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CALL FOR PAPERS

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Improving Administrative Sciences Worldwide

2017 EGPA Annual Conference 30 August – 1 September, Milano, Italy

Permanent Study Group XVIII: **Justice and Court Administration**

The European Group for Public Administration (EGPA) in close collaboration with Politecnico di Milano is organizing **the 2017 EGPA Annual Conference** to be held **from 30 August to 1st September** in Bovisa (Milan). The event will be preceded by the PhD Symposium on 28 and 29 August.

1. Aim of the Permanent Study Group XVIII on Justice and Court Administration

The study group offers an international and multidisciplinary platform to discuss justice administration policies, projects, and studies related to the functioning of courts, public prosecution agencies, and other organizations in the justice field.

The study group wants to function as a platform, where experiences and practices of organization development, policy development, policy implementation, and research in the justice field can be exchanged and discussed. For researchers it should help them to develop research projects and for persons working in the justice field the study group is an opportunity to be informed on the latest developments in their field and to influence the development of research. The scope of all this is to build bridges between national perspectives and to build a transnational professional community in the EU and beyond, involving both academics and practitioners (judges, prosecutors, court managers). The ultimate aim is to explore common ground for cooperation and exchange in Europe in the justice field amongst policymakers, managers and academics.

Whilst we keep an interest in the institutional developments within court and justice administration, both in national, European and international perspectives, in the future we also want to focus on projects concerning the service provision by justice organizations:

- Access to justice (in relation to ICT and the need for legal aid and legal representation).
- Operations management in and between justice organizations (logistics and organization development in relation to speed of proceedings and reliability of data exchange).
- Consistency of judging (also in relation to knowledge management).
- Transnational Justice Cooperation (in Europe).
- Responsive justice (problem solving justice – subthemes are e.g. victims of crime, court related mediation, neighborhood justice, family issues. etc).
- Procedural Justice and outcome justice.
- Performance measurement and management in courts and in the judiciary.
- Development of professional standards within the legal professions.
- eJustice, eProcess

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More information about the Permanent Study Group XVIII on Justice and Court Administration can be found on the Website of EGPA:

<http://www.iias-iisa.org/egpa/groups/permanent-study-groups/psg-xviii-justice-and-court-administration/>

Some of the results of the activities of the Permanent Study Group XVIII on Justice and Court Administration at the EGPA Annual Conference are published in the International Journal for Court Administration www.iacajournal.org; the publications of the Swiss project on Justice Management are listed at: **www.justizforschung.ch**

The study group is co-chaired by:

- **Prof. dr Philip Langbroek**, University of Utrecht (the Netherlands)
- **Prof. Dr. Andreas Lienhard**, University of Bern (Switzerland)
- **Mag. Daniel Kettiger**, University of Bern (Switzerland)
- **Dr. Marco Fabri**, Research Institute on Judicial Systems, National Research Council (Italy)

For more information you can reach the Permanent Study Group XVIII on Justice and Court Administration by e-mail: egpa@kpm.unibe.ch.

2. The EGPA Annual Conference 2017

The EGPA Annual Conference 2017 takes place from 30 August – 1 September in Milan, Italy. The Permanent Study Group XVIII on Justice and Court Administration plans 6 sessions of about 90 minutes.

More Information on the EGPA Annual Conference 2015 you can get here:

<http://egpa-conference2017.org>

3. Subjects for papers (scope)

3.1 Open call for all topics of justice and court management

This year - as in 2016 - the call for papers is for an open panel. So you may submit papers on all subjects concerning the administration or the management of justice with a broad perspective, also dealing with methodological issues in justice research and studies:

- Justice administration and politics (e.g. supervision and inspection in justice administration; independence, autonomy and accountability; justice systems as a policy domain; economic approaches to court administration; financial relations in justice administration; appointments and dismissal of judges and prosecutors; the relation between courts and politics).
- Justice administration and society (e.g. social problem solving; access to justice; positioning courts in society; pre-trial proceedings and mediation; lay judges and public trust; the involvement of juries in judicial administration; internationalization of law and society and the organization of transnational judicial cooperation between national justice systems; ethics in justice administration; the role of courts in macro-economics).
- Justice chains (e.g. relation between partners in the justice chains: courts and the prosecutions office, youth protection agencies, prisons, advocates, bailiffs, probation agencies, businesses, law schools; managing expert witnesses; leadership and coordination in chains with independent professionals; comparisons between courts and other professional organizations).

