Governance Networks in the Public Sector

By Erik Hans Klijn, Joop Koppenjan

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Governance Networks in the Public Sector presents a comprehensive study of governance networks and the management of complexities in network settings. Public, private and non-profit organizations are increasingly faced with complex, wicked problems when making decisions, developing policies or delivering services in the public sector. These activities take place in networks of interdependent actors guided by diverging and sometimes conflicting perceptions and strategies. As a result these networks are dominated by cognitive, strategic and institutional complexities. Dealing with these complexities requires sophisticated forms of coordination: network governance.

This book presents the most recent theoretical and empirical insights into governance networks. It provides a conceptual framework and analytical tools to study the complexities involved in handling wicked problems in governance networks in the public sector. The book also discusses strategies and management recommendations for governments, business and third sector organisations operating in and governing networks.

Governance Networks in the Public Sector is an essential text for advanced students of public management, public administration, public policy and political science, and for public managers and policymakers.

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Review

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'This book is the most comprehensive consideration of governance networks available, systematically spanning its theoretical foundations and providing strategies and practical guidelines for analysing and managing networks. The authors also provide new overviews of governance networks' democratic legitimacy, accountability mechanisms, and evaluation processes. Academics, students and practitioners will all find this an extremely useful reference.' - *Professor Jenny M Lewis, The University of Melbourne, Australia*

'Twenty years in the making, this book is the definitive manual on how to analyze, manage and assess governance networks.' – *Professor Rod A. W. Rhodes, University of Southampton, UK*

About the Author

Erik Hans Klijn is Professor of Public Administration at Erasmus University Rotterdam, The Netherlands. His research focuses on topics like network management, the role of trust, public-private partnerships, democratic legitimacy, the influence of media attention, and branding.

Joop Koppenjan is Professor of Public Administration at Erasmus University Rotterdam, The Netherlands. He studies public policy, complex decision-making, governance networks, public-private partnerships, and public service delivery in areas like transport, water, urban governance, social support, care, and safety.

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