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**Politik und Verwaltung zwischen langfristiger gesellschaftlicher Transformation und kurzfristigem
Krisenmanagement**

24. und 25. Februar 2022, Technische Universität Darmstadt

Vorläufiger Titel:

How the organization of national ministerial departments shapes the transposition of EU directives

Zusammenfassung:

National governments across the world choose a great variety of policy instruments in response to the same policy challenges. The literature on policy styles has identified such variation not only across countries but also across policy sectors and in different dimensions of policies. Even in the implementation of EU directives as a shared framework, we observe diversity in the national policy transposition. EU member states comply with EU law to varying degrees and customize the content of EU policy in the national context. While the policy analysis literature has gained valuable knowledge about different stages of the policy cycle focusing on political and interest group influences to explain variation in policy output, the policy formulation stage and ministerial departments as key organizational actors in the drafting process have received much less scholarly attention. Although the political role of bureaucracy in policymaking is rarely contested, bureaucratic influence on policymaking remains an important research gap. This concerns, in particular, the organizational preferences of ministerial departments and the bureaucratic decision-making processes in preparation of a policy proposal.

Building on new institutional theory and the garbage can model of organizational decision-making, this paper develops a conceptual framework to analyze the role of bureaucracy in policymaking at the organizational level. Organizational structure, expertise and politicization are identified as the main institutional factors of organizational decision-making influencing the policy preferences of ministerial departments. From an organizational perspective, this paper asks under what conditions national ministerial departments choose a regulatory approach over other sectoral interventionist styles and different degrees of restrictiveness or permissiveness in the transposition of EU Directives.

I further outline a research design for empirical analysis applying Qualitative Comparative Analysis (QCA) to explain different sectoral interventionist styles and the restrictiveness and permissiveness of regulatory instruments in the transposition of EU waste policy across EU member states. The transposition of EU waste policy is a most-likely case of strong bureaucratic influence on policymaking, which is theoretically expected for secondary legislation and technical policy issues. The research design can provide a basis for comparative empirical studies on the effect of organizational factors on sectoral interventionist styles and the restrictiveness and permissiveness of regulatory instruments.

Shedding light on organizational and institutional factors, this paper complements agency perspectives on bureaucratic decision-making. It contributes to the academic debates on the political role of bureaucracy in policymaking and the implementation of EU directives in the context of multi-level administration.

Schlagworte:

policy bureaucracy; organizational decision-making; transposition; waste policy; Qualitative Comparative Analysis (QCA)

Anmerkung:

Der Beitrag ist Teil meiner Dissertation und kann ggf. auch auf Deutsch eingereicht und präsentiert werden.

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