



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 8 on Governing Preventive Healthcare and Health Promotion Policy Across Administrative Levels

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Preventive healthcare and health promotion policies exemplify how public administrations can serve the common good by leveraging human intelligence, institutional capacity, and community engagement. Governing these policies requires inclusive, multilevel coordination, intersectoral collaboration, and participatory mechanisms that strengthen resilience, reduce social inequalities, and promote sustainable well-being.

Concretely, the implementation of national guidelines on prevention and health promotion combined with the simultaneous conception and deployment of own local strategies of preventive healthcare and health promotion tailored to local conditions poses comprehensive governance challenges for the responsible public administrations. Firstly, they need sufficient administrative capacity (including the ability to develop and select locally adapted health strategies, organizational and management skills, personnel, finances, technical and material infrastructure, and knowledge). Secondly, they are reliant on intensive coordination and cooperation with public institutions, policy actors, and stakeholders in different sectors or fields of public action (e.g., health, education, welfare, urban planning, environment, housing) and at different levels. Thirdly, they must win over citizens to participate in the implementation and/or co-production of relevant policies, e.g. through empathetic and needs-sensitive case work, through measures tailored to the needs of specific groups, or through campaigns and opportunities for participation.



Human intelligence is a key resource in all three dimensions of the governance challenge. Administrative decision-makers – in cooperation with administrative actors at all hierarchical levels – are called upon to develop intelligent strategic solutions based on existing capacities, enabling policy implementation that is sensitive to local conditions and can respond agilely to changes in those conditions. Conflict sensitivity and the ability to trust, which stem from human intelligence, are important for coordinative governance. And human intelligence, e.g., in the context of municipal decision-making or as a street-level bureaucrat, also makes it possible to respond sensitively to the needs of populations, groups, and individuals.

In its session, the temporary Permanent Study Group “Governing Preventive Healthcare and Health Promotion Policy Across Administrative Levels” will examine the prerequisites and conditions for successful regional and municipal governance of preventive healthcare and health promotion. We focus on the conditions for success in the three dimensions of the health prevention and promotion governance challenge. Of interest is the governance of policies to maintain and promote both physical health (nutrition, physical activity, smoking prevention) and mental health (well-being, resilience).

The range of topics that could address includes, but is not limited to, the following:

- Studies on institutional capacities to enable the effective implementation of preventive healthcare and health promotion policies under fiscal and organizational constraints,
- Analyses on the impact of multilevel governance arrangements on inequality reduction and community engagement,
- Studies on health workforce competencies and training for health promotion, on professional roles and boundary-spanning practices,
- Analyses of co-production and citizen engagement in health policy implementation,
- Analyses of policies for promoting physical and mental health across different levels of governance,
- Research on adaptive and resilient governance during crises, and
- works on innovative approaches to sustainable health outcomes

The temporary Permanent Study Group (PSG) “Governing Preventive Healthcare and Health Promotion Policy Across Administrative Levels” provides an intellectual platform for the joint reflection of scholars and practitioners on public administrations’ role in the governance of health promotion and preventive healthcare policies. It aims to attract a



diverse and interdisciplinary research community (including amongst others: public administration, public policy and public health governance scholars; experts in multilevel governance, budgeting, and public management; early-career researchers; practitioners and policymakers engaged in health promotion and preventive healthcare policy) and strives to create a network of close collaboration among its participants and all interested parties. For this purpose, it organizes *inter alia* paper sessions at the EGPA annual conferences, develops thematic calls for papers aligned with its research agenda, fosters collaborative publications, including special journal issues or edited volumes, and encourages further activities such as joint research proposals at national and European levels.

Submitting your proposal

Please draft your proposal as an abstract of approximately 300-400 words to include:

- Your name and organization (university, government organization, etc.);
- The theme (s) of your proposed paper;
- The key questions, hypotheses, propositions, etc. you are considering;
- The nature of your research (e.g. case study, interview data, comparative study, experiment);
- Your data/evidence and key findings (or what you expect your key findings will be);
- A discussion of the theoretical implications of your research and/or the practical applications of your conclusions (e.g. management/policy recommendations/suggestions).

We look forward to receiving your abstracts!



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

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