latvia



Title: Ēdole. Nature

Author: Ēdole youngsters II

Follow: @jauniesu_depo_edole



Title: Ēdoles Teritorija
Author: Ēdole youngsters I
Follow: @jauniesu_depo_edole

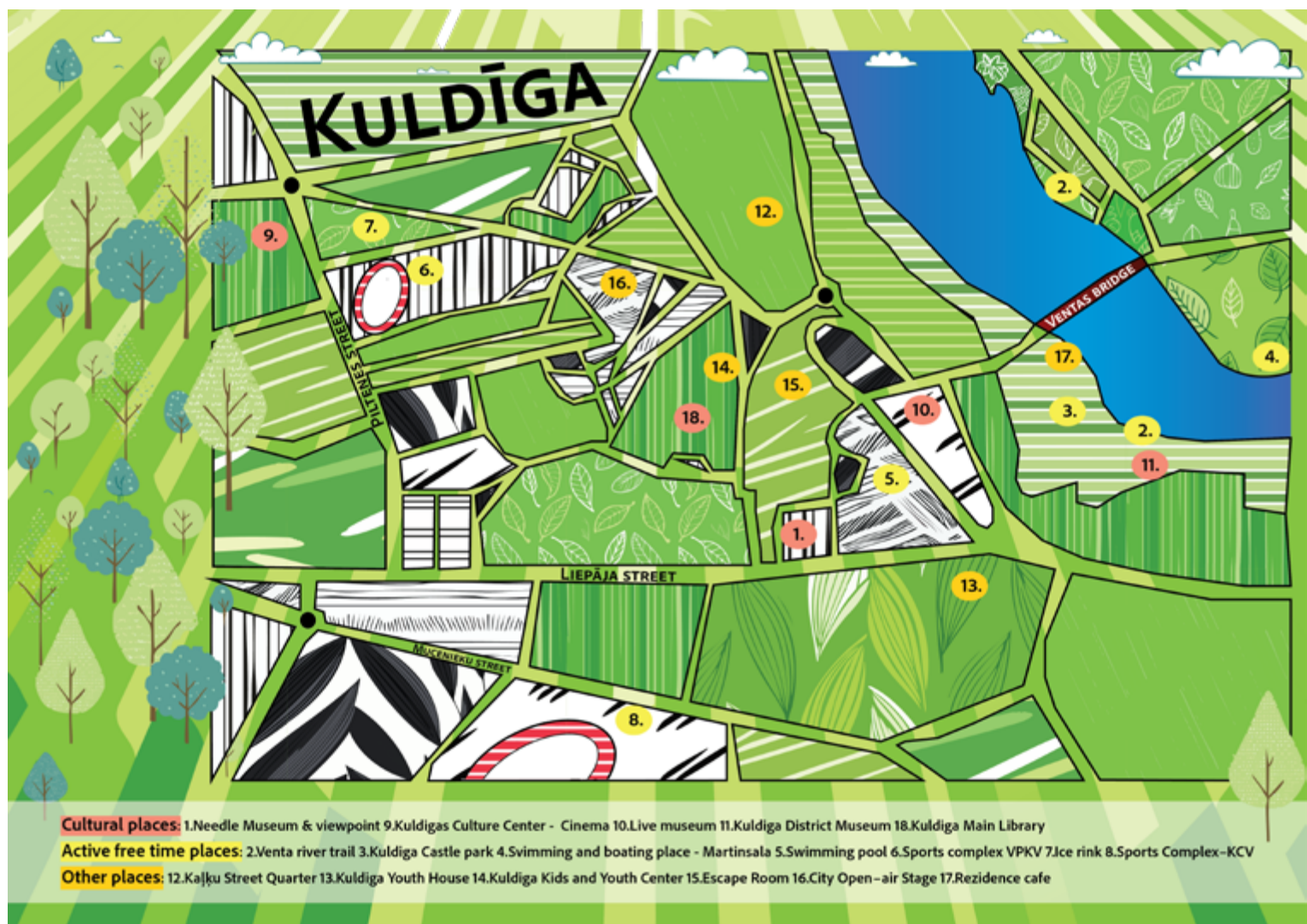
KULDĪGA



Title: Kuldīga Town

Author: Collaboration of youngsters and youth workers

Follow: @kuldigasjm



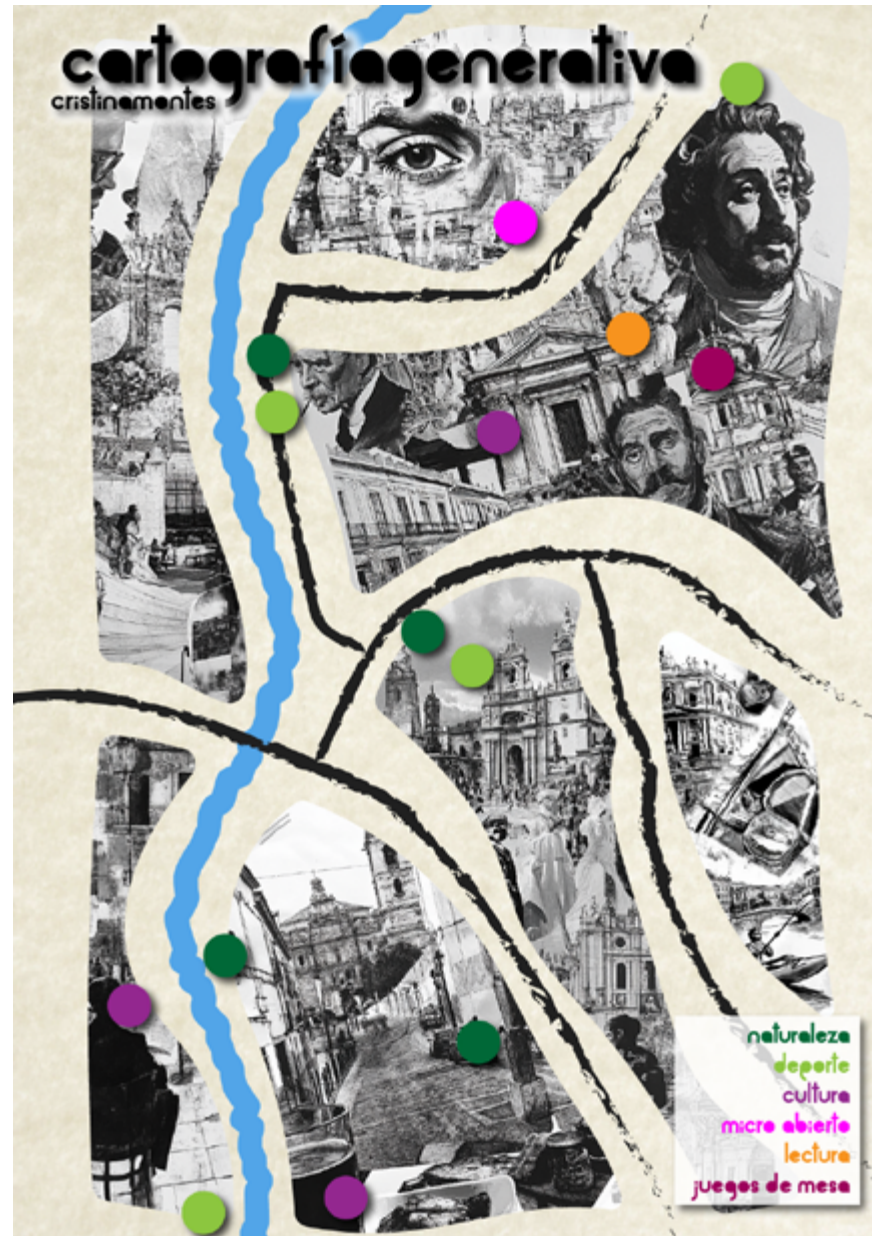
Title: Stripes

Author: Kuldīga Youth council

Follow: @kuldigasjauniesudome

3.3. Valladolid, Spain

Title: Cartografía generativa
Author: Cris Montes
Follow: @soycrismontes



Title: Crown shyness
Author: Esther Gutiérrez Martínez
Follow: @esthertuga

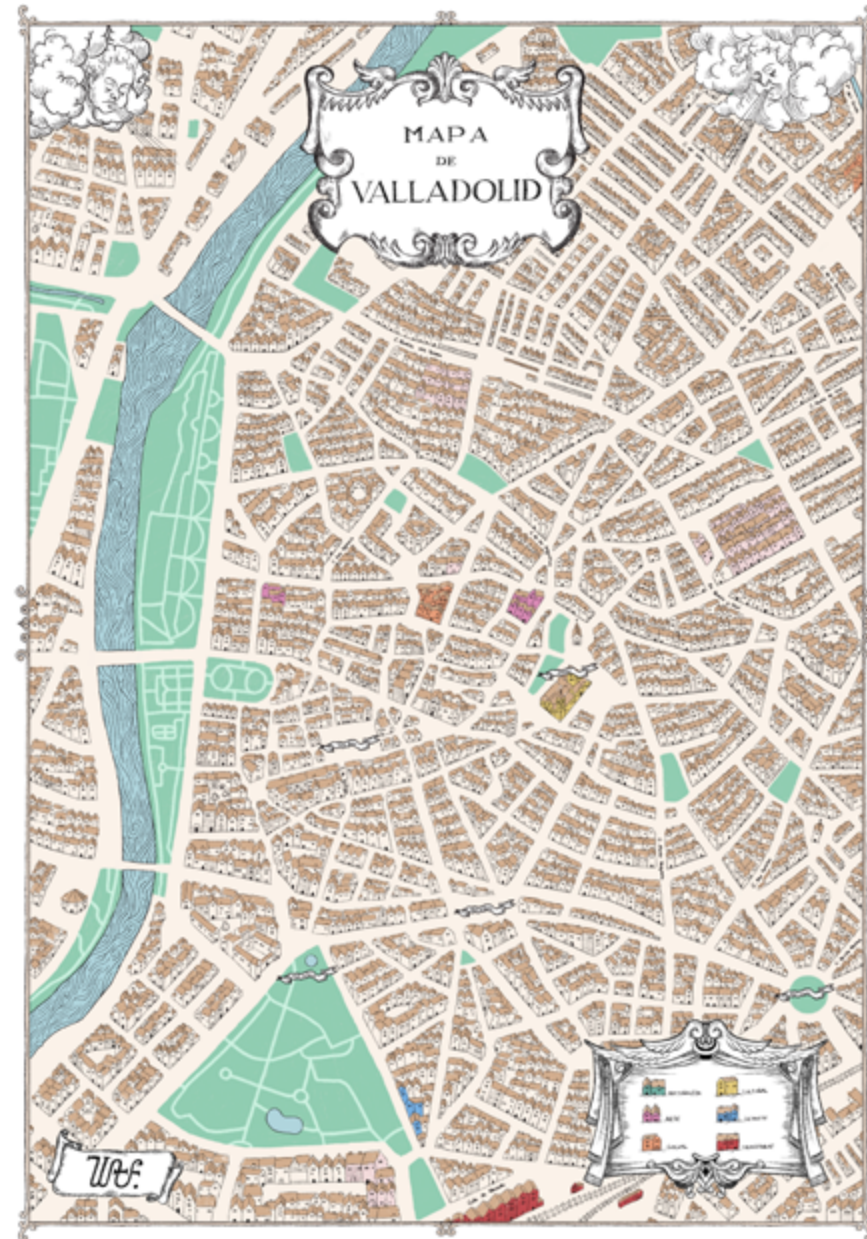




Title: Map of Valladolid

Author: Different participants during workshops

Follow: @fundacionsplora @fundacionuva



Title: Houses, houses, houses and more houses

Author: Pablo González

Follow: @pabloacaba



