

COST ACTION LOCREF : Briefing note on the 'LocRef Policy Brief'

(Note for the Istanbul 2015 meeting by Sabine Kuhlmann and Geert Bouckaert)

Objective and Purpose:

The objective is to produce a Policy Brief on 'Local Government in Europe for the Future'
The purpose is to communicate our research findings and to translate these research findings in recommendations for key policy makers in Europe.

Motivation, Use, and Audience:

Reaching out to the community of practice is a requirement for a good Cost Action.
This document will be used as documentation for our final and concluding conference in 2017.
The audience are national leaders (ministries of interiors, associations of local governments and their key actors, ...), the stakeholders and members of the European Committee of the Regions, and the European Commission.

Content:

Next to the four research lines around which the Cost Action LocRef is built, and to avoid 'pillarization', it is necessary to have some cross-cutting issues such as:

I: Autonomy and/or austerity: re-investing in local governments?!

II: Structures of (local) government in a context of multiple levels, coordination, and collaboration: fit for resolving wicked problems?

III: Participation, involvement, and (input) legitimacy: citizen satisfaction and trust in local governments

IV: Local service delivery, management, and performance: striving for (more) quality, efficiency, and output legitimacy?

Format:

About 3-5 pages (analytic, synthetic and well written) per theme:

- intro of the issue
- research lessons learned (Lesson 1:; Lesson 2:....; etc.)
- recommendations (Recommendation 1:; etc.)

Part of the recommendations may be about future (national) research, databases, statistics.

Procedure:

- First round in Istanbul
- Based on these results we will adjust and define the schedule, but we need to have the Policy Brief by the concluding conference in the spring of 2017.

Possible Table of Content of the Policy Brief:

- preface (about the Cost Action LocRef and its members)
- lessons and recommendations clustered around the themes: intro; box with numbered research lessons; box with numbered concrete policy recommendations derived from the research lessons;
- conclusions
- references to the website, our papers, etc.