

# Villes en développement

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pour le développement urbain,  
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D.R.

Source : Nancy Bouché, DGUHC



Rua Catete in Rio de Janeiro (Brazil)

## Brazil

### **R**econstruction of the City Centre and Support for the Inhabitants: Challenges for the São Paulo City Council.

The major Brazilian cities are gradually turning into clusters of jobless and excluded population groups. At present, Greater São Paulo has 40% of Brazil's urban unemployment with 1.2 million people living below the breadline.

Furthermore, disparities in income and in access to public services have led to the degradation of the urban environment. In the City of São Paulo, figures for 1997 show that nearly 25% of the population lives in precarious conditions, either in shantytowns or in very poor districts, in buildings without sanitation or a minimum of comfort. This is because historically, land-use pressure and capital efficiency have been the driving forces of urban expansion, causing entire neighbourhoods to be demolished to make way for apartment buildings. At the same time, an illegal but very real city has grown up, formed of unauthorized developments and shantytowns which, for lack of a housing policy, shelter immigrants and residents evicted due to the rise in property values in urbanized areas. In the 1990s, the "real city" grew considerably in proportion to the "legal city". When public authorities remain passive in a context of speculation, they subsequently have to cope with heavier expenditure – either to introduce new urban infrastructure networks into newly reclaimed areas, or to meet high social costs due to the ruinous effects of abandoning the inner city areas. To arrest the decline in city centres, urban

restoration megaprojects have often been promoted to the detriment of urban planning and social concerns – as if just restoring the outer walls of a few fortunate buildings and monuments would be enough to build the regeneration of urban life.

Contrary to this logic, the reconstruction policy of the City of São Paulo has elected to integrate a social dimension into the restoration of the urban centre, by bringing back much of the supply of housing to the city core, thus making repopulation and humanization, improvements in practices and preservation of the collective memory, key to its rehabilitation strategy for depressed areas. Other new social programmes, aimed at reducing inequality of income and providing the conditions for social integration into urban life, are being developed together with housing programmes and the generalization of access to basic health and education services.

This is today's major urban social challenge for the municipality's management of São Paulo. To make it achievable, other challenges must be met, which include stopping the city's extravagant public expenditure, putting the municipal authority's financial situation on a healthy footing, increasing social participation in municipal management and developing the international cooperation potential. ■

**Marta Suplicy**  
*Mayor of the City of São Paulo*  
*since 1 January 2001,*  
*"Trabalhadores" Party (PT)*

# A municipal art of many colours

Yves Cabannes, UMP Coordinator

*In less than fifteen years, "participatory budgets" have come to play an important part in practices and discussions, not only in Brazil but also on the international scene.*

The participatory budget is a mechanism (or process) enabling the general public to define how public resources, generally some or all of the investment resources, will be allocated. Priority setting is usually undertaken between March and November, during a series of plenary assemblies in the various neighbourhoods and districts of the city. The financial year is closed by voting the annual budget, when the Municipal Council approves the results of the public meetings.

## **A participatory time- and space-dependent budget: first and foremost a Brazilian event**

After a few initiatives in the 1980s, participatory budgets have come to be adopted by an increasing number of municipalities: 12 (municipal term of office 89-92), then 35 (93-96), then 70 (97-00).<sup>1</sup> The appraisal made last year by several Brazilian teams began by a systematic survey that went further than the emblematic experiences of a few large cities: Pôrto Alegre of course, Belo Horizonte, Santos or Belém. It seems that some 140 cities have adopted the participatory budget, most of which being those managed by the Workers' Party, but with an important exception, as more than thirty municipalities cover the full Brazilian political spectrum. Very few municipalities have accomplished more than one term of office with a participatory budget as the management pattern. In 2000, only four had served three terms of office. It is thus a new

experience of considerable value in its innovative potential, which demands to be monitored, capitalized and disseminated.

## **A change of scale – the challenge of the State of Rio Grande do Sul**

In 1999, the State of Rio Grande do Sul, in the far south of Brazil, with a population of some ten million inhabitants, contributed 8% of the national budget. Since 1999, a participatory budget has been set up for the first time to handle this State's resources. In 2000, around 400 million dollars were debated in the 648 public municipal assemblies and 22 thematic regional assemblies in the country's 497 municipalities. In all, some 300,000 people have taken part. The year's priorities were education, agriculture and transport<sup>2</sup>.

