

The European Group for Public Administration - Permanent Study Group
"Public Sector Financial Management"
in collaboration with

LUMSA (Libera Università Maria Ss. Assunta) University
Department of Human Studies

announces the
2022 EGPA PSG "Public Sector Financial Management"
Spring Workshop

Rethinking Public Sector Financial Management (PFM):
Public Value and Other Challenges for Accounting Studies
(in the Aftermaths of COVID-19)

Dear Colleague,

We have the pleasure to invite you to submit a paper for the 2022 Spring Workshop organised by the EGPA Permanent Study Group 'Public Sector Financial Management', which, originally, should have been held in **Rome, Italy, on 2020 at LUMSA University**. After the forced shutdown imposed by the COVID-19 pandemic we would like to encourage all colleagues to submit their valuable proposals for the new dates of the workshop that will be held again in **Rome, Italy, on May 26th and 27th 2022 at LUMSA University**.

The Permanent Study Group Public Sector Financial Management, part of the European Group for Public Administration (EGPA), is an intellectual platform devoted to the study of 'Public Sector Financial Management'. The overall objective of the Study Group is to provide a forum for scholars and practitioners to present, discuss and debate their research, findings and ideas about innovative approaches to, and tools used in, Public Sector Financial Management (PFM). It also highlights and compares experiences of established systems, or systems that are still under trial in European and non-European countries. The Study Group convenes twice a year in order to create a network of close collaboration among its participants. These meetings give participants the opportunity to highlight and compare experiences of innovations in PFM, in order to define both theoretical structures and their practical implementation to deal with financial sustainability and financial distress in public sector organisations.

The theme of the Rome workshop is:

Rethinking Public Sector Financial Management:
Public Value and Other Challenges for Accounting Studies
(in the Aftermaths of COVID-19)

Over recent years, the debate around Public Value (PV) has entered a new era. Moore (2014) claimed that an accounting scheme must recognize the assets employed within the value creation process and highlight the results that public administrations expect to achieve. However, there is still a need to develop an accounting system able to capture the revenue side, which provides information about the value produced (Moore, 2013; Bozeman, 2007). So far, there is a paucity of PV accounting literature (Bracci *et al.*, 2019). Studies have mostly been carried out by non-accounting scholars and published in non-accounting journals.

Therefore, there is ample space for contributions in the accounting field. As inception, the critical question is what public value is and how it may be engendered and measured from an accounting perspective. New theoretical frameworks and practical solutions may be developed, based on accountability, reporting, management accounting and performance management benchmarks. According to scholars actively engaged in public sector financial management research, management accounting and performance management and measurement are widely recognized as key drivers for creating public value (Papi *et al.* 2018). On the one hand, this has fostered plenty of useful studies aimed at improving efficiency in public sector organizations; on the other hand, it has discouraged studies on budgeting and reporting from a strictly financial accounting perspective. Moreover, public sector organisations are facing a complex challenge: complying with public demand for an in-depth explanation of how much PV has been produced, and in addition, how PV has been produced by the allocation of assets (Chohan and Jacobs, 2017). To address this challenge, research should improve financial accounting and explore the various dimensions relevant to Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and the relationship between social and economic value (Hartley, 2017). To that end, financial reports still represent a base that needs to be enhanced and supported by identifying specific frameworks and standards (Farneti and Dumay, 2014; Montecalvo *et al.* 2018) and observing best practices. Accordingly, the IPSASB Recommended Practice Guide (reporting on long-term sustainability) is an attempt to align the value creation process through service delivery with financial sustainability (Brusca *et al.* 2015). In order to avoid neglecting relevant issues, analyses should involve all aspects that influence budgeting and reporting activities consistent with users' needs, including those related to communication (including digital) and legitimacy.

As ultimate challenge, the COVID-19 pandemic has reinforced the need to tie the creation of PV with the best possible public sector accounting framework. In other words, the thirst of accountability has never been felt as it is now. As regards, the debate developed in the last decade around the creation of the European Public Sector Accounting Standards (EPSAS) is living its second and probably most important life. Some academics (Manes Rossi *et al.* 2021) are claiming the need for their voice to be heard from standard setters and the European Commission in the standards development process; others, (Oulasvirta, 2021) is calling for a bottom-up approach in developing standards. Finally, the same strand of scholars (Cohen *et al.* 2021) pointed out a close-call for the EPSAS establishment, which should be revolved around 4 pillars: i) IT solutions development; ii) a viable existence for both EPSAS and domestic accounting standards; iii) Proper accounting education for preparers (as already stressed by Adam *et al* 2020; Heiling, 2020) and iv) Citizen as financial information main users.

Given these broad premises, **we invite papers within the area of financial management, including all research falling within the fields of budgeting, financial accounting, management accounting, auditing, accountability, integrated and sustainability reporting, public value accounting and stakeholder management, engagement, metrics and communication.** Papers could explore historical and/or contemporary issues as well as investigating single or multiple settings. Papers can be both practical or theoretical using qualitative, quantitative and /or mixed methods.

