



ISABELLE LEROUX :

THE LOCAL ACCEPTABILITY OF DETENTION FACILITIES

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WHAT ARE THE MAIN FINDINGS OF HER RESEARCH ON RESISTANCE TO THE INSTALLATION OF PRISONS AND HOW TO OVERCOME IT?

In response to detention facilities, NIMBYism appears in several ways

- It takes the form of a rejection that reflects fears linked to preconceived ideas about prisons.
- The plans to build a prison raise fears that are felt to be actual threats. However, the perception of the risks associated with the proximity of a prison is often overblown. For example, the risk of escapes with dangerous consequences - although very rare - is often feared.

It is largely the result of a lack of information and dialogue

- The lack of anticipation or consensus-building with local residents tends to lead to a feeling of injustice. This feeling can lead to wider rejection actions (petitions, questioning of public authorities, founding of anti-prison associations, etc.).
- When prisons are built without prior dialogue or with a misrepresentation of expected impacts, mayors regularly face problems of acceptability ex post, when

the prisons are already in operation. It is necessary to educate the population to forestall conflicts and promote acceptability of projects.

A prison can be beneficial to the area in which it is located and to society as a whole

- When it is part of a regional project that has been duly planned beforehand through consultation with the other stakeholders in the region, particularly the local communities. This consultation must consider different themes: economic development, access to services and facilities, social development, links with associations, regional identity, etc.

- When the project is coordinated at different levels (local, departmental, regional, national) to define how it is to be implemented and how it fits into the region. This also helps to determine which skills will need to be mobilised by each level.
- When residents and associations are involved, it is important to explain to them how the facility will fit into the regional project, to present the advantages in a realistic way and to reassure them.



To go further :

Isabelle Leroux (December 1st 2021) : France: Is prison a business as others?, "Speaker's Corner" series (1), Partnership between Prison Insider and Rescaled.

<https://www.prison-insider.com/en/articles/france-la-prison-une-entreprise-comme-une-autre>

Isabelle Leroux et Éric Rigamonti: (2020). "Les nouvelles prisons françaises, objets de développement économique local ? Socio-économie des impacts sur la commune d'accueil et nouveaux enjeux de territorialité", *Criminocorpus*, Espaces de détention : territoires, patrimoines et lieux vécus. <http://journals.openedition.org/criminocorpus/7471>

Éric Rigamonti et Isabelle Leroux (2018). « L'inefficience des partenariats public-privé appliqués aux prisons françaises », *Revue d'économie industrielle*, 162, pp.9-125. <https://journals.openedition.org/rei/7093>

Isabelle Leroux et Éric Rigamonti (2017) « Pour une lecture institutionnaliste de l'acceptabilité locale d'un établissement carcéral », *Économie et institutions*, 25. <https://doi.org/10.4000/ei.5866>

Isabelle Leroux (2017). Interviewed by Yann Thompson, « Pourquoi certaines communes rêvent d'accueillir une prison et d'autres en font des cauchemars ? », *Francetvinfo*. https://www.francetvinfo.fr/societe/prisons/enquete-franceinfo-pourquoi-certaines-communes-revent-d'accueillir-une-prison-et-d-autres-en-font-des-cauchemars_2251279.html