
PREFACE OF GUEST EDITOR

This special issue consists of a variety of subjects within the field of public administration and public policy research, distributed not only by subject but also by the geographical and regional attribution of the authors - from the EU region (Croatia, Greece, Poland, Slovakia), Asia (China, Indonesia), the Middle East and Africa (Turkey, Algeria). The representativeness of the different countries here is much broader than in most other issues of international PA and PP journals as it includes the significance of authors from traditional regions conducting the research in this area.

The general outlines of the research papers of this special issue are concentrated around such themes, very popular among the international community of scholars in the PA and PP area (which, I guess, exists at the present time due to the very fact of the interrelations of the research questions and methods of research), as theory of public governance, municipal governance, HR and labor related administrative issues.

In the articles of this special issue which are oriented to theory of PA, I would like to mention two dominant tendencies: 1) to concentrate on PA reforms through the scope of theory and to show the slowness of the progress in the reforms based on existing administrative theoretic foundations, such as Weberian, NPM, NPG; 2) to go far beyond and out with standard administrative paradigmatic approaches that are relevant to countries not belonging to an anglo-saxon administrative tradition. Those approaches rely on the social and cultural peculiarities of the countries and regions out of the so-called "mainstream" of Western administrative tradition, and taking into account some new sprouts of worldwide governance, such as network concept, culturally oriented decision-making, and governance by knowledge transfer. The variety of new theoretic approaches, as I believe, is much broader. However, the proposed selection of articles in this special issue gives a clear understanding of this tendency and represent it through well shaped country cases.

HR and labor issues have become top priorities of PA and PP research in recent times because of the emerging phenomena of migration, unemployment based on new ways of automatic manufacturing without the necessity of a human component, growing dissatisfaction by employees with their salary, content

of the work, relations with managers, etc. Such problems exist in a concentrated form on a local level inside communities that are out of (mainly) resources and new HR technologies, including transferring to other sectors of economics and training for new professions.

For municipal governance, we can mark the desynchronized movement of the pendulum of centralization/decentralization in different countries and World regions. At the different positions of this pendulum, different recipes of administrative decisions are necessary, such as the methods and analytics of local healthcare organization, or using new information and communication technologies for better communication with local citizens. It is not possible to find universal rules for the improvement of local governance around the Globe, but to know some practices, to better understand the problems and proposed decisions, could be of interest to the readers.

To conclude, I would like to say, that many researchers from different regions and countries now are the great force for shaping a new reality of public administration and the public policy scientific/analytic field, for discovering the new horizons in its development, and for the incorporation of new ideas into our discipline.

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