## **Why in Brazil?**

At least three reasons must be analysed to understand why Brazil emerged as a laboratory for participatory budgets. The first reason is social in nature, the second fiscal and the third political<sup>3</sup>:

- The social organizations' revitalizing and leverage effect on budgetary matters before the return of democracy and the 1988 elections.
- The increase in municipal resources. Between 1989 and 1994, the municipal income of Pôrto Alegre rose by 13.5% a year on average and that of Belo Horizonte by 24.5%.<sup>4</sup> A better understanding of the links between increased municipal tax resources and participatory budgets that are

more beneficial to the working classes warrants investigations that are virtually non-existent to date.

- The third reason is the mounting presence of left-wing parties in the municipalities, particularly the Workers' Party (PT): The number of municipalities administered by the PT rose from 32 in 1988, to 115 in 1996 and 187 in 2000. The participatory budget is one of their distinctive features.

## **Transboundary participatory budgets**

Municipal participatory budgets are gaining favour daily. Buenos Aires made them mandatory in its exemplary constitution voted in 1996. Montevideo adopted the principle for its decentralization framework. Several Ecuadorian cities have decided to adapt it to the multi-cultural and multi-ethnic reality of the Andes. From 1990 to 2000, Ciudad Guayana in Venezuela drew up its annual investment plans during "parochial assemblies".<sup>5</sup> The list may not be very long but the strength of this approach lies in the wealth of the forms it takes.

Villa El Salvador, for instance, one of the popular municipalities of Lima, introduced its first participatory, innovation-rich budget in 2000, as the link-pin between the sums to be debated and the payment of taxes.

## **A municipal art of many colours**

Municipal management, which is based on a relatively simple

principle, takes many different forms from one municipality to another.

This is clearly shown by comparing "participatory budget regulations". These guidelines for the population define local ground rules on a case-by-case basis: numbers of delegates per plenary session, numbers of votes for each of the social forces involved, role of the public authorities (fully-fledged members or mere observers), prerogatives and powers of the Board and the Forum of the participatory budget. These regulations are often re-examined each year and adapted to keep pace with reality and urban dynamics. These non-structural adjustments enhance the value of these experiments but are difficult to monitor. They richly deserve specific research to reconstruct these trends and seek out their reasons, but little has so far been done in this area. Over and above the formal, but adaptive ground rules, several significant differences in the "participatory budget" mean that "you can't see the wood for the trees":

- The sums involved range from a few percent of public investment to the entire municipal budget. For instance, Pôrto Alegre debates its entire budget, including the payment of employees. Our empirical observations show that in most cases, the participatory budget concerns an amount of between 3 and 15% of the total municipal budget but often accounts for the main part of the available investment capital.
- The numbers of meetings and participants also vary over the years and from one city to another. In terms of numbers of participants per urban inhabitant, figures range from a few percent, generally less than 5%, up to 35% of



the total number, as is the case for the town of Icapuí on the Nordeste coast.

- But the most difficult aspect to pinpoint is the membership of the councils.
- Some cities have launched trailblazing initiatives, which are little-known, such as the Municipal Councils of the young people's PB in Barra Mansa, a poor municipality (200,000 inhabitants) in the State of Rio de Janeiro.
- Another illustration of these new schemes is the relative weight given to neighbourhoods or districts on urban priority themes. There are two main ways in which priorities are made known: through "territorial" plenary sessions or during meetings on specific subjects – such as health for all or transport.

### Questions open for debate

Participatory budgets enable public resources to be redirected towards the working classes, thus narrowing the gap between rich and poor. The substantial immediate improvement in the living conditions of the entire population is definitely another of the most positive aspects of the processes set in motion. And the building of new relations between citizens and public authorities is opening the way towards radical rethinking of local democracy and participa-

tion, as a means for citizens to control public policies.

However, the implementation of participatory budgets raises salutary questions both in theoretical and practical terms. For instance, how can the people's immediate, legitimate requests be matched to the city's long-term investment requirements? By way of example, people will press hard for household refuse collection, which is often their priority, but which requires downstream treatment plants or facilities that they will not request.

The quality of participatory budgets and their results, which are considered positive, are sometimes interpreted as a reflection of the deficit of participatory democracy, which must be bridged but not masked by democracy, however direct and representative it may be. In the major Brazilian cities, each municipal councillor "represents" between 80,000 and 100,000 people. The following debate is therefore on the agenda: Is more representation necessary, or more participation, or more of both?

