



Project title:

South-Eastern European developments on the administrative convergence and enlargement of the European Administrative Space in Balkan states

Programme:

Lifelong Learning Programme

Sub-programme:

Jean Monnet Programme, Key Activity 1

Action type:

Multilateral Research Group

Partners:

National School of Political Studies and Public Administration, Romania (P1)
University of the Aegean, Greece (P2)
New Bulgarian University, Bulgaria (P3)
University of Rijeka, Croatia (P4)
European Public Law Organization, Greece (P5)

Academic coordinator: Professor Dr. Lucica Matei

Duration:

01 September 2009 – 31 August 2011

SUMMARY OF THE PROJECT

Reason for the project

European integration revealed, also for public administrations, specific processes and mechanisms, for evaluating the progresses recorded within the framework of national reforms. The most important ones refer to administrative convergence and compatibility with principles and values of the European Administrative Space (EAS). For the Balkan states, situated in different positions in the European integration process, each above concept is emphasised and it develops in a distinct and specific way.

The project receives funding from the European Community.

Sole responsibility of this Newsletter lies with the coordinator. The Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency and European Commission are not responsible for any use that may be made of the information contained herewith.

**NEWSLETTER
No 8**



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Cooperation between the Project's Partners

ENVIRONMENTAL LAW ACADEMY



An EPLO Signature Initiative

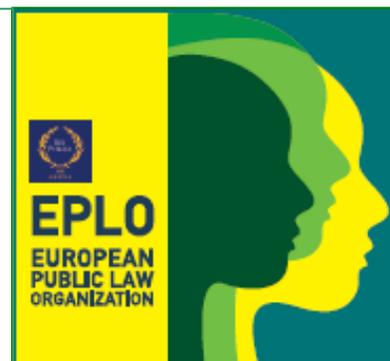
The European Public Law Organization is pleased to announce the launch of the "ENVIRONMENTAL LAW ACADEMY" (ELA), an educational programme dedicated to serving the ever-growing demand for continuous and specialized learning in environmental law studies.

ACROSS THE DANUBE: NATURE CONSERVATION IN SOUTH-EASTERN EUROPE

The ELA will offer intensive courses to graduate and postgraduate students, researchers, civil servants and professionals working in the private sector and in NGOs from all over the world who wish to further their knowledge and skills in addressing newly-emerging, pressing issues of environmental protection and management starting in the summer 2010 with the two-week intensive course: "Across the Danube: Nature Conservation in South-Eastern Europe"

SOUNIO, GREECE 5-16 July, 2010
Attend a two-week intensive course on the policies, efforts, experiences and current developments towards the conservation of nature in South-Eastern Europe taught by leading policy-makers, academics, researchers and professionals in the field

A team of international experts and academics such as Eladio Fernandez Galiano (Bern Convention Secretariat, Executive Secretary of the EUR-OPA Major Hazards Agreement, Council of Europe), George Kremlis (DG Environment, EC), Prof. Glykeria Sioutis (University of Athens), Jasmine Bachmann (Secretariat, International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River ICPDR), Dr. Petr Roth (Czech Ministry of Environment), Dr. Ioannis Strimbis (OECD, France) and Andrea Stefan (WWF Croatia) will be teaching at the 2010 summer intensive course to take place on 5 – 16 July 2010 at the EPLO Sounio Office, Greece, situated on the bay of Cape Sounio.



Deadline for applications: 14 May 2010

For more information and application forms please go to:
<http://www.eploenvironmentacademy.eu>

Event no.1 - Scientific event organized within the framework of Jean Monnet project



The workshop had the following structure:

- Opening Session
- Session 1 - Balkan Public Administrations between Transition and Modernity
- Session 2 - Impact of Reforms on Public Administration in the Balkan States. National Experiences
- **Session 3 - A Balkan Model of Public Administration – Myth or Reality?**
- Session 4 - Administrative Convergence between Weberian Model and New Public Management
- Session 5 - Evaluating a Case Study Relevant for NPM Application in Local Government
- Special Session - European Governance versus National Governance. European Pragmatism

SESSION 3

A Balkan Model of Public Administration – Myth or Reality?

