

Presentación oral en el Encuentro de Estudiantes de Doctorado, 12/06/2014, UPV

(Se puede hacer en español o en inglés)

Título:

¿Puede el movimiento Transición ser una forma de participación pública en las ciudades sostenibles en España?

Can Transition movement be a suitable way of public participation for sustainable cities in Spain?

Autora:

Silvia Pérez Bou

Arquitecto por la UPV. Master en Transporte, Territorio y Urbanismo por la UPV.

Estudiante del Programa de Doctorado en Ingeniería Civil y Urbanismo.

Objetivos:

Ver si el movimiento de Transición puede aplicarse al urbanismo, como una forma de participación ciudadana.

Etapas del desarrollo de la investigación:

Se estudia el movimiento, las características que serían de aplicación al urbanismo y las iniciativas concretas que hay en 2014 en España, sus debilidades, fortalezas.

Resultados previstos y posibles utilidades:

Se concluye que, entre todas las iniciativas españolas, sólo dos podrían tener alguna relevancia en el ámbito urbano: las de Barcelona y Santiago de Compostela. El sistema de Transición serviría para articular algunos aspectos de la participación ciudadana relativos a la sostenibilidad, contando siempre con otras formas de participación.

Se adjuntan algunas diapositivas que se podrían poner en los 2 minutos (en español o en inglés).

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Can Transition movement be a suitable way of public participation for sustainable cities in Spain?

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Escuela de Doctorado

Can Transition movement be a suitable way of public participation for sustainable cities in Spain?

1. Objectives
2. Research.
 - What does Transition movement mean?
 - Characteristics of Transition movement (related to Urbanism)
 - Transition initiatives in Spain
3. Conclusion
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1. Objectives:

To find out if Transition movement can be a collaborative bottom-up way of public participation

-Top-bottom: Local government establishes a period of public exhibition of the urban projects and programmes, in order to collect suggestions and opinions of the citizenship.

-Bottom-up: Collaborative (collective and individual): it hardly exists.
Protest participation: it usually paralyzes the urban projects (i.e. Gamonal).

If the main activity in urbanism will be renovation, regeneration and revitalization of buildings and neighbourhoods, it is important that residents contribute with their participation.

Encouraging citizen to behave sustainably requires their participation in social learning process. (Ameli, N; Lettenmeier, M; Liedtke, C. 2013)



Gamonal's Boulevard Project (Burgos)



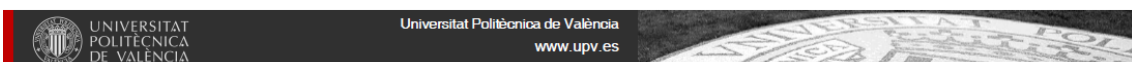
2. RESEARCH:

2.1.

What does Transition movement mean?: The Transition movement is a bottom-up network of active citizens who are trying to find practical solutions on a local level to the global problems of climate change and peak oil (O'Hara, 2013).

The aim is to decrease the dependence on fossil fuels and trying to create resilient and sustainable communities.

Transition are small groups of citizens coming together to take action in their own communities, whose focus is predominantly on practical initiatives than can be taken locally.



2.2. Characteristics of Transition movement (related to urbanism):

Traditional Urbanism (Top-down)	Transition practices related to urbanism
Central recycling	Local composting
Ornamental plants, parks	Productive plants, fruit trees in public spaces, city gardens
Green material in buildings	Local materials in buildings
Low energy buildings	Passive buildings
Laws and taxes to reduce energy consumption	Workshops to develop the plan of energy descent
General campaigns	Specific measures and initiatives
Sometimes fights of interests between local government-citizens	From the interests of citizens to those of the government
It is difficult to involve the man of the street	The solution is in the man of the street
Commandments	Proposals
New technologies to solve problems (climatisation, etc.)	Recovering traditional systems lost after generations
Planning in desk: parks, neighbourhoods and buildings	Each neighbourhood and building develops its plan
Planned by technicians and politicians	The sum of the creativity and intelligence of the community
Depends on public financing	Private financing: they do what they can as they can
Lengthy approval process of plans: it is difficult to make changes	Clearly defined strategy, always open to new inputs
Needs to work with other sectors: transport, waste, economy...	Cross fertilization of sectors: inclusive
Public participation means inform the people and listen to them	People participates from the beginning of the process
Depends of the party of the government	Apolitical
Searching for initiatives	Catalyzes initiatives
Thinking of scale city	From neighbourhood to city
Sometimes oriented to city branding	Oriented to local resilience
...	...

