

Foreword

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The current issue of the *Croatian and Comparative Public Administration* is thematically consistent, analysing the phenomena of contemporary migrations, including mass migrations, and public governance. The first versions of three papers, written by Jill Tao, Yeşeren Eliçin, and Uwe Hunger and Norbert Kersting were presented at the World Congress of Political Science in Brisbane, Australia in summer 2018. Istvan Temesi also planned to present there, but was prevented from attending. I am glad that Dr Stephen Jones who teaches at the University of Queensland in Brisbane accepted my invitation to join this thematic issue. Finally, it is a very particular pleasure to publish a paper written by Benjamin Sadrić, who won the 2018 Croatian Institute of Public Administration's 'Eugen Pusić' Award for the best student scientific paper.

In her paper about national-local networks, policy distance and immigration governance in South Korea, Jill Tao analyses the impact of local economic market needs on local attitudes towards national immigration policy through the lens of intergovernmental relations (IGR) and Lipsky's concept of bureaucratic discretion. Comparing two cases, she has found that economic needs at the local level are linked to local immigration policy. However, she warns about relative importance of fiscal autonomy of local governments.

Stephen Jones examines how and why traditional centralist approach of the federal government in the field of immigration policy moves toward cooperative approach within the Australian multilevel governance system. He compares three scenarios for the structure of immigration policy: the centralist, the cooperative and the asymmetric scenario. The leading question considers the key challenges and opportunities of establishing cooperative approaches to immigration policy in Australia today, especially taking into account the stress immigrants put on metropolitan infrastructure and subsequent political issues connected with the new situation.

Uwe Hunger and Norbert Kersting deal with the challenges of mass immigration to Germany in the past several years, especially during the mass migratory wave of 2015, when Germany received over two million migrants and refugees, more than ever before in its history. Three key moments are taken into account: the reception of migrants, their distribution, and finally – integration that mostly occurs at the local level. Because of that, the paper is focused on the role of municipalities in the integration process. Different challenges in dealing with this new era of migration and integration in Germany are also discussed.

Turkey hosts 3.6 million Syrian refugees, mostly in urban and peri-urban areas. Yeşeren Eliçin deals with the role and capacity of local government in managing migration in Istanbul. She examines the activities of metropolitan and sub-metropolitan governments in Istanbul aimed at the so-called temporary protection of the Syrian refugees who cannot get the refugee status according to the Turkish law. Municipalities employ various legal, administrative, and financial means in managing migrations, providing necessary services to the migratory population, and making the situation sustainable.

The reaction of the Hungarian government to the mass inflow of migrants in 2015 was strict, quick and radical: closing the borders and denying the approach. Migration matters are concentrated in the hands of the central government and its agencies. The role of local governments is rather limited, despite the fact that integration of migrants is normally a local issue. Istvan Temesi is focused on legal regulation that established the current system of migration governance, but takes into account the local attitudes towards migrants as well. In addition, he presents how several local governments, including Budapest, deal with migrants.

Benjamin Sadrić analyses the use of military forces in the protection of borders and prevention of irregular migrations during the 2015 refugee crisis by employing a multiple case study of selected South East European countries – Hungary, Slovenia, and Croatia. Governments have oscillated between their international obligations to protect refugees and political will to provide security for their citizens. To the problem of mass migrations, the use of military forces is a means between accepting all refugees on one end and closing the borders on the other end of the continuum. He offers a comprehensive answer to the legitimacy of army forces at borders.

The papers published in this thematic number of the *Croatian and Comparative Public Administration* follow an edited volume issued this year by

our publisher, the Croatian Institute of Public Administration titled 'Migrations, Diversity, Integration, and Public Governance in Europe and Beyond' (edited by Ivan Koprić, Goranka Lalić Novak and Tijana Vuković Tomić). We intend to further research the issues of national migration policy and governance, asylum legislation, integration of migrants, capacity of public institutions, and other issues connected with the phenomenon of contemporary migrations.

Have a good read and a good start of the new academic year!

Professor Dr. Ivan Koprić
Editor-in-Chief