

***CORSICA, ISLAND HERITAGE AND REGIONAL IDENTITY: TO THE
TERRITORIAL INTELLIGENCE***

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Abstract: Our objective is to locate societal information topics in Corsica in order to show that it constitutes a ground favourable to the application of territorial intelligence processes. Corsica is an island, a Mediterranean and European area, so it is rich of a historical and cultural heritage consequent on a territory constitutive of a remarkable natural patrimony. Far from considering that its identity is summarized with the presentation of its resources, thanks to its University Corsica opens the way to modernity in an original valorisation of its patrimony which includes human and social elements. We consider that the regional identity lies in the capacity of the actors of the local to identify, gather and develop the elements of the heritage in a widened meaning and to position them in a logic of a mutualisation without borders. This is why the TIC, the major part of the process of territorial intelligence constitutes an essential tool to this step. We wish to show, through the actions undertaken in our area, that the regional identity is a perpetual construction, of permanent nature, belonging to the actors of the local, who, thanks particularly to Internet, have now entered a new era of collaborative experiments. The European richness is obviously constituted of the valorisation of the local richness, thus creating the harmonious mosaic of its identity.

Résumé: Notre objectif est de situer l'actualité sociétale de la région Corse afin de démontrer qu'elle constitue un terrain propice à l'application de processus d'intelligence territoriale. Région insulaire, méditerranéenne et européenne, la Corse est riche d'un patrimoine historique et culturel conséquent sur un territoire constitutif d'un patrimoine naturel remarquable. Loin de considérer que son identité se résume à la présentation de ses ressources, la Corse par son Université ouvre la voie de la modernité dans une valorisation originale de son patrimoine qui est aussi humain et social. Nous considérons que l'identité régionale réside dans la capacité des acteurs du local à identifier, regrouper et valoriser les éléments du patrimoine dans une acception élargie et à les positionner dans une logique de mutualisation transfrontalière. C'est pourquoi les TIC, volet majeur du processus d'intelligence territoriale constituent un outil indispensable à cette démarche. Nous souhaitons démontrer au travers des actions entreprises dans notre région, que l'identité régionale est un construit perpétuel de nature transhistorique appartenant aux acteurs du local désormais entrés, grâce notamment à Internet, dans une nouvelle ère des expériences collaboratives. La richesse européenne est évidemment constituée de la valorisation des richesses locales, créant ainsi la mosaïque harmonieuse de son identité.

Keywords: Territorial intelligence, Island inheritances, Regional identity, Sustainable development, Networks, Corsican area, Mutualisation.

Mots clés: Intelligence territoriale, Patrimoines insulaires, Identité régionale, Développement durable, Réseaux, Région Corse, Mutualisation.

CORSICA, ISLAND HERITAGE AND REGIONAL IDENTITY: TO THE TERRITORIAL INTELLIGENCE

INTRODUCTION

Our communication fits in axis 2 of the first annual Conference of the CAENTI (Action of Coordination of the European network of territorial Intelligence), whose problematic are as follows: "Within the framework of regional identity construction, what are the problems, the experiments and the good practices?"

In effect, the concept of territory is currently feeding from many debates and many reflexions in particular as for a modernized definition of this very old term. For a long time the territory has been the spatial and material representation of a Community space. This definition is certainly still appropriate in several places of the sphere but raises from now on a problem related to a modern conception of the identity, interculturality and exchanges. If it is agreed that Internet marked the completion of "globalisation", the concepts of territory and local should then be going to change. However it seems that a movement of "return to the local" takes place in spite of the triumph of the planetary village. As P. Dumas underlined at the "V^e meetings TIC and Territories. Which developments?" the debate must be prolonged beyond the concept of "glocalisation". In this communication, we wish to propose an approach of the regional identity, its construction, its report to the territories and its resonance through the processes of territorial intelligence.

