

Conference

Tenth General Conference of the European Consortium for Political Research

UDK: 321.01(047)

From 7 to 10 September 2016 the 10th General Conference of the ECPR (European Consortium for Political Research) took place at the Charles University of Prague, in the Czech Republic. The conference was held at three faculty buildings – the Faculty of Law, Faculty of Arts, and Faculty of Social Sciences – and drew around 2,000 scholars from 50 countries worldwide. The conference lasted for four days and included panel discussions, roundtables, meetings, and social events. Over 1,900 were presented in 463 panels and 67 sections. This was the second largest ECPR conference ever organised. The panels were very carefully structured thematically, which influenced the quality of the discussions and the comments after the presentations. Mostly political scientists attended the conference, but there were also lawyers, sociologists, psychologists, and scientists from other disciplines, ranging from professors and more experienced scholars to PhD students and younger researchers.

The Faculty of Law of the University of Zagreb was represented by three members – Professor Ivan Koprić, assistant professor Romea Manojlović, and assistant Petra Đurman. They presented a paper entitled *Local democracy development in Croatia – From experimental self-management to weak local democracy*. The panel chair was Professor Pawel Swianiewicz from the University of Warsaw and the discussant was associate professor Adam Gendzwill, also from the University of Warsaw. Other papers in the panel covered the following issues: the municipal election system in Lithuania, local politics in Czech municipalities, and an overview of local autonomy in Central and Eastern Europe from 1990 until today. These papers were presented within the panel called *25 Years of Local Democ-*

racy in Central-Eastern Europe, within the Section *Local Democracy and Local Self-Government: Coping with Challenges in Times of Change*, organised within the Standing Group on Local Government and Politics. Other panels in this section included the following: Climate Change Adaptation Policies at the Local Level; Councillors: Representation, Governing and Political Innovation at the Local Level; Decentralization, Amalgamation and Size; Finances and Local Policy-Making; Innovating Local Involvement of Citizens; Local Elections; Local 'Foreign Policy': Concepts, Definitions and Methods in Transborder Relations Research; Local Government Legitimacy – Conceptual and Empirical Challenges; Mayors and the Changing Context of Local Government; and Transforming Democratic Accountability in Local Governance. Another section that addressed public administration issues was called Democratic Innovations, and included papers on citizen initiatives, participatory budgeting, direct democracy and online political participation, and other topics. Other themes of the sections and panels included many topics, some of which were: the European Union and Europeanization, migration policy, political parties, networks, civil society, political theory, populism, voting behaviour, and international politics.

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