



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 VIII:
Citizen Participation***

Call-for-Papers

EGPA Permanent Study Group VIII on Citizen Participation

Citizen Participation and Resilience in times of Crisis

In the context of the COVID-19-pandemic, citizens have collaborated with governments, non-profit organisations and business in order to contain the impacts of the pandemic on their lives. If we have learnt one lesson, it is that governments and other public service organisations are not able to deal with such encompassing challenges on their own. After all, this is not only a health crisis but it affects many other aspects of our lives such as our jobs, education and social life.

Citizens have co-produced various goods and services with professionals and the government by necessity, as the capacity of professionals to deal with the crisis has reached its limits in many ways. For example, public safety has been co-produced by people adhering to social distancing rules. Furthermore, many people have been providing informal care, as professional health care capacity has been confronted with unprecedented demand. Volunteers have also helped to produce medical devices which were in short supply in the early stages of the pandemic, such as masks and ventilators. Last but not least, parents have been working with teachers and their own children to provide homeschooling.

It is still too early to take stock fully of which interventions have worked and which have not, as the impacts of the pandemic are yet to be seen. However, this global and all-encompassing crisis provides an excellent opportunity to learn how to strengthen resilience, in order to be better prepared for future crises. In particular, the greater involvement of citizens in public service delivery and in public policy making in crisis management opens up new questions for researchers on the role of citizen participation and user and community co-production. Hence this call for papers on “Citizen Participation and Resilience in Times of Crisis” for our Study Group Meeting during the Annual EGPA Conference. It follows on from a virtual Study Group Meeting in March 2021, so that paper-givers at the March event can build on comments received and, at the same time, new papers can be submitted.

The EGPA Study Group ‘Citizen Participation’ therefore invites you to submit an abstract of max. 400 words no later than **30 April 2021**. Notification of acceptance will be given by **25 May 2021**.

We welcome empirical and theoretical studies that discuss the role of citizen participation in addressing and overcoming crisis.

- What lessons can we learn about the conditions that enhance and shape citizen participation in times of crisis? From a theoretical and empirical perspective, is it valuable to distinguish different stages and forms of participation over time. Do we need to reconsider the common assumption that crisis requires top-down management? Are there conditions under which citizen co-production is likely to last beyond the crisis period? Are there inequalities, e.g. differences in the capacities and efficacy of citizens, that determine whether they are able to participate or not in dealing with the crisis?

- How can citizen co-production build user and community resilience to manage crises more effectively – and what are the mechanisms by which this can be achieved?
- What is the role of online platforms and digital technologies for supporting citizens to deal more effectively with crises? To what degree have civic tech initiatives enabled social innovation, e.g. through crowdsourcing of new ideas in Hackathons? And what are the pitfalls of citizens providing information to each other which is not verified, in approaches which may be captured by specific interest groups who, for example, promote conspiracy theories.
- What is the space for citizen participation under conditions of a ‘coercive state’ which restricts personal contacts or issues regulations without much public consultation?

How can groups which feel excluded (e.g., those people who believe that their rights have been severely and illegitimately curtailed under lockdown to prevent the spread of Covid-19) be given an appropriate voice to engage with government – and when should protests against government restrictions be regarded as inappropriate or even banned?

Practicalities

Important dates:

- ✓ Deadline for submission of Abstracts: April 30, 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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