

# Foreword

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In the last issue of the *Croatian and Comparative Public Administration* in 2019 there are seven papers dealing with theoretical, comparative, and public law issues.

The purpose of the first paper, authored by Çağrı D. Çolak, is twofold. Firstly, it identifies six main criticisms of the New Public Management (NPM) doctrine in the relevant literature. Secondly, it identifies and explains five doctrinal streams that appeared after the NPM domination period, mainly in the past two decades: new public service (NPS), public value management (PVM), digital era governance (DEG), neo-Weberian state (NWS) and new public governance (NPG).

Antonija Buljan, Milan Deskar-Škrbić and Hrvoje Šimović analyse determinants of public health care, education and public administration efficiency in 15 Central, Eastern and South Eastern European countries, using Data Envelopment Analysis and panel Tobit regressions. Their empirical results indicate that important determinants of public sector efficiency are the level of economic development, the economic activity, the demographics, the level of education, and the quality of institutions.

Miguel Moreno Plata explores the influence of the new national anticorruption system adopted in Mexico in 2016 on the Mexican public administration. He claims that there are legal and institutional elements that favour the existence of patronage and spoils, and researches the degree of structural and functional alignment between the professional career service and the newly created institutions for combating corruption. The analysis shows a serious institutional decoupling of civil service arrangements and the new anticorruption system.

In the paper that won the 2018 Croatian Institute of Public Administration's 'Eugen Pusić' Award for the best young researcher scientific paper, Romea Manojlović Toman analyses comparative European experiences

with performance management in the civil services of countries with different administrative traditions, i.e. Great Britain (England, Scotland, and Wales are examined separately), Austria, Italy, Denmark, and Croatia. She also offers several lessons for the improvement of the Croatian system of performance management.

Ana Andabaka and Mateja Tomek analyse the implementation effects of the European System of Accounts 2010 on the government finance statistics in Croatia. After comparing data preapproved by Eurostat and provided to the European Commission according to ESA 95 and data delivered after the implementation of the ESA 2010 methodology, they have concluded that the new methodological framework implemented in September 2014 has had significant effect on government finance data in Croatia. The implementation of new methodological framework has provided better insight into key fiscal risks and the Croatian public sector financial position.

Boris Ljubanović analyses the principle of material truth from an administrative procedural standpoint. After historical insights, the author presents current regulation of administrative procedure, systematising the norms that request and those limit application of this principle. At the end, he compares this principle in civil and administrative procedure and concludes that the principle of material truth is much more limited in civil than in administrative procedure.

The Court of European Union's supervision over sanctions (restrictive measures) imposed on natural and legal persons connected with terrorism, proliferation of nuclear weapons, or repression is analysed by Stjepan Novak. There are different targeted sanctions falling under the Court's legality check of infringement of individuals' rights. The possible undermining of the United Nations' authority by such an active role of the Court of European Union is also addressed in the paper.

Finally, Jasmina Džinić and Mihovil Škarica write about the recent important international conference on the post-socialist transition in Europe organized by the Croatian Institute of Public Administration in cooperation with various international and domestic organisations and associations.

As we are at the end of the year, it is time to make a brief overview of our 2019 publishing endeavour. We have published 25 scholarly papers. Two sectors attracted the most intense attention, migrations and integration of migrants, and local government and democracy, each with six papers. Slightly fewer deal with public law issues (5) and comparative public ad-

ministration (4). Three papers are designated to the administrative theory section, while public policy attracted only one paper this year.

Our authors come from 13 countries (Australia, Belgium, China, Croatia, Germany, Hungary, India, Lithuania, Mexico, Slovenia, South Korea, Turkey, and Uruguay). Young researchers and women have been well represented. The authors research within various scientific disciplines, from administrative and political science to economics, law, public finances, and management.

The new Editorial Board appointed at the beginning of this year is especially proud that our journal has been accepted for coverage in Scopus starting with the 2019 papers. This is excellent news for our authors, whose papers have already been indexed and referenced in Web of Science Core Collection (Emerging Sources), Hein Online and many other bases.

All of us from the Editorial Board send you the very best wishes for 2020 and wish you pleasant holidays!

Professor Dr. Ivan Koprić  
Editor-in-Chief