FOREWORD BY THE GUEST EDITOR

This issue of the Journal presents articles devoted to the analysis of public governance practices in the countries of South America, Southeast Asia and South Asia. Despite the huge geographical distances between these regions, as well as different socio-cultural conditions, we can talk about a number of common features in the evolution of governance systems in the countries of these regions, as well as about common country trends in approaches to public governance theories.

The first block of articles in the issue refers to the analysis of national models of governance, including at the local level, and the study of the correlation of these models with the main theoretical concepts of public governance. It can be argued that the main trend in the countries of South America, South-East Asia and South Asia at present is no longer to justify the fact that they have a distinctive form of public governance that is not similar to Anglo-Saxon models (which is clear enough), but to identify *how to assess the effectiveness of national management practices in achieving the country goals to alleviate poverty and to satisfy social and economic development conditions*. The main issue that concerns researchers is how to construct indicators of the effectiveness of management practices and how to apply them. The block begins with two articles that examine management practices at the higher (national) and local levels. The article by Rizvi et al. (Pakistan) examines Pakistan's public governance reforms over the last two decades. These reforms have given rise to several governance practices aimed at overcoming structural deficiencies, procedural ambiguities, managerial inefficiencies, and ineffective accountability mechanisms. In their article, the authors surveyed major administrative stakeholders on a number of key socio-economic indicators and obtained scores that take into account factors related to the readiness of public organizations to change. The second article by Zaitul et al. (Indonesia) examines the management practices of village communities and their effectiveness by analyzing performance measurement systems for village administrations. The study, based on 55 village administrations, found that the main type of factors that determine the level of performance is a combination of societal factors such as the quality, functionality and usefulness of local services, as well as the satisfaction of village communes with these services. This contrasts with the accepted view that external mechanisms of state control over the quality of village administrations are the most important ones. Finally, Rohman et al. (Indonesia) show that, in the case of Indonesia, the administrative procedures proposed by the theoretical concept of New Public Service are more effective than those of the Weber concept (second most effective) and much more effective than those of the NPM concept (trailing third place).

The next block of articles in this issue of the Journal examines the *use of new technologies and governance tools, as well as intergovernmental initiatives and projects to improve the quality of governance and relations between the state, civil society and business*. Thus, with regard to public governance processes and the government-citizen relationship in large cities, using such megapolises as Mexico City, Santiago de Chile and Buenos Aires as examples, Juárez-Merino (Mexico) considers the peculiarities of using artificial intelligence technologies based on open data analytics to increase government transparency and accountability, providing citizens with real-time access to information on infrastructure, budget and safety initiatives (Mexico City), establishing intergovernmental cooperation (Santiago de Chile), improving administrative efficiency in the justice system, reducing case processing times and streamlining citizen access to public records with a blockchain-based digital identity system (Buenos Aires). The article by Rana and Lu (Pakistan) explores the role of the local Chambers of Commerce and Industry (CCIs) in the collaboration between the local business community and government agencies in Pakistan on the China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). It shows that the implementation of the CPEC project contributes to the development of local CCIs, their relationships with public agencies and their inclusion in Collaborative governance.

Finally, a number of articles examine the *organizational, economic and financial instruments of governance* in South America and Southeast and South Asia. The article by Pham and Dang (Vietnam) examines the implementation of the budget reform and the formation of a new type of fiscal relations, on the basis of which a stable, decentralized, transparent budget allowing for local initiatives has emerged in Vietnam. It considers the directions of fiscal decentralization, indicators to assess the level of decentralization, and analyzes data on these indicators. The impact of digital transformation and the application of open data on the insurance industry is analyzed in the article by Sukma and Yamnill (Thailand). It examines how the application of these technologies improves economic efficiency, regulatory compliance, and long-term sustainability. Among the key benefits of using these technologies, the authors point out that they improve risk assessment, allowing insurance companies to make more informed decisions, provide personalized insurance offerings, and use AI-driven tools, which are essential for improving customer engagement and satisfaction, to increase consumer trust. The last paper in this block by Colca-Hidalgo et al. (Peru, Ecuador) investigates problems in procurement in public organizations in Peru, bottlenecks in the implementation of procurement activities, particularly in the “Terms of Reference” (TOR) or “Technical Specifications” (TS). It proposes to improve the preparatory stages of procurement through the application of digital technologies, allowing to increase productivity through efficient, controlled procedures, complemented by well-established indicators and defined timelines for each activity in order to respond effectively to various needs. At the same time, it makes it possible to eliminate all activities that do not add value, and/or contribute to bottlenecks and/or are counterproductive to the optimization of delivery times, to increase the quality and efficiency of all processes, and to ensure customer satisfaction. The time saved in preparing public contracts is a key indicator of the effectiveness of the application of new technologies. This approach takes the understanding of procurement in public organizations to a new level by linking procurement with data-driven management.

To conclude, the maturity of public governance research can be assessed by the originality of the practices under study, and the way in which these practices are analyzed. The regions of South America, Southeast Asia and South Asia are at the forefront of such research, presenting inspiring, original management practices and conducting in-depth analysis of their merits and prospects.

Guest editor,
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