Moderator

Lucica MATEI, Prof. Dr., National School of Political Studies and Public Administration, Romania



Speakers

Diana - Camelia IANCU, Dr., National School of Political Studies and Public Administration, Romania
“What’s in a Name? The Case of the European Administrative Consolidation in Croatia”
Available at http://www.balcannet.eu/papers_grecia/lancu_Diana.pdf

In May 1995, European Union issued the White Paper “Preparation of the Associated Countries of the Central and Eastern Europe for the Integration into the Internal Market of the Union”, where it stated that “the main challenge for the associated countries in taking over internal market legislation lies not in the approximation of their legal texts, but in adapting their administrative machinery and their societies to the conditions necessary to make the legislation work [...]” (paragraph 3.25). The European Council in Madrid (1995) brought the solid orientation of the Community towards enlargement while stressing the need for candidate countries (at the time) to adjust their administrative structures. What continued to be lacking though (creating as such confusions for the accession agenda) was the reference to *how* national administration of the CEE countries must adapt or *towards what* they needed to direct their institutional public administration reforms. This is what this paper aims at clarifying, by offering a possible, democratic reading of the “consolidated administration” criterion in the case of Croatia, using the experience of the CEE countries (specifically, Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland, Slovakia, Slovenia and Romania). In doing so, I will investigate the European Union’s role in the public administration reform of Croatia. My assumption in the case would be that the European Union is an actor that during the accession trials, assists Croatia in democratizing the organization and functioning of its public administrations, just as it did in the case of the CEE countries. The cross-country comparison of the public administration reforms is to be made under the theoretical framework provided for by the Europeanisation and New Public Management literature, while the operationalisation of the consolidated administration criterion will be achieved by redesigning Robert Dahl’s democratization theory and apply it on the case of the European Union’s *acquis communautaire*. My documentary analysis on national public administration reforms will be restricted on strategy-level documents of the countries in question and the Progress Reports the European Commission provided during the past and current enlargements. The *acquis* will be at its turn limited as to refer strictly to the original treaties and those following them; the Accession Treaties of the Member States and the international organizations and acts of the organizations created through international agreements. A special attention will be also given to the contents of the White Paper on Enlargement of the European Union. As far as the outcomes are concerned, I expect the research to allow a refining of the role the European enlargement policies play in confirming the domestic political options for administrative reform in Croatia. In addition, a clarification of the “consolidated administration” criterion might prove useful for the advanced study of the public administration reforms in the current associated countries to the European Union.



Vassilios KONDYLIS, Prof. Dr., Law School of the University of Athens, Greece
***“The Creation of an Independent Authority as a Measure of Compliance with
European Law and Balancing between Independence and Accountability: The Case of
the Hellenic National Telecommunications' and Post Commission (EETT)”***
Available at http://www.balcannet.eu/papers_grecia/Kondylis_Vassilios.pdf

The creation of Hellenic National Telecommunications' and Post Commission (EETT) is a measure taken by the Hellenic Authorities, in order to comply with the EC law in the telecommunications and postal sector. The status of this Independent Authority is determined by the Greek Legislator in order to guarantee the Independence and the Accountability of this Authority and its economic and administrative autonomy.



Konstantinos TSIMARAS, Ionian University, Greece
“Regulatory Reform - Regulatory Impact Assessment”
Available at http://www.balcannet.eu/papers_grecia/Tsimaras_Konstantinos.pdf

In the mid-1990 for the first time in post-war period Greek strategies for economic development shifted markedly to reliance on market forces rather than a downward spiral in economic performance, ultimately resulting in crisis and discrediting the traditionally interventionist and regulatory role of the Greek state in economy. Today there are new opportunities for much-needed reforms. The many significant reforms underway reforms are accelerating structural adjustment creating a new economy that is more flexible and competitive.



