

# **-CALL FOR PAPERS-**

International conference

## **A performing public sector: the second transatlantic dialogue**

**Leuven (Belgium), 1-3 June 2006**

The aim of the conference is to bring together American and European research on performance in the public sector. The confrontation of different perspectives may strengthen transatlantic collaboration. The second transatlantic dialogue aspires a sequel to the successful 2005 first transatlantic dialogue on Ethics and integrity of governance. Jointly organized by a European (EGPA) and American (ASPA) network on public performance, the conference aims to strengthen co-operation among European and American scholars. We kindly invite papers on the topics of the 5 workshops.

### **WORKSHOP 1: The performance of performance budgeting**

*(Chairs: Geert Bouckaert, KULeuven and Gerald Miller, Rutgers University)*

What are the possibilities and limitations of the use of performance information in budgeting and resource allocation and re-allocation? What are the purposes and results of performance budgeting initiatives? What is the utility of performance budgets under difficult circumstances such as budget cuts and downsizing? How does performance information affect budget discussions? What are the consequences for the functioning of Parliament and its commissions (discourse, transparency, strategic level of discussions)? How does performance affect the dynamics of budgeting?

### **WORKSHOP 2: Performance of regulation and regulation of performance**

*(Chairs: Per Laegreid, University of Bergen and Donald Moynihan, University of Wisconsin)*

Regulation is normally considered to be regulation by the state, but there is a growing focus on regulation inside government. Increasing autonomy of agencies leads to an expansion of oversight from ex ante authorization to ex post audit, management by results and performance assessment. Is performance measurement and management fulfilling its role of coordination and control? What are the intended and unintended consequences of using

performance measurement for regulation? For example, are we noticing greater compliance, but less use of information for decision-making?

### **WORKSHOP 3: Performance in multi-sector/organization collaborations**

*(Chairs: Maria Aristigueta, University of Delaware and Wouter van Dooren, KULeuven)*

Policy issues cross through organizational and sectoral boundaries. The public/private divide may also become increasingly vague. What are the strategies for collaboration (partnerships, privatization)? How to ensure and measure the performance of collaboration? How do we measure the performance of governance? Is it different from organizational performance?

### **WORKSHOP 4: Performance, the politician and the citizen**

*(Chairs: March Holzer, Rutgers University and Eran Vigoda-Gadot, University of Haifa)*

What is the role of the citizen and society in performance measurement (citizen driven performance measurement)? How do public organizations show results? What is the impact of report cards, league tables and rankings? What is the relation between performance and trust? Is there a causal relationship between 'objective' and 'subjective' performance? Does performance lead to trust? What is the relation between performance and political accountability? What is the role of political executives in a performance management model?

### **WORKSHOP 5: Emerging and other strategies for productivity and performance**

*(Chairs: Evan Berman, Louisiana State University and Werner Jann, University of Potsdam)*

This workshop seeks to be a forum for new and unusual angles on performance, broadly defined. What are the reform strategies for improving performance? Other relevant areas such as information technologies and strategic planning may be included, as well as review studies of performance. A comparative focus on strategies for performance is pursued.

## *Practicalities*

- ✓ Please submit a short abstract outlining
  - the title of the paper
  - a short description of the contents of the paper (maximum 1 page)
  - the name and number of the workshop (recommended, but not mandatory)
  - name, affiliation, and contact information of the author(s)
  - the theme and the research method of your contribution.
- ✓ The deadline for the abstracts is **December 31st, 2005**
- ✓ Final acceptance will be notified by the end of January 2006.
- ✓ Final papers are due by April 30th.
- ✓ Papers will then be publicized on the Conference Website
- ✓ The Conference Website provides you with the latest information on the program and the practical organization

[www.publicmanagement.be/performance](http://www.publicmanagement.be/performance)

Kindly send abstracts and papers to both e-mail addresses.

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