- **Title:**
  Between urban walls and virtual (conceptual) bridges: How the Internet influences perception of borders in divided cities. Two case-study: Derry and Nicosia

- **Coordination:**
  Francesca Savoldi

- **Supervision:**
  Pedro Ferraz de Abreu

- **Leading Institution/Research Unit:**
  Instituto de Ciencias Sociais e Políticas (CAPP-TSG)

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- **Research Domain:**
  ICT and urban space

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  e-city & territory, e-citizenship

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  Francesca Savoldi
  Pedro Ferraz de Abreu

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- Summary
Divided cities in general generate social, policy and economic costs. Integration policies can help to reunify the city and the community when it is considered necessary. In Derry the creation of a process for removing interface barriers is already started and with that also the discussions about how to create the conditions to make it safe enough for the walls to come down. In Nicosia new doors are opening along the green line, the last one in 2008. The political intentions in both cities have expressed the desire to reunify the city, from here comes the importance of thinking about integration policies.
Recent studies have shown that social networks and blogs help to develop new dynamics of communication and relationship between neighbors, improving social cohesion and quality of life. This work aims to know if the increasing use of online social networks and blogs is influencing the perception of the border in divided cities, in terms of use of urban space and in terms of perception of the cultural differences, with the final objective to know if they can be considered as a tool in the planning process of integration policies.