

User Guide

Unlimited Cities Digital Platform

Undetermined viewpoints

Multigation Research Project | Version 1

Overview

The **Unlimited Cities** digital platform enables participants to create in-situ photomontage collages of public spaces. This guide is intended for two audiences:

- **Mediators** - facilitators who engage residents directly in public spaces as part of the Multigation research process
- **Independent users** - individuals or organizations (schools, companies, collectives, NGOs) who wish to use the platform with a shared link from the project organizers

Note: This guide covers the digital platform only. The upstream facilitation process, in-situ workshop methodology, and downstream analysis phases are described in the separate Multigation Open Guides.



Context of Use

The organisers ont constitué un groupe de personnes. Ils utilisent the digital platform in a public space and in a hall for a few hours:

1. Learn about the Multigation research approach
2. Create a collage of a public space viewpoint
3. Comment on their collage and complete a short survey
4. Stay informed through online project documentation and upcoming restitution events

A Note on Data from Independent Mediators

Only collages made from **geolocated devices** will be validated for the Winterthur research phase. Geolocation allows researchers to confirm that contributions were made on-site, and to distinguish in-situ contributions from remote ones.

Getting Started

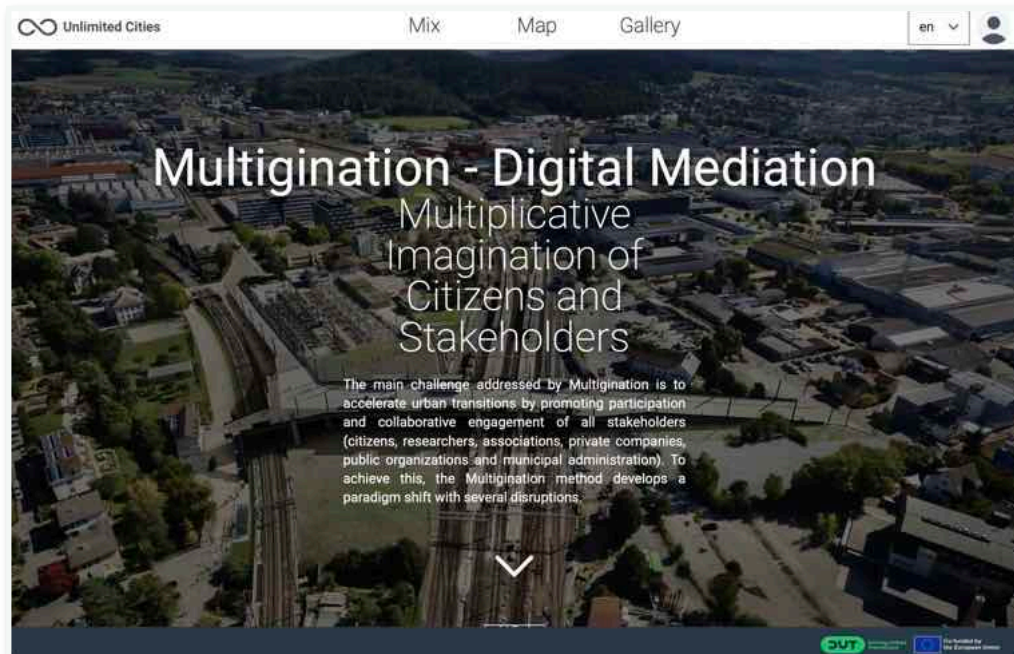
The best way to learn the platform is simply to use it. Your actions are **non-destructive**: you can start from an existing collage and modify it freely - the original will never be altered. A tutorial video is also available on the platform.



In Winterthur the 21 Mays 2026.

