

A USEFUL SEQUENCE OF DECISION-MAKING REGARDING POLICY
(A WAY TO THINK ABOUT THE PROCESS)

Few processes are a sequential series of steps. Some steps run in parallel. Most processes are iterative internally.

IDENTIFY THE ISSUE OR PROBLEM/OPPORTUNITY DEFINITION



DEVELOP & CONSIDER THE ISSUE



AGENDA DESIGNATION OR PRIORITY SETTING



DEVELOP THE POLICY

GOALS -- WHY? INTERESTS

POLICY OPTIONS -- HOW? WHO? WHEN? RELATIVE POWER



DECIDE -- EXECUTIVE DECISION AND POLICY ADOPTION



DEVELOP SUPPORT FOR THE POLICY AND LEGITIMIZATION



IMPLEMENTATION & MAINTAIN SUPPORT



EVALUATE THE RESULTS & ADJUST

THE IDEAL OR RATIONAL DECISION MAKING PROCESS

There is no boundedness, the players are logical, and the desire is to achieve the “best way to achieve the national or public interest”

The issue/problem is understood.

Interests are understood.

Specific goals, tied to the interests, are selected.

Major policy alternatives are defined.

The means are understood.

The factors of causation are understood.

The relative power of all external players is understood

Policy alternatives are assessed in light of the Interests, Goals, Means, the External Players, and Other Policies.

The best policy is adopted.

The policy is coordinated with other policies.

The policy is understood by the implementing agencies and executed.

The effectiveness of the policy is evaluated as it is implemented and changes appropriate changes are made

Outcomes are evaluated and the policy adjusted.