




2018

Annual Conference of the
EUROPEAN GROUP FOR
PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION

LAUSANNE | SWITZERLAND | 5-7 SEPTEMBER 2018
PhD SYMPOSIUM | 3-4 SEPTEMBER 2018

CALL FOR PAPERS



EGPA Permanent Study Group VI on Governance of Public Sector Organizations

Public sector organizations in challenging times: The effects of new modes of governance, new collaborations and new technologies

CALL FOR PAPERS

The EGPA Study Group VI on Governance of Public Sector Organizations studies different aspects of public sector organizations, such as their origin, management, autonomy, control, accountability, specialization and coordination, their role in policy making and implementation, as well as their performance. Various types of public sector organizations are studied, ranging from ministries to semi-autonomous agencies, state-owned companies, government foundations, partnerships and network arrangements; and at different government levels (supranational, national, regional and local). The formal organizational arrangements and how they work in practice as well the public perceptions toward government bodies are among central issues discussed in the study group.

In 2018, the study group invites papers that examine themes in the study of public sector organizations in challenging times. These include new modes and forms of organizational governance, new forms of collaboration and coordination, and the effect of new technologies and digitalization on public sector organizations.

Recent crises (financial, migration, internal security) have resulted in a new wave of reforms in public sector organizations. Budget cuts have led to changes in personnel policies and downsizing of public sector organizations. Centers of Government have been (re)strengthened and granted more coordinating powers. Recent reforms have also included organizational mergers and reshaping of existing public sector organizations more generally. Tasks have been re-clustered in shared service centers and other collaborative efficiency arrangements. In many countries, new regulations have been imposed to tighten controls. New forms of coordination and collaboration through novel network arrangements, lead agencies and partnerships between governments and private/civil society actors have emerged in the shadow of hierarchy to handle 'wicked issues'. Such issues are characterized by complexity, ambiguity and uncertainty, and represent a misfit between organizational structure and problem structure as seen in the areas of climate change, social problems or internal security.

We invite papers that examine organizational collaborations for challenging policy problems. We are also interested in how the development of new collaborative practices in policy development and policy implementation within the public administration, as well as with actors in civil society and the private sector, transforms the governance, structure and culture of public sector organizations, and how they foster coherent and innovative policies and services.

Furthermore, a core question addressed is what makes for a well performing administrative apparatus in turbulent times? The answers may focus on a variety of issues ranging from governance capacity,

such as coordination capacity, delivering capacity, regulative capacity and analytical capacity, to governance legitimacy such as trust relations and organizational reputation. The factors of interest may also include how public organizations at all levels are controlled by political and administrative actors as well as how public sector bodies organize themselves to achieve their tasks. The role of administrative structures, both contemporary and over longer periods of time are of relevance. Factors of interest may also include evolving policy agendas and reform doctrines as well as more organization-specific factors including reputational threats, political salience and leadership changes, and their effects.

Finally, we are interested in the design, implementation and effects of digitization and ICT on the governance and performance of public sector organizations. We invite papers that examine the role of different ICT tools on how public sector organizations perform their work, how they are controlled and regulated, and how they are managed internally. As part of this research agenda, we wish to examine how these technological innovations affect organizational capacity, service delivery, performance, coordination and accountability.

Papers can be descriptive or explanatory, but they should have a clear conceptual and theoretical basis and meet appropriate methodological standards. Comparative papers (across time, countries, government levels or policy sectors such as climate change, immigration or policing) are particularly welcomed. The Study Group aims to expand its boundaries by welcoming researchers from public administration and other disciplines like management research, organization studies, and public policy.

Key Deadlines

Please note that deadlines are different from the general key dates for 2018 EGPA Conference

- ✓ Proposals should be uploaded through the submission website by 15 March, 2018
- ✓ Deadline for decision and selection of the accepted papers by the co-chairs: 15 April 2018
- ✓ Deadline for submitting the complete papers: 16 August, 2018

Practicalities

Please submit paper proposals in doc(x) or pdf format online through the Conference Website www.egpa-conference2018.org or directly through Conference Management System: <https://www.conftool.com/egpa2018>

Please submit a short abstract (max. 400 words) outlining: the title of the paper; a short description of the contents of the paper; the research method of your contribution, and the empirical material to be used; and name, affiliation, and contact information of the author(s)

Papers will be made available on the conference website. Paper presenters will be expected to prepare a short presentation and to act as a discussant for at least one other paper.

Practical information on the EGPA 2018 conference can be found at:

www.egpa-conference2018.org

Co-chairs of this Permanent Study Group are:

Professor Per Læg Reid

Department of Administration and Organization Theory
Uni Rokkan Centre University of Bergen, Norway
per.lagreid@aorg.uib.no

Professor Koen Verhoest

Public Administration & Management Research Group
Dep. of Political Science - University of Antwerp, Belgium
koen.verhoest@uantwerpen.be

Associate Professor Külli Sarapuu

Ragnar Nurkse Department of Innovation and Governance
Tallinn University of Technology, Estonia
kylli.sarapuu@ttu.ee

Senior Lecturer Muiris MacCarthaigh

School of History, Anthropology, Philosophy and Politics
University of Belfast
M.MacCarthaigh@qub.ac.uk

EGPA Policy Paper on European Governance – Please note that all authors with accepted papers can submit a proposal for an EGPA Policy Paper. For more information, please contact Dr. Fabienne Maron