Government Agencies: Practices and Lessons from 30 Countries (Public Sector Organizations)

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This book describes and compares how semi-autonomous agencies are created and governed by 30 governments. It leads practitioners and researchers through the crowded world of agencies, describing their tasks, autonomy, control and history. Evidence-based lessons and recommendations are formulated to improve agencification policies in post-NPM times.

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Editorial Review

Review

'Applying a common data and analytic template to 30 countries, the contributors examine the historical origins and legal frameworks of agencies, their capacity to carry out assigned tasks, the political and administrative implications, and more. If the purpose of agencies has been to tear down the vast, vertically-integrated government bureaucracies that dominated public administration during most of the 20th century, most have failed; if their aim has been to improve public services, many have had modest - but not universal - success. With the publication of this book, administrative reformers can innovate with eyes wide open, and with greater comprehension of the difference agencies make in managing the public services.'

- Allen Schick, Distinguished University Professor, School of Public Policy, University of Maryland, USA.

'A comparative study that sheds light on a now popular yet marginally understood form of public organisation. Sitting outside traditional ministerial departments, 'agencies', and how they work in practice are the focus of this book. For its breadth and depth of analysis, it will be of value to practitioners and students alike. The accompanying list of recommendations and lessons in organisational design is a bonus.'

- Janice Caulfield, formerly Associate Professor, University of Hong Kong

About the Author
VIBEKE NORMANN ANDERSEN Associate Professor, Department of Political Science and Public Management, Syddanksk Universitet, Denmark JOAQUIM FILIPE ARAÚJO Associate Professor, School of Economics and Management Universidade do Minho, Portugal CHRIS AULICH Professor, ANZSOG Institute for Governance, University of Canberra, Australia TOBIAS BACH Research Fellow, University of Hannover, Germany DAN OCTAVIAN BALICA Research assistant, Babes-Bolyai University, Romania DARIO BARBIERI SDA Bocconi, Italy NICOLA BELLÉ Researcher, Bocconi University, Italy BIDHYA BOWORNWATHANA Associate Professor, Department of Public Administration, Faculty of Political Science, Chulalongkorn University, Bangkok, Thailand RICHARD BOYLE Head of Research, Institute of Public Administration, Ireland GEORGE BOYNE Professor, Cardiff University, UK SARA DEMUZERE Researcher, Catholic University of Leuven, Belgium PAOLO FEDELE Assistant Professor, Udine University, Italy DAVIDE GALLI Assistant Professor, Bocconi University, Italy PATRÍCIA GOMES Researcher, School of Economics and Management Universidade do Minho, Portugal ROBERT GREGORY Professor of Political Science, School of Government Victoria, University of Wellington, New Zealand GYÖRGY HAJNAL Associate Professor, Corvinus University of Budapest, Hungary JOHN HALLIGAN Professor, University of Canberra, Australia GERHARD HAMMERSCHMID Assistant Professor, Vienna University of Economics and Business Administration, Austria MORTEN BALLE HANSEN Assistant Professor, University of Southern Denmark - Syddansk Universitet, Denmark CALIN EMILIAN HINTEA Professor, Public Administration Department, Babes Bolyai University, Romania ETIENNE HUBER Research Assistant, University of Bern, Switzerland ADRIAN V. HUDREA Researcher, Public Administration Department, Babes-Bolyai University, Romania NASIRA JABEEN Professor and Director, Institute of Administrative Sciences, University of Punjab, Pakistan MUHAMMAD ZAFAR IQBAL JADOON Professor, Institute of Administrative Sciences, University of Punjab, Pakistan OLIVER JAMES Professor, University of Exeter, UK JOHANNA JOKISUU Researcher, University of Vaasa, Finland IVAN

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