By presenting the development of Corsica to the territorial intelligence, we testify to a local experiment of the work of analysis necessary to the installation of such processes. The concepts of territory and identity take a particular dimension in Corsica. That is explained mainly by islandity, its positioning in comparison with European space and by its historical evolution. We thus propose initially to define the two concepts: "identity" and "inheritance" to feed a reflection on the construction of the regional identity and that of Corsica as a private individual. We will be interested thereafter in the administrative, economic and political context of the island in order to show a total sight of the current situation of the Corsican society. That will enable us to refine the relation between the current and historical context of the society, to clarify potentialities of evolutions. Lastly, we will evoke two examples of actions carried out in our area which are assimilated to

processes of territorial intelligence. If these actions are premises, they want in any case to show that the way of a new dimension of the territorial projects of development takes form in Corsica.

1. IDENTITY, HERITAGE

"The concept of identity is, with that of the otherness, perceived by much like central, even federator, for the ethnology as for other disciplines of social sciences, however, with which wants to apprehend it, it is concealed constantly. It indicates as well this which stays as what distinguishes as what gathers. It applies to the individual as with groups. It is not conceived like the combination of very heterogeneous elements. It is tested and appeared in figures selected according to the contexts. It changes with the evolution of the social reports and the memberships. Ambiguous finally, it can be turn keep silent and affirmed. Thus in no case the identity is let converted into formulas or to reduce to combinations of attributes and one can wonder about the advantages which one finds to refer to such a concept, so much the phenomena which it indicates are diversified in their demonstrations, their significances and their determinations"⁹. This extract clearly shows the difficulty inherent in the use of the concept of identity in the scientific field and more particularly for social sciences. We must thus approve certain meanings of direction to try to determine contours of the regional identity and more precisely of a Corsican regional identity. According to Denis Chevallier and Alain Morel, three criteria make it possible to work around the concept of identity. They are historical criteria (maintenance in time), then of criteria of exclusion and finally of inclusion. According to us it is also necessary to distinguish the level from territorial application of the identity recognition. This is why we want to present in an objective way the existence of a whole of open criteria allowing to give to Corsica an identity within the world Mediterranean euro. The main repercussion of identity phenomena is that of national political scene. In the European questioning of the regional identities, France is confronted with several areas asserting the existence of a particular identity in the Republic

⁹ Chevallier D., Morel, A., « Identité culturelle et appartenance régionale », in Terrain, n°5, Identité culturelle et appartenance régionale, Octobre 1985.

(Corsica, Brittany, Basque Country, Alsace). The long “jacobine” tradition of the State always opposed the wills of regional emancipations to the name of the unit of the Republic and the good measurement of the State as tallies of public action. However, the problems seem today to moulder of the regional political claim towards the search for a relevant framework of development. If the definition factors of identity remain the same ones, they are consequently apprehended on an inclusion way and not either on that of exclusion. We will thus try to see the natural and historical factors of the Corsican identity construction to tackle the question of the cultural membership. That will lead us to show in the following section of this communication the identity concept impact on the local action.

Above all we must indicate that the concept of islandity is a central factor of Corsican identity construction. Indeed, Corsica is a “mountain in the sea” in the Mediterranean, more precisely in the Genoa gulf. Its strategic position on the sea routes made an object of covetousness for the European leading countries.

From peopling origins to the 18th century, Corsicans were for most of them, mountain and pastoral people. On the 365 communes constituting today the region, up the half are small mountain villages coming from the historical defensive tradition of Corsicans against his invaders. The island knew several occupations (from Pisa, Genoa, and France) more or less tyrannical which never annihilate Corsican language, rites and habits.

From these historical data, we can understand that the construction of Corsican identity has been territorial, defensive and exclusive.

