

Foreword 1/2025

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This year's first issue of *Croatian and Comparative Public Administration (CCPA)* brings together a rich and diverse collection of six scholarly articles that explore the evolving dynamics of public administration and constitutional reform, followed by two articles devoted to analysis of local self-government and democracy across several Central and South-Eastern European states. The final section addresses various issues of administrative dispute in Croatia as well as in Bosnia and Herzegovina. At the intersection of theoretical and doctrinal analysis and practical experiences, the articles presented in this issue provide nuanced insights into the interplay between institutional structures and reforms, democratic development, and administrative justice.

The first section, on *Administrative and Constitutional Reforms*, opens with an article written by Professor Edoardo Ongaro from the Open University (UK) and Lejla Komarica from the International Criminal Court (The Hague, Netherlands). In *Administrative Reforms in Bosnia and Herzegovina in Comparative Perspective: A Distinctive Case of Context in Motion*, the authors present a compelling analysis of administrative reforms in Bosnia and Herzegovina, covering the period from 1995 to 2020 and emphasising the fluid and dynamic nature of its governance context. The second article, *Analysis of the 1961 Constitution in the Pendulum of Democracy and Guardianship in Turkey*, is written by Mutlu Yildirim from the Pamukkale University (Denizli, Turkey) and follows with a critical examination of the 1961 Constitution of Turkey, situating it within the broader pendulum of democracy and guardianship that has characterised the country's political evolution. The research is significant because it "... highlights how the balance between democracy and tutelage shaped Turkish governance, and argues for strengthening democratic institutions to eliminate residual tutelary structures".

The second section, on *Local Self-Government and Local Democracy*, includes an article on *Local Referendums in the Czech Republic, Hungary and Poland as Starting Points for Legislative Changes to Local Referendums in Slovakia*, written by Gabriel Kopúnek, Martin Švikruha, and Dalibor Mikuš, all three from the University of Ss. Cyril and Methodius (Trnava, Slovak Republic). Focusing on four main areas of comparison, the authors examine the legal and political frameworks surrounding local referendums in the Czech Republic, Hungary, and Poland, offering valuable implications for legislative reform in Slovakia which they claim "... is lagging behind in legislative clarity and effectiveness ..." of local referendum legal regulation. The second article in this section is written by Uroš Lazić from the Faculty of Philosophy, University of Niš (Niš, Serbia). His article on *Predictors of Party Patronage: A Case of the City Committee of a Serbian Parliamentary Political Entity in 2015* adds to this section with an in-depth case study on party patronage within the Serbian context, shedding light on the persistent influence of political networks and patronage, which is still a prevalent characteristic of post-socialist countries and societies.

In the final section devoted to *Administrative Dispute*, Mateja Held from the University of Zagreb Faculty of Law and Karen Dominić from the Croatian Conservation Institute (Zagreb, Croatia), in their article on *Common Sense Argument in Administrative Dispute in Croatia*, explore the role of the "common sense argument" in Croatian administrative jurisprudence. Through the analysis of the courts' case law, namely cases of the Croatian administrative courts, Constitutional Court, and the European Court of Human Rights, the aim of protecting the rule of law and the constitutional rights of individuals is demonstrated. Finally, Admir Selesković, a PhD candidate at the University of Tuzla Faculty of Law (Tuzla, Bosnia and Herzegovina), assesses the potential for alternative dispute resolution mechanisms in Bosnia and Herzegovina, drawing from comparative experiences to suggest a feasible way forward.

This issue also features a book review written by Professor Ivan Koprić from the University of Zagreb Faculty of Law, on Claudia N. Avellaneda's *What Works in Latin American Municipalities?*, a book which offers empirical insights into the factors that influence performance in local governance, and is a timely and globally relevant contribution to the field.

Lastly, we honour the memory of our dear Fabienne Maron, whose work and spirit left an enduring impact on the international community of public administration scholars. President of the European Group of Public Administration (EGPA), Professor Jean-Michel Eymeri-Douzans, provides a moving tribute that acknowledges her legacy and influence.

Overall, the articles published in this issue reflect the CCPA's ongoing commitment to fostering scholarly research and dialogue that is context-sensitive, internationally informed, and practically relevant. We are confident that this issue will serve as a valuable resource for academics, practitioners, and policymakers seeking to better understand the complex realities and reform trajectories of public administration in transitional and democratic contexts.

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