Title: Our city and me

Author: Alicia Bruña Paredes

Follow: @alicia_br



Title: Peacock

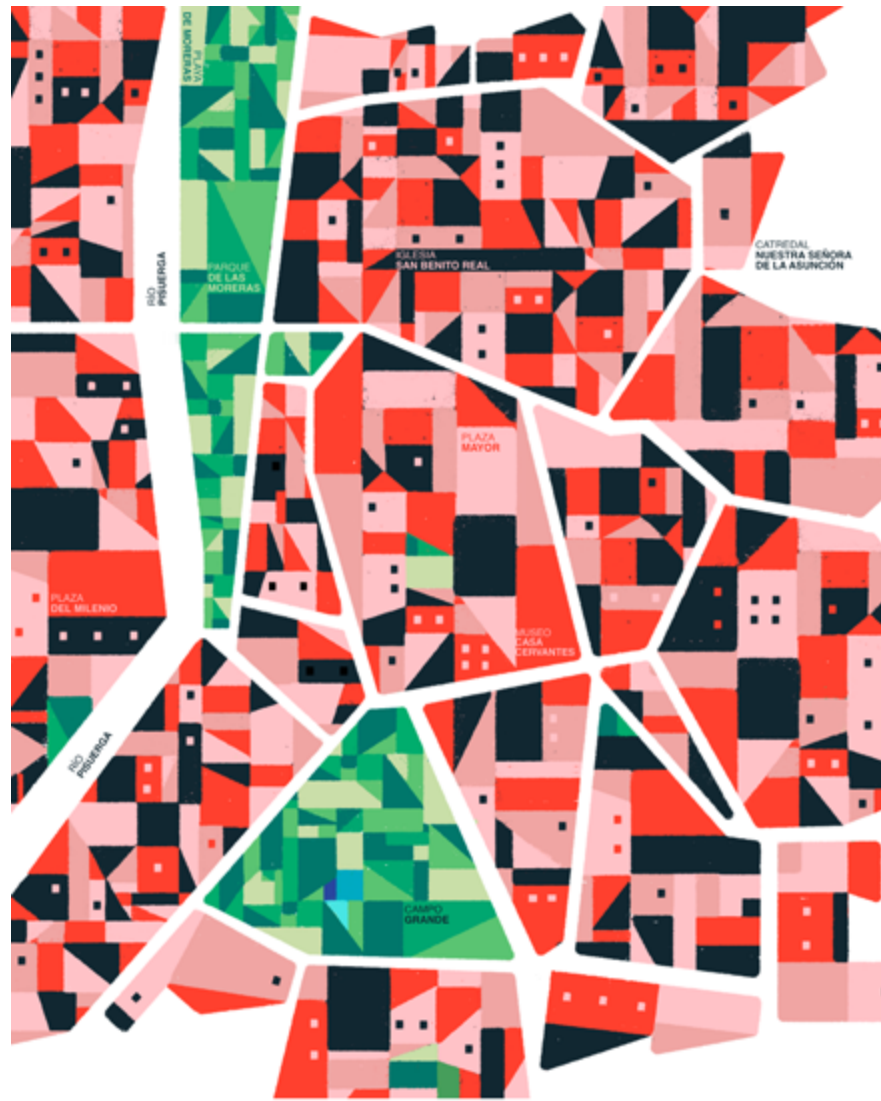
Author: María Fernanda Rebollo Rodríguez

Follow: @marifer_reb

VALLISOLETANAS



Title: Vallisoletanas
Author: Cris Casa
Follow: @cristalinaccs



MAPA CIUDAD DE
VALLADOLID

MANUEL DOMINGUEZ

Title: Eterna Valladolid
Author: Manuel Dominguez Ávila
Follow: @manueldominguez_art

3.4. Zadar, Croatia



Title: Zadar Art Map
Author: Collaboration
Follow: @udrugaprizma



Title: Map of Croatia

Author: Iva Jakopović

Follow: @udrugaprizma



Title: Zadar Playtime
Author: Vito Vrsaljko
Follow: @udrugaprizma



Title: Zadar leisure time
Author: Anita Baradić
Follow: @udrugaprizma

4. What is next?

