

## Call for Papers

### EGPA-Study Group IV on Local Governance and Democracy

#### Organisers of the 2010 Study Group sessions

The following Study Group directors are responsible for organising the meeting:

- Dr Marcel Boogers, Tilburg University, (The Netherlands), [m.boogers@uvt.nl](mailto:m.boogers@uvt.nl)
- Prof. dr Jochen Franzke, University of Potsdam (Germany), [franzke@uni-potsdam.de](mailto:franzke@uni-potsdam.de)
- Dr José M. Ruano de la Fuente, Universidad Complutense Madrid (Spain), [jmru-anof@cps.ucm.es](mailto:jmru-anof@cps.ucm.es)
- Prof. dr. Colin Copus, De Montfort University Leicester (England), [ccopus@dmu.ac.uk](mailto:ccopus@dmu.ac.uk)

#### Introduction and main goals

The Study Group on Local Governance & Democracy wants to enhance academic discussions on local governance and local democracy in the EGPA network. The aim of the Study Group is to provide a forum within which the many researchers in Public Administration, that are dealing with topics of local governance, can come together and stimulate the exchange of academic ideas, and insights, generate mutual inspiration and discuss research findings and topics and so create a network of internationally co-operating researchers. Our aim is also to stimulate the exchange of ideas between academics and practitioners. In the organisation of the study group these goals can be recognised.

#### SG sessions

The chairs of the study group will accept a limited number of papers. The selection will be based on the relevance of a proposal to the central theme and the academic quality of the proposal submitted. Submissions not directly related to the SG theme of the year, will be considered, but, acceptance will rely on the quality of the proposed paper and the importance of the subject matter to the Study group's overall objectives. Access to the 2010 meeting will necessarily be limited to those who have taken the effort of writing a paper and submitting it in advance.

In programming the meetings, we distinguish two types of sessions:

- A. Discussions on the theme of the year. Discussions normally take the shape of short presentations of academic papers followed by comments from assigned discussants.
- B. Discussions on academic contributions that lay outside this years' theme but are worthy discussing. The time reserved for these discussions will be limited, though.

Type A sessions will be plenary, type B sessions may be organized either or as plenary sessions or as parallel sessions, depending on the number of papers.

The directors of the SG aim at a publication of a selection of Papers in the *journal Local Government Studies* **Call for papers**

Local governments find themselves in a contradictory situation. At the one hand, they more and more lose autonomy and the capabilities of independent problem solving and political action to address local problems, they increasingly depend on co-operation with other governmental and private actors.

Yet, at the other hand, local authorities are obliged to be accountable as if their performance, decisions and actions can be distinguished from those of the networks within which they participate. This obligation does not apply to these local policy networks, even though the popular demand for the improvement of democratic control and democratic accountability is becoming more manifest nowadays.

Hence, the shift from local government to local governance calls for a redesign of democratic processes. The traditional representative approach to local democracy is therefore more and more supplemented with (if not substituted by) forms of direct democracy, or participation and/or deliberation. Many municipalities have gained experiences with democratic innovations. Literature on democratic innovations and citizen participation and papers presented in our SG-meetings on this topic show the many tensions between representative and direct democracy. As a result, citizens become disappointed, councillors lose influence and power and feel sidelined if not redundant to the political processes and conflicts emerge between active citizens and their representatives. The notion behind these observations is that the institutional design of citizen participation is weakly developed.

In this year's SG, we want to address this problem in order to expand our empirical and theoretical knowledge on the institutional design of citizen participation processes. The central theme of the 2010 meeting will be

*The institutional (re-)design of citizen participation – citizen, co-operation, conflict.*

This theme can be elaborated in various directions. Papers will be welcomed dealing with one of the following topics:

- a) Hybrid democracy: institutional relations between representative bodies and direct democratic practices
- b) Innovations: democratisation of governance networks
- c) Grassroots democracy: spontaneous participation in grassroots organisations vs. invited participation through traditional democratic channels
- d) Multi-level democracy: sub-national administrative re-organization, territorial consolidation, decentralization and citizen participation (Special panel under supervision of Sabine Kuhlmann and Jörg Bogumil)

Authors who want to present a paper on different issues, should not hesitate sending a proposal to the directors.

Please submit a short abstract outlining (max 2p.)

- *the title of the paper*
- *the argument and contents of the paper*
- *the research method of your contribution, and the empirical material to be used (if applicable)*
- *name, affiliation, and contact information of the author(s)*

The deadline for the submission of abstracts is May 1st, 2010.

Papers will be selected by the chairpersons no later than June 1st 2010. Authors whose abstracts have been accepted should dispatch their completed text to the relevant chairpersons and to [f.maron@iiasisa.org](mailto:f.maron@iiasisa.org), by July 31st 2010 at the latest.

A provisional program will be prepared with the local organizer and sent to you.