

Participatory democracy and its role in improving the investment climate in Algeria

Benaicha zakaria ^{1*}, Moumen amine ^{2*}

¹ Dr. moulay taher saida (algeria), zakaria.benaicha@univ-saida.dz

² University of mascara (algeria), amine.moumen@univ-mascara.dz

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Abstract:

In this paper, we will discuss the project of (CAP DAL)® (Local Development and Participatory Democracy), which is the basis of this paper, considering that this project is one of the most important aspects of the international partnership to operationalize the local development in Algeria and we will define the objectives of this project, and how to demonstrate it on the reality .

we will discuss the concept of partnership and international cooperation and their role in achieving the local development and the foundations and principles assumed for an effective partnership between all actors in the development speech.

Keywords: partnership; investment ; CAP DAL project ; Local Development , investment environment.

** Benaicha zakaria , Moumen amine*

The mistrust crisis between the Algerian citizen and state institutions on the domestic, national and regional levels and the unwillingness to promote as such, the authorities were ought to work out the issue. As a result, “participatory Democracy” was introduced as the most vital means and mechanisms in such field, notably, the domestic level.

In order to regain “trust” and domestic governing between both, citizen and state, Algerian government initiated efforts for participatory quest which witnessed several progressions in the matter, mainly, “the reforms” which came into effect since 2011. In this respect, the “participatory Democracy”, “citizen participation” and “citizenship effectiveness” were invariably put back in the formal political ceremonial. As a result, the process of the constitutional framing took place gradually for the participatory approximation throughout the municipal constitution and province which, both, emphasized the necessity to consult the citizens on domestic matter. The constitutional amendment of 2020 which, however, constitutionalized participatory Democracy took place for the first time in the Algerian constitutional history.

As a result, several active internationalists showed their willingness to convoy the Algerian quest and cooperate along with Algerian central domestic authorities. This interaction with Algerian initiatives in terms of participatory Democracy, however, was headed by the United Nations scheme of development (PNUD) and the European Union which, both, initiated, in cooperation with the home office, a project to support the subject’s capabilities on domestic development. This project which known as (Cap Del) aims to promote citizenship activism and effectiveness. It is, nevertheless, capable, in what concerns domestic participatory Democracy, to develop local community.

The Cap Del project initiators, started in 2016, are keen to provide a common framework to all concerned subjects, men, women, domestic authorities, urban society and private sectors...in order to enable them to put into effect a mutual scheme to promote their region. The project will continue for four years, since its initial debut, and will comprise ten municipals across the different territorial parts of the country.

The Cap Del project is one of the biggest initiatives in terms of mutual reparations throughout the local communities, howsoever; it remains unclear for many citizens, notably, municipalities which have been not comprised yet.

The first chapter is dedicated to the nature of partnership and international cooperation through which we have introduced the concept of both. The study also aims to put emphasis on arguments and goals behind such initiatives. The second chapter, however, is specifically dedicated to define Cap Del project, its goals, range as well as its results.

2. Partnership and International Cooperation in Theory

2.1 The Nature of Partnership

The word Partnership has different concept due to the various perspectives and analysis in such domain.

The definition of Partnership:

There are many definitions to the word “Partnership”, some economists defines it as” it is a vast field of unclear concepts. Institutionally, however, it is a stimulated reflection of a complete independent state of new management agenda.” (M.boisclair et l. dallaire , 2008 p9)

Partnership is a relation bound with a contract cooperation that aims to realize any contracting goals in different areas (technological, production or distribution network)

It aims to procure interchange concessions which, however, does not necessarily conceder equality among both contracting sides. Also, partnership is likely concerned with non-competitive institutions in terms of products and services alike.

Partnership is the commitment that holds two or more institutions for profiteering from mutual resources or specific activities, in addition, sharing incomes.

What different is the definition of partnership relation, it is, however, an alternative for market relations whereby contracts are preferential in terms of partnership projects.

