THE IMPACT OF THE SOCIO-ECONOMIC FACTORS ON THE PARTICIPATION OF SMEs IN TERRITORIAL DEVELOPMENT IN ALGERIA: LOCAL AGRI-FOOD SYSTEM-BASED APPROACH

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ABSTRACT

This article explores the main factors that influence the participation of SMEs in territorial development in the Mitidja region (Blida). We undertook a quantitative statistical survey and econometric study using binomial logistic modeling from a sample of 110 companies. The empirical study revealed external socio-economic factors affecting the participation of SMEs in territorial development. That prompted us to discuss the applicability of an SYAL to the spatial and territorial scale of Blida province wilaya.

KEY WORDS: Participation, Territorial Development, Agri-food, Algeria[1].

JEL Classification: R15, R12

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تأثير العوامل الاجتماعية والاقتصادية على مساهمة المؤسسات الصغيرة والمتوسطة في التنمية الإقليمية في الجزائر: نهج محلي قائم على النظام الغذائي الزراعي

ملخص

يبين هذا المقال العوامل الرئيسية التي تؤثر على مساهمة المؤسسات الصغيرة والمتوسطة في التنمية الإقليمية في منطقة متيجة (البليدة). حيث أجرينا مسحًا إحصائيًا كميًا ودراسة اقتصادية قياسية باستخدام النمذجة اللوجستية ذات الحدين على عينة من 110 مؤسسة. حيث كشفت الدراسة التجريبية للعوامل الاجتماعية والاقتصادية الخارجية التي تؤثر على مساهمة المؤسسات الصغيرة والمتوسطة في التنمية الإقليمية. دفعنا ذلك إلى مناقشة قابلية تطبيق نظام SYAL على النطاق المحلي والإقليمي لولاية البليدة.

كلمات المفتاحية: مساهمة، التنمية الإقليمية، الصناعات الزراعية، الجزائر.

L'IMPACT DES FACTEURS SOCIO-ÉCONOMIQUES SUR LA PARTICIPATION DES PME AU DÉVELOPPEMENT TERRITORIAL EN ALGÉRIE : APPROCHE PAR SYSTÈME AGROALIMENTAIRE LOCAL

RÉSUMÉ

Cet article explore les principaux facteurs qui influencent la participation des PMEs au développement territorial dans la région de la Mitidja (Blida). Nous avons entamé une enquête statistique quantitative et une étude économétrique utilisant une modélisation logistique binomiale auprès d'un échantillon de 110 entreprises. L'étude empirique a révélé des facteurs socio-économiques externes ayant un impact sur la participation des PME au développement territorial. Cela nous a amenés à discuter de l'applicabilité d'un SYAL à l'échelle spatiale et territoriale de la wilaya de Blida.

KEY WORDS: Participation, Développement territorial, Agroalimentaire, Algérie.

INTRODUCTION

In a context of globalization and competition, territorial development emerges as a response to be deepened for the economies of the countries of the South. According to Courlet (2001), territorial development is defined as a process in time during which resources are created. It can also be defined as any process of mobilization of actors that leads to the elaboration of a strategy of adaptation to external constraints, based on collective identification with culture and territory (Pecqueur, 2000, 2005). In general, territorial development remains a process of enriching, diversifying, and accumulating economic and social activities in the local area, through manipulation, the implementation, and coordination of its material and intangible resources. SMEs are central players in this territorial development process as well as a driver of competitiveness if they are included in

