Mapping

Interreg
Danube Transnational Programme
Project acronym

Mapping for everyone!

Maps as a tool for participation and inclusivity…

and a spoonful of fun!

A map may not only be a representation of the country or a building. It may represent the perceptions and knowledge that a person or a group has of an area, or even an idea, concept or feelings. A method for mapping presented in these toolkits can be imagined as an unprofessional drawing. Not drawn with accurate or measured scale or direction.

The goal is to discuss, discover and design. It is more playful, and participants usually have a range of choices regarding what materials to use for the drawing and how to visualise desired items, connections, flows and points of interest. If properly facilitated, the process is documented, and records are kept for future use and interpretation.

It is important for the methodology and collective planning **not to limit ourselves to narrative forms of exploring relationships but also to integrate haptic, visual, experiential techniques** to explore the biographies, social architecture of spheres and practices of individuals. It takes people out of the formalised interview and back into everyday life, non-formal open communication. Through play, unexpected connections may arise as well as relations between activity participants. Free associations, maps, plans, movement, and signs create a space to capture what is often difficult for participants to put into words, find in their memories, or imagine. It complements the narrative's static form of describing reality with a dynamic form.

Map drawing has also been used in the critical mapping of social phenomena emerging in at-risk, marginalised, and minority communities to combat oppression through ‘critical cartography’. The anarchist cartographic group Collective Orangotango+ has produced an accessible collection” This is not an Atlas” which serves not only as a manual for community empowerment but also as a methodological inspiration for academics and social scientists.

In research and design, we create a collective ***visual representation - maps*** *of users and selected stakeholders needs; relationships between people/groups, spaces, materials, city and potentially the region.*

References:

- Mapping for Change
- Innovative Learning Environments through New Visual Methodologies
- Orango Tango - Mapping Tutorials
- Orango Tango - This is not an Atlas