



# EGPA/IAS

European Group  
for Public Administration

## CALL FOR PAPERS

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*Improving Administrative Sciences Worldwide*

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

#### Permanent Study Group II:

#### **Performance and Accountability in the Public Sector**

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.

##### **Call for papers 2017: Performance and Accountability**

EGPA SGII Performance and Accountability in the Public Sector aims to bring together two closely related research fields: performance and accountability.

In recent years, research on performance and research on accountability in the public sector have both been dominated by the waves of public management reforms transforming European bureaucracies. On the one hand, there has been a major focus on performance and performance management systems and the enormous investments in and hopes for improved performance in the public sector. On the other hand, the restructuring of government and new provider models for public services relying on third parties of many sorts (quango's, privatization, etc.) have thwarted traditional systems of accountability. In many studies of performance and accountability, the notion of NPM has been highly central. But, although the practical and intellectual background of those studies was fairly similar, studies of performance and accountability in the public sector have often been conducted in separate strands and groups. Accountability research has had a strong focus on democratic deficits in public service provision, and accountability scholars may have overlooked the important links, conducive as well as counter-productive, between accountability and performance. Performance research has had a strong focus on NPM-reforms and formal performance systems and measurement. Performance scholars may have overlooked fundamental ethical norms and broader institutional impacts on performance.

One simple reason for bringing performance and accountability research together is that the two are connected in practice and that societal relevance of the two streams of research will improve if their studies, scholars and knowledge connect. A second reason is that there have been great advances in both fields of study, so that it makes sense to expand their horizons and connect their foci of research.

INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE  
OF ADMINISTRATIVE SCIENCES  
rue Defacqz, 1, box 11  
B-1000 Brussels, Belgium  
Tel : +32 2 536 08 80  
Fax : +32 2 537 97 02  
e-mail :[info@iias-iisa.org](mailto:info@iias-iisa.org)

EUROPEAN GROUP  
FOR PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION  
[f.maron@iias-iisa.org](mailto:f.maron@iias-iisa.org)



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We invite contributions that connect the dots between accountability and performance – conceptually, theoretically and/or empirically. How can we conceive of fruitful – and unfruitful – ways in which accountability and performance can connect? What can we learn from empirical studies about the positive and negative ways in which both can interact?

We also invite contributions that expand our research focus with new methods, comparing accountability and performance across countries or sectors, or by introducing new types of research such as experiments, in order to delve into causal explanations. How can new types of research help us understand the effects of accountability systems on performance, or, conversely, the effects of performance on accountability?

We also invite papers that bring performance and accountability out of the NPM paradigm. So far, performance and accountability scholarship(s) has been great at discrediting some of the “great expectations” of the NPM-age, and yet, has been slow to connect to research that explores alternative, potentially better, models of or approaches to performance and accountability. Research will benefit from joining up and expanding by connecting to understandings of performance and accountability that are relevant to a “post-NPM” world, and to research on stewardship/trustee relations, public value and public service motivation. Papers that link performance and accountability will be given preference in the selection for the group’s meeting during EGPA’s 2017 annual conference. However, we also invite papers on three long-standing themes covered by SGII: The politics of performance, the use of performance information, and the behavioral effects of performance management (see the SGII’s EGPA webpage for elaboration).

### Co-chairs:

#### Jostein Askim

University of Oslo  
[jostein.askim@stv.uio.no](mailto:jostein.askim@stv.uio.no)

#### Gerhard Hammerschmid

Hertie School of Governance, Berlin  
[hammerschmid@hertie-school.org](mailto:hammerschmid@hertie-school.org)

#### Thomas Schillemans

Utrecht University  
[T.Schillemans@uu.nl](mailto:T.Schillemans@uu.nl)

### Key Dates

The following are the key dates:

- Proposals should be uploaded through the submission website <http://www.egpa-conference2017.org/registration-submission/> by **10 April 2017**;
- Decision on selected papers by Co-Chairs: **8 May 2017**;
- Deadline for submitting the complete papers: **1 August 2017**.

INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE  
OF ADMINISTRATIVE SCIENCES  
rue Defacqz, 1, box 11  
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Fax : +32 2 537 97 02  
e-mail : [info@iias-iisa.org](mailto:info@iias-iisa.org)

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[f.maron@iias-iisa.org](mailto:f.maron@iias-iisa.org)