



CDE Programme

C
D
E

Citizens' participation has become a major feature today in addressing environmental issues. One of the goals of the **Consultation, Decision, Environment (CDE) programme** is to understand the stakes involved in the consultation processes, and how these processes work. It is also to analyse their evolution and to look at experience feedback in order to improve methods in the future. Like all the research programmes of the ministry in charge of environment, **CDE contributes to the progress of scientific work and to enhancing environmental and sustainable-development policies.**

1
9
9
9
•
2
0
0
5

During the first phase of the programme (1999-2005), more than 30 research projects were financed for more than €1.2 million. This first phase made it possible to encourage and structure the research by calling on a broad range of disciplines in the humanities and social sciences (sociology, political science, geography, psychology, management, information and communication sciences, philosophy), as well as to encourage dialog between researchers and practitioners, and to develop interdisciplinarity.

2
0
0
8

In 2008, the programme entered into a second phase with the launching of a new call for research proposals by the ministry of ecology, energy, sustainable development and regional development (MDD). One of the goals is to produce an assessment of the different waves of experimentation in the way environmental problems are stated, how they are debated, how conflict is managed, and the way to articulate this type of consultation with decision making.

www.concertation-environnement.fr

CONSULTATION: Processes and procedures involving or aiming at participation in decision-making processes by the public, civil-society players and/or institutional players on sustainable-development issues. The process includes consultations, public surveys, combined appraisals, public debates, citizens' conferences, negotiations associated with decision making, electronic debating systems, etc.

DECISION: Here, the term designates the adoption of a final conclusion by the institutions (for instance for national-planning projects), as well as the processes through which, based on the interaction of all the players, tomorrow's environment "is decided".

ENVIRONMENT: Designates environment and sustainable development in the broad sense, from pollution to biodiversity protection, from national planning to climate change.

“ The entire history of the environment has been marked by the difficulty of making environmental issues heard, in particular by decision makers. During the 1980s, the ministry in charge of the environment and related not-for-profit organisations have sought to open discussion fora. In the early 1990s, consultation became a key procedure for developing environmental issues and having them heard. ”

Laurent Mermet,
chair of the programme's scientific board,
in an interview for
the *Journal de l'environnement*.

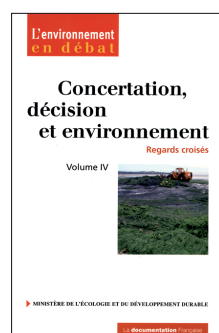
concertation
décision
environnement

First phase of the CDE programme 1999-2005

From 1999 to 2005, the first phase of the CDE programme made it possible to revitalise social-studies research in environment and to begin what was then ground-breaking work in the field of consultation.

The objectives were to identify consultation experiences, to observe them and to analyse them in their diversity: How do these procedures work? How do they change the roles and relations of the players? To what extent do they make it possible to take the public's concerns into account? What rhetoric and what principles are called up by the participants?

In order to produce useful knowledge and tools for administrators and decision makers in the environment field, each research project included an element of field work responding to specific issues such as the planning of electric lines, motorways, or dams, the management of water resources, waste management, or the application of agri-environmental measures.



Throughout the programme's entire implementation, there was intense discussion between the researchers and practitioners involved in the consultation, within most of the research projects and during the seminars organised around the programme. These different forms of discussion and dialog showed just how useful the CDE programme was in terms of projected action and decision making.

The minutes of the permanent seminar organised since June 2000 by the water, forest and rural engineering school, ENGREF, have been published: *Concertation, décision et environnement. Regards croisés*, Volumes I, II, III (2003); Volume IV (2006), Raphaël Billé, Laurent Mermet, Martine Berlan-Darqué *et al.*, La Documentation Française, "L'environnement en débat" collection.

These documents are available online on the CDE programme Web site.

www.concertation-environnement.fr

Democratisation and citizens' participation: the regulatory texts

Democratisation and citizens' participation have gradually appeared in French and European regulations.

In France

1983 : Law on the democratisation of public surveys and environmental protection.
1995 : Institution of the national commission on public debate.
2000 : Law on solidarity and urban renewal.
2002 : Law on local democracy (*démocratie de proximité*).
2003 : Bachelot law on the prevention of technological and natural risks and on the compensation of damages. .

In Europe

1998 : The Aarhus Convention, giving citizens the right to access information on the environment and to participate in the decision-making process.
2000 : The Water Framework Directive imposes dialog with local elected officials, the related socio-professional sphere and not-for-profit organisations, but also with the general public, which is to be consulted at every main phase of the process.

Second phase of the CDE programme 2008-2013

Since the inception of the programme in 1999, consultation has become the general rule and there has been much experimentation in this area. Environmental practices and public action have been deeply transformed as a result, and sustainable development has become a mandatory field for thinking and action. In France, this was illustrated in the procedures set up for the Grenelle de l'Environnement, a multi-stakeholder consensus-building process that was organised in October 2007, as well as in its findings.