environments that promote their development and dynamism. We have chosen to study the agrifood hub, located in the province (wilaya) of Blida, as an object of study because the latter is considered among the provinces (wilayas) of the country that has a very high industrial concentration. In addition, it is ranked in the eighth position in terms of the number of SMEs with more than 20,036 SMEs during the year 2016 after Algiers, Tizi-Ouzou, Bejaia, Oran, Sétif, Tipaza, and Boumerdes. The choice to examine this territory is not fortuitous because it was built through a historical process until it took its present form and organization. The establishment of the wilaya of Blida in the fertile plain of Mitidja is the origin of its agricultural vocation and, consequently, its development in the agrifood sector. The investments in this sector have contributed to the creation of an agro-industrial balance and complementarity at the level of Mitidja. It has resulted in the coverage of all the needs of the local population in various products, with a future option for covering national needs (Bouabdellah, 2012). Indeed, this wilaya is an agricultural region full of wealth, this wilaya's economic core is the private industrial sector represented by 5,136 active companies, in large part, in the agri-food sector, offering more than 40,810 jobs. Several large companies best known in this wilaya: such as Groupe SIM, Semoulerie Amour, SOSEMIE, Couscous MAMA, specialized in the semolina and pasta industry, Okids, Trefl, President, Optima, specialized in the dairy products sector, as well as Hamoud Boualem, Orangina, Vita Jus in the drinks sector. All these conditions come together, making the region of Blida pole with great potential to establish itself as a technopark.

Based on these positions, this article will seek to shed light on the main socio-economic factors that have contributed to the participation of SMEs in the emergence of agrifood activity in the territory of the wilaya of Blida. To do this, we then undertook a quantitative statistical survey by survey and econometric study using binomial logistic modeling from a sample of 110 companies.

Our hypothesis considers the impact of socioeconomic factors on the participation of SMEs in territorial development. First, we present a review of the literature on the localized agri-food system and the

socioeconomic factors behind the emergence of territorial development. Secondly, we will detail our methodological approach. Finally, we questioned ourselves in the light of the results on the applicability of a localized agro-food system (SYAL).

1- LITERATURE REVIEW: THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK OF SYAL AND SOCIOECONOMIC FACTORS IMPACTING THE PARTICIPATION OF SMES IN TERRITORIAL DEVELOPMENT

1.1- The Localized Agri-Food System (SYAL) as a theoretical framework

The strength proliferation of SME companies in the Blida region led us to think of it as a localized agri-food system. The work on Localized Productive Systems (LPS) carried out since the 1980s has affected many sectors: textiles, furniture, machine tools, new information technologies, but very few have dealt with the agri-food sector and have not given rise to a specific conceptual production (Muchnik et al. 2007). Among these works, we cite a series of works carried out in Italy in the region of Parma, characterized by quality agri-food products in cheese (Parmigiano) and charcuterie (ham) located in the heart of Emilia-Romagna full of industrial districts (Becattini, 1989b, 1992, 2004). In France, where quality local products are numerous, the question of agro-food SPL has long been absent from research (Cavailhes, Schmidt, 1989). The forms taken by the territorialized agro-food activities were addressed by ethnological analysis on resources and local products (Bérard, Marchenay, 1994). In economics, it was based on work on rural activities (Pernet, 1993), agrarian systems (Valceschini, 1991), or the role of the territory in sectoral dynamics (Touzard, 1995) and quality construction (Allaire, Sylvander, 1997). It then asserted itself within the framework of the proximity economy program (Pecqueur, Zimmermann, 2004) and that of SYAL. Anglo-Saxon studies, less marked by the issue of local agro-food qualities, have shown that this sector can also be organized in the form of a cluster, which at first glance can be assimilated to the concept of SPL or even of the district (Sabel, 2002). Porter (1998), the initiator of the cluster concept, thus takes the "California wine cluster" as an example to illustrate its characteristics and competitiveness factors. The specialized literature on the spatial analysis of agri-food systems is of particular

interest to the following research question: "*What are the factors that determine the degree of territorial anchoring or rooting of agri-food production*»? The analysis of this question would make it possible to better understand at the same time the attachment of some productions to a given place and their participation in the process of emergence of their territory.