Homepage

- **No login or registration required**
- Language selection is available at the top of the homepage



- A **QR code** at the bottom of the homepage links to the full project documentation, including information on the research approach, previous phases, initiatives, and upcoming events:
<https://openurbanism.ch/en/group/17/about>

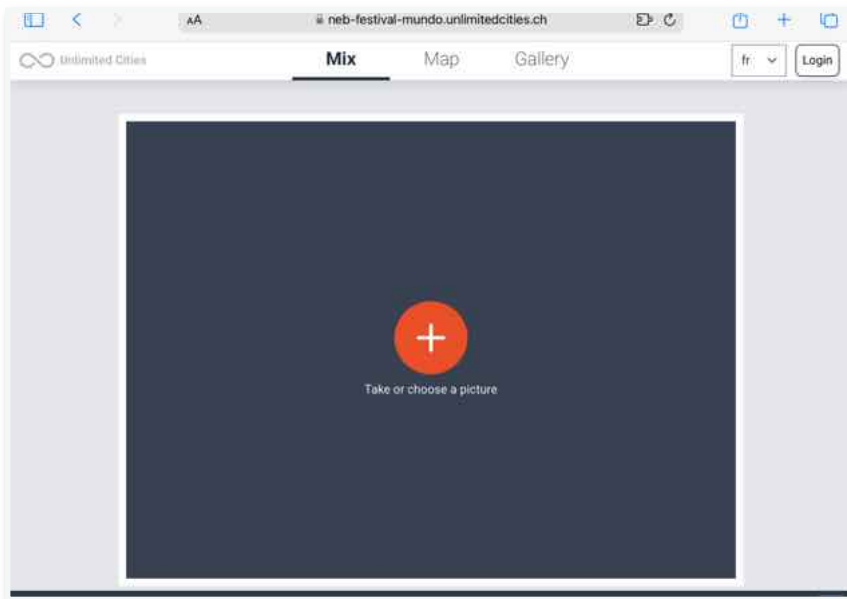


MIX Page

Creating Your Collage

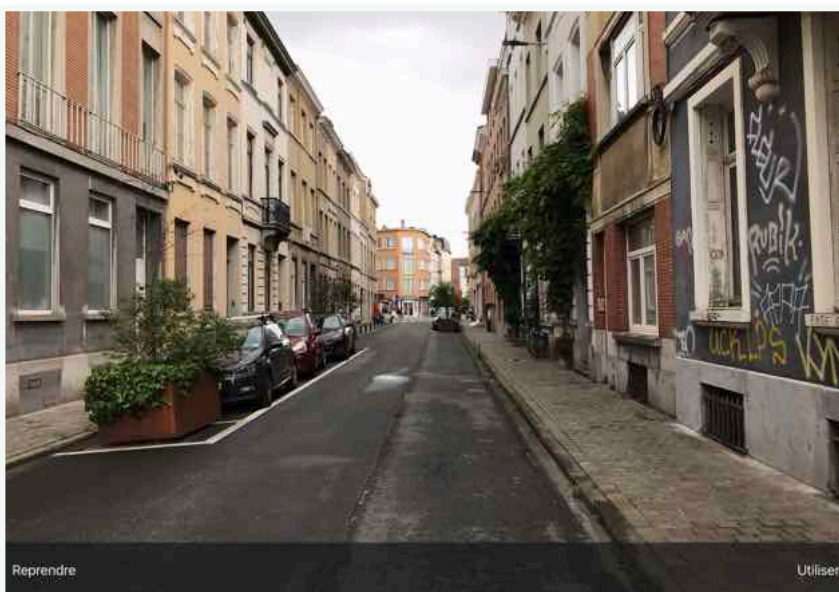
Step 1 - Select a Viewpoint

Go to the mix page and tap the + button.



