

Opening Session:

Europeanization of public administration and public policy

Friday, 5 April 2013: 9.00-11.00

*Professor Dr Robert Hoppe, University of Twente, The Netherlands / IPSA RC32 Chair*

### **Europeanization as political narrative**

Governance is as much about problematisation ( the governance of problems) as it is about problem-solving (governance of capacity for effective performance). Both governance as problematisation and as problem-solving implicitly assume that there is a 'real' problem, 'out there'. Politically credible stories about those 'problems', or rather, 'problem-solution couplings', are the stuff of policy analysis and design; they form the all too often implicit interpretive backgrounds or frames and discourses that inevitably legitimize and (co-)shape the more technical, procedural or bureaucratic ways of tackling 'problems'. Hence, the question of this address: If 'Europeanisation' is the solution, what is/are the problem(s)?

*Professor Dr Ivan Koprić, Faculty of Law, University of Zagreb / Institute of Public Administration, Croatia*

### **Europeanization as a remedy for muddled governance in South Eastern Europe**

Muddled governance is a governance with strong reliance on the classical government with weak forms of inter-jurisdictional and third-party governance that arise when vague European (EU) ideas about public administration and governance reform flow into shrinking domestic ideas on governance. Management of public affairs by domestic actors is characterized by a strong reliance on the central state government and administration, a reactive approach and an overall lack of strategic vision about main developmental and policy goals.

South Eastern Europe (SEE) gradually lost the significance it had during the Ancient World and can now be seen as a part of European periphery. Famous tradition of Roman law and Greek democracy has been overlaid with complex historic layers of various governance ideas, doctrines, and practices. The SEE space encompasses a narrower circle of South Slavic nations, as well as the Greeks, the Albanians, and the Romanians. While most of them experienced socialist experiment in the second part of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, the Greeks had a different development path. Within the circle of socialist countries, there is a narrower group of the countries on the territory of the former Yugoslavia. Cultural and historical ties are especially visible between those countries, but links and interdependences are wider. Certain cultural and governance commonalities can be identified in the whole South East region.

The frame for governance development in the SEE countries is characterized by the Europeanization process, modernisation policy, search for national identities, and regional cooperation and learning. Despite all efforts, almost all the countries suffer from corruption, lack of political legitimacy, weak administrative capacities, etc. The presentation will focus especially on three governance processes in the region. These are the introduction of direct election of mayors and other forms of participative democracy; the promotion of modern human resources management and development of administrative education; and strengthening the legal protection of citizens' rights in their contacts with public administrations.

The EU *acquis communautaire* with the right to good administration from the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights, the standards of the European Administrative Space, and other

European standards are among the ways and instruments of healing domestic governance hardships and strengthening genuine domestic forces for overwhelming governance traps.

*Key words:* Europeanization, South Eastern Europe, muddled governance, management of public affairs, right to good administration, European Administrative Space, participative democracy, administrative education

*Professor Dr Atilla Ágh, Corvinus University, Budapest, Hungary*

### **Europeanization of public administration in the NMS: The challenge of participative democracy and good governance**

The main message of this paper is that the Europeanization of the public administration and public policy in NMS cannot be completed without the participative democracy, i.e. without the participation of the large masses of population in the new institutional structures. The paper offers a comparative analysis of the NMS public administration and public policy developments in the EU based on a big database about the gap between the formalistic and performance democracy, and about the democracy, governance and sustainability deficit in NMS. It concludes that without the major turn towards a participative democracy - providing the high performance of public administration and public policy - the NMS cannot be competitive in the global world.

*Professor Emeritus Dr Fred Lazin, Ben Gurion University, Israel*

### **Local government reforms in Eastern Europe after the collapse of the Soviet Union; Some observations**

This paper explores the building of administrative and democratic institutions and processes of local government in newly emerging democracies in parts of the former Soviet Union and its satellite states in Eastern Europe. It studies the restructuring of local government systems in these countries with a focus on reforms in public administration and public representation at the local level. The role and influence (or lack of it) of the European Union is also studied. The proposed paper looks at several case studies of local government reform in Eastern Europe following the collapse of the Soviet Union and subsequent regime changes in the early 1990s.

The countries examined are Russia, Poland, Czech Republic and Romania. The case studies are based on papers presented at an international conference "Reform and Democracy in Local Government of Countries in Transformation" held in Israel in 2004. The IPSA Research Committee on Local Government and Politics sponsored the conference. The papers later appeared in a book on the conference which appeared in 2007\*.

The overall picture composed of the findings in the several countries is all but homogeneous and unidirectional: though democratization and decentralization are claimed by many central governments as non-negotiable, the analysis clearly demonstrates how their actual policies are implemented over time and across nations in an often inconsistent manner.

\* Fred Lazin, Matt Evans, Vincent Hoffmann-Martinot and Hellmut Wollman (Eds.). *Local Government Reforms in Countries in Transition: A Global Perspective*. Lanham, MD: Lexington Books, 2007.