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Title:

**Implementation of NbS in the French context
From synergies to inequalities ?**

The paradigm shift from traditional “grey” responses to floods towards non-structural solutions has become a well-accepted fact (Gralepois et al. 2016). In Europe, Nature-based Solutions (NbS) progressively appear as a new response towards disaster risk reduction (Vojinovic, 2020). NbS are defined by International Union for Conservation of Nature as actions to protect, sustainably manage and restore natural or modified ecosystems, which address societal challenges (e.g. climate change, food and water security or natural disasters) effectively and adaptively, while simultaneously providing human well-being and biodiversity benefits (Cohen-Shacham et al., 2016).

In the French context, this paradigm shift is taking place while the competences of local authorities increase in the field of river and flood management. Even though the State administration keeps major responsibilities (Fournier, Larrue, Schellenberger, 2017), municipalities and inter-municipal institutions launch innovative projects to better integrate the flood issue in their planning policies (Gralepois, 2008, 2012).

In connection with the axes 2 and 3, we question to what extent the increasing competences of local authorities in the definition and implementation of flood risk management policies may facilitate : 1) the building of synergies between flood risk management objectives and other policy targets identified in the NbS concept (nature conservation, societal objectives, climate adaptation) ; 2) the balance of power between local authorities and the State responsibilities ; and 3) citizen involvement in the definition of such integrative projects.

This presentation is based on the first developments of the JPI Climate SOLARIS project (2021-2024). SOLARIS project’s main hypothesis is that social and spatial inequalities exist and threaten the implementation of climate change adaptation policies (among them adaptation policies to extreme hydrological events) and the equitable involvement of affected citizens. Several potential social injustices may occur in face of climate change and policies implemented to assist adaptation: i) injustice in the levels of risk experienced and how these will be impacted by climate changes ii) injustice related to the level of contribution to tackling risk and implementing climate adaptation iii) differences in the level of ability to impact decision-making, and iv) injustice in the capacity to respond and adapt.

In this presentation, we illustrate our analysis with examples of innovative urban projects building synergies between the flood risk and various social and environmental issues on the Loire river Basin.

References

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