

Abstracts

Anton Hemerijck

Four questions of public policy

The policy sciences harbour a large variety of perspectives and approaches. This is strength, but also a weakness. Multi- and interdisciplinary tolerance is accompanied by a lack of coherence. In a quest for more integration this paper infers four core questions of public policy. These are: 'does it work', 'does it fit', 'is it permitted' en 'is it proper'. The four core questions of public policy are theoretically constructed from the analytical dichotomy of the (inter)action orientations of 'consequence' and 'appropriateness' and the two-sided criterium of input- and output legitimacy. Legitimate public policy thus adheres to four quality standards: instrumental efficiency (does it work), political-institutional decisiveness (does it fit), constitutional legality (is it permitted) and societal acceptance (is it proper). The typology of four core questions of public policy conveys an integrated and widely applicable perspective for policy analysis. The perspective is especially relevant for the study of policy dynamics and institutional change. The underlying ambition of the typology of four questions of public policy is to anchor

the open exchange of ideas across the many approaches, perspectives, disciplines and specialisms that crowd the field of policy analysis.

Loek Groot

A critical evaluation of the Voting Indicator 2002

This article contains a critical evaluation of the so called *StemWijzer 2002*, an internet application that helps and advises voters which political party to choose at the general election. Applying some validity tests and checking the discriminatory power, it is argued that the *StemWijzer 2002* is seriously flawed.

Marja Geradts-Pinckaers en Frans Hoefnagel

The future of cultural policy and entrepreneurship

The global final responsibility of the government for cultural affairs has some continuity, also for the longer future. Another question is whether the traditional, operational cultural policy of the national

government will realise this global responsibility for the coming decades. There are some doubts. The traditional policy is unable to anticipate important developments, forming its future context, like changes in the market economy, internationalisation, the new information and communication technology and general administrative changes within the government itself.

In the second part of the article the authors examine the impact of the idea of cultural entrepreneurship on these points. Can cultural entrepreneurship remove the vulnerabilities of cultural policy, as mentioned? The answer is yes, but in a conditional way. The main condition implies that the distinction between commercial entrepreneurship and entrepreneurship in the public sector will be strictly maintained.

Jacco Hakvoort en Co Verdaas
**ICT and the government: A discussion of five
 policy notes for the Dutch government**

This paper discusses five recent policy notes to the Dutch government that address the implications of developments in information and communication technologies for the role of the public sector, its organization and innovations in policy instruments. The survey shows that most notes do not question the traditional role of the public sector and are rather optimistic about the usefulness of ICT as a policy instrument. This conclusion is not based on any firm empirical evidence, however. More work on the efficiency of ICT compared to other policy instruments in solving social problems seems therefore warranted.