



EGPA/IIAS

European Group
for Public Administration

2021

Annual Conference of the

***European Group for Public
Administration***

7-10 September 2021

PhD Symposium

7 September 2021

***Permanent Study Group X:
Law and Public Administration***

Call-for-Papers

EGPA Permanent Study Group X on Law and Public Administration

The 2021 Annual Conference of the European Group for Public Administration will be held in Brussels, from 7-10 September 2021.

Introduction

Law and Public administration is a permanent Study Group of the European Group of Public Administration in Brussels, active since 2005. It aims at fostering an interdisciplinary study of the practice and theory of law in public administration, administrative science and policy on national and European (including EU) perspectives. The group wants to be a meeting place for scholars and practitioners from different fields: lawyers, sociologists, policy analysts, economists and IT experts, working in academia and public institutions, as well as civil servants working in national and supranational institutions and NGOs. We combine academic and practice perspectives on public, especially administrative law, its functioning and its institutions in a public administration context. Therefore, we aim at legal scholars, policymakers and practitioners who take an interest in the well-functioning of public administration.

Projects & publications

Papers presented and discussed at annual conferences have been peer reviewed and published in the last years in the scientific monographs, e.g. *The Sound of Silence in European administrative Law* (2020, Palgrave Macmillan), *The Laws of Transparency in Action* (2018, Palgrave Macmillan), *ADR in European Administrative law* (2014, Springer). Moreover, papers were published in the special issues of international journals, e.g. *Administrative Science* (2020), *NALL* (2016), *International Public Administration Review* (2014), *Utrecht Law Review* (2013), *Transylvanian Review of Administrative Sciences* (2009). We strive to offer new publication opportunities every year.

Call-for-Papers 2021

The study group expresses interest in several issues, simultaneously offering participants (i) a focus on a certain selected topic as an ongoing current project yet still being open for (ii) any relevant legally relevant issue occurring within public administration.

For the 2021 EGPA conference, we intend to start investigating two comparative topics as already identified as potential PSG research projects:

1. ***Simplification of procedures in the intersection of administrative efficiency and protection of public interest.*** In several European countries, discussions are taking place on how to ensure that disputes between public authorities and citizens can be resolved as quickly as possible by means of a simple procedure without compromising the requirements of careful examination. We are particularly interested in experiences with experiments exploring the possibilities of ADR, systems and techniques to by-pass and heal procedural flaws and to simplify

administrative and court procedures, and the results of experiments/pilots/legislative amendments to achieve this goal. This topic is increasingly important in the aftermath of COVID-19 pandemic.

- a. There will be a special issue of **Administrative Science** on simplification of administrative procedures (deadline for papers: **31 October 2021**)

https://www.mdpi.com/journal/admsci/special_issues/SAP

2. **Judicial review of administrative discretion.** Administrative discretion allows administrative creativeness and flexibility, within the boundaries established by law. However, discretion remains a vague concept and its practical application is disputed within the literature and practice. An increase of powers of the administration is usually perceived with scepticism as a recipe for arbitrariness. In this context, the control mechanisms are instrumental for the rule of law, so the scope of judicial review of administrative discretion should be the object of comparative research. It is here that discretion is read with the notions of limits, review and accountability. We intend to investigate different legal standards and case studies specific to different legal systems as regards the scope of control of administrative discretion by courts.
3. Furthermore, we still accept papers on the **Plea of illegality**, initiated in 2019. *Plea of illegality* is an indirect way of challenging the validity of a measure by attacking the legal basis on which it is founded. The concept raises many questions regarding the rule of law and separation of powers, hierarchical relations among legislative and administrative acts, effectiveness of procedures and judicial review, organisation of administration and judiciary, alternative dispute resolution, accountability, etc.

The study group is additionally interested to address **any subjects of European, comparative and national administrative law and public administration**. We especially - yet not exclusively - welcome papers on one of the following subjects:

- the development of the European and national administrative law principles within sound governance and good administration; national reforms in legal-administrative issues, such as adopting and implementing new Administrative Procedure Act/s;
- the changing character of new legal acts and phenomena, overcoming the traditional legal branches and constitutional/international guarantees;
- red tape removal, procedural and other simplifications;
- judicial review over administrative system and its effectiveness;
- questions of regulatory agencies and efficient administrative oversight;
- emerging legal-administrative issues in the sector-specific fields, such as migration and asylum, public procurement, taxation, social benefits, and others;
- European integration tendencies in transnational law enforcement;
- COVID-19 related experiences and lessons learned in various legal issues in administrative affairs.

Practicalities

Important dates:

- ✓ Deadline for submission of Abstracts: April 30, 2021 – Extended to May 15, 2021
- ✓ Deadline for notification to the authors: no later than May 25, 2021
- ✓ Deadline for online submission of full papers: August 10, 2021
- ✓ EGPA 2021 Conference: September 7-10, 2021

EGPA 2021 Conference Website: <https://www.egpa-conference2021.org/>

EGPA 2021 Conference Management System: <https://www.conftool.org/egpa-conference2021>

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