

Alise Vītola, Maija Šenfelde (Latvia)

POLICY COORDINATION IN LATVIA: PROBLEMS AND SOLUTIONS

The purpose of this article is to survey significant literature on policy coordination and outline relevant problems and solutions for Latvia. In the rapidly changing environment organisations have to ensure not only smooth vertical coordination (hierarchical, principal – agent relationship) within organisation, but also enhance horizontal coordination (decentralised, network relationship) both within and between organisations. A recent body of literature has argued that none of these challenges are unfamiliar in the public administration. With the growing complexity and interdependence of policy issues, the question on how best to coordinate the business of government has become an ever more pressing concern. Policy coordination is a procedural value and aims at an avoidance or at least minimisation of duplication, overlapping, inconsistency and conflict of government policies (negative coordination), and the development of comprehensive and coherent, whole government perspective and set of priorities instead of narrow and sectoral perspectives (positive coordination). It is also important to note that there are spheres of high and low interdependence.