

Foreword

UDK 35.07(497.5)(042.3)

The publication of each issue of this scientific journal brings special satisfaction and joy to all who have participated in the process. On one hand, publication marks the end of the sometimes arduous journey of preparing papers, which in addition to their being written by the authors includes careful reading and commenting by reviewers, rewriting of the submitted versions by the authors, proofreading and editorial interventions, as well as the technical preparation of the text for publication. On the other hand, publication also signifies the beginning of a new life of the published papers that become available to a wide range of readers who read and quote them, and hopefully find inspiration for their own work and reflection. Knowledge about public administration is thus expanded and disseminated in the academic and professional community of public administration. We have before us another issue of the journal which I hope will serve just that purpose.

In this issue we bring you six scientific papers written by authors from Slovenia, Turkey, Croatia and Ukraine. The papers are grouped into three thematic units, namely administrative law, more precisely administrative procedure and concessions, Europeanisation and EU integration, and communal and welfare services. At the end of this issue, the journal also offers a review of the book *Local Public Finance: An International Comparative Regulatory Perspective* (eds. Geissler, Hammerschmid and Raffer), written by MA student Filip Badovinac from the Faculty of Economics and Business in Zagreb.

In the paper *Traditional and European Oriented Principles in the Codification of Administrative Procedures in Central Eastern Europe*, Polonca Kovač from the Faculty of Public Administration in Ljubljana addresses the very important issue of codification of administrative procedure, and the fundamental principles on which it is based. The paper is based on a comparative method and compares the regulation of administrative procedure in

four countries, Slovenia, Croatia, Czech Republic and Hungary, placing them in relation to the principles of EU law in this area, especially the right to good administration regulated by Art. 41 of the EU Charter. The author finds that more recent APAs in Central Eastern Europe present an evident trend towards governing the administrative procedure and its basic principles more comprehensively and proportionally.

Katja Štemberger from the Faculty of Law in Ljubljana, in her paper *Legal Dilemmas in the Field of Granting Concessions in Slovenian Law and Some Solutions in Comparative Law*, deals with the issue of concessions in Slovenian law, especially from the aspect of harmonisation of the general law on concessions with special regulation of concessions in Slovenia. The paper also contains a comparative dimension, as it analyses the regulation of concessions in Croatian, Italian and Czech administrative law, and compares it with the situation in Slovenia. The basic thesis of the paper is that the award of concessions in Slovenia is carried out in a highly unsystematic and opaque manner. The author concludes that the Slovenian legislator should either adjust the special regulations to the general concession law, or adopt a single procedural law that would apply to all concessions, with specific (stricter) rules applicable to concessions above the relevant value threshold.

Two papers deal with topics related to the Europeanisation of national administrative systems and EU integration. The first paper written by Fulya Akyıldız from the Faculty of Economics and Administrative Sciences (Uşak University, Turkey), titled *Openness and Accountability in Turkey in the Context of Accession to the European Union*, presents an analysis of Turkey's progress in the EU accession process – especially in the area of openness and accountability of public administration – from 2005 when the negotiating process began to date. The paper shows that progress in reforms in these areas is largely conditioned by Turkey's attitude towards the EU, and reflects and even slows down as Turkey's general relations with the EU deteriorate.

The second paper in this section was written by Goranka Lalić Novak and Teo Giljević from the Faculty of Law in Zagreb and is titled *Migration and Asylum Governance in CEE Countries: Between Historical Legacies and the Europeanisation Process*. The paper is also of a comparative nature as it analyses asylum and migration policy governance in four CEE countries, specifically Poland, Hungary, Croatia and Slovenia. The paper analyses the relationship between national policies and the European framework in this area, and seeks to identify changes that are taking place in this re-

lationship. The authors conclude that the development of migration and asylum governance in CEE countries has followed two directions: gradual and well-guided change with appropriate resources, under the influence of Europeanisation following path dependency; unexpected change, caused by critical junctures, and resulting in a rapid alternation of policy decisions.

The first paper in the third section was written by Marta Dmytryshyn and Mariia Danyliuk from the West Ukrainian National University (Ukraine). The paper is titled *Involving the Public in the Assessment of Community Real Estate Property* and deals with the management of abandoned public property, primarily real estate, in small local units that have weak financial resources. The authors advocate for the involvement of the public in the decision-making process through the method of surveying the interested population. The authors conclude that public participation in solving community affairs is crucial when it comes to increasing the interest of residents in the life of the territory in particular, and the effective development of civil society in general.

The last paper in this issue was written by Zdenko Babić and Zoran Šučur from the Social Work Study Centre at the Faculty of Law in Zagreb. The paper is titled *The Matthew Effect in Local Welfare Policy in Croatia* and its basic purpose is to determine the degree of social inequalities between counties and local units using the quantitative research method. The paper shows a high degree of spatial disparities in Croatia when it comes to local welfare services. The main conclusion of the paper is that uneven economic development and partial decentralisation in Croatia have created a situation in which one of the fundamental principles of social welfare, the principle of equality, has been seriously compromised.

Let me conclude with some personal reflections. The beginning of 2022 brought about some changes in our journal. I took over the role of the new editor-in-chief from Professor Ivan Koprić, who is now dean of the Faculty of Law in Zagreb. With his knowledge and work energy, Professor Koprić made an immeasurable contribution to the development of the journal and left an indelible mark that determined its long-term direction. We are immensely grateful to him for this and believe that in the future the journal will continue to develop and grow, and continue to be a gathering place for scientists and practitioners of public administration who will make their work available to a wider readership through the journal. Finally, I would like to thank all the authors, reviewers, technical and editorial team who have so far participated in creating the quality content

we publish. I hope that we will continue with the same energy and enthusiasm and that we will all rise together to new perspectives from where the view on complex issues of public administration will be at least a little clearer.

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Editor-in-Chief