



Institutional Setting of Territorial Governance and Citizens Engagement for a Sustainable Future

IIAS-EURO MENA 2022 Conference, Rome (Italy), 27 June to 1st July 2022

Territorial governance, defined as the complex politico-administrative interplay of public institutions and actors, at various layers – regional, meso-local, metropolitan and local – which, in relation with central State institutions and representatives, are engaged in governing and administrating populations and public issues, in providing citizens, businesses and third sector organizations public services and implementing public policies on the ground, has obviously a fundamental role to play in the current implementation of post-COVID resilience and recovery strategies. In a multi-level governance architecture, which is common to almost all European democracies, the territorial governance is the interlinkage level where stakeholders from sub-national entities and the civil society are involved into public policies conception and implementation. As already mentioned in much research, the role of territorial authorities in different EU policies as green deal, digital transformation, economic development, smart, sustainable & inclusive growth and/or education and skills for human capital' challenges. Obviously, the territorial governance is also part of the EU Cohesion Policy for facing social and economic challenges considering the regional and local contexts. It underlines the interconnection(s) with other public policies and considers “wicked problems” and unresolved questions of strategic importance in territorial governance, urban and regional inequalities, and social aspects and wellbeing.

We can also highlight the pivotal role of citizens in territorial governance and the many participative democracy initiatives undertaken over the past decade and in different European countries with different political cultures to try and empower much more the citizens in the decision-making process and in the implementation of the national plans for SDGs and the national recovery and resilience plans (NRRPs). As many European institutions, the European Committee of Regions (CoR), among others, recognized the importance of the Citizens 'engagement in territorial development.

Moreover, it is worth underlying that the EU programme 2021-2027 puts increased focus on integrated territorial and local development strategies, lending EU support to cross-sector actions, multi-stakeholders' partnerships, complementarity of policy actions and raises the importance of a more close-to-citizens strategy.

Therefore, the present call-for-papers aims at inviting papers and discussion pieces (1-3 pages) addressing the following topics (non-exhaustive list):

- Analysing the political and legal frameworks, the PA reforms for encouraging the territorial governance and its efficiency and effectiveness in tackling important issues regarding recovery and sustainability issues;
- Defining the role of all territorial authorities (from appointed State representatives to elected democratic organs and their executives) in implementing the national recovery and resilience plans and the priorities for sustainability (SDGs); managing the territorial dynamics;
- Assessing territorial impacts and delineating policy boundaries of Recovery and Sustainability strategies/priorities;
- Analysing the transition from a “top-down” and standardised models of policy-making and implementation to more horizontal, territorialized and inclusive logics of regulation;
- Identifying actors engaged in the strategic plans for the territorial sustainable goals and defining the partnerships agreements between the institutional representatives in a territorial perspective;
- Studying practices and actions (with data-collection) for ground and place based objectives;
- Better exploring the ways for meso-governance to build-up sustainability strategies closer to the citizens and in close collaboration with meso-local and local human communities;
- Explore the place and role of citizens, and civil society, in territorial cohesion policy, recovery plans and sustainable development at the territorial level;
- Identifying interesting practices and innovative ways of cooperation between citizens and authorities at the territorial level of governance; addressing key issues for sustainability through the institutional programmes and networks of territorial managers with a focus on subsidiarity and participation as CEVEX, ECON, Covenant Mayors, EnercitEE, ...;
- Better understanding the political momentum for action as well as changes in the legal frameworks to enhance cooperation between citizens and authorities in the future cohesion policy and national recovery and resilience plans (NRRPs).
- Etc.

We warmly encourage scholars and practitioners to submit proposals for papers, case-studies discussion notes or even testimonies for this track on ***Institutional Setting for Territorial Governance*** organised during the **IIAS-EURO MENA 2022 Conference** on the theme: *Next Generation Governance and Young Global Public Administration: Mobilizing People, Skills, Energies for a Sustainable New Normal*.

Looking forward to welcoming you all in Rome for stimulating and enriching discussions!

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References:

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Bouckaert Geert, Kuhlmann Sabine, Schwab Christian, 2017. The Future of Local Government in Europe: Lessons from Research and Practice in 31 Countries. Berlin: Nomos/Ed. Sigma. [LINK](#)

Domorenok Ekaterina, Graziano Paolo, Polverari Laura, 2021. Policy integration, policy design and administrative capacities. Evidence from EU cohesion policy in *Policy and Society*, Volume 40, Issue 1, March 2021, pp. 58–78

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European Committee of Regions (CoR) - Commission for Economic Policy ECON 2020. *A territorial approach for the implementation of the SDGs in the EU – The role of the European Committee of the Regions* - [LINK](#)

European Committee of Regions (CoR) - Commission for Citizenship, Governance, Institutional and External Affairs (CIVEX) 2021 - *The Conference on the Future of Europe:*

Putting Local and Regional Authorities at the Heart of European Democratic Renewal by Bruter Michael, Harrison Sarah, Sorace Miriam and Vives Elisabet (LSE) – [LINK](#)

European Committee of Regions (CoR) 2021 - RESOL-VII/16 on Bringing Europe closer to its people in the 2022 Work Programme of the European Commission and the CoR political priorities for 2022.

Kuhlmann Sabine, Bogumil Jörg, 2021. Administrative Reforms in the Multilevel System: Reshuffling Tasks and Territories, in *Public Administration in Germany*, London, Palgrave Macmillan, IIAS Series Governance and Public Management.

Moodie John R, Meijer Mari Wøien, Salenius Viktor, Kull Michael, 2021. Territorial governance and Smart Specialisation: empowering the sub-national level in EU regional policy, Published online: <https://doi.org/10.1080/21622671.2021.1905542>

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Tanguy Gildas, Eymeri-Douzans Jean-Michel (eds), 2021. *Prefects, Governors and Commissioners. Territorial Representatives of the State in Europe*, London, Palgrave Macmillan, IIAS Series Governance and Public Management.

Submissions Process

Please create or retrieve an existing account on the Conference Management System: <https://www.conftool.org/iiaseuromena2022/>

- Go to “Your submissions” and select a track
- Please follow the specific instructions given in the call-for-paper
- If prompted, add an attachment

The deadline for abstract submissions is set on April 1st

- Registrations will open by April 18;
- Notification of acceptance will be made by April 31st
- The deadline for full paper submissions is set on May 29
- The conference will take place on June 27-July 1

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