ENVIRONMENTAL INTEGRATION TOOL (EIT) APPROACH

Innovations, impacts and perspectives

Vincent Henin¹ and Paula Uglione²

Abstract

The aim of this text is to present the results of a documentary research on the construction, dissemination, appropriation and impact of the Environmental Integration Tool (EIT) Approach³, developed by Louvain Coopération, the NGO associated with the Catholic University of Louvain.

The results of this research show that the process of construction and dissemination of the EIT Approach is based on the participation of multiple actors, transversality, interdisciplinarity, transdisciplinarity and intersectoriality. In other words, a long and gradual process of dialogue and experimentation in the field. In this process, the principles of sustainable development remain the conceptual anchor, while reflection-action constitutes the basic methodological dynamic. The impacts of the EIT Approach are diverse and multidirectional, within Louvain Coopération's programmes but also for the Belgian cooperation sector.

The historical process of the EIT Approach demonstrates alternative ways of constructing knowledge and tools for environmental action. This process is innovative and makes important contributions to the challenges of transition and sustainable development, involving the reconnection of practices and knowledge.

¹ Economist and socio-anthropologist (UCLouvain). He worked as a researcher at UCLouvain (Belgium) before moving around ten years to Andean America (Chile, Bolivia, Peru) where he started working for Louvain Coopération, initially as a development worker and finally as director of the regional office. Back at the headquarters of the NGO in 2009, he supervised, until 2019, the Food and Economic Security programme implemented in Andean America, Africa (Benin, Burundi, DRC, Madagascar and Togo) and Cambodia. He is currently the thematic referent for entrepreneurship, environment and community microfinance at Louvain Coopération.

² Consultant researcher at Louvain Coopération. Doctor/Post-Doctorate in Architecture and Doctorate in Psychology at the Universidade Federal do Rio de Janeiro (Brazil) and collaborating researcher at the Laboratory of Social and Cultural Anthropology of the University of Liège (Belgium) and at the Laboratory Architecture, Subjectivity and Culture of the Universidade Federal do Rio de Janeiro. Long scientific and academic career, especially in the field of Environmental Psychology. Research field: urban peripheries in Brazil.

³ <u>https://www.louvaincooperation.org/en/environment.</u>