

Johannes Gutenberg University Mainz
Seminar „Topics in Fiscal Federalism“
winter semester 2013/14

I. Advantages and disadvantages of a federal state system in particular fields

1. Stabilization policy
2. Distribution policy
3. Allocation policy / public goods
4. Incentives for policy innovation

II. Competition among States and Municipalities

5. Theory of competitive federalism (Tiebout's Model)
6. Characteristics of the federal system of Switzerland
7. Transferability of competitive elements to the German state system

III. Allocation of competences in elected policy fields in Germany – Are competences allocated wisely to particular levels of government?

8. Policy of education and scientific research
9. Security policy
10. Labour administration and placing people to jobs
11. Tax administration

IV. Federalism / decentralization and growth: empiricism

12. Time series data studies (central question: does decentralization policy enhance growth?)
13. Cross-sectional data studies (central question: is growth stronger in federal/decentralized countries compared to centralized countries?)
14. Panel studies concerning the relationship between federalism/decentralization and growth

Important Advice:

Your term paper (max. 15 pages) should contain an outline of the current problems of your topic and analyze a selection of relevant literature concerning it.

One scientific article must be presented in detail and the examination should focus on the question of how far it contributes to the specific problems described in your paper.

Apart from your term paper we expect a presentation of your topic, a short-time three-minute-statement concerning one of your colleagues' topics, and active participation in the seminar.