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POLICY ENTREPRENEURSHIP AT THE STREET LEVEL

*Understanding the Effect of the
Individual*

Nissim Cohen

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Policy Entrepreneurship at the Street Level

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Abstract: This Element aims to connect the literature of street-level bureaucrats with that of policy entrepreneurship in order to analyze why and how bureaucrats operating at the street level can promote policy change in public administration at the individual level. I demonstrate how street-level bureaucrats act as policy entrepreneurs in different contexts around the globe to promote policy change, and analyze what they think of policy entrepreneurship and what they do about it in practice. For this purpose, I use multiple research methods: a survey, in-depth interviews, focus groups and textual analyses. I also offer recommendations to decisionmakers to promote street-level policy entrepreneurship, highlighting the benefits of doing so. Lastly, I critically discuss the normative aspects of street-level policy entrepreneurship: ultimately, is it desirable?

Keywords: street-level bureaucrats, policy entrepreneurs, policy change, political participation, policy practice

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