

Metagovernance and the identification of strengths and weaknesses of food safety systems in a holistic manner.

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From Governance to Meta-governance

KUBERNÂN



Source: Florida Center for Instructional Technology



From Governance to Meta-governance

Governance terminology :

- Reference to an action > Managing, steering & coordinating activities of public or private bodies and their interaction

White Paper on European Governance (Multilevel Governance)

Danish = NYE STYREFORMER I EU &

Swedish = STYRELSEFORMERNA I EU

World Bank & OECD (Governance and Good Governance)

- Distinguishing between the act of governing & the institutions involved
- Highlighting involvement of civil society
- Highlighting multi-tiered structures: where & how is governance organised & coordinated



From Governance to Meta-governance: GOOD GOVERNANCE

Critical analyses of "good governance" by C. Knill or W. Drechsler

- > Good Governance implies adopting neo-liberal principles in the public sector
- > W. Drechsler: *'strong value judgement in favour of the retrenchment of the State, which is supposed to yield to business standards, principles and—not least—interests privileging the Second over the First sector even in First sector areas'*.



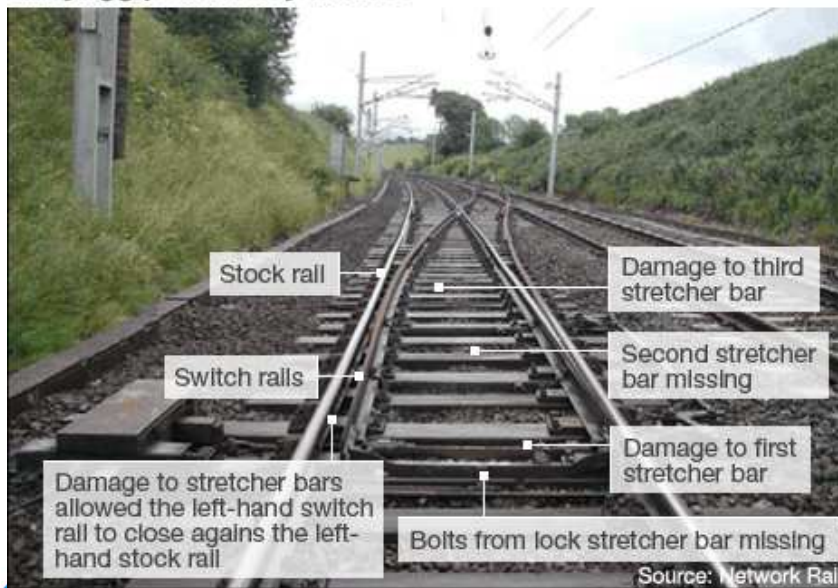


Source: Daily Telegraph



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Grayrigg points: key failures



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From Governance to Meta-governance: Problems in Systems of (Multilevel) Governance (in the EU)

- Participation
- Co-ordination
- Accountability
- Effectiveness
- Openness



From Governance to Metagovernance?

Robert Jessop would probably agree:

- New governance celebrated as offering solutions to state or market failure BUT the obsession with new governance made its proponents also blind for the failure of the new envisaged & realised forms of coordination (Jessop 2011).
- National governments & other political authorities in governance set the conditions in which governance takes place. They define the “ground rules” and the “regulatory order” (Jessop 2003)



