

La participation citoyenne au Maroc: entre expériences passées et régionalisation avancée

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Abstract:

Morocco witnesses different forms of citizen participation since the years 2000. The new constitution, adopted in 2011 as a response to the uprisings in the MENA region, stresses the implementation of new institutions and instruments in this sense to make the citizens' voices heard. The present study takes a closer look at the interaction of these new forms of citizen participation with established actors, institutions and practices. Previous activities including donor funded projects, participatory planning at the municipal level or the National Initiative for Human Development (INDH) have all contributed to capacity development and awareness raising that provide the ground for the implementation of these new approaches. But they have also established networks of relationships and interests, and shaped individual careers. Based on case studies of four cities in the North and South of Morocco, this book describes and analyses how the various local actors (elected officials, civil society actors, actors from public administrations) appropriate the new processes and institutions in very different ways and include them in their legitimization processes or in their clientelist practices. The case studies show that claims for more transparency and accountability in public policies and for access to a minimum level of public services persist, and that civil society is still a much-needed actor at the interface of state and societies. However, recent reforms for increased citizen participation are far from responding to these needs. The current legal framework and practice of citizen participation reflect, in the best case, participation in the sense of 'improved information' or, in some cases, 'consultation', but do not lead to substantial citizen participation in political decision-making. The procedural and technical vagueness of current regulations expresses a political vagueness that encourages a very different appropriation and interpretation by the administration, local elites and donors, and in some cases contributes to reproducing power inequalities.