In recent years, the regional economy has defined the analysis of the spatial behavior of agri-food activities from the point of view of the analysis of location factors; understood as variables that reinforce or limit the costs and benefits of enterprises derived from the location of agri-food activities in a specific location Muchnik and Sautier (1998) define the concept of SYAL as "An organization of production and services associated by their characteristics and their functioning in a specific territory." The idea is to integrate all the local resources: the environment, products, individuals, their know-how, their institutions, their eating habits, their networks of relationships, into an expanded systemic approach, recombine in a territory to produce a characteristic agro-food organization at a given spatial scale. This approach stems from the notion of Industrial Districts (Marshal, 1890) and is related to the concepts of Cluster (Porter, 1998) and Localized Productive Systems (Courlet, 1994). It values the territorial anchoring of resources through the recognition and activation of their specificity and aims to be considered as a tool for local development. It is about understanding the synergies between these different territorial activities to strengthen the anchoring of local productions and the development of specific food products, called literary: typical products of terroir identity, or, in the case of products which have adopted distinctive signs, products resulting from geographical indications. Therefore, the concept of SYAL is inseparable from the diversity of responses for the enhancement of territorial specificities, which is developed by the different forms of organization of relations between man/product/territory. This typicality is not only the result of natural factors (climatic, ecological) but "it is a system within which complex interactions are established between a set of human factors, agricultural production and a natural environment" (INAO, 1992).

1.2- Socioeconomic factors favoring territorial development: a conceptual framework

To determine the factors, we have defined an analysis grid based on the work of the economy of proximity within which there are generally three modes of the territorial development process (Colletis and Gilly, 1999; Perrat and Zimmerman 2003; Pecqueur, Zimmermen 2004; Colletis and Rychen, 2005). These three types are: the agglomeration process, the specialization process, and the specification process; designate a territorial dynamic of an economic fabric and connect companies with their territory (Colletis and Rychen, 2005). Each of these types brings together three other types of particular proximity: geographic proximity, organizational proximity, and institutional proximity (Colletis, 2010). The socioeconomic factors that are believed to be at the origin of the emergence of the territorial development process are the intersection of three process forms with the three forms of proximity.

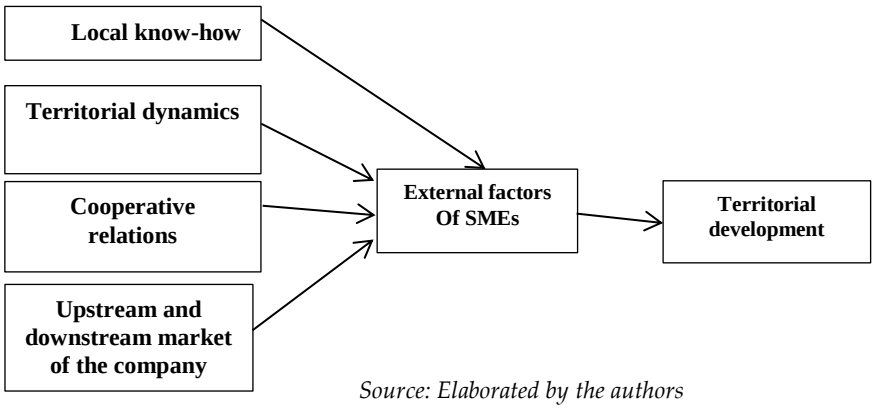
Firstly, those linked to the agglomeration process; the latter is based mainly on the concentration of both economic activities and SMEs in a well-defined territory, therefore on a spatial (geographic) proximity. This concentration of economic activities results from economies external to companies linked to economies of scale in the sharing of certain resources (Boudedja K, 2013). These are mainly pecuniary externalities caused by the concentration of activities and people (Zimmerman 1998, 2000, 2005, 2008). The environment can also be an important factor for investors in a given territory (Djeflat, 2013).

Secondly, the process of specialization within the territory, this mode of territorial development unites its forces around an economic structure dominated by an industrial activity or a product (Pecqueur and Zimmerman, 2004). It is essentially centered on organizational proximity while strongly modifying institutional proximity (Colletis and Rychen, 2005). The existence on the same: territory of qualified labor, research laboratories, specialized training centers, consulting firms, subcontractors, specialized distributors, suppliers offer an advantage to established companies but attract and will attract new investors. The objective is to highlight the relations between local actors

and analyze their impact on the development of the territory in question, to capture the effect of organizational proximity.

