

AATRE research project: an agora for the co-construction of land resilience with Occitania's citizens.



Resume

Today, the Occitan coast is exposed to different forms of ecological, climatic and demographic vulnerabilities, which will cause important disturbances on this territory (such as erosion, submersion and the rising sea-level, etc.). Coastal territories are multi-actors and multi-uses spaces, where citizens are more and more attentive to be involved into the public decision-making process, especially on environmental and social issues.

That's why, new consultation practices emerge to improve the social acceptability and benefit of projects and policies. But there are many obstacles to the implementation of these practices on the local stage.

They are generally criticised for being inefficient because they are overly complex and because they are not representative or inclusive enough.

Indeed, citizen involvement merely takes the form of information points (when the decision is already made), but co-construction with citizens is extremely rare in decision-making processes.

To address these challenges, the research project AATRE aims to promote the territory resilience through innovation, experimenting news methods and tools of participation with local stakeholders.

Operationally, we propose to experiment and to analyse citizen participation mechanisms around several planning projects, implanted in different coast territories in Occitania.

Citizen participation is understood as a tool allowing people to access to knowledge and debate, for a collective transition towards a culture of co-construction. We think that a co-building of local projects with citizens will lead to a better consideration of environment and social issues by the decisions-makers.

The University of Montpellier is driving this project in partnership with the Occitan Region, based on a cooperative dynamic between researchers, socio-economic actors and members of civil society.

Different disciplines (geography, management, linguistic, psychology...) will be mobilized to have a systemic vision and analysis of these issues related to participation citizen, ecological transition and territory resilience.

Key words : coastline, co-construction, citizen participation, ecological resilience