Implementing decentralization: the wide gap between theory and reality

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The decentralization of education

- Why decentralize?
- The implementation of decentralization can pose problems:
  - Lack of a system of support
  - The management of financial resources
  - The functioning of local offices
- Constructing a policy of decentralization
Why decentralize?

Decentralization

- Greater efficiency
- Greater relevance
- More participation
- A more direct accountability
The implementation of decentralization can pose problems:

- Levels of resources and assets: Greater efficiency
- Professionalism: Greater relevance
- Distribution of power: More participation
- Levels and fields of autonomy: A more direct accountability

Decentralisation
Weakness of the support system

- Insufficient/inequitable resource allocation
- Weakness of monitoring
- Lack of technical assistance
- Insufficient or inappropriate capacity development and professional development
Management of financial resources

In many cases, insufficient resources, worsened by management problems:

- Limited autonomy in the use of official resources
- The budgets do not take into account the characteristics of the districts and schools
- Limited transparency in the use of “non-official” resources

A paradoxical situation.
Functioning of local offices, local authorities and schools

- Weak capacities for implementing the reforms
- Need for more quality information
- Ineffective accountability systems
- Timidity of strategic planning
Implications for the central level

- Monitoring & evaluation
- Link mandate and resources
- Develop capacities
- Levels of resources and assets
- Greater efficiency
- Levels and fields of autonomy
- Professionalism
- Greater relevance
- Distribution of power
- More participation
- Strengthen the « weak »
- A more direct accountability