



EUROPEAN
GROUP OF
PUBLIC
ADMINISTRATION
(EGPA)

INSTITUT DE MANAGEMENT
PUBLIC ET GOUVERNANCE
TERRITORIALE
UNIVERSITE PAUL CEZANNE

FRANCE

ENA

TUNISIE

First Euro Mediterranean Public Management Dialogue

Call for papers

Overview and practical information

Conference website: www.med2008.org

Scheduling

- Deadline for presenting an Abstract: 24 July 2008; sent to robert.fouchet@univ-cezanne.fr
- Notification of acceptance within 7 days after reception,
- Full papers must be delivered by 15 September 2008 to gaelle.flouw@univ-cezanne.fr

Abstracts

Please submit a short abstract outlining (max 2p.)

- the title of the paper
- the argument and contents of the paper
- the research method of your contribution, and the empirical material to be used (if applicable)
- name, affiliation, and contact information of the author(s)

Full Papers

- size A4
- margins 2,5cm.
- full text do not exceed 25 pages (including bibliography and annexes)
- Times New Roman (12 points), line spacing 1,5 - justified

On the first page :

- title (Times 18)
- authors names and Institutions (Times 14)
- e-mail, phone, fax (Times 12)
- short abstract (500 words max. (Times 12)
- 5 keywords (Times 12)

Doctoral Pre-Conference

Submission of abstracts and evaluation process :

Selection of participants will be based on a two-page extended abstract, including: title, author information, research question, theoretical background, methodology, expected results and intended contribution. Abstracts will be judged against the following criteria:

- originality and theoretical foundations;
- rigour and appropriateness of methodology;
- potential contribution to advancing the field of Public Administration and Public Management.

Conference working Groups

Working Group 1: Human Resources (capacities-competencies-training)

Presidents: Themistocles Panagiotopoulos (EKDDA-Greece), & Rabha Zeidguy (Director General for Administrative Modernisation - Morocco)

Working Group 2: Public Private Partnership (contractualisation)

Presidents: Marco Meneguzzo (Università di Roma, 2Tor Vergata – Italy) & Jennifer Bremer (American University of Cairo, Egypt), Mohaned Benaissa (Université Tunis-Carthage, Tunisia)

Working Group 3: Territorial Development

President: Ali Sedjari (Morocco)

Working Group 4: Civil Society

Presidents: Wim van de Donk (Tilburg University, Netherlands), Zuhair Al Kayed (Jordan) & Hocine Cherhabil (ENA, Algeria)

Working Group 5: Public Decision

Presidents: Claude Rochet (IMPGT, France); Juan Montabes (Euro-Arab Foundation, Spain); Herald Bonnici (Malta) & Eran Vigoda-Gadot (CPMP, Israel).

Working Group 6: Evaluation and performance

Presidents: Jean-Michel Eyméri-Douzans (IEP, Toulouse, France), Emanuel Camilleri (Malta), Prof. Mazen Assad, (Palestinian National Authority) & Carlos Conde (OCDE)

Working Group 1: Human Resources (capacities-competencies-training)

In each and every country, human resources are the keystone of the administrative system. The challenge lies in how to manage all aspects of these resources. Supply (quantity and quality) has to be guaranteed. Skills need to be in tune with issues in society. Training needs to be flexible and « avant-gardiste » and continuity should be kept in mind. The problems are many and varied. Market forces often do not guarantee organisations being able to attract the most competent people. Due to the inflexibility of labour laws, the organisation is not always able to evolve according to its needs. Diversity is essential in order to move with the changes in society. Managing the workforce is a crucial matter in many countries since the budgetary load in the public sector has profound consequences for the public sector economy. Finally, controlling performance and guaranteeing the quality of the benefits implies important changes in the traditional public service. Public sector administrators and personnel can learn from the experience of other countries. This exchange can be brought about through an open dialogue concerning problems and possible solutions.

Working Group 2: Public Private Partnership (contractualisation)

More and more, public administration seems to be « a rule for one and another rule for the other » It is still necessary to use the words in their strictest sense, but they are, increasingly, insufficient. The Public Sector, administration and governments require multiple partners in their respective countries in order to deliver public services. These partners could be companies or NGOs. The contractualisation of public services is self-evident. Nevertheless, success is conditional. On the public side, the ability to call for tenders is required as well as being able to establish and manage contracts and to evaluate and, where necessary, rectify them. Public administration can learn from the experiences of other countries, again through open dialogue covering problems and possible solutions.

Working Group 3: Territorial Development

The development of the regions bordering the Mediterranean is dissimilar. These territories, because they belong to different States, have specific characteristics, political, institutional and most notably, social. This being said, the Mediterranean basin has historically been a special place of culture, experiencing economic fluctuations and exchanges of people and ideas throughout the centuries. In this context, can we envisage a Mediterranean development model? This would imply integrating the specific characteristics of each country while distinguishing them from other regional developmental modes, for example, those of Latin America or Asia. Could we set down guidelines for such a system, applicable to all the Mediterranean regions? Failing this, is it possible to identify the specific problems in the contiguous regions in terms of local development? Can we contemplate over-all economic, social, environmental or commercial themes, to state but a few? Are there any spheres of activity in the public sector (education, management of regional resources, the vigour, or otherwise of the local clubs and societies, etc.) which might give us cause for optimism vis-à-vis the development of the Mediterranean region? Who among them mobilises the territorial actors and charges them to be vigilant? From this perspective, is the North/South divide relevant? Or could we consider that the Mediterranean logic supplants, in certain areas, at any rate, the Europe – Africa dichotomy?

Working Group 4: Civil Society

The function of civil society in our contemporary societies is undeniable. Its part in the modernisation of the State and its corroboration in the legitimacy of governmental systems are evident. The key questions of this working group have a bearing on the manner of constructing, reinforcing, empowering and integrating the organisations belonging to civil society and consolidating ties with the Public Sector. The development of policies, participation in decision-making, the responsibilities of certain missions and their contribution to the evaluation of the same, are some of the duties of civil society. Public administration can learn from the experience of other countries through open dialogue concerning problems and possible solutions.

Working Group 5: Public Decision

The role of public opinion, with the affirmation of the move towards « New Public Management » has, for several decades, been moving towards a management decision, in search of the Holy Grail of « efficiency » separating public opinion from the vast questions of political philosophy. However, the State is essential in the reality of development and with the renewing of institutional economy and research into economic history. The aim of this workshop is to stimulate discussion on the following points:

- Public opinion: from the political decision to management decision.
- Are there universal principles which define « good public decision »?
- In what way is public opinion specific in the present context of the transition towards the 3rd industrial revolution? By its position? By its process?
- How can public opinion accept turbulence and uncertainty?
- What is the role of citizen participation?
- What is the place of « civic virtue » (Machiavelli's *vivere politico*)
- What constraints does the development of new media in society have on the process of public decision-making?
- How do we integrate public opinion in the long term?

This workshop seeks to provoke discussions which are theoretical and historical as well as practical, with case studies.

Working Group 6: Evaluation and performance

Audit and evaluation are key concepts in modern administration. Evaluation and the measuring of performance are based on empirical methods and techniques which require pertinent and reliable data. Administrations require specific expertise for this approach: specialised professionals as well as adequate information systems are necessary for management based on analysis and evaluation. The ability to engage contradictory debate on the performance of a public organisation or on public policy is also necessary. The essentially political nature of public management can only be dealt with through a strictly technocratic approach. Public administration can learn from the experience of other countries by means of an ongoing dialogue about problems and possible solutions.