

Reasons for Reforms of School Administration Structures - an Analysis of the German Case

Abstract:

The school administration structures of the German Bundesländer were extensively reformed during the last decades (see e.g. Reip and Grömminger 2009 for the case of Baden-Württemberg). Nevertheless, public administration literature has not investigated these reforms systematically. Beside some reports (e.g. Bogumil et al. 2016), public administration literature has not focused school administration structures as extensively as they were reformed in nearly all German Bundesländer since the late 1990ies.

The proposed paper aims to contribute to tackling this research gap by analysing the reasons for the different reforms of school administration structures in the German Bundesländer. Consequently, the research question “why were school administration structures reformed in the German Länder” will be focused in the proposed paper. Against the background of scarce Länder budgets during the 1990s and early 2000s, several Länder implemented ambitious reforms of their administrative structures aiming for a more efficient public sector (Bogumil and Ebinger 2011). These reforms also included effects on school administration structures. Nevertheless, further research is needed (Ebinger 2010), as reforms of school administration structures were also implemented outside of this timeframe.

Against this background, the paper will especially concentrate on the question, whether reforms of school administration structures are to be characterised as part of broader administrative reforms or if there are specific functional and/or professional reasons for school administrations to be reformed. Methodologically, the paper will be based on interviews with former heads of school supervisory boards in different German Länder. As these are ongoing, it is probable that by the time of the paper submission/the conference presentation not all interviews will be done yet. Nevertheless, a first overview on the gained results will be provided.

References:

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