

CHALLENGES AND UNCERTAINTIES ABOUT A SUSTAINABLE LAND USE: A EURO-LATIN AMERICAN PERSPECTIVE

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The major changes observed in the practice of Land Use Planning (LUP) should not be understood as a notion immutable but open to renewal of approaches and paradigms related with the modification of the context in which they were made and the actual sensitivities of the environment in which their actions are carried out. Hence the need to assess the significance of the debates that have made of the LUP policies a question permanently open to controversial issue, allowing lighting ideas, approaches and methodologies that affect the formation and attitudes of the public opinion while undergoing revision strategies and decision-making by the organs of power in line with the renewal of the paradigms that the mechanisms of government and land management in their temporal evolution. For that reason are very important the interpretation of the trends observed in the deployment of territorial policies that covered the programmatic and strategic principles of the «sustainable development» are of explicit authority in the plans and programs of action advocated by government engaged in the application of these principles in their respective areas of responsibility. Its proper relationship to the territory is essential since it depends on the notion that this exceeds its testimonial character to acquire the operational and applied reference dimension that brings the realization that he is through as it is possible to achieve an effective materialization of cross-cutting relationships between social, economic and environmental dimensions of sustainable development which is founded. Here was a major challenge for Geography, considering his status oriented analysis and interpretation of spatial logics, that transform the land and build the landscape discipline, and as an expression of a scientific approach that support with the necessary rigor the decision making sensible with the defense of the quality of socio-economic and territorial environment in which they apply. For a better approach to understanding the impact of this approach, reflection focuses on three key aspects: On one hand, it should be emphasized that since the nineties of the twentieth century attends the explicit claim to a wealthy territory management criteria associated with sustainability. On the other, it emphasizes the importance of governance mechanisms arising directly or

indirectly from this rich and complex institutional support. To relate these basics to what happens in a territorial reality in continuous metamorphosis is a necessary intellectual exercise when trying to find a clear explanation of the panorama ambivalences and contradictions that characterize the application of the principles of sustainability in a scenario characterized by the conflict of interest, by the contradiction of perspectives and review of strategic priorities such as Land Use planning. To better understand the meaning of these trends is expressive comparative experience as it helps to interpret the nuances and contrasts observed performance in different scenarios while facilitating the understanding of the analogies between them are also produced. Thanks to the importance of historical, political, cultural and geostrategic links between them is interesting knowledge of the guidelines around this issue have marked the history of territorial policies undertaken in the European Union and Latin America.

I. TOWARDS SUSTAINABLE LAND MANAGEMENT: GLOBAL AWARENESS AND POLITICAL DECISION

Considering the controversial positions the concept of sustainable territorial development causes, it is clear that their assimilation into the political sphere has led to the accepted it as one of the central ideas in all lines of government action to define a substantial part the sense given to public action and an argument for a new way of understanding relationships and responsibilities on a global scale. A clear manifestation of this position in favor of incorporating the dimension of sustainable development in its areas of land management and resources offer the European Union and Latin America, whose account reveals a commonality of objectives and strategies consistent with links built between the two regions under the flow of information, advice, multidimensional cooperation and exchange of experiences that take place in time to the process of building the integrated area of the accession of Spain and Portugal to the European Communities in the mid-eighties. In the case of the European Union, the essential steps will be marked by the momentum after the Single European Act (1986), coinciding in time with the defense of the principle of economic and social cohesion, recognizing explicitly the question environment within common policies and subsequently reaffirmed in the Treaty of Maastricht (1992), although it will be in the Arts. 1 and 2 of Treaty of Amsterdam (1999) when sustainable development as a key objective of the Union is recognized and committed to develop a long term strategy proposal through harmonization of policies assumed in this direction. The adoption by the European Council in Potsdam (1999) of the European Spatial Development Perspective (ESDP) marks a key in the process of formalizing the objectives that give substance to the claim to achieve, and long-term vision, an overlap between spatial planning and sustainable development, inscribed on the policy of economic, social and territorial referred to in Article 158 of the Constitutional Treaty cohesion subsequently ratified in Art. 174 TFEU. Within this climate of support for proposals for intervention in the territory with sustainability criteria include the European Landscape Convention, sponsored by the Council of Europe and ratified in 2000. Special mention deserves the resolution adopted by the European Commission on May 15, 2001 concerning the adoption of a strategy for sustainable development, composed of seven goals with decisive implications from the point of socio-economic and territorial view. Simultaneously it's possible to see in Latin America the progressive development of a similar sensitiv-

