

# Foreword

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The Summer issue of *Croatian and Comparative Public Administration* continues our commitment to publishing relevant and high-quality scientific articles. We continue to publish six peer-reviewed articles per issue, covering a wide range of contemporary public administration topics. The articles in this issue address themes such as administrative law, social challenges, local self-government, co-production in public services, public management, and e-government. In addition, this issue includes a book review on political economy and its relevance for public policy.

The first section contains two articles dealing with administrative law and social challenges. Denard Veshi, Ervin Pupe, Mindaugas Kiškis, Enkelejda Koka, and Oriona Muçollari, scholars from various institutions, authored the article *The Application of the European Convention on Human Rights and its Jurisprudence by the Albanian Constitutional Court in Administrative Disputes*, which examines the alignment of the Albanian legal system with the legal principles developed and upheld by the European Court of Human Rights (ECHR). The article analyses the jurisprudence of the Albanian Constitutional Court concerning constitutional complaints filed by individuals alleging violations of their fundamental rights. The analysis demonstrates how the principles developed by the ECHR have gradually penetrated the practice of the Albanian Constitutional Court and contributed to shaping the national legal system.

The second article in this section, *Some Aspects of the Impact of the Covid-19 Pandemic on Different Types of Workers in Croatia*, is written by Professors Jelena Matančević and Danijel Baturina from the Social Work Study Centre, Faculty of Law, University of Zagreb. The article explores the highly relevant topic of the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on working conditions in Croatia and contributes to a broader understanding of the pandemic's continuing effects on public governance and public policies. By examining changes in working conditions, labour rights, the flexibilisation

of work arrangements, job quality, remote work, and adaptations within the social security system, the empirical study provides valuable insights into the long-term consequences of the pandemic across different sectors and occupational groups.

The second section of this issue is entitled *Local Self-Government and Co-production*. Professor Roman Vavrek from the Technical University of Ostrava (Czech Republic) authored the article *TOPSIS Technique and its Use in Local Self-Government: A Review of Methodological Literature*. The article examines one of the Multiple Criteria Decision Making (MCDM) methods, namely the TOPSIS technique (Technique for Order Preference by Similarity to Ideal Solution), and discusses its application in local self-government. The potential use of the TOPSIS method is explored in the context of local self-government in Slovakia, providing a solid foundation for its broader application in the field.

The second contribution in this section, *Co-Production in Response to COVID-19: A Case Study of Urban Village Community Resilience During the Pandemic in Indonesia*, is written by Bagus Nuari Harmawan, Anggie Parawitha Lucca, and Indira Arundinasari from the Faculty of Social and Political Science, Universitas Pembangunan Nasional “Veteran”, Surabaya. The authors contribute to the growing body of literature on co-production by connecting crisis management with co-production at the local level. They demonstrate that successful crisis management often depends on volunteer participation and community engagement, making the preservation and development of social capital one of the key preconditions for effective responses to crises.

The final section of this issue is devoted to *Public Management and E-government*. The first article is written by Hassan Abou-Elkacim from Mohammed First University in Oujda and Mohamed Sifa from Hassan II University in Casablanca, Morocco. Their article, *Challenges in Implementing Internal Audit Functions in Local Governments: Evidence from Morocco*, analyses the challenges and prospects associated with implementing internal audit functions in local governments in developing countries. The research identifies several major obstacles, including limited financial resources, the absence of an audit culture, shortages of specialised human resources, and insufficient political commitment. The findings demonstrate that introducing new administrative practices into existing administrative cultures is a complex process that extends far beyond the adoption of legislation or the transfer of internationally established practices.

The final research article, *Systematic Insights into E-Government: Addressing Barriers, Leveraging Trends, and Bridging Gaps in Developing Countries*, is authored by Jonathan Jacob Paul Latupeirissa, Trisnowati Rahayu, Ainun Nazriah, Saiful Fallah, Chaidir Ali, and I Gede Adiratma from Indonesia. The article presents a comprehensive literature review of e-government implementation in developing countries. The authors conclude that successful e-government programmes require robust ICT infrastructure, the promotion of digital literacy, active citizen engagement, and the effective management of privacy concerns, particularly in developing-country contexts.

This issue also includes a review of Ethan Bueno de Mesquita's book *Political Economy for Public Policy*, written by Velibor Mačkić. The book offers an important political economy perspective on public policy analysis and is particularly relevant for public administration scholars because it demonstrates how the allocation of public resources is shaped by political and institutional factors alongside market forces.

Taken together, the contributions published in this issue demonstrate the diversity and vitality of contemporary public administration research. Although they address different topics and employ different methodological approaches, they share a common focus on improving public governance and responding to the complex challenges facing modern public administration. We hope that the articles and the book review presented in this issue will stimulate further scholarly debate, inspire future research, and provide useful insights for both academics and practitioners.

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Editor-in-Chief