

Contents

1	Understanding Policy Decisions	1
1.1	The Decisional Problem	1
1.2	What is a Policy Decision	4
1.3	Typical Features of Contemporary Public Policies	8
1.4	Decisional Models	13
1.4.1	The Rational Model	14
1.4.2	The Bounded Rationality Model	16
1.4.3	The Incremental Model	19
1.4.4	The “Garbage Can” Model	21
1.5	A Realistic Model of the Decisional Process	23
	References	27
2	Who Decides? Actors and Their Resources	29
2.1	Who are the Actors?	29
2.2	The Actors’ Goals	33
2.3	The Actors’ Resources	35
2.3.1	Political Resources	36
2.3.2	Economic Resources	37
2.3.3	Legal Resources	39
2.3.4	Cognitive Resources	42
2.4	Rationality of Action and Types of Actors	45
2.5	The Scale of the Interests Involved	52
2.6	The Actors Within the Process: The Roles	54
2.7	The Actors in the Interaction: Decisional Networks	59
2.8	Conclusions	64
	References	65
3	What is Decided? The Content of the Decision	67
3.1	Policy Determines Politics: Lowi and the Policy Analysis “Revolution”	67
3.2	Concentration of the Costs and Benefits and Intensity of Preferences	70

3.3	Types of Games	72
3.4	Conclusion: The Analysis of the Content	74
	References	75
4	How Do We Decide? The Patterns of Interaction	77
4.1	Introduction	77
4.2	Formal Rules and Decisional Processes	78
4.3	Types of Games and Interaction Patterns	81
4.4	A Classification of the Patterns of Interaction	86
	References	88
5	Where (and When) Do We Decide? The Context of the Decision	89
5.1	What is the Decisional Context	89
5.1.1	The Cognitive Context	90
5.1.2	The Economic Context and the Institutional Context	93
5.2	Analysis of the Decisional Context	94
	References	97
6	Strategies for Policy Entrepreneurs	99
6.1	On the Part of the Innovator	99
6.2	Decisional Strategies	102
6.2.1	Altering the Distribution of Resources	103
6.2.2	Modifying the Patterns of Interaction	106
6.2.3	Changing the Content of the Decision	114
6.2.4	Transforming the Decisional Network	117
6.3	Institutionalization as a Strategy	121
6.4	Timing	124
6.5	Conclusion: Is There a Rule for Successful Policy Making?	125
	References	127
	Glossary	131



<http://www.springer.com/978-3-319-02519-3>

Understanding Policy Decisions

Dente, B.

2014, VIII, 134 p. 11 illus., Softcover

ISBN: 978-3-319-02519-3