

**PUBLIC MANAGEMENT AND GOVERNANCE GENERAL TRACK**

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The borders of public management as an academic area – governance, organization and management of public administrations and public services – are ever shifting and have traditionally benefited from the cross-fertilization by other research strands. It is a fertile field of study especially since the public sector reforms of the eighties have attracted management as an academic discipline to the study and practice of public administration and contributed to move its academic base from law and political science departments to business and professional schools.

In the past decade, Public Governance has gained prominence over Public Management, and the focus has moved from traditional government to networks, collaborative relations and citizens' participation. A main driver has been the fundamental changes of the public decision-making processes and of the production of public services. The public sector has become more fragmented and multifaceted, also drawing on the shift in expectations by citizens - who are now also keener to engage in policy-making and service delivery.

Public Governance pays a great deal of attention to the environment in which public organizations and public managers operate, and specifically to managing networks and collaboration; but it also involves competition and conflict management aspects. It raises issues such as stakeholder engagement and co-production, equity, ethics and integrity, accountability and sustainability. On these bases, it entails a renewed and more specific attention to management across the boundaries of the public sphere; namely, to business-government relations and non profit-government relations.

The role of government, however, is not limited to that of a network coordinator. Especially in the current global crisis, it has a key role in ensuring important values for Europe such as equity, participation and democracy.

The Public Management and Governance general track aims at gathering and promoting confrontation between engaged scholars investigating the role of public management within public governance.

Current themes include, but are not limited to:

- Performance management and accountability.
- Networks, public-private partnerships and third-party policy implementation.
- Decentralization and multi-level governance.
- Citizen participation and co-production, social capital.
- Corruption, ethics and trust.
- Agencification, privatization and outsourcing of public services.
- Governance of non-profit organizations and public-non profit partnerships

- Social innovation. Innovation and risk management.
- Cutback management and strategies to overcome the global economic crisis.
- Strategic management, leadership and public entrepreneurship.
- Challenges in managing professionals in the public sector. Knowledge management. Motivation and public values.
- Public Sector Accounting and Financial Management.
- e-Government and use of ICTs.
- System thinking.
- Quality management and improvement.
- Public sector reforms, history of public management and administrative country traditions.

In the past years, the track has gathered papers analysing public management and governance issues across several sectors such as cultural heritage, healthcare management, schools and universities, police and emergency management, among others.

In line with the 2013 conference theme, particular attention will be dedicated to the issue of democracy:

- What relationship exists between public management and democracy? Is it possible to achieve high levels of performances (efficiency, effectiveness, equity) without democracy? Can models of reform such as the New Public Management or delegation, participation and networks function in a non-democratic setting or in developing countries?
- Which is the impact of the current crisis and of the national cutback programs on democracy? How are public sector regulations contributing to democratise management?

The track will continue to organize mini-workshops in-between conferences and provide publication opportunities to the Public Management SIG participants. In the 2010 EURAM conference, two special issues with The Journal of Management and Governance and The International Journal on Public Sector Performance Management were organized. In 2012, two mini-workshops on co-production (Hungary) and cutback strategies (Sweden) will take place.

**Sub-track: Management of emergency response services: bridging the theory-practise divide**

***Track Convenors:***

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There has long been acknowledged gaps in the management research relating to emergency services in general. Published management research about management of these services is an emerging phenomenon. Academics working with an emergency services focus often become frustrated due to lack of a cohesive literature on emergency management. The fragmentary nature of emergency management community also acts as a barrier to closer interaction between the academics and practitioners. This happens due to multiple agencies involved in addition to the three blue light services, presence/absence of a national emergency management agency, varied management and organisational practices across different countries. As a result, interoperability and multi-agency cooperation between these organisations is severally impeded due to the changing nature of threat to national security within the backdrop of massive cuts in public spending across European nations.

This new track provides a timely focus to the wider issue of emergency services research within the European context. The track will provide a platform to debate theoretical and methodological foundations of management research about emergency services, an area which is clearly under-researched. The track will welcome contributions on various themes but not limiting to:

- Developing the conceptual and methodological foundations of emergency response services
- Measurement, management and monitoring of the performance of emergency services
- Accountability and governance mechanisms of emergency services
- Understanding public perception of risk, emergency planning and emergency services
- Preparation, planning and contingencies in the responses to emergencies
- Inter-relationship between emergency services and social policy such as community engagement, the impact of volunteerism and the building of social capital
- Leadership domains in international responses across multiple agencies and
- International comparisons and sharing best practices

The track proposal is supported by the International Journal of Emergency Services ([www.emeraldinsight.com/ijes.htm](http://www.emeraldinsight.com/ijes.htm)). The best paper will receive a subscription to IJES, an award certificate and the winning paper will be published in IJES subject to peer review.

Strategic leadership in emergency services require robust and sound knowledge and research base to underpin management practices. The development of scholarship and closer links of the academia with the emergency services would be really important to the advancement of society to build stronger, academic and scholastic linkages. This links very well with the Conference theme of democratising management in challenging conceptions and bridging the gap between theory and practise in a new subject discipline.