DEMOGRAPHIC AND MIGRATORY DYNAMICS OF TWO HABITATS: PRIVATE HOUSING ESTATES AND HOUSING PROJECTS IN BRUSSELS PERIURBAN AREA

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RESEARCH ISSUE

In Belgium, periurban areas of agglomerations are often considered as homogeneous and having not enough socio-demographic diversity, receiving high-income population by internal migrations. The objective of this presentation is to offer a different vision, by leaning over the demographic dynamics of two Brussels periurban area habitats. On one hand, *private housing estates* are the urbanistic and societal symbol of this new stage in the extension of cities. On the other hand, although rare in the periurban area, there are *housing projects*, whose objective is to give housing to low-income population. We wish to answer two major questionings: [1] what are the socio-demographic characteristics (age, household, level of education) of the populations of these two habitats? [2] who are the migrants participating in their demographic evolution: who migrates to and who leaves them? Where from do they come and where do they emigrate to?

METHODOLOGY AND DATA

Data come from two complementary sources. On one hand, the information of the last two censuses (on 1991 and 2001) provides socioeconomic characteristics at individual level: social and occupational group, level of education, characteristics and comfort of housing. On the other hand, for the years surrounding both censuses, we have individual data (but anonymous) of the National Register. They allow on one hand to identify the inhabitants of both studied habitats, as well as their demographic characteristics (age, sex, type and size of household, nationality). The National Register also allows identifying precisely the migrants towards and from both types of habitats, as well as their place of origin/destination. Methodically, the originality of this

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study stands in coupling, at individual level, these two types of information. For the two considered periods, every inhabitant of both habitats will therefore be characterized by demographic information and by his socioeconomic situation, as well as the migrants towards and from these types of habitat.

ENVISAGED OUTCOMES

Data analysis will allow answering both complementary questionings:

- On one hand, the recent demographic dynamics of both habitats will be studied, by comparing 1991 and 2001 situations. How did their socio-demographic composition evolve? Is there an increase of social segregation within private housing estates? Are the situations of demographic anomie[3] confirmed in terms of absolutely destabilized structures by ages and by household types?

- On the other hand, the accent will be put on migrations exchanged between these two habitats and the outside. Do the migrants who settled there participate in an increased socio-demographic homogenization or do they break this logic of concentration of high-income families in private housing estates and of low-income (monoparental, singles and widows) in housing projects? In ten years time, do they still have the same socio-demographic characteristics and places of origin/destination? Have the recent policies of town and country planning and of social cohesion been successful? Here are some research lanes which we wish to develop in this study.

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[3]T. Eggerickx & M. Poulain, « Un exemple d'anomie démographique : les lotissements », *Démographie et aménagement du territoire* (sous la direction de J. d'Armagnac, C. Blayo et A. Parant), CUDEP, pp. 313-324