### Towards the creation of a working group on participatory budgets

In September 2000, in Villa El Salvador, the UMP and DESCO NGO organized the first international conference on

participatory budgets. The invited Latin-American cities, Montevideo, Pôrto Alegre, Santo Andres, Ciudad Guayana, many Peruvian cities and Civil Society organizations, drew up and signed the "Declaration of Villa El Salvador", which scheduled the creation of a working group on this subject. This working group, which is now being set up, aims to be a forum for capitalization of experience, discussion and Latin-American input to the UN Campaign on Urban Governance. Cities and key players from other regions are invited to join in this initiative. The UN Urban Management Programme (Habitat) supports the implementation of participatory budgets in several Latin-American cities and is cooperating with some of the cities mentioned in this article. ■

D.R.  
Source : Yves Cabannes



1. Interview with G. De Grazia, FASE, Brazil, April 2001
2. Governo do Estado do Rio Grande do Sul. Prestação de Contas. 2000. 31p. Pôrto Alegre, 2001.
3. Céline Souza. Participatory budgeting in Brazilian cities: limits and possibilities in building democratic institutions. Environment and Urbanization, Vol. 13 No. 1, April 2001, pp 159-184.
4. Jayme, Jr. Frederico and A. Marquetti (98). Centralização tributária e performance economica das capitais brasileiras: 1989-94, referred to by Céline Souza.
5. Universidad Católica André Bello, Presupuesto participativo. Sistematización de diez experiencias desarrolladas por la Alcaldia del Municipio Autonomo Caroni, UMP, Ciudad Guayana, mimeo, 11 p.

→ Websites: [www.estado.rs.gov.br](http://www.estado.rs.gov.br) and [www.pgualc.org](http://www.pgualc.org)

## Urban Policy Seminar in São Paulo Towards deepening Franco-Brazilian cooperation

Pierre Pommelet, Director General of ANAH (National Agency for Housing Improvement)

*Further to the French Prime Minister's visit to Brazil, a seminar on comparative urban policies brought together Brazilian senior political and administrative policy-makers and a French delegation from 25 to 27 May 2001 in São Paulo.*

The conference gave a panoramic view of policies

implemented in France and Brazil, particularly in the great metropolises, and compared the instruments used in both countries. It also aimed to evaluate the possibility of adapting some French procedures, mainly in the area of planning, financing social housing and rehabilitation, to the context of the huge city of São Paulo

(10 million inhabitants), whose mayor, Marta Suplicy, has recently become Vice-President of the World Association of the Major Metropolises "Metropolis". The areas more particularly addressed by the local political authorities were:

- Requalification of the centre of Sao Paulo and slum clearance, particularly the

favelas, by developing an accommodation and social diversity policy, rehabilitation of historic buildings, reclamation of vacant premises, an examination of land law from all angles and public consultation.

# The participatory budget of Pôrto Alegre, or How the South can benefit the North and the South

Jean-Blaise Picheral, one of the leaders of the "Radically Democratizing Democracy" Network

*It will soon be four years since we extended our stay in the Nordeste of Brazil, during a decentralized cooperation mission, to go and have a closer look at the Participatory Budget experience in Pôrto Alegre, of which little was known in France at that time.*

Tarso Genro, then and now the Mayor of Pôrto Alegre, and Ubiratan de Souza, Cabinet coordinator for urban planning at that time, had just written a small book on the subject. We were captivated by the "newness" of the approach and offered to find an editor and to translate the book. When back in France, the Foundation for the Progress of Mankind agreed to publish it and we had it translated. The book, entitled in French: "Quand les habitants gèrent vraiment leur ville, l'expérience du Budget Participatif de Porto Alegre"<sup>1</sup> (When inhabitants really manage their city, the experience of Pôrto Alegre's Participatory Budget), was edited in April 1998 and launched at six discussion meetings in major French cities, in the presence of Ubiratan de Souza. This is a matter of topical interest for France, in the context of a crisis of representative democracy (such as abstentions or extreme right-wing voting), and so at the end of 1998, we decided to solicit the creation of an international network of natural persons (heads of associations, elected representatives, professionals, academics, individual citizens, etc.). At the same time, we multiplied initiatives, including an international conference on the subject in February 1999 in the Dakar suburbs with André Passos Cordeiro, the new Cabinet Coordinator for Planning, conferences in Belgium with Luciano Brunet and our presence at the International Festival of the City of Créteil. The network was set up in July 1999 in Paris.

