



2022

Annual Conference of the

***European Group for Public
Administration***

Lisbon, Portugal – 6-9 September 2022

PhD Symposium

6-7 September 2022

Permanent Study Group XX:

Welfare State Governance and Professionalism

Call-for-Papers

EGPA Permanent Study Group XX on Welfare State Governance and Professionalism

Welfare state governance and professionalism are about making sure that the right political decisions are made, effective policies and programs are drafted and implemented, strong services are rendered, and professional actions are up-to-standards. But more fundamentally, welfare state governance and professionalism are about tackling social and societal issues, serving citizens and society and adding societal value. Welfare state services, first and foremost, aim to improve public health and quality of life, alleviate inequality, reduce polarization, do more justice, and empower citizens.

The COVID-19 pandemic has not fundamentally altered these societal dimensions, but it made them all the more visible. COVID19 measures and lockdowns, for instance, have not only directly affected public health and quality of life, they have also fuelled inequality, polarization, ethical dissensus and vulnerabilities. This raises many questions, not only practically, but also academically.

How do politics, policies and services contribute to strengthening societal value? What is the societal impact of policies and professional actions? How do policies and professional services respond to new societal challenges? How are social inequalities and dependencies traced, signalled and tackled? Which arrangements enable policies and services to generate more value? How do value-enhancing public and social services operate? Which principles, perspectives and practices are required for this? How are politicians, policymakers, public executives, public managers, professionals and employees prepared for this? How are they selected, socialized, trained, supervised, and evaluated? How do they contribute to better 'public performance'?

In this year's PSG XX annual meeting, we focus on questions like these. We invite participants to reflect upon what we can learn from 'value-enhancing' policies and services, how welfare state governance and professionalism are constrained (or enabled) when it comes to generating societal value, and how the societal impact of services can be strengthened.

Insights about various themes are welcomed, including, but not restricted to:

- How do politics, policies, services and professionals try to really tackle societal issues?
- Which transitions in social issues are taking place (perhaps stimulated by COVID19)?
- What does 'making societal value' (or 'public value') mean?
- What mechanisms and arrangements in and around professional services help services to work on social problems?
- Can performance management support professional and public value creation?
- In which ways do policy organizations, agencies and professionals work together to effectively deal with societal challenges?
- Which digital technologies help or hinder dealing with social problems?
- How are politics, policy and implementation connected, in order to add value?

- What are the mindsets and motivations of public executives, managers and professionals, aimed at making valuable contributions to society?
- How can the attitudes and acts of politicians, policymakers and professionals be changed, improved and/or professionalized?
- How do public work forces relate to tackling social problems, in terms of composition, leadership and education?
- How can we measure and evaluate the societal impact of welfare policies and services?
- Etc.

In our PSG, we welcome different types of papers that explore these themes in a conceptual, theoretical, empirical, analytical, explanatory or prescriptive way.

We work together with PSGII, 'Performance in the public sector', to link welfare state governance and professionalism to (society-oriented) public performances. We will organize one or two joint sessions.

The deadline for paper proposals is **April 30, 2022**. Please submit your paper proposal (of max. 400 words) via the 2022 Conference Management System at <https://www.conftool.org/egpa-conference2022>. The deadline for the selection of the accepted papers by the co-chairs is May 20, 2022. Full papers of the accepted proposals are due by August 22, 2022.

Practicalities

Important dates:

- ✓ Deadline for submission of Abstracts: April 30, 2022
- ✓ Deadline for notification to the authors: no later than May 20, 2022
- ✓ Deadline for online submission of full papers: August 10, 2022
- ✓ EGPA 2022 Conference: 6-9 September 2022

EGPA 2022 Conference website:

<https://www.egpa-conference2022.org/>

EGPA 2022 Conference Management System: <https://www.conftool.org/egpa-conference2022>

For any questions regarding EGPA 2022, please contact us at: f.maron@iias-iisa.org

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