

# Foreword

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The first issue of the *Croatian and Comparative Public Administration* in 2020 covers three thematic areas.

The section on Comparative public administration contains the analyses of Kosovo, Poland, and Pakistan cases.

Robert Muharremi applies the garbage can model of governance to explain the creation of institutions and identify the design flaws that have led to weak institutions in Kosovo. He finds out that a complex international environment with different policy preferences and the drive of international actors to promote their national solutions to Kosovo's problems in a decontextualised manner have contributed to the creation of weak institutions.

Dorota Dąbek and Jerzy Supernat review *Gestalt* of the Polish administrative state before and after the accession of the Republic of Poland to the European Union in 2004. Pre-accession and after-accession fundamentals in the field of public administration and administrative law have been identified and analysed within the framework of Europeanization of administrative law and administration in the EU member states. They have concluded that the Polish law and state are becoming organic parts of the European legal and institutional landscape.

Imran Ullah Khan and Shahzad Hussain analyse the attempts to modernise the Pakistani public administration. On the basis of 27 semi-structured interviews with public officials they have concluded that the performance and overall efficiency of bureaucracy depends on several issues including corruption, inadequate selection, educational level and specialisation, political interference, poor accountability and transparency, and some others. Finally, they suggest the elements necessary for the reform of the government machinery in Pakistan.

The second section deals with theoretical issues of participation and de-concentrated state administration.

Petra Đurman reflects on the concept and substance and analyses research in the field of administrative participation. She differentiates between regulative, implementing and oversight participation, identifying the principles and instruments of participation. Also, she systematises and evaluates the theoretical and methodological contributions of research, focusing on the twofold nature of the phenomenon: its intrinsic and instrumental value, benefits and problems, process and outcome dimension, potential and practical effects.

Iva Lopizić deals with deconcentrated state administration and the development of its roles in contemporary governance systems, which is a practically relevant but theoretically not so prominent a theme in administrative theory. Using legal and institutional analysis, she identifies the integrative, implementing, and coordinative and planning roles of deconcentrated state administration. The paper provides the first recent systematic and theoretically based overview of tasks performed by deconcentrated state administration.

Finally, the public management section presents two analyses dealing with urban property management and influence of political stability on labour productivity.

Marko Ignjatović identifies the success factors of urban property management in Croatia. Using panel regression, the paper empirically explores the indicators of return on real estate in Croatian cities in the period between 2005 and 2017, with particular emphasis on the quality of city administration as an important indicator of the utilisation of urban property. The author finds that the cities with better urban governance institutions are more successful in utilisation of urban property.

Filip Bašić explores the influence of political stability on labour productivity measured by GDP per person employed in 11 post-socialist countries of the European Union between 2000 and 2017. An analysis is made by random-effects model on three different measures for estimating political stability: political stability and absence of violence/terrorism, risk of coup, and state legitimacy. The results indicate that political stability has a significant impact on labour productivity in post-socialist Europe.

I hope you will find these papers relevant. Have a good read despite the world-wide coronavirus crisis.

Professor Dr. Ivan Koprić  
Editor-in-Chief