

# Foreword

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The first issue of the *Croatian and Comparative Public Administration* in 2021 contains six interesting scientific papers dealing with topical themes. The first paper co-authored by Onur Kulaç, Lucie Sobotková and Martin Sobotka analyses the interest of students in public administration education in the Czech Republic. Their analysis is based on a statistical evaluation of students' interest in a span of 16 years. They put in focus public administration education at the University of Pardubice and compare its success with the results elsewhere in the Czech Republic. In conclusion, they plea for a more consistent supervision from the state and for greater understanding of part-time students' professional and family life during the study.

Mirko Pečarič speculates about the public officials' discretion, trying to find a way how to narrow their space for developing informal power. He refers to personal elements involved in the legal decision-making connected with differences in personal backgrounds, cognitive capabilities or emotional variances, i.e. pre-existing preferences of public officials. By using the Bayes' theorem, public officials can be guided to decide similarly in similar matters. It is important for achieving equality and equity that they make their subjective preferences known to others.

Petra Đurman explores the Croatian system of e-consultations taking into account the characteristics of public organisations that offer their legislative drafts to e-consultations, population characteristics of actors giving the comments, the quality of comments to the drafts, and the responsiveness rate. She concludes that the legal framework is more or less appropriate but certain implementation problems are still present in the Croatian e-consultation practice.

Gordana Berc, Danijel Baturina and Marijana Majdak present the results of their qualitative research of the City of Zagreb's young population who are not in employment, education and training (NEETs). The basic

problems they identify are connected with the education and qualification system, the characteristics of labour market, and inappropriate public support to the young NEET population. The authors offer their recommendations for preparing more adequate local and state policies and for accepting best practice in treating young NEETs.

Stjepan Novak analyses the Court of Justice of the European Union (CJEU) case law dealing with sensitive national security data of the member states. The author argues that the CJEU case law was not in line with the normative detachment of the concept of national security relating to EU law. According to the CJEU case law, the mere fact that a question concerns member states' national security cannot result in EU law being inapplicable, which is – according to the author – in contrast to the EU treaties.

Finally, Josip Jambrač deals with the problem of measuring and comparing effectiveness of public administrations. Various dominant political and public administration paradigms in different countries lead to different approaches to defining and measuring some basic components of public administration success. Although informative to a certain extent, such measurements can be misleading from the standpoint of real societal roles of public administrations in different countries.

We have included a book review into this issue, written by Anamarija Musa, about the new book edited by Ulrich Karpen and Helen Xanthaki about legislation in Europe. We also publish here the complete list of reviewers of the papers submitted to our journal during 2020. We are grateful for their commitment and support to the quality of editorial process.

I wish you a pleasant reading.

Professor Dr. Ivan Koprić  
Editor-in-Chief