



SAPIENZA
UNIVERSITÀ DI ROMA

EGPA2026 CONFERENCE

24-27 August Rome, Italy

CALL FOR PANELS



Public Governance for the
Common Good: Human Intelligence
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EGPA Ad Hoc Group 3 on Accountability and Popular/Social Reporting in the Public Sector: A comparative perspective

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In recent years, public sector accountability has evolved beyond compliance-based and financially oriented models, incorporating Popular Reporting, Social Reporting, and Sustainability Reporting to enhance transparency, accessibility, and democratic legitimacy (Bovens, 2007; Yusuf et al., 2013; Biancone et al., 2025). There is currently a gap in the comparison of models and approaches adopted.

Popular Financial Reporting (PFR) or Bilancio POP is a simplified, citizen-oriented reporting tool designed to communicate consolidated financial and non-financial information in a clear and accessible format (Biancone et al., 2025a; Grossi et al., 2021). It emphasizes comprehensibility, inclusion, integrated vision, and the use of emerging technologies to identify citizens' informational needs integrated by focus on long-term public value created (Biancone et al., 2024). By contrast, Social Reporting focuses on social impact, mission achievement, and stakeholder engagement (Dumay, Guthrie & Farneti, 2010), while Sustainability Reporting adopts an integrated perspective, often structured around the Six Capitals framework, to capture long-term public value creation (Cheng et al., 2014; Secinaro et al., 2022).



Furthermore, these models support participatory budgeting and participatory reporting in the planning, programming and control process. E-participation tools are recognized as mechanisms supporting democratic decision-making and representative democracy based on last evidence of social reporting. Citizen participation is a core element of modern public accountability (Bovens, 2007) and digital platforms can enhance transparency and engagement, although their effectiveness depends on socio-demographic factors and accessible financial and non-financial information (Macintosh, 2004; Meijer & Bolívar, 2016).

Adopting a comparative European perspective and models (Italy, Spain, Poland, Switzerland), the panel contributes to debates on:

- Citizen-centred accountability and public value communication;
- The role of accounting in strengthening trust and legitimacy;
- Stakeholder engagement and participatory governance;
- Tensions between standardisation and local adaptation;
- Institutional and regulatory drivers of reporting innovation.

In this respect, the panel also contributes to building continuity towards the EAA Annual Congress 2027, hosted by the University of Torino, fostering long-term academic collaboration across governance and accounting studies, and EAA Annual Congress 2028, hosted by University of Krakow, Poland, May 2028.

By systematically comparing countries with different governance traditions, the panel seeks to advance theory, inform practice and outline a shared European research agenda on accountability and popular/social reporting in the public sector.

Papers accepted for presentation in the panel will be eligible for a fast-track review process in:

- [European Journal of Social Impact and Circular Economy](#)
- [European journal of volunteering and community-based projects](#)

Authors will be invited to submit extended versions of their contributions, which—after further development and in line with each journal’s editorial standards—will undergo an expedited review procedure.



References

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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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