Universiteit Utrecht

Policymaking in a European Context

Future Visions and Competing Powers

Wieger Bakker
Utrecht School of Governance

Bart van Steenbergen
Faculty of Social Sciences

Utrecht University

Effective and accountable policymaking: a European Imperative

Wieger Bakker

1. Policy: What are we talking about and why are we talking about it.

2. Reasons for Public Policy

3. Perspectives on Public Policy

4. The European Imperative

5. Governance as a normative concept

1. What is a policy (meaning and definition)

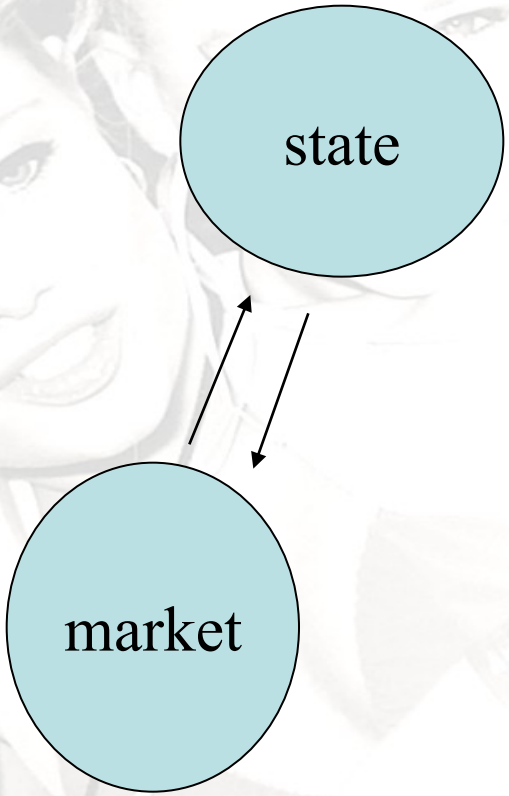
field of activity
decision of government
organisational routines
a programme
a process

Narrow definition

A policy is the attempt to reach certain ends with certain means in a certain period of time

Broad definition

A policy is an attempt to define and structure a rational basis for action or for inaction


state
market

2. Reasons for public policy

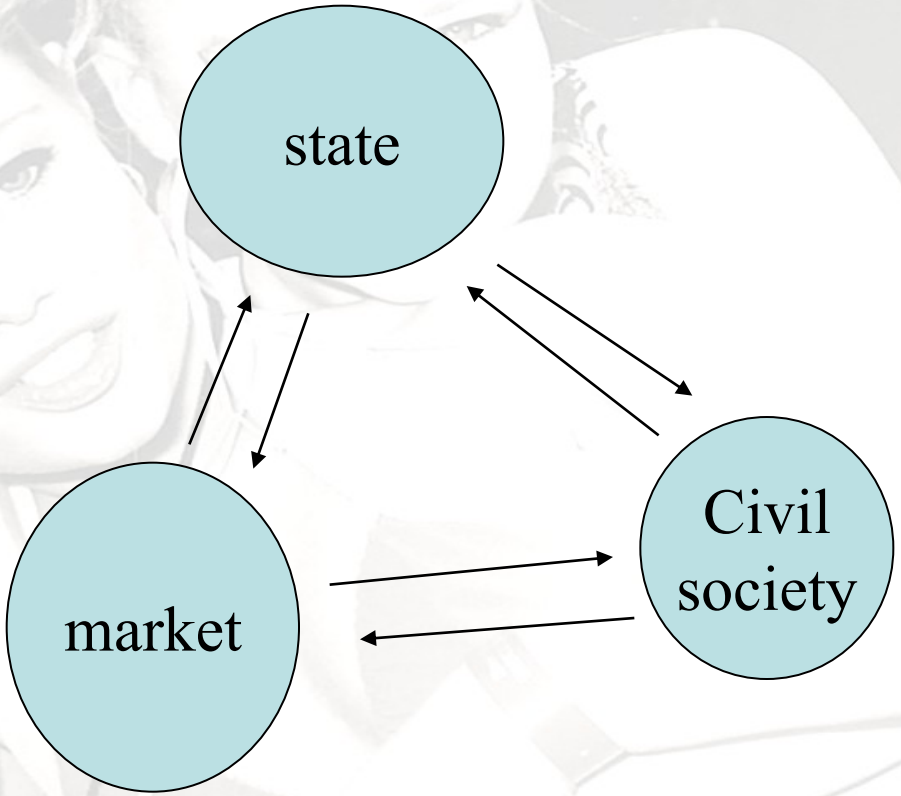
1 Prevention from monopoly and cartels
(protecting the market)

2 Production of collective goods
(complementing the market)

3 Regulating external effects
(protection against the market)

4 Controling merit goods
(correcting the market)

5 Redistribution
(compensating for the market)


state
market
Civil
society

3. Perspectives on Public Policy

Liberalism	Social-Democrats	Christian Democrats
Market	Plan	Mixed order (Corporatism)
Peronal Freedom	Economic and Personal Freedom	Harmony
Relativism	Voluntarism	Structuralism
Limited Government	Active Government	NGO's and Government Intervention
Freedom	Equality	Fraternity

4. The European Imperative

Experience

Subjects ?

Styles, organization, modes of operation ?

Level ?

5. Governance as a normative concept

Concept of Governance (or good Governance)

White Paper on European Governance, July 2001

The Principles of Good Governance

Openness (confidence and trust)
Participation (confidence and legitimacy)
Accountability
Effectiveness
Coherence

"Policies must be effective and timely, delivering what is needed on the basis of clear objectives, an evaluation of future impact and, where available, of past experience."

Effectiveness and Accountability as (European) Imperatives

effectiveness is imperative in the relation between states.

- In international cooperation
- In the relation between the present members of the EU
- In the relation between the member states and the EU itself
- In the relation between the EU/member states and the states that are going to enter the EU

Trust and morality as a guarantee for fair play on the free market and to prevent unequal competition between states.

Accountable:
citizens as stakeholders: politicians, states, union need, ‘legitimacy’, need to be ‘trusted’, in democracy can be held accountable for their actions

Accountability is seen as a precondition for effective and legitimate governance