
Abstracts

International and Local Opportunities: the National State out of its Tight Spot **U. Rosenthal**

On the face of things, the national state is disappearing from the world stage, as a result of processes of globalisation, internationalisation and Europeanisation on the one hand, and processes of subnational deconcentration and decentralisation on the other. But this is much too simple a view of what is going on. National states may no longer be the prime movers in the future, but they will certainly not vanish from the world stage. The situation we are facing is quite complex, with transnational, national, regional, and local interests acting both side by side, and from opposite positions. The decision making will be of a multi-level nature, not a 'pyramidal-hierarchical' one.

Culture as a Last Sheetanchor of National Sovereignty? **National Cultural Policy in the Context of Internationalisation and the West-European** **Integration in Particular** **F.J.P.M. Hoefnagel**

The tradition of the West-European, liberal, constitutional state gives a normative framework for the cultural policy of national governments. This framework implies a rejection of a national-protectionistic policy. Cultural openness is a characteristic of this type of state. However, the actual – political, administrative and institutional – forces which shape cultural policy de facto, really stimulate an attitude of protectionism. Some suggestions are made for a reorientation in national cultural policy, given the new context: more accent on the demand side in cultural policy, especially the strengthening of the international dimension in primary education, special attention for a good representation of national cultural institutions in international networks, and above all a vision which conceives national culture more as a home port from which the confrontation with other cultures takes places, than as a bastion which has to be defended.