

A process for RGCS White Paper

Research
Group
Collaborative
Spaces

1. Description of the process

I spent a lot of time looking at the various models behind European or American think tanks.

To be truly collaborative, I think that the WP has to be a **process more than a product/output**. The trip and the journey are much more important than the final destination. What is happening and what happen between all of us, academics, practitioners, representatives of public policies, representatives of the civil society (and the traces kept of this), is much more important than the final 40-50 pages long White Paper.

That is why I imagined a three steps process, related to ideas such as ‘teasing’, ‘co-creating’, ‘driving’, ‘inspiring’, ‘fostering’, ‘enrolling’, and sometimes, ‘shoking’ a little bit.

The three steps process can be described the following way:

	Version Alpha	Version Beta	Version Omega (Final version)
Description	Vision and first summary of seminars and working groups	Detailed edits, revisions and enrichment by coordinators and members of the Standing Group motivated to contribute. Answers to invitations of version Alpha. This second version will include the RGCS survey completed from April till late May 2016.	Final version, with all the feedbacks, illustrations, discussions and revisions received after version Beta.
Coordinated by...	The general coordinator	All coordinators	All coordinators
Written by...	The general coordinator	Coordinators and members of the Standing Group	Everybody can contribute. All the names of the people who sent a content finally selected by coordinators will appear on the cover letter.
Elements of the process	Blogs posted in RGCS blog area, informal discussions, presentations in the context of RGCS and beyond RGCS are used to test ideas which will be included into this Alpha version.	Physical standing groups, Stample, emails, comments on blog area, will be used to get feedback and extend, enrich, illustrate, and revise the previous version.	Same
Language	French and English	French and English	French, English and Spanish
Put on line...	31 st April	31 st July	16 th December Will be presented and discussed in the context of the 1 st RGCS Symposium in Paris.

2. Content: from public policies for collaborative spaces to public policies through collaborative spaces (“de politiques publiques pour les espaces collaboratifs à des politiques publiques par les espaces collaboratifs”)

The White Paper aims at providing **critical and constructive perspectives about collaboration, collaborative spaces, collaborative communities and collaborative movements and their relationship with work transformations** (e.g. generalization of entrepreneurship, end of the boundaries between private and professional practices, end of the boundaries between producers and consumers’ boundaries...).

It starts from a core observation: **the growing equivalence between managerial agency and political agency**. More and more, managers and their agency transform society and the sense of togetherness at a scale (through digital infrastructures) and with a reflexivity which used to be that of politicians in the 40s and 50s. They do it in a radically different manner that Multi-National Corporations (even if both agencies can leverage each other) did and still do.

The report focuses on collaborative spaces and collaborative community as **a political unit of experimentations for new managerial and political agencies**.

If most (uncoordinated) public policies have till now focused on collaborative spaces as *object of or for* policies, our idea is to think of collaborative spaces as *vehicle and integrator of public policies*.

Our thesis is that collaborative spaces could be a module (or a network of interconnected modules) at the level of the city which could concentrate initiatives both about **education** (in particular about citizenships, sustainable entrepreneurship and open knowledge), **socialization** (at the level of the city, its connectivity and the dynamic of social inclusion), **production** (with an involvement of retired, homeless people for instance) and **new urban planning** (with new mobilities, telework and the emergence of digital nomads).

The paper targets both **public policies, corporate strategies** (as part of cities dynamic) but **also citizens** at large as effective or potential activists involved in the transformations we mention.

Collaborative spaces could be the reflexive spaces exploring and questioning the political agency behind managerial agency (probably in collaboration with another historical collaborative community: that of universities) and helping classic cathedrals to innovate and change ‘from the outside’.

François-Xavier de Vaujany,
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Paris, 24th March 2016