

Foreword

After several years of promoting the previous concept of our journal, we have redesigned its concept, starting with the first issue of our 17th volume, which is right before you. We continue to build a high quality scholarly journal in the field of public administration and governance with a strong orientation towards its internationalisation, in order to strengthen comparative, research, theoretical, and international components of the journal.

We have already reached a significant level of international visibility by publishing the majority of scientific papers in the English language. Almost three quarters of them were published in English in the 16th volume, similar to previous years, but our intention is to increase this number in the years to come to up to 85 per cent of the published papers. You may notice that we intend to retain a certain number of papers in Croatian in order to give our contribution to the promotion and protection of small European languages.

By publishing at least a small number of papers in the Croatian language, which is one of the official languages of the European Union, we try to follow the EGPA efforts proclaimed within the PA@BABEL network,¹ simultaneously respecting the position of our main publisher, the Institute of Public Administration from Zagreb, Croatia. However, even with publishing papers in Croatian, there will be a clear editorial dedication to the papers promoting comparative and European approaches.

We firmly support the participation of colleagues from all over the world in our editorial process, which will be even more prominent and visible in the subsequent issues. In line with the redesigned editorial policy, we will increase the number of participating co-publishers, by arranging a

¹ See more at: <http://egpa.iiias-iisa.org/about-egpa/joint-ventures-and-partnerships/pababel/>

new cooperation with several additional, renowned European scientific and university institutions. In such a vein, we intend to contribute to intra-European scientific and scholarly cooperation as well as to worldwide research, exchange and learning. The cooperation with the EGPA and NISPAcee is an important component of our editorial policy.

In addition to the reinvigorated comparative and European perspectives, we care deeply about the overall modernisation of the editorial process. For that we are preparing several innovations which will make it more transparent and easier to cope for the authors, reviewers, and editors. Last but not least, we intend to invest even more effort in following the strict ethical rules and standards proclaimed in our Ethical Code,² with zero tolerance for all sorts of non-ethical behaviour in theory, research, science, and university.

Six papers published in this issue clearly follow the proclaimed new editorial policy. The three papers deal with administrative modernization analysing New Public Management at Kosovo, lobbying in the Lithuanian and Polish public sectors, and external financial audit of local and regional authorities by regional audit institutions in several European countries. There is also a paper dealing with organization of deconcentrated state administration in the European post-socialist countries. Last two papers deal with good European governance practices, i.e. with public consultations and participation of civil society and general public in the preparation of legislation and public decisions. All papers promote comparative and European approach, searching for broadly applicable public governance solutions.

Enjoy your reading!

Professor Dr. Ivan Koprić
Editor-in-chief

² Available at: <http://en.iju.hr/ccpa/page24/ethical%20code.html>