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**Politicile Publice, Raționalitate și  
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Dorina Țicu, Adenium Publishing  
House, 2014**

*Silviu-Petru GRECU*

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## Book Review

### **Politicile Publice, Raționalitate și decizie în spațiul administrativ – author Dorina Țicu, Adenium Publishing House, 2014**

**Silviu-Petru GRECU<sup>1</sup>**

The field of public administration couldn't be explained without a rational and objective approach. In this meaning, the book *Politicile Publice, Raționalitate și decizie în spațiul administrativ*, written by Dorina Țicu, resumes the theoretical framework for the correlation between public policy and public administration. The book is structured in three parts (chapters) in which the author expresses the main concepts and its proper theory about the rationality in public policies.

At the conceptual level we can identify several normative approaches in addition with public decision and bureaucrat's rationality. The decisional process is seen as the main behavioral value for political actors, individuals, social groups or institutional sphere. The author emphasizes the idea that the rational choice could be a kind of *modus vivendi* for different social actors. Starting with these premises the decisional process is the engine of the social action. Every social actor sets its social actions in accord with rational purposes or rational motivation.

The first part presents a brief history of the decision, both from political and strategically approach. Thus, we can identify the decision's origins in the ancient philosophy in a strong correlation with ethical values. When we discuss about decision we must underline all political or moral values which compound it's referential. The modern theory of the decision is crystalized in a formal-logical framework, more or less similar with the contemporary theory of choice. The author presents the Bernoulli, Condorcet and Bayes statistical issues in forming the rational decision. The decisional process is seen as a complex logically

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mechanism for targeting a main purpose or for choosing the optimal solution for a social or political problem.

In connection with the decisional process the book presents the rational background of the public policies. Public policies are the main vectors of the modern democracies for correcting the market limits. Thus, it's important to analyse the governmental strategies for creating and implementing sectorial policies. The interface between governmental strategies and individuals is guaranteed by the public administration. The author exposes the public policy cycle based on: agenda setting, strategy (policy), decisional process, policies implementation and political evaluation. The decisional mechanism is coherent at the implementation stage, where public servants must choose the main instruments for a good political outcome. Synthesizing, public policies are connected with decisional issues in a rational approach. Starting with this premise the author expresses several decisional models for public policies.

The chapter named *Public Policies. Decisional Models* tries to review the main strategies and models in public administrative decision. Thus, decisional models are theoretical and practical guidelines for explaining the decision dynamics in public policies implementation. In this part is emphasized the idea that there are not "good or bad models". We mustn't realize axiological or subjective judgments about the decisional models. Each model has its strengths and weaknesses, but political actors have to realize the opportunities for the best social and political outcome. In this part of the book are synthesized several decisional models like: the rational actor, limited rationality, bureaucratic model, incremental model, or several paradoxes and models like the public choice or the games theory. All the models are analyzed through the concept of rationality. The author tries to adequate the rational view with the administrative practice. But the conclusion of this part is that the public policy process is influenced by a high number of factors/variables which determine a quasi-rational feature of the decisional process.

The third chapter is named *Decision- beyond classical paradigms*. The author tries to understand the limits of decisional process with new tools and new research directions. Dorina Țicu tries to create a general theory for explaining or understanding the process of elaboration, implementation and evaluation of the public policies. Dorina Țicu

underlines the importance of organizational behavior structured on three levels: individual level, group level and organization systems level. All these levels describe the actors' behavior in designing public policies. More or less we can identify a multilevel structure of political action based on tradition, personal motivation, personal psychological features, political processes and other subjective or objective factors. The book illustrates the importance of political institutions and administrative structures in designing public policies.

Concluding, we can mention the correlation between decision making process and the methodological tools and techniques. The book proposes a new kind of paradigm based on organizational behavior and collaborative governance. Thus, the whole structure reflects the importance of psycho-sociological factors as determinants for a good implementation of public policies. This new paradigm has to be an interdisciplinary approach both for researcher and political or collective actors. The interdisciplinary or transdisciplinary approach requires a new academic framework, a complex one, based on the intersection and interaction among sociology, psychology, economics, ideology, constitutional and administrative law and other social or humanistic disciplines.

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