

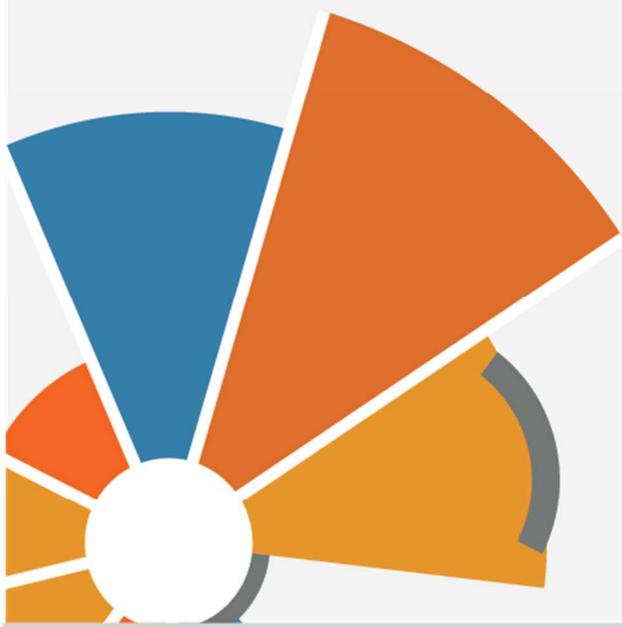


2018

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 Groups: IV Local Governance
and Democracy and V Regional and Local Government

JOINT CALL-FOR-PAPER

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The Joint Call

In view of the proximity of our research subjects and the sometimes overlapping research questions, the Permanent EGPA Working Groups IV “Local Governance and Democracy” and V “Regional and Local Governance” have decided to publish a joint call for the Lausanne conference in September 2018. It is intended to facilitate the assignment of the accepted papers of the different panels and to improve the cooperation between the two PSGs. For its thematic panels, the PSGs remain independently responsible.

Themes

Politico-administrative institutions are facing strong challenges and increased legitimacy pressure. These trends apply in a special way to the local governments all over Europe. Over recent years, local governments have been facing growing fiscal, political and social pressures. In many countries they are enduring fiscal crises as central governments reduce grants and/or shift services down to the local level, while they also have to cope with rising demands for their services. There is a multitude of new challenges, such as demographic change, climate change, digitalization, and the new tasks for integration migrant refugees, to mention just a few. Additionally, austerity, centralisation, regionalization, hybridization, political fragmentation, populism, and so on, should be mentioned. At the same time, the role of local governments in creating identity is growing. In the increasingly inscrutable world, people are looking for fellowship and belonging first of all in their neighbourhood and municipalities. They want to participate more actively in the local discussions and decisions. Local policymaking is further complicated by the decline of the established political parties (for a range of reasons), often combined with a (subsequent) strengthening of identity politics. Against this background PSG IV and V will jointly focus on the role of local and regional governments from two interrelated perspectives:

- **Theme I: The Future of Local Self-Government**
- **Theme II: The Re-birth of Regional and Local Initiative?**

| <p style="text-align: center;">Theme I: The Future of Local Self-Government Responsibility: PSG-IV</p> | <p style="text-align: center;">Theme II: The Rebirth of Regional and Local Initiative? Responsibility: PSG-V</p> |
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| <p>Under the circumstances described above, some observers may have doubt whether local government will survive the upcoming decades. Others expecting a new golden age of local self-government, as all other political-administrative structures seem overwhelmed with the complexity of the new challenges. It seems to be important to question our central theoretical approaches to what extent they provide answers to this crucial questions.</p> <p>These considerations underlies our key questions for 2018: What is the future for local government? What will local government look like in 2030? We are particularly interested in papers which address the following questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Which scenarios for the future of local self-government beyond the 'just surviving' debate are discussed in the different European countries? ➤ What can be regarded as the essence of local autonomy in the age of governance and networks? How can its quality be measured? ➤ What is actually the essence of local democracy? How can its quality be measured? How is the balance between representative, direct and cooperative democracy at local level perform? ➤ Is there still any kind of Europeanization in strengthening local self-government? Which role will the Council of Europe's 'European Charter of Local Self-government' play in future? ➤ Which policy fields are particularly important for the sustainability of local politics? We are particularly interested in empirical papers on local integration policies of migrants. | <p>Local government leaders are having to devise local policies in more conflictual political environments and deal with deeply divided societies. Yet, the old solutions to these challenges seem increasingly tired, especially within the constraints of the current central-local relations. Consequently, local leaders now have to think and act with greater institutional flexibility. They may seek to lobby central government actors to relieve the fiscal pressures and to give them more freedom of action in place of more resources. Otherwise local governments have to find solutions laterally or just locally.</p> <p>Laterally local governments, in some cases are even voluntarily merging with other local governments to strengthen their voice locally and nationally, recognising that otherwise local government will be ignored. They may also look to improve their capacity and legitimacy by becoming larger or adopt elected mayor forms. They may also be able to challenge implicitly national or regional governments by promoting their own approaches to building stronger communities through economic development, multi-cultural or other strategies. They may also innovate, or appear to innovate, by reducing their less-rewarding tasks and avoid wicked issues such as poverty and climate change or move towards extensive e-government thus serving one (growing) part of their community more than other(s).</p> <p>We are particularly interested in papers which address the following questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Are local and regional governments changing their roles? If so, how are these roles changing and what are the main drivers? ➤ What initiatives are generated locally, fully 'fed' and flourish in the local or regional governmental system? |

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Which role play leadership and professionalization of local political and administrative actors in solving wicked problems in different policy domains (e.g. policing, welfare, economic development)? ➤ Which role can marketization plays in Europe's Local Governments? Expectations and experiences. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ How much freedom of action do local authorities enjoy in practice? To what extent have local and/or regional governments sought to 'innovate' in response to greater freedoms and/or the need to do 'more with less'? ➤ Are municipal mergers or collaborative arrangements responses to the limited capacities of small municipalities/counties as they seek increased effectiveness/ efficiency in service delivery and functional viability? <p>How far can local governments exercise influence over the 'higher' tiers of government to retain or regain some discretion? Are 'higher' tiers of government willing to change in response to lobbying pressures from the 'lower tiers' and to what extent?</p> |
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The organizers strive for publishing a selection of high quality papers in an edited volume in the new book series with Palgrave MacMillan's, 'Palgrave Studies in Subnational Governance'.

The Timetable

Both PSGs are particularly keen to welcome papers which seek to deliver empirical, research-based arguments and build a theoretical understanding of these issues. They might also pursue a comparative approach, be it "over time", "cross-countries", or "cross-service".

Abstracts should be submitted by 18th April 2018. Abstracts should be uploaded through the EGPA submission website (www.egpa-conference2018.org). Please assign your paper to one of the above mentioned themes of this CfP.

The PSG IV and V chairs will jointly decide on the acceptance of papers and on the final assignment of the paper to individual (parallel) panels or to a joint panel.

Notification of acceptance will be no later than May 9, 2018. Those authors whose abstracts have been accepted should dispatch their completed paper to the convenors as well as upload it through the submission website by the 16th August 2018.

Key Deadlines

- ✓ Proposals should be uploaded through the submission website by April 18,2018
- ✓ Deadline for decision and selection of the accepted papers by the co-chairs: and notification to the Authors : May 9, 2018
- ✓ Deadline for submitting the complete papers: August16, 2018

Practicalities

Please submit your abstract online through the Conference Website www.egpa-conference2018.org or directly through Conference Management System: <https://www.conftool.com/egpa2018>

Practical information on the EGPA 2018 conference can be found at:
www.egpa-conference2018.org

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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