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Proposal for a contribution to Panel PSGII (EGPA-conference 2025)

Background: In 2017 I have edited a reader on “Implementation in Politikfeldern” (implementation in policyfields), which was quite well used for research and teaching. However, rapid changes of the content in the selected policy fields (security, social policies, environment, migration, tax, and others) and new developments in the national and international context (polycrisis, criticism of bureaucracy, growth of right-wing parties etc.) make a new edition necessary. Therefore, it would be helpful to discuss some of the topics of implementation (effects and failures) of public policies in the EGPA conference. The proposal (abstract) describes the selected elements of this complex topic. It would be helpful to have a general scientific discussion and some descriptions should refer to different national experiences (examples of good practice?).

Abstract

The first part of the paper gives a very short overview of the political-administrative system (PAS) in Germany: the functional differentiation in societal subsystems (system-theory) and the federal architecture.

The second part describes key categories for the description/analysis of the implementation process (top down): starting with the overview (policy-cycle) and including various options (problem-inputs; program-types, administrative architectures, resources, outputs, impacts, outcome). Forms of evaluating the effectiveness and efficiency of the results (solution of problems ((?)).

The main part comes back to the system-theoretic context: complexity and contingency (lack of efficient routines?) as possible explanation of over-bureaucratization, deficiencies, polycrisis and lacking “trust in government”.

In this context one topic will be selected for *detailed discussion*: policy fields and their interdependence, their mutual resonance. Although policy fields already include many policies (rules), they often cannot be completely separated. Some examples will be described: from the very broad ones (f.e. environmental issues; human security; human rights) to very specific ones (f.e. timetable of schools; public transport; health) or single projects (f.e. repair of streets). The key question: how is/can/should effective cooperation between policy fields be organized – especially on the local level and also with the inclusion of the citizens? Some examples will be described from Germany:

How about Bürgeramt (citizen office); how about “Lotsendienste” (pilotage); how about basic cooperation network (besides issue-network); how about exchange of staff (taking the role of the other); how about “one stop agency” (digital services); how to develop a common mind-set and rhetoric?

The final part includes a summary and a short view on the vertical dimension (bottom up)