

The transactional places of territorial planning process: dynamic of places projects in the *inter-Scot* of the Lyon metropolitan area

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As part of the IV World Planning School Congress, the paper suggests to present the main research results coming from my thesis defended recently in January 2015. It was supervised by Martin Vanier, lecturer in Grenoble Alpine Geography Institute. The thesis deals with the challenges of territorial planning in France analyse in a European context. My first case of study is the construction of the territorial planning process on Lyon metropolitan area. I use also different others case of study in France and Europe.

In France, the solidarity and urban renewal act (2000) leads to an increase of territorial planning (or strategic spatial planning) in a European context of planning activity boosting after a substitution period of plan to benefit localised projects. In French context, this dynamic of territorial planning translate into a multiplication of the *Scot*¹ since the beginning of the 2000's. Nevertheless, territorial planning exercises cope with increasing uncertainty about their capacity to manage territorial development. Recent experiences and changes in the legislative environment insist on implementation: planning is a continual process starting while the plan is being

¹ The Solidarity and Urban Renewal Act (2000) creates the *Scot* (« *Schéma de cohérence territoriale* »)

as territorial planning tools. These have to planning territorial organisation as from sustainable goals over the long term. The *Scot* are a kind of Master Plan on the large scale territory

prepared. From orientations to actions, the thesis questions the whole territorial planning process in terms of enhancing its effectiveness. The issues deal with three main items:

1. The relation between plans and projects: How assure the interactions required between plans and projects during the territorial planning process? How favour connexions between orientations define on the large-scale territory and local actions?
2. The temporality of multiple levels planning: How assure the permanence of planning objectives through a process witch transform vision in actions over the long term? How assure continuity of territorial planning process as implementation test?
3. The nature of places projects: All the places projects are they appropriate to assure the implementation of territorial planning process? Isn't it necessary to differentiate the places and kind of projects?

During the period 2009-2012, the research-action work resulted from an industrial research agreement (Cifre) within the Lyon Urban Planning Agency. The Lyon metropolitan area is concerned by not less than thirteen *Scot*. The *inter-Scot* of the Lyon metropolitan area is a collaborative organisation which have to assure articulation between all the territorial planning exercises. The Lyon Urban Planning Agency is coordinator of the *inter-Scot* since its creation at the beginning of the 2000's. Within this coordination mechanism, Metropolitan interface areas (EIM) are places at stake on the border of several planning approaches and where politicians committed to increase their cooperation actions. Two EIM constitute the main fields of study related to the thesis: areas surrounding Lyon-Saint Exupery Airport and the A89 motorway between Lyon and Balbigny. These territories are identified around major structure elements, or territorial invariants, and form important levers of implementation.

The thesis introduced as such the concept of *transactional places* as new *places projects to be prioritized* today. These are strategic points of reference in the driving of the territorial planning process. The transactional places could implement the process provided that they are admitted and invested as such by a global and continual approach of territorial projects. The transactional places could assure the interactions

required between scales territory, actors, tools, fields of intervention and temporality. By comparing the Lyons case of study with the global French system and planning experiences selected in England, Germany and Italy, the thesis gives a central place to interactions between the stakeholders responsible for planning, the territory structural elements and the dynamics of projects places in metropolitan contexts. The thesis finally outlines the first features of a *transactional places* theory.