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Swiss federalism, territorial division of power, Hungarian parallels

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2012.Szeptember 4.



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Has it sense to look for parallels? No, because of:

- Federalism has no chance and tradition in public legal sense in Hungary
- There are no tradition of consensual democracy in Hungary
- Recently strong centralisation since 2010



Yes, because of:

We need to use horizontal and flexible means of partnership and governance, in order to:

- increase trust (legitimacy)
- increase efficiency of public functions and services
- consider development policy aspects (competitiveness, regional catching up)



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Territorial structure of Swiss governance

- Geographically asymmetrical (urban and rural cantons), because of the role of traditions (except Jura, 1979)- cooperation instead of change of borders
- Federalism empowers first of all cantons, making difficult the central level governance (need for bargaining)
- The position of local governments differs according cantons, generally getting strengthened, and integrated



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The process of constitution making in Switzerland

- The legislation has a strictly regulated and fragmented process
- 20 years long preparation (former one in 1874), gradual implementation through referenda since 1999
- Constitutions at canton level also

New trends in the new constitution(s)

- More consolidated text and structure (rather new clothes)

New accents:

- Sustainability: public finance, environmental protection, state efficiency,
- Moderns federalism: stronger central level accompanied by stricter co-operation rules with cantons
- Clear separation of regulation, control and execution
- More emphasis on local governance (in the federal constitution also)



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Impressions on development policy governance

- Higher planning culture, stricter regulation
- Structural problems: urbanisation obstacles, lack of lands, canton boundaries (but federal level can oblige to co-operate)
- Higher culture of co-operation in agglomerations (tripartite conferences), and between communes
- Dominance of the cantons, empowerment of federal level for redistribution

Conclusions

- Not the model rather the spirit (decentralisation and participation) and the functional techniques are transferable
- Traditions and modernisation can be compatible through continuous innovation of organisation and functioning based on stable values
- More pragmatism
- Institutional background of professional knowledge
- The role of identity



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Thanks for your attention



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