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The traditional way to manage uneven inclusion problems in megacities in Latin America and specifically in Santiago de Chile has been via centralized public policies that, as much as in their design as in their implementation, insufficiently incorporate the perspective of actors directly and indirectly affected by these kinds of problems. This generates vertical forms of operation with little sensitivity to the social complexity of a megacity like Santiago. The results of such processes are public policies that, paradoxically, generate risks and dangers that are greater than those originally intended to solve. The problem becomes more serious when new policies are implemented that try to solve the problems generated by previous ones that operate under a similar logic, hence, producing the same negative consequences. We intend to analyze this phenomenon in policies associated to the socio-spatial differentiation in the city of Santiago. Centralized and vertically implemented housing policies have caused a deep spatial segregation and multiple exclusion problems rooted in different social spheres (housing, transport, labour sphere, formation). These problems can be observed in the design of urban intervention instruments such as the Urbanization Plan of Santiago and multiple housing programs. The design of these types of tools pursue the incorporation of diverse sources of information in the analysis of the socio spatial segregation without this implying an agreed decision making process involving the diverse stakeholders or interested parties involved in the implementation of these policies. Thus the probabilities of exclusion are replicated and worsened.

To manage the complex conditions of risk of a megacity such as Santiago means new challenges for the public policies design. With this in mind, new theoretical developments in governance subjects (Willke 2007, Scharpf 1994; Jobert 2004; Mayntz 2001) agree on the importance of developing mechanisms of social coordination by means of public policies that can achieve the consideration of the complexity of current social phenomena as well as the participation of the different parties involved in the design and implementation stages.

Although such strategies have been timidly incorporated in the last two decades, a deficit of coordination in the design and implementation of urban development policies in the city of Santiago is still perceived, which has resulted in the incomplete incorporation of exclusion risks associated with socio-spatial segregation of the city. This speaks of the need to evaluate the mechanisms of participation of sectorial, corporative, local and individual protagonists in the design of policy instruments, analyzing the measure on which they have or not incorporated the diverse interests, perspectives and operation logics regarding the conformation probabilities of exclusion into socially segregated spaces. On the other hand it involves giving account of the dangers of the mentioned exclusion associated with the design and implementation of this type of urban development policies, proposing strategies that can facilitate their incorporation as risks in the design of future instruments of intervention in this matter.