



# A Practical Guide for Policy Analysis: The Eightfold Path to More Effective Problem Solving, 4th Edition

By Eugene Bardach

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In this new edition, Bardach clarifies some of the book's exposition, paying particular attention to "design problems" and the choice of a "base case." Up-to-date examples, including a new set of environmental problems, make the book even more engaging.

Readers will also appreciate a sample document of real world policy analysis, a primer in how to "talk the talk" of policy analysis, and a cheat sheet of strategies for solving a host of policy problems.

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#### Review

"Bardach's *Practical Guide* is an extraordinary book. It presents an approach to policy analysis that is rigorous and flexible. Despite its welcome brevity, the book gives good reasons for its advice. The greatest strengths of the book are its emphasis on problem definition, its introduction to using The Matrix for evaluating policies, and its identification of key pitfalls, e.g., 'Do not define the solution into the problem.' Students appreciate the book while they are reading it and will draw on the insights and the skills for their entire careers." --Michael Ash, Professor of Economics and Public Policy, University of Massachusetts Amherst

"I wouldn't dream of teaching policy analysis to any group of students at any level in any country without this gem of a book. Gene Bardach has given us an introductory text in which highly experienced analysts find new insights, a no-nonsense practical guide that stimulates debates about theory, and that rarest of academic outputs--an easy-to-read, step-by-step manual that does not dodge the complexity, subtlety, and messiness of real-life policy craft. The eightfold path is to policy analysis what a perfect whitesauce is to French cooking--an essential building block." --Karen Baehler, Scholar in Residence, School of Public Affairs, American University

#### About the Author

Eugene Bardach has been teaching graduate-level policy analysis workshop classes since 1973 at the Goldman School of Public Policy, University of California, Berkeley, in which time he has coached over 400 projects. This book is based on his experience teaching students the principles of policy analysis and then helping them to execute their project work. He is the recipient of the 1998 Donald T. Campbell award of the Policy Studies Organization for creative contribution to the methodology of policy analysis.

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