My Story Map

"Everyone loves stories and everyone has a story to tell."

This is why storytelling and its digital version have found their place in social networks for several years: Facebook, Snapchat, Instagram allow you to put content in a "story".

Whatever the story, if it is well told it becomes interesting, therefore powerful because it attracts. While everyone can tell stories through social networks, doing it well still requires training and practice. As Nicolas Boileau said in "The Art of Poetry" in 1674, "what is well conceived is clearly stated and the words to say it come easily".
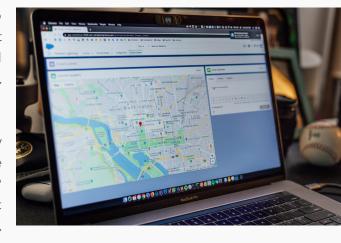
Even then, Nicolas Boileau told us that for a story to be of quality it must be clear and well conceived. The ingredients of a story are known: it is based on a person, in a given place, at a given time. The person faces an event that provokes a series of reactions.

We know the ingredients, we know a little less about assembling them. **"Where do I start?"** is often what we hear in the introduction to a narrative. The difficulty in creating a story is to combine its ingredients into a fluid narrative.

Storytelling training responds to this difficulty we encounter, we learn to put our history into music. However, if this remains accessible to many in an exercise based on fiction, the same cannot be said for personal stories, for one's own life story. Storytelling by digital mapping is a particularly helpful approach. It can constitute in itself the structure of a whole (life) story.

Using the support of digital maps therefore makes it possible to locate a story, thus creating its framework from different locations. Spatially structured by places that are connected and indicate important events, the story told becomes coherent, chronologically structured; it is clearly stated.

Using digital maps to tell your story is the bias of the My Story Map project that accompanies the narrators in this exercise. The narrators? School dropouts! And what are they talking about? Their history or part of their history. Why? To understand that everyone has interesting stories to tell, and therefore their story, their life is also interesting.

The lack of self-esteem is among some of the main causes for early-school leaving and "My Story Map" helps to respond in an innovative way. You can also test it! As part of this project, a digital storytelling training content has been created and tested, proving that the tools are accessible, powerful and also allowsthe development of many skills, which enrich the narrator.

Gathered in the form of a learning module, organized into activity sheets, this training curriculum allows trainers, teachers, and social workers to get ownership and implement storymapping activities with their target groups.