Legitimacy as the 21st Century's "New Oil" Feeding Political Regimes: Lessons from Ukraine

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AGENDA

1. Definition
2. Elements
3. Application

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Main Observations

1. The current architecture of governance is no longer fit for purpose
2. An old unipolar world is over as an era defined by multiple competing concepts of governance has emerged
3. Different nation states try to fuse the latest tech innovations (social networking, cognitive data, AI) with political science, human and warfare capability to shape a new socio-economic order
4. Stability and sustainable Growth have been put in the center of political and monetary systems worldwide
5. Every major business and investment decision eventually becomes a political one
6. Strong political system and institutions are a fundamental driver of both productivity and long-term growth

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Legitimacy: Classical Unified Understanding

Legitimacy is usually understood as a popular acceptance of a government, political regime, or system of governance.

ENCYCLOPÆDIA BRITANNICA

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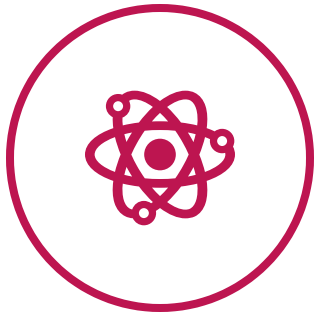
But Why Legitimacy ?

History shows that every ruling political class is temporary unless it is backed up by legitimacy. The affected political elite: i) loses public support and elections as a result or ii) mimics democracy and converts into autocratic regime in order to retain wealth and power

There is an interdependence among Legitimacy, Authority and Performance of a governing regime. Thus, analyzing dynamics in legitimacy shifts could help to: i) explain all sorts of social behavior that would otherwise seem not connected or irrational, & ii) explore new approaches to state governance as well



Despite its importance, legitimacy is difficult to define and impossible to measure at the current stage of development of social science. Unfortunately, no such methods exist for quantifying the values and changes in legitimacy, at least not with anywhere near the accuracy or precision

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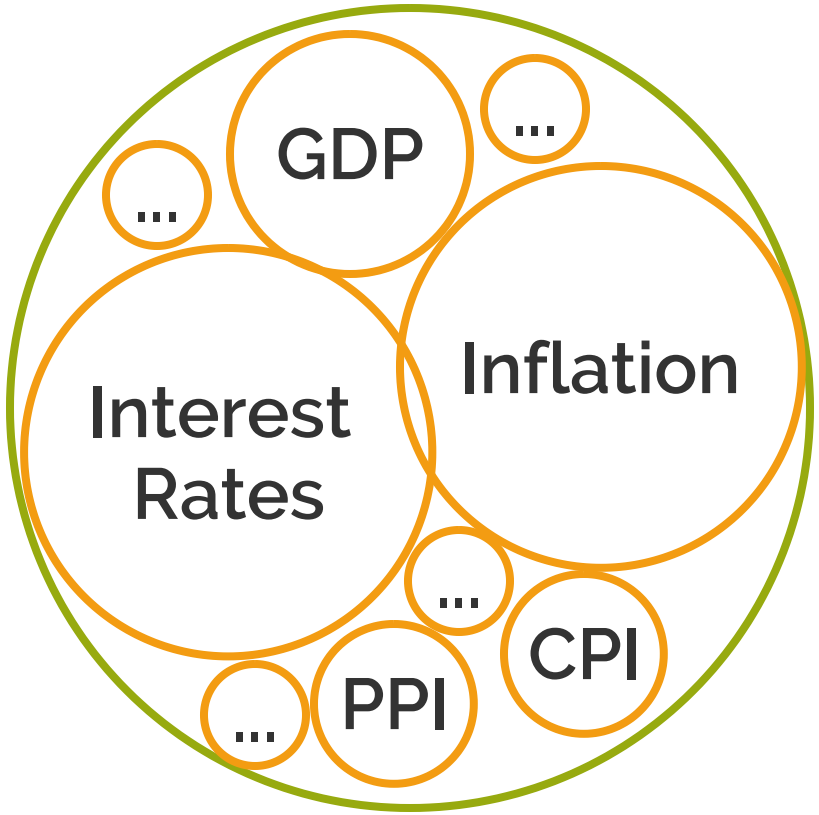
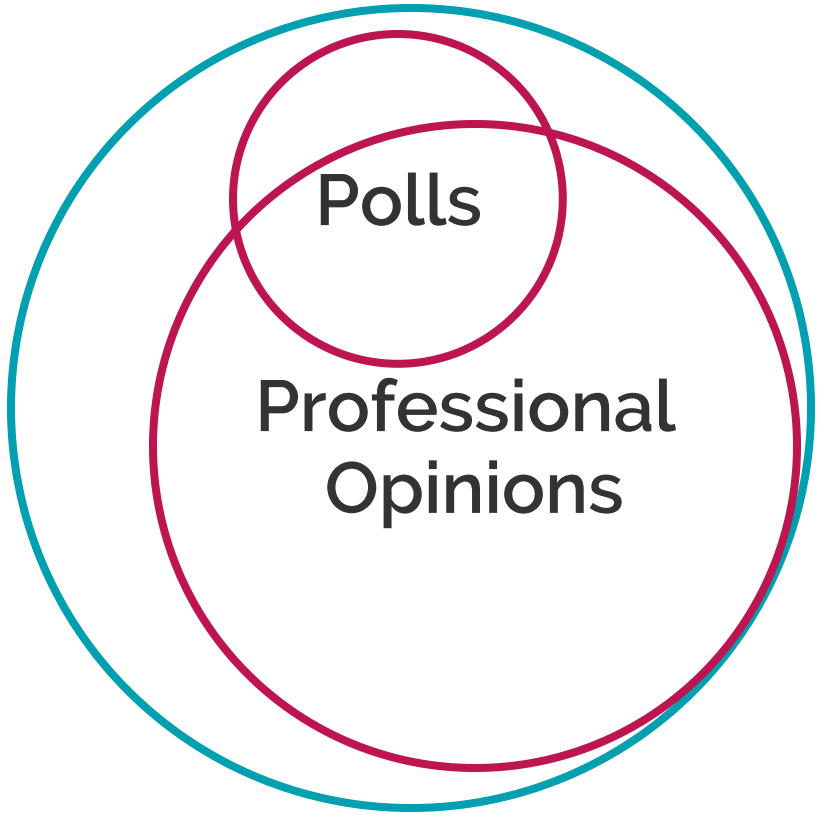
Measurements: Economic VS Political Domain





