Open Music Europe Newsletter

Sixth 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 newest activities and 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:

➤ **OpenMusE Has Extended Its Team: Introducing Culture Hub Poland**
➤ **Open Music Europe Podcast: First Four Episodes Out**
➤ **Between Data and Melodies: The IDIMT 2025 Conference on AI and Music**
➤ **Data Sharing Economics Workshop: Key Takeaways from OpenMusE**
➤ **Building a Truly Inclusive European Music Observatory: OpenMusE at the IAML2025**

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!
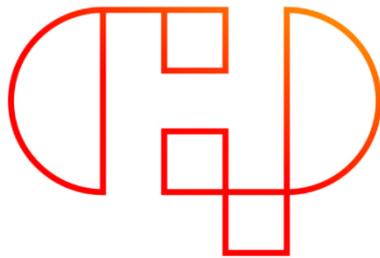
A place where ideas are exchanged, connections are made, and culture is recognised as a vital force for the future

From Music Export Poland (MExP) to Culture Hub Poland (CHP). After eight intense and fruitful years—organising 20 trade missions across three continents, supporting 411 representatives of the Polish music industry, training 1,391 people, inviting 5,230 participants to online training sessions, and launching the brand-new showcase festival and conference Music Week Poland (held in Warsaw in late June 2025)—MExP is transforming into Culture Hub Poland. A new adventure awaits!

And where does Culture Hub Poland see its contribution to OpenMusE? As an established entity, CHP will provide data on the Polish music scene—including music clubs and other venues—thereby contributing to the creation of an open-source data ecosystem on music in the EU. In addition, together with OpenMusE, Culture Hub Poland plans to collaborate on data concerning music creators and performers, in an effort to standardise the information available about them across different European markets.

[Read more here.](#)

The Open Music Europe Podcast — a series exploring the future of music in Europe

First Episode with James Rhys Edwards

In our debut episode, host Mark Adam Harold sits down with Dr. James Rhys Edwards, the project director of OpenMusE, to discuss how data, metadata, and technology are reshaping the music landscape. From the impact of COVID-19 on local music scenes to the challenges of fair compensation in the streaming era, we dive deep into what it takes to build music ecosystems that are truly competitive, fair and sustainable.

Second Episode with Marcel Čas

In this episode, host Mark Adam Harold sits down with Dr. Marcel Čas, former head of Slovakia's Institute for Culture Policy, to explore the challenges of implementing data-driven cultural policy. From navigating political discontinuity to building trust in post-communist societies, Marcel shares insights on why evidence-based decision-making in culture is both crucial and difficult to achieve.

Third Episode with Alona Dmukhovska

In this episode, host Mark Adam Harold speaks with Alona Dmukhovska, from Music Export Ukraine, about the extraordinary resilience of Ukraine's music industry during wartime. Alona shares how Ukrainian artists are building international bridges, navigating live events under air raid threats and redefining what it means to thrive through streaming and cultural advocacy.

Fourth Episode with Martin Cloonan

In this episode, host Mark talks with guest Prof. Martin Cloonan about the experiences and lessons learned from running live music censuses across European cities. They discuss how local organizations and political backing play a crucial role in encouraging participation and the strong community value placed on small grassroots venues.

Listen to the first four episodes here.

"AI everywhere? The glory and fall of artificial intelligence"

The IDIMT 2025 conference took place on 3–5 September 2025 in the beautiful historic city of Hradec Králové (Czechia). For more than three decades, IDIMT has been a space where experts from various disciplines have met to discuss current challenges in information management and complex systems. This year, it was held in the spirit of the theme "AI everywhere? The glory and fall of artificial intelligence", which aptly reflected the current discussions about the possibilities and limits of artificial intelligence.

One of the areas discussed by our partners from Bratislava University of Economics and Business (EUBA) was the music industry, which is a typical example of an industry where digitalization and artificial intelligence are changing established operating models. Research presented at the conference showed that revenues from streaming platforms in the European Union are growing more significantly in countries with higher economic development. The presentation also touched on the environmental side of streaming – while it eliminates plastic CDs, the energy footprint of data centers is a major sustainability challenge.

Read the full article here.
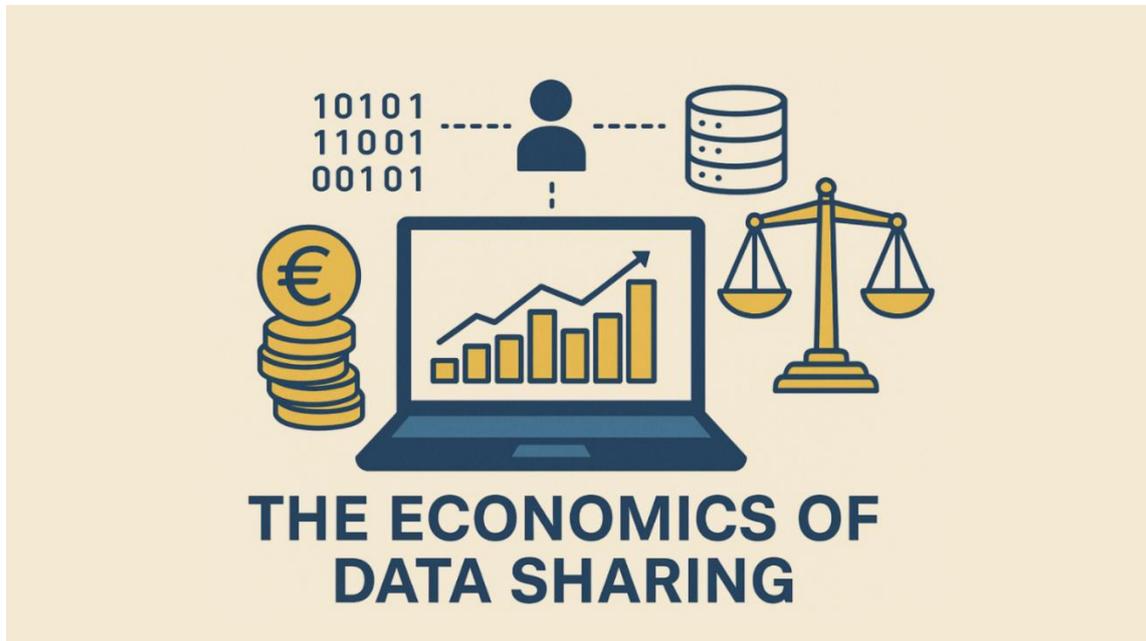
Key Takeaways about institutional and cultural dynamics that shape data governance

