Urban renewal in Europe:
Is renewing deprived areas of European cities a European matter?

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Short introduction

- Background in a few words: PhD in political science, on economic leaders and urban governance + involvement in a European network (Interact)

- Today: results of a collective research / carried out with Renaud Payre, Sarah Russeil and Anouk Flamant / regional funding / 2006-2012 / on Eurocities / historical sociology / qualitative data…

- Speech in three parts focusing on the three different gouvernemental levels involved in some ways, at some stage in renewing deprived urban « neghborhoods » (American term)

- NB: Do stop me if needed and/or wanted! Ask questions, make comments…   Thank you!

Abstract

- In the 1990's, European Institutions got involved in urban renewal projects linked to urban deprived neighborhoods.

- But, since then: they also seem to have given up their ambition to set up a proper urban community policy.

- Although European programs dedicated to cities remain far from representing the most important of European policies, the interventions of European institutions in that realm have had and still have different impacts on renewal policies in Europe.

Main questions tackled

- Why in the 1990's?

- In what context?

- What was set up?

- Why did they stop?

- What remains today?

- What impact?

1/ The State

- A major role in urban renewal (France, GB, Holland but also Northern Europe and Eastern Europe = very different historical backgrounds)

- 3 countries with specific, heavily funded, cross-cutting policies dedicated to deprived urban areas = a global apprehension of deprived neghborhoods, ie all together: social programs, economic development and planning

- France, GB and Netherlands

The case of France:

WWII: Reconstruction, State involved (higher administration very powerfull), major top-down projets. Ex: motorways and high towers Downtown… and in the surburbs. Cf. Hill District and the civic areana here?

After May 1968: Residents' opposition (set up associations or non-profit organizations)

1970s: Discovery of the « banlieues » (shift in population)

1970s: « Politique de la Ville » (translation?! global perspective, comprehensive planning… and involvement of local authorities)

1980s: Riots (Les Minguettes…)

1990: « Ministry of the City »!

Since, many critics adressed to that policy and thus many changes but it remains an important policy (with an increasing role of cities)

A 7: de Marseille à Lyon (1960's)

Lyon
Minguettes

Marseille
Quartiers Nord

Conclusion of point 1:

- Central States have been playing a major role in (constructing and) renewing deprived areas since WWII
- Central States have though, to different extents and following different paths and strides, decentralised some of their programs (mainly to cities)
- So, of course, different situations (France = historically a jacobin State… Spain and Italy = far more decentralised!)
- In the end, two questions nevertheless arise:

Cities' reaction when they started implementing programs along with the State or by themselves?

Place for a European urban policy dedicated to these areas?

2/ Cities

- Historical background: In the MA, cities were very powerfull in Europe
- Cf. city-states like Genoa and Venice... and more generally towns and cities (M. Weber)
- 18th and 19th centuries: Modern States emerged and centralized powers (M. Foucault, C. Tilly)
- Nevertheless: Cities (as municipalities) never stopped acting and tried to get read of poverty

Cf. their role in the emergence of the Welfare State (C. Topalov) / social-municipalism and the development of public services in Paris and beyond for example (R.Payre)

- Cities also developed strategies of internationalization (and thus europeanization) with both economic and politcal aims...

- The internationalization (mainly europeanization) of cities is a process to be considered over a long period.

- 3 different types of exchanges among cities from the end of the 19th century to the end of the XXth century:

Study trips

Twin-cities

Networks

1/ STUDY TRIPS AND CONFERENCES

- Exchanges of good practice at the turn of the twentieth century (roads, public transports, buildings…)
- Long-lasting tradition
Cf. Saint-Etienne representatives in Pittsburgh in 1970s (industrial depollution)
- First networks (International Union of Local Authorities)
Aim: local autonomy and local public policies!

- After WWI, cities and their unions denounced the incapacity of the States and inter-state organizations to enable evolution towards European unity.

- 1951 : Council of European Municipalities and Regions (CEMR) = organization that brings together the national associations of local and regional authorities (more on technical matters than the IULA)

2/ BILATERAL RELATIONS:

After WWII: Twinning operations for peace and European (re)construction

= most and foremost about culture and art + youngsters and elderly people exchanges

= important trend (Cf. Lyon: Birmingham, Francfort, Milan, Saint-Louis, Beer-Sheva, Canton, Koutaïssi, Benghazy) = a municipalization of international action

Twinning operations: N/N (between France and Germany notably) and N/S

So, progressively: decentralized cooperation
= a development States tend to seek to control

Ex: the case of France

3/ NETWORKS:

- End of the 1980's: numerous networks (including Eurocities: wide and "general" not specialized, both with politicians and "technicians")

- = again with the idea of challenging national governments + to use the new level of government that has by then emerged: ie the EU!

