
INTRODUCTION

Public administration in most countries of the world is currently facing several multidirectional challenges, and apparently there is neither a single conceptual theoretical scheme, nor uniform patterns of practical action capable of responding comprehensively to these challenges. In this issue of the Journal, we offer the reader a curated collection of articles delineating various strategies to address existing challenges, along with corresponding national approaches. Depending on the historical, cultural, social, and technological contexts, each country determines which challenges are a priority and offers solutions.

Among the regions and governance cases represented in this issue are Africa, the Middle East, East and Southeast Asia, Transcaucasia and the vast region of Eurasia, represented by Russia. This selection is due to the fact that these regions are experiencing original growth of public administration theory and practice that go beyond standard approaches. For example, the peculiarities of the arrhythmic functioning of development agencies in developing countries became fully apparent during COVID; the use of high technologies in the field of defense in developing countries is limited by financial and technological resources, and it is associated with the level of human capital and the limitations of international cooperation, and thus must take special forms; the use of online platforms as an element of public administration is mediated by trust in political institutions and the level of satisfaction of citizens with the previous practice of online functioning platforms.

The articles in this issue refer to one of the four areas of public administration and are structured in the following sections:

1. The digital state, the use of high technologies in the field of defense;
2. The “second-order” consequences of the impact of COVID on public administration and on social processes that go beyond the immediate effects;
3. Approaches to human resource management and moral aspects of the perception of leadership in public organizations that are related to culture and focus more on the reaction of employees to change than on the causes and needs of change;
4. Tools for open governance and feedback from citizens and the state, the role of local communities in the functioning of public-private partnerships in some economic sectors (tourism).

The key question I would like to address to the reader is: Can the new fragmentary research findings that represent the experiences and visions of public administration in developing countries in the vast regions of the world be seen as harbingers of new dominant theories and patterns of practice, or is the era of standards built on the basis of Western-oriented approaches replacing each other as dominant governance paradigms irrevocably coming to an end?

Issue Guest Editor
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