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You can’t manage what you can’t measure

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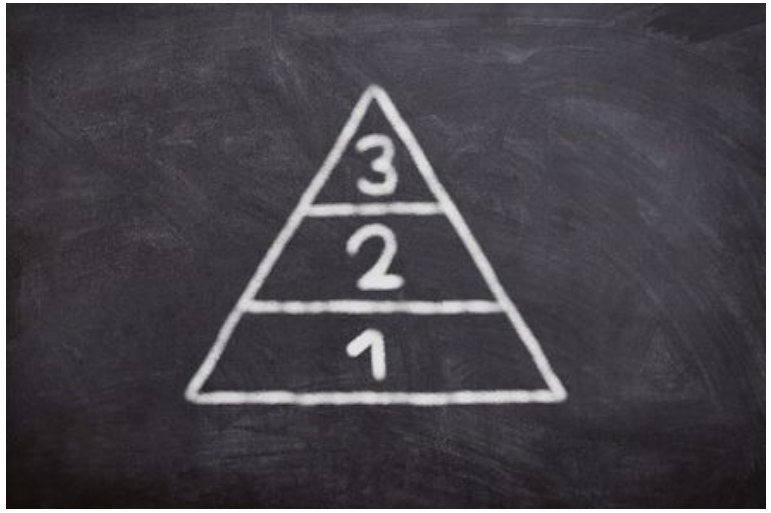
Intuition about Properties of Legitimacy

Distance & Duality

Cycles & Evolution



Levels & Types

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Levels of Legitimacy

The criteria for such gradation is a maturity of support given to the issue | actor legitimacy of which | whom is being evaluated

perception

the lowest level of legitimacy at which obedience to an authority is reached through rejection or indifference

credibility

the decision of an authority is accepted and approved as a result of reasoning

trust

such state is associated with an unreasonable support given to an authority which is based on charisma, blind belief or other factors associated with personal preferences

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Types of Legitimacy

The current stage of evolution of authority and the degree of delegation of political power to authority are used as criteria in order to determine these types

input

such type of legitimacy is mostly comprised from beliefs about the expected performance of an authority while there is not enough ground to form an opinion about its actual performance

throughput

is process-oriented, focused on the quality of governance processes. The point here is that the actual performance of an authority is assessed and compared to the expected one

output

is targeted at the capacity and ability of an authority to pass and execute decisions which are: i) sensitive for the society or ii) beyond the scope of generally expected agenda of actions set up within the input legitimacy

