

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 VIII: Citizen Participation

Making Change Happen through Citizen Participation? Impacts of Citizen Participation on Society, Economy, Public Policies and Public Services

Citizen participation has a value in and of itself – it helps to legitimate the state. However, it also has an instrumental role – citizens usually hope that their engagement will help to bring about significant changes in government policy, public services, the economy and, not least, the outcomes which they experience. And it is often suggested that they become disillusioned when they see little evidence of changes coming about as a result of their participation. Is this inevitable? If not, how can it be changed? These are vital but challenging questions in current debates about public management and policy.

We therefore invite papers for this year's Study Group on Public Participation during the EGPA Annual Conference that focus on how citizen participation can be shaped to achieve real change, with impacts on society, the economy, public policies and public services.

What can be done to ensure that citizen participation is strong in those areas of the public domain which most need change? Can citizens be encouraged and supported to play powerful roles in campaigning for change and bringing about governance transformation? And can popular and well-thought-out proposals for change which emerge from citizen participation be given more prominence in government and public service decision-making?

This raises important questions, such as:

- How can citizen participation gain access to the decision-making arenas where public policy is decided?
- How can advocacy, in particular on behalf of disadvantaged groups, be given more credibility?
- How can citizens mobilise sufficient power and support from key stakeholders to ensure their contributions are taken seriously by decision makers?
- To what degree have modern digital technologies been a game-changer to enable mass participation?
- How can citizens apply pressure to public service systems where there are major barriers to the implementation of changes which they consider important?
- How can citizens gain positions in the public service system which allow them to influence emerging policies and practices at ground level, in neighbourhoods, local councils, schools, hospitals, cities and regions?
- How can innovations such as new forms of service user and community co-production be spread and scaled?
- What other innovations could help to ensure that citizen participation has more influence over the changes occurring in public service systems?

These questions are relevant to established Western democracies but also to other parts of the world, for example in younger democracies or authoritarian regimes, where citizen movements may be working toward regime change. These questions therefore also encourage international comparisons and are also intrinsically interdisciplinary; hence, bringing together scholars from political science, public administration, economics, geography, business administration, public law, history, sociology and philosophy will be crucial for productive exchanges and original new insights.

In particular, we are keen to have papers which are co-produced by scholars and practitioners who may be public officers working in public services, elected politicians or politically engaged citizens. We believe that these challenges not only require new conceptual or theoretical models but also the tacit knowledge of people involved in public policymaking.

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@ias-iisa.org

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