SUMMARY

This research explores the relations between decentralization and the setting up of a new political and technical legitimacy that it produces in Morocco and in Burkina-Faso. We studied the emergence of local arbitrers in the field of democracy and the assertion of new actors in the social and professional fields of city planning and urban management. What are the forms taken by these arrangements and their strategies for action? What are the relevant territorial scales and how do they articulate? What is the role devoted to inhabitants and local leaders? Finally, how does all this contributes to a reflexion on the role, the place and the evolution of the functions of expertise and arbitration?

The two approaches, one in Morocco and one in Burkina-Faso, are not comparative but show some resemblance. Both in Morocco (Tiflet, Souk el Arbaa, Casablanca) and in Burkina-Faso (Dédougou, Pouytenga, Ouagadougou) we have concentrated on two provincial cities as a whole and on particular neighborhoods known for having been born and having grown outside of legal city planning. Another common point between the two approaches was obtained from the crossing of perspectives brought by the different researchers of the team in which each one has identified her or his own cities and actors.

Each of the three final analyses has thus been organized around a privileged category of actors:
In Burkina-Faso : the local elected body and the beginning of a local frame of governance instilled at the national level and inscribed within the scales of the State networks of authority and services ; the democratic representation (inhabitants) and an opening of the modes of management to private organizations (example of markets, equipments such as bus stations, and municipal development plans.)
In Morroco, two categories of actors:
The group populations and their leaders challenged by the construction of new territories founded on social mobilization (for example around the management of places of worship or the legalization of a neighborhood) and the emergence of local counter-leaders who carry the values and the representations of a group acquiring a place within the local political system.
The professionals of urban planning and the growing complexity of the system of actors: growing number of local actors, instability of the frames for action, emergence of new professional figures (project management).