

# URBAN AND REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT

## MUR DM 118 - Geodata journalism and urban storytelling

<b>Funded By</b>	MINISTERO DELL'UNIVERSITA' E DELLA RICERCA [P.iva/CF:97429780584] Politecnico di TORINO [P.iva/CF:00518460019]
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<b>Context of the research activity</b>	<p>Geodata is vital in data journalism as it provides context, visualizations, and insights. It helps map data, uncover spatial relationships, fact-check claims, monitor events, engage audiences, and collaborate. Geodata enhances the depth, accuracy, and impact of stories, fostering a more informed public discourse.</p> <p>Progetto finanziato nell'ambito del PNRR – DM 118/2023, CUP E14D23001910006</p>
	<p>Geodata plays a significant role in enhancing data journalism by providing valuable context, visualizations, and insights for investigative reporting and storytelling. The proposed research project aims to define a first methodological-operational analysis that can provide the basis for a possible massive and routine usage of geodata in journalism. The research will focus on the following main topics:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Contextualizing Stories. Geodata provides a spatial context to news stories, enabling journalists to analyze and present data within its geographic context. By mapping data points onto a map, journalists can provide readers with a visual understanding of the location-specific aspects of a story. Geospatial data helps answer questions such as where events are happening, how they are distributed across regions, and their proximity to relevant landmarks or infrastructure.</li><li>2. Visualizing Data. Geodata allows journalists to create compelling visualizations that make complex data more accessible and engaging for readers. Interactive maps, charts, and infographics based on geospatial data can provide a clearer understanding of patterns, trends, and disparities. For example, heat maps can illustrate the intensity or concentration of certain phenomena in specific areas, while animated visualizations can showcase changes over time.</li><li>3. Investigating Spatial Relationships. Geodata enables data journalists to explore spatial relationships between different datasets. By overlaying</li></ol>

## Objectives

multiple layers of geospatial data, they can identify correlations, patterns, and potential causations. For instance, overlaying demographic data with pollution levels can reveal environmental inequalities or disparities in access to resources. Geospatial analysis can uncover hidden connections that help journalists ask critical questions and uncover compelling narratives.

4. Fact-checking and Verification. Geodata can be used to verify claims and fact-check information. By cross-referencing statements, locations, and events with geospatial data, journalists can validate or debunk claims made in news stories. Satellite imagery, street view images, or geotagged social media posts can provide evidence to support or refute specific claims, adding credibility to the reporting process.

5. Monitoring and Reporting on Events. Geodata is instrumental in covering and monitoring events in real-time. Journalists can utilize geospatial data to track and report on natural disasters, protests, or elections. For example, mapping tools can help visualize the spread of wildfires or the progression of election results in different regions. Real-time data feeds and geolocation can provide up-to-date information for news updates and live reporting.

6. Engaging the Audience. Geodata enhances audience engagement by allowing readers to interact with data-driven stories. Through interactive maps and visualizations, readers can explore data points, zoom in on specific locations, and discover insights on their own. This fosters a deeper understanding of complex issues and encourages readers to engage with the story beyond a passive reading experience.

7. Collaborative Journalism. Geodata facilitates collaboration among journalists and data scientists. By openly sharing geospatial datasets and analysis techniques, news organizations can pool resources, share insights, and collaborate on investigative projects. This collaborative approach strengthens data journalism by harnessing the expertise of various stakeholders.

During the research different topics will be taken into account, favoring the narration of an urban environment and its transformations that have taken place over the years and those that are foreseen in the future.

## Skills and competencies for the development of the activity

Basics of geomatic, mapping, GIS, Earth observation, writing techniques. Additional technical skills in social media, videomaking and storytelling are considered a must