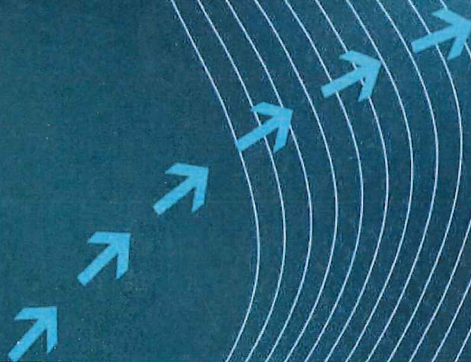




25th Colloquium of IGU – CSRS

RURAL SPACES IN A MULTIFUNCTIONAL TRANSITION: EXPERIENCE AND ADAPTATION



April 16 – 22, 2017

DEBATING ON IDEAL RURAL SETTLEMENT: FROM THE CLASSROOM TO THE FIELD

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Since 2007, I organize sessions with students or politicians aiming for a better understanding of land use and country planning. I bring a bag of building blocks. Within working groups of four to six, the participants elaborate their ideal village. During one hour, they discuss the town plan and functions, position buildings, draw roads and green areas and reflect on services, mobility, conflicts in the neighbourhood. After this period, the group presents their ideal village and argues why they select different functions and locations. This exercise allows students to assess their ability to act taking into account the theory and examples from other classes. With professionals or stakeholders, it demonstrates the diversity of viewpoints on life in the countryside. Beside this pedagogical target, the exercise informs about decision in planning, representations and desires regarding the countryside and rural villages. Regular shortcomings are over-equipment of the village offering a very large range of services, cultural prevalence such as positioning the church on the central square, negligence of the relief and natural, farms systematically located outside the village... Other statements refer to the decision process. In their ideal village, there must be most of administrative, health and commercial services to avoid journeys to the city, green spaces everywhere, plenty of transport opportunities, places for recreation and some heritage to give identity to the locality. When a majority of students are no more familiar with the countryside, this exercise helps to elicit their preconceptions to adapt the learning content. With politicians and stakeholders, the exercise allows identifying shortcomings and increases the awareness of countryside particularities.