Thirdly, the specification process characterizes the ability to establish a mode of coordination between actors that multiplies the potential for a combination of complementary resources linked to their organizational proximity using proximity particularly strong institutional. Thus, it is a creative capacity of the fabric that, by recombining its resources and assets, has the means to implement strategies that alter the trajectories inherited from the past (Colletis & Rychen, 2005). This third form expresses the need for companies to seek a form of clusterization (Porter, 2000). Based on the results of all this work, we can formulate our main hypothesis: territorial development is positively linked to socioeconomic factors.

Figure 1. Conceptual Framework



Source: Elaborated by the authors

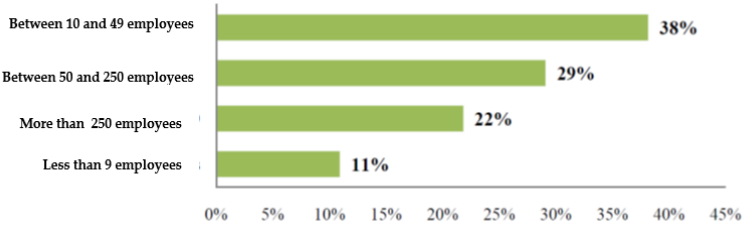
2- METHODOLOGY

2.1- Research context, sample size, and study procedure

Faced with the lack of studies carried out on the factors influencing the participation of local businesses in territorial development, we conducted a quantitative statistical survey by empirical sample (quota method), in the period October 2019 to June 2020, with a sample of 110 companies operating in the agrifood sector and established in the

territory of Blida[2]. In addition, the absence of a reliable and exhaustive database of a number of companies at the level of this wilaya. This sampling method consists in ensuring the representativeness of a sample, by assigning it a structure similar to that of the mother population (Tillé, 2001; Ardilly, 2004). For data processing, we used SPSS 22.0 software. The results of this study allowed us to determine the size and composition of the sample. For the size of the companies surveyed, the results clearly show us (Figure 2) that the majority of companies are 38% made up of SMEs / SMIs with a workforce between 10 and 49 employees, followed by SMEs with a workforce (between 50 and 250 employees) with 29%, thus, large companies (more than 250 employees) come third with 22%. The rest are small businesses (TPE) (less than 9 employees) with 11%.

Figure 2. The size of the companies surveyed

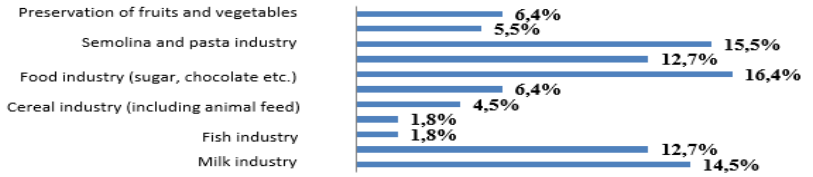


Source: Based on field survey data

The data used enabled us to exploit several information concerning these companies, in particular the sector of activity.

[2]The wilaya of Blida which extends over an area of 1482.8 km2 is located in the northern part of Algeria is located 50 km west of the capital Algiers. The wilaya of Blida has a useful agricultural area of 66,280 ha which contains large fertile plains of Mitidja, or 44.28% of the total area of the territory. Blida is the 8th industrial metropolis in Algeria.

Figure 3. Distribution of companies surveyed by sector of activity



Source: Based on field survey data

Based on the results of the quantitative study, we proceeded to binomial logistic modeling considered more appropriate in the case of our study, because it differs from the simple regression model. The use of a linear model would have led to biased estimators; due to the particular character of the explained variable; this variable derives from the partition of the observations into two groups (Cahuzac and Bontemps, 2008). The purpose of the dichotomization of the explained variable is to make the linear fit of the associated point cloud possible.First, to ensure completeness and consistency of responses in our sample and to avoid missing responses, we systematically checked all questionnaires. The aim of the econometric analysis was essentially to describe the data collected by cross-referencing the main variables (flat sorting and cross-sorting).

