



2022

Annual Conference of the

*European Group for Public
Administration*

Lisbon, Portugal – 6-9 September 2022

PhD Symposium

6-7 September 2022

*Permanent Study Group IV:
Regional and Local Governance*

Call-for-Papers

EGPA Permanent Study Group IV: Regional and Local Governance

“Changing Inter-governmental Relations”

This call for papers is the first from the newly amalgamated Study Groups IV (Local Democracy and Governance) and V (Regional and Local Government). After some years of close collaboration, EPGA has agreed to a joint request to amalgamate the two SGs under the title of ‘**Regional and Local Governance**’.

Our first call, as a unified SG, focusses particularly on the changing nature of intergovernmental relations (IGR) at the national, subnational and local levels. Following our last joint meeting in 2021, members of the two SGs edited and authored a Special Issue of *Local Government Studies* on the Pandemic and Intergovernmental Relations covering ten European countries. This special issue is now available online with free access and will form part of the second issue of *LGS* in 2022; see [the attached Introduction to the LGS Special Issue \(annex\)](#) and:

<https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/03003930.2021.1904398>

<https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/03003930.2021.1964477>

<https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/03003930.2021.1997744>

<https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/03003930.2021.1944858>

<https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/03003930.2021.1958786>

An important aim of the *LGS* Special Issue was to encourage more in-depth country and cross-countries studies of IGR, taking pandemic governance as a case in point, to explore theoretical frameworks and provide empirical insights which contribute to the comparative study of IGR and multi-level governance. Accordingly, in this call IGR is understood in broad terms as referring to central/federal-regional/state relations, regional/state-local relations or to both of these relations. We would encourage papers which take up these perspectives from a theoretical or/and empirical point of view. A particular focus might be on the explanatory value of different administrative cultures and traditions (e.g. Continental European- Napoleonic, -Federal, Anglo-Saxon, Nordic etc.), the strategic principles and tactics of IGR adopted by actors, cross-sectoral policy cohesion and coordination in multi-level systems, the implications of resurgent sub-state national movements and the relationship between formal governing structures and local governance.

Accordingly, papers which deal with these questions would particularly interest us:

- How have IGR changed in a particular country or countries? Have central government or sub-national/local actors been driving change?
- How do crisis situations influence the practice of IGR? Do crises change IGR for the better or the worse and in which direction and why? How do countries differ in this respect? Are the perceived changes short term or sustainable over time? Are crises (used as) a window of opportunity for change IGR?
- To what extent has continuing austerity and pandemic, and post-pandemic, pressures created pressures for change or to maintain the policy status quo regarding IGR and multi-level governance?

- What are the problems of collective action and mobilisation confronting regional or/and local government actors vis-a-vis central/federal governments?
- Have central governments tightened controls over sub-national governments, given local governments more freedom but fewer resources or used performance management systems to impose central policies?
- How much freedom of action do regional and/or local authorities enjoy in IGR? To what extent have local governments sought to 'innovate' in response to greater freedoms and/or the need to do 'more with less'? What ways to regional and local authorities have to resist centralisation?
- Should the preference be given to competition or cooperation with upper-tier levels (e.g. regional authorities)?
- Are municipal mergers or collaborative arrangements reasonable responses to the limited capacities of small municipalities/counties in order to increase their functional viability and capacity to act as significant institutional actors within the IGR system?

We particularly welcome papers which seek to deliver empirical, research-based arguments and build a theoretical understanding of these issues; and papers which adopt a comparative approach, be it 'over time', 'cross-countries', or 'cross-service'. **We are also particularly keen to include papers from Eastern and Southern Europe as well as Western Europe.**

Practicalities

Important dates:

- ✓ Deadline for submission of Abstracts: April 30, 2022
- ✓ Deadline for notification to the authors: no later than May 20, 2022
- ✓ Deadline for online submission of full papers: August 10, 2022
- ✓ EGPA 2022 Conference: 6-9 September 2022

EGPA 2022 Conference website:

<https://www.egpa-conference2022.org/>

EGPA 2022 Conference Management System: <https://www.conftool.org/egpa-conference2022>

For any questions regarding EGPA 2022 Conference, please contact us at:

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