Nearly two years after the "Radically Democratizing Democracy" network was launched, it counts more than 350 members<sup>2</sup> in as many as 15 countries of Europe, Africa and Latin America (France, Belgium, Switzerland, Germany, Spain, Italy, England, Cameroon, Senegal, Gabon, Burkina Faso, Colombia, Haiti, Portugal and Brazil). The network members are of diverse origins and include individual citizens, heads of associations and NGOs, elected representatives and members of political parties, professionals and academics. In the countries of the North (more particularly, Italy, Spain, Belgium, England and France), but also in Africa (Senegal and Cameroon), the experience of the Participatory Budget has met with considerable approval, which has grown stronger since the first World Social Forum in January 2001 in Pôrto Alegre. We feel that the approach initiated in Pôrto Alegre can help us both in theory and in practice – whether to reinvent the State and bridge the gap between the people and their elected representatives, or to reconstruct the public authorities and a State for the whole of civil society rather than a State at the service of big multinational companies. The aim is not to mechanically transfer the Participatory Budget from Pôrto Alegre or another Brazilian city (more than a hundred of them have engaged in similar processes), but to understand the innovative contribution of this approach and re-examine our difficulties and

invent new methods of linking representative democracy with direct democracy.

In France, at the last municipal elections, various lists emerged with the "Participatory Budget" on their programme, and the Government's haste to present a "local democracy" law (moreover totally at variance with the ideas of the Pôrto Alegre Participatory Budget), shows that the people's involvement in preparing public policies is a key issue of the day. There are many tentative experiences in this direction (such as the Bobigny observatory of municipal commitments, or neighbourhood appropriations with a programme decided at three neighbourhood general assemblies in Morsang sur Orge). And more long-standing experiences have been popularized (Town Assembly of Collombey les Belles which for the past 20 years has discussed and voted local policy, including its funding). Other towns are considering setting up similar processes (St Denis, Bobigny, Petit Bourg in Guadeloupe, Roubaix, Issy les Moulineaux).

In Spain, two towns in the Barcelona suburbs, San Feliciu de Llobregat and Rubi, are preparing to introduce a Participatory Budget for the 2002 Budget.

In England, based on various experiences (Budgetary Referendum in Milton Keynes in 1999), the idea of the Participatory Budget is gaining ground (Manchester), as it is in Italy or in Belgium. It remains to be seen what the outcome will be and whether the

political basis of these new experiences will include the development of this new way of conceiving the representative democracy mandate – that of considering that the people's mandate consists in working together towards the public good instead of assuming that once in office, the elected representative knows what people want.

But in the South also, in Africa, the Pôrto Alegre experience is relevant to the paradoxical situation of a number of countries, where the State is often destructured, corrupt and incapable of providing basic public services, and where the people, through their many grassroots associations, cope with the confused situation by taking these public services in hand, by paying their share in different ways to provide these services themselves, whereas the inhabitants refuse to pay taxes. Here, the Participatory Budget encounters a situation in which the problem of top-down and bottom-up State construction can find an answer.

Today, at a time when the Participatory Budget introduced by Pôrto Alegre is enjoying unprecedented "promotion", particularly after the World Social Summit, it must not merely become "good urban management" practice but, wherever new democratic forms are being experimented, it must remain a benchmark tool for building up active citizenship against neoliberal globalization. ■

<sup>1</sup> Available from the "Radically Democratizing Democracy" Network, 3 impasse des Fleurs, 59240 Dunkerque, France Tel/fax 01 (0)3 28 65 17 99, E-mail [jb.picheral@netinfo.fr](mailto:jb.picheral@netinfo.fr)

<sup>2</sup> Which enables a much wider distribution of our bulletin and our ideas. For further information or to receive the Network Charter and the Bulletin, contact the Network at the above address.



# Development aid prospects for housing and urban rehabilitation in Brazil

Nancy Bouché, Inspector General for Public Works

*The Morro da Conceicao experimental project in Rio de Janeiro brought various authorities together. The local managers of the Brazil Federal Economic Fund (CEF) were particularly interested in the housing improvement and urban rehabilitation aspects. This fund mainly finances housing.*

Attempts to finance the rehabilitation of the Morro's dilapidated residential buildings, which have proved impossible, have highlighted the problems of funding rehabilitation and beyond this, the advantage for Brazil of developing a national policy in this field.

