



The Senedd, Parliament of Wales

The Cercle Pierre Landais

Yves Mervin

Presentation document

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Cercle Pierre Landais

Association pour le développement local et régional

Institutions and public policy

Website internet : united-citizens.eu (under redevelopment)

Contact : adlr56@free.fr



L'Union est fondée sur les valeurs de respect de la dignité humaine, de liberté, de démocratie, d'égalité, de l'État de droit, ainsi que de respect des droits de l'homme, y compris des droits des personnes appartenant à des minorités. Ces valeurs sont communes aux États membres dans une société caractérisée par le pluralisme, la non-discrimination, la tolérance, la justice, la solidarité et l'égalité entre les femmes et les hommes.

Article 2 du traité de l'Union européenne (valeurs de l'Union)

The Union is founded on the values of respect for human dignity, freedom, democracy, equality, the rule of law and respect for human rights, including the rights of persons belonging to minorities. These values are common to the Member States in a society in which pluralism, non-discrimination, tolerance, justice, solidarity and equality between women and men prevail.

Treaty on European Union, Article 2 - The values of the Union

Summary

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Présentation

The Cercle Pierre Landais was founded by Yves Mervin and a group of friends on 8 August 2008 in Lorient (Pays de Lorient, Brittany, France, European Union) at the height of the subprime crisis. The Cercle Pierre Landais is the result of an awareness of the major upheavals in the world and the desire not to be subjected to them, but to manage them in a practical way locally and at the level of Brittany.

The Cercle Pierre Landais has therefore set itself the task of studying Brittany's institutions and public policies and putting forward proposals along the lines of a think-tank.¹

Milestones and key dates

The Cercle has operated in two main stages or phases, the first phase from 2008 to 2020 and the second phase from the takeover in 2024.

The Cercle took several years to find its position in relation to other initiatives and to refine its own approach or method during "phase 1":

- 2008: creation on the theme of "Institutions and public policies in Brittany".
- 2009-2010: first publications (Research and development, territorial organisation of Brittany, public budgets in Brittany, etc.)
- 2011-2012: first then second experimental site (www.bretagne-gouv.eu)
- 2013-2014: Red Bonnet crisis in Brittany, internal disagreement over the Notre-Dame-des-Landes airport project, reflection on strategy,
- 2015-2016: "Dialogue and democracy" approach (third experimental collaborative site www.dialogue-democratie.eu),
- 2020: clarification of the Brexit negotiations, appearance of the "Breizh'xit" (Brittany Exit) concept in 2021,
- 2020-2021: crisis at covid-19, end of meetings, end of "phase 1".

The Cercle Pierre Landais registered as an association under the law of 1901 in 2016: a version of a website was about to be put online, it was desirable to give an official existence to what was until then only a de facto association. Without fundamentally calling into question the reference to Pierre Landais, it appeared desirable to declare itself under a name that was more explicit about the association's vocation, i.e. Association pour le développement local et regional (Association for local and region development), ADLR. In practice, both names were retained (hence CPL-ADLR).

¹ Among the leading think-tanks, public or private, associated with a political party or not : in Brittany : Bretagne Prospective (<https://www.bretagne-prospective.bzh/>), Groupement d'Etudes et d'Analyses de Loire Atlantique (GAELA - <https://www.gaela.asso-web.com/>), l'Institut de Locarn, Institut Kervegan : <https://www.institut-kervegan.com/institut/> ... In France : La Fondation pour la recherche sur les administrations et les politiques publiques (IFRAP - <https://www.ifrap.org/>), l'Institut Montaigne (<https://www.institutmontaigne.org>)... and many other European and global think-tanks. A very long list indeed.

In 2024, the Cercle resumed its activities and physical meetings at the Maison des Associations in Lorient in its "phase 2", which confirms :

- its role as a think-tank on institutions and public policies,
- its reference to the values of the European Union,
- its character as a citizens' association (citizens being considered as experts in developing public policies),
- the promotion of semi-direct democracy, following the example of Switzerland,
- according to two institutional frameworks: the State and the Region, from Brittany to the European Union.

The institutions

The Cercle came up against the institutional complexity of the more general framework of France and the European Union. It was necessary to identify the major possible developments in these institutional frameworks, from the most pessimistic to the most optimistic, or from the least integrated to the most integrated. This led to the definition of two reference frameworks:

- The State, dissociated from France and the European Union (a concept identified in 2020 at the end of the Brexit negotiations)²,
- The Region, i.e. a French region within the European Union (concept developed in 2024 at the time of the takeover)³,

These two extreme frameworks, which are paradoxically coherent, allow for the exercise of semi-direct democracy, with direct representation and participation of citizens, with the separation of powers and subsidiarity to carry out public action as close as possible to the citizens and the territory.

