Open Music Europe Newsletter

Fifth Issue

Dear Reader,

Welcome back to the Open Music Europe Newsletter, where we share the latest news and insights from our project. In this edition, we will show you some of the highlights of our project. Since our last newsletter we have been busy to reach our goals and create an impact for the European music ecosystem. Here are the topics we will cover:

➤ **Brand-New Open Music Europe Podcast Launched**
➤ **LMC Dashboard Now Features a Live Venue Map**
➤ **OpenMusE at the European Committee Meeting**
➤ **Culture in the Heart of the Campus: EUBA Hosted Petržalka Days**
➤ **Listen Local? How to Promote Local Music in a Meaningful, Data-Driven Way**

We hope you enjoy our newsletter and stay tuned for more updates. If you have any questions, please get in touch via our various social media channels or at JamesRhys.Edwards@sinus-institut.de

Stay tuned for updates!
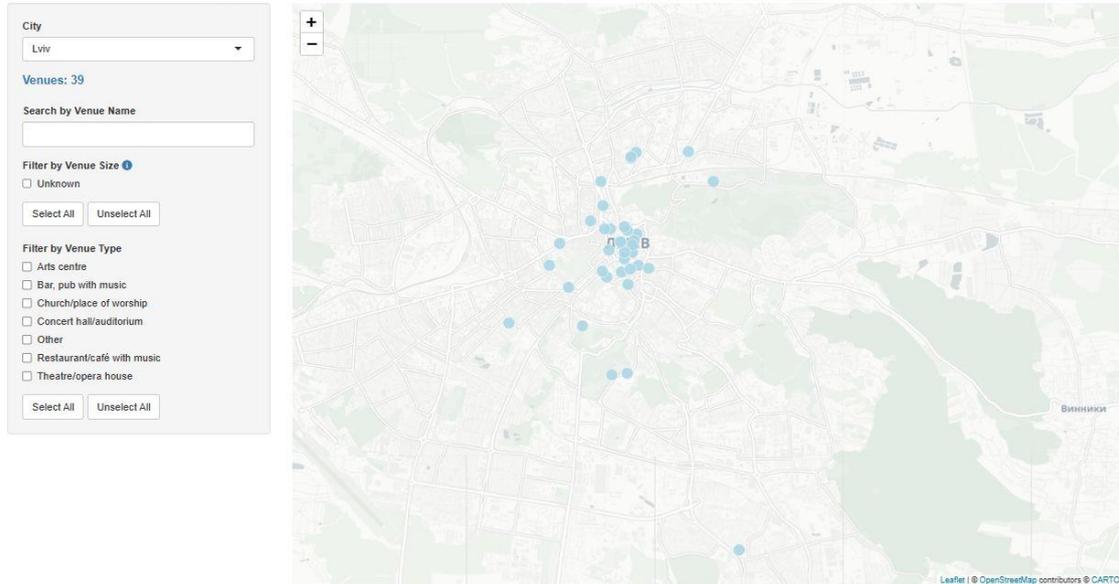
Welcome to the Open Music Europe Podcast!

Get ready to explore the brand new Open Music Europe Podcast, a compelling series dedicated to unpack how we can build a more competitive, fair, and sustainable music ecosystem in Europe. Guided by conversations curated by Mark Adam Harold, each episode features a special guest discussing topics from cultural policy to live music, from war zones to venue data.

The debut episode is already online! Episode 1: Data, Technology, and the Music Landscape: Mark Adam Harold sits down with Dr. James Rhys Edwards from SINUS Markt- und Sozialforschung GmbH, project director of OpenMusE. They delve into how data, metadata, and technology are reshaping the music industry, from the impact of COVID-19 on local scenes to the complexities of fair compensation in the streaming era. Every six weeks, the Open Music Europe Podcast will publish a new episode setting to be an indispensable resource for anyone interested in the future of music across Europe. Tune in and join the conversation shaping tomorrow's sound.

Find a sneak peek of the upcoming episodes here.

LMC Dashboard Now Features a Live Venue Map

Explore our new Live Music Venue Map!