Between public and private sectors, the definitions of partnership do vary. In 1994, it became known for the world and education field as fallows;”partnership is the twist of concept and roles of administrators in the

institution that are under partnership”. It is also defined as the cooperation and solidarity in addition to the respect among partners. Partnership’s principles are as follow:

- 1- Partnership is ought to be based on mutual interests principle. And, in order to last in, it must provide a source of benefits for the different sides.
- 2- Equal partnership not hieratical.
- 3- Freedom in working and self agreeing.
- 4- Partnership Support and cooperation between partners in the sense.
- 5-Development principle through constant evaluation among partners might lead to changes or terminate contract, if not successful.

As above mentioned, the concept of partnership had known many changes. This, however, took place in accordance to the economic changes in the world and different field of studies.

The European Federal Network of Partnership had officially defined partnership as fallows “partnership is a sort of technique for development and organising partners through contract. This contract aims to one common objective in specific term. And, they respectfully do sharing among them according to the knowledge and experiences they have.”

The above definition clarifies:

Partnership is a development and organising technique, i.e., it is one of the forms of distribution which is specifically noticed in a province where economic relations come to effect. In order to fulfil stable managed relation, partners are to share and conform within technologies they exchange among each.

Partnership is knowledge and experience exchange: Hereby, it is established on the basis known as exchange in which benefits are mutual for every participant, i.e., they achieve such through perfect communication among themselves.

Partnership imposes a kind of harmony: as above mentioned, the perfect exchange of knowledge and experiences sake is to go for expertness.

Partnership leads to mutual development: at this point, eventually, all the partnership definition’s components are gathered for the perfection of all the concerned sides. This is only to fulfil the term of Partnership Transversal Fertilization (M.kahn ,2009, p133-135).

It is worth to notice that partnership concept is recent. It is introduced as one of the influential concepts in the process of development. It is, however, mixed with other concepts related to it but deferent in sense such as “participation”, “cooperation”, “coordination”.

Partnership, therefore, is an approximate development through complementary relation of skills and potentials between two or more sides. It seeks to achieve specific objectives under the ground of equality among sides in order to magnify the advantages of each, mutual respect, distribution of roles and hold responsibility with great deal of transparency

The definition of international cooperation:

it is a term that refers to the efforts done on the international scale. It aims to fulfil the task of interests among the cooperated states in terms of international peace as well as meeting political, social, economic and security challenges. So, In addition to governmental organizations and non-governmental, international cooperation can take place between individuals, nations, communities and different ethnic groups. It is, howsoever, accomplished, in official manner, through pacts between individuals or states. It can, also, take the form of humanitarian aids and common movements, which indeed, is the United Nation’s main principal to fulfil.

The most important international cooperation, which our study goes by, is the economic cooperation as the main forms of cooperation. It concerns the economic, commercial and financial scales in order to achieve economic development through specific joint procedures. Economic cooperation involves signing pacts to up raise the level of commercial exchange between nations or procure loans, donation and financial payments. In addition, it reliefs commerce, relieves trade barriers and fulfil economic security through fighting smuggling and economic misdeeds.

Hereof, the concept of partnership, for partners, is evolving due to the preferences and specification that grants. It is a worthy resolution to whatsoever nation to overcome obstacles that would hamper the process to develop institutions and states. (Adel Mahmoud Al-Rasheed , 2006 p. 04) .

Therefore, reason and motivations are vary to go for partnership as a strategy to economic developments in which, to this end, a certain

question is to be raised, why do firms resort to partnership contracts?

2.2 motives and arguments of partnership:

In the world of economy, every strategy is pushed by motives and arguments. It is worth to mention that partnership takes place under different circumstances. This latter, in the basic sense however, do vary according to what the institution's circumstances are. The holder of these institutions, the market, is the most argument that pushes institutions to choose partnership relations rather than market or hierarchal interrelationships. These arguments stand on the theory of transaction costs introduced by O. Williamson in 1975. He, through his theory, concluded that institutions making deals whether with importers or clients in order to gain equipments for production or products deployment would hold the institution to afford expenses. The latter would increase according to the number of deals made. To decrease deals expenses, therefore, it is ought to be an alternative other than market. This is the motive that pushes institutions to resort to partnership relations instead of market. (Baou ben yakhlef , 2004-2003, p18-19) .

