

EGPA 2023 CONFERENCE

Zagreb, Croatia 5-8 September

**Steering the European Union through poly-crises storms:
The role of Public Administration**

CALL FOR PAPERS

PSG XI: Strategic Management in Government

“Steering the European Union through policy-crises storms: The role of strategic planning and management in public administration.”

Strategic planning and management have always been about values, policies, and change: how an entity such as a municipality, region, university, hospital, agency, central government, or alliance, can adapt today to be better aligned to an uncertain and volatile – sometimes hostile – environment, in the future; and how eventually this entity should try to influence parts of the environment to continue or even improve creating public value. The latest decades have witnessed major changes in society globally as well as regionally, impacting European public policy and administration substantially. The reemergence of the threat of totalitarianism in Russia as well as on the American continent; hybrid warfare with dis-information and destabilization, invasion and war on the European continent with global repercussions; increased tension for super-power hegemony between USA and China; pandemic; and the resulting disruptions in policies, supply chains and markets; add to long-term major issues such of innovation, economic growth, stability and sustainability; poverty and integration; fundamentalism, racism, and terror; economic and social development; and peaceful and beneficial international relations for individual European countries as well as between the EU and other countries and alliances. What many have regarded as “the short century 1914–1991 of extremes” may in fact be the ongoing long century of extremes.

The European project has since the 1950s largely been successful in developing viable systems for open, democratic, and human-friendly societies to avoid instability, conflicts, and wars. Public administration, including strategic planning and management, has been a large part of this project. Major challenges today are finding a balance between a continuation of this project and developing and strengthening new capabilities of the EU and individual European countries to continue to play constructive roles for further development of free, democratic, and peaceful societies, in Europe as well as beyond the European continent. Strategic planning and management have many relevant theories and tools for addressing upcoming crises as well as implementing ongoing policies amidst environmental turbulence in this context.

The actual era demands public administration to be wise in agenda setting in order to influence policies priorities, since the political discourse is too much influenced from short term emergencies or crisis. Selecting a long last policy priority for increasing social mobility, for social justice, for the reduction of NEET, for global warming reduction (probably opposite to the energy cost incentives recently run cross EU) should be a result of a strategic planning approach, contrasting last media highlights agenda settings. There is a relevant emerging role for public managers and public management tools and processes to influence political agenda setting.

In this perspective the overwhelming digitalization process is a great opportunity, since its provides both big data which can be read in the first run only by technicians, and provides a nearly infinite portfolio of innovation opportunities, which need to be prioritized, because its over the available budgets. Defining which selection of big data we will analyze and make visible first, both to policymaker and to the public discourse, and defining in which settings, for which purpose, we full redesign digital services provides the opportunity for a new policy agenda setting.

For this year's conference we in particular welcome papers that address issues such as:

- How can strategic planning support policy agenda setting in order to drive to stable reaction to wicked but fundamental social problems, such as increasing inequalities, loneliness, immigration, global warming, the reduction of institutional capital, etc.?
- How are changes in national and EU policies affecting strategic planning and management in public administration?
- How does strategic planning and management in public administration adapt to challenges to and changes in national and EU policies?
- How does increased environmental turbulence and hostility impact the relevance of strategic planning theory and management tools?
- How can we combine long lasting strategic perspective with actual permanent crisis period which provides only to short term answers?
- How are the disruptive digitalization processes run in PA's? Which priorities are set? How do they influence the policy agenda?
- What kind of analyses and data do we need to conduct relevant research for strategy in government in this context?

Practicalities

Important dates:

- ✓ Deadline for submission of abstracts: May 17, 2023
- ✓ Deadline for notification to the authors: May 31, 2023
- ✓ Deadline for online submission of full papers: August 17, 2023
- ✓ EGPA PhD Symposium 5-6 September 2023
- ✓ EGPA 2023 Conference: 6-8 September 2023

EGPA 2023 Conference Website: <https://www.egpa-conference2023.org/>

EGPA 2023 Conference Management System: <https://www.conftool.org/egpa-conference2023>

For any questions regarding EGPA 2023, please contact us at: f.maron@iias-iisa.org

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