Metagovernance

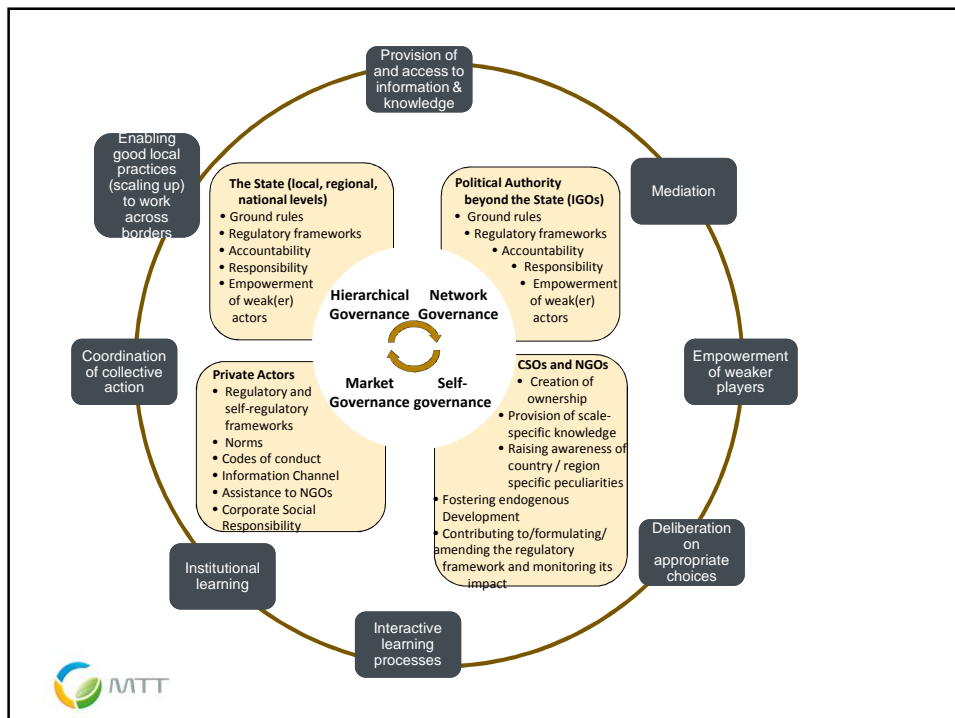
MG = Governance of governance

- Our definition

- 1) *Reflexive coordination & organization of the framework conditions under which governance takes place.*
- 2) *Joint identification of potentials or counterbalancing of observed failures in traditional modes of governance is crucial.*

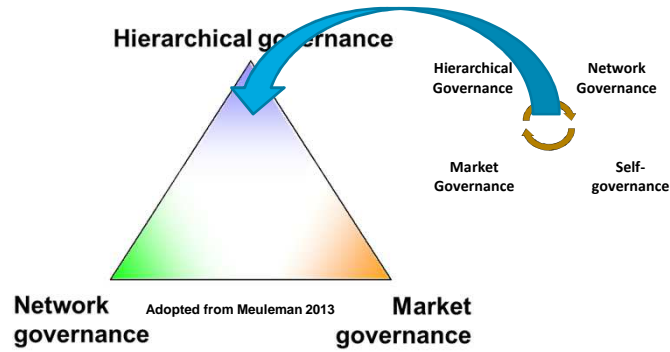
- Important: responsibilities can be / are shared among public & private actors & non-governmental organizations (NGOs)

- Different actors have joint functions AND their own specific role, each contributing to policy-making in a metagovernance setting



Food safety policies in Finland

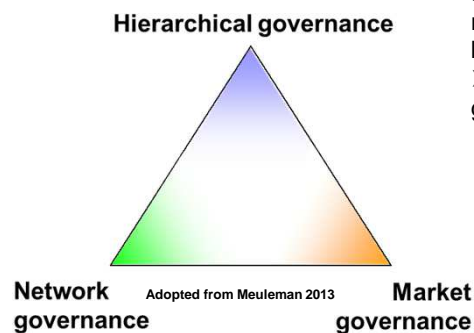
Analysing different modes of governance in food safety – hierarchical, market and network governance – and the state of integration of these different modes.



