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CALL FOR PAPERS

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Improving Administrative Sciences Worldwide

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

Permanent Study Group XXI: **Policy Design and Evaluation**

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.

Topic: “Knowledge Utilisation in the Policy Process”

Policy processes in modern democracies are characterised by a constant influx of manifold and often contradicting types of knowledge, such as evidence, ideas or policy advice. These different forms of knowledge are related to the different actors involved – such as ministerial officials, political decision-makers, interest group representatives, political advisers, or academic researchers, to name but a few. The early stages of the policy process (such as problem recognition and agenda setting) have been found to be more open towards different actors and ideas, while policy processes typically get more closed when it comes down to political decision-making. And while it is sometimes argued that the need for (evidence-) informed policymaking is higher than ever today (e.g. in face of ‘wicked problems’), at the same time significant hurdles to knowledge utilisation for policymaking have been increasingly realised. Moreover, knowledge utilisation for policymaking is not limited to instrumental or conceptual use, but does also include symbolic use (Knorr 1977; Amara et al. 2004). With this workshop, we intend to take a policy-process-oriented view at knowledge utilisation. Aspects that shall be dealt with include, but are not limited to:

- Practices and patterns of knowledge utilisation in policy-making and bureaucracies
- Knowledge utilisation in different stages of the policy process (e.g. agenda setting, policy formulation, policy evaluation)
- Analysing knowledge utilisation in the policy process, e.g. by using knowledge-oriented concepts and theoretical approaches (such as epistemic communities, advocacy-coalition framework, policy learning)
- Concepts/theories of cross-country and cross-policy variation in knowledge utilisation (e.g. policy-advisory systems)

We invite both theoretical and empirical papers dealing with the above and related issues. Empirical papers taking a comparative perspective are particularly welcome.

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References

Amara, N., Ouimet, M. & Landry, R. (2004): New Evidence on Instrumental, Conceptual, and Symbolic Utilization of University Research in Government Agencies. *Science Communication* 26 (1), pp. 75-106.

Knorr, K. (1977): Policy makers' use of social science knowledge: symbolic or instrumental? In C.H. Weiss (ed.): *Using Social Research in Public Policy Making*, Lexington: Lexington Books, pp. 165-82.

Study group co-chairs:

Marleen Brans, KU Leuven

Valérie Pattyn, University of Leiden

Sonja Blum, University of Vienna and KU Leuven

Key Dates

The following are the key dates:

- Proposals should be uploaded through the submission website <http://www.egpa-conference2017.org/registration-submission/> by **10 April 2017**;
- Decision on selected papers by Co-Chairs: **8 May 2017**;
- Deadline for submitting the complete papers: **1 August 2017**.

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