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<p>Tiivistelmä-Referat-Abstract</p> <p>The thesis is discussing theory, perception and state of the concept of multi-level governance. It has its focus on sub-national actors and, more precisely on German Länder and Municipalities of the Länder Lower Saxony and its eastern neighbour Saxony-Anhalt.</p> <p>After a reflection on the development of the German federal order motivated to point out trends and theoretical keywords -e.g. Politikverflechtung in cooperative federalism, the joint-decision trap - which were later used by those conceptualising multi-level governance the author shifted to the European Level showing impacts of the process of European Integration on the Länder. He demonstrated that those were in their result comparable to those of the internal developments and that the integration process had - if dividing the Länder into governments and parliaments - some who gained and some who lost. A development that coincides with the assumptions of those writing on multi-level governance. The process of integration is seen as a dynamic one offering actors of different levels access to decision-making processes, depending on time, policy-field and the development of a matter within that policy field, to be exemplified in this thesis by Structural and Regional policy.</p> <p>The author was furthermore interested in the matter concerning the local-level of the European multi-level system and willing to complete the picture of sub-national actors. After discussing important theoretical background informations in that respect - such as principle of subsidiarity, local-self governance and structural policy - he presented the results of an inquiry based on questions about theoretical problems of Politikverflechtung, multi-level governance and structural policy. To carry this inquiry through those questions were distributed to 11 municipalities in Lower Saxony and Saxony-Anhalt (7 answered). The result of self-assessment of the municipalities and the conclusions the author had to make in this area were rather negative - showing that reforms are urgently necessary and that there is a need of preparing the local level better on European issues. Not only in their own interest but also in the interest of the people in order to avoid centralisation and keep the dynamic multi-level system intact and improve it. But according to multi-level governance, it might be hoped for that since the process is dynamic offering new actors possibilities for participation as was seen, e.g. by the inclusion of non-administrative actors in programme-planning or by an initiative of the Land Saxony-Anhalt to increasingly include municipalities in the development of programmes and to prepare the local-level better on the future tasks of the European Integration.</p>			
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