- Ex: Scottish cities (independence) and then British cities (anti-Thacherism)

- = way to:

be heard at the European level

be recognized as important actors and thus important partners

and ask for funding and dedicated programs

- = search for money and solutions to better deal with deprived areas after the 1970s… crises (Cf. Manchester, Birmingham, Liverpool…)

- NB: No legislation about European and international competences of local authorities but, for fifteen years or so now, cities (mainly large agglomerations) have put European and international questions on their administrative agenda and set up official Euro and Intet Departments
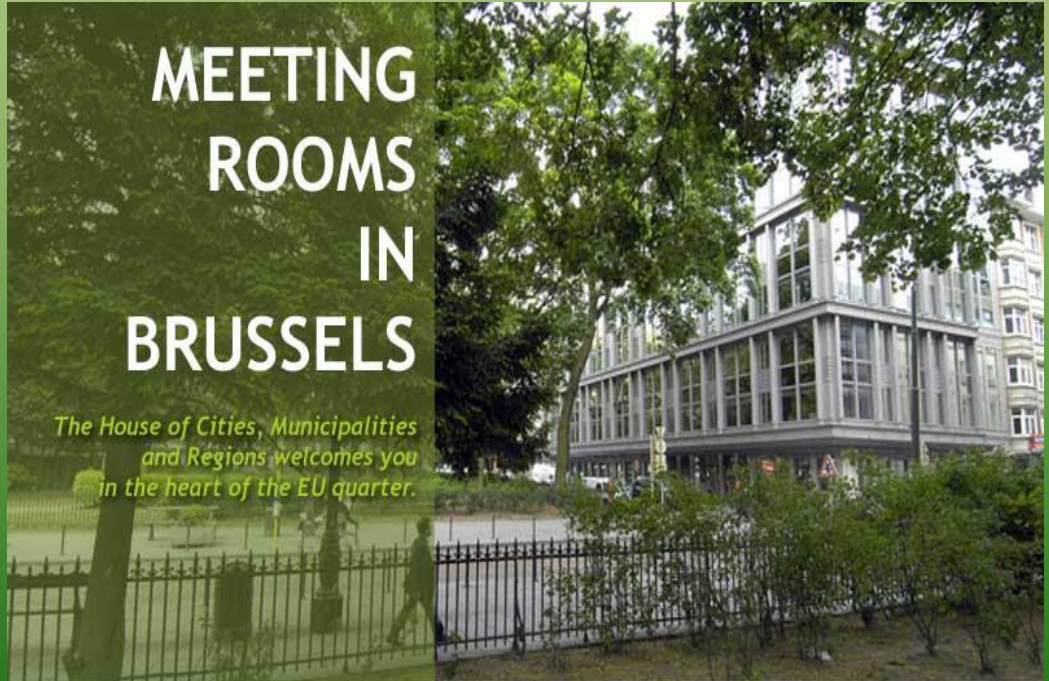
Conclusion of point 2:

- So: cities used Europeanization mainly against their States
- Since the end of the 19th Century, cities have tried to gather, to set up international (mostly European) connection in order to gain autonomy and thus ability to deal with their specific issues (including, from the beginning, dealing with deprived urban areas)
- End of the XXth Century: globalisation, economic crisis (cf. Pittsburgh / Birmingham), decentralisation... and Europeanization
- Therefore European cities (re)became major actors (P. Le Galès)
- Nowadays, large cities aspire to European visibility for reasons which are above all economic (competition) and political (autonomy).
- Question that arise:

In return, how did the European institutions react?

3/ Europe

- For a long time, EU was mainly focused on economic and agriculture policy! + In terms of institutions: no official representations of cities!
- So what happened?

- After numerous enlargement, inequlities +++ but also focus on countries complicated (Cf. Thatcher, I want my money back!)
- 1975: ERDF (integration + regional policy: territorial inequalities)

NB: a lot of money put in infrastructures (roads)

- 1988: community territorial policy (DG Regio) based on partnership + ERDF's budget doubled
- 1992: Treaty of Maastricht (subsidiarity)
- 1993: ERDF's budget doubled again
- 1994: Committee of the Regions (over 300 members, consultative body

- Only in the 1990's:

Emergence of a community urban policy

- Role of Eurocities / Bruce Millan (DG Regio) / Jacques Delors (President of the Commission)

- 1991: Recite Programme for Regions and Cities in Europe
- 1994: Urban I (first European policy dedicated to urban deprived areas)
- End of the 1990s: some States reacted and put pressure on the Commission (Urban II was nearly abandoned)
- 2000: Urban II (smaller budget though + each State choses "his" cities)
- 2006: end of Urban
- 2007: Urbact (exchange of good practice)
- 2016?: European Urban Agenda (wide common principles?)

- So what did they do? What was Urban about?
- Parkinson: report on France / GB / Holland, ways for cities to get involved without taking redistributing policies in charge (State's domain and expensice policies)
- PP Partnerships: neo-liberal? (J. Peck)
- Cross-cutting perspective
- What about after Urban? City associations and networks remained active (Commission + Parliament) and obtained programs from / worked alonf with different DGs (despite the crisis and the cuts in European budgets!)
- From desindustrialisation at the end of the 80s to sustainable development and smart cities…

Urban's archived website:

http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/archive/urban2/towns_prog_en.htm

Conclusion

No proper long-lasting community policy dedicated to cities, not mentioning to urban deprived areas yet.

But:

The EU is a new structure of opportunities providing a wide range of resources (not only for States but also) for cities and impacting the ways cities implement public policies!

The EU has become a major partner of local government authorities in building large road infrastructures, but also in initiating local (re)development programs and launching trans-border cooperation programs.

QUESTIONS:

- Lobbying in Brussels?
- Interests of local political leaders (especially in Euro-sceptic countries or contexts)
- What about American cities?

...

- What about urban renewal in Pittsburgh?

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