Limits and Opportunities of Collaboration in a Digital Context

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Abstract: Although the collaborative instruments of the digital platforms can hypothetically ensure both individual capacity for action and new forms of social structuring, this paper illustrates different uses of networks by social actors, which diminish the potential for collaboration predefined by design. I aim to show how the cultural capital (Bourdieu) of the users develops in the context of networks (Wellman), on a platform which adopts a collective intelligence design (Peach et al.). The paper also follows the European context of public policies aimed at maximizing the potential of the Internet in promoting democracy, social inclusion and cultural diversity.

Keywords: cultural capital, networks, collective intelligence, public policy, digital platforms, ITC