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My Ph.D. research (started in September 2008) is dedicated to the study of the relationship between the development of participatory Geoweb and, the strategies developed by local and regional governments to improve participatory planning. The objective is to examine and understand the social and political impacts of these phenomena.

The development of the Geoweb is characterized by new geospatial technologies (mashup, wikisig, google earth), new spatial practices (geotaging, geoblogging, geocaching...) and, new contents (placemark, POI...). This process of geospatial services democratization (neogeography) impact the traditional context of geographic information creation and dissemination. New type of dynamics and interaction appear with new means for citizen mobilization and participation (feedback, local knowledge).

More specifically, related to the topic of SDI, my research ask the question of links between User-Generated Geographic Content (also called VGI) and their contribution to SDI. The integration of UGGC in SDI represents a challenge for local authorities to their operational needs (enrichment of SDI) and in their missions of public interest (new perspectives to consider the local participation and partnerships).

Challenge of operating on even more heterogeneous data?
How to collect, incorporate and use User-Generated Geographic Content (UGGC) in SDI?
What type of services would be useful ?