

Maurizio Napolitano

Nationality: Italian | **Gender:** Male

● ABOUT ME

Researcher, technologist, and innovation leader working at the intersection of data, technology, and society. For more than twenty-five years, I have been involved in research, software development, data governance, geospatial technologies, open data, digital commons, and, more recently, the adoption of artificial intelligence in public-sector and collaborative digital ecosystems.

I currently lead the Digital Commons Lab at Fondazione Bruno Kessler (FBK), where I coordinate multidisciplinary activities spanning artificial intelligence, data governance, digital sovereignty, collaborative ecosystems, and geospatial innovation.

My work combines research, technology development, stakeholder engagement, capacity building, and policy support. Throughout my career, I have contributed to open-source software communities, open data initiatives, collaborative mapping projects, and policy-oriented activities at regional, national, and European level.

I am particularly interested in how data, knowledge, and digital technologies can create public value when they are shared, governed responsibly, and transformed into practical solutions.

● WORK EXPERIENCE

HEAD OF DIGITAL COMMONS LAB – FONDAZIONE BRUNO KESSLER – 01/01/2012 – Current – TRENTO, ITALY

Business or Sector: Information and communication | **Department:** Digital Society Center |

Address: Operational headquarter - Via Sommarive 18 38123 Trento, Italy, Registered office - Via Santa Croce 77 38122 Trento, Ital, Trento, Italy

Website: <https://www.fbk.eu>

Head of the Digital Commons Lab (DCL), a multidisciplinary research unit focused on digital commons, data governance, artificial intelligence, geospatial technologies, and collaborative data ecosystems.

Responsible for the scientific and operational coordination of research and innovation activities, including project development, stakeholder engagement, technology transfer, capacity building, and policy support. The lab works at the intersection of technology, society, and public policy, contributing to the design of data governance models, open data strategies, AI adoption frameworks, and digital infrastructures for public administrations and communities.

Key activities include:

- Artificial intelligence and data governance for public administrations.
- Open data policies, digital sovereignty, and collaborative digital ecosystems.
- Geospatial technologies, OpenStreetMap, and spatial data infrastructures.
- Data sharing, interoperability, and European data ecosystem initiatives.
- Capacity building, dissemination, and support to public-sector innovation.

Selected projects: Talea (participatory climate resilience), AlxPA (AI for public administration), Bologna Digital Twin, European High-Value Datasets (open data directive contribution), STARDUST (smart city innovation), Open Data Trentino (opendata policy), Community Logistics (mountain parcel delivery), SmartBin (waste collection optimization), Gioconda (opendata policy), City Sensing (smart city), CEDUS (urban data platform), Civic Technology School (civic tech training), FINODEX (open data startups), and ProVotE (e-voting)

LECTURER AND TRAINER – VARIOUS UNIVERSITIES, PUBLIC ADMINISTRATIONS AND TRAINING ORGANISATIONS

– 01/01/2003 – Current – ITALY

Teaching and professional training activities on open data, geospatial technologies, data governance, artificial intelligence, data visualisation, data journalism, digital innovation, and public-sector transformation.

Courses, seminars, and workshops delivered for universities, public administrations, journalists, professionals, and managers, including the University of Trento, the University of Padua (Master in Innovation, Design and Evaluation of Policies and Services – Agenda 2030), the National School of Administration (SNA), Gran Sasso Science Institute (GSSI), POLIMI Graduate School of Management, Trentino School of Management, Villa Umbra, COMPA FVG, and regional Orders of Journalists.

TECHNOLOGIST / SENIOR TECHNOLOGIST – FONDAZIONE BRUNO KESSLER – 01/03/2007 – 28/02/2026 – TRENTO, ITALY

Research and innovation activities in geospatial technologies, open data, web platforms, and digital innovation. Design and development of software solutions, spatial data infrastructures, WebGIS applications, and collaborative digital platforms.

Participation in national and European projects involving public administrations, research organisations, and private-sector partners.

Activities included technology transfer, dissemination, stakeholder engagement, and support for the adoption of open data and geospatial technologies.

SOFTWARE DEVELOPER – ITC-IRST (NOW FONDAZIONE BRUNO KESSLER) – 01/05/1999 – 28/02/2007 – TRENTO, ITALY

Design and development of web applications, WebGIS platforms, geospatial information systems, and data processing tools.

Development of open-source software solutions, web services, and digital infrastructures supporting research and innovation activities.

Participation in projects related to electronic voting systems, geospatial data management, civil protection, and public-sector digital innovation.

