Music is a public good.
Music data should be, too.

71% of Europeans we surveyed say music is crucial to their quality of life. Here are three steps the EU can take to put music creators and the public first in the age of data and AI.

THE PROBLEM

Europe's music data and metadata are fragmented and outdated. Global streaming and ticketing platforms dominate discovery, leaving minority repertoires and self-releasing artists invisible. Broken identifiers distort attribution and revenue, and ad-hoc fixes expose artists to AI misappropriation.

WHY IT MATTERS

Cultural expression and participation are fundamental rights. When data and metadata decide what music is discovered, recommended, and heard, data gaps create unequal conditions for creators and the public alike. Alongside regulation, the public sector should build complementary data infrastructures to ensure all music remains accessible in practice to all Europeans.

WHAT IS **OPENMUSE**?

Open Music Europe: An open, scalable data-to-policy pipeline for European music ecosystems

Programme: Horizon Europe Research & Innovation Action

Duration: 36 months (2023 – 2025)

Coordinator: SINUS Markt- und Sozialforschung GmbH (link)

Consortium: 16 partners in music research, the music industry, and civil society across 11 EU countries and Ukraine (details here)

EU law already sets the stage for music data reform. OpenMusE offers tools and guidance to deliver it.

OUR RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Reaffirm cultural metadata as a matter of fundamental rights, not just a market outcome.
2. Build an open, federated European music data space, plugged into the EU Cultural Data Hub.
3. Use that infrastructure to repair identifiers, guard against AI misuse, and mainstream diversity.

THE PAYOFF

A fairer field of play for music-sector actors of every size, and a Europe positioned as global standard-setter in cultural data governance.

More legal clarity ● **Fairer remuneration** ● **Greater visibility** ● **Better AI guardrails**

LEARN MORE

Project website
www.openmuse.eu/

Open Music Observatory
openmusicobservatory.eu/

Policy brief
www.openmuse.eu/outputs/D5.7/

Citation: Open Music Europe Consortium (2026). Factsheet: OpenMusE policy recommendations at a glance. Open Music Europe Project (Horizon Europe Grant Agreement No. 101095295). Available online at: https://www.openmuse.eu/recommendations/

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RECOMMENDATION 1

Reaffirm the fundamental rights of creators and the public in the face of cultural datafication

We recommend that the European Commission...

1a. Affirm that in an age of digital cultural consumption, the legal concept of a "right to culture" creates an obligation to treat creative and cultural works metadata as rights-bearing infrastructure.

1b. Clarify the obligations that existing copyright and data governance instruments impose on music metadata producers, controllers, and infrastructure.

BASIS IN LAW AND POLICY

- EU Charter of Fundamental Rights (link)
- UNESCO Diversity Convention (link)
- CDSM Directive (link)
- AI Act (link)

Source: legal analysis in OpenMusE D1.3 and D2.2

BASIS IN PUBLIC OPINION

77%

believe all people should have a right to listen to and participate in any kind of music

78%

believe all people should have the right to express themselves musically in all freedom

Source: survey data (N=4985) in our dashboard and D3.2.

EXPECTED IMPACT

- The European Union's commitment to culture as a public good is recognised as a constitutional obligation rather than merely a rhetorical position.
- Disparate EU-level, national, and local efforts to protect the cultural rights of creators and the public gain a common normative framework.
- A legal foundation is established for public-interest cultural data infrastructure capable of counterbalancing platform monopolies.

MORE EVIDENCE AND ANALYSIS

OpenMusE D1.3 — music metadata improvement initiatives (link)

OpenMusE's special issue of the *Journal of Intellectual Property Law & Practice* (link)

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RECOMMENDATION 2

2 Establish an open, federated music data space architecture aligned with current and future cultural data investments

We recommend that the European Commission...

2a. Implement an open, federated music data space affiliated with the EU Cultural Data Hub, building on OpenMusE's Open Music Observatory (OMO). Incentivise data controllers — most crucially streaming platforms and collective management organisations — to share data in this space under a system of variable rights and permissions.

2b. Design this open music data space for interoperability with existing cultural data spaces, especially the European Collaborative Cloud for Cultural Heritage (ECCCH).

2c. Plan future cultural-data investments — including the 2027 Report on the State of Culture and the eventual revision of cultural statistics — to feed and harmonise with this architecture.

BASIS IN LAW AND POLICY

- European Strategy for Data (link)
- Data Governance Act (link)
- Data Act (link)
- Interoperable Europe Act (link)

Source: technical and policy analysis in the OMO Green Paper

BASIS IN PUBLIC OPINION

45%

support requiring music streaming services to share data on how artists are paid, recommended to listeners, etc.

only 11%

oppose such a requirement

Source: survey data (N=4985) in our dashboard and D3.2.

EXPECTED IMPACT

- Diverse music data curators — from platforms to collective management organisations to researchers — converge toward generating interoperable data.
- The planned EU Cultural Data Hub pools many kinds of data, enabling the development of transparent alternatives to current black-box services (e.g., YouTube's Content ID).
- Data stewards and researchers from official statistics bureaus, industry, and science form enduring professional relationships, learn each other's needs and standards, and exchange good practices.

MORE EVIDENCE, ANALYSIS, AND TOOLS

Open Music Observatory Green Paper (link)

Open Music Observatory — an open-source architecture for trusted data sharing (link)

Music360 D2.6 — an alternative architecture for trusted data sharing (link)

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RECOMMENDATION 3

3 Leverage this music data space architecture to fulfil EU commitments on remuneration and diversity

We recommend that the European Commission...

3a. Mandate the mapping and repair of broken identifiers (like ISRC), and require CMOs and industry actors to alert rightsholders to discrepancies.

3b. Embed AI guardrails into metadata infrastructure from the start — meeting AI Act transparency duties and screening for misappropriation risk at every step.

3c. Mainstream diversity through inclusive, subsidiarity-respecting processes — engaging minority-repertoire custodians directly, with local stakeholders retaining full authority over their own data.

BASIS IN LAW AND POLICY

- Collective Rights Management Directive (link)
- Resolution on Diversity and the Conditions for Authors in Music Streaming (link)
- Resolution on Copyright and GenAI (link)
- Culture Compass for Europe (link)

Source: legal and policy analysis in OpenMusE D2.2 and D2.3

BASIS IN PUBLIC OPINION

75%

believe that musicians and other musical professionals should have a right to fair pay

56%

believe that access to music from diverse cultures makes life in their country more interesting

Source: survey data (N=4985) in our dashboard and D3.2.

EXPECTED IMPACT

- More accurate royalty collection and distribution with less leakage — meaning fairer pay.
- Reduced risk of European artists' creative work and identities being misappropriated or substituted by generative artificial intelligence.
- Increased visibility for diverse, underrepresented musical repertoires and self-releasing artists — as already demonstrated in the Open Music Observatory's Finno-Ugric Data Sharing Space.

MORE EVIDENCE, ANALYSIS, AND TOOLS

D2.2 — policy recommendations on music diversity and circulation (link)

D2.3 — metadata enrichment for minority repertoires (link)

Open Music Observatory Finno-Ugric Data Sharing Space (link)

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