The Government Administration and its Elites under Poland’s Membership of the European Union

Membership of the European Union imposes numerous tasks on state administrations in the Community. These tasks require particular competences in undertaking active efforts as regards not only co-creating EU policies and Community law, but also exploiting opportunities for exerting influence on those results of the Union’s operations which would be congruent with the interests of their own country. The majority, by far, of the responses from the directors of ministerial departments who took part in project No. 2011/03/B/HS5/00825, State administrative elites, career paths, identities and relations, have provided a great deal of information on the impact of the EU membership of a given country both on the career paths of the respondents and on the nature and organisation of their work with their local and Union–based partners alike, as well as on the perception of the barriers to, and benefits from, the eventual achievement of these tasks. In the directors’ opinion, the practice of co-operation within the EU framework, a practice which now reaches back many years and which was preceded by years of adaptation to membership, has fundamentally modified the position of the Polish administration in the EU arena. The tasks stemming from Poland’s EU membership form an inherent part of the routine operations of the Polish administration and constitute a dominant part feature of the country’s administrative practice.

Tags: European Union, acquis communautaire, inspirations, barriers, adaptation, modernisation, innovativeness, co-operation, success.