



TOWARDS GLOCAL ADMINISTRATION

CONCLUSIONS

From the speech of Mr. Ricard Gomà we can extract the following points:

- We are in a transition period from post-industrial society to information society. In this process local authorities have the opportunity to empower themselves by two types of policies:
 - Policies of economic development.
 - Policies with a communitarian basis.
- Characteristics of this empowerment of local government:
 - This process takes place in a multilevel dimension. That is to say, the power relations between different levels of administration are based in the principles of interdependency and interactivity in the policy making process.
- The two traditional systems of local government in Europe, the Anglo Scandinavian model and the continental-Mediterranean model, have brought to a multileveled local systems in the European Union, on the basis of great diversity.
- The change from the traditional government to the new governance implies two key points:
 - 1) An emergent conception of multilevel governance.
 - 2) A new complex of public-private relations, where we can find interdependencies and networks.
- In this new context, second level local authorities are reinforced, as they are better prepared than municipalities or regions for the challenges of new governance in the process of Europeanization. Why are they so prepared?
 - 1) They are better equipped to work on an increasingly complex multileveled context. So, they are well prepared to deal with the European Institutions.
 - 2) They tend to hold a more integrated view of the territory.
- Supramunicipal levels must face four different challenges: Structural, functional, democratic and relational dimensions.

- Mr. Gomà proposed some points in relation to the future of the second level local authorities in the European Union:
 1. They have to go beyond institutional rigidities and rationalism.
 2. Second level local governments have to be set up on the basis of identity or on the grounds of management capacity.
 3. The level of decentralization of the regional government must coincide with the second level of local government.
 4. Second level authorities are called to alter substantially their conceptions of governance.
 5. Direct elections to second level must be held in all cases when there is a collective perception of territorial-based identity.
 6. Processes of democratic innovation should be introduced at second level to deal with strategic planning issues.
 7. It has to be network governance, second level governments may negotiate policy decisions on the basis of symmetrical interdependencies.
 8. The local-global axis must be reinforced.
 9. Second level authorities should be prepared to work on the basis of conflict and alternative/peaceful mechanism of conflict management.

In the afternoon, Mr. Ernest Maragall, spoke about the opportunities and threats of the information society for local governments. The basic elements of his speech are the following:

- Local approach is also a global approach. That is to say, local communities are the nodes of the global network.
- The new challenge of local government is to be an open administration. The ten principles of this open administration are:
 1. Efficiency and efficacy. This open administration has to be oriented to the needs of the citizens.
 2. Accessibility. The open administration has to work 24 hours, 365 days per year.
 3. Transparency. The public management has to be visible for the citizen.
 4. Security. New technologies used in public administration have to guarantee the privacy of the citizens.
 5. Coordination. Improve inter and intra administrative relations.
 6. Participation. New technologies offer to citizenship a new opportunity to participate in the making decision process.
 7. Connectivity. Local government must be the link between citizens and the rest of the world.
 8. Visibility. The design of the town council web has to be clear and easy to work with it.

9. Entrepreneurship. To create entrepreneur conditions for people and firms.

10. Quality. With an open administration the quality of service provided will be better.

- Nevertheless, the information society involves some treats with the shape of a new social exclusion based on age and cultural gaps.
- In front of those treats local governments, even the second level ones, must design accessibility policies: infrastructures (for instance cable or wide band), public centres with real possibilities for the access of citizens to the net or long life learning.

We finish this resume of the seminar with a lesson: We need to reinforce the mutual knowledge of our diversity. It was really interesting the differences between our systems and the possibilities to identify common practises.