



In public administration theory and practice, the 21st century has been marked by a shift of emphasis from efficiency (often simplified as cost-saving, downsizing, and outsourcing) to effectiveness. Yet, in order for the public administration and “government” to work (and work well) “capacities to govern” must be developed. These capacities include capacities related to setting strategic direction, building capacity to implement policy, and building new ways of financing public goods and services, as well as - especially in developing and transition countries - to absorb funds and manage programs. This collection of edited contributions discusses the nature of effective civil service and public policy in the Central and Eastern European region. The selection includes both theoretical and empirical cases that have hitherto received scant, if any, scholarly attention in public administration.

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