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"Metropolitan Governance Reform in Germany"

This paper deals with the process of governance reform in different metropolitan areas in Germany. The scope of discussed reform models varies from low scale neighbourhood associations, relying on the citizen's active involvement and participation, and special purpose local planning associations, to highly institutionalized cooperation between cities and their surrounding areas, provided with wide-reaching competences. Our analyze is going to focus on the political-administrative process of developing and implementing governance reform in different German metropolitan areas with respect to the involved actors (public and private), the government strategy, the implementation method and their consequences. It is our contention that, as far as regional governance is concerned, policy determines largely its institutional treatment. Some modern urban challenges may require intense sharing of competences, while 'soft' coordination and management might suit other issues fairly well. Therefore, this paper will systematically compare and analyze how different policy issues, from transport management and territorial planning to education and socio-economic matters, affect the structural intensity in regional cooperation forms.