Step 2 - Prendre la photo

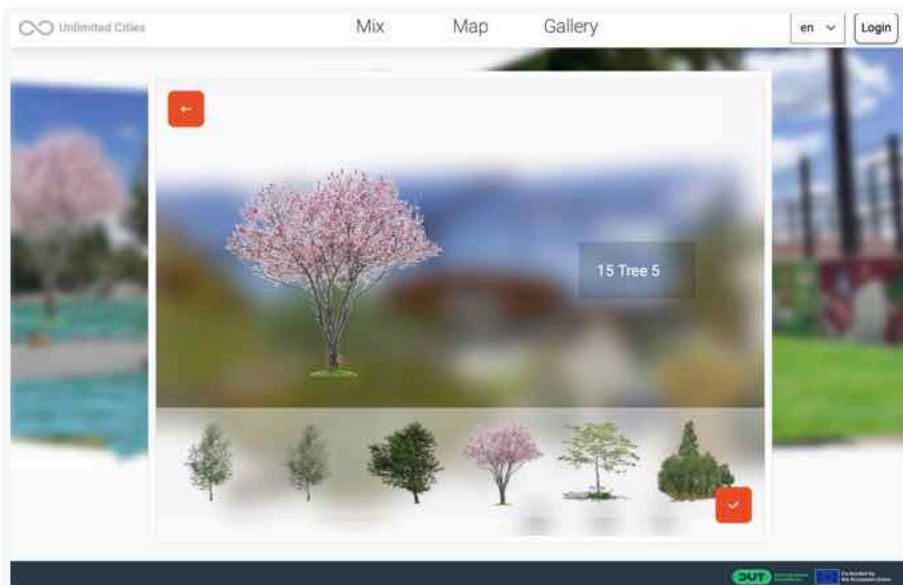
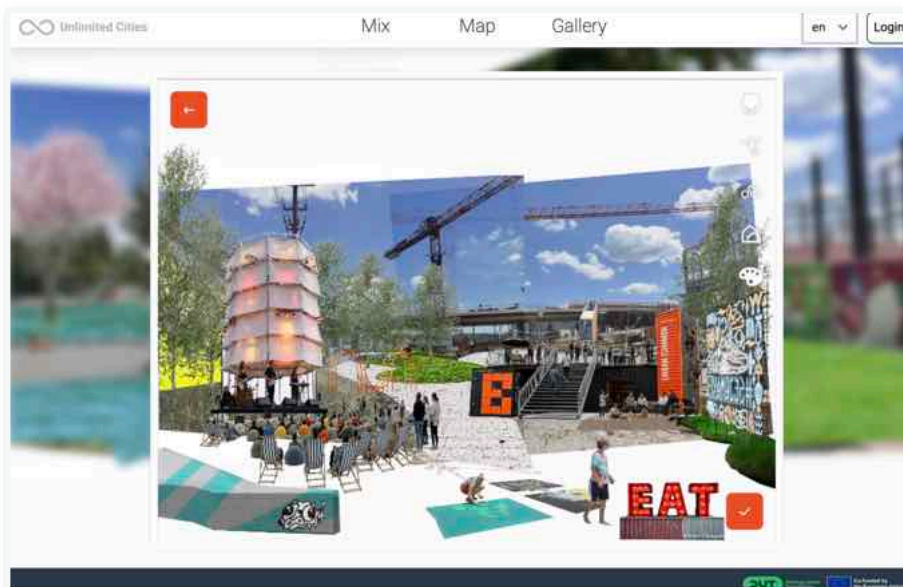
If necessary, take the photo again (bottom left button), or use the photo (bottom right button).



Step 3 - Add Objects

Browse the object library using the category icons on the right-hand panel:

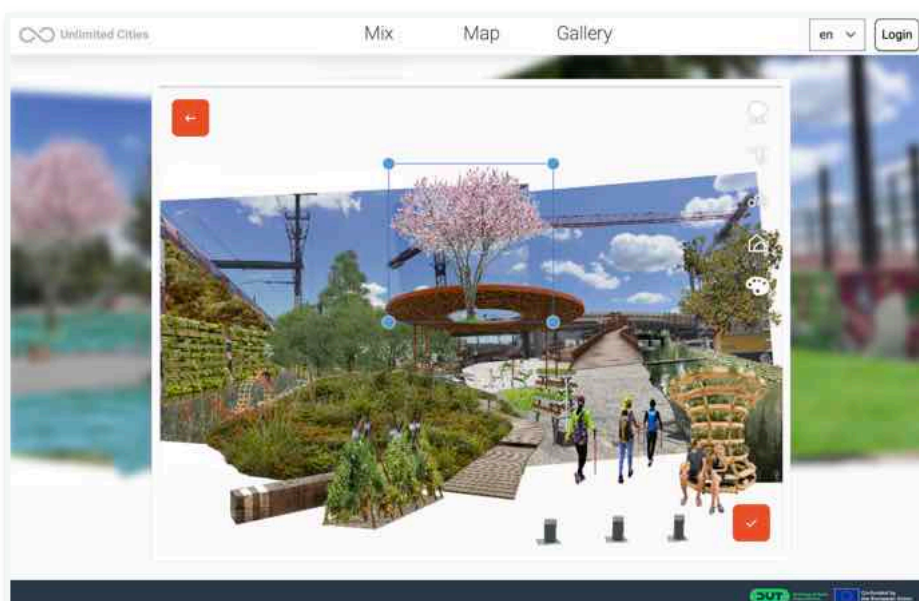
- **Nature**
- **Neighbourhood Life**
- **Mobility**
- **Architecture**
- **Art**



Click a category icon to reveal a scrollable list of objects. Click any object to place it on your image - its title and a short description will appear.