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Intuition about the External Elements of Influence

AUTHORITY is viewed as the justification and right to exercise power (political or administrative) by a governing regime

PERFORMANCE is the ability to use Authority in order to i) deliver political promises, ii) provide public good and services, iii) solve politicized issues

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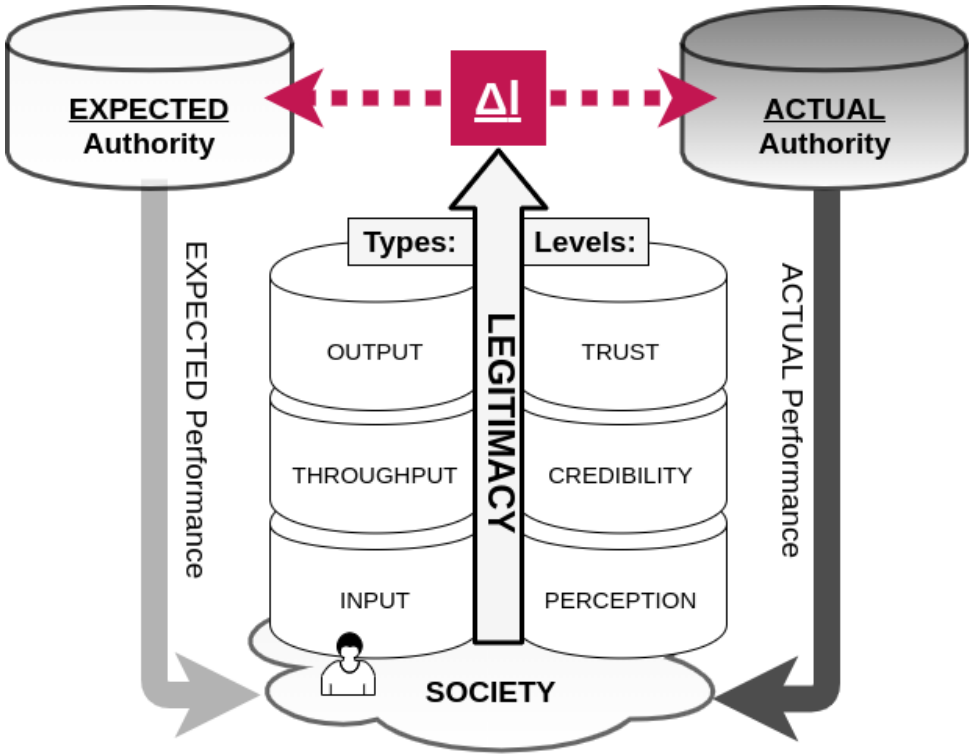
Our Definition of Legitimacy



It is a three layer system of i) BELIEFS and ii) OPINIONS existing in a society about the Authority of a governing regime and its Performance. Where Authority & Performance are considered in two states at once: i) expected (corresponds with beliefs about the most desired outputs and outcomes) and ii) actual (corresponds with personal opinion about outputs and outcomes as seen in reality)

