



# CDE Programme

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## **Decision-making in crisis situations: waste-management, conflicts and concertations (France, Italy, Mexico)**

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**Abstract:** This study investigates the apparent paradox between the sharp increase in concertation and negotiation procedures and the maintaining or generalisation of situations defined as conflicts, crises or blocking of public decision-making. The issue of the localisation of waste-management infrastructures constitutes an area in which this paradox is visibly exacerbated. The extreme complexity of creating the conditions for localizing these infrastructures constitutes a major challenge for setting up waste management and processing policies in almost all national contexts. We highlight the importance of focusing not on “successful cases” but on situations of blockage, crisis and conflict. The research is based on the analysis of situations in France, and also on two national contexts marked both by a rapidly developing environmental framework of action and by an enormous difficulty in localizing waste-management infrastructures (Italy, Mexico).

By shifting the viewpoint from concertation or mediation towards understanding the situations in all their complexity, the aim of this study is to help develop better understanding of situations of crisis and conflict, whose irreducibility is too often rejected by societal trends or the irrationality of local residents. The research strategy enables the analysis of relationships between local residents and the project-holders to be put into context through three series of questions dealing with the temporal, spatial and legal aspects of these public action situations. The procedure used should allow hypotheses to be made regarding the methods for (re)building trust between all those involved, so that the conditions of localising waste-management infrastructures can be debated peacefully.

**Key words:** waste management, conflicts, crisis, law, regulation, trust, territory, France, Italy, Mexico