

WL web-app: a brief introduction

WLM 2026 – first Virtual Office Hour
14 August 2026

Why was it introduced?

WLM Italy was first organized in 2012.

Since then, year after year, we have faced a few recurring challenges:

Several good photographers, even those willing to participate, were discouraged by the Commons Upload Wizard, which is far from intuitive, especially when it comes to associating images with categories or entering metadata.

The Commons Upload Wizard was primarily designed for laptops and desktops, creating an additional step for contributors taking photos with smart devices.

The continuous growth in the number of eligible monuments made it increasingly inefficient to manage them through lists on Wikipedia pages.

The introduction of an app provided a solution to each of these challenges.

Why did it evolve to what is today?

On one hand, we realized that the challenges we were facing were typical of other national editions.

On the other hand, we received feedback from some photographers that it was “tricky” to understand how to participate in WLM contests in other countries.

More recently, we have also realized that the “engine” behind the app can be used for other similar contests, such as Wiki Loves Earth.

This is why, over the last few years, we have welcomed 11 other countries onto the app, and we currently support 13 languages (and more are coming).

2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
Prototype for WLM Italy	Smart-only version for WLM Italy	WebApp version for WLM Italy	+ WLM Ireland + {{en}}	+ WLM Eesti, France, Malta, Moldova, Portugal, UK, Україна + {{de}}, {{et}}, {{fr}}, {{pl}}, {{pt}}, {{ro}}, {{ru}}, {{uk}}	+ WLE Sverige, WLM Ghana, Србија - Srbija, Հայաստան, Uruguay + {{sr-c}}, {{sr-l}}, {{sv}}, {{es}}, {{hy}}

How it is designed?

The web app combines monument data from Wikidata, picture statistics from Wikimedia Commons, and maps and administrative information from OpenStreetMap to provide end users with an easy way to understand which subjects can be photographed and to facilitate the overall upload process.

The web app is designed to run on smart devices as well as laptops and desktops. It also supports a fallback to the Commons Upload Wizard for users who appreciate the app's navigation functionality but are still in love with the traditional uploading mechanism.

Every functionality is designed with a high level of configurability and, by design, is opt-in/opt-out, leaving enough room to tailor the app to the wide range of peculiarities that each country may have.

This approach creates a mutual benefit for participating countries, as any country can easily adopt a functionality that was initially introduced for another country.

Another key principle is that all the complexity associated with this level of configuration should be seamless to end users, who should have the same user experience regardless of which national contest they are participating in.

Key benefits

The introduction of the web app has brought new participants to all the contests where it has been used, as the app is straightforward and does not require users to be familiar with the way Commons works.

We have seen more and more users participating in more than one contest.

The feedback functionality allows us to collect valuable “on-the-ground” information to improve the quality of monument data in Wikidata.

Having Commons categories and metadata primarily controlled by the app itself ensures a high level of quality for the data associated with pictures uploaded to Commons.

The visual representation of current Commons coverage can help identify areas with limited coverage and facilitate the organization of targeted WLM-day events.

A significant number of users continue contributing throughout the year, beyond the WLM month, helping to improve the coverage of cultural heritage.

The demo

The web app can be reached at: <https://app.wikilovesmonuments.it>

Adding a trailer language code you can start the app in any of the supported languages:

- * German: <https://app.wikilovesmonuments.it/de>
- * English: <https://app.wikilovesmonuments.it/en>
- * Estonian: <https://app.wikilovesmonuments.it/et>
- * French: <https://app.wikilovesmonuments.it/fr>
- * Italian: <https://app.wikilovesmonuments.it/it>
- * Polish: <https://app.wikilovesmonuments.it/pl>
- * Portuguese: <https://app.wikilovesmonuments.it/pt>
- * Romanian: <https://app.wikilovesmonuments.it/ro>
- * Russian: <https://app.wikilovesmonuments.it/ru>
- * Serbian (cyrilic script): <https://app.wikilovesmonuments.it/sr-Cyrl>
- * Serbian (latin script): <https://app.wikilovesmonuments.it/sr-latn>
- * Swedish: <https://app.wikilovesmonuments.it/sv>
- * Ukranian: <https://app.wikilovesmonuments.it/uk>

We also have a test environment: <https://wlm-staging-app.wmcloud.org>

How to come on-board

Contact WMI at contatti@wikilovesmonuments.it to arrange a deep-dive call and gain an initial mutual understanding of the needs of your national contest and the capabilities of web-abb.

Then, we go through an assessment phase to:

- * understand how you identify eligible monuments in Wikidata
- * understand how your country is mapped in OpenStreetMap
- * let you decide which functionalities to opt in or out of
- * assess whether all the specific requirements of your contest can be covered through appropriate configuration of the existing functionalities

There may be additional steps:

- * if you need one or more new languages to be supported
- * if specific development is required
- * if data in Wikidata or OpenStreetMap need some “cleaning”

Before going live with the real app, we set up the contest in the test environment, so that you can get a feel for it and verify that nothing was overlooked during the assessment, configuration, or development phases.

We normally accept newcomers for WLE until the end of November and for WLM until the end of May, to allow enough time for the above phases to run smoothly.

Questions