Public policies

Reflections on public policy in the two institutional reference frameworks are carried out by ministry according to an identical institutional architecture, whatever the level of subsidiarity considered.

² L'Etat (https://bibliotheque.idbe.bzh/data/cle_355/Etat_2024-02_-_A4.pdf), currently in French.

³ La Région (currently under writing).



The institutional architecture with its powers, major ministries and departments

Public policy is discussed ministry by ministry , giving rise to a series of "cahiers" (notebooks), most of which are currently being tested for publication⁴.

The ideological line

The Cercle Pierre Landais does not adopt a particular ideological line (on a left-right scale, for example) or a proven or experimental political theory (liberalism, socialism, etc.). The Cercle is not revolutionary, but evolutionary, starting from the current situation towards an objective situation through a gradual transition.

If democracy is an ideology, then the Cercle 's ideological line is democracy. Democracy consists of involving citizens, as widely as possible, in the decisions that concern them according to the various public policies and in the institutions that implement them.

Instead, the Cercle has chosen references, in particular Switzerland, which appears to be the world reference in terms of semi-parliamentary democracy, i.e. a synthesis between parliamentary representative democracy and direct democracy through voting. Other benchmarks are the small, virtuous representative democracies (Denmark, Ireland, the Baltic

⁴ For example, Solidarity, i.e. solidarity and social security (https://bibliotheque.idbe.bzh/data/cle_355/Solidarit_-_2024-02_-_A4.pdf)

States, Scandinavia, etc.) in Europe and elsewhere in the world (New Zealand, Singapore, etc.).

The Cercle's intention is therefore to turn Brittany into a maritime Switzerland, whether or not it is integrated into the European Union, preferably integrated, which will in turn become a democratic benchmark among the references mentioned.

If the Cercle does not have an ideological line or at least a characterised ideological line (apart perhaps from democracy, regionalism and federalism), the Cercle refers to values, in this case the values of the European Union expressed in Article 2 (see above) or the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union⁵.

The citizens

The Cercle 's approach is based on citizens rather than on institutional structures, which are very diverse, more or less effective, and which are destined to evolve, rethink and even disappear for some of them. It is considered that citizens are the bearers of knowledge, experience, ideas and enthusiasm. It is considered that the dialogue that precedes all political decisions does not lead to consensus, but to the acceptance of collective decisions taken by the majority.

The website

The CPL-ADLR website (<https://united-citizens.eu>, Citizens United) implements its approach. The site offers users a space for discussion, construction, improvement and evaluation of public policies at different levels of subsidiarity, from the region to the United Nations.

The current overhaul of the site involves moving from a Breton framework to a European framework, and from a questionnaire-based approach to a public policy management approach (the site is now in its 5th version for functional and technological reasons).

⁵ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/FR/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:12012P/TXT>



L'Union est fondée sur les valeurs de respect de la dignité humaine, de liberté, de démocratie, d'égalité, de l'État de droit, ainsi que de respect des droits de l'homme, y compris des droits des personnes appartenant à des minorités. Ces valeurs sont communes aux États membres dans une société caractérisée par le pluralisme, la non-discrimination, la tolérance, la justice, la solidarité et l'égalité entre les femmes et les hommes.

Article 2 du traité de l'Union européenne (valeurs de l'Union)

The home page of the CPL-ADLR united-citizens.eu website for the Normandy region

Publications

The Cercle 's various publications on the site of the Institut de documentation bretonne et européenne (IDBE) : https://bibliotheque.idbe.bzh/data/cle_355/Etat_2024-02_-_A4.pdf).

Legal status of the CPL-ADLR

Current legal status: Association under the Law of 1901 (French law)

Name : ASSOCIATION POUR LE DÉVELOPPEMENT LOCAL ET RÉGIONAL

Code : ADLR

Répertoire national des associations (national register of associations - RNA) : W561007147

Headquarters : Lorient, Pays de Lorient, Bretagne, France, Union européenne

SIREN : 924695265

SIRET : 92469526500018

Purpose: to propose and promote institutions and public policies, particularly at regional and local level, and to implement projects to promote and develop these institutions and public policies in the economic, cultural, social and political fields

The trombinoscope

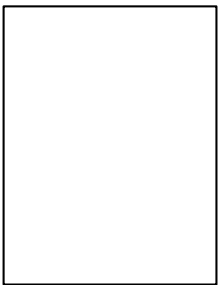
Below is the trombinoscope of the Cercle Pierre Landais "phase 1" core group.



