

# September-October 2026 Counter-Mapping Challenge

Following the success of our 2025 edition, we are re-opening the Counter-Mapping Challenge for September-October 2026!

Counter-cartography aims to rethink how we map and represent our world. For the September-October 2026 challenge, we invite you to create counter-maps related to energy transitions and energy justice in the PACT pilot cities Livorno, Dubrovnik, Le Havre, Limassol, Lisbon and Rotterdam.

We encourage you to think about questions such as:

- How visible are energy systems in the port-city and wider region?
- How are energy systems valued by different actors in society?
- Is energy accessible and fairly distributed within the city or region?
- How do different communities see port energy systems and transition plans? How are they impacted and how are they responding?
- How are other living beings, such as marine species, microorganisms in soil, etc. impacted by energy transition projects?

Through counter-mapping, we would like to bring to light different perspectives, challenges and opportunities that are currently neglected. Can your map help explore alternative scenarios for just energy transitions?

If you are new to countermapping, you can follow these steps to get started:

1. Start with existing maps or dominant stories about your port-city. What stories do the stakeholders of your port-city case study tell?
2. Ask what is missing or distorted. Whose routes, memories, risks, uses, borders, or meanings are absent? What part of the story would you like to question?
3. Get to know your case study and explore the space. This might include walking, observation, interviews, sketches, photos, sound, story fragments, or community notes.
4. Map the story you want to tell. You can use symbols, layer information, annotate, depict emotions, draw timelines, highlight points of conflict, uncover ignored stories, draw personal routes or other movements/flows, etc.

5. Reflect on your choices. What did you include, exclude, and emphasize - and why?

For more information and examples:

New Directions in Radical Cartography, Phil Cohen & Mike Duggan, eds. (2021)

Ceci n'est pas un Atlas : la cartographie comme outil de luttes, Nephtys Zwer, et al. (2023)

ThisIsNotanAtlas, Youtube channel

<https://notanatlas.org/book/>

<https://www.livingmaps.org/>

Here are the counter-maps from the 2025 Edition, created by port city territory frequenters from all over the world!

How to participate:

Please send your counter-map before 30 October 2026 (with a brief explanation of what you tried to show, how, and why) to: <[pact.costaction@gmail.com](mailto:pact.costaction@gmail.com)> and Working Group 2 leader Maëlle Salzinger <[m.s.salzinger@tudelft.nl](mailto:m.s.salzinger@tudelft.nl)>.

Your counter-maps are a contribution to the PACT working groups. They support the inclusion of a plurality of voices and perspectives to help us understand energy transitions in various port-city contexts. Working Group 2, specifically, focuses on data visualisation, spatial analysis and mapping. Your counter-map will inform our conversations and work on methods, focus group discussions and contextual understanding of the PACT pilot cities. If selected by the organizers of this counter-mapping challenge, your name and contribution will be featured on the PACT website, media channels and relevant publications.