2.2- Structure and estimation of the econometric model

We have subdivided various factors external to the company by location of employees, access to land, presence of a science park, the coherent ecosystem, the territory image, the relationship of cooperation and coordination with other actors' premises (companies, university, research laboratories, training center, local administrations, local authorities, and CEIMI Group), proximity to market and suppliers. Indeed, the qualitative character of the questions relating to these determinants obliged us to consider them as indicator variables. To test the impact of the various factors influencing the participation of local businesses in the Blida region, we followed the methodological approach based on several stages identified by Desjardins (2005). The

first phase consisted in estimating the two Logit models where the variable takes the two modalities 1 and 0, which we qualify as: "explanatory model." The general form of the explanatory model is as follows can be written in the following form (Kadi, 2017 ; Ferdj, 2021) :

$$devTer = \alpha + \beta_i x_i + \varepsilon_i$$

Where the index i denotes the observations. The coefficient β = (β_i… .β_k) denotes a vector β of K coefficients associated with the explanatory variables and the perturbations εi are assumed to be independently distributed. By introducing the explanatory variables for the following model (Ferdj, 2021):

- For the econometric model which concerns the external factors of the company:

$$\begin{aligned} \boldsymbol{devTer} = \alpha &+ \beta_1 résid + \beta_2 fonc + \beta_3 technop + \beta_4 ecosys + \beta_5 imag \\ &+ \beta_6 coopEntre + \beta_7 coopUniv + \beta_8 coopLabo \\ &+ \beta_9 coopCent + \beta_{10} coppAdm + \beta_{11} coopColl \\ &+ \beta_{12} coopCeimi + \beta_{13} fourni + \varepsilon_i \end{aligned}$$

The interpretation of a regression result relates mainly to the coefficient β reflecting the association between the occurrence of the event: the participation of the company in the territorial development process in our case; and the explanatory variables: a coefficient $\beta > 0$ indicates a positive effect, a coefficient $\beta < 0$ indicates a negative one and a coefficient $\beta = 0$ indicates an absence of association.

3- RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

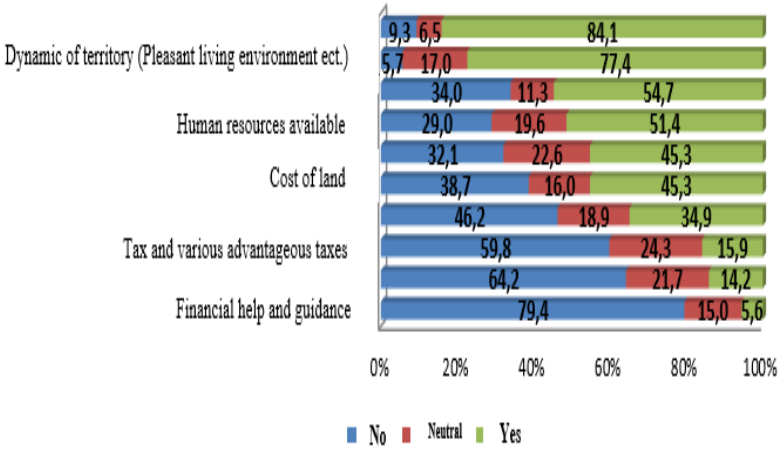
First, we will detail the main socio-economic factors relating to the agglomeration process resulting from the sample survey, and then we will present those from the econometric study.

3.1- Process of the agglomeration within the Blidean territory

To determine the agglomeration process and the role of geographic proximity, we asked a few questions that verify the reasons why companies choose Blidean territory to settle there (Ferdj, 2020). The agglomeration process is based mainly on the concentration of economic activities, the concentration of SMEs in a well-defined territory, and therefore on spatial (geographic) proximity (Ferdj ;

Hamadi, 2022). The questionnaire established allowed us to know to what extent companies benefit from the advantages of their locations and proximity. Moreover, knowing whether the entrepreneur has targeted the territory or environment that offers him economic opportunities such as externalities and the cost of transport. The results that we reach show that the region of Blida is very favorable to business creation, mainly attracting project leaders. The high number of companies located in industrial zones proves that the territory remains attractive and has certain competitive advantages from the start of the activity. The knowledge of the micro-environment by the local actors allows them both to have easy access to the land bases and to build cross-cutting relationships with the different stakeholders (Djeflat, 2013). The regional context strongly contributes to settle in the territory of the wilaya of Blida, regardless of the industrial zone of the activity zone (Ferdj, 2020). In this region, the availability of raw materials, the availability of inputs, and the availability of land are the most important motivating factors in the choice of this territory. The persistence of the problem of availability and access to land can hamper the expansion of existing businesses and the arrival of new investors in the same sector. It is an essential factor for the territory development; to become a pole of competitiveness in the agri-food sector. The environment can also be an imperative factor for investment in a given territory (Djefla, 2013). We note that natives of the region are more motivated by accessible infrastructure, the dynamics of the region, the costs of production factors and available human resources, support for banks and local communities. We also noted that universities and specialized institutes did not play an essential role in their decision to settle. Relationships, knowledge of the natural environment, transversal relations are decisive among investors native to the region (figure 4).