Yves Mervin
Defence industry



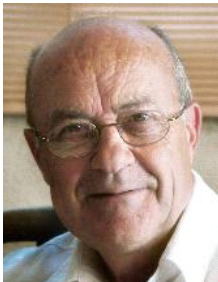
Eric-Louis Melenec
(† 2008)
Transport et maritime
safety



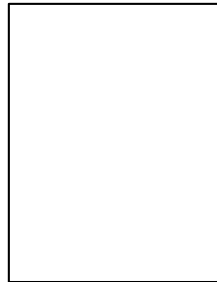
...
Industry...



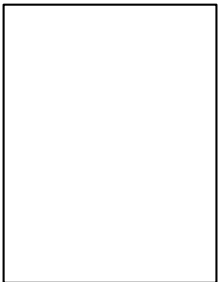
...
International investment



**Pierre Le
Labousse**
merchant navy,
electromechanical
and electronics
industry.



...
Industry ...



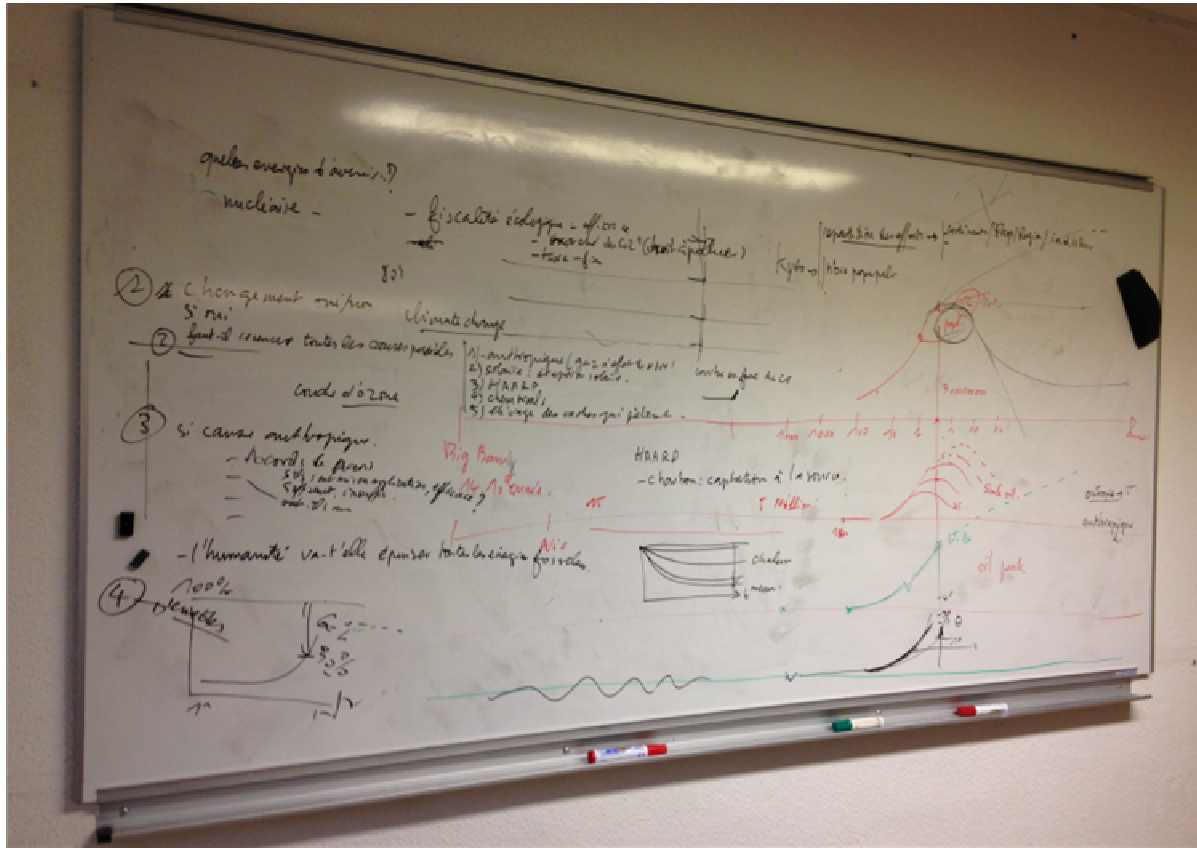
...
Security



Alan Viaouet
Computing and the Internet

The meetings

Since its creation in 2008, the Cercle Pierre Landais has held monthly meetings to discuss the topics covered in its publications.



Working meeting on 15 November 2018