

Annual Conference of the European Group for Public Administration (EGPA)

24-26 August 2016, Utrecht, Netherlands

Permanent Study Group XX Welfare State Governance & Professionalism

Call for Papers

Cross-sectoral coordination in health and social policy

The new permanent study group Welfare State Governance & Professionalism is dedicated to analysis of welfare state reform and of transitions in welfare state arrangements – with particular attention to health care, welfare and education –, as well as analysis of the accompanying restructuring of such professional services. The aim is to provide an intellectual platform for scholars of public administration, public management, organization research, social policy, sociology of professions, health care management and educational sciences, to work together to describe, to explain and to study the impact of the recent restructuring of European welfare states for professional services and the quality of the services they render.

The theme selected for the EGPA 2016 conference is cross-sectoral coordination in health and social policy. Cross-sectoral coordination is an issue of growing importance in welfare state governance. Traditionally, specialization has been considered as an effective mode to manage any kind of state activities. This is also true for welfare state governance: social security systems are usually structured along social risks such as unemployment, illness and invalidity, old age, security, etc. Today, however, it is increasingly acknowledged that social problems such as activating the long-term unemployed, reconciling work and family, organising care or avoiding poverty are complex and wicked issues which require the involvement of different actors and the close cooperation of different institutions of social policy. As a result, there is a growing awareness of the importance of organising and coordinating welfare state policies and of strengthening inter-professional collaboration. To overcome 'institutional silos' and to achieve more coherence between traditionally separated policy areas, European welfare states have begun to improve coordination in their social security systems. Different approaches are used: 'sectoralised' policy fields are integrated by merging organisations, creating new agencies which are assigned to coordinate cross-sectoral questions or to encourage collaboration between professionals and different stakeholders as well as at various political levels. The intention is not only to offer citizens seamless instead of fragmented services, but also to cope with tight public budgets and to make better use of scarce resources.

The study group invites papers with new theoretical or empirical — especially comparative — insights on this development. Possible examples for empirical research are the coordination of different areas in the health policy sector, such as stationary care, outpatient care and prevention, but also health and employment policy with regard to a particular problem, such as immigration. Another possible example is the relationship between family policy and other policies, such as gender policy, employment policy, social security or education. Papers can address for instance "top down" policies to facilitate coordination as well evidence for bottom-up coordination "on the ground" or assess the effects of collaborative arrangements.

The deadline for paper proposals is **April, 15 2016**. Please submit your paper proposal (of max. 400 words) via the EGPA annual conference 2016 website (<http://egpa-conference2016.org>). The deadline for the selection of the accepted papers by the co-chairs is May 5, 2016. Full papers of the accepted proposals are due by July 31, 2016.

The co-chairs of the PSG XX Welfare state governance and professionalism are

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