



EGPA/IIAS

European Group
for Public Administration

2021

Annual Conference of the

***European Group for Public
Administration***

7-10 September 2020

PhD Symposium

7 September 2021

***Permanent Study Groups IV & V
Local Governance and Democracy
Regional and Local Government***

Joint Call-for-Papers



**EGPA Permanent Study Group IV on Local Governance and Democracy and
Permanent Study Group V on Regional and Local Government**

How do local governments adapt to pressure for change?

Local governments are constantly subject of pressure for change be it marketisation, amalgamation, better integration of immigrants, stricter budget control, improved services, increased transparency etc., etc. Some change is imposed from central government, some change presented as necessary in a situation of competition (often by consultants), some initiatives come from citizens and civil society organisations. Wherever proposals come from there often seems to be a level of discretion. Proposals could be translated to fit the local context, reform adopted only in parts, and some proposals could be rejected outright. The goal of the workshop session is to discuss how local governments handle the pressure for change and what changes actually take place. Are local governments handling pressure in different ways? We are interested in papers that address questions like:

- What level of discretion has existed in the way local governments have handled the COVID-19 pandemic?
- What impact have the Sustainable Development Goals, Fridays for future and other initiatives for sustainability had on everyday activities in cities and municipalities?
- How do local governments handle an influx of immigrants? What changes take place in allocation of resources, organization, decision-making processes?
- How do local governments react to populist parties coming into power positions?
- How do local government handle conflicting pressures such as demands for uniform service delivery vs solutions adjusted for local contexts?
- What images of themselves are local governments communicating? As being in the front line of reform and actions for sustainability? Or are local governments tending to give the impression of change by employing an ever increasing number of communication officers?

We are particularly keen to welcome papers which seek to deliver empirical, research-based arguments and build a theoretical understanding of these issues; and papers which adopt a comparative approach, be it 'over time', 'cross-countries', or 'cross-service'. **We are also particularly keen to include papers from Eastern and Southern Europe as well as Western Europe.**

Abstracts should be submitted by **the 5th of April 2021**. Abstracts should be uploaded through the EGPA Conference Management System.

Notification of acceptance will be **no later than the 25th of May 2021**. Those authors whose abstracts have been accepted should dispatch their **completed paper** to the convenors and upload it through the submission website **by the 10th of August 2021**.

Please note that PSG IV on Local Governance and Democracy and PSG V on Regional and Local Government will be liaising with each other for the 2021 conference to ensure that papers are allocated to both groups in a coordinated manner. There will also be joint sessions organised at the conference.

Practicalities

Important dates:

- ✓ Deadline for submission of Abstracts: **April 5, 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/>

Co-chairs of Permanent Study Group IV and V

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