The OpenMusE Live Music Census Dashboard presents a comprehensive analysis of data collected during the inaugural **European Live Music Census**, conducted on October 11, 2024. This census encompassed five major European cities: Heidelberg and Mannheim in Germany, Helsinki in Finland, Vilnius in Lithuania, and Lviv in Ukraine. The initiative aimed to capture a detailed snapshot of live music activities across these diverse urban centers. Along with data on types of **Musical Performances, Audience Engagement and Venue Significance** the dashboard now features a **Live Venue Map**: A geographical overview of live music venues across the participating cities, highlighting key locations and their role in the local music ecosystem.

Access the dashboard and start exploring!

Discussing the complexities of AI and creators' rights

Photo Credits: Mr. Leonardas Borotinskas, photographer

OpenMusE partner Tomáš Mikš from the Slovak Performing and Mechanical Rights Society (SOZA) presented OpenMusE at the recent European Committee Meeting, which brought together member societies from across Europe to address critical issues facing creators in today's rapidly evolving digital landscape. A central theme of the discussions was the urgent need for a sustainable licensing market for the use of protected works by AI. The meeting highlighted the importance of collaboration in navigating the complexities of AI and its impact on creators' rights. The OpenMusE consortium is contributing to a more effective and better-functioning music market, by leveraging semantic AI to cross-improve public and private databases, establish novel data governance guidelines for coordinating privately-held and public data, and develop smart CMO systems that learn from public databases. Thanks to CISAC and Asociacija LATGA for having us and credits to the partners Reprex: big data that works for all, Artisjus, Institute for Information Law (IViR), Ekonomická univerzita v Bratislave and others!

[You can download the full presentation here.](#)

Campus transformed!

The Petržalka Days 2025 festival, held from June 19-22, 2025, marked a significant collaboration with the Bratislava University of Economics and Business (EUBA), which served as both the venue and key partner. This partnership provided ample space for the approximately 30,000 visitors and underscored the academic community's role in social life, aligning with EUBA's involvement in the OpenMuse project to foster cross-cultural musical collaboration. The festival, which featured local artists, diverse performances, and various attractions like children's activities, food stands, and chillout zones, successfully transformed the EUBA campus into a vibrant hub of culture and community engagement, reinforcing its open and inclusive character with free admission for all ages.

Read more about the event here.
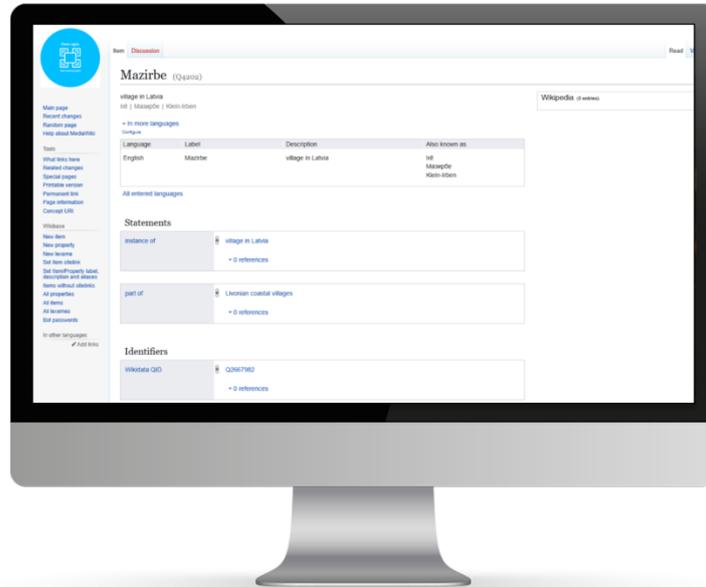
Who counts as local? How do we name places?

A key challenge in promoting local music lies in defining and accurately identifying "local" places across various languages and historical spellings, a problem exacerbated by inconsistent naming conventions. Who counts as local? How do we even name places in a way that systems (and people) understand? To address these questions, a multilingual, script-aware gazetteer was developed using Wikibase for the Livonian coast, a region known for its complex place names. This gazetteer consolidates name variants, historical data, and links to external databases like GeoNames, enabling systems to accurately associate music with specific locations regardless of how they are spelled or named. This innovation is crucial for reliable local music discovery and has broader implications for any data management system relying on precise geographical identification.

[Find out more here.](#)

We are excited to continue this journey and invite all stakeholders to join us in shaping a more open, collaborative, and sustainable music ecosystem!