ity, raised on the basis of state actions, despite the absence of a supranational entity backbone as in the previous case, obscures traits and tendencies of a susceptible overall interpretation, applicable to the whole region. A contributing decisively impact caused by the Earth Summit (1992), responsible for a decision fairly widespread awareness that leads to incorporate the concept of sustainable development in government posts to be reflected in numerous documents, statements and action plans to throughout the last decade of the twentieth century. In this process has importance the support offered by the programs sponsored by the Inter-American Development Bank in the nineties led to the adoption of measures by the United leveraging loans specifically for this purpose (development projects sustainable, in environmental impact assessment, pollution control ...) without forgetting the contributions associated with cooperation programs found accommodation in the framework of bi-regional strategic partnership forged between Latin America and the European Union, with all that it has represented facing the incorporation of a renewed way of understanding the inter-linkages approach, in which commitments to environmental issues occupy a prominent position. The nineties and especially in the first decade of the century takes place in Latin America a qualitative leap towards Planning, gradually accompanied with the connotation of «sustainable», which grows into a recurring adjective. This concept will be used in urban policies, coinciding with its reorientation in line applied to territorial policies, with implications from the perspective of changes in local government and in the modification of municipal organization charts, the compass administrative reforms (decentralization, recognition of the principle of local autonomy).

II. COORDINATION OF THE STRATEGIES, NEW MODELS MANAGEMENT AND RELATIONS BETWEEN CHANGES IN KNOWLEDGE, POWER, SOCIETY AND TERRITORY

According to the similar aims and promoted under the premises of an environment that guides decisions in this direction, instruments of various types, structure and level of efficiency targets have been present on the international scene in time to the resonance achieved by the notion of interest in sustainability and consolidate as a key idea from the operational point of view. From a global perspective is necessary to highlight the role assigned in both scenarios to Local Agenda 21, arising from the desire expressed in chapter 28 of the Rio Summit, which explicitly calls upon the government to proceed with the development strategic documents focused on the determination of guidelines related to the achievement of a sustainable development model. The emphasis placed on the importance recognized in this regard to municipalities confirms the trend towards a new representation of the territories that encouraged by the possibilities inherent in the local and the quality of their own management tools, planning, public participation and multi-agent coordination , contribute to sustainable development that democratic legitimacy is not reached within broader decisional levels. In this scenario, we must recognize the scale of the initiatives undertaken in the European Community area consistent with the approach in question. It is the goal that inspires the European Spatial Planning Observation Network (ESPON), whose essential work has been to promote, through research and the establishment of criteria and comparable indicators, the development of public policies attuned to the objectives of territorial cohesion and the «harmonious» development of the European territory. Similarly should refer to the adoption in 2000 by