A recent study, done by a researcher, introduced an integrative sample to choose the partnership relation that would consider, in its terms, all the intervening factors in the process. This approach, however, requires the separation between internal and external factors.

First: internal or specified Factors: it is all factors or motives that make us sign a treaty with an agent. It is related, therefore, to what profits a firm gains from signing a contract. These factors are represented in:

When an institution seeks to procure the utmost share in the market, it is, in fact, a direct attack against other institutions. Therefore, it would become big shares holders if succeeded, i.e., an alternative for other institutions. This act, however, puts many institutions into isolation. So, would push it further to seek an alternative to secure their presence. The solution, therefore, is to sign a partnership contract within these big share holder institutions in the market throughout partnership contract. (Baou ben yakhlef , 2004-2003, p23-24)

Stability Embodiment: partnership does embody stability for two main reasons:

Title Participatory democracy and its role in improving the investment climate in Algeria

~~-It develops marketing and enhances the quality of services~~

-it leads to stable relations between partners throughout its goals and management. (M. Kahn, 2009, p 135-137).

The need to transfer implicit scientific and technological knowledge: problems occur, to some firms at least, for the reason of not keeping up with technology. For instance, the revelation of technological confidentiality would put institution under the threat of copying and competition therefore. To avoid such threat, institution is best to resort to partnership contract.

Unclearness and Unconfident of Feedbacks: it is due to the mixing tasks at work.

The institution's contrastive nature in terms of practiced activities: it is due to the lack of competency and skills

The strategic nature of activities: intent for external factors or all variables that concerns activities. It explains the reason that urged two institutions to change their cooperation's terms of what concerns time and place, however, the norms of activity stood still. Some of such factors are as follows:

The uncertain continuity of activity: such as the incapability of affording expenses.

The subjection of institution to external parts to do the activity: according to the external circumstances of the institution.

Obstacles that hamper the internal growth: when institution is incapable to reach internal growth on its own.

2.3 the objectives of partnership:

The main concern of any institution is autonomy. It is a state of self independent and control of its own decisions. Institution, however, is ought to surrender some of its autonomy and respect the mutual decision issue when a contract occurs with another institution.

Partnership objectives do vary in accordance to its relations which is mainly represented in:

Accomplish strategic goals: any firm is keen to develop its strategic agenda and work on delivering it.

New markets access: Partnership does enable firms to take parts in different hypermarkets.

Access to technological and qualified labour: through contact with other institutions, partnership, therefore, pave the way for partners to benefit from experiences, gain, specialized qualifications and innovation. (Moubarak Balata , 2005. P.4).

Partnership objectives are summarized as follow: (Center for Research and Studies , 2004. P 257)

- 1- Improve way of living of individuals and employment.
- 2- Pave the way for economic and social improvements across the entire region.
- 3- Reduce the development gap level between Europe and Mediterranean Sea.
- 4- Encourage economic cooperation and complementarity.
- 5- Encourage foreign investments in Mediterranean States.
- 6- Transfer technology to outgrowth states.
- 7- Access to market.
- 8- Partnership opens opportunity to achieve its main aim, increase profits as well as other different goals that go by according, however, to the fixtures that partnership stand for.

2.3 Types of Partnership:

the relationship between cooperated institutions is based on accord and rapprochement which, in fact, is a type of arrangements. Therefrom, it is likely to raise a question about the nature of such relations and the way to arrange. It is certainly that partnership relations vary according to the type and size of the partner as well as the objective of the relationship. At this point, it is a matter of partnership relationship's variety which we are going for details of some.

Exterior Moneymaking Policy:

Many firms go into partnership with qualified agents at some levels of production. These agents perform various functions such as safeguarding and data processing they are, institutionally, therefore, considered as exporters, lumpers and distributors.

