

Pacific Regional Science Conference organization

Bandung (Indonesia), 2 – 4 July 2013

Special session

Territorial Governance and Public policies in developed and emerging regions

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(Proposition under the high authority of the French program for and about regions development (PSDR))



Traditional public policies directed towards regions or local areas are nowadays challenged by the rising involvement of local populations in public decisions. Local populations are more and more interested in the decision mechanisms of development projects or large infrastructure settings, and they are often contesting some of these decisions by way of public opposition or protestation. The increasing volume of local conflicts pleads in favor of new solutions, as well as the development of participative democracy devices involving groups of local actors or stakeholders within discussions and negotiation about future development paths. They open the way for a renewed conception of public and private decisions involving territorial governance strategies.

Nowadays territorial governance structures, tools and devices are experienced in several local areas, be there part or developing or emerging countries. Territorial governance is twofold. It depends on the wide variety of local actors, of local networks with their social, economic and political implications, and engages different local stakeholders in the definition and the setting of new local policies or public decisions. At the same time, it involves global actors (national and supranational) who impose constraints, regulations and rules from the outside and it also takes into account various levels of public decision, be there federal, national, regional or local ones (Torre and Traversac, 2011). The defenders of these approaches want to take into account both the interests and goals of the local populations and of the policies and directives from outside the territories, governance being understood as a "government of compromise", or as a process of multi-level and multi-polar coordination in a decentralized and highly asymmetrical context.

The goal of this special session is to bring light to the upcoming organisational structure and methods of territorial governance as well as to the new tools and devices designed at the local level in order to build and launch these participatory tools. A special attention will be devoted to the inclusion of these partnership methods in the framework of public policy, looking in particular how they are new

experiments that can be integrated into policies, local variations of the policies defined in a larger scale, or define fields of conflict between local collective action and public policy. Some papers of this session will be included in a subsequent book.

The following emphases are particularly welcome

1. New governance tools
2. Multi-level governance
3. Private-public partnership
4. Local Institutions, Organizations, and Territorial Governance
5. Local regroupings of actors and stakeholders
6. Land Use Conflicts and Conflicts Management
7. Governance of rural and peri-urban areas
8. Food governance devices

Bibliography

Torre A, Traversac J.B., 2011, *Territorial Governance*, Springer Verlag, Heidelberg & New-York.