Step 4 - Position and Adjust Objects

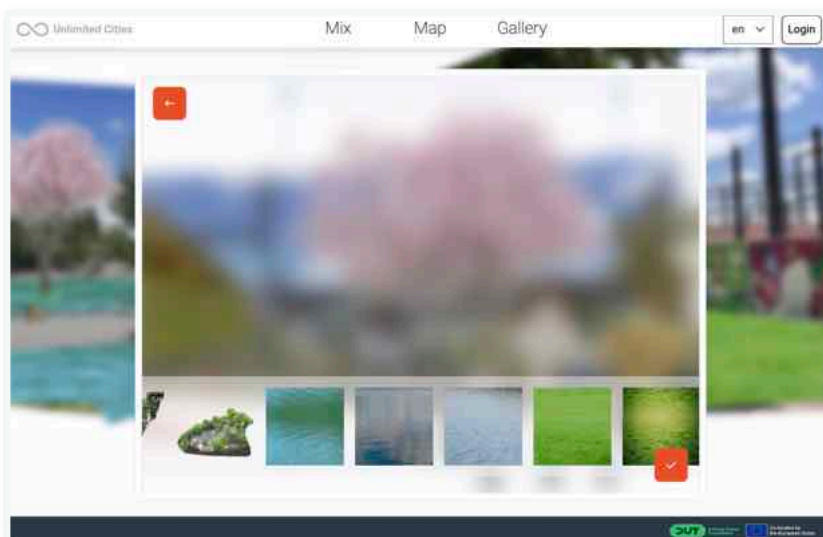
- **Move** an object by dragging it anywhere on the image
- **Resize or flip** it by dragging the corner handles
- **Bring to front** by clicking on the object - each click brings it one layer forward
- **Delete** an object by dragging it outside the image boundary



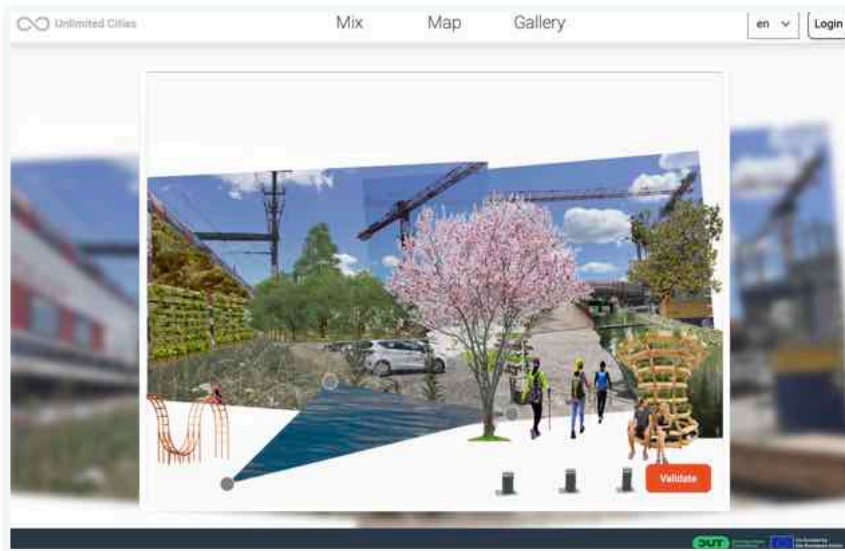
Step 5 - Add Surfaces

Surfaces are polygon shapes available in each category (displayed as a square thumbnail).

