**Titulo:** Indicadors urbans per un observatori urbà associats a la millora de barris  
**Autora:** Lídia Padrós Prats  
**Tutor:** Francesc Magrinyà Torner

**Abstract**

For the first time in history, half of the world’s whole population live in cities. However, many of these people live precariously. This phenomenon is especially noticeable in the Southern countries. One of the possible solutions to improve the life conditions of these areas is the enhancement of those districts with spontaneous weaving.

This worry about the precarious settlements spreads worldwide. The different world meetings on these human settlements have argued about these issues in depth, and have at the same time inspired the generation of urban information worldwide. In the first chapter, these different world meetings have been interpreted as the engine of urban information and its worries.

As a result of the II World Meeting on Habitat, the Urban Observatories are in charge of gathering, supporting, exploiting and providing the general public and, especially, actors with the ability to make decisions, the information about the city, with the aim of being a powerful tool when reaching decisions. The proposal of the Urban Observatory has also been understood as a clear attempt of decentralization.

One of the objectives of this essay is the evaluation of the impact that the Urban Observatories have had in the city of Yaoundé as a tool in the making of decisions. Therefore, two organisms that materialize the experience of the Observatories in the city have been contacted: the National Observatory of Cities (ONV) and the Urban Observatory in Yaoundé (OUY). These interviews, as well as the documents that have been consulted and the analysis of the indicators, have evidenced the weak role that these Observatories play in the city as a tool to help reaching decisions.

The information that has been handled by the Urban Observatories can be summarized as the urban Indicators that make possible a simplification of the complex situation of the city. In relation to the Indicators, the collaboration is based on the proposal of urban indicators, adapted to the scale of districts which, in turn, permit the promotion of this information to the scale of city. In order to describe these indicators, the indicators proposed on a worldwide scale for the urban areas must be reviewed, and an examination of the indicators used around the city through its Observatories must be taken into account. The analyses have demonstrated that the Indicators of the Development Objectives of the Millennium, and particularly the word slum, have played a fundamental role in measuring the access to basic services, as well as in the question of housing. An analysis of the indicators of the city shows that they have hardly had any influence in making decisions.

The second part of the essay examines the different sources of information in the city in two different scales. The analysis of these sources is a significant step in the description of the urban indicators. The information generated on an institutional level is made explicit thanks to the National Institute of Statistics and the Communauté Urbain of Yaoundé. On a district scale, the information related to the Programa Barrios (PB) has been analysed, something that has been implemented in 5 districts of Yaoundé since 2003, and which has currently spread to a whole of 15 districts so far. This has undoubtedly motivated the transmission of information from the city.

This analysis has also included an identification of the actors that intervene in the generation, maintenance, exploitation and diffusion of this information. These actors are: Environnement Recherche Action au Cameroun (WAS), Enginiers Sense Fronteres (ESF), the Laboratoire Environnement et Sciences de l’Eau (LESAU) and the Grup de Reference per el Desenvolupament Humà (GRECDH). The review of the sources of information, together with their products, makes it possible to state that the information obtained is used to make decisions, but this is not actually formalized by urban indicators. It can be stated that the information obtained enables the calculation of some of the indicators of the city, though not all of them.

The analysis of the different indicators used in the city (the Indicators of the ONV, the indicators of the OUY, the indicators of the Development Objectives) together with the indicators of the PB, helps making a proposal of the urban services indicators and the necessary information to bring together all the criteria.