Institute: Urban management techniques

University of Oum El Bouaghi

Module: Initiation to town planning 2

Course N **03**: **Urban planning instruments in Algeria from 1974**

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**Urban planning instruments in Algeria from 1974 to 1990**

In the context of the socialist regime, urban policy reflects a strong centralization of the planning system marked by a state monopoly and a doctrine of complete planning, with a polarization-diffusion of public investments.

In the first decade after Independence, the urban question was disregarded in the concerns of the new Algerian state. Even though Algiers had gained some intentions to organize its growth through the establishment of an interministerial committee, the <**comité permanent d’études et d’organisation de l’agglomération d’Alger**> (Permanent Committee for Studies and Organization of the Algiers Agglomeration), which initiated an initial development study. However, its activities were quickly suspended, and subsequently, its dissolution declared.

**Le plan d’urbanisme directeur (P.U.D)** **(Master Urban Development Plan)**

Its introduction as an urban planning instrument took place during the colonial period in France in 1958. In Algeria, the Ministerial Order No. 1181/PU/2174 dated 16/10/1974 officially initiated the master urban plan by outlining the procedures for its development and approval.

The PUD is a framework for programming and spatializing various short, medium, and long-term programs and investments.

A large number of **M.U.P**.s are being implemented; theoretically, each Algerian city should be equipped with one. They are mostly carried out by **C.A.D.A.T.** (Algerian Fund for Territory Development). The M.U.P. serves as the instrument for physical planning, but its content, methods of development, and implementation are structured quite differently compared to its original French legislative framework.

The C.A.D.A.T. has developed a general method that involves four phases:

1. Analysis of the municipality's situation at the launch of the P.U.D. and testing the site's capacity.
2. Demo-economic study, determination of needs, and formulation of urban policy guidelines.
3. Development of a long-term orientation plan (15 years) and action programs for the short term.
4. Finalization of selected solutions: study of regulations and division of the city into functional zones.

Furthermore, the scope of the P.U.D. encompasses the entire municipal territory, not just the chief town, to address the issue of unauthorized urbanization outside built-up areas. The delimitation of the urbanization perimeter should neither be too restricted nor too extensive; it must correspond to medium-term urbanization needs. Some standards have even been proposed: 3.5 hectares per 1,000 inhabitants in 1974.

In 1980, the C.A.D.A.T. reported the following assessment: 47 P.U.D. (Urban Development Plans) completed, 77 in progress, 44 planned. However, both this new procedure and the concept of the P.U.D. are far from satisfactory. Several criticisms are raised:

* It is developed for the next 15 years, but studies often take many years, rendering it obsolete even before its approval. Unplanned urbanization has progressed much faster than the implementation of the plan.
* The chosen perspectives are merely linear projections. It is challenging to foresee urban planning without reference to a regional level that does not exist in spatial planning.
* Therefore, the P.U.D. is not a true development plan; it only serves as a management tool, and even then, it is limited. The P.U.D. reflects an urban planning concept that is merely filling areas with fictitious quantities of housing, with little concern for urban, social dynamics, and the real possibilities of the site.

**Urban Restructuring Plans**:

These are intended for very specific areas and are detailed urban planning plans.

They primarily focus on areas targeted for the elimination of precarious housing. The operations undertaken in this regard are indeed quite limited.

The very limited scale of urban renewal operations. A few have been attempted, with the most well-known and significant one involving the center of Tizi-Ouzou. Operations to preserve "historic neighborhoods" are even more constrained. It is true that colonial urban planning often led to the disappearance of old urban centers. The restructuring of the Casbah of Algiers has been contemplated for many years. It has not really advanced beyond the project stage since the development of the restructuring plan in 1978.

-**Les Plans de Modernisation Urbaine (P.M.U.)**

**The Urban Modernization Plans (P.M.U.)**

The gravity of the problems posed by urban growth prompted significant government intervention in March 1974, on the eve of the launch of the second quadrennial plan with the Urban Modernization Plans.

The P.M.U. complements or even anticipates the achievements of the Urban Development Plan (P.U.D.). A city can benefit from a P.M.U. while the P.U.D. is still being developed.

The goal of the P.M.U. is to attempt to address the deficiencies in the infrastructure of cities that are to benefit from the realization of "productive structures."

They have been implemented in 39 cities and received a budgetary allocation of 6 billion dinars. The P.M.U. has, to a limited extent, helped address some gaps in infrastructure and develop land intended for public housing programs. The ambitions of the P.M.U. often aim at the realization of integrated operations.

The use of funds has been distributed approximately as follows:

40%: preparation and development of zones.

24%: urban sanitation.

20%: rehabilitation and construction of drinking water distribution networks.

16%: various equipment operations.

The PMUs have only experienced limited success. Implemented to address a crisis, they remain primarily a punctual economic program and are in no way designed to integrate into a comprehensive urban planning strategy.

**Le Plan Communal de Development (PCD**

The Communal Development Plan (PCD)

Its role is at the local level, and it was launched during the first four-year plan. It is a renewable financial program each year. The PCD had the following objectives:

Improvement of social facilities.

Development of agriculture.

Development of industry.

Each Communal Popular Assembly (APC) has its own development plan that manages the budget for these projects. APCs are not involved in the financing of large-scale national industrial projects.

**Le plan d’urbanisme provisoire (PUP)**

The provisional urban development plan is a plan that concerns localities that have not benefited from the master urban development plan. The plan is promulgated through municipal law and applies to small urban communities. The PUP shares the same perspectives and objectives as the master urban development plan (PUD), and the main difference lies in the reduced time for the development and local approval of the PUP compared to the ministerial approval required for the PUD.