

Towards Coherent Public Administration Reforms in EU Member States. A Comparative Analysis of the Reforms and Investments in the Public Sector proposed in the National Recovery and Resilience Plans

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Abstract

This research explores in a comparative manner the instruments of reform and investments in public sector proposed by EU Member States in their national recovery and resilience plans (NRRPs), aiming to design a matrix that evaluates the national reforms in terms of coherence. The objective of this study is twofold: on the one hand, it seeks to identify the directions and instruments most commonly proposed by EU Member States in their NRRPs; on the other hand, by using a specific methodological toolkit which combines policy and statistical analysis, this study will generate a framework of tendencies and patterns in modernizing the public sector in each national plan in response to the coronavirus pandemic, in order to create a matrix of government responses. The sanitary crisis has challenged the public sector of EU Member States and determined the national governments to redesign new responses that could help institutions to readjust and adapt to new ways of delivering continuity of good public services. In order to strengthen the capacity of the public administration, EU Member States have proposed new sets of measures and investments in their NRRPs. In addition to the ongoing reform processes, EU Member States have advanced new instruments and investments adapted to their own needs, as well as to the national policy responses to the pandemic, which can vary in terms of pace and scale of change. Regardless of the existing gaps in the public administration reform process between EU Member States, a new coherent approach is reflected in the NRRP. This is the main research direction that this article seeks to argue with.

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