



CDE Programme

Research project financed by the call for proposal 2008

Portability and become a device for public consultation: Comparative approach of Seveso sites

**Odile PIRIOU - Laboratoire Interdisciplinaire pour la Sociologie Economique,
CNRS-CNAM**

Abstract: The research project aims to follow during three years one Participatory democracy committee, named "Conférence riveraine" and to compare this committee with others similar committees. This scientific observation aims to put to the test the theoretical and methodological patterns which had been used to construct and implement the different committees observed. The theoretical patterns which had been used to construct a very participatory type of democracy were developed by Latour, Descombes, Callon. There are the real and concrete effects of these common choices (taken together between scientific, industrial, citizens and political actors), that we want observe and analyze. The project aims also to construct the conditions of possibility to evaluate this democratic committee in a view of benchmarking and exchanges of good practice with other same type of territory, of actors, and of industrial firms, included in our comparative approach. Our hypothesis are this one. First, it is an objective fact that citizens "non experts", non professionals, are interested by the participatory democracy. Secondly, it's possible to construct good conditions to have a real discursive and participatory democracy. But to success, it is necessary to break off with traditional scientific ways of analyze, ethic, and empirical observations. It is necessary to follow patterns of "grounded theory", of "public sociology", and "deliberative practitioners". Our methodology is jointed with the test of our hypothesis. We want to use a "longitudinal" observation. It is a very original scientific way of use to analyze and compare discursive and participatory committees.

The empirical works will begin in 2008 september or December (that will depend of the MEDAD agenda) until 2011 december.