Last year, the CEF and its federal partners examined the elements of a national rehabilitation policy in historic cities. This programme was officially launched in São Luís do Maranhão on 8 December 2000. The Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) is also supporting a heritage enhancement programme, MONUMENTA, in historic cities of Brazil.

At the same time, the senior managers of the CEF informed the French authorities of their desire to work in three development aid priority areas: rehabilitation of old city cores, financial engineering, and public service delegations (water and waste). The principle was established of receiving the CEF senior managers in France, and two senior CEF assignments on all housing-related themes were organized at the end of 2000.

The president of the CEF in person is expected in France shortly.

In the area of housing, the CEF and the French authorities developed a specific cooperation programme involving candidate cities willing to participate in this pilot project. This programme is

also supported by the IDB and by French trust loans devoted to the financing of French technical assistance.

For administrative reasons, this programme is getting underway with French budget appropriations from the Ministries of Foreign Affairs, Culture and Housing and with loans from ANAH and the Consignments and Loans Fund. The French trust loans, collateralized by IDB, will then take over by the end of this year. Representatives of each of these partners will form a steering committee and the programme is coordinated by the French section of ICOMOS. The exact content of the project is being finalized with the CEF managers and the first four candidate cities, which are Rio de Janeiro, São Paulo, São Luís do Maranhão and Recife. Several other cities have also said they were interested (Belém, Porto Alegre, and Bahia).

This project focuses on the feasibility of rehabilitation operations from a technical, architectural, financial and social angle, in different urban situations, with simulations of various land tenure rights – owner occupiers, landlords, both private and even public, – for new property owners and for different levels of resources. The CEF is now a backer of social home ownership using loans. In some cities, a large amount of housing stock requires rehabilitation, the owner occupiers tend to be poor and the dwellings dilapidated. Sometimes there is a small

private rental housing stock, either luxury or slum dwellings, generally multi-family ("cortiços"). And for urbanistic or economic reasons, some cities have almost entirely vacant districts, which they are seeking to repopulate and revitalize – in São Luís do Maranhão and Recife, for example, or in São Paulo, where old office buildings in the old central business district have been abandoned by their owners and squatted.

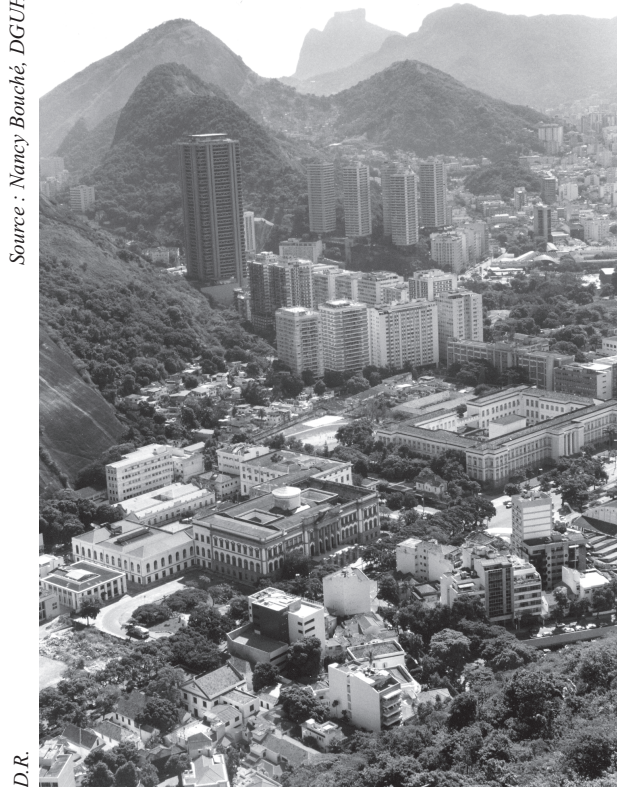
All these different situations and different urban projects require action with the CEF to

seek, if not solutions to all the problems, at least technical and financial instruments to undertake rehabilitation, together with intervention methods and operational processes to be tested out with these pilot cities.

