

# City Time, People Time

Rhythms of life have evolved and have particularly accelerated in the past twenty years individualization of ways of life :

- Urban sprawl and geographic distance between home and work,
- Increasing mobility of workers,
- Mass entry of women in the labour world,
- Extension of life expectancy,
- Fragmentation of traditional family model (single parent family, divorce, « Tanguy syndrome » or children living with their parents to an older age...),
- Reduction in working time,
- More time given to leisure in comparison with work time,
- Passage to a tertiary and service society,
- Development of new information and Communication Technologies (ICT).

As early as the 90's, France and its European neighbours (Italy, Spain, Germany..) had been thinking about the fluidity of timetables question.

In France, the DATAR (territory planning and regional action delegation), started in 1998 an action-experimentation on four territories.

Different institutions elaborate thoughts about the time question :

- CNT (national confederation of work),
- CERTU (studies centre on transport networks and town planning),
- DIV (town delegation),
- RATP (independent state-controlled company of Parisian transport).

The report E. Hervé in 2001, then a report to the Economic and Social Council by JP Bailly in 2002, recommended the set up of Time Offices in local districts.

Real places of consultation process and local animation about the question of temporalities, the time observatories that constitute these offices have to respond to many objectives aimed at a social fairness for all the inhabitants in their access to services and in their relation to the town. Promote involvement and better participation of inhabitants in the prospect of the reinforcement of local democracy. Think about an ever more important effectiveness of methods of urban organization. Succeed in positioning and distinguishing ourselves despite of the competitiveness existing between cities and territories. Take the problematics linked with sustainable development into account.

Innovation, consultation, adaptability and reactivity are the daily characteristics of Time Offices.

Since 2002, the Grand Lyon has managed the mission « Espace des Temps », to think these questions over and to suggest efficient and innovative temporal polices.

*Since 2004, the national network Tempo Territorial brings together all the actors of temporal politics (elected representatives, technicians, experts and researchers) and gathers more than 15 local districts.*