

HANDBOOK ON TRUST IN PUBLIC GOVERNANCE

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'This timely and much-needed anthology on trust in public governance addresses one of the most critical issues of our time. In an era where trust is in sharp decline, yet is essential for navigating the complex challenges ahead, this work provides a profound understanding of its importance. With significant societal transformations looming, from environmental and social crises to threats to democracy, trust is the glue that holds collaborative governance together. Now more than ever, we need all hands on board, and this volume offers invaluable insights for strengthening the fabric of our public institutions.'

– Antoinette Weibel, Universität St.Gallen, Switzerland

'Most states and societies are coping with turbulence. This coping requires substantial and grounded trust in our systems. Trust becomes one of the most important and fragile social capitals for the future of our states and societies. This Handbook demonstrates not only all dimensions of trust in public governance, but even more, it proves how to set up public governance for sustainable trust.'

– Geert Bouckaert, KU Leuven Public Governance Institute, Belgium

This Handbook explores the transformative power of trust for relations within and between governments, parliaments and politicians, administrations and regulatory agencies, courts, societal actors and citizens. Adopting a multi-actor and multi-level perspective, it highlights the centrality of trust in enhancing the resilience, effectiveness and legitimacy of current governance systems.

Bringing together a cross-disciplinary team of experts, the Handbook examines the causes, dynamics and effects of trust and distrust in public governance. Authors illustrate the complex interplay between (dis)trust, vulnerability, transparency, power, regulation and control in an era characterised by fluid and inclusive forms of government that require collaboration and a functional balance between trust and distrust to operate. They cover key topics including among others, participation, networks, contracting, technology, crisis governance and trust reparation. Ultimately, the Handbook explores how to expand the boundaries of future research, and demonstrates that fostering reciprocal relations of functional trust is a fundamental principle of effective governance.

The Handbook on Trust in Public Governance is an essential read for students and scholars of public administration and management, political science, policy studies and public governance. It is also a key resource for policy-makers and government officials seeking to craft strategies that enhance governance legitimacy and resilience.

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