2.3. Characteristics of Transition movement (related to urbanism):

Fortresses

- Compromise of the local citizens.
- Different but complementary to Agenda 21 (it is bottom-up and not top-bottom).
- Collaborative.
- Making proposals.
- Potential connection with the local government (requisite to become an official Transition initiative).

Weaknesses

- Needs to generate governance.
- Slow processes.
- Difficult to implement in big cities.
- Many initiatives at the same time are required: difficult to achieve.
- Depends on the leadership of the communities.

Some ideas from Del Río, J. De la idea a la acción, 2009

2.4. Spanish Initiatives in Transition:

Official	urban	people involved	activity	province
Barcelona	X	160	housing, urban garden (orchard)	Barcelona
Ibiza		40		Baleares
Total		200		

13 initiatives
 6 urban initiatives
 30.848 people involved

Only 3 relevant to Urbanism:
 2 of Barcelona, 1 of Santiago

Muller	urban	people involved	activity	province
Albacete	X	30	Information, videos, workshops of Transition tools	Albacete
Axarquía			local food, workshops, nature energy, eco-gardening, hardware&software, local food	Málaga
Butroi Bizirik Cadiz-Tarifa		105		Vizcaya Cádiz
Ecovila La Flor de la Vida		72	Ecovillage project of 24 houses	Gerona
Jerez Mahón	X	20		Cádiz Baleares
Nodo CRTH	X	200	documentation and translation of Transition papers	Barcelona
Partido da Terra	X	200	political party	Orense
Transitioneers		21		Baleares
USC in Transition	X	30.000	to involve academic community at University Santiago in Transition projects	Coruña
Total		30.648		

Source: data from <http://www.transitionnetwork.org>



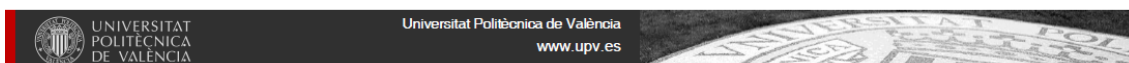
3. Conclusion:

Spain needs to develop a collaborative public participation in urbanism which fill the gap between top-down and bottom-up initiatives.

This public participation means changes in citizen lifestyles towards a more sustainable way of life to achieve European Directives objectives.

Transition initiatives are born in the community oriented to involve local authorities in a collaborative work. They are not reactive but positive. Transition can contribute to fill the gap.

In Spain, these two nodes (Barcelona and the University of Santiago de Compostela) can be important: practice and research, guiding the work of others. But they have to communicate better to the society, the technicians and the politicians in order to get more support (up to now 0,02% of the population of BCN and the project to arrive to the 31% of Santiago). Spanish Transition movement needs to develop its scientific communication and production and to work with other groups to go deeper and faster; if not, they will not be relevant in the urban scene.



4. Appendix:

References:

AMELI, N; LETTENMEIER, M; LIEDTK, C. Designguide Background. Transition to Sustainable development. Ed. Mark Willard, 2013.

EUROCONSTRUCT. Report, June 2012

HOPKINS, R. 2008. The Transition Handbook. From oil dependency to local resilience. Cornwall, Green Books Ltd.

Ley 8/2013 de rehabilitación, regeneración y revitalización.

O'HARA, E. Europe in Transition. Local communities leading the way towards a low-carbon society.

<http://transitionbristol.net>

<http://transitionnetwork.org>

Websites of Spanish Initiatives in Transition:

-Official:

<http://barcelonaentransicio.wordpress.com>

<http://ibiza-transition-island.com/>

-Muller:

<http://albaceteentransicion.blogspot.com.es/>

<http://www.facebook.com/groups/261011497363317/>

<http://ecovilaflordelavida.blogspot.com.es>

<http://maoentransicio.org/>

<http://www.partidodatterra.net>

<http://transitioneers.net>

<http://www.usc.es/entransicion/>



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www.upv.es



Contact:

Silvia Pérez Bou

Architect

Master in Transport, Land and Urbanism

PhD Candidate in Civil Engineering and Urbanism

e-mail: silpebo@posgrado.upv.es

Tutor:

Fernando Gaja i Díaz



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