TECHNICAL SCIENTIFIC EXPERT – ITALIAN MINISTRY OF EDUCATION, UNIVERSITY AND RESEARCH (MIUR) –

01/01/2013 – 31/12/2017 – ROME, ITALY

Technical and scientific evaluation of research and innovation projects funded under the national Big Data programme.

MEMBER OF THE SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE - DIGITAL AGENDA – EMILIA-ROMAGNA REGION – 01/01/2013 – 31/12/2016

– BOLOGNA, ITALY

Contribution to the definition of strategic priorities and dissemination activities supporting the Digital Agenda of the Emilia-Romagna Region.

MEMBER OF EVALUATION COMMISSION – NATIONAL RESEARCH COUNCIL (CNR) – 01/06/2015 – 31/12/2015 – ROME,

ITALY

Member of the evaluation committee for the recruitment of research technical staff.

MEMBER OF THE SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE - OPEN DATA CAMPANIA – FORUMPA – 01/01/2017 – 01/01/2019 – NAPOLI,

ITALY

Support to dissemination activities, stakeholder engagement and policy initiatives related to open data and digital innovation.

MEMBER OF THE SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE - OPEN DATA LAZIO – FORUMPA – 01/01/2017 – 31/12/2017 – ROME, ITALY

Contribution to communication and dissemination activities supporting regional open data initiatives.

HEAD COACH – TI VOLLEY – 24/08/2008 – 31/05/2011 – INNSBRUCK, AUSTRIA

Women's Volleyball Coach

Teams Managed

- Women's First League
- Girls Under-21

ASSISTANT TEACHER – UNIVERSITY OF TRENTO – 01/01/2003 – 30/04/2008 – TRENTO, ITALY

EDUCATION AND TRAINING

01/03/2025 – 08/06/2026 Rome, Italy

BACHELOR'S DEGREE IN SOCIOLOGY OF INNOVATION Universitas Mercatorum

Social research methods, quantitative and qualitative data analysis, statistics for social research, innovation studies, sociology of organisations and work, digital culture, media and communication, socio-technical systems, technology governance, social and technological change, environmental and territorial studies, economic and political geography, and interdisciplinary analysis of data, technology, and society.
Introduction to Spanish language and culture.

Level in EQF EQF level 6

08/09/1991 – 14/07/1996 Trento, Italy

SCIENTIFIC HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA Liceo Scientifico Leonardo da Vinci, Trento, Italy

Level in EQF EQF level 4

CERTIFICATIONS

Open Data Institute, 05/08/2015

Open Data Trainer

- Open data principles and governance
- Open data training methodologies
- Adult learning and facilitation techniques
- Training design and delivery
- Data literacy
- Capacity building
- Communication of data-related topics
- Workshop facilitation.

Mode of learning: Presential

LANGUAGE SKILLS

Mother tongue(s): **ITALIAN**

Other language(s):

	UNDERSTANDING		SPEAKING		WRITING
	Listening	Reading	Spoken production	Spoken interaction	
GERMAN	B2	B2	B2	B2	B2
ENGLISH	B2	B2	B2	B2	B2
SPANISH	A2	A2	A2	A2	A2

Levels: A1 and A2: Basic user; B1 and B2: Independent user; C1 and C2: Proficient user

PUBLICATIONS

Selected

For a comprehensive and regularly updated publication record, please refer to my ORCID profile:
<https://orcid.org/0000-0002-7064-8334>

- Cagnarini, C., Guerra, M., Fiore, A., Pellis, G., Nanni, R., Napolitano, M., & Renella, G. (2026). A global data commons is needed to protect and govern Earth's soil. *Pedosphere*.
- Andreotti, E., Marquis, U., Napolitano, M., & Gallotti, R. (2026). Scale-free points-of-interest distribution in a city emerging from homogeneous Poissonian-point processes. *Physical Review E*, 113(2), 024308.

