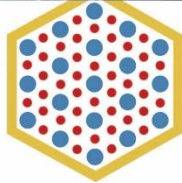




Les territoires face au défi de la durabilité.
Regards croisés Est- Ouest et Sud-Nord

4-6 juillet 2019,



56ème Colloque ASRDLF -
12ème Colloque ERSA-RO

Iași-Roumanie



**The 56th Conference of the Regional Science
Association of French Language (ASRDLF) and 12th
SConference of the Romanian Regional Science
Association (RRSA)**

**4-6 July 2019,
Iași - Romania**

**University Alexandru Ioan Cuza of Iași
Romanian Geographical Society**

**Territories in front of sustainability challenges.
Crossed perspectives : East-West and South-Nord**

The 56th Conference of the Regional Science Association of French Language (ASRDLF) and 12th Conference of the Romanian Regional Science Association will be held at the University Alexandru Ioan Cuza of Iași (Romania), from 4th to 6th July 2019.

The "Iron Curtain" divided Europe into two separate areas and its effects, even after its physical disappearance in the late 80s, are felt at different levels (economic, social, cultural...). During the same period, North-South relations, particularly those between Europe and the Maghreb, were marked by large development asymmetries, despite a worldwide trend towards imitations in the "circulation" of planning and development models. However, it was also during this period, after the 1980s, that the concept of Sustainable Development - despite a lack of stabilization - has become the benchmark for public action throughout the world, and even for private. action, in terms of spatial planning and development, at all geographical scales.

This is why the central objective of this conference is to discuss the adaptation of new spatial dynamics and territorial policies to sustainability throughout the world, in the East as well as in the West, in the North, as well as in the South.

The conference will first offer the opportunity to investigate the potential differences of adaptation of territorial policies to the new local and regional dynamics and the way they respond to the sustainability requirement. The main questioning of the conference will therefore be an assessment of differences or even divergences in the way we tackle sustainable spatial development between East and West, North and South and within one another. Indeed, we presume that the "territorialization" of sustainable development does not necessarily lead to similar environmental, social or economic options and the conference will be an opportunity to verify this hypothesis. Indeed, if the Eastern transition has succeeded to bring the concerned societies back into the fold of a capitalist economy and if globalization is of topical importance for the Southern Mediterranean countries, the cultural and social legacies, or, in terms of governance, the past separations - have not led to a complete homogenisation of the ways of thinking and acting in terms of territorial development (as in other areas). In addition, while sustainable development has become a benchmark for public action, and even often for private action, within the territories there are large differences in taking into account the environmental and social expectations in the face of purely economic objectives. However, everything seems to indicate that the relative importance attributed to the various "pillars" or dimensions of sustainable spatial development in territorial projects remains highly dependent on the extent of internal socio-economic inequalities that each country may experience.

From the meeting of the "Western" (and French) and "Eastern" regional science researchers, it is expected to shed light on the real extent of differences in approaches. In addition,

the year 2019 will symbolically mark the 30 years of transition for the East; a transition sometimes directed, spontaneous at other times, but with widely different impacts in different countries. If this transition seems first to be concluded globally by a rapprochement of the Western model and its development trajectories, the comparative approach, which is privileged by this conference, should lead us to a more nuanced vision, highlighting the specificities of the territorial development on both sides and within each of these areas. Another question of reflection in the context of the meeting is how the 2008 economic crisis could impact on both sides the concept of sustainability and its practices.

However, the debate on the content to be given to the perspective of sustainable territorial development and the ways of its operationalization is obviously not limited to an East-West confrontation. Between the North and the South, because of the inequalities of development and despite particularly impressive growth dynamics in some Southern countries, the persistence of phenomena such as extreme poverty, socio-spatial fragmentation of territories (metropolitan or not), the urban-rural divide, the weight of informal activities - leads the promoters of sustainable development to favor multidimensional strategies that go beyond the imperative of preserving non-renewable resources to concretely reinforcing the "empowerment" of excluded communities and affirm their specific cultural values. From then on, the socio-cultural dimension seems to take precedence over the strict environmental objectives. In other words, when the perspective of sustainability is not simply ignored, it gives rise in the territories of the "South" to priority choices and to unique forms of public action. For this reason, the papers dealing with reflections and / or territorial practices conducted in other contexts than those of the Western or Eastern countries, particularly in the "South", can usefully contribute to the exchange.

In the end, the possibility opened up by this conference, to examine territorial dynamics and policies through the lens of sustainability, offers new perspectives for research and reflection to cross the viewpoints, which are expected to enriched both the theoretical and practical conceptions, irrespective of the territorial scales (rural, urban, regional, national, macro-regional, etc.).

Briefly, the central questions to which the conference will seek to answer through the East-West and South-North comparison can be summarized as follows:

- Which are the answers, in particular in terms of technical, but also social innovations, brought on both sides to the challenge of "territorialization" of sustainable development?

- How did the trajectories of the West and of the East get closer together (in terms of territorial dynamics and policies)?
- How to rethink the new territorial policies in the face of possible crises to come (climatic, migratory, economic, political, etc.)?
- How to take into account the different territorial scales in the analysis of spatial dynamics and in the development of sustainable territorial development policies and actions?
- How can one overcome a purely environmentalist approach to sustainable territorial development and integrate the social, cultural and economic dimensions?
- Can territorial policies contribute to the rapprochement and homogenisation of development trajectories between East and West, South and North?
- What are the strategic and practical ways to operationalize better territorial development? Can putting the principles of the circular economy into practice contribute to this operationalization?
- How are the public policies at different scales (local, regional, national, European) affected by the way in which sustainable territorial development is conceived?
- Is the paradigm of attractiveness that strongly influences nowadays the territorial action in the West as well as in the East, in the South as in the North, in conjunction with the imperatives of sustainability?

These questions are expected to be considered either by papers addressing directly the comparative international analysis, or by theoretical papers and / or by specific field analyses.

Proposals for the specific sessions

T1 - Territorial Scales and "territorialization" of sustainable development, comparative approach East-West-South-North. Sustainable territorial development: what perimeters for which governance?

T2 - New challenges, tools and forms of operationalization of sustainable territorial development actions in Europe and worldwide

T3 – Metropolitan development, territorial dynamics at all scales and issues of territorial cohesion. Comparative approach East-West-South-North

T4 - Preservation of nature and resources, circular economy, climate change adaptation, control of land consumption, new challenges for cities and regions? Comparative analysis East-West-South-North

T5 - Territorial innovation for sustainable development

T6 - The challenges of sustainable territorial development for the training of planners and developers

To complete the conference:

1. In addition, the recurrent sessions of the ASRDLF will be organized with the following themes:

A - Methods and modeling

B - Resources and factors of sustainable regional and urban growth

C - Regional and Urban Policies, Evaluation

D - Territorial development

E - Spatial Competition, Public Economy, Local and Territorial Taxation

F - Urban economy, territory, space, theorization and modeling

2. Field trips to be organized:

- July 7th - Excursion to the Northern Moldavia (Bucovina - "the little Switzerland") whose central points will be:
 - Visit to the UNESCO monasteries;
 - Visit to some ethnographic museums (Egg Museum, Museum of wooden spoons etc.)
- Other "surprises" !