Imagine an online space where you and your friends can easily discover all the coolest places to hang out, learn, and have fun in your community - that's the platform we're building! Check the **mapthefun.eu platform** and join us in developing an interactive online tool, that will be bringing artistic flair to digital exploration. We will integrate ArtMaps on the platform. When other young people visit the platform, they'll navigate through ArtMaps to discover new places in their communities. This integration process will happen with **local mapathons** in your local communities - fun, collaborative events where you and your friends can explore new areas, identify more quality leisure spaces, and add them to our growing collection. These mapathons combine adventure, creativity, and community service as you help build a comprehensive resource for other young people. Look for opportunities to participate in local mapathons. **The most exciting part?** For those ready for international adventure, we'll have a gathering in Belgium where you can learn about quality badges (special recognition for exceptional leisure spaces), test the platform with youth from other countries, and contribute to making our project sustainable long-term. Your feedback during this event will shape the final version of our platform! And more! **Exhibitions of ArtMaps** will be organized in local community centers, youth spaces, and cultural venues. These exhibitions will showcase youth creativity to the wider community, helping more young people discover quality leisure opportunities while appreciating artistic vision. Remember, this journey is about creating something valuable by young people, for young people. Your creativity and insights are driving positive change in how young people discover and enjoy quality leisure time in communities across Europe!

