

Research Project “Basic Research into Court Management in Switzerland“

Summary

The research project “Basic Research into Court Management in Switzerland” started in Mai 2012. The project is supported by the Swiss National Science Foundation (SNSF) for a duration of 3 years. In addition to the University of Bern (Leading House), the Universities of Zurich, Lucerne, St. Gallen and Utrecht (NL) as well as the IDHEAP are involved in this interdisciplinary project.

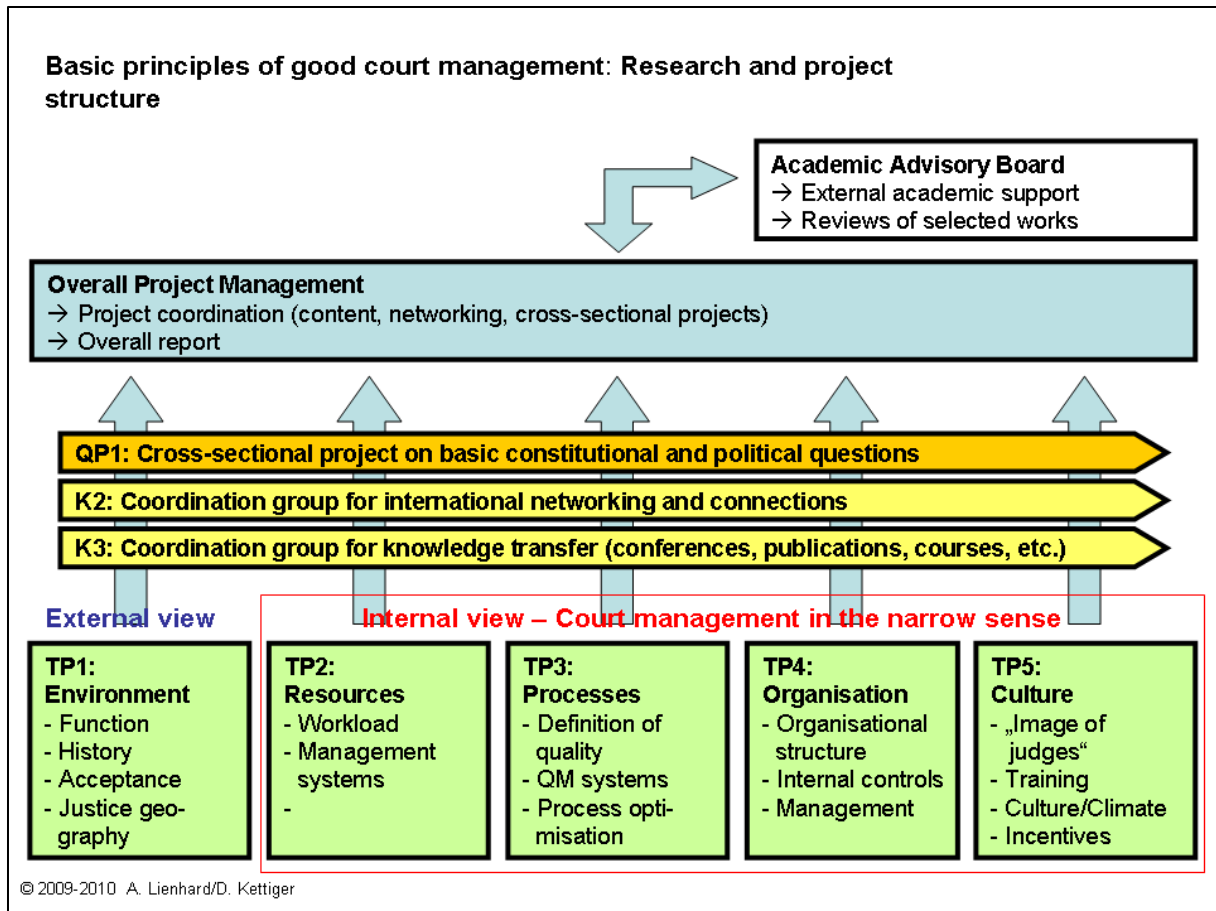
To date in Switzerland there has been a widespread lack of empirical and theoretical findings on the modus operandi of the justice system and its interaction with society or with specific social target groups. In relation to its basic knowledge of its judiciary, Switzerland is far behind other countries in the world.

Developments in public administration have shown management in the judiciary will become a necessity in the future. Without a better basic knowledge of the judicial field, the development of specific management models for the judiciary will not be possible. Therefore, the main common aim of this project is to gain knowledge of the Swiss judiciary as a subsystem of the democratic society and as an organisation.

This basic research is carried out with regard to the development of integrated management models for the administration of justice. In addition, it is expected that the research project will yield considerable methodological findings related to research in systems of justice. This will generate scientific added value; so far there have been hardly any solid and recognised methods for research into systems of justice.

The questions dealt with in this project are being approached on an interdisciplinary basis. Gaining an insight into the judiciary from outside involves studying the interaction of legal, sociological, macro-economic, psychological, historical and political science aspects. In addition, research into the functioning of the judiciary, its organisational impacts, internal processes and the interaction between the people working within the system can only proceed on an interdisciplinary basis.

The structure of the research project – following several recognised management models – is subdivided into the internal organisation of justice and an investigation of the pertinent environment. The investigation of the internal organisation will examine the elements of resources, processes, organisation (structure) and culture. Accordingly, the research project consists of five interdisciplinary sub-projects dealing with specific questions. Internal coherence and external cross-linkage will be guaranteed by means of an overall project management team, a cross-sectional project and two coordination groups.



The research findings achieved through the project will be presented in doctoral theses, articles in professional journals, academic working papers, reports from research workshops as well as in summarising reports of the sub-projects and the cross-sectional project. The findings of the overall project will lead to a summarising fundamental work on the subject.