Vesna VAŠIČEK, PhD, University of Zagreb, Croatia
Martina DRAGIJA, B.Sc., University of Zagreb, Croatia
Mirjana HLADIKA, B.Sc., University of Zagreb, Croatia

“Impact of Public Internal Financial Control on Public Administration in Croatia”

Available at http://www.balcannet.eu/papers_grecia/Vasicek_Dragija_Hladika.pdf

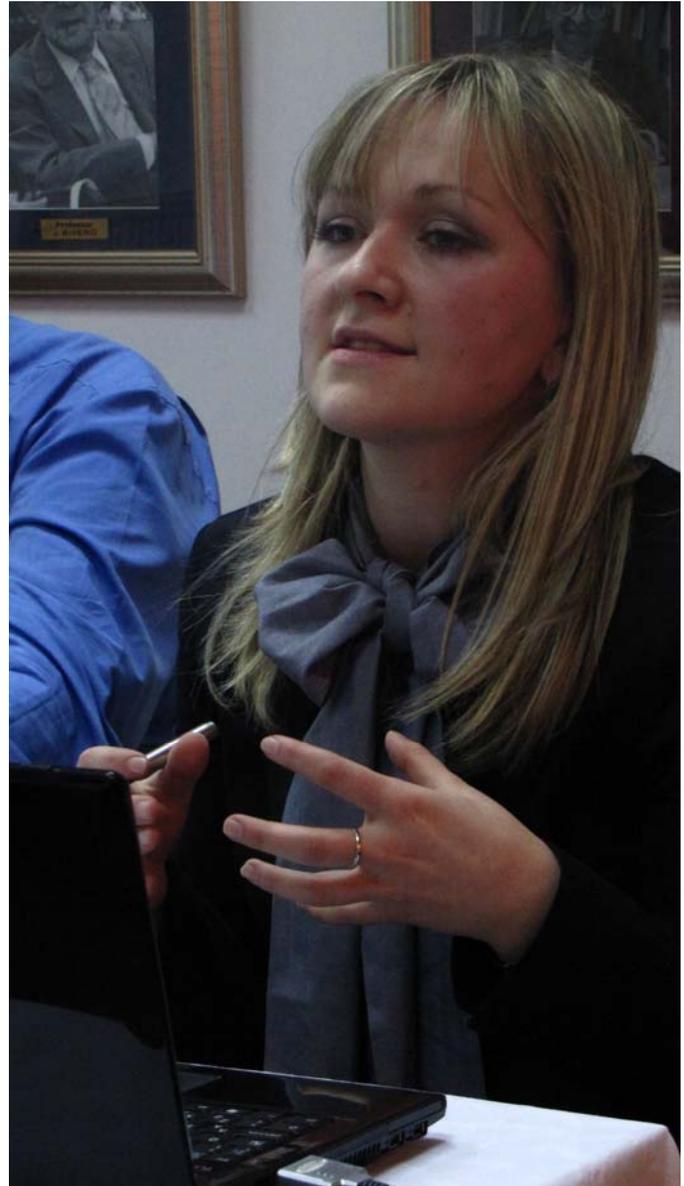
The PIFC /Public Internal Financial Control/ was developed by the EC. PIFC is set of principles internal financial controls system established for the purpose of controlling, auditing, supervise on the use of national budget and EU budget and funds. Also, in order to support candidate countries in their internal control system reforms in the public sector. Therefore, it is expected for the candidate countries to establish and develop the system of internal financial controls according to the concept which was in that field developed by the EU based on International Standards and the best practice of European countries.

Since the year 2003 the Republic of Croatia undertakes intensive activities on the establishment and development of the internal financial control system according with the regulation of European Union.

