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Summaries in English

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various European countries, including some from Eastern Europe. The Netherlands' government has been willing to support the initiative financially, while the Netherlands' Court of Audit hosts the initiative and provides support for the starting period of two years. The steering committee is chaired by Frans G. Kordes, former president of the Netherlands' Court of Audit. Other members are: Bernadette M.J. Wolters, Marie-Louise Bemelmans-Videc, Frans L. Leeuw, Helmut Wollmann, Andries Hoogerwerf, Andrew Gray, Rocio Fernandez-Ballesteros, Rolf Sandahl and Abraham Sorber.

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Summaries

Local administrative reform in the Netherlands

R.H.J. Gilsing

Local administrative reform, comprising policies aimed at the improvement of the relation between citizens and local government, has been a broadly discussed reaction of local government to the low turn-out in the last local elections in the Netherlands. This article deals with two questions: 1) to what degree and in which way have Dutch local governments started implementing or considering instruments of local administrative reform?, 2) which characteristics of municipalities explain the degree and type of local administrative reform? In this article, four categories of instruments have been distinguished: instruments of direct and indirect democracy, service-oriented instruments and internal administrative instruments.

Data have been collected in 88% of all 647 Dutch municipalities. It appears that 96 percent of all local governments have considered at least one instrument of administrative reform, and that 70% have considered at least six instruments. There appears to be no clear preference for any of the instruments, with the exception of the 'internal administrative' one: this instrument is relatively popular among local governments. Administrative reform appears to correlate with several characteristics of municipalities, namely, size of the population, degree of urbanization, local election turn-out and, to a lesser degree, development in local election turn-out. In multiple regression analysis, the size of the population turns out to be the most important predictor. To a lesser extent, the party-political composition of local councils and courts of mayor and aldermen also affects the degree to which local governments pay attention to or implement policies of administrative reform.

World and mind in Hannah Arendt's political phenomenology

W. Deanyer

Arendt's investigation of the mental faculties complements her occupation with action. In *The human condition*, Arendt has explained action as a combination of the articulation of a wordly interest and the expression of a principle. From her later *The life of the mind*, it becomes clear that these abstractions find their way to the life-world by means of the faculty of judgement. Thinking provides judgement with a metaphor, whereas judgement provides the metaphor with a wordly content. Thinking and judgement find each other in the deliberation about the exemplary example, which becomes the common *tertium quid comparationis*. According to Arendt, this is the only way to put into practice a 'philosophical truth' without distorting the public realm.