Moreover, we must go beyond this definition. Keep only the defensive and exclusive base of the definition would be the ground of a “zero development” at the present time. The present challenge of Corsica is coming in the modernity and to manage to take a part of the European construction. It is consequently necessary to differentiate at this stage, the identity in term from image conveyed by the island and the identities lived by the Corsicans who are multiple and variable. According to Helene Cardy, “it appears all the same to a certain extent that the speeches on the regional identity produce tangible effects. However, the localised social practices which result from this necessarily do not correspond so that one could expect some. It is that the whole of the speeches produced on the identity is intended to be used as points of recognition and the private behaviours, even with codes of prohibition. Whereas practices, hold by nature counts context

and do not go inevitably in the direction of recognition impelled by the regional decision makers and persons in charge”¹⁰. There is thus well an interaction, a reciprocal influence between the image impelled by the local authorities and the image emanating of the activity of the whole of the actors of the local. It seems that ultimately the most faithful measurement of the identity of a territory is within crossroads between its history, its inheritance, its decision makers and the activity of the whole of the local actors. This is why we can say that identity, just like the heritage is in perpetual construction from its character of “regional mosaic” where each one takes share with the life of the unit. If Corsica, because of islandity, does not have frontier problems, it is also pressed on a natural, historical and social consequent heritage, which reinforces the concept of cultural membership. We can then differentiate an identity from ground membership (personal) and an identity of cultural membership (common).

We thus take the party to cultivate the patrimonial richness of Corsica in order to develop it outside, in Europe and in the world. We think that the knowledge of the island heritage by Corsican themselves is an essential starting point and that it is a public question of education. According to Jean Davallon, the process of patrimonialisation cuts out in six distinct stages: “The discovery of the object, the certification of the object origin, establishment of the existence of the world of origin, the representation of the object “lucky find” by its exposure and obligation to transmit to the future generations”¹¹. It approaches the process of “reversed descent”¹² to define the patrimonialisation. In fact we do not inherit the heritage, we produce it, from the present towards the past. All in all, as from the present, the patrimonialisation created or recreated a bond between men of passed while choosing to preserve objects that they bequeathed us to transmit them to the future generations.

But also, to know oneself is an important required and a precondition to the meeting of the other in order to be able to exchange and weave bonds.

¹⁰ Cardy, H., Construire l'identité régionale. La communication en question, Ed. L'Harmattan, 1997.

¹¹ Davallon, Jean, « Comment se fabrique le patrimoine ?, in *Sciences Humaines*, Hors Série n°36, mars 2002.

¹² Expression from Jean Pouillon repeated by Gérard Lenclud, in « La tradition n'est plus ce qu'elle était ... », in *Terrain*, n°9, octobre 1987.

The construction of Europe does not dilute the regional identities but stimulates them and exhorts with the recognition of the local richnesses. It is from there that the identity becomes inclusive and certainly mainly in the logic of joint project. Indeed the recognized and developed identity ceases to be defensive and makes it possible to enter the way of the development, description of the richnesses and in the mutualisation of the resources.

However, the variety of the symbolic representations of the territory as well as the recurrence of the endemic socio cultural practices still constitute a major barrier to the production of a development culture by the co-operation and the opening. The key of this problematic certainly lies in the actors information division level that we will see ahead.

2. TO THE TERRITORIAL INTELLIGENCE

As we have just seen it, it seems that the regional identity is human construction. Inseparable from the patrimonial heritage and culture, it is the starting point of a possible emergence of the "capital formal territorial" and of a major anchoring in a prospect of sustainable development. Indeed, culture became the fourth pillar of the sustainable development. "(...) the culture must be an essential element of the concept of human sustainable development because it touches with the values, with the traditions, with the inheritance, with the knowledge and the creativity without which human development is unthinkable. (...) If the culture is a vital element of the development of the society, it is thanks to its extraordinary diversity, which is the expression of the single value of each individual, (...) of each area and each people (...)".¹³ This is why after having apprehended the concept of symbolic representation of the territory and the identity like membership of the local, we should expose a short panorama of the administrative, economic and social status of the island. That will enable us to clarify the structural difficulties of Corsica in term of development. Thus we will clarify why with our thinking the processes of territorial intelligence can be completely favourable with a new dynamic for the island territory.

