A prospective exercise to develop a common vision to support MSP?

An experimentation in France


* University of Nantes  
** Acteon  
*** CM Études et territoires
Milestones

1. Introduction
2. Prospective
3. Experimental device
4. First results / discussion
1. Introduction

- MSP under construction in Europe
- French legal framework recently designed
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  - ... but still an empty box
- Regional maritime councils (CMF)

- National bodies (15)
- Enterprises (20)
- Territorial bodies (15)
- Employees (10)
- NGOs / users (15)
- Experts (5)
1. Introduction

- MSP under construction in Europe
- French legal framework recently designed
  - ... but still an empty box
- Regional maritime councils (CMF)
- Gathering a large range of stakeholders, territories, issues, visions...
- Particular questions due to the maritime dimension
  - People don’t live at sea...
  - Temporary uses (e.g. fisheries)
  - An open space
  - All the powers at the State level
  - ...
1. Introduction

- A big challenge: the development of a “common and shared” vision to define and analyse future conditions (Lamp & Stoltz, 2010; Ehler, Douvere, 2009; Pomeroy, Douvere, 2008)

- Core questions:
  - Is a common vision a basis or a result?
  - What are the visions of stakeholders?
  - Conversely, a future-oriented participatory-based process could help to build a common vision?
  - ...

Ibid. Mühldorfer, 2010
2. Prospective

- Theorized in the ending 1950’s, the Prospective is not intended to predict the future, but rather to help its construction.

- In France, it have been put into practice during the early 1970’s mostly in the field of Territorial planning (Godet, Durance, 2008)

- The “Scenario of the Unacceptable” (DATAR, 1970) is considered as the act of birth of an approach which take some distances with Planning.

“It is no more question to organize but rather to set images of the future, from which a proactive policy is define” (Fourny, Denizot, 2007)

“The future is not only what can happen or what is most likely to occur. It is also, increasingly, what we have wanted it to be. The purpose of this innovative approach is to build the present starting from the future, rather than seen it as a secretion of the past” (Berger, 1958)
2. Prospective

- Differences compared to terms which sounds similar:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Diagnosis</th>
<th>What is happening?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Prediction</td>
<td>What will happen?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prospective</td>
<td>What could happen? What could we do?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Project</td>
<td>What do we want?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Strategy</td>
<td>What will we do?</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- And Prospective is polysemic (Loinger, Spohr, 2005; Fourny, Denizot, 2007), depending on:

  SHARE  DECIDE  SENSIBILIZE  PREVENT

  ... the purpose

  NORMATIVE  PARTICIPATORY
  DETERMINISTIC  PREDICTIVE  EXPLORATORY
  TERRITORIAL  PREVENTIVE

  ... the way to do it
2. Prospective

- Differences compared to Planning, *Prospective* in general is
  - not normative itself
  - more forward-looking
  - rather more participatory-based
  - less spatial than some forms of planning
  - potentially strategic
  - ... 

- No equivalent in English: “Foresight” is perhaps the closest, yet the idea of proactivity is less present” (Godet, 2000)
2. Prospective

1. Exploratory phase
   - Exploratory scenarios
   - Trend scenarios
   - Contrasting scenarios
   - Utopias

2. Normative phase
   - Utopias
   - Political orientations
   - Normative scenarios
   - Desired scenarios

POSSIBLE FUTURE

SYNTHESIS

DESIRED FUTURE
2. Prospective

- In a popular MSP guide (Elher, Douvere, 2009), the authors wrote:

  "Defining and analyzing future conditions involves the following tasks:
  1. Projecting current trends in the spatial and temporal needs of existing human uses
  2. Estimating spatial and temporal requirements for new demands of ocean space
  3. Identifying possible alternative future scenarios for the planning area
  4. Selecting the preferred spatial sea use scenario".

- Just a few part of what prospective involves!

- *Prospective* is probably much more rich than the definition of future conditions included in MSP
3. Experimental device

- An applied and illustrative research:
  - East Channel
  - 80 persons (CMF)

- Few details on the exercise:
  - Step 1: individual interviews mixing mind maps and free association of ideas (26 persons)
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  - Step 2: the prospective exercise (5 days, 11 persons)
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  - Step 2: the prospective exercise (5 days, 11 persons)
  - Step 3: individual interviews (the same 11 one)
4. First results / discussion

- Didn’t look for the truth…
  - *Use the prospective exercise as a tool to try to build a common vision*

- But, some observations:
  - Lack of maritime considerations
  - Weak integration
  - Difficult to switch from a scale/scheme to another:
    - East channel as a whole, to local territories (e.g. estuary)
    - Land/sea, coastal/metropolitan…
  - A gap to bridge to express some stakes in a spatially-explicit way (e.g. quality of marine environment)
4. First results / discussion

- Critical points:
  - Only a French scope
  - No local governments
  - Playable with a limited group
  - Pictures taken with different “cameras”
  - …

- Final analysis until the end of 2014, but firsts lessons:
  - Very good feedback
  - Stakeholders conceded that they learnt a lot about the other ones and their points of view
  - The vision of stakeholders are unsurprisingly multiples:
    - This exercise: a small step to a common vision
    - … But definitely utopic to build a shared vision
  - It confirms that building a common vision couldn’t be a basis but should be a target itself!
Thank you for your attention!

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