The second phase of research for the CDE programme aims to draw up a complete list of “good practices” in the realm of consultation and dialog, as well as to encourage work on experiences in other countries for valuable comparisons. Launched in 2008 for a period of five years, it is focused on the critical analysis and assessment of consultation. A first call for research proposals has led to the selection of nine projects.

This new phase of the programme is marked by the same requirement to be relevant for public policies, its enlargement to all the sustainable-development themes, and encouraged and expanded interdisciplinarity (social sciences, political science, and communication sciences, as well as law, anthropology, philosophy, geography and psychology).

The call for research proposals underscores a number of fields (including the coastline, the city and overseas territories), stakes (the rising importance of theoretical discussions, articulating scales of time and space) and themes (the professionalisation of consultation, the effects of consultation on decisions, and European and international dimensions).

Actualités

June

Side Event at the Conference of the Parties of the Aarhus Convention in Riga (Latvia). The goal is to promote research on public consultation in connection with the Aarhus Convention and to present the research programmes conducted by the French government on decision-making and participatory processes in its environmental policies.

Early 2009

Symposium on public consultation and water management in Paris. Organised by the MDD in association with OIEau, its goals are to assemble researchers and practitioners and to mobilise in a cross-cutting process all the programme teams who worked on the water theme during the first phase of the CDE programme.

Late 2008

L'environnement : décider autrement. Nouvelles pratiques et nouveaux enjeux de la concertation, to be published by L'Harmattan. Collective work, Martine Berlan-Darqué and Laurent Mermet (eds.), emanating from the first phase of the CDE programme.

Life of the CDE programme

There are two bodies working on CDE planning and assessment: a scientific council and a steering committee.

Scientific board

It comprises 18 researchers, sets the scientific guidelines, prepares the calls for research proposals, evaluates the proposals, evaluates the project results and initiates animation and dissemination activities. Its composition is multidisciplinary (sociology, socio-economics, philosophy, social psychology, geography, urban and town planning, etc.). It meets about twice a year.

President: Laurent MERMET, AgroParisTech/École nationale du génie rural, des eaux et des forêts.

MARC BARBIER, Institut national de la recherche agronomique • Bernard BARRAQUÉ, École nationale du génie rural, des eaux et des forêts • Cécile BLATRIX, université Paris-Nord-XIII • Loïc BLONDIAUX, Institut d'études politiques de Lille • Daniel FIXARI, École des mines de Paris • Jean-Michel FOURNIAU, Institut national de recherche sur les transports et la sécurité • Yves JEANNERET, université d'Avignon • Pieter LEROY, Nijmegen University, Pays-Bas • Paul MATHIAS, Collège international de philosophie • Laurence MONNOYER-SMITH, université de technologie de Compiègne • Dominique PESTRE, École des hautes études en sciences sociales • Michel PRIEUR, université de Limoges • Denis SALLES, université Toulouse Le Mirail • Alain SOMAT, université Rennes-II Haute-Bretagne • Olivier SOUBEYRAN, Institut de géographie alpine de Grenoble • Marie-Gabrielle SURAUD, université Toulouse-III • Karine WEISS, université de Bourgogne.

Steering committee

It comprises representatives of not-for-profit organisations, of public agencies, of ministries and decentralized government services, and the chair of the programme's scientific board. The committee is in charge of defining the programme strategy lines, establishing priority research, making sure the selected projects are consistent, and setting up programme assessment, animation and dissemination activities. It meets twice a year and is chaired by the MDD director of economic studies and environmental assessment.

Animation and dissemination activities

Special attention is given to the scientific facilitation of the programme and the optimisation of its research projects to make sure the knowledge produced is transferred to public-policy, not-for-profit and training-institution players.

This is done through many events where researchers and practitioners can meet and share their thoughts: reporting symposia, thematic seminars, CDE days, etc. These events bank on the scientists involved and the knowledge produced by the programme, and also bring in other work and researchers, from France and abroad.

Special care is placed as well on the programme's publications, ranging from in-depth collective work to summaries for decision makers, in view of raising interest and meeting the needs of a large panel of potential users of the research findings. These publications will take advantage of the opportunities offered by the new technologies, in particular via the programme's Web site, which will be updated on a regular basis and will offer a broad range of media (text, sound and image) and content.

CDE programme Web site : www.concertation-environnement.fr

Programme Manager at the Ministry: Julien VERT • MDD/D4E/SRP • 20, avenue de Ségur • F-75302 Paris 07 SP
• julien.vert@developpement-durable.gouv.fr • 00 331 42 19 22 76 • **Facilitation Manager:** Ghislaine GARIN-FERRAZ
• Cité+ • 5, rue Louis-Pasteur • F-92100 Boulogne-Billancourt • cde@cite-plus.fr • 00 331 49 09 08 86