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**TERRITORIAL RESTRUCTURING OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT THROUGH
INTEGRATED INTER-MUNICIPAL COOPERATION:
TRENDS, POTENTIALS AND PROBLEMS**

Papers analyses the development and dispersion of integrated model of inter-municipal cooperation as a mean to achieve consolidated system of territorial (local) self-government. Several countries serve as a source of empirical material: France, Italy, Netherlands and Spain. The distinction is made between traditional, bottom-up and flexible inter-municipal cooperation which served as a supplement to the existing territorial structure and was locally oriented and the new model, developed in past two decades which entails integrated, centrally initiated and extensively regulated inter-municipal cooperation serving as an instrument of consolidation of the whole system of territorial self-government. Reasons for such development are highlighted and analyzed. The examples of such cooperation are studied comparatively along the lines of efficiency, efficacy, democracy, legitimacy and local autonomy. Legislative and numerical trends are observed and analyzed. The final part of the paper summarizes advantages, problems and shortcomings of such a model of territorial restructuring policy. Conclusions provide final remarks concerning viability of such a model for unconsolidated systems of local government as opposed to real territorial reform.

Content:

1. Introduction
2. Inter-municipal cooperation as an instrument of territorial consolidation
3. Characteristics of integrated model of IMC
4. Comparative dynamics of integrated IMC
5. Problems and shortcomings
6. Conclusions and perspectives