



## Research Outline

Local governments all over Europe are in a period of increased reform activity and intensity, especially since they have been the level of government most seriously affected by the still expanding global financial and economic crisis in some countries. Against this background, it is a cause for concern and also criticism that the analysis of the local level is absent in the current comparative research and literature concerning public sector modernization. “LocRef” is meant to assess local public sector reforms from a cross-country comparative perspective, which has so far not been done within a broader research network.

The overarching question of the Action is:

*Which approaches and effects of local public sector reform can be identified from an international comparative perspective, how can these be explained and what lessons can be drawn for policy making?*

## About the Action

“LocRef” is an international research network on local public sector reforms with more than 250 senior and early stage researchers in 32 countries. Based on a shared European perspective, it brings together researchers and practitioners of all stages of local public sector reforms in order to jointly assess the hitherto scattered and dispersed information bases on local public sector reforms, to generate new comparative knowledge, and develop policy-relevant frameworks for the design of future modernization processes in Europe. The Action provides an excellent platform for promoting the careers of young and early stage researchers.

## Networking Activities & Instruments:

- International workshops and conferences
- PhD-Training Schools
- High level seminars
- Short Term Scientific Missions (research stays for scholars in partner institutions)
- Joint publications and policy papers



## Governance Structure

The Actions’ Management Committee (MC) consists of 60 European scholars (up to two representatives per participating country) and is in charge of developing, supervising, and implementing the Action. The MC is supported by four Working Groups (WG) studying various types of reforms.

### WG I: External (Post-) NPM

Externalizations of local services to private or non-profit providers (contracting-out, functional/asset privatization, corporatization, competitive tendering), re-municipalization and re-integration of previously externalized local functions

### WG II: Internal (Post-) NPM

Performance orientation and target steering, strategies of internal re-organization, process re-engineering, new budgeting and accounting systems, and Human Resource-related modernization, e.g. performance related pay

### WG III: Territorial/Functional Re-Scaling

Territorial reforms: amalgamations and inter-local cooperation; functional reforms: political decentralization, administrative decentralization and de-concentration of tasks

### WG IV: Democratic Renewal

Strengthening of direct democracy (local referenda, direct election/recall of local executives), new forms of participatory and cooperative democracy on the other (citizen forums, consultations, youth/ neighborhood councils, E-democracy)

## Management Committee

WG I: External (Post-) NPM		WG II: Internal (Post-) NPM	
Ivan Kopric	HR	Riccardo Mussari	IT
Hellmut Wollmann	DE	Emil Turc	FR
Gérard Marcou	FR	Hilde Bjorna	NO
Niels Ejersbo	DK	Renate Meyer	AU
JarmoVakkuri	FI	Geert Bouckaert	BE
Theodore N. Tsekos	EL	Isabella Proeller	DE
Annamarija Musa	HR	Tiina Randma-Liiv	EE
Magnus Arni Magnusson	IS	Gyorgy Hajnal	HU
Andrea Lippi	IT	Izabella Stecne-Barati	HU
Stig Montin	SE	Miguel A. Rodrigues	PT
Lukasz Mikula	PL	Calin Hintea	RO
Martin Laffin	UK	Constantin M. Profiroiu	RO
Baiba Rivza	LV	VitalisNakrosis	LT
Ismet Kumalic	BA	Eran Vigoda-Gadot	IL
		Irena Bačlija	SL
		Itai Beerli	IL
		Yüksel Demirkaya	TR
WG III: Territorial/Functional Re-Scaling		WG IV: Democratic Renewal	
Nikolaos Hlepas	EL	Colin Copus	UK
Ellen Wayenberg	BE	Bas Denters	NL
Reto Steiner	CH	Anders Lidström	SE
Benedikt Speer	AU	Andreas Ladner	CH
Sabine Kuhlmann	DE	Michal Illner	CZ
Martin Bækgaard	DK	Daniel Klimosky	SK
Carmen Navarro	ES	Angel Iglesias	ES
Pekka Kettunen	FI	Ringa Raudla	EE
Trui Steen	NL	Eva Marin Hlynsdottir	IS
Pawel Swianiewicz	PL	JanaGasparikova	SK
Lukasz Mikula	PL	Miro Haček	SL
Filipe Teles	PT	Harald Baldersheim	NO
Martin Laffin	UK	Iveta Reinholde	LV
KalliopeAgapiou-Josephides	CY		
Gerard Turley	IE		
Geraldine Robbins	IE		