

22nd IPSA World Congress

Reshaping Power, Shifting Boundaries

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International Political Science Association (IPSA)¹ held its 22nd World Congress of Political Science in Madrid, Spain, on July 8-12, 2012. The guiding idea of the Congress was to analyse and evaluate the impact of globalization and economic crisis to a variety of democracies and societies worldwide and to find an affordable or a compatible model of democracy in the times of crisis. The title of the Congress made it possible to raise specific questions, answers to which are nowadays relevant not only to political scientists but also to citizens. In finding answers to these questions, democratic political elites should be giving their best to determine an appropriate model of democracy, be it subnational, national or transnational, and improve their political integrity by providing maximum responsiveness to new players on the political scene: citizens, businesses and civil organizations. Furthermore, in finding the appropriate model of democracy, some answers to questions such as the extent of changes in constitutional settings, basic democratic principles (freedom, equality and the rule of law), challenges to nation-state, key mechanisms of political accountability, role of democratic institutions and welfare state, are all to be sought.

¹ International Political Science Association (IPSA) was founded in Paris in 1949 under the auspices of UNESCO. Its membership comprises institutions, national associations, academics, scholars, researchers, students etc. and is growing. Among IPSA's most important events are biannual World Congresses of Political Science, moving venues between continents (more at www.ipsa.org).

A record number of 3,000 participants, members of social sciences' community,² ranging from academics, scholars, university professors, researchers, doctoral students and professionals from 84 countries analysed their specific disciplinary topic. The official Congress Program consisted of four sections: Main Theme Sessions (MT); Local Organizing Sessions (LOC) organised by the Spanish Association of Political Science and Administration, Research Committees (RC) and Congress Sessions (CS).³ The largest number of Congress work activities took place within Research Committees' panels.⁴ Some joint panels between two or more RCs were organized for the first time.

A dozen participants from the University of Zagreb gave their presentations at the Congress and participated in various other manners. Several of them were from the Faculty of Law, while the majority were from the Faculty of Political Science. The participants from the Faculty of Law were Ivan Koprić, full professor, Robert Podolnjak, associate professor, Anamarija Musa, assistant professor, Đorđe Gardašević, assistant professor, and Daria Dubajić, scientific researcher. Ivan Koprić convened and co-chaired RC32 panel Comparative Governance and Public Administration Education, within which he presented the paper *Governance and Administrative Education in South Eastern Europe: Genuine Development, Conditionality and Hesitations*. He served as the paper discussant within RC48 panel Current and Future Issues in Public Administration as they Affect Administrative Culture. Anamarija Musa and Zdravko Petak (pro-

² Although many of the IPSA Congress delegates have scientific background in political science, a lot of them are scholars and experts in other related social science disciplines: public administration, law, economics, political sociology, etc.

³ There were seven MTs, each consisting of five or more panels, four LOCs with over a dozen panels in English or Spanish, 52 RCs, each presenting between two and thirty-two panels and over 130 CSs.

⁴ IPSA has 52 active Research Committees (RCs) covering all aspects of politics, policy, public administration and public institutions. Several of them are particularly engaged with public administration issues, like RC 27 Structure and Organisation of Government, RC 32 Public Policy and Administration, RC 48 Administrative Culture, and RC 05 Comparative Studies on Local Government and Politics. By organizing events between World Congresses and playing a major role at the Congresses, RCs encourage the worldwide pooling of skills and resources by working both together and in conjunction with specialist sub-groups of national associations. RCs frequently organize their own international conferences and publish their work. In June 2011, the University of Zagreb hosted IPSA RC32 international conference *Developing Policy in Different Cultural Contexts: Learning from Study, Learning from Experience* in Dubrovnik, in collaboration with the Croatian Political Science Association, Institute of Public Administration and RC05 (see *Croatian and Comparative Public Administration*, no. 03/2011, pp. 849–858).

fessor at the Faculty of Political Science, Zagreb) presented the paper *Coordination for Policy in Transition Countries: The Case of Croatia* at RC27 panel *Reviewing the Agency Landscape: Autonomy, Accountability and Control*. Ivan Koprić, Tijana Vukojičić Tomić⁵ and Daria Dubajić were co-authors at RC23 panel *The Regionalisation of Regional Elections: Beyond Mid-Term and Second-Order Elections*. Daria Dubajić presented their paper *Regional Elections in Croatia: From Third-Order County Elections to Genuine Regional Politics*. Robert Podolnjak and Đorđe Gardašević presented their paper *Institutional Reform in Croatian Local Government: From Cabinets to Directly Elected Mayors* at RC05 panel *Mayors in Comparative Perspective*. All participants from the University of Zagreb were invited to a reception at the Embassy of the Republic of Croatia in the Kingdom of Spain, where Croatian Ambassador, Neven Pelicarić, expressed a very warm welcome and congratulated them on their successes and contribution to scientific promotion of Croatia. Some members of the delegation actively participated in the work of RC Business Meetings: Anamarija Musa in RC27 Business Meeting and Ivan Koprić in RC05 and RC32 Business Meetings. He was also elected member of RC05 and RC32 executive committees for the next two years.

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