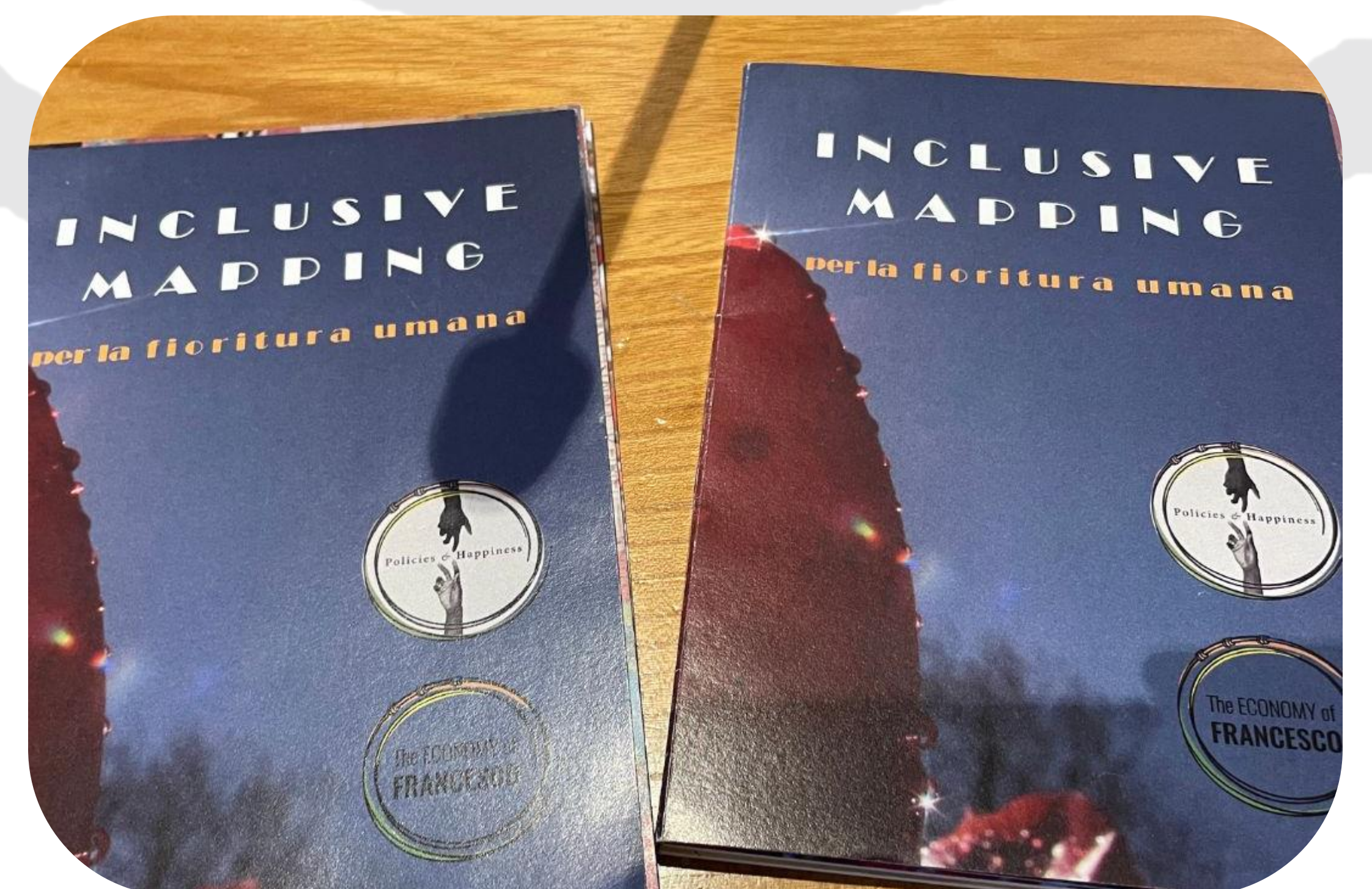


Inclusive Mapping

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