

Success of territorial reforms and the sub-state level

Workshop: Successful territorial reform: Causes and methods of subnational reform in Council of Europe member states

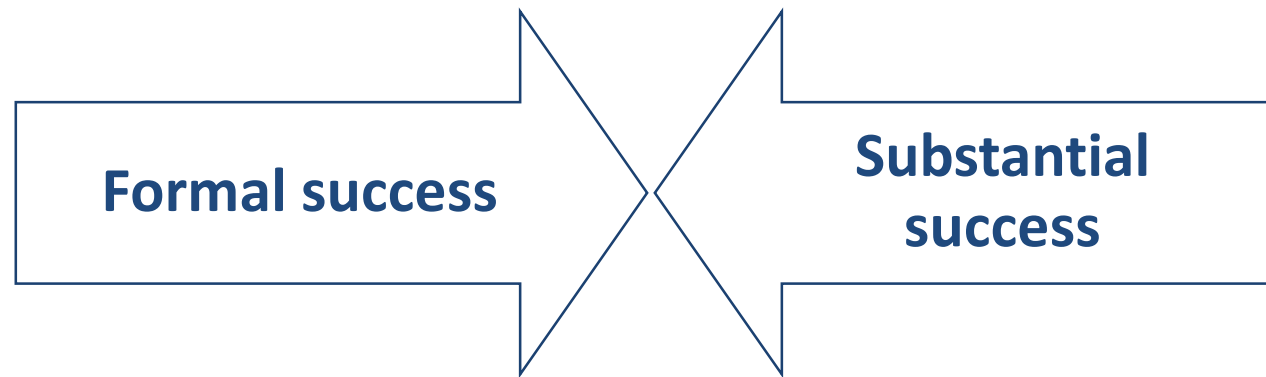
Eupen, Belgium

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Negotiating territorial reforms

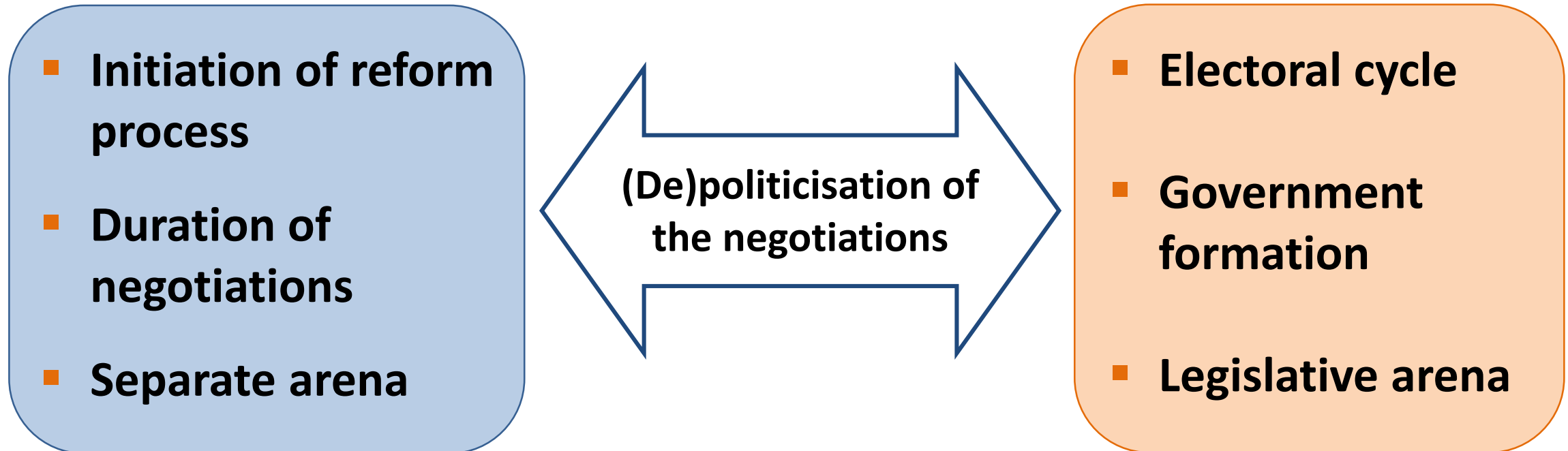
Defining success of reforms



Factors impacting on the outcome of territorial reforms

- ❑ Dissociation of territorial reforms from 'normal politics'
- ❑ Negotiation pattern: unilateral, bilateral or multilateral
- ❑ Constitutional veto at sub-state level

Territorial reform process vs. 'normal politics'



Negotiation mode

- **Negotiation mode:** impacts on how party preferences can be translated into reform results
 - ❑ **Unilateral:** negotiation between actors at the centre
 - ❑ **Bilateral:** negotiation between actors representing the centre and one sub-state entity
 - ❑ **Multilateral:** negotiation between representatives of the centre and most or all sub-state entities
- Bilateral negotiations promote asymmetric decentralisation + increase influence of representatives of sub-state
- Multilateral negotiations promote symmetric decentralisation + moderate the influence of representatives of sub-states

Constitutional veto at sub-state level

- ❑ **Veto player** = actor or institutions whose **consent** is needed for a reform to pass
- ❑ **Sub-state parliaments** as veto players:
 - increases influence of sub-states over the outcome
 - involves parliaments in addition to executives
 - higher likelihood of ratification failure
 - Key to formal success: inclusion and consent of parties in parliament during the negotiation stage

Thank you very much.

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