



SAPIENZA
UNIVERSITÀ DI ROMA

EGPA2026 CONFERENCE

24-27 August Rome, Italy

CALL FOR PANELS



Public Governance for the
Common Good: Human Intelligence
Serving the Global Community

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EGPA Permanent Study Group 2 on Public Sector Performance

Public Sector Performance and its Future Challenges

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The ability of the public sector to formulate goals for improving policy impact and public services, and deliver on these ambitions remains a crucial issue in the study of public administration. However, much has changed in how these goals are formulated (involving more actors and continuously evolving priorities), how public ambitions and policies are achieved (requiring the collaboration between public, private, and community actors), and how public performance and policy outcomes are measured and scrutinized (involving multiple actors holding the government to account).

This permanent study group seeks to understand the challenges of public sector performance by exploring both traditional and innovative approaches to address the key drivers and effects of policy and performance management cycles on individual behaviours, organizational performance, and societal outcomes. We welcome contributions addressing a range of relevant issues in various policy domains, including (but not limited to): (i) formulation of policy objectives, goal setting and the design of performance management systems; (ii) the adoption and implementation of policies/services to achieve these goals; (iii) the measurement and evaluation of their effectiveness; (iii) the use of performance information, data and evidence to enhance public value creation.

We capitalize on the lessons of decades of research into performance management and the use of performance information, accountability, and public management, but we also need fresh insights into the mechanisms and effects of ‘new’ approaches such as



collaborative performance management or evidence-based policy making to assess and improve public sector performance.

In recent years, there has been a significant effort to improve government performance by developing capacity in evidence-based policy making and policy analysis with the better use of data worldwide. However, the impact of these efforts is still unclear and we see issues both on the demand side (how much governments genuinely want evidence information to support their policy making) and on the supply side (e.g. the type of evidence and data needed and the experts who will provide this evidence).

We invite contributions offering theoretical or empirical explorations of these themes, expressly welcoming a diversity of methodologies, policy contexts, and geographic settings. We welcome papers on the long-standing themes covered by SGII: the politics of performance, the use of performance information, the behavioural effects of performance management and the link between performance and accountability and especially invite papers with a link to the overall theme of the 2025 EGPA conference.

Contributions may also intersect with the themes of other permanent study groups, such as the performance of networks, the role of professions and certified experts, the governance structure of performance management systems, the performance of government digitalization or behavioural insights into performance information use. We actively seek collaborations with other study groups.

Please contact the co-chairs if you are unsure if your paper would fit the scope of the panel, we are happy to discuss the various options.



Practicalities

If you wish to present a paper in one of the Permanent Study Group's, Ad Hoc Group's, or Specialized Panel's sessions at the conference, please upload an abstract outlining your proposed conference paper. This may be done through the conference website.

Important dates

- Deadline for submission of abstracts: April 6, 2026
- Deadline for submission of EGPA Booster Grant applications: April 15, 2026
- Acceptance notification and opening of registrations: April 20, 2026
- Deadline for submission of EGPA Travel Grant applications: April 26, 2026
- Full paper submission deadline and registration deadline: July 19, 2026

Website

- <https://www.iias-iisa.org/egpa-2026-conference/>

Submission

- <https://www.conftool.org/egpa2026/>
- Unless specified otherwise, 500-words limit for abstracts

Contact

- egpa-conference@iias-iisa.org