

# Foreword

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Before you is the new issue of the Croatian and Comparative Public Administration journal. In this issue we are publishing seven texts that have passed through a demanding review process and which we believe will be interesting, intellectually challenging, and will open up new horizons to our readers. We have grouped the papers in this issue into two sections. The first one is international, in which there are papers analysing specific issues in various administrative and political systems. The second section contains papers written by authors from Croatia and these papers represent the first part of a special topic devoted to a research project dedicated to the research of public policy goals in Croatia.

Papers dealing with special challenges facing contemporary public administration are grouped in the first section. It is entitled *Social, Historical and Health Challenges and Public Administration*. This section contains three papers analysing age-friendly cities in Turkey, the historical development of public administration in Ethiopia, and the response of the Kosovo government to the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The aging of the population is a challenge that will be faced by an increasing number of local self-government units. This will certainly have an impact on local public management and the provision of local public services aimed at the elderly population. Paper *Practices of Age-Friendly Cities in Turkey*, authored by associate professor Adnan Söylemez from Selçuk University in Istanbul (Turkey) and Professor Hakkı M. Ay from the same University, addresses precisely this topic. Starting from concepts such as “active aging”, “age-friendly city” and “silver economy”, authors develop the elements of an age-friendly city. The paper presents and describes over a dozen examples of different activities based on the concept of cities that are friendly to their elderly population. It continues with the presentation of the experiences of Turkish local self-government units in terms of measures aimed at the elderly population. The paper shows how chang-

es in the political domain of local self-government units negatively affect the continuity of policies aimed at the elderly population.

The paper titled *Public Administration Developments in Ethiopia Under Three Different Regimes*, written by associate professor László Vértesy and PhD student Teketel Bekalo Lemango from the National University of Public Service in Budapest (Hungary) is devoted to the development of the administrative-political system in Ethiopia. Through an overview of three regimes from the beginning of the 20th century until today, the authors analyse the institutional development of Ethiopia and identify some of its essential shortcomings. Among the main ones, a lack of good governance, human rights violations, weak institutional capacities, a low level of citizen participation, and an (in)appropriate public administration system stand out. They advocate the need for institutional reforms, improvement of coordination and cooperation between different levels and the use of modern technologies to eliminate the problems in question.

The last paper in this section is dedicated to the negative impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the labour market in Kosovo and the government's response to that impact. Ylber Aliu, assistant professor at the Faculty of Public Administration of AAB College University (Kosovo) has authored the paper *State Administration and Managing the Effects of the Pandemic on the Labour Market in Kosovo*. As a response to the negative impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the labour market in Kosovo, the government adopted two packages of intervention measures to mitigate the effects of the crisis. However, a small number of citizens were impacted by the measures and this certainly represents the biggest challenge in the fight against the impact of the pandemic.

Compared to the previous issues, this one is special because it contains several papers that are the result of a scientific research project *Public Policy Goals* carried out by our colleagues at the Faculty of Political Science and the Institute for Social Research in Zagreb. This section contains four papers, three of which are dedicated to specific topics, and one an editorial in which Ana Petek, associate professor at the Faculty of Political Science in Zagreb and leader of the project, presents the objectives and implementation of the project, the scientific methodology used, and the basic results of the project.

Krešimir Petković, associate professor at the Faculty of Political Sciences in Zagreb, in the paper *Problems of Coherence and Correspondence of the Goals of Croatian Public Policies: Utopia or Dystopia?* addresses the topic of the goals of public policies from the aspect of political philosophy.

He questions whether the nature of the goals of Croatian public policies is utopian and what the consequences of this might be. The author concludes that the suggested lack of mutual coherence and correspondence with social trends makes the goals too ambitious and potentially dystopian, especially in the perspective of negatively understood political freedom.

The second paper in this section, *How Analysis Should Save Croatia: Evidence-Based Policy Making as the Goal of Croatian Public Policies*, was authored by Marko Kovačić, assistant professor at the Institute for Social Research in Zagreb. He conducts an empirical analysis of the creation of evidence-based policies on the example of 11 public policies in Croatia. He finds that evidence-based policy making is more of a declarative than a substantively elaborated principle of creating public policies in Croatia.

The last paper in this issue was written by assistant professor Marjeta Šinko and associate professor Ana Petek, both from the Faculty of Political Sciences in Zagreb. In the paper entitled *Gender Awareness of Policies in Croatia: Pervasive or Marginal Goal of National Strategies*, the authors ask whether there is gender mainstreaming in strategic documents in Croatia. The aim of the paper is to offer a detailed description of the elements of gender mainstreaming in public policies, in order to determine which type is present in Croatia. The research findings are not very optimistic, given that gender mainstreaming policies are quite low on the list of political priorities in Croatia.

I hope readers will enjoy the published papers and will gain new insights and knowledge. I also hope that the remaining three papers written as part of the project on public policy goals, which have also been submitted for publication and referred to the review process, will be published in the next issue/s once the review and editorial process have been completed.

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Editor-in-Chief