The overall national housing context is characterized by the predominance of owner occupiers – 82% of the housing stock (but the Brazilians include the favelas in this figure...) – and 18% tenants. In some places, depending on the cities and their neighbourhoods, the proportion of tenants may be different – there is rental housing stock in Rio and São Paulo, and Rio has developed a small public rental housing stock for severely underprivileged households or workers. Until now, the public

*urban fabric viewed from Sugarloaf*

Source : Nancy Bouché, DGUHC



D.R.

housing policy has centred exclusively on social homeownership promotion, either directly or through an experimental lease-purchase option mechanism, via credit subsidies. But these mechanisms are now inappropriate for rehabilitation. This is the context in which CEF, aware of these problems, has called upon France. The field of cooperation could open up to social rental housing on an experimental basis, particularly as it is of great

interest to some cities, such as São Paulo. Over and above the housing problem, the CEF is seeking to develop its activities as an urban operator and shows considerable interest in operational packages and their funding. This means that further to feasibility studies on rehabilitation projects on pilot sites, which will involve neighbourhood-level studies to highlight benefits or difficulties and social and economic implications, our cooperation may culminate in proposals for

operational packages. On the French side, the Consignments and Loans Fund is particularly interested in this aspect of development aid.

In fact, Brazilian demand takes different forms: the City of São Paulo hopes to develop broader cooperation with France and intends to define the outlines further to the May 2001 seminar. The State of Minas Gerais hopes to develop cooperation for the management of small historic cities, a substantial heritage in this

State. And other cities have contacted our Embassy. Hence the above-mentioned strategic role of the steering committee in making an initial examination of requests and the in situ role of our expatriated urban expert, seconded to the French diplomatic services, without whom this large-scale action could not have been implemented. ■

## Teaching the heritage as a citizenship driver

Jean-Yves Coulon, Consultant

*Over the past few decades in France, an awareness has grown up that for the future of the heritage, it is important to teach young people about it properly, for they are future adults, future citizens and maybe future decision-makers*

In this spirit, several French cities have decided to introduce what are now commonly known as **heritage classes**. Rennes, for example, was one of the first to experiment such an approach, with the support of the Municipality and the Ministry

of Culture. Each year since then, new generations of students, supervised by professionals, engage in a successful study of the heritage through a range of specific tools. Young people are most interested in this type of highly interactive learning. But

besides enabling a discovery of the various trades and occupations involved in running a city, this approach also makes them aware of what is encompassed by the concepts of democracy, accountability and responsiveness in urban matters.

As a result of this success, why not export this French cultural engineering and suggest internationalizing the heritage classes?

To begin with, these classes were only run in cities where the heritage was particularly relevant, with mutual exchanges of teaching methods, students and teachers. But in 1993 in Rennes, they took advantage of cooperation already existing with São Paulo to launch the idea of a Franco-

### Publications



**Réinventer le sens de la ville : les espaces publics à l'heure globale**, under the dir. of Cynthia Ghorra-Gonin.- Paris: L'Harmattan, 2001. - 265 p (Hommes et Sociétés coll.).

At a time when the city is becoming an essential space for transnational flows and is moving towards a global - primarily trade-oriented - civilization, and is consequently distancing itself from national authorities, public spaces are more than ever demanding to be reinterpreted as a privileged setting enabling individuals to take on a collective identity and to "build society".

Price: FRF 140

**Les compétences des citoyens dans le Monde arabe. Penser, faire et transformer la ville**, under the dir. of Isabelle Berry-Chikhaoui and Agnès Deboulet.- Tunis: IRMC; Paris: Karthala; Tours: Urbama, 2000.- 406 p (Hommes et Sociétés coll.).

The contributions to this collective work clearly show that it is on a daily basis, through ordinary acts, that the inhabitants are helping to shape the city, to give it a concrete dimension, and functionalities and symbols rooted in social and urban history, but which have been renewed and revived in the context of a contemporary population centre and society.

Price: FRF 180

**Pour un tissu social vivant. La réduction des distances**, by Noël Cannat.- Paris: L'Harmattan, 2001.- 314 p (Questions Contemporaines Coll.).

This work aims to communicate the techniques used by the author in the many study and discussion workshops he has conducted, based on social psychology (interviews, conducting meetings, problem studies, collective assessments, mass teaching methods) and the spirit of these workshops, oriented towards inventing the future and learning relationships.