Figure 4: Factors influencing the installation decision



Source: Based on field survey data

For the non-natives of the regions studied, the decision to settle is rather motivated in the first degree by the cost of land, which is very low, and in second place by the existence of inputs, subcontracting, and the costs of production factors. Support for banks and local communities, the availability of university centers and specialized institutes were not mentioned by its stakeholders.

3.2- Results of the econometric study

To determine the factors relating to the specialization and specification processes, we carried out an econometric study by choosing the factors external to the company likely to influence its participation in the territorial development process. The results of the regressions (Table 1) highlight the effects of characteristics external to SMEs, reflecting their probability of effectively participating in the territorial development process, highlighted by the sign and significance of the coefficients associated with the explanatory variables (Kadi, 2017). The estimation results of our logit model that concerns the external factors of the company are shown in the following table:

Table 1. Marginal effects on the external discriminating factors of the company influencing the process of territorial development

Variable		Symbols used (items)	Logit Model Marginal Effect		Adjusted Logit Model Marginal Effect	
			Élasticité $\partial y/\partial x$	effet	Élasticité $\partial y/\partial x$	effet
Local know-how	Place of residence of employees	resid	0.2924** (0.106)	(+)	0.2679*** (0.076)	(+)
Territorial dynamics	Access to land	fonc	0.2595** (0.116)	(+)	0.2324** (0.081)	(+)
	Presence of a science park	techpol	0.2522** (0.119)	(+)	0.2637** (0.105)	(+)
	Coherent ecosystem	Ecosys	0.6893*** (0.194)	(+)	0.7140*** (0.122)	(+)
	Image of territory	Imag	0.1936 (0.135)	(+)	0.4110*** (0.120)	(+)
Cooperation relations	Cooperation with local authorities	CoopColl	0.1916 (0.125)	(+)	0.3116*** (0.099)	(+)
	Cooperation with the CEIMI Group	CoopCeimi	0.2502* (0.136)	(+)	0.4309*** (0.096)	(+)
The business market	Suppliers from the same region	fourni	0.4668*** (0.105)	(+)	0.4884*** (0.103)	(+)
N			110	/		

Source: modeling results, STATA 15.0 output

Note: p <0.01 (***); p <0.05 (**); p <0.10 (*)

The values in parentheses express the t statistic.

The estimate of the external characteristics of the company is captured from the four most relevant variables at the end of the regression: local know-how, territorial dynamics, the cooperative relationship, and the company's markets.

3.2.1. Local know-how

The estimation results (Table 2) concerning the place of residence of the company's employees (resident) on the probability of territorial development indicate the existence of a significant and positive relationship at the 1% threshold, with a coefficient of (+3,272). So, SMEs that use local know-how are more involved in the process of development of their territory than others; this explains the role of

geographic proximity in territorial development. Local know-how can therefore be a major element in the participation of SMEs in the local development process.

