

Study Group on Justice and Court Administration

Business plan, December 9, 2011

Introduction

The studygroup is based on the Swiss research project *Basic Research into Court Management in Switzerland*, managed by Andreas Lienhard and Daniel Kettiger. This project wants to gather information on the way in which Swiss Courts function and how this relates to basic knowledge of organisation development and professional characteristics of the people working in the courts, and their interaction within their societal contexts. The project has both a national and an international focus. We consider this research project as an opportunity to reach out to scholars in this field and further develop the justice & court administration as a specialisation between law, public administration, sociology of law, criminology, organisation sociology & psychology, political science and philosophy.

The [European Group of Public Administration](#), in Brussels hosts the studygroup.

Subject

We are aware that courts are complex organisations that fulfill societal functions in different conflict resolution and law enforcement contexts: criminal, administrative, family and trade. Other organisations in these chains, like public prosecutions agencies, the police, child protection agencies, prisons, mediation institutions, ombudsmen, competition authorities, resocialisation agencies, ministries of justice, and supra national institutions like the Council of Europe, the European Court for Human Rights, the European Courts of Justice, the European Anti Fraud Office (OLAF) and the international criminal courts, bailiffs in their different guises, can be subject of projects in this studygroup. The effectiveness of the courts is related with the effectiveness of other organisations in the justice field, and those need not only be

Aim

The studygroup offers an international and multidisciplinary platform to discuss justice administration policies, justice administration projects related to the functioning of courts and public prosecution agencies, and to other organisations and institutions in the justice field. We aim especially at policymakers and justice & courts administrators and managers in the field. The ultimate aim is to explore common ground for cooperation and exchange in Europe in the justice field amongst policymakers, managers and academics. The studygroup is open for lawyers of different specialisations, sociologists of law and organisation, criminologists, organisation psychologists, political scientists, economists, public administrationists and so on.

Activities

The studygroup organises at least one meeting per year, for the time being at the Annual EGPA conference. Other meetings may be organised as projects of the studygroup demand.

Membership

Membership of the studygroup is free. Aspiring membership candidates have a professional interest to the subject of the studygroup and commit themselves to contribute to the exchange of information about projects and research by attending annually at least one of the events organised by the studygroup. The Studygroup presidium decides on admission of aspiring members.

Chair and tasks

Persons

For the years 2011, 2012 and 2013 it is chaired by Anderas Lienhard, Daniel Kettiger ([Kompetenzzentrum für Public Management, Bern](#), Switzerland) Marco Fabri ([IRSIG-CNR](#), Bologna). and Philip Langbroek ([Montaigne Centre](#), Utrecht, the Netherlands).

Tasks

The chair of the study group organises the publication of a call for papers once a year (January at the latest) and they also organise the study group meeting at the annual EGPA conference.. The call for papers is drafted in interaction with study group members. The chairs also publish an annual report on activities and results of the study group.

The chairs establish active connections to national and international institutes and institutions in the field of justice and court administration, like the [network of councils for the judiciary](#), the [association of councils of state](#), the [CEPEJ](#) and the [Venice Commission](#), national and international judges associations and the [International Association for Court Administration](#).

Websites and other social media

The study group has a formal website for publication of call for papers, hosted by EGPA. The websites of study group members projects and institutes refer to each other, meaning that they show clear links to the study group 'website and each other's institutes under a separate header: study group on justice and court administration.

The study group is a group on [Linkedin](#), administered by Philip Langbroek.

Publications

The study group has its own publication series as a part of the series of the [Montaigne Centre](#), published by [Eleven publishers](#), linked to BJU publishers, The Hague). The editorial board consists of the members of the chair of the study group. Studygroup publications are double blind peer reviewed. The study group recommends the [International Journal for Court Administration](#) as an open access publication platform for publication of accepted papers. Of course, the study group recognises that the choice of publication media is at the discretion of authors.