As the EU advances its vision for a modern and dynamic data economy, bridging legal and economic regulatory approaches becomes crucial. The regulatory landscape has seen significant developments in recent years, however, the full potential of cross-sectorial data sharing is still unfolding as shown inter alia by the recently launched European Data Union Strategy initiative. With the goal of exploring the economic, legal, and regulatory mechanisms shaping this transformation, the Centre for IT and IP Law (CiTiP) at KU Leuven, legal partner of the Data Spaces Support Centre (DSSC), hosted an interdisciplinary workshop in collaboration with our partners from the Institute for Information Law (IViR) of the University of Amsterdam.

Using the OpenMusE project as a case study, one session explored how entrenched institutional structures, market incentives, and legal frameworks shape the practical realities of data sharing. A central challenge encountered by OpenMusE is the fragmented nature of music metadata and the lack of coordination among public institutions - a challenge OpenMusE aims to overcome by fostering collaboration across these actors.

Access the full article here.

Building a Truly Inclusive European Music Observatory: OpenMusE at the IAML2025
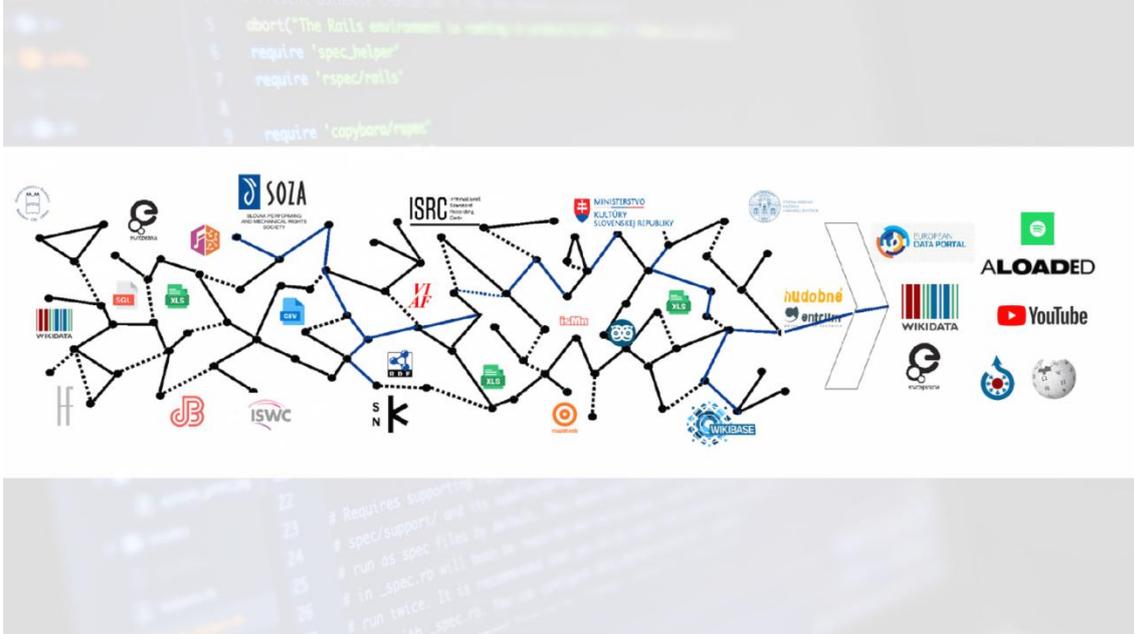
Music libraries as vital entry points to Europe's rich and evolving cultural soundscape

Across Europe, music libraries are under pressure: greater expectations for digital services, growing metadata burdens, and increasingly fragmented infrastructure. At the same time, vital parts of our musical heritage - especially regional or minority repertoires - remain hidden from search, discovery, and policy. This summer, our partners from REPREX participated in the IAML2025 in Salzburg, presenting their Slovak pilot SKCMDb, the first large-scale module, developed as part of OpenMusE and a decentralised European Music Observatory.

Showing how even the smallest communities - without formal cultural infrastructure - can take part in high-quality metadata production and digital discovery, REPREX also created the Finno-Ugric Data Sharing Space, including the Livonian Music Database, that can be explored online.

[Access the full article, poster, presentation and a demo of the Finno-Ugric Dataspace 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!