3.2.2. Territorial dynamics

- In the case of the "access to land" variable (fonc), the results indicate a significant relationship at the 5% threshold; with a positive coefficient (+2.838). That explains why companies with fewer difficulties in accessing industrial land are the most likely to participate in the process of developing their territory. Indeed, access to industrial land is a major element in promoting investment. However, the private sector has experienced remarkable development in recent years, supported by the help of public mechanisms specializing in the promotion of SMEs established by the State (ANSEJ, ANGEM, ANDI)[1], resulting in easy access to industrial land and job creation at the local level. To conclude: the easier the access to industrial land, the more the "business" actor participates in the development of his territory.
- In addition, the presence of a science park is an essential factor given the advantages it brings in terms of innovation, competitiveness, and job creation. It is an extremely important element in the participation of SMEs in territorial development. Indeed, the results obtained show a positive and significant relationship of the techpol variable on the company's participation at the 5% threshold.
- According to the results obtained in Table 1, the ecosys variable (coherent ecosystem) has a positive (+8.718) and significant effect at the 5% level on the company's participation in territorial development.
- The image variable (image of the territory) also has a positive effect with a coefficient of (+ 5.019) and is significant at the 5% level. The presence of a coherent ecosystem (presence of subcontractors, suppliers, training, etc.); that means the presence of a suitable business climate for investors, as well as an image of the territory (pleasant and attractive living environment), are all factors

encouraging companies to contribute to territorial development. Indeed, the solid link between the coherent ecosystem and the image of the territory encourages investors from other territories to set up in it. It is the role of the agglomeration process which has a positive impact on the participation of SMEs in the process of territorial development. As a result, the decision to install facilities in the Republic of Macedonia is much more motivated by two main reasons: accessible infrastructure, the logistical situation of the region, and the dynamics of the region's image and pleasant and attractive living environment. Similarly, Blida wilaya has main assets such as the availability of financial and human resources, industrial competitiveness, the diversification of industrial fabric enable the private sector to evolve and attract more foreign investors.

3.2.3. Cooperation and coordination between different local actors:

Regarding the variables that capture the cooperation and coordination relationship between the different local actors within the Blidéen territory, the results of the estimation (Table 1) indicate two variables that have a positive and significant impact at the 5% level on the participation of companies in the territorial development process:

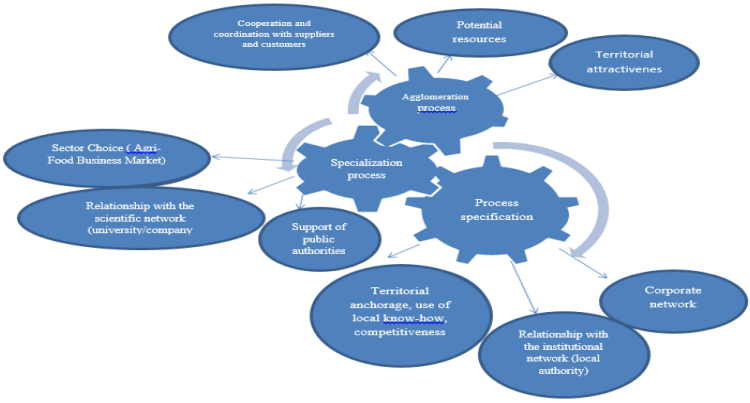
- The coopColl variable corresponds to the cooperation of companies with local authorities and the coopCeimi variable corresponds to the cooperation and coordination of companies with the CEIMI group. The organizational and institutional proximity captured by these two variables can play a fundamental role in the participation of SMEs in the region's development process. Business networks, which appear to be a factor of the territory attractiveness, are therefore favorable elements for the promotion of territorial development because they present a source of comparative advantages valued by the partner companies.The stimulation of relations between the companies of the network, as in the case of the CEIMI one, allows them to enjoy not only the effects of the symbiosis of the inter- firms' links but also, to develop the territorial dynamics based on the valorization and the creation of new wealth in the region. It should be noted that other important variables such as the

company's cooperation with the university and research laboratories (CoopUniv, CooLabo) do not have a significant effect at the different thresholds (1%, 5%, and 10%) on the territorial development process, despite its importance in terms of potential complementarity between them. The presence of this type of relationship will strengthen the efforts of both parties and encourage the emergence of university/business partnerships; by participating both in the development of the territory and in the promotion of industrial activity. It is in this context that the importance of local partnership networks is asserted.