Exterior moneymaking policy concept, therefore, is a form of

supplementary partnership, i.e., it depends on foreign part to accomplish a certain levels of work. (Baou ben yakhlef , 2004-2003, p26)

It is a strategy or technique that gathers firms. It takes over the role of establishing and combining or containing between agents where each of which is independent. Generally, it uses different methods to evoke external resources in commercial distribution contracts. These contracts, nonetheless, exceed not ten year and has different techniques to invoke external resources:

The franchise participation: it is a commercial economic cooperation pact represents a joint contract between firms. The first part, the franchise, contributes with the trademark he owns. The trademark is one specifications and expertness range of distribution. The second part, the firm, contributes through financial investment and qualified profession.

This type of partnership can help Algerian institutions to develop on the national transborder scale through well known international firms in terms distribution range. (m kahn. 2009. p 10)

Under contracting:

As for partnership, it is the most common type. It can be defined, economically, as firm sharing specific procedures to fulfill specific project throughout other firms.(Nadeer Riad Mohammed Al-Shahat 2001, p 11)

Apparently, buying is unlike **under contracting** on the ground that the latter depends on the demand of specific firms. It sponsors the production of specific accessories as requested by the firm's owner. So, he is ought to give all the instructions to the partner in order to be up to the level and provide a guide note book of regulation in case flaw occurs. (M.queennec 2009 p10.)

Qualitative Provisioning: it is when a firm contributes to produce specific accessories of the product. This is, however, by the contribution of the original firm's partner through techniques and operators in order to make complementary accessory to the final product.

Authorizing or commission: in this case, the senior partner is authorised to deal with the firm's external dealers and performs some tasks such as selling, buying...etc.

Grant authorization and franchise contract: it is to provide the senior partner, the firm, a contract that grants the right to exclusive selling at

specific zones such as selling cars tires at gas station.

Mix Companies or joint-branches: the concept of technology transfer and the desire to develop commerce and industry brings us to evoke the issue of partnership relation that has the resources but lack technology and innovation for such matter. For outgrowth states, buying factories, for the sake of transferring technology, proved insufficient for development. These states resorted, instead, to establish joint-branches subjected to the innovation companies due to experience and advancement in management. This process, however, will enable these companies to well develop the firm. (Baou ben yakhlef , 2004-2003, p32)

Therefore, it is worth to conclude that joint-branches are a form of joint projects or partnership through which three criteria take place: Technological contribution “innovated partner”, marketing and production contribution “commercial partner”, capital contribution in terms of enduring risks “silent partner”. Therefore, a joint project which has the above-mentioned criteria will form what is known as partnership. The partner, who owns the technology, indeed, takes his part in partnership in return for incomes. He does so in order to avoid the burden thinking of infrastructure and capital risks. To such matter, we find each of:

The innovated partner: it is necessary to maintain the patent under the fact that it is, by the law, out of sharing. This way, it will attract many partners according to the secrecy and brilliance of the patent.

Commercial partner: he is ought to be well informed about the market to figure out that the upgraded product will make profit.

The silent partner: every project is exposed to risks. It is, therefore, vital to the silent partner to consider the implicit risks of investment and hold the responsibility of such on the one hand. On the other hand, practices of human resources administration, through joint branches, are capable to solve some problems on commerce. It takes effect while times of crisis and economical, technological and cultural incertitude. If, the mother company, is incapable to directly control recruitment and appoint head employees for chief offices, it is, though, still capable to coordinate activities. This, however, takes place by influencing the formation and development of employees.

In addition, the local trained employees are to be considered, by the foreign company mother, as mean to transfer correct knowledge and social data. In this respect, Frayne and Geringer 1990 claimed that training, in the project of cooperation, can be used to control different jobs that it can socially emerge employees in terms of language, culture and errors correction. It develops activities throughout teaching employees new skills about current situation or else in the firm. Therefore, the mother company can participate in developing and redeveloping employee's to enhance competency and experience to administrate the project under cooperation:

The socialization of employees language and cultural training in addition to identify and correct mistakes

The main firm do participate in the development of activities by teaching employees new skill for incoming situations which, in return, would enhance their performance in the joint project.