1. Select a surface from the category panel



2. Click on the image to begin drawing - each click adds a point
 - 3 points = triangle; 4+ points = any custom shape
3. Click "**Validate**" to confirm the shape
4. Move the surface or adjust it by dragging its anchor points
5. Surfaces automatically appear **beneath objects** in the layer order

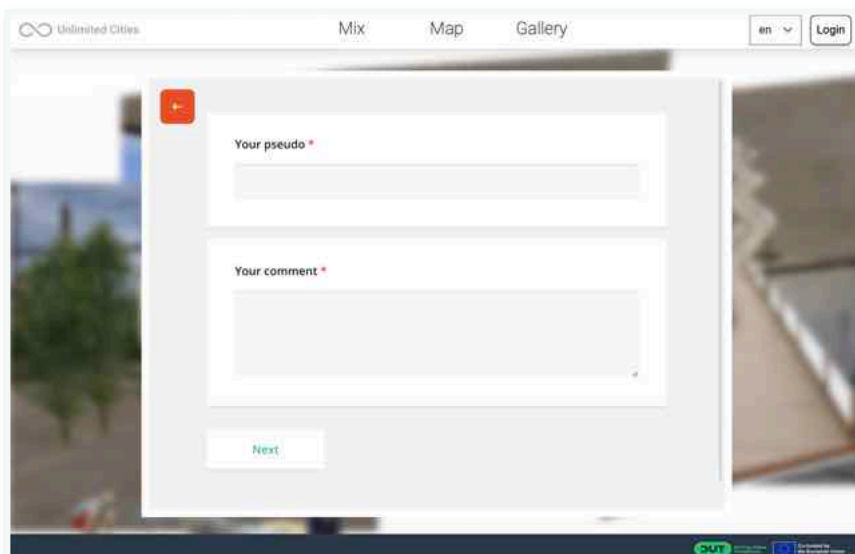


6. To delete a surface, drag it outside the image boundary

Clicking on a surface brings it in front of other surfaces. Clicking on an object brings it in front of other objects.

Step 6 - Validate Your Collage

When satisfied with your composition, click the **checkmark** (bottom right) to confirm. Use the **back arrow** (top left) to undo steps and revise your collage.



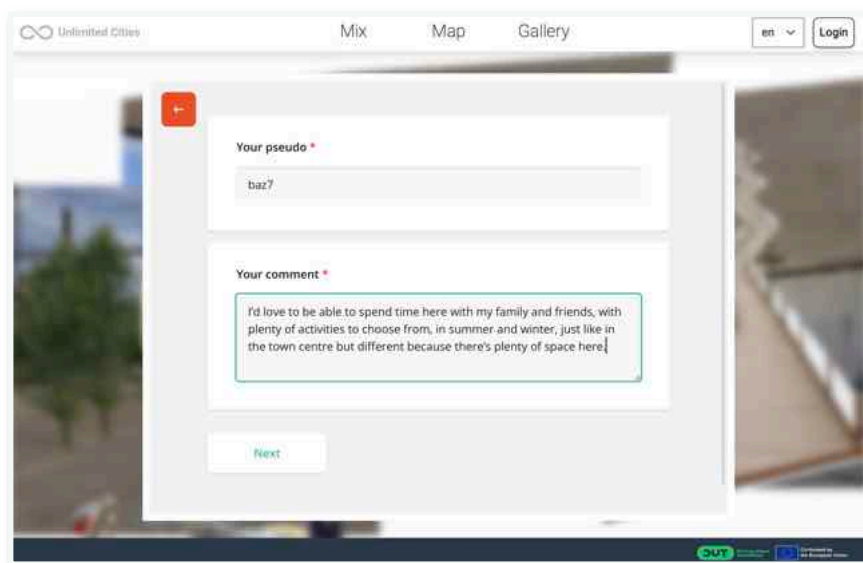
Adding Context to Your Contribution

Nickname

Give your collage a nickname so you can identify it later. Using your real name is optional and entirely your choice.