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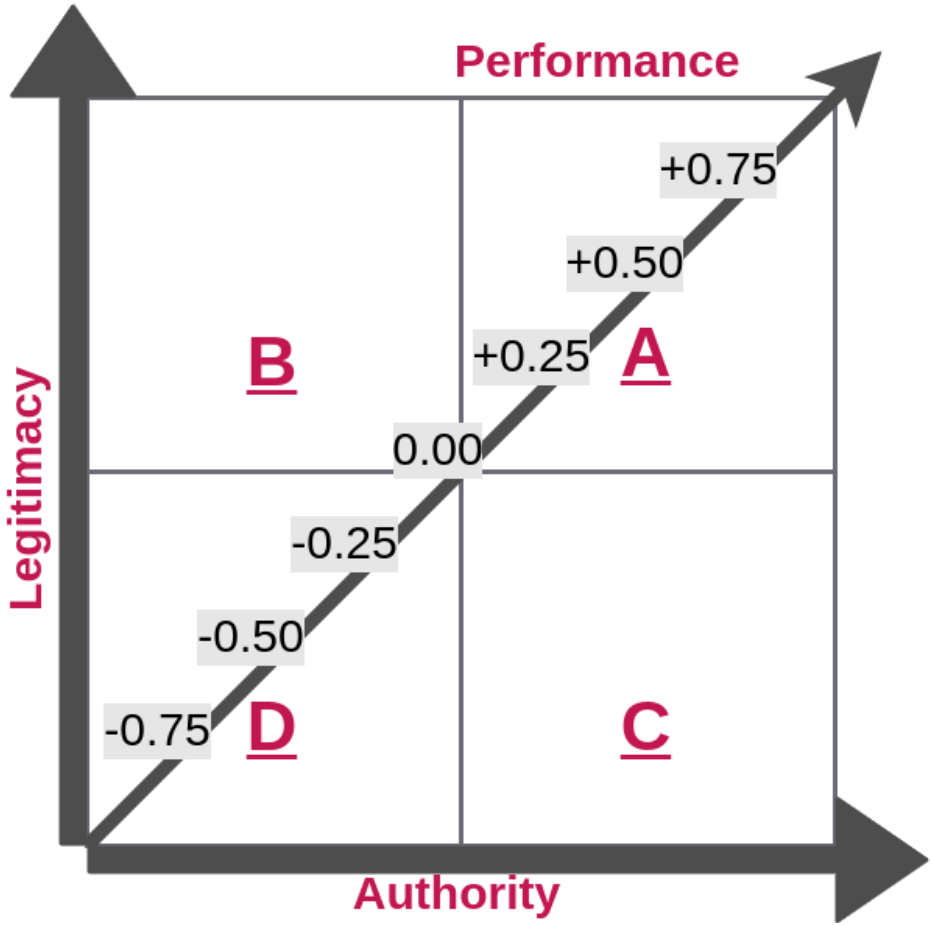
Legitimacy Chain Rule



With all the ingredients in place we can now build a probability space for Legitimacy application

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Ukrainian Case Application

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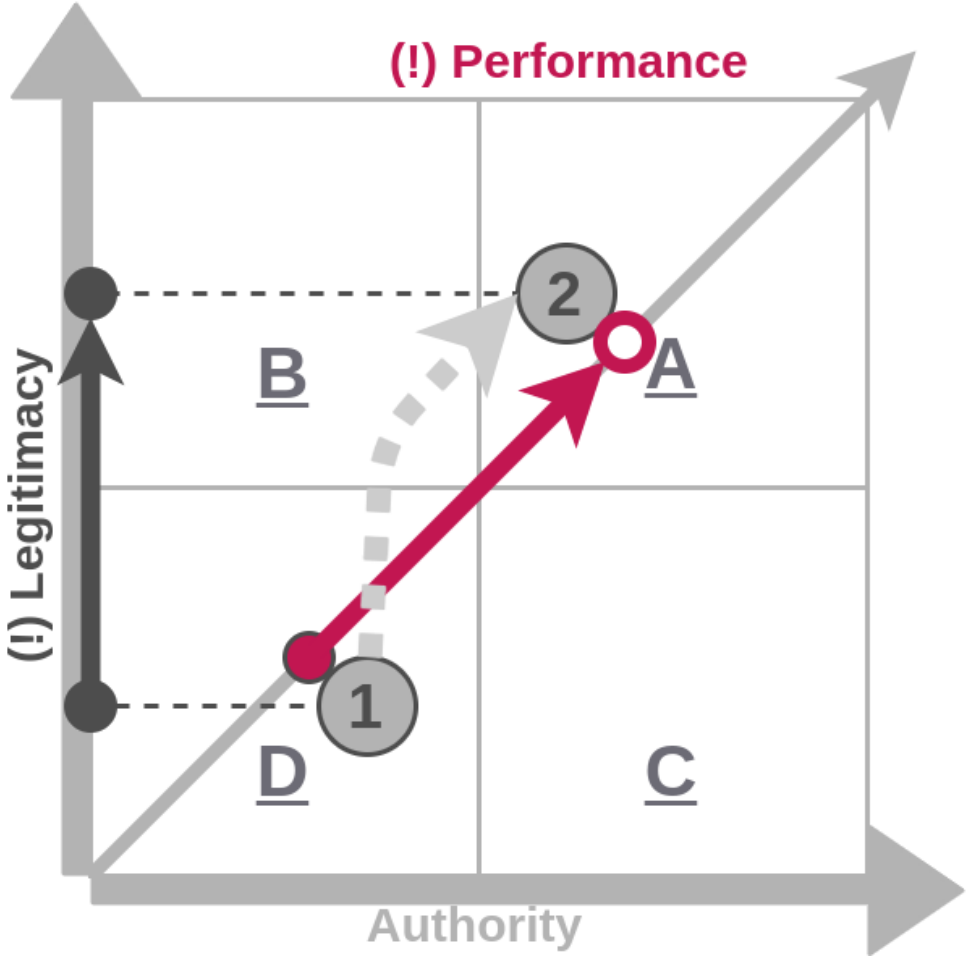
Increase in Legitimacy & (expected) Performance