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- Management of courts and prosecutor's offices(organization development in courts; organization aims and targets in courts; appointment and career of judicial personnel, case-flow management; societal interactions and human resources management; required judicial skills as a function of juridical and societal needs; judicial specialization; cooperation between judges, public prosecutors and court staff, delay reduction programs, timeframes, case assignment, alternative dispute resolutions, judicial budget and allocation of resources, education and training; performance management, evaluation methods, e-justice, quality management, satisfaction surveys).

Not included are monodisciplinary papers on law matters, e.g. on the independence of judges or courts or on other subject in the fields of constitutional law. The papers shall have a multidisciplinary or interdisciplinary approach to the subject dealt with. Papers may as well contain new theories or hypotheses resulting from projects, studies or surveys.

If you are not sure if your idea for a paper fits to the scope of the Permanent Study Group XVIII, do not hesitate to get in contact with the study group: egpa@kpm.unibe.ch.

3.2 Some indication on actual topics

Although it is an open call, the directors of the study group want to point out some topics that are part of the actual discussion/debate in several countries and could therefore be of special interest also for the study group:

Judges and court management

Two items interest us particularly. First is: how do judges react to incentives for competition? How do judges react to efforts to measure their production (throughput or output) and timeliness quantitatively?

Second is, what are relevant roles for judges in court management, especially in relation to selection of (future) colleagues; promotion of judges and the selection of court leadership? In how far should judges participate in the decision making processes?

Media and court communication

In the different countries the trust of citizens in courts is quite variable, while there is an alarming lack of general knowledge of the functioning of the judiciary. Nevertheless, courts more and more find themselves in the spotlight of the media and are sometimes heavily criticized, and also social media as platforms by the public. There certainly is a need for communication by the courts – but how should it be done? Are there studies about the relation of courts and media, studies about the influence of court communication on the trust of citizens in courts? Are there reports on successful court communication projects? Are there constraints for the judiciary to use social media?

Information and communication technology and court administration.

The use of Information and communication technology (ICT) is a key factor of success for an efficient judiciary (civil, criminal, administrative). However, several projects around Europe have failed and there is still a lack of detailed information on the assessment of these projects, as well as on the projects that have really brought some added value to the functioning of justice. Another development is the availability of Big Data, and the possibilities they offer for the googles, facebook and so on, but also for other organisations. In how far can they be used in the justice domain? By whom? Will Big Data help with improving judicial services or will it actually offer an alternative to judicial services (justice by algorithm?).

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The responsive judge

This is about the role of the judge as future oriented conflict resolver in contradistinction with the judge as a decision maker on point of law ? This type of justice performance often is organized in networks, for example in family cases with a bunch of aid organizations, or in criminal law together with the prosecutions office, the police, aid agencies, victim care agencies and so on. There also is a link with Alternative dispute resolutions? E.g. New case Management in Administrative Proceedings). Questions here are: how it is organized, how to preserve judicial independence when the court becomes a participant in the problem solving process, and how does this relate to the right to a fair trial, especially when a suspect is directed into some improvement program without judicial intervention

4. Submission of papers and further schedule

An abstract of the paper should be submitted until 10 April 2017, at the latest, to the study group via the conference tool: <http://egpa-conference2017.org/>

If the conference tool should not work, you may also submit the paper directly to the study group: egpa@kpm.unibe.ch.

The further schedule is as follows:

Submission of abstract proposals: **10 April 2017**

- Selection and decision by the co-chairs: **8 May 2017**
- Deadline for submission of the complete full paper: **1 August 2017**
- Information about the timetable of the study group: **12 August 2017**
- Presentation of the paper at the conference in Milan: **30 August to 1 September 2017**

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