

# Foreword

UDK

35.07(497.5)(042.3)

After devoting three previous issues of the Croatian and Comparative Public Administration to the management of diversity, refugee governance, and integration of migrants, in the last issue of the 2018 volume we turn to administrative theory and personnel.

The first paper in the section about administrative theory, written by Mirko Pečarič, deals with the paradoxes of administrative reforms in the light of effectiveness – efficiency problem. He claims that the real problem of rational decision-making in the public sector reforms context is lacking awareness and knowledge about the behaviour of complex adaptive systems. Pečarič revokes cybernetics and system theory and concepts of effectiveness and efficiency to build a new model of decision-making in the public sector which would be better able to reduce the side effects of administrative reforms.

The second paper contemplates about the performance of public authorities in formal administrative procedures on the basis of statistical data analysis. Polonca Kovač and Žiga Kotnik have enumerated several lessons learned on the basis of data on the performance of 58 administrative units in Slovenia in the period 2004–2015. They interpret the results in the context of good governance efforts in wider European administrative space and compare the performance of Slovenian public authorities mostly with other transitional countries.

Ružica Šimić Banović, Martina Basarac Sertić and Valentina Vučković analyse the speed of large-scale transformation of political and economic institutions, offering insights from transitional countries. Their quantitative analysis covers several aspects related to socioeconomic change and allows the conclusion that the countries that applied the shock therapy have performed significantly better while the slow reformers are lagging behind in the development of democratic institutions and modern market economies.

The administrative personnel section begins with the paper written by Anamarija Musa about ministerial political advisors who are the new element between the politically appointed ministers and professional civil servants. The concept of political advisors to ministers brings about important changes in the relationship between politics and administration. The author analyses the reasons for their appointment, the trends in some European countries, their types and tasks, and the effects of introduction of the ministerial political advisors into the government machinery.

Ivan Kosnica analyses the situation in parts of today's Croatia (historically called Croatia and Slavonia) in the period 1868–1918 regulated by the Croatian-Hungarian Compromise within the then Austro-Hungarian Monarchy. His research focuses on the influence of the concepts of the Hungarian-Croatian citizenship and the Croatian-Slavonian affiliation. Based on historical sources, he analyses how these concepts influenced public administration recruitment in the Croatian part of the country.

The last paper in this issue, written by Ivana Božac, analyses social contributions of the European Union civil servants as a part of social security schemes. The EU civil servants regulations apply directly in the member states to approximately 40,000 EU civil servants who are subject to the joint social security scheme of the EU institutions. The paper is founded on the comprehensive interpretation of the case of Wenceslas de Lobkowicz decided by the Court of Justice of the European Union (C-690/15).

The two last contributions to this issue are the review of my book about local governance in Croatia written by Karlo Kožina and the call for papers and presentations at an international conference about public governance changes in transition countries after three decades which is going to be held in Dubrovnik, Croatia in October 2019.

I wish you a lot of pleasant moments with this issue of the Croatian and Comparative Public Administration and a very happy New Year.

Professor Dr. Ivan Koprić  
Editor-in-chief