

Foreword

UDK: 35.07:340.5(497.5)(042.3)

The second issue of *Croatian and Comparative Public Administration* brings together a collection of scholarly contributions that address contemporary challenges and transformations in public management, public law, local self-government and regional development, and efficiency in public service delivery. The published articles written by 20 authors from six countries provide valuable insights into how different legal and administrative systems across Europe and beyond are responding to evolving demands, regulatory frameworks, and socio-political pressures.

As usual, the articles are grouped into three sections. The first section, *Public Management and Public Law*, explores the interface between public law and public management. Péter Bordás, associate professor from the University of Debrecen Faculty of Law (Hungary), in his article on *The Role of State-Owned Enterprises in the European Union*, examines the changing role of state-owned enterprises (SOEs) within the European Union, particularly in the context of market liberalisation and economic crises. Focusing on sectors such as telecommunications, postal services, and audiovisual media, the study reveals how state influence remains significant, albeit in varying forms, across Member States. In *Administrative Judicial Approach to Legal Building Information Modelling in Italy: Application of an Interdisciplinary Approach*, Denard Veshi, associate professor, and his colleagues from the University of Campania Luigi Vanvitelli in Caserta (Italy) and University of Tirana (Albania), undertake a comparative legal analysis and investigate how Italian administrative courts approach Building Information Modelling (BIM) in public procurement. The authors highlight judicial inconsistencies and emphasise the lack of interdisciplinary understanding in legal interpretations of BIM, despite its mandated use in large-scale public tenders starting in 2025.

The second section is titled and focuses on *Local Self-Government and Regional Development*. Syamsul Alam, Abdul Kadir Fisip, and Muhammad Ar-

syad, all three from the Halu Oleo University, Kendari (Indonesia), in their article on *Increasing Governance Innovation Capacity of Local Governments Through Knowledge-Seeking: The Moderating Effect of Transformational Leadership*, assess the role of knowledge-seeking and transformational leadership in fostering governance innovation in Indonesian local self-government. Their findings underscore the critical importance of consistent and aligned leadership practices across political and managerial levels to drive effective innovation. Contributing to our understanding of regional development governance with “*Under Pressure*”: *Permanent Transformation of the Administration of Regional Development in Hungary*, Lili Boglárka Karácsony, Márton Maróth, and István Hoffman from the Faculty of Law, Eötvös Loránd University in Budapest (Hungary) analyse the structural evolution of Hungarian regional development administration from EU accession preparations to the present. Their study uncovers how shifts in political power and EU budgetary cycles have directly shaped institutional reforms and administrative organisation.

The final section addresses the efficiency of public services. In their article titled *Bibliometric Study of Journals in Public Administration*, Sarika Tomar, Shikha Gupta, Sakshi Wadhwa, Samarth Gupta, and Rishav Raj from various Indian research institutions and universities conduct a bibliometric analysis of academic journals in the field of public administration, offering a data-driven perspective on the most influential publications, and guiding researchers in selecting appropriate outlets for their work. Concluding the issue, in *Indicators for Measuring the Efficiency of Local Public Services*, authors Simona Prijaković, Branko Stanić, and Mihaela Bronić from the Institute of Public Finance in Zagreb (Croatia) explore methodologies for measuring the efficiency of local public services in Croatia. By reviewing literature from 1990 to 2024, they emphasise the complexity and diversity of output indicators, advocating for the integration of multiple metrics and the use of available local-level data.

Together, the contributions in this volume reflect the breadth and dynamism of contemporary public administration scholarship. They offer critical reflections, methodological advancements, and practical insights that will benefit both academic researchers and public sector practitioners. By publishing articles that cover and analyse different topics, we strengthen the interdisciplinary and comparative research approach in administrative science. Finally, we hope all of this will make this issue of our journal interesting to a wide range of researchers and curious readers.

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Editor-in-Chief