

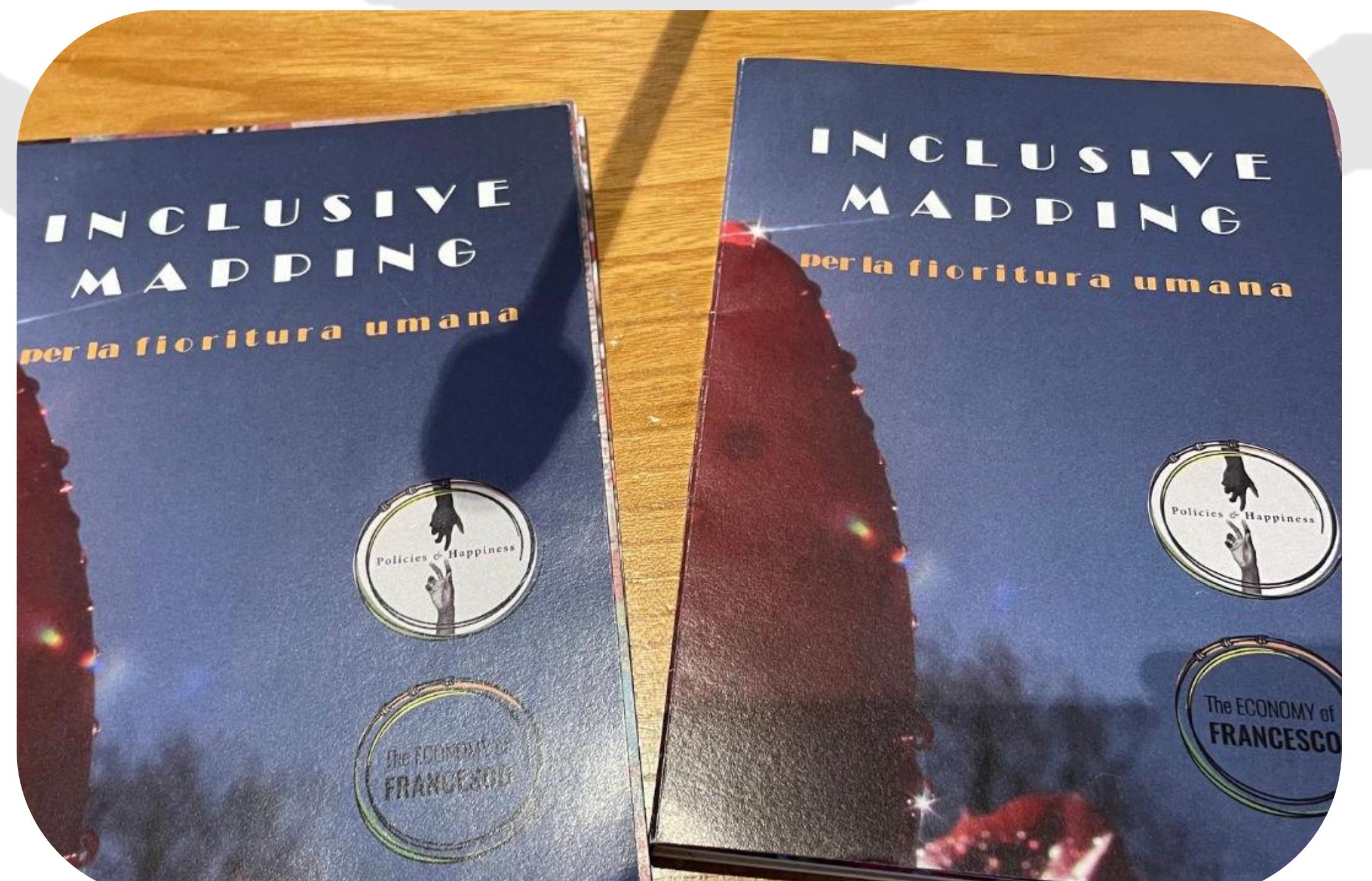
Inclusive Mapping



Maps are powerful tools to tell stories. How the story of a place is narrated can influence social life and social inclusion. Typically, when asked to describe a map, what generally comes to mind is the **representation of territorial divisions**: countries on a global scale, smaller administrative units within a country, or streets, housing blocks. Meanwhile, **nature and greenspace are often depicted as empty spaces**.

However, maps do not generally tell what is happening between those physical elements: the “**life between buildings**” (Gehl, 1971) that brings to life the characteristics, assets, needs and resources of communities. **Inclusive mapping** turns this on its head: **instead of mapping divisions, it is about mapping connections**, by empowering communities to tell their stories through local and interactive tools that connect people whilst stimulating social interaction.

Such storytelling tools enable groups to narrate their own stories of place, which brings to light the local stories which are hidden, ignored or invisible. These can include **evidencing local connections**, networks, and resources; stimulating unity and a **sense of belonging** via positive narratives. Examples can include the **participatory mapping of relational goods**; **common spaces and green spaces** and **shared community experiences**. Approaches may include: **hybrid maps** that brings together the spatial (places) and relational (people); **playful mapping** to stimulate interaction; **collaborative knowledge and data production**; and taking on a **cultural dimension** combining art and poetry.



Policies for Happiness