Foreword

There is no broad, internationally accepted definition, of what constitutes Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs), even if, under one form or another, these have existed for a while and, in recent contemporary times, these have increased significantly around the world. The most mainstream consensus on what a PPP is is that it involves an arrangement that induces a partnership allowing the public sector to devolve, in the medium to long-term, some of the services that normally fall under its purview, to the private sector.

PPPs are hence extremely diverse and, depending on what jurisdiction they fall under, can vary significantly in terms of scope, institutional and regulatory frameworks, format, nature, objectives and outputs, as well as governance-wise. PPP management hence needs to be highly adaptable to specific environments and situations and to the thematic and geographic areas it is being undertaken in. In the United States, PPPs have often come about as an extension of existing procurement services to cover a much larger scope of public-private cooperation, targeting greater cost-effectiveness and higher quality of service delivery while attempting to shrink the size of government in order to cater to both realities on the ground and public perceptions, the latter supported by social-economic and political evolutions. Further afield, these progressions, such as in the European Union or in World Bank programs deployed in emerging countries, have been a joint effect of the influence of dominant American and more broadly Anglo-Saxon free-market governance and development models, as well as partnerships born from comparative advantages brought by partnering a large public sector, with the prowess of newly potent private sector enterprises.

Countries are increasingly attempting to embed a definition of PPPs in their laws, as they become more prevalent.

So, in some cases, PPPs fall under general regulatory frameworks governing traditional procurement and contracting of public services by the private sector, while in others, there are specific frameworks, notably when PPPs become a platform for holistic management of a set of public services, delivered either jointly by public and private sector entities, or within a system that allows the management of such services to be significantly devolved to the private sector, even while accountability is ensured by the public sector.

On the other hand, the field of Emergency Management, yesterday only nascent, has, in current global circumstances, also significantly grown its body of knowledge, notably as regards risk, crisis, disaster and emergency preparedness, response, management, recovery, and continuity.
**Foreword**

This book provides a collection of interesting insights allowing to bridge academic and practitioner perceptions of PPPs, as they apply to the field of emergency management. Hence, this book’s added value comes from investigating the numerous points of intersection between PPPs and the field of Emergency Management, offering an outlook on various Emergency Management PPP models and the management and sustainability of such PPPs and their areas of application.

This book, with a mix of analytical research and pragmatic anecdotal references, allows one to assess salient aspects of the field of Emergency Management, served by the modus operandi of Public-Private Partnerships, including but not limited to: identifying and presenting mainstream and secondary trends, management systems, leadership issues, communications challenges, system analysis and optimization, and conducting comparative analysis of various EM PPP models.

This book provides a valuable window on how both ends, the public and the private, within those partnerships, can operate in a critical area such as Emergency Management, with their respective roles and distinct comparative advantages to enhance their efficacy. While innovation efforts in that area remain ongoing and that there is already a widening body of knowledge needing to be captured, this book is a definite and deliberate step in the right direction, in terms of touching on some of the most relevant aspects of Public-Private Partnerships in the broad field of Emergency Management.

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