Corsica counts two departments: the High-Corsica and Southern Corsica. Corsica depends on the Court of Appeal of Bastia, academy of Ajaccio, and

¹³Avis de la Commission de la culture, de la science et de l'éducation de l'Assemblée parlementaire de la Francophonie, Mondialisation et développement durable, 28 Janvier 2003.

belongs to the military area of Lyon. Bastia is the chief town of the department of the High-Corsica. The Southern Corsica has Ajaccio for chief town. Corsica saw herself allotting since 1982 the particular statute of local authority, and since 1992, the administration of the Area is attached to the executive Council of seven members and at a regional assembly of fifty and one persons elected by the vote for all. The local authority of Corsica has capacities more advanced than the other areas of the French Republic. This particular statute is mainly the fruit of the negotiations that the State agrees to engage with the various regional political movements. The process of decentralization and transfer of competences continues questioning always more the island society on the shape of local action of the executive. The territorialisation of the public action is started but the impact of the State is still consequent. The particular statute of the island for the time being notably did not modify the forms of expression of the citizenship on the island. However, the political scene of Corsica is varied and the whole of the tendencies and the sensitivities are represented. In light, Corsica knows a stable political situation and advances gradually on the way of the territorialisation of the public actions and the citizenship.

The economic situation of Corsica is an alarming subject. Indeed, it is the last French area in term off GDP per head¹⁴.

From the structural point of view, Corsica is characterized by a distribution of the value added by sector extremely typified. In spite of a tough image of agricultural economics, Corsica has a population very mainly urban (63%). Exclude from the movement of industrial revolution, it moreover counts the less developed secondary sector of the country. It constitutes finally the French area most directed towards the tertiary sector where it has major assets to support its development and to overcome its traditional handicaps (islandity, relief, demographic stagnation...). Its tourist potential inherent in a rich and varied cultural and environmental heritage, as its capacities of innovation and exploitation of the TIC, constitute the two major axes in wich Corsica should be active¹⁵.

From the conjectural point of view, force is to note that the general economic situation of the island is currently in process of improvement. Corsica knows in particular a rather dynamic demography of companies and a clear correction of the national average in terms of employment, with a differential of rate of unemployment of 0,4 point in the 2nd

¹⁴PIB/head 2002 : 19133€ - 13% of national mean

¹⁵INSEE data ; www.insee.fr

quarter 2005, against 4 points in 1997 (- 48,6%). Growth of Corsica, stable compared to that of the continent, should know in the years to come a clear acceleration to the favour from the progressive installation from the Exceptional Investment Program (PEI), provided that the island is able to solve the constraints of offer inherent in the limitedness of its domestic market by an opening increased with the foreign trade¹⁶.

We have just presented the natural and structural constraints which partly explain the economic weakness of Corsica. However, many indicators allow us to affirm that this situation is not a fate. Indeed, if we analyse the data exposed previously, we can immediately notice the obvious potentialities that Corsica can exploit. First of all, the attractiveness of the territory represents a major asset as well on the tourist level as from the economic point of view. Then, the natural, cultural and historical patrimonial wealths, reinforces the geographical attractiveness. Lastly, the fast evolution of an increasingly dynamic tertiary sector leaves the possibility of drawing some tracks of development, of which TIC appear in the forefront. The Local Authority of Corsica (CTC) decided to begin in the support for the development of the TIC and created, in July 2003, the Mission of Information Technologies for Corsica (MiTIC). That made it possible by delegation of public utility to set up a powerful network which opens the access to connection Internet high flow for all the area. This mission works currently within the development of Internet equipment of the local communities and the companies. It for that launched projects of the creation of Internet sites in direction of the local communities, then for the creation of sites of valorisation of the inheritance. At the present time, 75% of the 365 communes have access to the high flow and the totality of the area will be equipped at the beginning of the year 2007. This fast development of the TIC and the presence of a public action in their favour constitute an upheaval for the local economy. Indeed, many services can develop in the field of the TIC. However, we will be interested particularly in the uses related to Internet because beyond the economic development it is the upheaval of the concept of transfer and division of information which we consider. Administrations, the local authorities and companies start to be equipped of connection Internet and more and more of sites are created. That takes part in the formation of a regional numerical landscape. This virtual projection consequently makes it possible to gather several dimensions of the construction of the regional identity. Through the diffusion of numerical

