



German Research Institute
for Public Administration

Adapting European Law – the impact of Administrative Styles

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1st regional research and networking conference:
Exploring the Rhein-Neckar Connection in Political Science
Panel 1.1: Governance and Regulation

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Agenda

- I. Introductory remarks
- II. “Administrative Styles”-Concept
- III. Case Studies
- IV. Conclusion

I. Introductory remarks

- » General findings
 - › different transpositions of one and the same directive
 - › ”Compliance”-literature
 - › inconsistencies
- » “Styles”-approach
 - › “origin”: comparative political science
 - › idea: unique “way of doing things”
 - › legal science: different national “understandings” of leeway
- » Assumption: unique “administrative style” influences transposition success



II. “Administrative Styles”-Concept

- » Analytical frame: policy cycle
- » Consideration of three phases
 - › initiation
 - › formulation } mainly EU-level
 - › implementation
- » several indicators for every phase indicate the respective style
 - › initiation: active vs. passive
 - › formulation: anticipative vs. isolated
 - › implementation: optimizing vs. satisficing

III. Case Studies

- » guided interviews with representatives of two German Federal Ministries
 - › Federal Ministry of the Interior (BMI) and Federal Ministry for Labor and Social Affairs (BMAS)
 - › recent transposition cases
- » Overall findings
 - › similar styles: active, anticipative and optimizing
 - › absence of rigid routines or standard operating procedures
 - › rather “European” than “German” understanding of directives
 - › “interview bycatch”: different views of e.g. “exact-wording-obligations” in other departments

IV. Conclusion

- » growing body of literature dealing with secondary law transposition
- » inter-disciplinary problem
- » explorative “Administrative Styles”-approach delivers first snapshot data for two administrative units
- » first findings are rather promising, point to possible influence of certain characteristics of an administration
- » as usual: more data and/or theoretical refinement needed
 - › current research project at the German Research Institute for Public Administration Speyer tries to fill that gap
 - › any input is welcome



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