



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 14 on Administration, Diversity and Equal Treatment

The Bright Side of Diversity: Promoting Inclusion and Equal Treatment in Public Administration through Human Intelligence

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In recent times, public policies, both at national and supra-national (especially E.U.) level, have started a new path. Differently than in the past, the idea, according to which equality is not based only on protection against discrimination but also on promotion of diversity as a source of richness for society, is widely shared.

The Permanent Study Group on Administration, Diversity and Equal Treatment focuses on the rules, implementation tools and best practices, to ensure equal treatment and enhancement of diversity in administrative action. The main purpose is to develop and strengthen a fruitful dialogue between researchers and practitioners from different regions, in different fields (e.g.: law, management, sociology, anthropology, administrative sciences, political science, philosophy, education, etc.), as well as in their relationships with institutions and civil society. Bottom-up initiatives by civil society



organisations, adopting a collaborative approach toward local and national administrations and inducing co-productive practices, will also be analysed.

2026 Theme

The possible causes of discrimination are numerous: sex and gender, race, age, religion, state of health, economic and social condition, and so on. Especially socio-economic differences often produce or aggravate other kinds of inequalities and are the origin of the multiple-discrimination phenomenon. A “negative” approach to differences should be replaced by a “positive” one based on sensitivity to diversity as a relevant driver of human interaction. The aim at inclusion primarily involves the implementation of an integrated and inter-sectional perspective. Moreover, equal treatment corresponds to fundamental rights of individuals and to a duty of public authorities and formally private subjects pursuing a public interest. To erase discrimination and foster diversity, many various instruments (both normative and best practices) may be suitable.

In such polyhedric context, technification and the use of artificial intelligence are seen as drivers of efficiency, and partially they really are. However, numerous sides of administrative action rely on strictly human activities, which cannot be either erased or delegated. For instance – but not solely – this is related to the fair management of procedures, to the relationship with stakeholders and citizens, in the perspective of the best pursue of the protection of individual fundamental rights and the fulfilment of the general interest. Therefore, in some fields the careful use of modern instruments and technologies can be very useful in order to achieve the desired results in terms of good administration; sometimes, on the contrary, the same tools can even represent – if not properly managed – obstacles to the full achievement of objectives of equal treatment and respect for diversity. Consequently, the importance of maintaining the centrality of human intelligence in administrative action is going to be the main (even though not exclusive) focus of 2026 theme.

We invite proposals (both papers and “discussion pieces” in the form of 1-3 pages proposals outlining topics open for further discussion) addressing issues such as (although not limited to):

- Innovative Models and Tools for Citizen Participation in Administrative Decision-Making;
- Innovative Tools, also based on Advanced Technologies (like but not only Artificial Intelligence), Enhancing Diversity and Strengthening Democracy

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- Rules and Tools to avoid illegal discrimination or mitigate gender and cultural bias, potentially caused by the use of artificial intelligence or technologies in administrative decision-making;
- Public Policies for Promoting and Managing Diversity;
- Strategic Approaches to Diversity and Inclusion Management in Public and Private Sectors;
- Fostering Collaboration through Public-Private Partnerships: Challenges and Opportunities;
- Multicultural and Multidisciplinary Teamwork: Strategies for Culturally Intelligent Human Resource Management
- Bridging Theory and Practice: Strengthening the Dialogue Between Researchers and Practitioners
- Cross-Cultural Training Models: Designing Programs with Measurable Social Impact



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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