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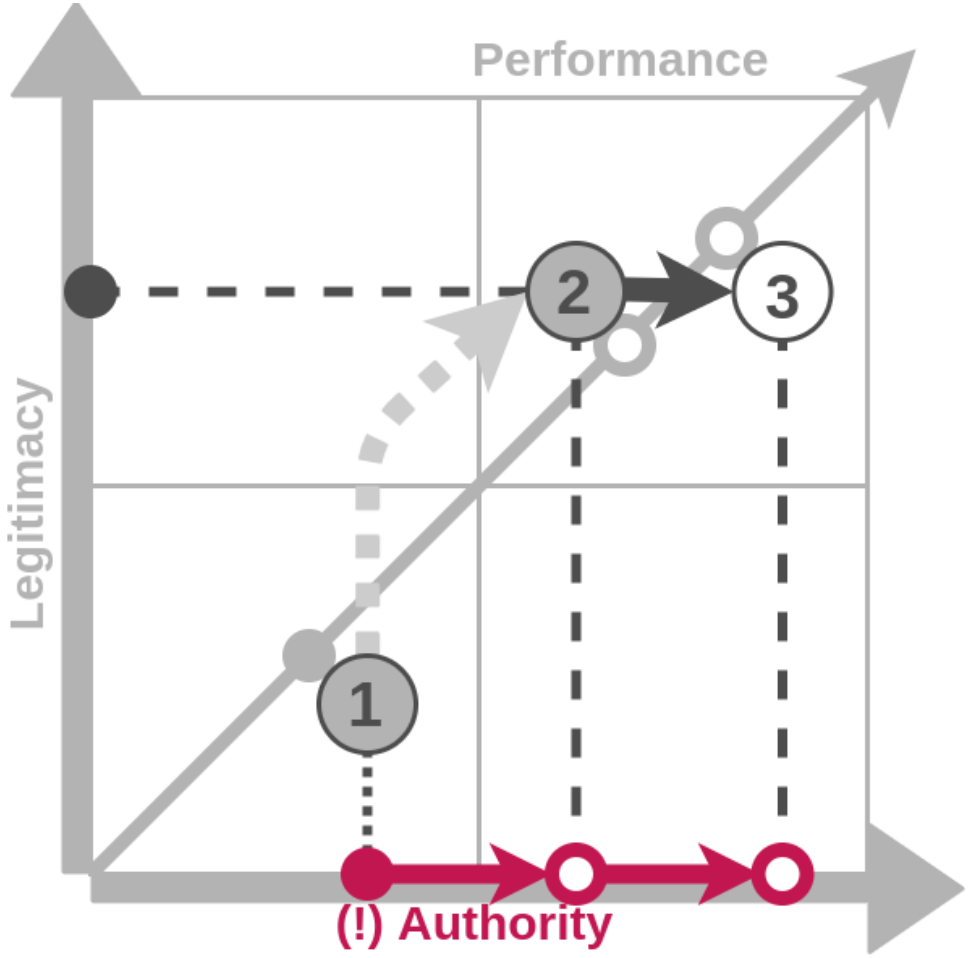
Disparity between Actual and Expected Authority