Comment

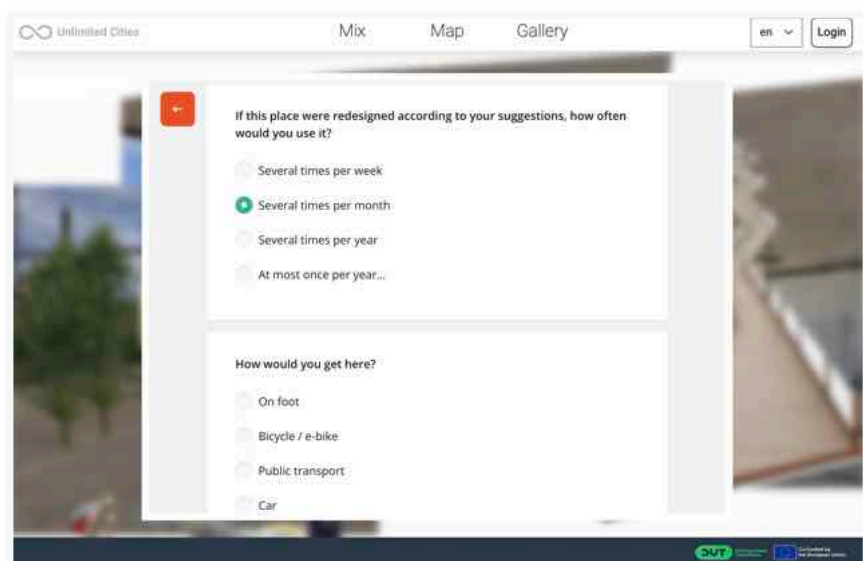
Add a comment describing your choices and intentions. The city and urban planners will use this information to inform and enrich future projects. **Your local knowledge is valuable.**



The screenshot shows a web interface for 'Unlimited Cities' with navigation tabs for 'Mix', 'Map', and 'Gallery'. A modal form is open, featuring a red '+' icon in the top left. The form has two main sections: 'Your pseudo *' with a text input field containing 'baz?' and 'Your comment *' with a larger text area containing the text: 'I'd love to be able to spend time here with my family and friends, with plenty of activities to choose from, in summer and winter, just like in the town centre but different because there's plenty of space here'. A 'Next' button is located at the bottom of the form. The background shows a blurred street scene.

Questionnaire

Complete the short survey to contribute to the evaluation of the Multigation research methodology, conducted under the responsibility of ZHAW. Click "**Complete**" when finished.

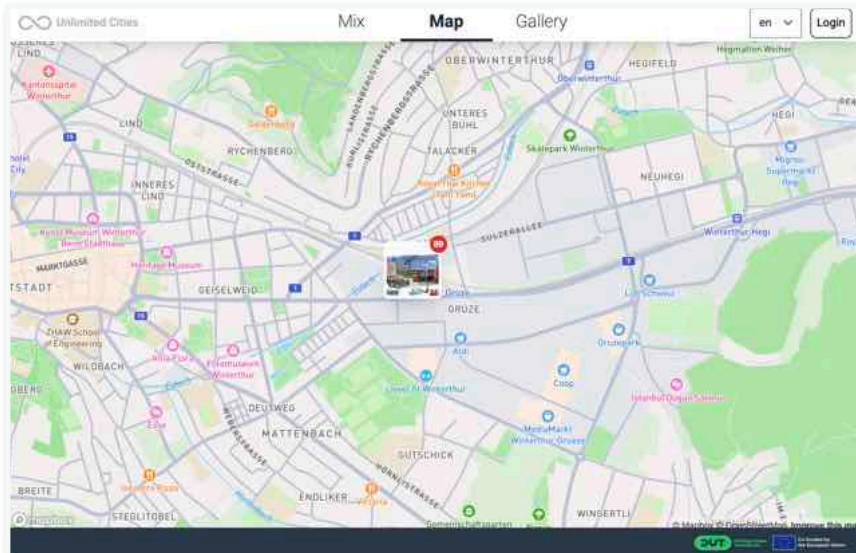


The screenshot shows the same 'Unlimited Cities' interface with a questionnaire modal. The first question is 'If this place were redesigned according to your suggestions, how often would you use it?' with radio button options: 'Several times per week', 'Several times per month' (which is selected), 'Several times per year', and 'At most once per year...'. The second question is 'How would you get here?' with radio button options: 'On foot', 'Bicycle / e-bike', 'Public transport', and 'Car'. The background shows the same blurred street scene.

