

**The European Group for Public Administration Permanent Study Group XII**  
**"Public Sector Financial Management"**  
*in collaboration with the*

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

*announces the*  
**2020 EGPA PSG XII Spring Workshop**

## **Rethinking Public Sector Financial Management: Public Value and Others Challenges for Accounting Studies**

Dear Colleague,

We have the pleasure of inviting you to submit a paper for the 2020 Spring Workshop organised by the EGPA Permanent Study Group XII 'Public Sector Financial Management', to be held in **Rome, Italy, on May 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> 2020 at LUMSA University**.

The Permanent Study Group XII, 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. 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 Others Challenges for Accounting Studies**

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 articulate 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. A critical question to begin with 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 (Choan 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 (Busca *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.

Given these broad premises, **we invite papers within the area of financial management, including all researches falling within the fields of budgeting, financial accounting, management accounting, auditing, accountability, integrated and sustainability reporting, public value accounting and stakeholder management 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 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.

**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.

### ***Submission of Abstracts***

Abstracts should be submitted to: [egpaspringxii2020@lumsa.it](mailto:egpaspringxii2020@lumsa.it)

Abstracts should be no more than 1.000 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. Submission should be sent by **February 1<sup>st</sup> 2020**. Notification of Acceptance will be made by **February 15<sup>th</sup> 2020**.

**You are also invited to attend the Pre-Workshop on "Qualitative Research in Public Sector Accounting: emerging trends", on the afternoon of May 13<sup>th</sup> 2020, organised in collaboration with the editorial team of the Journal of Public Budgeting, Accounting, and Financial Management (<https://www.emeraldinsight.com/journal/jpbafm>).**

### ***Paper Guidelines***

The paper must consist of 20 pages maximum (each page of 2.200 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 15<sup>th</sup> 2020** to [egpaspringxii2020@lumsa.it](mailto:egpaspringxii2020@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 March 1<sup>st</sup> 2020** (€ 170 for late registration after March 1<sup>st</sup> 2020). It includes participation at the 2020 EGPA PSG XII Spring Workshop and Pre-Workshop.

Conference fee payments details and proof of payment should be sent by email to [egpaspringxii2020@lumsa.it](mailto:egpaspringxii2020@lumsa.it).

### ***Participation Fees***

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

- |                          |  |
|--------------------------|--|
| - Beneficiary name:      | LUMSA University of Rome                           |
| - Beneficiary IBAN:      | IT57B0311103226000000005620                        |
| - Beneficiary bank name: | UBI - Banca Popolare di Bergamo                    |
| - Beneficiary bank BIC:  | BLOPIT22   |
| - Payments details:      | Fee EGPA 2020 – <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 [egpaspringxii2020@lumsa.it](mailto:egpaspringxii2020@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**

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

**For more information about the EGPA XII Permanent Study Group, please contact:**

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and visit the [EPGA PSG XII page](#) or join the related [group on LinkedIn](#).