

# Trans-European Dialogue TED2020 Conference

# PROGRAM

**Theme: Politics of Bureaucracy: The Roles of Top Public Officials in Turbulent Times**

**Date:** 11-13 February 2020

**Venue:** The University Library in Bratislava, Klariská 5 (old city centre), Bratislava, Slovakia

## TUESDAY 11th FEBRUARY

**Venue:** Primate's Palace, Primate's Square 2 (old city centre), Bratislava

### 19.00 – 21.00 Drinks Reception at The City Hall Bratislava, Primate's Palace

Welcome by **Emília Sičáková-Beblavá**, head of the Institute of Public Policy, Faculty of Social and Economic Sciences, Comenius University Bratislava,

Presentation by the **Head of Mayors Office** of Bratislava on reforms in the Municipality (and civil servants)

Handing of the Honorary Medal of the University to **Prof. Peters** by the Dean of the Faculty **Lucia Mokrá**

### Messages of NISPAcee and EGPA Presidents



# WEDNESDAY 12th FEBRUARY

**Venue: The University Library in Bratislava, Klariská 5 (old city centre), Bratislava**

**08.30-09.00 Registration/ Welcome Tea, Coffee and Pastries**

**09.00-09.15** Welcome by Dean, Lucia Mokrá and Katarína Staroňová, Comenius University Bratislava

**09.15-09.45** Welcome and key-note addresses by Prof. Gyorgy Hajnal (President of NISPAcee), Prof. Jean-Michel Eymeri Douzans (President of EGPA)

**9.45-11:00 Session 1: Career paths: Who are top public officials and where do they come from?**

o Key Note Speaker: Tobias Bach (University of Oslo, Norway)

o Moderator: Tiina Randma-Liiv (Tallinn University of Technology, Estonia)

Some of the issues to be discussed:

- Where do top officials come from and has this changed over time?
- What are the consequences of different career backgrounds
- How has the ascension of populist governments and 'democratic backsliding' affected top officials?
- What are subtle and less subtle forms of politicization of top officials?
- How can we study the politicization of top officials across countries and over time?

**11:00 -11:30** Coffee/ Tea Break

**11:30-12:45 Session 2: Tasks and practices: What do we empirically know about what top public officials actually do?**

o Key Note Speaker: Arnošt Veselý (Charles University Prague, Czech Republic)

o Moderator: Gyorgy Hajnal (Corvinus University Budapest, Hungary)

Some of the issues to be discussed:

- What do we empirically know about the main tasks and practices of top public officials and public managers? Do theoretical accounts of their work reflect the reality of actual practice?
- How do tasks and practices differ across contexts and change over time? How these differences (if any) can be explained?
- How is empirical evidence and analysis used by top public officials for sound public policies and good management?
- How tasks and practices can be best theoretically conceptualized and empirically studied?
- What are the implications for training and education of current and future top public officials?

**12:45- 13:45 Lunch**

**13:45-16:00 Session 3: Professionalization vs. Politicization**

o Key Note Speaker: Jan-Hinrik Meyer-Sahling (University of Nottingham, United Kingdom)

o Moderator: Guy Peters (Pittsburgh University, USA)

Some of the issues to be discussed:

- Is politicization (still) a feature of post-communist executive governance? Or can we identify different worlds of politicization?
- How does politicization meaningfully vary within countries? Across sectors, hierarchies and/or jobs? What is the experience from post-communist Europe?
- How has the rise of populism and the weakening of democracy in some countries influenced the politicization of public administration?
- Does politicization actually matter for government performance and integrity?
- Can – if it comes at a cost – politicization be overcome? Are there lessons from history how to curb politicization?

**16:00 -16:15** Coffee/ Tea Break

**16:15-17.30 Session 4: Policy advice: Where does policy advice come from?**

o Key Note Speaker: Sylvia Veit (University of Kassel, Germany)

o Moderator: Juraj Nemec (Masaryk University Brno, Czech republic)

Some of the issues to be discussed:

- What are the sources of policy advice?
- What characterizes the science-policy interface? What are the main challenges?
- How does better regulation influence the quality of policy-making? What are the limitations of rational policy-making and better regulation measures (e.g. Regulatory Impact Assessments)?
- How, why and with which consequences is the role of the permanent bureaucracy in policy-making and policy advice changing?
- How and why does the power interplay between different actors providing policy advice at ministerial level (e.g., senior civil servants, ministerial advisers, policy units in ministries) vary across countries?

**19:00- late Dinner at Hotel Devín**

**Venue: Hotel Devín, Riečna 4 (old city centre), Bratislava**

# THURSDAY 13th FEBRUARY

**Venue: The University Library in Bratislava, Klariská 5 (old city centre), Bratislava**

## **09:00-10:30 Session 5: Accountability and legitimacy: How is the politics-administration dichotomy changing?**

- o Key Note Speaker: Külli Sarapuu (Tallinn University of Technology, Estonia)
- o Moderator: Edoardo Ongaro (The Open University, UK)

Some of the issues to be discussed:

- What changes do we see in the relationship between politicians and top public servants?
- What are the accountability relations surrounding top officials? What are the sources of legitimacy for their decision-making?
- How do top officials deal with the 'primacy of politics' as the key legitimizing mechanism in democracy?
- How do the populist and authoritarian tendencies in politics influence accountability and legitimacy of top public servants?
- What roles do top public officials play in emerging collaborative structures, decision-making bodies and governance networks?

**10:30 -11:00** Coffee/ Tea Break

## **11:00-12:30 Session 6: Public value: What is the role of top public officials in delivering and communicating public value?**

- o Key Note Speaker: Michal Sedláčko (University of Applied Science FH Campus Wien, Austria)
- o Moderator: Jean-Michel Eymeri Douzans (Sciences Po Toulouse)

Some of the issues to be discussed:

- What is the role of top public officials in identifying, delivering and communicating public values?
- How do top public officials take on the role of public value managers and participate in defining public interest?
- Who and how identifies public value in controversial issues, adversarial policy contexts and multi-actor settings?
- How is public value management conducted across administrative traditions and systems of government?
- What are the possibilities for structuring and measuring public value(s)?

## **12:30-13:00 Chairs: EGPA and NISPAcee Presidents**

Closing Session "Where do we go from here"  
Guy Peters (Pittsburgh University) and Tony Verheijen (World Bank)  
Katarína Staroňová (Comenius University Bratislava)

## **13:00-14:00 Farewell Lunch**

END