3. the Role of Cap Del Project on the Algerian Local Development Identifying the support programme of local actor (Cap Del)

In the course of reforms of major firms which overtake the last recent years in Algeria notably the incorporation of participatory democracy at the level of regional groups in the 2016 constitution. The Algerian government initiated cooperated project with European Union and the United Nations scheme of development PNUD. It aims to engage citizens and civilian society in the municipal management as well as integrated and sustainable local development known as the Project of Cap Del. To this end, it is plausible to raise the questions of what is the truth of this prject? what are its objectives? And to what extent it is applicable?

3.1 what is Cap Del?

"Programme de renforcement des Capacités des acteurs du Développement Local"

It is a support programme for actors on the local development. It is supervised by home office of local communities and urban development with estimate fund of 11 million Euro. This fund is divided as follows; the Algerian government contribute is 28390320 Euro, the European Union 7700000 whereas the United Nation scheme of development contributes with 19000.

This partnership represents the technical bond of getting experience and projects management in which:

- The home office initiates major reforms for local groups in terms of local economic development

- For the construction of effective pattern for Algeria, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs joins the project as a partner. By so, Algeria and its local groups benefit from the success of such worldwide experiences in the field of local consultative development which will be promoted on the international scale as a sample.

- As a promoter of regional development, the European Union, through its experience and financial support, supervise the initiation of regional policies.

- The united nation scheme of development contributes through its worldwide experience of which supports the local development as well as initiating the public policies in Algeria.

Under the slogan of “participatory democracy and local development” the CapDel project seeks to support the local actors through three bodies:

- The Fundamental Actors: included the elected and local administration.

- Urban Society: included the citizens acceded in assemblies of local societies and the non acceded ones.

- All the professional systemization including handcraft and economic local dealers.

The aim of the project is to integrate the local actors into the domestic administration at the municipal level. It is so done for the economic support of local groups. In principal, it is worth to notice that the project has joined different bodies of the local society such as local elected, administration, economic dealers, assemblies and citizens. On the national scale, this would include full-scale of supporting parties. On the international scale, however, it would involve the United Nations and the European Union in addition to the Algerian government. As regards of such, why Algeria needs external supporters? Does Algeria lack experts to produce programmes and schemes of developments? If we justify the external intervention with the need of financials, it is, though, definitely not justifying the intervention of external bodies in the Algerian domestic policy what is considered as an intervention in the Algerian sovereignty.

3.2 what are the objectives of the project ?

According to sponsors, Cap Del aims to prepare the appropriate conditions to build transparency and counselling. The latter, as a result, would lead municipal governing council to care more about the aspirations of citizens. This typical approach will be tested for four years ,from 2017 to the late of 2020, through ten typical municipals. Then, the good results achieved on the local ground will be promoted on all municipals of the state.

The main objective of the project is to support the local actors, notably, youth and women, in order to promote the participation of the citizens in the local planning and facilitate the interaction among different parts of municipals. The project, therefore, is stressing two major areas, the participatory democracy on the one hand and the local and sustainable economic development on the other hand. It takes effect, practically, through the reinforcement of different classes on financial and formative level on ten municipals.

The sponsors focused on these two areas on the local ground for its integral role. As of which participatory democracy takes full effect by allowing society to introduce thoughts about different preoccupations to local administration mainly on the local development. The local administration, however, is to make decisions and consultation of plans in manner that serves the objectives of local development. This way, the municipals would produce permanent sources of economy. By so, the municipals become self relying entity which does not rely on central government budget and plans like it used to. This manner will boost economy as well as the citizen's trust of governmental administration.

3.3 what is the range of the project (Cap Del)?

On the Geographical sense it is applied on ten municipals on the Periodical sense, however, it is allocated for four years. On the objective sense it is composed of four main themes:

First: geographical range of the project

The project comprises ten typical municipals across the national soil:

These municipal included, Timimoun from the province of Adrar which was the starting point, Oulad Bin Abd El Kader from the province of Chlef, Beni

Maouch from the province of Bejaia, Gahzaouet from the province of Telemcen, Tizirt from the province of Tizi Ouzou, Masaad from the province of Djelfa, Djimila from the province of Setif, Djanet from the province of Ilizi, El kharoub from the province of Constantine and Babar from the province of khenchla.