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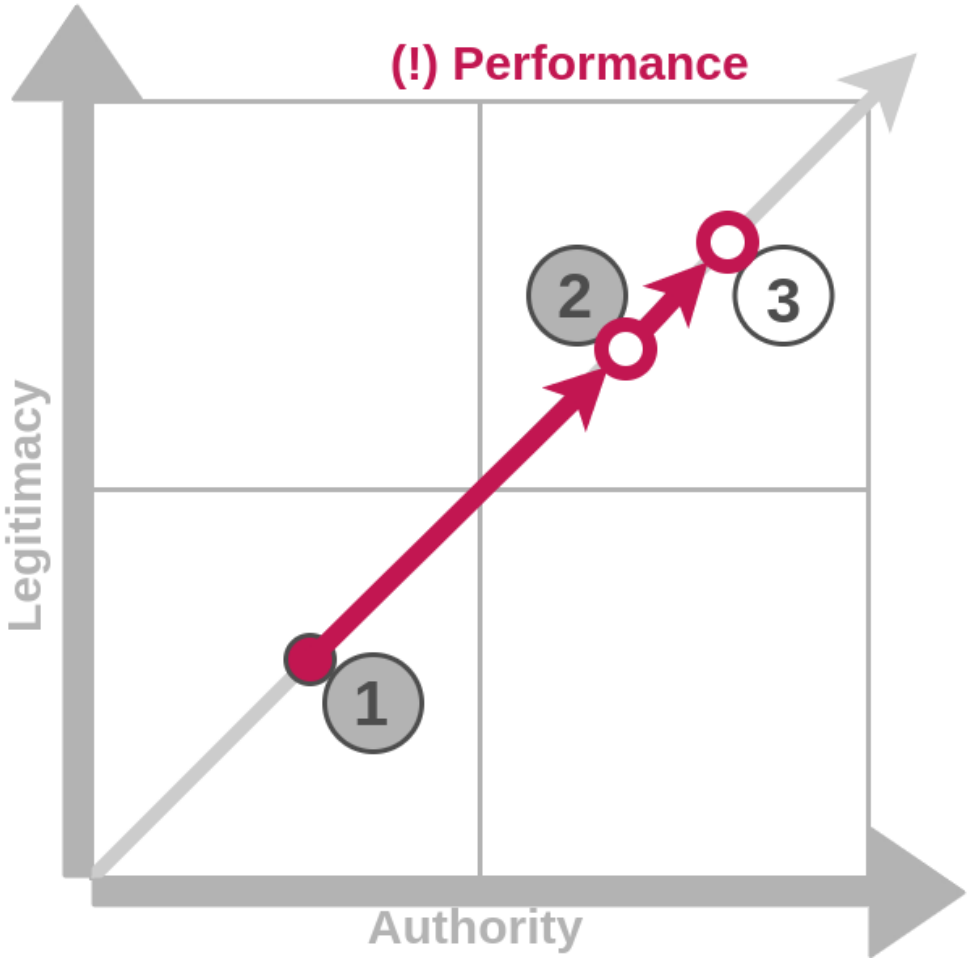
Disparity between Actual and Expected Performance



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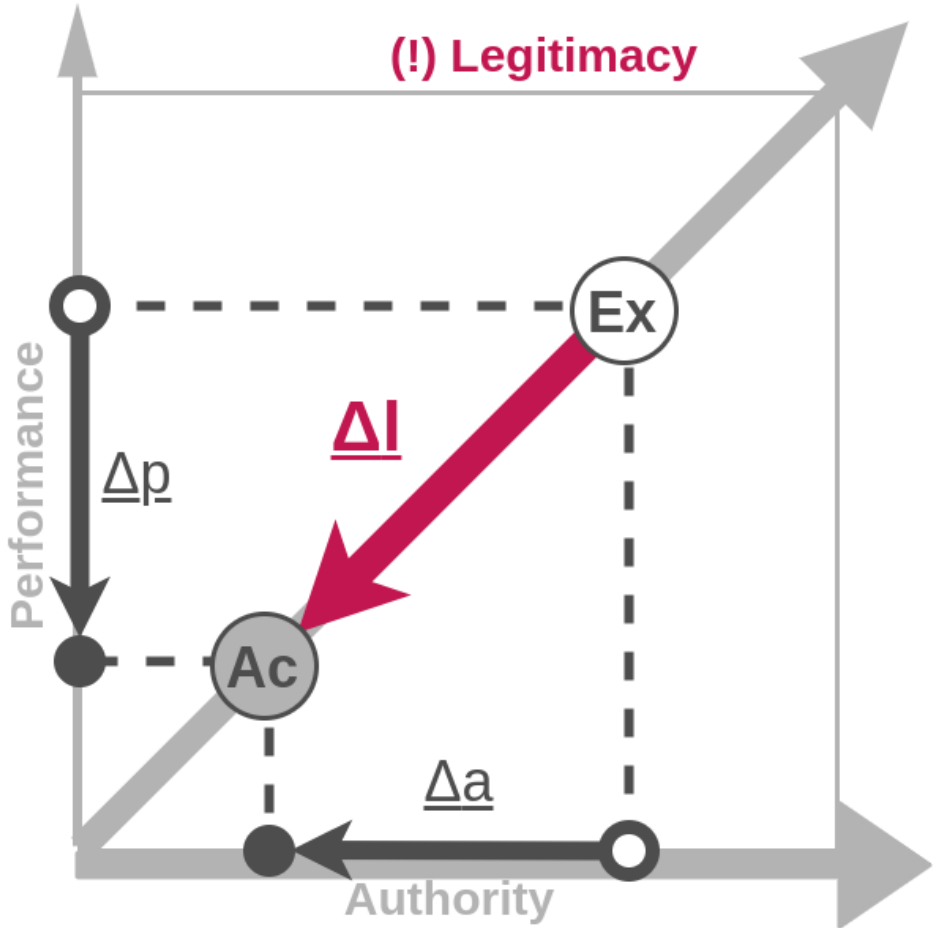
Changes in Legitimacy