Some of the issues to be discussed, among others, might be:

- Theoretical and practical issues involved in Public Value measurement and reporting;
- The role of accounting innovation in Public Sector Financial Management;

- The role of accounting in supporting Public Value development;
- The link between financial sustainability and stakeholders' needs, and the ability of financial statements to give evidence of results achieved;
- New practices in report production and communication;
- The challenge of developing accounting standards at both national and international levels that consider the needs of different users;
- The next steps in the pursuit of improved Government Accounting Standards (EPSAS, IPSAS and others);
- The relationship between financial and social variables;
- The capability of budgeting and accounting to support public policies;
- New perspectives on the use of performance information;
- Transparency, sustainability and legitimacy of governments based on financial management information;
- The role of auditing, both internal and external, in the public sector;
- Accounting for corruption in the public sector;
- Integrated and Sustainability reporting issues in the public sector;
- Social impact and measurement.

The workshop also welcomes papers that fall within the general scope of public sector accounting and the comparability of governmental financial accounting in the EU and worldwide.

Papers will be accepted for presentation based upon acceptance of the abstract. All abstracts (or full papers) will undergo a double blind review process and accepted papers will be distributed among the workshop participants.

References

- Adam, B., Brusca, I., Caperchione, E., Heiling, J., Jorge, S. M. F., & Rossi, F. M. (2019). Are higher education institutions in Europe preparing students for IPSAS?. *International Journal of Public Sector Management*.
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- Bracci, E., Papi, L., Bigoni, M., Gagliardo, E. D., & Bruns, H. J. (2019). Public value and public sector accounting research: a structured literature review. *Journal of Public Budgeting, Accounting & Financial Management*.
- Brusca, I., Caperchione, E., Cohen, S., & Rossi, F. M. (Eds.). (2015). *Public sector accounting and auditing in Europe: The challenge of harmonization* (pp. 1-278). Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan.
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- Hartley, J., Alford, J., Knies, E., & Douglas, S. (2017). Towards an empirical research agenda for public value theory. *Public Management Review*, 19(5), 670-685.
- Heiling, J. (2020). Time to rethink public sector accounting education? A practitioner's perspective. *Journal of Public Budgeting, Accounting & Financial Management*.
- Inscriptions, S. P. V., & Dumay, F. F. J. (2014). *Public Value Management, Measurement and Reporting*.

Manes-Rossi, F., Cohen, S., & Brusca, I. (2021). The academic voice in the EPSAS project. *Public Money & Management*, 1-9.

Montecalvo, M., Farneti, F. & De Villiers, C. 2018. The potential of integrated reporting to enhance sustainability reporting in the public sector, *Public Money & Management*, 38(5), 365-374.

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Oulasvirta, L. (2021). A consistent bottom-up approach for deriving a conceptual framework for public sector financial accounting. *Public Money & Management*, 1-11.

Papi, L., Bigoni, M., Bracci, E., & Deidda Gagliardo, E. (2018). Measuring public value: a conceptual and applied contribution to the debate. *Public Money & Management*, 38(7), 503-510.

Submission of Abstracts

Abstracts should be submitted to: egpaspringworkshop2022@lumsa.it

Abstracts should be no more than 1000 words. They should include:

- Purpose of the paper;
- Research methodology;
- Main findings and implications.

Personal data, academic position, affiliation and email contact must be included in the Abstract. Submissions should be sent by **March 1st 2022**. Notification of acceptance will be made by **March 15th 2022**.

Paper Guidelines

The paper must consist of 20 pages maximum (each page of 2200 characters, spaces included, Times New Roman, text 12 and notes 10), including notes, diagrams, tables and bibliography. Either complete works or research in progress will be accepted as long as the aims of the research, the methodology and the actual or expected results are clearly shown. Full papers should be submitted by **April 15th 2022** to egpaspringworkshop2022@lumsa.it. Without submission of a full paper by this deadline, presentation will not be possible, as participants discussing the paper need sufficient time to prepare.

Participation Fees

The registration fee is **€ 120 until April 22nd 2022** (€ 170 for late registration after April 22nd 2022). It includes participation at the 2022 EGPA PSG 'Public Sector Financial Management' Spring Workshop.

Conference fee payment details and proof of payment should be sent by email to egpaspringworkshop2022@lumsa.it.

Participation Fees

All fees should be paid by bank transfer, as follows:

- | | |
|--------------------------|--|
| - Beneficiary name: | LUMSA University of Rome |
| - Beneficiary IBAN: | IT 43 S 03069 05238 100000001983 |
| - Beneficiary bank name: | BANCA INTESA SAN PAOLO SPA |
| - Beneficiary bank BIC: | BCITITMM |
| - Payment details: | Fee EGPA 2022 – <i>Participant's complete name</i> |

Please remember to provide payment details and to send a scanned copy of the proof of payment by email to egpaspringworkshop2022@lumsa.it. You will receive confirmation of receipt via email.

Publication opportunities

More detailed information will be provided in due course.

The workshop is also open to participants not presenting a paper. For more information on the workshop please visit the [Workshop's page](#).

For any queries send an email to the Spring Workshop local organizers:

- Alessandro Giosi, LUMSA University: (a.giosi@lumsa.it);
- Sandro Brunelli, University of Rome "Tor Vergata": (brunelli@economia.uniroma2.it)

For more information about the EGPA Permanent Study Group Public Sector Financial Management, please contact the co-chairs:

- Isabel Brusca, University of Zaragoza (ibrusca@unizar.es)
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