



Evidence-based governance in the German educational system (SteBis) - A program for coordinated research and knowledge transfer, sponsored by the Federal Ministry of Education and Research

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I. PROGRAM OF EMPHASIS

To examine recently implemented “New Governance” strategies and instruments in the educational system of Germany, a major research program was created by the Federal Ministry of Education and Research. This program constitutes 16 research projects, located at different universities and institutes in different federal states.

The projects aim at examining the impact, utilization and inherent consequences of new governance strategies. Further, they examine the effects of different forms of evaluation (e.g. central administrated tests, school inspections, internal evaluation) and other reforms brought about by the “New Governance” (e.g. enlargement of school autonomy or principals` competencies). They focus on different operational levels (e.g. school level, school supervisory board, educational policy and administration). The projects are conducted in different federal states and apply a multitude of research methods like case studies, standardized surveys, analysis of documents, network analysis or classroom videography.

II. COORDINATION UNIT

In order to inter-link the projects, to support multidisciplinary academic collaboration and to process the findings adequately for political and practical purpose, a coordination unit was established at Freie Universität Berlin.

To support multi-disciplinary academic collaboration between the projects, the coordination unit arranges cooperative publications and common symposia at (inter-)national conferences. To process the findings adequately for political and practical purposes, results will be presented in short reviews for different professionals (e.g. teachers, school principals, supervisors) and user-oriented conferences will be organized. The coordination unit aims at transferring empirical findings into practical solutions that can be implemented by school management and assist development (with regard to staff, curricula or classroom practices) in schools.

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