


Administrative reform in Russia: comparing roles of officials, civil society and expert community

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Reform process - constructing the black box

- Latour: scientific fact = box of connections, constructed by actors
- Reform = “black box”
- Actors use alliances within world of society and world of facts to pack their ideas in this “box”

Strategies of alliances

- I want what you want
- I want it, why don't you?
- I want it, why don't you?
- Reshuffling interests and goals
- Becoming indispensable

Administrative reform stages

- 1996-2000: “I want what you want” and “I want it, why don’t you?” – expert group trying to restructure state organization
- Start of 2000s : ”Detour” – CSR: from state (re-)building to administrative reform
- Since the mid of 2000s: “Mixing goals and interests” – Concept preparation; fail of reformers to make right alliances (i.e. experts and civil society) and control other actors

Evidence from Karelia

- good dynamics of the reform under S. Katanandov (local origination, connections with community, experts participation)
- the process slowed down under appointed heads of the republic (break of connections, stop of broad deliberation of reform)

Cross-regional statistics

- The best results in regions which are the most dependent on the federal center (the only significant variable in regressions)
- Among dependent regions the best are the more democratic ones
- Possible interpretation: opportunity of civil society participation positively affects the reform process with the provision of political will

Some conclusions

- Fail of initial reformers' ideas on stage of deliberation due to unskillful use of alliance strategies
- Potential of civil society and experts community to support “good” ideas in process of constructing the “black box” of the reform

Thank you attention!