

Foreword

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The current issue continues to publish the reviewed and revised papers presented at the international scientific conference *Looking Beyond the Crises: Impact of Mass Migrations on Local, Regional, National, and EU Governance* held in Dubrovnik in May 2017. They are systematised in two thematic blocks.

The first block contains three interesting and important papers dealing with integration of migrants and the consequences of migrations, and new tasks of public governance related to migrants' integration.

Tuan Samahon from the United States analyses American immigration microfederalism. Competence over immigration policy traditionally belongs to the federal government. At the state and local levels, he differentiates restrictionist, pro-enforcement policy and integrationist, sanctuary policy, on the right-left governance spectrum. Both the Obama and the Trump administration have interfered with microfederal policies, being eager to strengthen the federal position, but from different ideological and governance platforms.

Norbert Kersting (Germany) focuses his research efforts on the question of who represents the interests of refugees that immigrated from Syria in the course of the past few years, and the interests of other migrants in Germany. After presenting migration statistics, he analyses 14 representative German cities. His conclusions are based on data collected from a representative sample of citizens and all councillors from these 14 cities. Advisory boards for migrants or integration councils, which represent migrants, are positively assessed by citizens and councillors as instruments of political participation at the local level.

Tijana Vukojičić Tomić (Croatia) contemplates about the challenges of diversity management to migrants' integration in the European Union. Her analysis begins with inspecting the EU's legal documents for the integration of migrants. She later accentuates diversity management in employment of migrants and puts employment in the lime light of the European policy framework for the integration of migrants. She warns about

the importance of political consensus and supportive migration debate for successful integration of migrants.

The second block of papers deals with the influence of refugee crisis on governance and public administration.

Benedikt Speer (Austria) looks into the Austrian immigration and integration policies, systematising governmental measures as external and internal. While the former intended to secure the borders and to curb uncontrolled migration, the latter tried to refine legal and organisational structures for the integration of asylum-seekers and persons in need of subsidiary protection. He is of an opinion that the increasingly restrictive Government's approach to immigration policy will probably continue.

Veran Stančetić (Serbia) bases his paper on the hypothesis that coherent migration and integration policies harmonised among all governance levels, from the European to the local, are needed for successful management of the refugee crises. He believes that local governments are of special importance for policy implementation in this matter. He offers guidelines for creating a possible future policy, building on the Western Balkans' experience.

Iva Lopizić and Goranka Lalić Novak (Croatia) accentuate the role of deconcentrated state administration in managing migrations and integration of migrants in highly centralised states with weak local government capacities. The authors undertake a comparative analysis of deconcentrated state administration and its tasks and role in dealing with migrations and integration of migrants in six EU countries – Denmark, France, Greece, Italy, Poland, and Croatia. On this empirical base, they offer several reasons for broader inclusion of deconcentrated state administration in migration and integration policies.

These two sets of papers offer important and serious arguments for refining the migration and integration policies, and provide a firm basis for improving governance and administrative capacities for dealing with refugees and migrants, mostly in European countries, but with interesting insights into the US situation. Thus, this issue is quite worth thorough reading.

In addition to the scholarly papers, we are publishing a note on the debate of administrative science scholarly journals' editors-in-chief in Ljubljana, held on April 19, 2018, with my answers to moderator's questions, which shed some light on our editorial position and policy. Hopefully, this short contribution can also attract your attention.

Professor Dr. Ivan Koprić
Editor-in-chief