

Permanent Practitioners Group at EGPA

“How to learn from good practices: bench learning on bench learning initiatives”

During the EGPA 2007 Conference in Madrid the Permanent Practitioners Group will meet for the first time, as an integral part of the conference and having its own conference track. This group aims at gathering the practitioner's experience from all over Europe and integration this in the conference, attracting practitioners and academics, facilitating discussions and sharing views and ideas.

The main question in this first working session of the permanent practitioners group is the feasibility on learning from others. Is it possible to learn from other public sector organizations? Under which conditions? What are critical success factors in a bench learning strategy ? etc...

Cases, experiences, approaches of different countries will be presented on how to create a strategy for bench learning and stimulate public sector organizations to exchange experiences and learn from each other on national and international basis. These presentations will be discussed by the participants of the permanent practitioners group (presenters and other participants from the conference).

The working sessions of this group will start at Thursday, 20 September 2007 and go on during Friday, 21 September 2007.

Chairs of the EGPA Permanent Practitioners Group

Patrick Staes

Belgian Seconded National Expert and Head of the CAF Resource centre at the European Institute of Public Administration (EIPA - Maastricht).

Nick Thijs

Researcher at the European Institute of Public Administration (EIPA - Maastricht), Public Management and Comparative Public Administration Unit.

DETAILED PROGRAMME PERMANENT PRACTITIONERS GROUP

Wednesday, 19 September 2007

11.30 – 16.00	Registration of Participants
16.00 – 17.30	Opening session Keynote Speaker: Prof. Dr. Joan Subirats, Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona
17.30 – 18.00	Coffee Break
18.00 – 19.30	EGPA Workshops
21.00 -	Dinner

Thursday, 20 September 2007

09.00 – 11.30	Workshop and Study Groups Sessions + Euro-Mediterranean Group
11.30 – 12.00	Coffee Break
12.00 – 14.00	Workshop and Study Groups Sessions + Euro-Mediterranean Group
12.00 – 14.00	EGPA Steering Committee Meeting

14.00 – 16.00 Permanent Practitioners Group (session 1)

Opening by EGPA president
Geert Bouckaert

Setting the context for European public sector bench learning
Patrick Staes & Nick Thijs
European Institute of Public Administration – Maastricht

How to learn from other public sector organisations. Bench learning from quality conferences: Experiences with and lessons from European Public Sector Quality Conferences

- *Experiences from 4qc in Finland*
Johanna Nurmi
Ministry of Finance
Public Management Department (FINLAND)
- *Preparing the 5th quality conference in France*
François Beauvais
Ministère du budget, des comptes publics et de la fonction publique -
Direction générale de la Modernisation de l'Etat (FRANCE)

16.00 – 17.30 Permanent Practitioners Group (session 2)

Bench learning from quality conferences: Experiences with and lessons from National Public Sector Quality Conferences

- *Experiences in Belgium*

Jean-Marc DOCHOT

Organisational Development Service

Federal Government Service Personnel & Organisation (BELGIUM)

- *The case of Hungary*
Dr. Ákos KOVÁCS
Prime Ministers's Office
Civil Service Department (HUNGARY)

17.30 – 18.00	Coffee Break
18.00 – 19.30	Host Country Panel: The Role of the Central Administration in a multilevel State: the Spanish experience
21.00 -	Gala Dinner

Friday, 21 September 2007

08.30 – 10.00 Permanent Practitioners Group (session 3)

Stimulating public sector innovation and networking

- *Why is Bench learning so difficult to get right? The problems and pitfalls from the UK experience. A discussion of experiences with the Public Sector Benchmarking Service; Beacon Schemes and other initiatives.*

Roy Stephenson

Cabinet Office (UK)

- *An instrument for monitoring innovation and benchmarking at the local level in The Netherlands*

Leon Sonnenschein

InAxis (THE NETHERLANDS)

- *Internal bench learning initiative and innovation prize in the Flemish Administration*

Inge Lynen

Department of Administrative Affaires

Ministry of the Flemish community (BELGIUM)

10.00 – 10.30 Coffee Break

10.30 – 12.00 Permanent Practitioners Group (session 4)

Bench learning from national and international awards

- *Exchanging good practices on Quality in regional and local administrations in the Czech Republic*

Jirí Marek

Ministry of the Interior

Modernisation of Public Administration (CZECH REPUBLIC)

- *Trophées de la qualité in France*

Catherine Giraudon & François Beauvais

Ministère du budget, des comptes publics et de la fonction publique -
Direction générale de la Modernisation de l'Etat (FRANCE)

- **European Public Sector Award**

To be confirmed

Drawing up conclusions:

The possibilities of learning from others?

Patrick Staes and Nick Thijs

10.30 – 12.30 Platform for European National Sections and Journals' Editors
12.00 – 12.30 Coffee Break
12.30 – 14.00 EGPA Annual General Assembly and Closing Ceremony
14.30 - Cocktail

Saturday, 22 September 2007

Excursion