3.2.4. The business market

- The last variable that characterizes the external factors of the company; corresponds to the presence of suppliers in the same territory (supplied). This variable is significant at the 5% level and has a positive effect (+5.963) on participation. To this end, it is shown that the greater the geographical proximity of the partners, the more likely it is to have SMEs participate in territorial development. We can summarize in Table 2 the interaction between the three territorial development processes according to the intensity of mobilization of the different dimensions of proximity:
- The intersection of the three processes (agglomeration, specialization, and specification) with the three forms of proximity results in many socio-economic factors. We are assisting in the creation of links and contacts which are energized, structured, organized, and activated by the resources of spatial, organizational, and institutional proximity. Indeed, we can see from these different results that the territory studied is more akin to an SYAL since its emergence is produced spontaneously and is mainly based on the territory's industrial history and its socio-economic and cultural roots.

Figure 5. The interaction of the territorial development process according to socioeconomic factors of participation of SMEs



Source: Elaborated by us, from the results of the statistical survey.

In addition, this territorial form came into being spontaneously following relations between the different actors in a spatial dynamic of proximity to all the stakeholders of the territory over time. The SYAL of Blida is a form of development that has concretized the relationship between industrial dynamics, local know-how, territorial dynamics, and coordination between different local actors (Courlet, 1994, 2000). In this sense, Syal's concept appeared as an integrating object (Fourcade et al., 2010) and therefore as a form of efficient economic organization and as a place of a collective economic process that perfectly combines the three dimensions of proximity: geographic, organizational, and institutional (Fourcade, 2008; Ferdj ; Hamadi, 2022).

By definition, SYAL is characterized by a concentration on a geographically defined territory of productive units, mainly of the SME/PMI type, specialized in a sector of activity, around a business or a sort of product, both competing and complementary, supported by structures of animation, training devices, in association with the other actors of the territory.According to Lopez and Muchnik (1997), the first cases that gave rise to this designation came from countries in the South (in particular African and South American countries), whose results highlight the importance of small agri-food companies in the structuring of space, through the specialization of neighborhoods due

to their geographical concentration and their support on localized networks to ensure not only their entrepreneurial functioning but also the dissemination of know-how and innovation(Ferdj Y ; Hamadi A, 2022). A common point emerged, that of the reference to local development, that is to say a geographical link between the resources used and the development process. The environment, the products, the people, their institutions, their know-how, their eating habits, their networks of relationships, combine in a territory to produce a form of agrifood organization on a given spatial scale "(CIRAD-SAR, 1996). According to Requier-Desjardins (2010), recognizes that SYALs seem to have to be defined as agrifood SPLs and argues that the term localized agrifood system came to qualify a posteriori a series of empirical cases of local production systems in agrifood.

CONCLUSION

This article has contributed on several levels to the literature dealing with localized agricultural systems (SYAL).

First, our results indicate that the majority of companies surveyed are native to the region. The choice of the sector is mainly due to the historical existence of a potential market specialized in agrifood in the wilaya of Blida. However, the different motivations for locating companies in Blida and their choice of the business sector are mainly linked to the factors present in the host territory, such as the availability of land, the availability of infrastructure, and the factor of availability market and customer base. The use of binary qualitative variable econometrics revealed significant results. Five external determinants directly influence the participation of local SMEs in territorial development: the use of know-how and local competence, access to industrial land, the ecosystem and the image of the territory, the geographical proximity of which the upstream market of the company; the proximity (organizational and institutional) expressed through cooperation and coordination with the company network (CEIMI) and with stakeholders. These results suggest that the relations maintained between the company and the scientific network are not suited to SMEs in terms of knowledge and the conditions for obtaining it. Under these

conditions, coordination with the scientific network for SMEs acts as a barrier to participate in development and not as a stimulus.

Second, at the operational level, a prospect of reflection opens up as to the interest of the concept of SYAL as an instrument of public policies for examining territorial and regional development projects (Aubrée and Maréchal, 2008). SYAL could play the role of a device to boost the competitiveness cluster that the public authorities would like to promote. From this point of view, we consider that the Syal approach is relevant insofar as it offers "*a framework of orientation for the restructuring of public policies and for the organization of territorial development projects which aim at a fair articulation between economic competitiveness, social dynamics and environmental constraints*" (Muchnik and Sanz Cañada, 2011, p.11).

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