¹⁶ INSEE data ; www.insee.fr

information via Internet Corsica can develop his inheritance, to constitute virtual territories and to share beyond the borders its identity, its activity and to weave new bonds. That becomes a reality for all the territories and all the countries connected to the Web, however we think that this new culture of the division of information must come to question social and cultural dimension on a territory. We convene for that the territorial intelligence in order to provide us a framework of reflexion and pragmatic action in the controlled and strategic use of the TIC. We are based on a definition of Yann Bertacchini¹⁷ for which the Territorial Intelligence is an "informational and anthropological process, regular and continuous, initiate by local actors physically present and/or distant which adapts the resources of a space while mobilizing them by transforming the energy of the territorial system into capacity of project. So the territorial intelligence can completely be comparable with the territoriality which results from the phenomenon of appropriation of the resources of a territory then to the transfers of competences between categories of local actors of different cultures". We thus consider as well as a bond is weaved between the processes of territorial intelligence and the socio cultural facts inherent in a population on a specific territory. Concepts of division of information, of mutualisation of the signals, or of joint project inevitably see themselves confronted with a "local social reality" more or less restive with the co-operative and collaborative fact. We then make the report of a traditional shelf, reason recurring failure of the territorial projects, it means the division of a coherent and common vision by a whole of actors. For as much, we cannot limit ourselves to this report and want to show the processes of territorial intelligence up to what point can be a key of development for Corsica. The development of the TIC is a phenomenon moving and certainly inescapable. The growing penetration of connections Internet will generalize the use of the Web in a very short term, in the sectors private and public but also for the private individuals. The social practices will evolve with the propensity of the society to improve its operation thanks to the TIC. Therefore we think the TIC and the processes of territorial intelligence are particularly relevant for the island territory. They are with our direction the operational link in the chain of the construction of a numerical projection of the regional identity modernized and developed in a virtual space place of meetings and transborder exchanges. Admittedly, the construction of the identity belongs

¹⁷ Bertacchini, Yann, *Intelligence territoriale*, - volet 2 – Mesurer la distance ; Penser la durée ; mémoriser le virtuel, Coll. Les Etics, p. 229.

to the local actors, but it takes direction only in its diffusion and thus by its reception by others. The starting link is well the patrimonial resource. It is initially necessary to count, to develop and diffuse on the territory this whole of information. Thus the construction of the regional identity can evolve to modernity and influence the systemic territorial one. We support the idea that the formulation and the promotion of innovating projects take part directly of the evolution of the glance of the local actors on their own territory. It is well of this dynamics which can spout out a new approach of the territorialisation of the actions and local development. The examples which we will expose now put forward the carried out projects in Corsica area and which are unquestionably comparable to processes of territorial intelligence. Facing certain phenomena, the need for forming networks of competences and for federating capacities of project takes the step on the opposition to progress and uncertainty. The following examples show that the way of the territorial intelligence is open in Corsica and that it is advisable to work from now on with its prolongation.

3. TWO CASES

3.1. Environmental problems:

The project that we present was set up during the year 2005-2006 by members of the teaching team of Master Communication Europe and the Mediterranean of the University of Corsica with like objective sensitizing the students with a step of territorial intelligence. This project was proposed in response to a recurring environmental problem in Corsica, namely the fires of forests. During the summer 2005 a fire devastated a massif of the area of Balagne located in the western north of the island. New catastrophe of a long series, it caused a detailed attention on behalf of the students in the communication dimension of the repercussions of the disaster.

