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Institution Name  
Institute Mines Business Telecom School



Country  
France



Research Area  
Sociology, Public Policy, Education



Thematic Focus  
Behavior, motivations, and participation dynamics in collaborative online platforms.



Stakeholders involved  
Online group participants, open-knowledge users, public, HEIs, SMEs



Research Phase  
In preparation

## RESEARCH ASSET

The PhD project focuses on collaborative open knowledge systems, in which individuals voluntarily create, assemble and disseminate information (Goodchild, 2007). The activities of these loosely connected online groups challenge the traditional notions of knowledge creation, radically transforming the acts of writing, creating, validating, storing, retrieving and reusing information (Mansell, 2014). Collaborative open knowledge systems show vividly how the use and generation of knowledge through IT coevolves with traditional modes of knowledge generation, storage and access. The objective of the thesis is to shed light on the following questions: 1. Understanding participation dynamics a. How do cognitive and demographic factors shape participation to open knowledge systems (attitudes, intrinsic and extrinsic motivations, habits, emotions, etc.) b. How do contextual factors shape participation in open knowledge systems? (physical and social environment, social practices, networks, norms, values, regulations, institutions) c. How do these factors interact with each other depending on the type of collaborative platform in different settings? 2. Analyzing the evolution of online collaborative knowledge platforms a. Identifying variables that govern the growth and evolution of collaborative open knowledge systems in different settings b. developing alternative scenarios and intervention strategies based on the variables identified in (a). The thesis combines both quantitative and qualitative research approaches. The empirical research will be conducted in two countries, Turkey and France, which will be complemented by theoretical models using

## Open Knowledge Systems: Participation and Cognitive and Contextual Factors

agent-based simulation. These two countries exhibit distinct dynamics when it comes to institutional, social and economic context, and also as far as these shape overall internet access, digital literacy and participation in online platforms. In Turkey, despite important skills and income gaps compared to most of the countries in the EU, the share of small, young and dynamic firms that draw on digital technologies and fastest available broadband access ranks high compared to peer countries (OECD, 2018). In addition, among the EU countries mobile data usage and digital literacy is largely unequal among countries (OECD, 2017). While significant data exists on digital transformation, these fall short of revealing patterns related with participation in open knowledge systems.

## POTENTIAL VALORISATION AREAS

- **Consulting** - offering research services to industry, HEIs, research laboratories and centres and international organisations
- **Workshop and training for companies** - skills, knowledge and model on the collaboration dynamics as central focus
- **Collaboration with industry and citizens** – through joint research, funding for projects, training, workshops, etc.
- **Public outreach** – holding public lectures and debates where scientists and citizens would discuss on the ‘knowledge as common source’
- **Policy** – regulating the validity of data gathered, collected, analysed and processed by individuals who lack scientific credibility



*I am looking forward to seeing my collaboration/interaction model in different contexts and seeing how it functions in practice. For example, seeing it applied on different commercial platforms but other platforms and mediums with the focus on dynamics of collaboration among participants.*

## DESCRIPTION OF VALORISATION POTENTIAL

- **New research**
- **New publications**
- **Joint research and projects**
- **New research models and perspective** (e.g., extending on the collaboration model or creating new collaboration models)
- **Collaboration with HEI industry and public stakeholders** or a actual involvement in the application of research results together in collaboration with those stakeholders
- **Public debates** with citizens, researchers and industry
- **Workshops and trainings** for citizens, researcher and industry
- **Regulations** on the collaboration in the open knowledge systems

## VALORISATION TARGETS/POTENTIAL FUTURE COLLABORATORS

**Researching and scientific institutions** – collaboration with researchers and scientists on joint projects and any other activity that will extend on the research findings

**Industry stakeholders** – any company or organisation that is open to apply collaboration model, and who is using platforms for profit (e.g. Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, LinkedIn, YouTube, WhatsApp, Telegram, different apps, etc.).

**Citizens** – as main stakeholders in the open platforms can give an answers on collaboration dynamics.