These municipals are selected as prototypes. It represents the prosperity and variety of national regions in terms of nature, geography, culture, heritage and economic privacy and development of each. It is located in different areas across the country where some municipals lay in the coast, some are located in the high plateaus and steppes and other are located in the south. It is the test sample to apply the typical approach of Cap Del. The experience, however, will adopt the success of these prototypes. Later on, the results obtained will be applied on other municipals alike.

It is worth to mention that the number selected in the experience stays small compared to the maximum number of municipals in Algeria which reaches 1541 municipals. This will provide inequality between regional groups. Though, the project administration did selected different samples across the country, still, some municipals are thirsty for such support mainly the marginalized ones. It is, however, still light since the government showed willingness to generalize the application if, we hope, good results achieved. This, indeed, does not change the fact that selecting small samples of ten municipals was a strategic choice so the government can control and focus on. It is also worth to consider that this is the first experience of its kind in Algeria which will become, in the future, samples to work on in the area of Participatory Democracy and Sustainable Development.

Second: Time Range of the Project

Aforementioned, the project last for four years actually started from 16/01/2017 during the project launch workshop to support actors capacities in the local development. It is expected to end in the late of 2020. Notice that the four years time is reasonable and logical. It is medium range duration; however, it aligned with end of custody of elected local councils which started in the late of 2017. This will enable the local elected in the typical municipals to get maximum benefit from the project during their period since they will witness the whole phases of the project's application.

Third: the Objective Range

Until the economic support of local groups and for the integration of local actors in the administration of local development at the municipals level, the Cap Del project has four major themes to do so:

- Participatory Democracy.
- Enhance and moderate public utility.
- Economic local development.
- Managing major environment risks.

3.4 Expected Results from the Cap Del Project

The supervisors of the Cap Del project do hope as well as local authorities and citizens of the typical municipals to succeed on the level of sustainable development and participatory democracy. It is expected to achieve results in various dimensions. The activities, developed by the project, are expected to be tools of pedagogy and a test ground for new local democracy. It displays and enforces the civil link among citizens and reinforces their local belonging which, in return, will reduce the social tension and support the idea of “coexistence”.

The project is also expected to embodied consultative government through establishing democracy as well as expanding citizenship participation. In addition, the local association movement awareness role is to be appreciated under the ground that associations do form “school of democracy”. It is the area to learn the democracy and take part in reinforcing civil and social relationships between citizens and motivate their participation in the civil local life.

The Cap Del project is expected to set precise scheme to avoid different major threats and protect the properties and interests of citizens in the process. Development is to happen in terms of public services of local administration and fight all kinds of bureaucracy. It will come into effect under the use media’s technology and the electronic administration throughout the generalization of internet, electronic messages, online services, green numbers and electronic file fallow up...etc.

Finally, the project is expected to achieve the rational and effective usage of resources and reinforce the economic role of regional groups. Local raisings, for the above matter, is set properly in addition to the appraisalment of local properties which, as a result, will create local economy characterized with solidarity and diversity based, as well, on the rational exploitation of local regions component.

4. CONCLUSION

As aforementioned, we managed to introduce a simple picture about the project and the huge budget to support and reinforce the local actors capacities on the area of participatory democracy as well as pushing the sustainable development. We have seen how the project, through triple administration allows representatives of civil society and consultative staff to contribute side to side with the elected council to set common vision of the municipal's future on the average range. The project supports the update and facilitates the administration services and enhance the use of modern technology for media and communication to easy the administration procedures. The project promotes the local economic development to become active through wealth and sustainable incomes instead of dependency and budget consumption.

We recommend, for the project to be more effective, to raise awareness among the civil community. This will help to interact with the project and respond to the different invited categories to take part in advancing local sustainable development and fulfil the participatory democracy task. We also recommend the focus on neighbourhood committees to be considered as primary cell and a link between the local administration and the local community as the closest representative of local residents.

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