In keeping with the set concept, the Republic of Croatia undertook numerous activities during the past six years to create all the necessary assumptions for the establishment and development of the system, including: the adoption of the initial strategic documents; drafting of laws; the creation of organisational capacities and human resources; and the implementation of the system with budget users at central government and local levels.

In this paper we will present phases of implementation PIFC in Croatian Public Sector. Through these phases we will show impact that PIFC has on development of New Public Management in Croatia and changes in organizational structure and human resource that are caused during this process. Also, we will give critical opinion of that process and problems which occur during implementation.

In this paper we will present approach in implementation of PIFC in Slovenia and Bosnia and Herzegovina and compare this with implementation in Croatia.





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Members' academic contributions in the field of research connected to the project

Ani Matei, Professor
Florin Popa, Assist.

Meritocratic aspects concerning civil servant career. Comparative study in Central and Eastern European countries

Available at: <http://www.apas.admpubl.snsps.ro/handle/2010/81>

Central and Eastern Europe has known in the last 20 years profound changes. The shift from a dictatorial system to a democratic system forced the states from this area to adopt structural measures for all public institutions. In this context, the institution of "civil servant" could not remain unaffected.

In the period of communist regimes, the institution of "civil servant" did not exist, the civil servant being just a simple employee of the state. Work relations were the same as for any employee. The shift to another political system, the democratic one, determined the reconsideration the role and the place of public administration, and implicit of civil servant in the framework of the state system.

In this context, it has been a shift from the statute of simple employee to that of civil servant, representing the power of the state. In the process of accession to the European Union, the states from Central and Eastern Europe have been permanently pressured to clearly define a strategy concerning the competitiveness of public administration, concerning the statute and the career of civil servant. In the context of democratisation, we can notice that the principle of meritocracy has become a key principle in the civil servant's career.

The term "meritocracy" is often used in order to describe a type of society in which wealth and social position are obtained mainly through competition or through ability or proved competences. A position invested with responsibilities and social prestige has to be acquired and not inherited or obtained by arbitrary criteria. Meritocracy represents also the term used to describe or to criticise a society in competition that accepts inequitable disparities of income, wealth and social position.

Taking into account the above considerations, the present paper aims to achieve an analysis of meritocratic aspects in the systems of planning and promotion of civil servant's career in Central and Eastern Europe.





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Events in the field of research connected to the project



The 18th NISP Acee Annual Conference

"Public Administration in Times of Crisis"

May 12-14, 2010, Warsaw, Poland

The National School of Political Studies and Public Administration will be represented by:

Mihaela Victorița Cărăușan, lecturer, PhD, with the paper *"The crisis of professional qualifications. Case study – Romania"*

Diana – Camelia Iancu, lecturer, PhD, with the paper *"Talking the talk of the European Union: a Public Choice Approach to the selection of bureaucrats in Romania"*

Crina Ramona Rădulescu, assistant, PhD, with the co-authored paper *„The dimensions of stateness in times of crises. Case study - Romania”*

Cătălin Vrabie, assistant, PhD(c), with the paper *„Digital governance (in Romanian municipalities) and its relation with the IT education. A longitudinal assessment of municipal Web sites in Romania”*

Florin Marius Popa, assistant, PhD(c), with the co-authored papers *„Ethical aspects in the civil servants’ activity. Case study – Romania”* and *“Meritocratic aspects concerning the civil servant’s career. Comparative study in Central and Eastern European countries”*

Cătălin Daniel Dumitrică, assistant, PhD(c), with the paper *„Development regions between joining-up and decentralising reform. A possible solution”*

Corina Georgiana Lazăr, assistant, PhD(c), with the paper *„The Economic crisis – a factor of organizational change in public institutions in Romania”*

Dana Murgescu, assistant, PhD(c), with the paper *„The influence of the Global Economic Crisis on Regional Differences in Romania”*

Cristina Nicolescu, assistant, PhD(c), with the paper *„Romania Public Administration Reform – Between the Modernization Aspirations and Real Possibilities of Achievement”*

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