

Workshop Report on: CIVIC DIALOGUE

Participants: Aurélie, Catherine, Sasha, Magda, Lamir, Naser, Ela, Jeanine, Veztela, Slobodan, Ivina, Jim, Christine, Rostyslav, David, Philippe, Marina.

1. Objectives and steps of the workshop
2. Savoie Vivante and civic dialogue
3. Some elements on the French situation
4. Forum Synergies and civic dialogue
5. How do you see the civic dialogue- Your experience (photolanguage)
6. Your wishes – expectations- issues we should work on / Your offer – contribution – contacts

1. CIVIC DIALOGUE WORKSHOP: what do we talk about?

Local dimension - dialogue between different stakeholders (inhabitants, farmers, associations, industries, local authorities) : We consider that dialogue between different local stakeholders is a key element to solve issues or prepare sustainable development. The word used is Dialogue but behind, there is a broader dimension as we consider Democracy as a pillar for local and sustainable development.

Political dimension – dialogue between citizens and policy makers: Fs enhance dialogue between local stakeholders and decision maker on a local regional national and European level (ex: participation in www.arc2020.eu).

2. SAVOIE VIVANTE: 10 years of work in territorial dialogue and sustainable development processes

INTRO: Savoie Vivante started in the 2000 to work on territorial dialogue as conflicts raised, mainly around land use: agriculture and natural resource, urbanism and agriculture.

Territorial Dialogue and Sustainable Development Processes

*"Humans and territories cooperating"
"Because change needs dialogue"*

Who we are

The task of Savoie Vivante is to develop local, social and environmental dynamics fostering dialogue and initiatives.

To fulfill this task the best we can, the association created a council for dialogue and sustainable development.

Local elected representatives (from villages, cities, and Savoy) are part of this council, together with heads of local public institutions in partnership with the Savoy Council, volunteers and employees from associations, heads of associations (working or retired)...

Those members come from the fields of development, prospect, tourism, protection of natural resources and spaces, mobility, agriculture, participation...

They are concerned with the future of the territories of Savoy, and think that governance is the very factor needed for an harmonious, shared, accepted and sustainable development of our territories.

This council is open to all : members of the association, partners, individuals.

Why we act

Our territories are changing very quickly, their management keeps getting more complex, use conflicts are increasing and the inhabitants want to participate actively to the evolution of their environment.

Dialogue :

- helps mutual comprehension*
- allows us to build a shared opinion of the raised problem*
- increases the quality and the relevance of the proposed solutions*
- helps the social acceptance and appropriation of the project*
- increases citizens' participation into public life*

We notice a need for culture, knowledge and skill in the fields of dialogue and concertation.

We act for better shared and lesser contested choices.

Our Public

→ Chief Projects and elected representatives

→ Professional organizers

→ Participative authorities

Our Objectives

- 1. To develop culture of dialogue, meetings and mediation and their practice in Savoy.*
- 2. To support elected representatives and territories within meeting and mediation process.*
- 3. To foresee and keep watch on the stakes which need dialogue.*

Our actions

Our rules : confidentiality, to respect other's opinions without judgement, neutrality

1/ To teach, to inform, to show

Teaching professionals

Mediation and Territorial Dialogue, Communication and Cooperation with groups and local governments, Mobilization and Animation

Teaching elected representatives

To initiate and animate a dialogue, to animate a public meeting, to create open commissions, build projects together, to raise the participation of the citizens...

Organizing events and round tables

"The elected representatives of the 21st Century, mediators into their territories ? How to go beyond conflicts and mobilize an efficient citizenship ?" (13th of May of 2014)

2/ To intervene after request

Advice to local governments, chief projects, participative authorities, elected representatives and professionals :

- *Methodological support : processes of dialogue*
- *Outsider's enlightenment, feedback*
- *Animation of dialogues, meetings, events...*
- *Putting you in touch with professionals of mediation*

3/ To foresee the stakes

- *Common approach of the stakes the members of the association and of the council raised.*
- *Elaboration of advice to initiate territorial dialogue process*

Stakes needing dialogue and already identified by the council :

1. *Economy and increasing of our resources for our development : how to install a local guidance of resources management ? How to save our land resources ?*
2. *To build our future with young people : what place is to be given to young people in territories development projects ?*
3. *To teach the 21st Century citizens : how to make the understading of the stakes easier, going from local to global ? What importance is to be given to participative democracy ?*
4. *To sustain services to populations : What is the level of acces in rural areas ? How to prevent the economic problem of the aging of population ? Which local coordination ?*
5. *To foresee a new tourism : What future for middle mountain economy with climate changes ? How to convert touristic economy towards a sustainable one ?*

Contact us ?

