Foreword

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This year's autumn issue of *Croatian and Comparative Public Administration* features articles that address actual and timely issues in public administration and public governance, civil service management, ethics, and administrative and constitutional law. Articles are interdisciplinary, combining theoretical perspectives, empirical research, and comparative analysis to examine how public institutions respond to changing technological developments and demands for accountable, effective governance.

The current issue is organized into three thematic sections: Digital Governance and Artificial Intelligence in Public Administration; Civil Service Management and Ethics; and Administrative and Constitutional Law.

The first section, *Digital Governance and Artificial Intelligence in Public Administration*, examines the opportunities and challenges associated with the digital transformation of public administration and contains two articles. The article by Tănase Tasențe and Mihaela Luminita Sandu, both lecturers at Ovidius University of Constanța (Romania), entitled '*Digital Governance of Public Policies in the European Union under Crisis Conditions (2018–2025): A Systematic Review of Resilience and Institutional Adaptation*', explores the relationship between digital governance, crisis management, and institutional adaptation in the European Union. The period under consideration encompasses several major disruptions (e.g. COVID and geopolitical and economic crises) that have tested the capacities of public institutions to maintain essential functions, coordinate responses, and adapt public policies to rapidly changing circumstances. By systematically reviewing the relevant literature, the authors contribute to a better understanding of how digital governance can support resilience and administrative adaptation under conditions of uncertainty.

The second article, by Eldar Šaljić and Duško Tomić from the College of Security and Global Studies – American University in the Emirates

(UAE) and Ibrahim Alhudaidi (doctoral candidate, School of Engineering Management, University "Union – Nikola Tesla" Belgrade, Serbia), examines *'The Integration of Artificial Intelligence Systems in Governments to Support Strategic Decision-Making'*. Artificial intelligence has attracted enormous attention as a potential instrument for improving the analysis of complex information, identifying patterns, supporting forecasting, and strengthening strategic planning in the public sector. Nevertheless, integrating AI into governmental decision-making can't be understood solely as a technological undertaking. It has to address issues concerning data privacy, algorithmic bias, ethical considerations, and the need for robust data governance.

The second section, *Civil Service Management and Ethics*, turns to the human and ethical component of public administration. Effective administrative institutions depend not only on formal rules and organizational structures but also on the experiences, professional values, and everyday practices of public servants.

In their article, "Informal Grievance Handling Practices in the Nepali Civil Service: Evidence from Civil Servant Experiences", Saroja Shakya, Nabina Malekar, and Anil Kumar Gupta, all from the Nepal Administrative Staff College, examine informal mechanisms through which civil servants address workplace grievances. While formal complaint mechanisms are perceived as ineffective and risky, the research shows that a rational response to such situations by civil servants is to rely primarily on informal mechanisms. Such an approach also comes with several risks, including arbitrariness and lack of respect for formal deadlines, etc.

The section also includes the article *'Understanding Police Integrity: A Qualitative Study on Why Officers Reject Bribery'*, authored by Arun Kumar G., and R. Sivakumar, from Manonmaniam Sundaranar University, Tirunelveli (India), together with R. Renjini and M. C. Janaki from Kalasalingam Academy of Research and Education (India). Discussions of corruption often focus on the conditions that encourage misconduct, but understanding why public officials refuse bribes is equally important. Examining the motivations and experiences associated with ethical conduct can contribute to a more comprehensive understanding of integrity in public service. By adopting a qualitative approach, the authors explore the factors that may support resistance to bribery and encourage reflection on the role of professional values, individual motivations, and organizational environments in promoting ethical behaviors.

The final section of the issue, *Administrative and Constitutional Law*, addresses legal questions concerning the exercise and control of public au-

thorities. Mohammed Hamli and Abdelhafidh Mana from Law and Political Sciences Institute, University Centre of Maghnia (Algeria), in their article *'The Scope of Judicial Review of Financial Administrative Sanctions in Public Procurement: A Comparative Study'*, investigate the scope of judicial scrutiny of financial administrative sanctions in public procurement. Through a comparative perspective, the authors address issues relevant to ensuring that public procurement rules are enforced while the rights of affected parties remain adequately protected. Their contribution highlights the continuing significance of judicial review as a mechanism for controlling administrative power and upholding the rule of law.

The final article, written by Ante Elez (a student at the Faculty of Law in Zagreb), is entitled *'The Preamble of the Constitution and its Effects in Croatian and Comparative Constitutional Law'*. Constitutional preambles occupy an interesting position between constitutional history, political identity, and legal interpretation. Although their legal effects differ across constitutional systems, preambles may provide context for understanding constitutional principles, the purposes of constitutional arrangements, and the values underpinning the constitutional order. This subject is relevant not only to constitutional lawyers but also to public administration scholars, since constitutional principles establish the broader framework within which public institutions operate and exercise their powers.

For public administration scholars and practitioners, the articles of this issue offer several important points for reflection. Technological innovation must be accompanied by institutional responsibility; effective public organizations require both sound formal arrangements and supportive organizational cultures; and administrative efficiency must remain compatible with legality, integrity, and the protection of rights. These considerations are particularly important as governments confront interconnected challenges that demand both innovation and institutional continuity.

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