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Public procurement distance: analysing European public procurement policy implementation in 27 EU member states

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Why is European public procurement policy so often implemented differently than intended? In *Public Procurement Distance*, Alexander Schermerhorn introduces a new concept to explain the persistent difference between policy intentions and implementation across the EU.

Drawing on extensive empirical data from procurement professionals in all 27 member states, this study investigates how administrative capacity, professionalism, discretion, and public sector culture could affect the execution of both mandatory and discretionary procurement policies—including sustainability, innovation, SME participation, and cross-border contracting.

This insightful and timely dissertation not only deepens our understanding of the challenges surrounding EU policy implementation, but also provides actionable recommendations to help bridge the difference. A must-read for scholars, policymakers, and practitioners in the fields of public administration, procurement, and European governance.

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