You would like advice, an intervention, or to ask questions : contact us !

Aurélie LE MEUR, director

David CHABANOL, representative

Some complementary words on SAVOIE VIVANTE work:

TRAINING ACTIVITIES TO PROFESSIONNALS: 100 participants received this training (technicians from local municipalities, associations etc.) in the last 10 years and they are now assessing which impact it had in their practice, if they managed to implement participative processes and which difficulties they faced.

The training focuses on the following topics: Added-value of territorial dialogue, steps of the process, tools and methods, role of mediator.

ADVICE: They proposed in 2014 to offer methodology for Local municipalities to build their territorial project with teachers and parents in the frame of the education reform on primary school rhythms.

They also organised meetings on plan climate-Energy on a territory with different stakeholders and inhabitants (60 people from professional, association, social professional from agriculture, tourism, environment, local mayors)

Results on dialogue with governments: as tension rose on the management of a town centre, and was identified by Savoie Vivante, they proposed a participative process to take into account inhabitants' vision and proposals (agreed with advisor office) that were then included in "plan climate".

3. French situation related to "CIVIC DIALOGUE" - Philippe Barret

A. We will explain that :

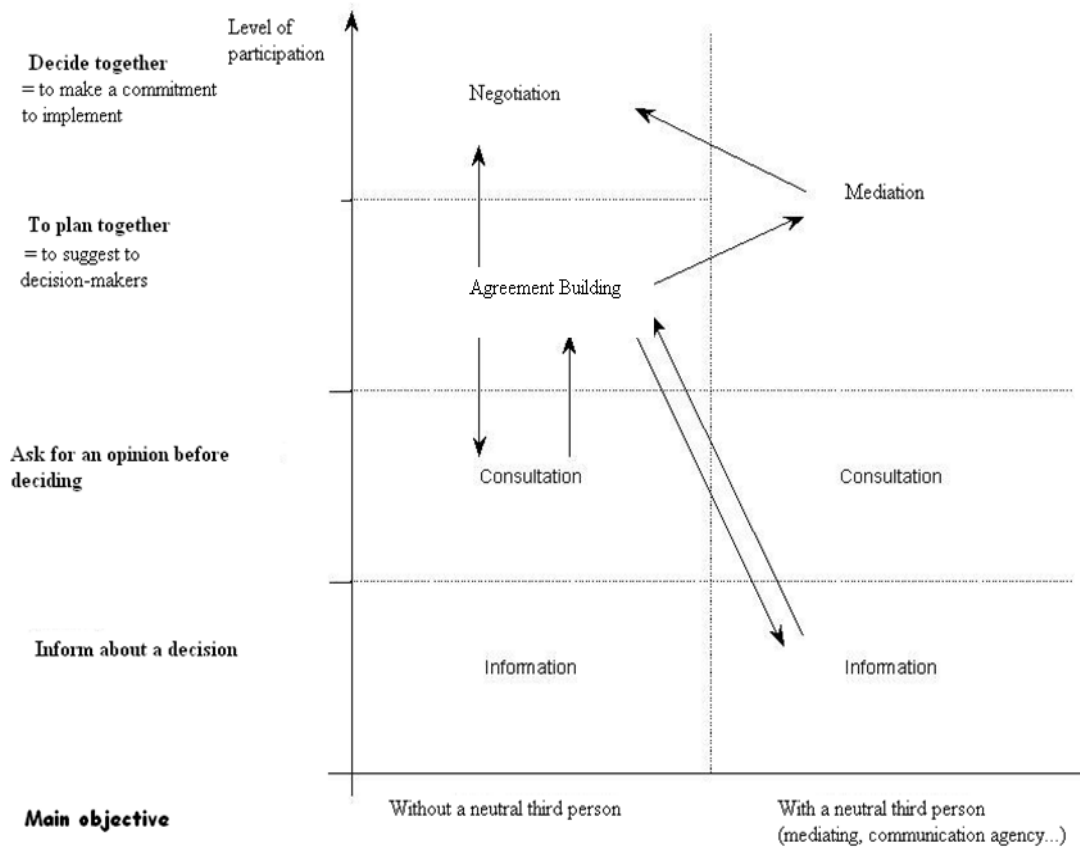
- Environnemental mediation is not commonly used in France, but participation and dialog processes similar to environmental mediation are more and more implemented
- We propose to define different kinds of processes depending on the participation level of the stakeholders
- The legal framework related to public participation changed a lot since the 90's
- Several national programs support the resolution of environmental issues by dialog, but there are still several limitations

B. Participation and dialog processes similar to environmental mediation are more and more implemented

- The purpose is not only to solve conflicts, but also to promote dialog between stakeholders whose interests are different
- In many cases, the dialog is facilitated by one of the stakeholders (no neutral person)
- Stakeholders are invited to build common proposals to be presented to decision-makers



C. Different levels of participation



D. Some changes in the legal framework

- The Aarhus European convention and then a change in the French constitution established the right of the population to be informed and to be involved in environmental decisions.