Food safety policies in Finland

Food safety regulation =

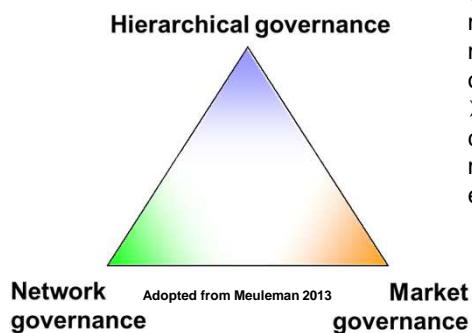
- International, national & infra-national dimensions
- Incorporation of EU food safety directives & regulations into national legislation
- Multiple levels of governance



Food safety policies in Finland

Complex system of implementing legislation nationally =

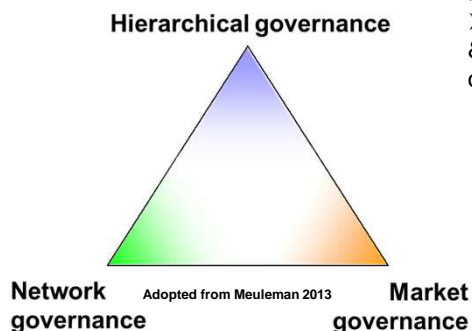
- Individual cases linked via observation & reporting mechanisms with municipal & regional levels of governance
- At national level, Evira collaborates with municipalities to deliver effective controls



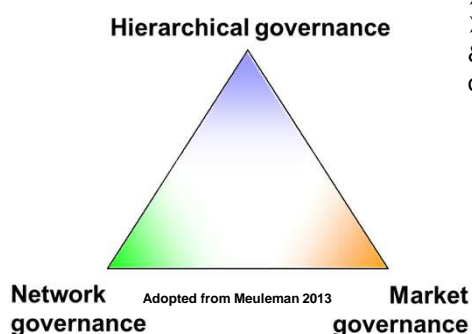
Food safety policies in Finland

Public sector =

- Accountable
- Responsible for a smooth realisation of policy
- Legislator
- Has authority to enforce & monitor implementation of law



Food safety policies in Finland



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Private sector =

- Usually an important role in MG
- Regulation & Self-regulation
- Creation & provision of CSR
- Contributes to regulatory frameworks, norms, codes of conduct
- Information to & from the public sector

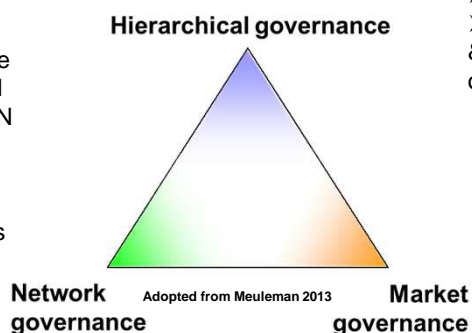
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Food safety policies in Finland

Hardly any NGOs in the field of food safety in FIN

BUT

Policy fields related to food safety, e.g. animal welfare & environmental policy, NGOs are important



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Food safety policies in Finland

- **FINLAND > Some known facts**

- ✓ a country with high standard of food safety
- ✓ number of foodborne illness outbreaks is relatively low,
- ✓ consequences to people acquiring adverse health effects from food consumption are relatively mild,
- ✓ many diseases able to be spread through food are often absent or rare
- ✓ lack of resources to implement legislation and equal enforcement of food regulations throughout the country
- ✓ civil society is only marginally involved in the governance of food safety.



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No integrated knowledge about the interlinkages of the different sub-subsystems (governance modes) of food safety exists in relation to Finland

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Food safety policies in Finland

- New project in order to:
- ✓ study the Finnish food safety system in an integrated manner
- ✓ better understand the strengths of the system, but also to
- ✓ identify its weaknesses & implementation obstacles
- ✓ combine the knowledge from specific sub-systems
- ✓ explore potentials of how the Finnish example can serve as a model –modified & fine-tuned with our international partners – to China

Ultimately, through the identification of the needs and potentials of reconfiguring the different governance modes (hierarchy, market and networks) to contribute to safer, more effective & efficient as well democratic food safety system

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Why Metagovernance?

- **Efficient governance outcomes require a balanced patchwork of government, market, and social actions**
- **Metagovernance brings the State or other forms of political authority 'back in'**
- **Jointly identify & utilize potential / counterbalance observed failures in the 'conventional' modes of governance**
- **Improves democratic decision making & participation, steering & coordination of collective action**



Many thanks for your attention!

