Abstract. The aim is to present two examples of collaborative mapping projects conducted at the Diathesis Cartographic Lab of the University of Bergamo, which have been designed and implemented in rural Sub-Saharan African villages and an Italian urban context: MULTIMAP and Bergamo Open Mapping. MULTIMAP is a website based on community integrated maps having the objective of promoting the knowledge of the peripheries of the UNESCO “W Trasboundary Biosphere Reserve” (Benin, Burkina Faso, Niger). It is the result of a long participatory research conducted from 2002 and 2005 by an international team of geographers with the aim to spread the knowledge of the territorial organization of villages located around the protected area.

Bergamo Open Mapping is a system of on-line participation based on the Geoweb 2.0, designed and engineered specifically for the candidacy of Bergamo European Capital of Culture 2019. Citizens can indicate on the map the places they want to promote during the candidacy, by suggesting cultural initiatives. Both systems are based on the SIGAP research methodology which implies the implementation of a complex participatory process working on different levels of collaboration: comprising the steps of communication, consultation and negotiation.

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