- Maccacaro, L., Andreotti, E., Usmani, M., Nanni, R., & Napolitano, M. (2026). Data-driven tools for optimizing urban tree planting strategies. *City and Environment Interactions*, 100383.
- Venturoso, L., Usmani, M., Nanni, R., & Napolitano, M. (2026). LTS-BikePlan: A Data-Driven Tool for Enhancing Cycling Infrastructure and Safety. *Journal of Urban Technology*, 1–42.
- Nanni, R., & Napolitano, M. (2024). Dataspace, public administration and collective rationality: opportunities and limits for data-driven policy-making. *Public Money & Management*, 44(6), 484–490.
- Nanni, R., Bizzaro, P. G., & Napolitano, M. (2024). The false promise of individual digital sovereignty in Europe: Comparing artificial intelligence and data regulations in China and the European Union. *Policy & Internet*, 16(4), 711–726.
- Usmani, M., Bovolo, F., & Napolitano, M. (2023). Remote Sensing and Deep Learning to Understand Noisy OpenStreetMap. *Remote Sensing*, 15(18), 4639.
- Usmani, M., Napolitano, M., & Bovolo, F. (2023). Towards global scale segmentation with OpenStreetMap and remote sensing. *ISPRS Open Journal of Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing*, 8, 100031.
- Olivari, B., Cipriano, P., Napolitano, M., & Giovannini, L. (2023). Are Italian cities already 15-minute? Presenting the Next Proximity Index: A novel and scalable way to measure it, based on open data. *Journal of Urban Mobility*, 4, 100057.
- Sarretta, A., Napolitano, M., & Minghini, M. (2023). OpenStreetMap as an input source for producing governmental datasets: the case of the Italian Military Geographic Institute. *The International Archives of the Photogrammetry, Remote Sensing and Spatial Information Sciences*, 48, 193–200.
- Minghini, M., Sarretta, A., & Napolitano, M. (2022). OpenStreetMap contribution to local data ecosystems in COVID-19 times: Experiences and reflections from the Italian case. *Data*, 7(4), 39.
- De Chiara, F., & Napolitano, M. (2022). Mapping the Mappers: Exploring the Communities of VGI Users Through OpenStreetMap Data. In G. Punziano & A. Delli Paoli (Eds.), *Handbook of Research on Advanced Research Methodologies for a Digital Society* (pp. 526–547). IGI Global.
- Napolitano, M., Borruso, A., & Fiandaca, S. (2022). 30Cappa – The “Christmas” decree in kilometres. *Proceedings of the Symposium on Open Data and Knowledge for a Post-Pandemic Era (ODAK22)*, UK.
- Napolitano, M. (2022). *Ecologia digitale. Per una tecnologia al servizio di persone, società e ambiente*. Altra Economia.
- Napolitano, M. (2020). *Le Competenze Open Data*. Art-Er.
- Napolitano, M., & Mooney, P. (2012). MVP OSM: A tool to identify areas of high quality contributor activity in OpenStreetMap. *The Bulletin of the Society of Cartographers*, 45(1), 10–18.

● VOLUNTEERING

19/10/2024 – CURRENT

Board Member of OpenStreetMap Foundation

Governance, strategic planning and community support activities for one of the world's largest collaborative geospatial data ecosystems.

01/06/2011 – 31/12/2015

OpenKnowledge Foundation Ambassador for Italy

Promotion of open knowledge, open data and digital commons initiatives in Italy

01/01/2018 – 01/01/2019

Board Member of Wikimedia Italia

Activities supporting open knowledge, collaborative content creation and digital literacy and OpenStreetMap

01/04/2012 – 01/04/2015

President of Italian Linux Society

Promotion of free and open-source software, open standards and collaborative digital ecosystems.

01/04/2010 – 01/04/2011

Board Member of GOSS.it

Promotion of free and open-source geospatial software, open standards, interoperability, and knowledge sharing within the Italian geospatial community.

● OTHER

Volleball coach

Volleyball has been a significant part of my personal and professional development for more than thirty-five years. I have coached youth and senior teams competing in regional and national championships in Italy, with a particular focus on women's volleyball. Between 2007 and 2010, I served as head coach of TI Volley Innsbruck in the Austrian Women's First League.

Since 2009, I have been a coach educator for the Italian Volleyball Federation (FIPAV), contributing to the training and development of volleyball coaches. Since 2024, I have also been involved in training activities for club managers, focusing on leadership, communication, organisational development, and people management.

These experiences have strengthened skills that I regularly apply in my professional activities, including leadership, team building, mentoring, communication, conflict management, motivation, and adult education.

Coaching profile:

<http://www.fipav.tn.it/elenco-allenatori.aspx?Pid=117&ComitatoId=23&Aid=1637>

● SKILLS

Digital Commons | OpenStreetMap | Technology governance | Public Sector Innovation | Open source model | Science Communication

Office Automation

office software | use presentation software | web based collaborative platforms | AI-assisted Productivity Tools

Web Development

HTML5 | Python (computer programming) | JavaScript | compose description for web elements | use scripting programming | REST Client, SOAP, REST API

Data Science

Data Governance | geographic information systems | Spatial Data Infrastructures | perform data analysis | Data storytelling | handle geospatial technologies | deliver visual presentation of data | Open Data

Soft Skills

engage with stakeholders | communication | provide technical training | coaching techniques | mentor individual employees | work in a forestry team | cooperate with colleagues | think analytically | manage relationships with stakeholders | multidisciplinary research | research new ideas | Training Delivery | undertake continuous professional development in fishery operations | Self-directed Learning

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