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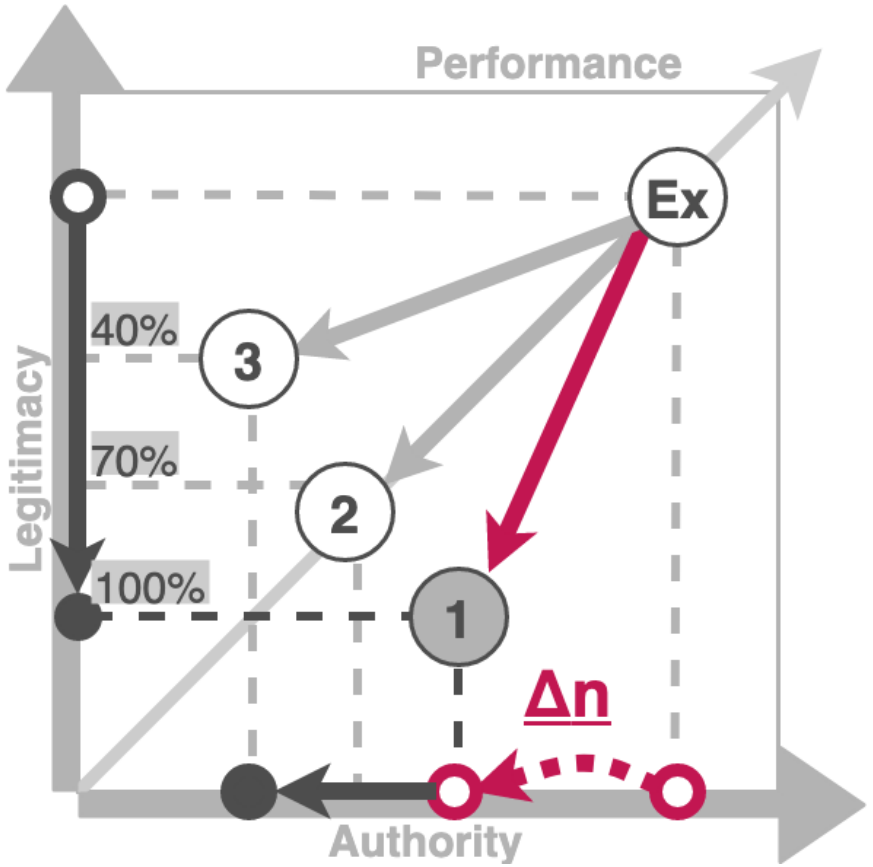
Dependency between disparity in states of Authority and direction of policy change & implementation



