

Foreword

The main focus of this issue is democratic governance. The first paper analyses the determinants of trust in political institutions and satisfaction with democracy in Croatia. Croatia is seen as a highly polarised society with divided political identities in which, in line with expectations, partisanship strongly shapes evaluations of democracy and trust in institutions. Contemporary approaches to and models of recruiting various minorities in public administration is another theme in this section. The concept of representative governance has not attracted much attention in continental Europe, with some important exceptions. Croatian public administration is yet to be confronted with this concept, in order to use its benefits for theoretical and practical purposes. Finally, relations between public financial management, accountability, and citizens' trust are also examined in this part of the journal.

Within the second section, two papers deal with public management issues in different parts of the public sector. Personnel capacity in the Croatian local government has been influenced by decentralisation efforts mostly in quantitative terms, but they have not had a major impact on the qualitative indicators of personal capacity such as strengthening professionalisation or development of a modern civil service system at the local level of governance. The economic and legal aspects of a wide range of public-private partnerships in the defence sector were also analysed in this section.

The public law section deals with the very interesting issue of public procurement of legal services in Croatia in light of harmonisation of the Croatian legal system with European Union law. Data about public procurement of legal services in the period 2012–2016 are presented and analysed.

In the concluding part, Professor Miro Haček presents and reviews a book written by Rado Bohinc about social responsibility. The book was published in Ljubljana in 2016.

Have a good read!

Professor Dr. Ivan Koprčić
Editor-in-chief