

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 XIX: Collaborative Networks and Social
Innovation

The new **PSG XIX on Collaborative networks and Social Innovation** invites scholars, researchers, professionals, and policymakers to submit their contributions to the next EGPA Annual Conference in Zagreb, Croatia, on September 5-8, 2023, and welcome ideas, experiences, and knowledge related to the evolving field of collaborative networks and their potential for driving social innovation practices.

Since the early Nineties, **public networks** have been implemented in many countries to solve “wicked” public problems, addressing such issues as health, social care, local development, and education (Provan & Milward, 1995; Ferlie & Pettigrew, 1996; O’Toole, 1997; Agranoff & McGuire, 1998; Provan & Sebastian, 1998; Provan & Milward, 2001; Milward & Provan, 2003). Then, with the diffusion of the Public Governance paradigm (Bekke et al., 1995; Minogue et al., 1998; Bovaird & Löffler, 2003), providing public services through organizational networks has become more the rule than the exception on both sides of the Atlantic (Milward, 1996; O’Toole, 1997; Agranoff & McGuire, 2001; 2003; Milward & Provan, 2003; Ferlie & Andresani, 2006).

Within this context of connected and networked organizations, the current economic and social crises have further enhanced the importance of ‘**Collaborative Governance**’ as a new way of involving public/private actors and citizens to manage administrative processes and co-design and co-deliver public services in a cooperative manner (Agranoff, 2006; Klijn, 2008; Isett et al., 2011). Despite a general consensus on the importance of such collaborative settings, a range of questions about how to successfully lead, manage and govern public networks remain unclear (Cristofoli, Meneguzzo, and Riccucci 2017). Even more, in a digital government era, there is a growing need for collaborative governance across organizational boundaries (Dawes, Cresswell, and Pardo 2009). Emerging concepts such as Government as a Platform envisage the transformation of the relationships among different actors into open, flat, and often unstructured arrangements (Cordella & Paletti, 2019).

Social innovation provides a path for transformative changes and brings the necessary resources to deal with poly-crises storms (Montgomery & Mazzei, 2021). Indeed, social innovation is considered a novel way of working between the public sector, citizens, third-sector organizations, and businesses that promote collaboration toward creating public value (Caulier-Grice et al., 2012). This way, governments worldwide effectively engage in multi-stakeholder collaboration to address these issues (Brandsen et al., 2016). Indeed, governments increasingly use social innovation as an instrument to produce public value in collaboration with other actors and overcome the increasing public sector downsizing (Sinclair & Baglioni, 2014). However, the social innovation concept was born as a response to the public actor deficiencies and as a grassroots response from lay actors to neoliberal policies implemented by Western governments (Fougère et al., 2017). This has generated a paradox between path discontinuity and path continuity from the action of the public actor, which is a contemporary facilitating and hindering presence to the thriving of social innovation initiatives. (Avelino et al. 2019)”

For the above reasons, we decided to re-design the PSG on Public Network Policy and Management as Collaborative networks focusing on social innovation.

Based on these theoretical insights, the **PSG XIX on Collaborative networks and Social innovation** invites to submit contributions and research projects focused on (but not limited to):

- The role of the public sector in social innovation, its evolution, and future perspectives;
- The relationships between public actors and other societal stakeholders in social innovation initiatives;
- The relationship between social innovation and public networks
- The impact of digitalization on social innovation initiatives and relationships between stakeholders;
- Digital ecosystems as network structures;
- Government as a platform: conceptualization and experiences
- Social innovation in collaborative networks and their role in promoting sustainable development Goals
- Comparisons on the specificities of collaborative networks in different geographical and policy contexts;
- Drivers and barriers to success in cross-sectoral relations and collaborations;
- Performance of intra-institutional, inter-institutional, multilevel, and mega networks (networks of networks);
- The relevance of network leadership, governance, and/or management for successful public value co-creation;
- The relations between network contextual, structural, functioning features, and network leadership;
- New roles and competencies of network managers and leaders;
- Emerging trends and future challenges.

As in past editions, the PSG XIX will operate in close partnership and collaboration with other relevant forums for the public network management discussion and research, such as the European Academy of Management (EURAM) - *Strategic Interest Group on Public and Non-Profit Management*, the *IIAS Study Group on Social innovation, Commons and Administration*, and the *International Journal of Public Leadership*.

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 or info@egpa-conference2023.org

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