Price: FRF 150



Brazilian young people's teaching project, based on the concept of developing citizenship through the heritage (urban and musical) of both these cities. In each city, an educational institution was chosen that already had experience in teaching the fundamentals and raising awareness of the built heritage, high-level music-making with children (choirs) and above all, extremely motivated supervisors and educational staff. The project was entitled "My city as I see it for you".

The aims:

- teach young people the origins, history and development of their own city, through an understanding of their residential environment, the street, public facilities and transport systems;
- raise awareness of the heritage, which is a driving factor of citizenship, particularly through comparative work on the development of each of the

cities in totally different social contexts;

- set up exchanges of experience between the two cities during meetings at first hand between students, teachers, heritage professionals, urban professionals and institutions.

At the end of the academic year, forty to fifty young people and their accompanying adults, travelled to each of the respective cities to report back to their foreign fellow students on the year's classwork on the heritage (built heritage, environmental heritage, musical heritage).

Based on this experience, other Brazilian cities intend to introduce this type of class, for teachers are increasingly aware how important it is to educate the eye, encourage open-mindedness, foster all forms of interdisciplinarity between the past and the present and train, not only future citizens, but also potential tourists, in the multi-faceted forms of the heritage. ■

D.R.



Source : Jean-Yves Coulon

*Office block, formerly the head office of a pension fund, vacant for ten years, situated right in the centre of São Paulo, No. 584 avenida 9 de Julho, now occupied illegally further to a rather strong-arm intrusion by 112 families belonging to the Union of Housing Movements (UMM – União do Movimentos de Moradia).*

## Conferences Training

- Public sphere - private sphere: transport in Sub-Saharan Africa
- Security, segregation and networks in the cities of West Africa
- Urban redevelopment. Recycling instead of land use

### Public sphere - private sphere: transport in Sub-Saharan Africa

Bamako, Mali, will host the sixth SITRASS seminar from 5 to 7 November 2000. The themes will include: measuring the efficiency of transport operators; spatially structuring networks using a public or private approach; institutional reforms of urban transport and the role of private operators; the fundamental role of the state and local authorities in public-private partnerships.

➔ Contact: SITRASS c/o INRETS-DEST, fax 33 (0)1 45 47 56 06 or 33 (0)4 72 72 64 49, E-mail: amakoe.adolehoume@inrets.fr

### Security, segregation and networks in the cities of West Africa

The French Institute for Research in Africa (IFRA) and the Centre for Urban and Regional Planning, are organizing an international conference from 29 to 31 October in Ibadan, Nigeria, with the aim of identifying social networks, their interaction and their role in the development and break-up of different types of urban segregation perceptible in Western African cities. The response of the Municipalities and States to insecurity.

➔ Contact: IFRA, Institute of African Studies, University of Ibadan, U.I.P.O Box 21540, Ibadan, Nigeria, E-mail: ifra@skannet.com

### Urban renewal. Recycling versus land consumption

The next IFHP Congress will take place in Barcelona from 9 to 13 September 2001. Urban redevelopment, as an established activity, and preservation of the vitality of a city as a permanent challenge, are the themes of the congress, organized around three sub-themes: Social and cultural components of urban renewal, Economic factors of urban renewal; Urban renewal and land.

➔ Contact: Joke Bierhuys, Congress Coordinator, IFHP, 43, Wassenaarseweg, 2596 CG The Hague, The Netherlands, fax: 3170 3282085

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Algiers Cooperation and Cultural Action Department) has entrusted ISTED with the task of organizing a series of seminars for various Algerian organizations in charge of financing and building housing: the national housing fund (CNL), the guarantee and mutual credit fund for housing development (FGCMPI) and the national technical assistance centre (CNAT).

The French Ministry of Public Works, Transport and Housing will participate in this training. Also involved are banking institutions (Crédit Foncier de France, La Hénin-Anthénial, Crédit Mutuel and Crédit Agricole), and para-public agencies, chambers of trade and employers' federations, technical control boards, certification bodies, private developers, technical consultants and contractor companies.

The selected themes include:

- Evaluation of real estate projects,
- Risk analysis related to a real estate development project,
- Balanced financing of assisted lodging schemes,
- Budgetary management and internal control procedures to be implemented in response to the new CNL powers, duties and functions,
- Comparative roles of the building actors in France and Algeria,
- Role of trade associations,
- The construction economist's profession
- Controlling building costs, lead times and quality,
- The role of the package builder and the contractor
- Controlling urban worksites and their constraints.

