

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

30 August – 1 September 2017, Milan, Italy

Permanent Study Group XX Welfare State Governance & Professionalism

Call for Papers

Welfare issues at the crossroads of public and private, formal and informal, professions and management

The balance between public and private actors in the promotion, delivery and financing of social and healthcare services is an issue of growing importance in welfare state governance. Traditionally, welfare has been a public issue, with heavy reliance on professional front lines, and with a residual role for private actors. The New Public Management (NPM) perspective, however, gave way to a massive process of corporatization and contracting-out. The autonomy of professions was challenged as welfare services increasingly became subject to managerial control and incentive systems. Since then, private action in the welfare state has only become more significant. Today, for instance, hospitals and nursing homes are increasingly funded through private equity in some countries. Due to a rising gap between demand and supply of social services, we can also observe a growing informal private market, in particular with regard to childcare and long-term care provision. As a result, the traditional problems of 'institutional silos' and 'professional resistance' are amplified by a growing fragmentation between social service and health care settings, at the crossroads of public and private, formal and informal, professional and managerial..

At the same time, European welfare systems as well as debates on welfare systems are more and more moving away from the NPM perspective. New paradigms emphasize client participation, customer empowerment, multidisciplinary professionalism, inter-professional cooperation, service innovation, and co-production as important features for meeting the changing demands for welfare services. Networks, partnerships and digitalization form the basis for innovative modes of governance. This has fuelled an ongoing debate about how public and private, as well as informal and formal action in social service and healthcare provision can be better coordinated and how cooperation between different types of actors (politicians, bureaucrats, private entrepreneurs, various types of professionals and clients) can be improved.

The study group invites papers with (new) theoretical or empirical — especially comparative — insights on these developments and concepts. Possible examples for empirical research are the shifting welfare mixes between public and private provision and financing in many public fields such as healthcare, elderly care, labour market services, social housing, services for disabled people, childcare, integration of migrants. But also implications for professional work and new forms of professionalism, in which needs, clients and innovations in service delivery and management clash of come together. Papers can address these issues from different perspectives:

- Cooperation/collaboration between public and private actors and effects
- Conflicts or trade-offs between different forms of provision
- Impacts of too much corporatization and the a lack of cooperation
- Policies promoting cross-sectoral coordination
- Bottom-up evidence of integration 'on the ground'
- Changing professional behaviors and the reconfiguration of professional work
- Interprofessional and/or multi-disciplinary cooperation
- Coping with governance and service complexities, e.g. by (hybrid) professionals
- Etc.

The deadline for paper proposals is **April, 10th, 2017**. Please submit your paper proposal (of max. 400 words) via the EGPA annual conference 2017 website (<http://egpa-conference2017.org>). The deadline for the selection of the accepted papers by the co-chairs is May 8th, 2017. Full papers of the accepted proposals are due by August, 1st, 2017.

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

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