Outcomes and main recommendations of CERCEAU (French) study

Europe INBO 2014
Natural Water Retention Measures
River restoration
An overview of foreign examples of RR projects with a focus on communities involvement

**Origin**

- How to develop an ambitious RR project?
- These projects have consequences on the territory (changes on local infrastructures, water uses, agricultural practices, flood, ...)
- We must develop convincing arguments for various stakeholders
- Have a look on successful conditions to avoid pitfalls

**Benchmarking: 12 case studies and 3 tools**

- Define the project context (initiative, networks mobilized)
- Tell the story of each case (describing the main events of the implementation)
- Analyse the strategic factors of the success
Main outcomes

- Leadership and initiative
  - Institutionnal or local initiative
  - technical and political dimensions of the project holder

- Strategical dimension of these projects
  - Not a planification measure but a real project of change which has « natural » reluctances and opponents
  - First looking for the possible partners or interested actors to be stronger

- Fundamental importance of giving a territorial relevance of the RR
  - Linking the project to the local history (and more)
  - Presenting the project in all its dimensions in connection with human activities

- Negotiate with the actual uses only in a second time
  - When the project has already its political dimension
  - Demonstrate the synergies with economic activities

- The importance of animation means for these strategic considerations
How to convince elected people?

- Sharing the environmental problem and its consequences for the territory (by promoting exchange more than pedagogy)

- Arguing to gain support (interested population)
  - Drawing a vision of the future restored river and its characteristics of interest
  - Making a cultural and political project that fit with the local history and identity

- Demonstrating the opportunity of a natural infrastructure
  - River autonomy can be less expenditures (maintenance of dikes, bridges, ..., floodings costs)
  - A new living environment for fishering, leisure time and tourism, public image, ... which can enhance the attraction of the territory
How to communicate on what RR are and can achieve?

- Using different languages (economical, social, cultural, ecological, ...)
- Underlying a vision for the territory with the RR (speaking about the future)
How to work with local communities and with what tools?

- First working with the persons interested to co-elaborate the base-project.
- Then ensure and develop the local political dimension for an ambitious project.
- Working with the actors networks (territorial, technical and sectorial.)
How to mobilize financing?

- The general importance of the economic language
- Importance of the technical and ecological ambition to grab environmental financing
- Working the opportunity offered by the RR to suggest a wider project
  - Real estate operation in England
  - Labellized agriculture in Germ. and Lux.