(Comments: the Aarhus convention is in favour of participative democracy : each country/ state MAY ensure citizens access to information and participation in decision making process in the field of environment.

In France, it was integrated in a law called "Democratie de proximite" and included in the French constitution in 2006.

E. Some fields related to territorial dialogue

- water management,
- biodiversity and nature conservation (farmers, hunters),
- land planning,
- hazards prevention,
- local development

Questions:

What is the context? Why is balance of power shifting from government to citizens ? Why citizens are interested in participating in local development and decision? Is it linked to a change in the political economy, linked to globalization?

Answer: high level of education of citizens, weakening of state (not only concept of public interest, but lack of capacity to impose strong regulations on nature conservation and biodiversity, so the way is to speak and find agreement. Higher availability of information.

4. Forum Synergies and Civic dialogue.

See website: <http://forum-synergies.eu/rubrique94.html>

Steps 1: Workshop organised in August 2013 with 25 participants

Asking to participants“ What is important to make democracy work? And also suggestions: what should be the issues/ methods to share and on which we could work on the next years : involvement of youth, minorities, links between participative and representative democracy, democracy in crisis time.

Steps 2: identification of success stories throughout Europe by Pierre-Yves Guiheneuf (Some examples are forum on mountain forest, participative budget, open Forum on food, panel of citizens, conflict mediation). It still needs some analysis (Which topics, processes, what are the needs and background behind ?)

We also map organisations that are active to promote, organise territorial dialogue in Europe.

You can also participate and send information contacting us our through our form :

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/14xG8RE-tVDkXX856Q15NJSqavNW9cBO1NW0lcfqkTG8/viewform>

Step 3: workshop in in ~~December 2014~~ – postponed to week-end of 12 April 2015

5. How do you see the civic dialogue- Your vision , your experience (photolanguage).

- Civil society feeding the government
- State avoiding civic dialogue
- Slow progress of civic dialogue
- Take care of the other when there is a conflict / Prendre soin de l'autre, donner (quand conflit d'intérêt)
- Calm situation to start dialogue / Etablir le calme pour dialoguer
- The thorns of the process
- Listening / L'ecoute
- Solidarity: importance of the group despite different needs / Solidarité: importance du collectif malgré besoins différents
- Gathering citizens around ideas
- Positive vision of the effect of civic dialogue: celebration at the end
- Linkage between citizens during the process
- Citizens should be like an eagle (watch and speak)
- Serenity after dialogue : to look in the same direction / La sérénité de l'après- dialogue, regarder dans la même direction
- Civic dialogue make emerging new ideas, light, it changes the landscape / Le "civic dialogue"fait jaillir de nouvelles idée, de la chaleur, de la lumière, change le paysage.
- Balance between business and community
- Need to have a guide

6. Wishes – expectations- issues we should work on

NETWORKING / EXAMPLES	TOPICS / ISSUES FOR THE EXCHANGE	ADVOCACY ON EU LEVEL	PRINCIPLES AND CONCERNS RELATED TO DIALOGUE	TRAINING
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Concertation in (IPA) RD programmes ??? - Models and methods - To learn more about new methods & good examples regarding 1) solving problems/conflicts 2) creating new strategy/ spatial local plans with local authorities - Exchange and analysis of best practice in Civic Dialogue - To share successful results of civic dialogues 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Support in policy understanding - To identify the different ways to practice civic dialogue in different countries - How to change mentality with education and information - Rural – Urban dialogue - Global dialogue about civic dialogue ??? - Survey: Legal framework on local level - Which financial tools to train Civic dialogue (FdF in France, what about other countries) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - International organisation must invest in civil society in a post-communist country - Advocacy (Portage politique) in favour of dialogue. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Dialogue of small community with governments about local development support (needs based) - Practicing the agreed (how can we ensure decision-makers practice the agreed) - Critical number ??? - Facing realistic changes ??? - Patience, repeating, pedagogy - Clarify problems of “representation” ??? - Legal framework to allow participation 	<p>TRAINING</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - training of elected representatives - non-violent communication methods - bilateral training between France and another European country on “Territorial Dialogue” - citizen education programme

7. Offers
Contributions
Contacts