Indeed, many actors are implied in the problems of the forest fires . A short analysis makes it possible to see that all the social bodies of a locality are touched by this phenomenon (the institutional body, firemen, inhabitants, tradesmen, farmers...). The report of a crisis was carried out the shortly after this fire of scale. The reasons are rather simple. Facing the general desolation, everyone seeks to establish the responsibilities and the errors. But uncertainty reigns about the roles and duties of each one, feeding the tensions and resentments, reinforcing the opposition to progress and slowing down the development of methodologies of suitable actions. The project consisted on the formulation of a methodology of constitution of informational networks making it possible to put in bond the key

actors of the prevention. This situation is centered on the dysfunctions related to the division of information between the actors. Indeed, it was noted that there was no network formalized between actors having however to share a certain level of information for an effective action. This problematic requires well an approach in term of territorial intelligence and the formulation of a consequent collective project of prevention and safeguard of the environment. For that it must cause the recognition and the adhesion of the whole of the actors. So, several stages were identified. The finality was to define a methodology of analysis and transferable action in the whole of the island territory.

- Identification of nodal actors and investigation
- Analyzes legal dispute
- Analyses media cover

This first phase of investigation makes it possible to draw up a chart of the actors, to define the major responsibilities for each one, to define the points of conflicts and to measure the territorial extent of the phenomenon. Thereafter, an open debate was to make it possible each actor to freely return on the problems and that with an aim of centring and to make public sectorized exchanges. The project poses that once the conflict clearly exposed thanks to a phase of "catharsis", it is possible to pass to a constructive phase centred on the operational dimension of the prevention. At this time, technical and specific workshops were defined, having to make it possible to work sector by sector with the analysis of the potentials and the gaps. This initial work would be followed by the start up of an Internet network making it possible to make evolve the exchanges of information from each actor to the others. This project makes it possible to draw two extremely productive conclusions for Corsica. Initially it shows that a process of territorial intelligence can be applied in Corsica and to put in network usually "disconnected" actors who find themselves concerned by the same problems. In this case, the territorial intelligence is an analytical and operational process which comes to influence the systemic territorial one. Indeed, to gather a whole of actors around the definition of a common policy about an environmental problem, inevitably impacts on the life of all a micro area.

Moreover, it shows that such a process acts on "ritual" facts found unproductive by the territorial community, then coming to sound the regional identity. To carry projects of this importance on the scale of the area is the starting point of an extension of a Mediterranean and European network of fire control. And that takes part of the production of the

image of the area which arises at its neighbours in a dynamics of project.

3.2 The “LIVRE BLANC”

The “LIVRE BLANC” was elaborated in order to “support the economic and social development of the Corsican society in a European and Mediterranean environment”¹⁸ in particular thanks to the use of Communication and Information Technologies (Tic). Indeed, its specific objectives are:

- First of all “to allow Corsica to better use the Tic to contribute to its policy of development
- Then to allow the citizens and the Corsican companies to profit by the repercussions of the Information society
- Finally to allow Corsica to take part in the Information society and the economy of the knowledge based on the networks, access to the knowledge and services”¹⁹.

That by identifying on the one hand the best practices to be implemented to make live and animate the communities, but also in order to cause reactions as well on the existing public policies as on those to implement, and finally to analyze the capacities to answer to the various communities of practices.

All in all, the “LIVRE BLANC” counts primarily on the mobilization of the actors of various territories. Seven broad topics were retained during its process:

- Public access and Internet
- Public administration and services
- Contribute to the person
- Sustainable development
- Economy
- Education
- Inheritance, culture, Corsican language and identity.

