

## SUMMARY

Our research aims at studying the effects resulting from the implementation of urban development programmes onto the local socio-politic scene. How the participative devices promoted by such programmes have contributed to give new legitimacy to some actors while others have become disqualified? To deal with these questions, we had first to focus on the elaboration of a conceptual framework, allowing a comparative analysis of the observations made in quarters of Porto-Novo (Zébou) and Bamako (Samé). Two main findings have to be emphasized. We noticed that very often, the problems to be solved were considered as purely technical and treated within the framework of participative devices lead by experts only, what tended to

disqualify the political spaces which give importance to deliberative practices.

If the quarters are "on the fringe of politics" it is more because they are pushed aside, than because of citizen apathy.

Then we propose here some reflections to document some anxiety: have the reforms laid sufficient emphasis on the relations between any form of local powers and these new public powers - which also are local - that the international cooperation tries to legitimate?

It is the main reason why we chose to work at the quarter level: this is the level where native, national modernizing and exogenous dynamics meet.