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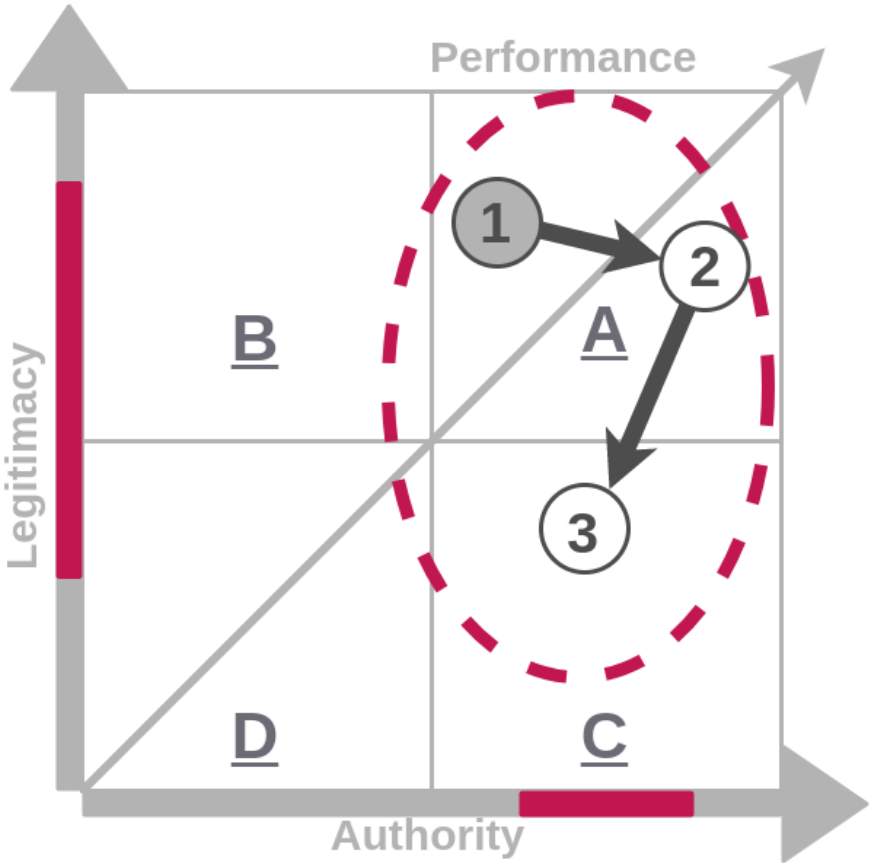
Possible direction of state policy change and implementation



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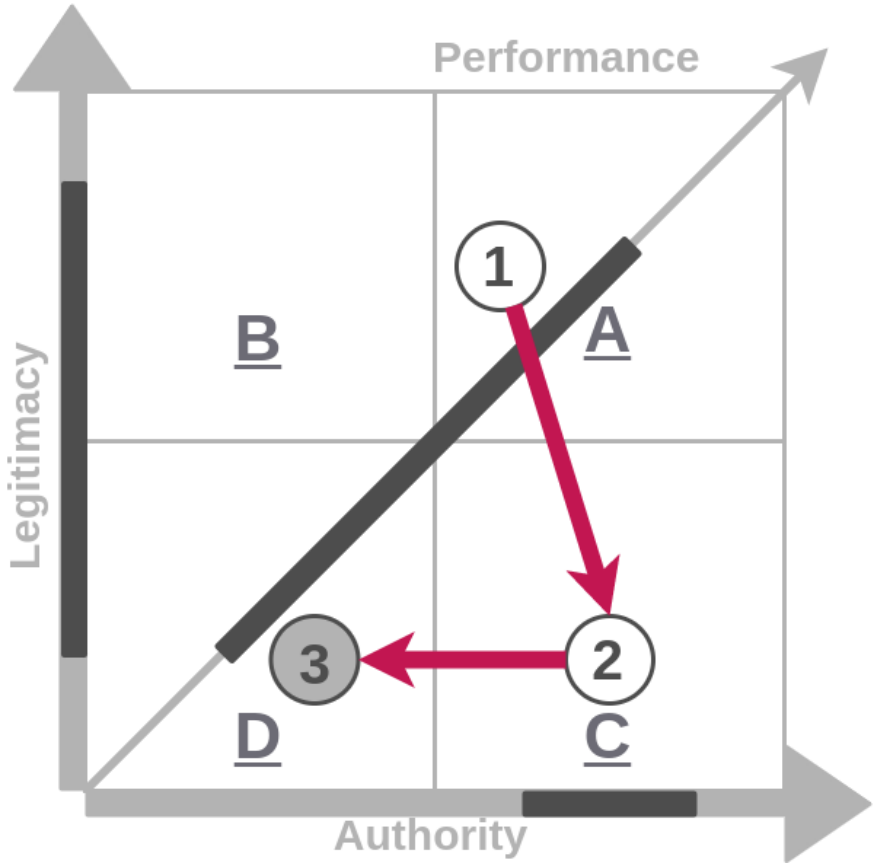
Typical cycle of state policy change and implementation in Ukraine



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Q/A

- THANK YOU

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