Abstracts

BAILLY, A. S., and L. BOULIANNE: «Les nouveaux réseaux métropolitains : théories, études de cas et comparaisons internationales» [“New Metropolitan Networks: Theories, Case Studies, and International Comparisons”]. This article deals with the 1975-1985 evolution of the production system in Geneva as compared with that in French and Canadian cities. To better understand the spatial mobility of firms at the intermetropolitan and interregional levels, a new typology is used that divides labour into four main groups of activities: fabrication, circulation, distribution, and regulation. The concepts of flexibility of enterprises and of externalization of producer services are used as well. All in all, it appears that in the current context of intense competition production systems are becoming more and more specialized, thus forcing metropolitan areas to seek new solutions.

CUNHA A., and J.-B. RACINE: «Changements structurels et évolution du système urbain helvétique : tertiarisation sélective et industrialisation diffuse» [“Structural Changes and Evolution of the Swiss Urban System: Selective Tertiarisation and Diffused Industrialization”]. This article analyzes the impact of structural changes in the production system on the economic organization of Swiss cities and agglomerations over the past 10 years. The authors are guided by a general hypothesis which contends, on a macro-geographical scale, that the evolution of the urban system can be partly explained by changes in the production system, in particular by changes in the structure of urban employment and the location strategies of big companies. The analysis gives indications about the ongoing structuring of the urban network regarding size, functional specialization, and labour skills. It also points out the strong and weak elements of the urban hierarchy in Switzerland.

GUESNIER, B.: «L’Arc atlantique. Un nouveau territoire pour de nouvelles activités» [“The Atlantic Arch: A New Territory for New Activities”]. Further to two recent prospective studies on the future of Atlantic regions—one by the European Communities and the other by France’s DATAR—this article stresses the potential of a European
macro-region abutting on the Atlantic Ocean. This macro-region constitutes a new space capable of mobilizing the resources needed for new production at the technical and economic levels required by the operation of its own market or for the conquest of new markets.

BOISVERT, M.: «Le concept de zone d'entreprises et son applicabilité à Montréal» ["The Concept of the Enterprise Zone and its Applicability to Montreal"]. The enterprise zone concept aims at the regeneration of old industrial areas and the rehabilitation of metropolitan slums. It is built around the following elements: a major financial involvement from all levels of government concerned, additional deregulation efforts, and interventions related to living conditions. After recalling the foundations of the concept and reviewing some of the current experiments, the article examines the concept's applicability to Montreal. Following an analysis of the current prospects for the local manufacturing industries, it assesses the various measures underlying a programme now being implemented for the economic recovery of both the eastern and southwestern sectors of the city. While noting the similarities between these measures and those in the strategic package that usually comes with an enterprise zone, the author stops short of advocating additional measures that would bring the course of action more in line with the enterprise zone concept. Rather, he suggests that some results be obtained first from the current programme.

PECQUEUR B., and N. ROUSIER: «Les districts technologiques, un nouveau concept pour l'étude des relations technologies-territoires» ["Technological Districts: A New Concept for Studying Relationships between Technologies and Territories"]. A useful concept for analyzing the efficiency of a heavy concentration of industrial firms in one territory is that of the "industrial district," borrowed from the works of A. Marshall by Italian researchers. But, analysis of high-tech activities requires a more modern version of the Marshallian district: the concept of the "technological district" (TD). The TD can evolve in an urban milieu only within the context of big- and medium-scale enterprises as well as local/international relationships. It is a regulating element of local development.

ANDREW, C., F. HOULE, and Y. THÉRIAULT: «La définition du local dans les nouvelles stratégies de développement» ["Defining What Is Local in New Development Strategies"]. This article analyzes the types of collective structures that exist for the management of new forms of flexible industrialization and regional development. It is based on two case studies: one for the Ottawa-Hull region and the other for the Waterloo region. It first describes some of the characteristics displayed by flexible management structures and then goes on to evaluate their local character.

FOURCADE, C.: «Nouvelles activités et création du local» ["New Activities and the Setting up of Local Development"]. In observing the diversity of forms that local development can take on, one is led to wonder about the conditions surrounding this phenomenon. When, where, how can it be set in motion? Such questions require a concept for understanding what facilitates local development and relevant elements for such a concept are to be found in analyses of industrial as well as territorial organizations. Thus, this article reviews the concepts of industrial district, of network, and of milieu. It then discusses several modes of local development viewed as adaptive strategies and especially as attractive strategies. The latter strategies are examined with reference to a "technopolitan" level, which emphasizes the prominent role of territorial governments.

KLEIN, J.-L.: «Le partenariat : vers une planification flexible du développement local ?» ["Partnership: Toward Flexible Local Development Planning"]. Partnership is increasingly in vogue. This article looks at public-private local partnership within a view toward renewing current approaches to development planning. In this way, the author deals with three problems: (1) the contribution of partnership as an operative instrument for setting local development in motion; (2) the very meaning of the word local in the context of privatization of development; and (3) the potential of partnership as a means of promoting local and collective entrepreneurship. It is argued that local partnership must be seen not only as a way of restructuring the welfare state but also as an instrument capable of pushing local agents to think about the viability of their territories. Thus, partnership would bring about a new style of development planning, of which the underlying process would be as important as, if not more important than, the expected tangible results.

TAVERNE, D.: «Une innovation manquée: le territoire» ["The Territory as a Botched Innovation"]. This article attempts to identify some of the conditions that facilitate local development. An empirical study of France's small municipalities shows that quasi-psychological (rather than objective) elements can further or hinder development. Moreover, the small municipalities investigated do not at all want to be regrouped and no force (such as a political party) appears to be capable of imposing either conceptions or objectives common to them. Therefore, the current efforts of the French government to regroup these municipalities is likely to fail.