the Council of Europe's European Landscape Convention (2000), whose ratification by the States implies a quantum leap from the point of view of law and in the enrichment of social debate and cultural. And, while it is unfortunate the closure in Spain in 2013 the Observatory for the Sustainability, after a fruitful activity stage, should not be ignored to ignore the reference of Grenelle Law (2007) in France resulting in the formation of one of the most important structures - the Grenelle Environnement - how many have been created in the EU for sustainable development. And in the Latin American context highlights a structure to support public policies related to environmental management and planning. It is sufficient to recall in this regard the agencies specifically created by various countries in the region for this purpose. Special mention deserve the Environmental Commission of the Amazon (1989) or the development of the Sustainable Amazonia Plan, drafted in 2003; the creation of the Alliance for the Sustainable Development of Central America (1994), the Regional Forum of Land Management –defined as «the fundamental support for sustainable development and poverty eradication»– or the American Conference for State Decentralization and Local Development (CONFEDELCA). Recall also the Latin American and Caribbean Initiative for Sustainable Development, presented as the expression of the desire to promote «the ethics of sustainable development. From it comes the initiative, presented at the Fourteenth Meeting of the Forum (Panama, 2003), to develop a project for the establishment of indicators to correct the limited availability of environmental data in the region. And in line with this process is interesting work by ECLAC, thanks to its methodological effort to improve quantitative analyzes that are to be supported public policy. We refer to the Computable General Equilibrium Model (CGE) , which allow for rigorous diagnostic prior to decision making through integrated socio- economic and environmental analysis variables. These references provide evidence not only for the state of affairs that is organizationally Euro-Latin American trajectory towards a sustainable pattern of land use, but also the level of maturity reached in the scheme of relationships, around this concept and its practical application .The contributions made it possible to establish the linkages between the different elements of the structure of the paradigm. And although it's obvious that in their spatial specificity can present nuances, contradictions and even disappointments, do not invalidate the characters in a consolidated trend, built on the basis of common guidelines, which give the dynamics of the territory from the perspective that derives from the logic of sustainability organized according to the interrelationships structured in Figure. Such structure is based on four key elements: advances in knowledge of the territory and the correct interpretation of the logic model or organize it; the importance of socio-environmental programs that provide education to society the elements necessary to strengthen their sensitive and caring, attitudes related to key issues of the environment in which it operates; strengthening citizen participation, in tune with the principles established by the Conference of Aarhus; the proper functioning of multilevel cooperation mechanisms that articulate their powers within a frame of shared interests and responsibilities.

III. A PANORAMA OF POSSIBILITIES, INSUFFICIENCIES AND CONTRADICTIONS

With the available perspective can be said to understand and apply the concept of sustainable development is not easy, despite the importance and density of the regulatory framework is give an operational role - within that controversial and uncertain relationship established

between standards and results - has reached an extraordinary dimension. It can be said that if the policy for sustainability will constitute a warranty on which to base a horizon of favorable expectations, the exercise of power is always faced with a challenge that can not be addressed if not kept firmly positions justifying the initiative taken in a context dominated by situations and likely your question or denaturation factors. Hence, when we analyze the behavior of the agents responsible for the action on the most important territorial level, as is local, we found a panorama that appears characterized by ambivalence in both the European Union and Latin America, because there are meritorious achievements and significant deficiencies. We note two in particular: on the one hand, a tendency among interested and use the restrictive interpretation of the concept of sustainable territorial development; on the other hand, a crisis or weakness of territorial culture in settings affected by conflict, tension and impacts. Indeed, and as regards the first point, it is not uncommon that there are significant limitations as essential as is the interpretation itself, by the different actors responsible, the concept of sustainability in its territorialized dimension aspect. Commonly, it incurs a kind of repeated confusion, which leads to confusing and even contradictory perceptions, thereby hindering the quality and effectiveness of decisions. Adopting a more prone to recognition as a useful media stance that the actual incidence of the initiatives taken in this regard sometimes move in the field of advertising and promotion declarative. Similarly the restrictions from the operational point of view resulting from a conception of sustainable development referred merely from an environmental perspective it should be noted. And as regards the second argument, the available experience shows that two main threats affecting, from the point of view of governance, on the treatment of territorial transformations from sustainable perspective. The first has to do with the absence or weakness which often presents the territorial culture, understood as the manifestation of the level of knowledge and awareness of decision makers and society itself have territorial reality, considered in the their activities, behaviors and relationships unfold. When that consciousness is reduced or distorted by the defects, omissions or errors in the information, a framework of troubling prospects commonly result in harmful patterns of performance for quality planning and generating cost opens that damage their own image and attractiveness potentially linked to the use of their comparative advantages. Also the practice of action in this field is resentful when trivialize or ignore blocks of techniques applied to the evaluation of territorial public policy or when the necessary prospective vision is relegated to the background or just does not come to arise, precisely because of the tendency to emphasize the immediate project plan conceived against a broader horizon. They are revealing aspects of this as usual to favor short-term vision of the proceedings against the relevance sufficiently highlighted by the warnings repeatedly speaks for itself, the focus on the medium and long term, integral to the principles of precaution and prevention contributing trend support the idea of sustainability.

