



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 XV:

Public Administration, Technology and Innovation

Call-for-Papers

EGPA Permanent Study Group XV on Public Administration, Technology and Innovation (PATI)

Technology and Innovation in Public Administration during the Covid-19 crisis: Lessons for long-term resilience

The ongoing global pandemic has had a huge impact on all aspects of social life, including public administrations globally. Governments have had to design, procure or co-create, and roll out at break-neck speed new **technological solutions** and **organizational processes** from setting-up new medical facilities to test-and-treat and rolling-out new track-and-trace systems to organizing some of the largest vaccination programmes ever witnessed.

These and other related efforts have forced governments to re-think many of the existing administrative tasks and procedures as well as organizational processes and routines. Some of the changes concern **internal government processes** such as setting up new planning and coordination structures while others concern the **politics of technology and related politico-administrative relationships** - e.g. the status and competences of technology and public health experts – as well as **external relationships** with citizens and private sector solution/technology providers.

Yet, we have very little systematic evidence on:

- a) how these technologies and processes have been designed and implemented?
- b) what have been the positive and negative lessons for Public Administration and public sector innovation and technological developments?
- c) what might be the longer-term impacts of these responses on the public sector capacities and capabilities and resilience to weather the next waves of health, environmental or other shocks and extreme events?

In addition, in spite of recent calls by Pollitt (2011(1)), Roberts (2014 (2)) and others, we know relatively little about how the past technological changes during or beyond crises have influenced the immediate and long-term evolution of Public Administration. Hence, **what are the historical lessons we can draw on for dealing with the present and future societal challenges?**

We are looking for papers that provide conceptual contributions and empirical insights (both case studies and comparative papers) on these broader questions and developments in Public Administration systems globally.

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>

References

- (1) Pollitt, C. 2011. Mainstreaming Technological Change in the Study of Public Management. *Public Policy and Administration*, 26(4): 377-397.
- (2) Roberts, A., 2014. Large forces: What's missing in public administration. Available at: https://books.google.ee/books?id=Qv10AgAAQBAJ&printsec=frontcover&hl=et&source=gbs_ge_summary_r&cad=0#v=onepage&q&f=false

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