The first series of seminars has been carried out, led by consultants selected by Isted. This programme is continued in 2201 and 2002.

→ Contact: Christine Pointereau, Assistant, "Cities Department", Tel. 33 (0)1 40 81 78 03, E-mail [cpointereau@isted.com](mailto:cpointereau@isted.com)

### Poverty/Urban exclusion

The one-day conference organized by the Urban Development and Cooperation AdP, (Association of professionals) will be held on Friday 7 September on the premises of the Ecole Nationale des Ponts et Chaussées, 28, rue des Saints Pères, 75007 Paris, on the theme "Poverty/Urban Exclusion" and the impact of interveners in the city.

→ Contact: AdP, c/o Villes en Développement, E-mail [Françoise.reynaud@l-carre.net](mailto:Françoise.reynaud@l-carre.net)

## News on cooperation

### GIS For Involvement and Decision-Making 30 French experiences

For the meeting organized by the UN in New York from 6 to 8 June to make an assessment five years after the Habit II Summit in Istanbul, ISTED, CNIG and IAURIF decided to prepare a document on French experiences with geographic information systems applied to urban areas.

It is a French-English compendium of 30 experiences covering all the sectors of activity for which GIS systems have been developed in recent years.

It addresses the traditional functions of a GIS as a management aid tool for work in the city, management of land and territories and management of transport problems, the environment and risks. Another more innovative function of GIS is described in this document: the contribution of GIS to information of the general public and their involvement in local life. This is known as the application of GIS to participatory democracy. The document also presents two international examples: addressing in developing cities and an urban transport management system in real time in Mexico.

IAURIF "Etudes et Développement" Collections.

Price: FRF 125

→ Contact: <http://www.iaurif.org>

### World Local Authorities (WLA)

This databank on local authorities in the world is built in partnership with DEXIA and CFCE. The website, which is currently being consolidated to make it more user-friendly and improve its graphical aspect, will henceforth go under the name of World Local Authorities. At the same time, 43 country factsheets are being updated. The new website is scheduled to open at the end of September.

For the Habitat II+5 Conference held in New York at the beginning of June 2001, a bilingual presentation brochure in French and English was drawn up and disseminated.

→ Contact: <http://www.almwla.org>

### International association of French-speaking mayors seminar

ISTED organized a two-day seminar for AIMF on 5 and 6 April in Paris, to heighten Sub-Saharan African mayors' awareness of urban management problems. The themes concerned management of the heritage and management of urban services.

The aim of the seminar was to make mayors aware of their management role and to offer them decision aid tools.

Some fifteen recently-elected mayors attended this seminar, among whom were the mayors of Bobo-Dioulasso, Bamako, Libreville, Port-Gentil and Diego-Suarez.

Representatives of the Ministry of Public Works, Transport and Housing, the Ministry of Culture and Communication, IAURIF, and consultants, took part in this seminar.

→ Contact: [aimf.p.baillet@wanadoo.fr](mailto:aimf.p.baillet@wanadoo.fr)

### ESF/N-AURUS 2001 international workshop

"Coping with informality and illegality of human settlements in developing cities?" was held in Leuven and Brussels from 23 to 26 May 2001.

This meeting of European urban researchers in countries of the South brought together a majority of British and German researchers and French or French-speaking African and Indian researchers.

A highlight of the seminar was the subject of legalization of irregular neighbourhoods, and particularly the criticism of the arguments of De Soto, who proposes this as a miracle solution. Everyone stressed the economic cost of such operations, which rapidly excludes the poorest, and spoke of "stabilization" and "security" of these neighbourhoods. One of the conclusions of the discussion highlighted the need for researchers to engage in critical thinking on concepts, methodologies, and on the importance of passing on their research, particularly through outreach and teaching.

→ Contact: <http://naerus.org>

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Jean-Michel Maurin,  
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Comité de rédaction :  
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ISTED  
Centre de documentation  
et d'information  
«Villes en développement»  
Arche de la Défense  
Paroi Sud  
92055 La Défense Cedex  
France  
Tél. (33) 1 40 81 15 74  
Fax. (33) 1 40 81 15 99  
mél. [ved@isted.com](mailto:ved@isted.com)  
<http://www.isted.com>