

SEMINAIRE AMURE



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Salle B 211 – Bât. B - UBO



➤ Freedom for agency. The capability approach and the process aspects of local development

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Abstract

According to the human development and capability approach people's ability to further their own ends and to bring about change is an inherent part of well-being. This implies that in the practice of local development not solely the results of development, but also the way leading there has great importance. The freedom to act as agents can be valued irrespective of its instrumental importance. Present paper fits into an emerging stream of literature that approximates the human development and capability approach (CA) of Amartya Sen and the literature of regional and local development (rooted in regional science). Within this broader programme, this paper (1) specifically focuses on the process aspect of local development: citizens' ability to participate in urban planning procedures and to define and shape the framework in which participation and public deliberation occurs; (2) provides empirical evidence from a relatively high income country (Hungary), contrary to the majority of existing evidence stemming from low income settings.

The first part of the paper argues in favour of using the capability approach as a basis of local development and argues in favour of the active involvement of stakeholders in the urban development process. The second part demonstrates an empirical analysis. It analyses and evaluates the major urban planning documents of 23 Hungarian large cities (towns with the rights of counties) by using qualitative text analysis methodology. The third part provides a brief critical review on the issue of participation from the aspect of the marginalized (voiceless) stakeholders.

Keywords: local development, capability approach (CA), agency, well-being, local decision-making, Hungary

➤ L'incomplétude des territoires et le rôle clé de l'identité dans leur résilience : l'exemple de la transition socio-écologique au Pays COB

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Résumé à venir