

Intelligent Health Policy

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Intelligent Health Policy

Theory, Concept and Practice



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Preface

Health matters to everyone. It is an essential ingredient in our lives. If you do not have good or adequate health, you most likely suffer somehow in your life. Good health promotes your activities in life and brings you happiness and good spirit. This is why we have chosen health as a policy subject in this book.

Moreover, public policies and organisations are important—or, to be more precise, essential. Every one of us is affected by public policies and uses the services provided by public, private or non-governmental organisations.

In this book, we have combined these important topics—health, public policy and organisations—and written about health policy from a perspective that we consider to be novel. Throughout this book, we maintain that the future of health policies and healthcare service delivery pretty much depends on how intelligently they are planned, implemented and evaluated. In our thinking, public policy constitutes a learning cycle that aims at the betterment of the society. Intelligence is an important ingredient, based on client-centred thinking, systematic data-driven leadership mechanisms and good leadership, for future health policies and services—and service ecosystems.

We approach public health policy from a comprehensive public policy viewpoint. In doing so, we deliberately focus on healthcare organisations as they exist in the current and future service space by not making a distinction between the roles of the service purchaser and the service producer. If we had decided to include this topic, the manuscript would have been twice as long. Other interesting and important topics are also out of reach of this manuscript for the same reason—topics such as democracy issues and topics related to co-creation models at the public policy level.

A word of warning. We are not trained doctors or representatives of any healthcare profession. We have written this book as public governance, public policy and public administration experts and enthusiasts with a joint professional and academic track record on these topics totalling more than 50 years.

This is our fifth book together along with numerous academic and semi-academic papers written together over the last 15 years. With regard to monographs, we have previously written about change leadership (published in 2007), public sector

leadership (2010), development models in health and social services (2012) and intelligent public organisation (2014). There are also numerous spin-off academic and semi-academic articles from our books.

Without exception, our writing missions have been a great fun, and this has been the case with this book as well. For us, the writing process is fun when we learn something together. Parts of this book have been written in Finland, our home country, and also in China, the Netherlands, Qatar, Indonesia, the USA, the United Arab Emirates, the UK and Singapore.

Finally, Petri wants to thank Johanna for her love, understanding and patience during the writing process of this book. Jari is deeply thankful to Kirsi for her all-encompassing support and love over the years.

Helsinki, Finland
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September 2017

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