



Justice et injustices spatiales, Nanterre 2008

Territorialisation des politiques publiques et équité spatiale

Vodoz Luc, Politologue - adjoint scientifique, Communauté d'études pour l'aménagement du territoire (C.E.A.T.) - Ecole polytechnique fédérale de Lausanne (EPFL) EPFL ENAC INTER CEAT BP – Station 16 - CH-1015 Lausanne (Suisse)

Inspiring by reflexions related to more than fifteen years of design and implementation of designs of dialogue on policies and projects with territorial impact, we will analyze the conditions allowing to claim with the development of “right” territorial policies.

Based on the report that the perception of a policy or project as being “right” or “equitable” is a condition of success for the implementation of any public policy, we will approach the question of “territorial justice” under two complementary angles:

- the specific and differentiated treatment of each territory considered (whatever the scale) as a relevant method for (re)establishing a feeling of justice and equity among the actors of each one of these spaces;
- the need for this specific and differentiated approach in order to decline the “common interest” with the characteristics of each territory considered.

The postulate which underlies this double approach consists to establish parallels between the concept of “common interest” on the one hand, and that of “territorial equity” on the other hand. We consider indeed that a strictly egalitarian approach of the problems characterizing various territories is not capable to guarantee territorial equity: at the opposite, this concept implies to adapt the policies with territorial impact to each particular territorial reality. Moreover, even if the concept of “common interest” constitutes a source of strong legitimation for the definition and implementation of policies and projects with territorial impact, we consider that this concept does not have sense if it is not concretized in a specific way for each territory considered.

Our contribution may consequently show that:

- the common interest has multiple facets, sometimes contradictory, and on which the respective relevance depends of each concrete case (to call upon the “common interest” is thus largely insufficient to concretize “territorial justice” on a given territory);
- the territorialisation (ad hoc) of many public policies is a crucial condition for their effective and durable implementation, the adhesion of the recipients of these policies to those being conditioned by their perception of the equity and “justice” of these policies.

The contribution will refer to various concrete designs of dialogue related to territorial projects, of which the seeking of a site for an installation of storage for stabilized waste, or the participative process “Quartiers 21” related to Agenda 21 of the City of Lausanne (Switzerland). It will tend to highlight the conceptual and methodological constants, in function of which the territorialisation of public policies or projects with territorial impact was conceived – in a way to contribute to a sufficient territorial equity so that the actors adhere to measures even if these would be potentially unfavourable for them.