



EGPA/IIAS

European Group
for Public Administration

CALL FOR PAPERS

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Improving Administrative Sciences Worldwide

2017 EGPA Annual Conference 30 August – 1 September, Milano, Italy

Permanent Study Group VIII: **Civil Society, Citizens and Government**

The European Group for Public Administration (EGPA) in close collaboration with Politecnico di Milano is organizing **the 2017 EGPA Annual Conference** to be held **from 30 August to 1st September** in Bovisa (Milan). The event will be preceded by the PhD Symposium on 28 and 29 August.

Focus

The position of civil society is changing, as many traditional organisations have become dependent on governments and markets for financial resources. They are requested to show more 'entrepreneurship', resulting in more focus on measurable performance and competition. This raises intriguing questions over loyalty, autonomy, accountability, power relations, mission and identity. At the same time, new kinds of civil society are on the rise, in the shape of self-organisation and social movements. These new players challenge the position both of government, of traditional civil society and of relevant institutions.

Citizens are taking on new roles in relation to both government and civil society. They start acting as co-producers, participating in the design, production and evaluating of public services. They increasingly replace their initial long-term membership affiliation or volunteer engagement (e.g. based on ideological or religious beliefs) by a client-based perspective on engagement and by more privatized, project-based or individualized forms of participation.

The key question for our group is how governments and administrations are able to cope with new relations with civil society, with the emergence of new manifestations of civil society and with new roles for citizens.

Kinds of contributions

Work in progress

We welcome papers/presentations that are still work in progress on the following themes, related to the focus of our study group:

- (1) Government – civil society relations;
- (2) Civil society – citizen relations;
- (3) The internal functioning and organization of civil society initiatives;
- (4) The co-production and co-creation of public services.

We will dedicate some sessions in which ongoing research can be presented and discussed, with the aim of receiving feedback from peers.

Short abstracts (200 words) should be uploaded through the submission-page of the EGPA website by **15 April 2017**. Full papers/presentations should be provided by **15 August 2017**.

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Completed research

We will also dedicate some sessions on completed research, for papers that are (almost) publishable. We aim at selecting the best papers for a special issue in a journal (to be selected yet). For these sessions, we welcome empirical papers on the broader theme of the relationship between citizens, civil society and government.

Short abstracts (200 words) should be uploaded through the submission-page of the EGPA website by **15 April 2017**. Full papers should be provided by **15 July 2017**. Please note that abstracts and papers need to be 'on topic' of the theme of the special issue, and that late submissions and late dropouts to the conference will not be taken into account for publication.

Submissions

Please submit papers through the EGPA conference website (<http://www.egpa-conference2017.org>).

Convenors

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