2014 EGPA Annual Conference
8-12 September - Speyer, Germany

Permanent Study Group I:
Information and Communications Technologies in Public Administration

The 2014 Annual Conference of the European Group on Public Administration will be held in Speyer in Germany from 10 to 12 September 2014. The Conference is being organised in collaboration with the German University of Administrative Sciences in Speyer and the German Research Institute for Public Administration.

As always, we invite members and other researchers to submit abstracts on their current research. However for 2014 we particularly invite papers on the themes of open and big data in e-government. There has been a significant growth in interest in both of these topics in the past few years. Interest in open government data and the related topics of open government and transparency have been on the research agenda for several years. A new dimension to this is the increasing prominence of so-called big data and the related topics of data analytics, data mining and business intelligence. We are interested in papers that explore any of these themes or related aspects. Some possible questions are:

• What are the potential applications of open data? There have been some interesting examples of this in the private sector, though many of these relate to sales and marketing. What possibilities are there in the public sector, particularly for the development and improvement of policy and decision making?
• What are the potential barriers to or risks arising from widespread availability of open government data? Are there risks of misuse, commercial abuse, unexpected and undesirable social consequence, threats to privacy, etc.?
• What kinds of use of big data are we seeing in the public sector? To what extent does this usage actually contribute to the effectiveness of government policies? How does big data change relations within government organizations and in society?
• Are there different issues which arise in big data/open government data between central and local government or between nation states and supranational bodies such as the EU? Do big and open data result in processes of institutional change?

For those who may be new to the group, please note that it is not necessary to address the workshop theme in your submission. Papers on other topics in the broad area of e-government, ICT in public administration and e-democracy and on your own current research in these areas are welcome.
Publication of Papers
We hope to bring some strong papers together and publish a special issue of *Information Polity* in 2015. Papers may also be published in the Electronic Journal of e-Government and in the *International Review of Administrative Sciences*. Subject to editorial review, the best paper from the conference will be fast-tracked for publication in Information Polity if possible in 2015. Recent publications of the group include a book on the Future of e-Government, edited by Albert Meijer, Frank Bannister and Marcel Thaens and update on the 1998 handbook on Public Administration in an Information Age, *Public Administration in an Information Age: Revisited* edited by Ig Snellen, Marcel Thaens and Wim van de Donk. Proposals for further books in this series are welcome.

Further Information
Up to date information on the workshop, as it become available, can be found at our website. Any important information will be mailed to you directly. Our website can be found at: 
http://www.scss.tcd.ie/disciplines/information_systems/egpa/

This call for papers is available there as are the papers from the 2013 Edinburgh conference in case anybody who was not there would still like to look at them. These will be removed in spring of 2014 as we prepare the site for the Speyer conference.

EGPA’s own 2014 conference site and the formal EGPA call for papers and submission procedures are available via www.egpa-conference2014.org. As for last year, submissions are normally made directly to the EGPA site, but they can be sent director to the Co-Directors (see below)

As in previous years, we will try to organize our time so as to maximize our opportunities to discuss reflective/theoretical papers in depth. The EGPA Study Group on ICT in Public Administration is dedicated to providing the strongest possible discussion forum for both established and new scholars in this field and to give a good opportunity for scholars to present new ideas and have those ideas discussed and debated by their peers.

PhD Seminar
As last year, there will be a PhD seminar on the two days preceding the conference (8th and 9th of September). As this is organized by EGPA and not by our Group, a separate call will be sent out for this, probably in January. As in previous years, participants in the PhD seminar can choose to present in the seminar only or both in the seminar and (subject to acceptance) in the main study group meeting. After a plenary session, the seminar breaks into smaller groups which are clustered around topics. If we have sufficient e-government or related PhD students, we can form our own group.

Acceptance
This call is for abstracts or proposals. In keeping with Study Group aims, the co-conveners will be looking for a number of key features in proposals for papers. These features are as follows:

- Abstracts should show evidence of arguments that authors will make in the proposed paper;
- The papers should show evidence of innovative and creative thinking which is well grounded in theory or well argued;
- Reflective/theoretical papers should preferably be related, even if indirectly, to the conference theme, but this is not mandatory;
- For empirically based papers, adherence to the conference theme is less important, but there should be evidence of new findings from research being undertaken;
- In all cases there should be evidence that the proposed paper emerges from contemporary debate within the public administration sphere, broadly defined.
If you have any questions about this, please contact us at:

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**Provisional Dates**
The following are the key dates for the conference

Abstract by upload to EGPA site: **15 May 2014**  
Decision by co-Chairs: **1 June 2014**  
Completed papers: **5 August 2014**

Papers should ideally have a maximum length of about 7,500 words and should be submitted in PDF or Microsoft Word or RTF format. We will be asking some lucky participants to act as discussants for each of the presented papers. Discussants will provide a further stimulus to valuable discussion on each of the papers presented.

Please note that the co-conveners wish to encourage new scholars as well as existing scholars in the field to contribute to the Study Group. The group is open to new members and we would ask senior members of the group to encourage younger colleagues and PhD students to consider submitting proposals.