EGPA European Group for Public Administration

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

EGPA Specialized Panel 5
Local Government Studies: Germany and the Nordics

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The next upcoming European Group of Public Administration (EGPA) conference meets under the theme "Public Governance for the Common Good: Human Intelligence Serving the Global Community". From this general theme, we have derived the following call for local government contributions. We are pleased to invite early-career and senior scholars studying local or regional governments in Germany and the Nordic countries to a Specialized Workshop at the EGPA conference at Sapienza University of Rome, Italy, 24-27 August.

Europe is undergoing profound transformations driven by a shifting global power balance. These changes affect multi-level relations between states and local governments, as well as security and resilience concerns. In this context, a key question arises: *Under these re-embedded conditions, can local governments further strengthen their contribution to the Common good – both for their citizens and for the global community?* Local governments stand at the forefront of these transitions, navigating the shift from old resilience paradigms to new.

This Specialized Workshop welcomes paper proposals from both early-career and senior scholars; PhD students as professors. Submissions may address the challenges and contributions of local governments in responding to contemporary topics such as democratic backsliding, local security agendas, climate transition, social inequality and social stress, urban planning and management, and local digitalization. Papers focusing on themes of safety, (dis)trust, (dis)cohesion, and public service provision and

management are also encouraged, as other critical challenges faced by German and Nordic local governments.

Local Governments in Times of Transition

We are pleased to invite you to a lunch-to-lunch workshop on these topics in Rome, which can be combined with other study group sessions of EGPA. The event brings together local government scholars from the Nordic countries and Germany, and beyond, to strengthen the research collaboration in the field of local government studies.

With this call we welcome paper proposals that engage with the workshop's theme and one or more of its subthemes. We specifically welcome papers that offer empirical, research-based analyses and contribute to a renewed theoretical understanding of these challenges, as well as papers that adopt a comparative approach; be it 'overtime', 'cross-countries', 'multilevel' or 'cross-service'. We are particularly keen to include papers that include Germany and/or Nordic local governments together with possible other local government comparisons.

The workshop will feature paper presentations (full papers or extended abstracts) and close with a roundtable discussion, including both early-career and senior scholars, on the evolving role of European local governments of the North.

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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