

KAY 493

Comparative Public Policy



Week 2

- Instruments and Trends
- Dodds, Chapter 2



Content

- **Resources** drawn on in producing and implementing public policies
- Types of **instruments** used by public policies
 - Financial resources, authority, organization, and the provision of information
- **Impact** of different types of policy instruments **on different groups of citizens**
 - **Impact** of public policy **on non-nationals** within the domestic territory, as well as **populations beyond the national territory** (through cross-border and international policy-making).



Explaining Variation in Instruments, Actors and Trends

- **Systematic differences** between nations in their use of policy instruments
 - **Involvement** of certain groups of actors
 - **Different policy styles** in different countries,
 - **Systematic variation** in the use of policy instruments **between policy sectors & over time.**
 - **Existence of some general trends** although, it is difficult to generalize across different nations and sectors in their use of policy instruments.
- 



Policy resources available for public action

Lasswell: ‘**The methods of the influential**’, the **governing elites**.

- Use of ‘**symbols**’ (such as ideology and propaganda),
- **Violence** (wars, revolutions and assassinations),
- **Goods** (rationing, pricing, bribing),
- **Practices** (governing procedures)



Technologies in policy- implementation (Bardach)

Categorization of four different
resources:

- Money
- Political support
- Administrative complexity
- Creative leadership

10 different resources available to public policy actors (Knoepfel et al.)



Force – the traditional prerogative of the state



Law – like force, ‘mainly (but not exclusively) at the disposal of public actors’



Personnel or human resources



Money or financial means



Information



Organization – the structures of interaction between policy actors and policy targets

10 different resources available to public policy actors (Knoepfel et al.)



7. Consensus – ‘between the political-administrative actors, the end beneficiaries and target groups with respect to the production modalities and contents of implementation measures (outputs)



8. Time – covering the time that can be consecrated to make and enact policy, and the benefits that come from sustained involvement in a particular policy area



9. Infrastructure – ‘the ‘property’ resource: all of the tangible goods or property at the disposal of the different actors, including public actors, whether the actors are the owners of these goods or have acquired a right of use to them



10. Political support – ‘or the ‘majority’ resource’

Policy Instruments

How governments act: policy instruments

How these resources are put to use

The set of techniques by which governmental authorities [or their proxies, acting on behalf of governmental authorities] wield their power in attempting to ensure support and effect or prevent social change

Categorization of Policy Instruments



The degree to which they involve government expenditure or otherwise



The degree to which instruments involve government action (or are based on inaction, such as reliance on market mechanisms)



Coercive or not



Direct (focused on a specific population) or otherwise



The degree to which they affect actors inside or outside government.

Categories of policy instruments (Vedung, 1998)

Carrots, sticks and sermons

- Economic means,
- Regulations
- Information
 - Government can inform the citizenry about what is good or bad, right or wrong'

Providing information: Smoking kills



Regulation: Seat belts

| Reasons not to wear | Explanation given |
|---------------------------------|---|
| It is inconvenient | I cannot reach the glove-box easily It messes up my jacket I have to lift the arm-rest to put it in |
| It is physically uncomfortable | It cuts my neck It is not made for people my size/height I have a scar etc. |
| It is emotionally uncomfortable | It makes me feel trapped/constrained I have visions of hanging upside down |

Trends in the use of policy instruments

Level of government involvement

Level of coercion

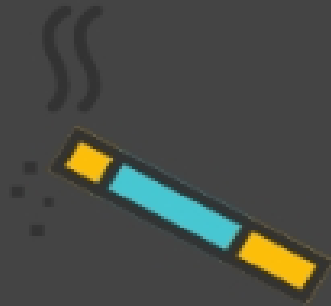
Subsidiarity

Governance arrangements

Nudging

Is it possible to discern different national 'policy styles'?

Nudging: Monetary incentives for behavior change



PAID TO QUIT

An experiment in the Philippines provided smokers with a savings account for six months. At the end of this period they had a urine test for nicotine. If they passed, they got all their money. If they failed, it was all given to charity.

Public policy targets

Inclusion and exclusion of different groups by public policies

Different impacts on different groups

'Tough' (coercive, sanction-based) and 'tender' (incentives, persuasion and capacity-building based) policies (Stewart, 2009)

Non-domestic targets of public policy

Example: Tough versus tender policies for the return of immigrants (non-domestic actors)

