

THE CHANGING ROLE OF THE STATE IN THE ORGANIZATION OF PUBLIC EDUCATION (CENTRALISATION, DECENTRALISATION, RECENTRALISATION)

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Abstract: The centralised organizational and control mechanisms in place during the era of state socialism had been undergoing continuous erosion even before the change of regimes. In the case of public education this erosion took the form of a peculiar innovational anarchy and a growing disregard for compliance with regulation. The 1990s brought a system based on the decentralised provision of services coupled with a centrally set regulatory framework, and this sustained the possibility of diversity in the organization of education on one hand, while a continuous decrease in government engagement and the polarized nature of the distribution of local potential created vast societal and spatial differences on the other. The new regime set out to address the problem with a policy of recentralisation, but its actions merely substituted the previous dependence on spatially varying performance status with an even greater dependence on central planning and also led to the prevalence of political considerations over professional viewpoint due to the weak nature of community control, while failing to address the persistent lack of funding.