

Workshop on Evaluating Reforms of Local Public and Social Services in Europe

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A two-day workshop of Working Group 1 (“External-Post-New Public Management») of the COST Action IS1207 “Local Public Sector Reforms: An International Comparison« about evaluating reforms of local public and social services in Europe was held in Zagreb on 27th and 28th June 2016. Local organizer was the Institute of Public Administration, Zagreb. The workshop in Zagreb, chaired by Professor Ivan Koprić, was devoted to presenting and discussing the papers for a new book about evaluating reforms of local public and social services in Europe. The co-editors of the book are professors Ivan Koprić from Croatia (Professor at the Faculty of Law, University of Zagreb and president of the Institute of Public Administration), Hellmut Wollmann from Germany (Professor Emeritus of Humboldt Universität, Berlin), and Gérard Marcou from France (Professor at Université Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne and director of GRALE, Paris). The book will be published in the course of 2017 by Palgrave Macmillan.

At the beginning, Professor Koprić presented the guidelines prepared in accordance with the theoretical and methodological framework following the results published in the previous book, which was prepared by the same Working Group 1 (Wollmann, Koprić, Marcou, eds., *Public and Social Services in Europe: From Public and Municipal to Private Sector Provision*, Palgrave Macmillan, 2016). The forthcoming book will contain the chapters about evaluation of service delivery in the following sectors: waste management, water supply, public transportation, roads, parks, health care, education, and personal social services. The territorial span of the book chapters includes seventeen countries: the United Kingdom, the Netherlands, Sweden, Norway, Denmark, Germany, France, Spain, Italy, Greece, Poland, the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Slovenia, Hungary,

Croatia and Turkey. Chapters about the effects of agencification in local government in the comparative European perspective, impact assessment as a form of ex ante evaluation, approaches in the evaluation of local services and local service delivery reforms, the impacts of decentralisation on local public management, and lessons learned from successful and unsuccessful local public and social services delivery reforms will be added.

During the workshop, the majority of chapters were presented and thoroughly discussed, while a few chapter authors were not able to participate but sent their papers. After the introductory notes, presentations were given by Germã Bel (Spain), Vedran Đulabić (Croatia), Theodore N. Tsekos (Greece), Yeşeren Elicin (Turkey), Tamás M. Horváth (Hungary), Andrea Lippi (Italy), Anamarija Musa (Croatia) and Gérard Marcou (France), Hellmut Wollmann (Germany), Łukasz Miķuła (Poland), Pierre Bauby (France), Kurt Houlberg (Denmark), Jasmina Džinić (Croatia), Primož Pevcin (Slovenia), and Harald Torsteinsen (Norway). They presented the studies and papers prepared during last year, half of which were done in co-authorship with other members of WG 1. Previous WG 1 workshops in Istanbul (October 2015) and Bern (March 2016) contributed significantly to the quality of papers whose newest versions were presented in Zagreb.

At the end of the workshop, Professor Koprić summarized the results and presented the final plan for preparation of the book. The book aims to rekindle research, scientific, practical, policy, professional, and educational interest in evaluation studies and confirm the precious value of such studies for policy improvements in the field of local services reforms. Professor Wollmann stressed the importance of current efforts of the Working Group and its focus on the evaluative approach to local public and social services.

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