It consists in fact on providing an assessment of the actions and Tic projects selected for their exemplary character, likely to lead to pedagogy by example. “The LIVRE BLANC thus brings useful informations to the public actors and the local actors of the Information society by presenting know-how, practices, steps, innovating policies carried out in Corsica or in other areas or country”²⁰. The activities of the LIVRE BLANC will seek to establish in what and how a concerted

and reflected emergence of the Information society in Corsica is a lever to the problems evoked above. Concerning the topic on which we worked, namely inheritance, culture, Corsican language and identity, we know today that the TIC can be a tool for valorisation of the natural and cultural inheritances of Corsica, with in particular the installation of innovating services in culture and environment. The LIVRE BLANC will treat not only, work around the problems putting the TIC at the service of the appropriation of the inheritance, identity and diversity, but it will also treat setting in synergy of the development of the innovating services of information and communication and then digitalization of the natural and cultural inheritances and implementation of contents multimedia specific to Corsica.

After a few months of meetings, exchanges between actors of different nature and culture, a first assessment of this process enables us to advance that “the participative dynamics which accompanies the process must be understood just like an effort of mobilization of the whole Corsican society: it is not a question here to communicate on the action, but to invite each one to express themselves and act, to draw a collective vision, to maintain an open process”²¹. A certain number of lessons can be drawn from this step. Indeed, the first questioning posed by the LIVRE BLANC relates primarily to the analysis of the needs for the Corsican territory. For the majority, they are not initially directly in relation with the Tic. They are mainly needs for installation, development, valorisation, competitiveness, attractiveness or safeguard. Thus a footbridge was established between the projects known as “numerical” in Corsica and the major problem of regional planning, sustainable development, economic development, valorisation of the inheritances, and education”²².

Then, it is essential that Corsica obtains the levers necessary to the expression of its ambitions, but also a common vision, shared by all the actors and carrying out the structuring elements of its development strategy in the various fields quoted previously. “Work of the LIVRE BLANC thus made it possible to build this vision on three ambitions:

- Corsica must reinforce her potentials
- Corsica must turn herself to the future
- Corsica must increase his radiation towards outside”²³.

¹⁸ La démarche du Livre Blanc, document d'étape Juin 2006, Collectivité Territoriale de Corse.

¹⁹Ibid.

²⁰Ibid.

²¹Ibid

²²Ibid

²³Ibid

All in all, the LIVRE BLANC must be regarded as a “dynamic programming tool”, and in fact only the human networks will make it possible numerical Corsica to be constituted.

CONCLUSION

The question of the regional identity seems to be with double edge. Turned towards the past it is a risk of “against productivity” and asphyxiation for an area cutting it of the rest of the world. Turned towards the future it can create the conditions of recognition and a valorisation of its heritages an identity vector and bases exchanges with the other areas. In a direction it is motionless and stays in a sterile insulation. In the other, it must be daring, dynamics and determined to nourish the bond “past-present-future” in a marked will to weave bonds increasingly richer with outside in Europe, which is in constant evolution. We showed it, Corsica is equipped with an extremely rich inheritance. It has many assets necessary to the definition of ambitious policies of development. Evolution of the definition of the concept of sustainable development which includes from now on the culture in its pillars, let foresee for Corsica a new opportunity as for his integration in the dynamics of governance process. We support the idea that the local can be the source of all the developments. The discovery or the rediscovery of the richness of the local is the basis of a human dimension of the territories development. The territory now released of its geographical yoke is the stake of reflections and initiatives. Removed from the frontier and geographical constraints, the virtual networks give a new dimension to the human networks, bases of considerable projects. It is there with our thinking that a modern conception of the regional identity is. To reach another scale of projects and mutualisation of signals represents for an area like Corsica an important stake. The destiny of territorial space belongs more than ever to its actors. It is even about a way to get a better knowledge of its own territory. It is also probably about the main way towards the processes of territorial governing. While being a vector of “reappropriation” of the territoriality of the actions, the processes of territorial intelligence represent certainly the main framework in the research of the ideal dimension of the territory. So an area counts

infinity of territories which are the result of the dialogue of actors around joint projects.

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