

Welcome Message of Prof. Jean-Michel Eymeri-Douzans - EGPA President



Dear colleagues & participants,

Chères et chers collègues et participants,

Welcome to the EGPA 2021 Annual Conference!

Nous vous souhaitons la bienvenue à ce congrès 2021 du GEAP !

The EGPA/IIAS team and the local organizing committee at our host institution, the Solvay Brussels School of Economics and Management, the Political Sciences department in the faculty of Philosophy and Social Sciences, and the Institute for European Studies, at the *Université Libre de Bruxelles*, are so happy to welcome you in the capital city of the EU.

Since our wonderful 2019 congress in Belfast, the world was hit by the devastating COVID-19 pandemic, with its terrible human, economic and social damages. Let us think with emotion about the victims.

In such extraordinary circumstances, the EGPA adapted its activities: on the one hand, many of our Permanent Study Group co-chairs organized and held with great success online panels or conferences and took an active part in our bigger online events, such as the IIAS 90 Anniversary Conference and the IASIA-IIAS 2021 Conference. Our gratitude goes to them for their commitment. On the other hand, our Steering Committee, acting on my proposal, decided to cancel the 2020 edition of our main annual event (as all other learned societies did). Then, we decided to take the limited and controlled risk to restart the engine as early as September 2021 but to organize our conference "*en régie*", in Brussels, under the direct responsibility of our Secretariat, so as to adapt to the rapid evolutions of the pandemic and of governmental sanitary measures in the host country. We also opted for a hybrid conference, combining physical presence for those of us who are able and willing to travel with distance participation for the others. Our colleagues and friends at ULB, have courageously accepted to take up such a challenge with us: honours to them! *Un immense merci francophone à eux!*

And honours to you, fellow members of our EGPA vivid community: you have responded to the call enthusiastically! With 470 paper/panel proposals submitted, 399 accepted, 400 registered participants, half in presence and half remotely, we, the EGPA people, do not miss our first occasion, in "the world after", to meet again, exchange ideas and elaborate projects together. This is the best indicator of the strength and vitality of our EGPA family. *Longue vie au GEAP!*

The main topic of the Conference, "Resilience and agility of public institutions in times of crises", addresses the major challenges of our times for governments, public administrations and public policies. The high-level panellists invited to the plenary sessions will share with us their views and experiences in that regard. As usual, our PSG panels, Francophone Seminar and PhD Symposium will constitute the robust backbone of our EGPA community rally. Let's hope that, as usual, our work in common will contribute to the advancement of the state-of-the-art of PA as an interdisciplinary field of sister disciplines aiming at better comprehend and explain how our societies, facing global, complex, "wicked" policy problems, threats and shocks, are governed, i.e. conceived, politicized, regulated, administered and managed; and improving consequently the sense and quality of PA as a professional practice, a "craft" and "art of the State".

Let us have a great EGPA conference in Brussels!

Au plaisir de vous retrouver ! Excellent congrès du GEAP à vous toutes et tous!

Jean-Michel Eymeri-Douzans

EGPA President/Président du GEAP