Turning old into new...

INNOVATIVE PRACTICES IN PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

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Innovation through public hearings

- Public hearings are a ritual in most of our democracies
- It relates to more religious gatherings, or other public ceremonies, such as weddings
- It is often shaped along the lines of public instruction: public is considered as a pupil
- Many ways to get a public hearing more « productive »: the set up, bringing the opponents to the tribune, splitting the meeting into small groups, etc.
- World cafe, open forum, etc.
- Little additional cost...
Innovation through on line PP

- The use of Internet and social networks is growing fastly.
- Very powerful tools for mobilisation and information spreading.
- They can be used for designing the PP process, by collecting expectations from the public.
- Remains sometimes costly at the stage of effective PP: on line participation implies on line video of meetings.
- Not fully adequate for arguing / building collective compromises.
Innovation through drawing lots

- Widely used in Athens for selecting magistrates, and also in Italian Republics
- The use of panels as a response for difficulties to gather the public
- Constructing a sample as a « mini »-public
- A tool that travelled from the US to Europe through Denmark
- Less risk for the local political leaders
- Very interesting as a complement for starting a PP process with material taken from the public
Innovation through environmental conflicts

- Yet, the public is innovating when confronted with a project they don’t want

- In France, contest is growing fastly in ZAD : « Zones à défendre ».

- Chaining to threatened trees, occupations, use of social networks and youtube for posting videos, etc.