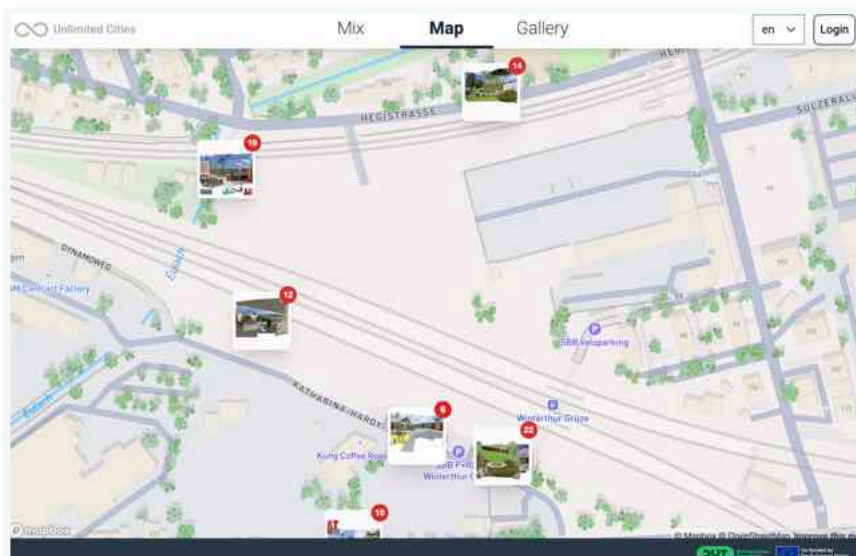
MAP Page

After submitting the questionnaire, you are redirected to the map view. From here you can:

- View the **total number of collages** submitted to date



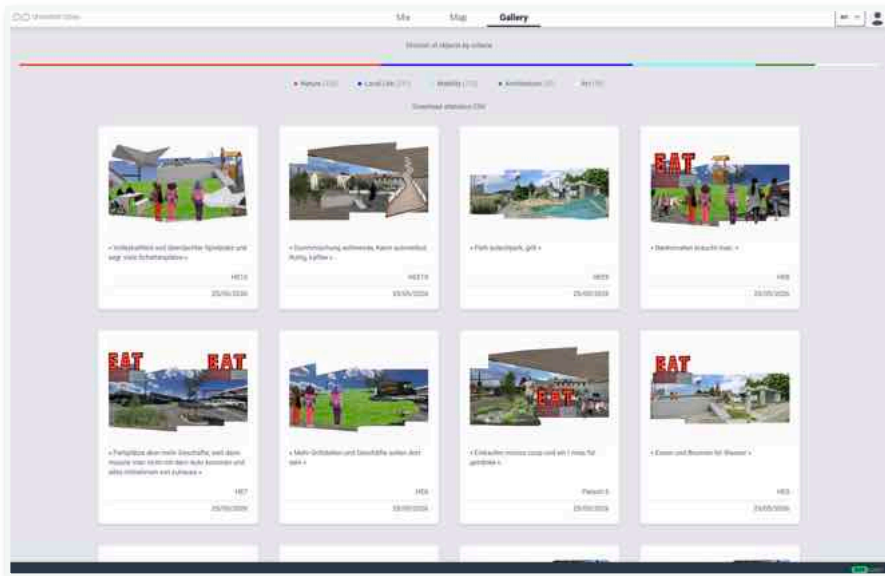
- **Zoom in** to explore collages by viewpoint
- **Browse and select** individual collages of the viewpoint
- Access **object-level details** for any selected collage
- **Start a new collage** from an existing one - the original is always preserved



Gallery Page

The Gallery provides access to **all submitted collages across all viewpoints**. Features include:

- A **colour bar** showing the proportional breakdown of objects by category (indicative)
- **CSV export** for detailed quantitative analysis
- Raw open data used by researchers for analysis and sharing with the city - also available as open data on the project documentation site
- Click any collage thumbnail to enlarge it and view its full details



You're Ready

You can now use the platform confidently and guide others through the experience. When contributors ask about the broader context - how their contribution connects to upcoming urban projects - direct them to the full documentation via the homepage QR code.

Here is an example for the Winterthur project

Multigination is a research project supported by the Driving Urban Transitions Partnership (DUT). The Unlimited Cities tool is developed in open source by the Open Urbanism Foundation.



or this link:

<https://openurbanism.ch/en/group/17/about>

Contact

contact@openurbanism.ch