



UNPAN Partners' Newsletter

January – February – March 2024




United Nations | Department of Economic and Social Affairs

Launch of the eLearning Course
Effective National to Local Public Governance for
SDG Implementation

17 January 2024

15:00 – 16:00 | Seoul (GMT+ 9)
13:00 – 14:00 | Bangkok (GMT+ 7)
18:00 – 19:00 | Suva (GMT+ 12)

Self-paced Certificate Course with Accessibility Features

Launch of the eLearning Course on Effective National to Local Public Governance for SDG Implementation

UN DESA/DPIDG/UNPOG organized a webinar to introduce the new eLearning Course on Effective National to Local Public Governance for SDG Implementation (Toolkit).

Based on the UN DESA Curriculum on Governance for the SDGs, the Toolkit focuses on strengthening public institutions at national and local level to promote more consistent implementation of SDGs.

The toolkit now been converted into a self-paced eLearning course available to all interested policymakers, practitioners and interested stakeholders for free on the [UN DESA Digital Learning Centre](#) and the UNSSC Blue Line platform. The eLearning course offers accessibility features. For more information, click [here](#).



United Nations | Department of Economic and Social Affairs | IASIA

Americas Regional Workshop on the Review of the Standards of Excellence for Public Administration Education and Training

Workshop in English

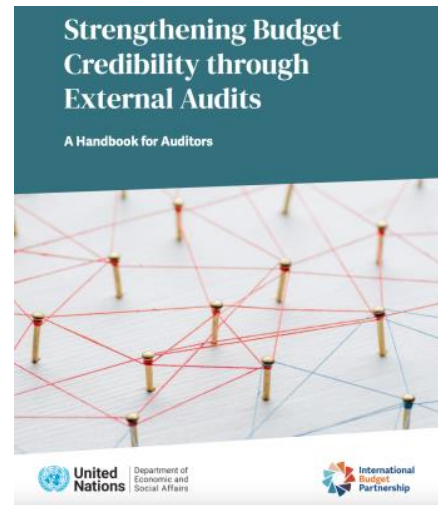
4 January 16 January 17 January

23 January 2024 (12.00 pm - 3.00 pm NY Time)

Americas Regional Workshop on the Review of the Standards of Excellence for Public Administration Education and Training

UN DESA and the International Association of Schools and Institutes of Administration (IASIA) organized a Regional Workshop for the Review of the Standards of Excellence for Public Administration Education and Training in the Americas. The workshop took place on 23 January 2024.

The purpose of the event was to gather inputs from the Americas on the review and/or update of the Standards of Excellence for Public Administration Education and Training and to align them to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals. The Standards were originally established in 2008 before the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development was adopted by 193 Member States. For more information, click [here](#).



Strengthening Budget Credibility through External Audits
A Handbook for Auditors

United Nations | Department of Economic and Social Affairs | International Budget Partnership

Strengthening budget credibility through external audits – Webinar series

DPIDG/UNDESA and the International Budget Partnership (IBP) in collaboration with supreme audit institutions (SAIs) and partners organized a webinar series to enable peer learning on the various ways in which SAIs may assess and address budget credibility. The series aimed to create a platform where SAIs and other stakeholders can share knowledge and

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experiences on budget credibility, and discuss strategies and practical ways to advance this work. The webinars delved into the contents of Strengthening Budget Credibility through External Audits: An Auditor’s Handbook which provides a practical overview of existing and potential audit work that can contribute to improving budget credibility and aims to support SAIs in enhancing their analyses of the credibility of government budgets. For more information on the session 1, click [here](#). For session 2, click [here](#). For session 3, click [here](#).

2. Building human and institutional capacities in the area of strategic foresight to help the government officials make strategic choices and manage risks to shape the future under conditions of uncertainty.

Government officials/ participants were involved in the co-design of system maps based on the existing national development strategy which will contribute to strengthening result-based management and will trigger modernization of the public administration of Seychelles. They ran a series of foresight exercises, within this systems approach, to understand the evolution of the system’s features and the feedback loops in different future scenarios, and identify emerging signals and trends, as well as risks and opportunities. For information on the first workshop held on 6-7 February, click [here](#). For more information on the second workshop held on 19-22 February, click [here](#).



Foresight and Systems Thinking for Strategic Planning and Financing for Sustainable Development Goals in Seychelles - Hybrid Training of Trainers Workshop

The overall objective of this capacity building workshop was to contribute to a more coherent, participatory, prioritized and evidence-based governance framework in support of the planning and implementation of Seychelles’ National Development Strategy and aimed at increasing the country’s resilient and inclusive sustainable development.

This capacity-building approach towards a more coherent, evidence-based and agile strategic planning framework will be concretized by providing support to:

1. Building human and institutional capacities on systems thinking for policy coherence and long-term planning among government officials and helping them apply it directly into the national budgeting and planning process.



United Nations E-Government Survey Local Online Service Index (LOSI) Webinar Series Episode 4 – Uzbekistan

The fourth LOSI webinar series organized UN DESA/DPIDG focused on the application of LOSI methodology in Uzbekistan. This webinar hosted researchers who conducted the study in 14 municipalities in Uzbekistan. The webinar provided an opportunity for city officials to learn about and discuss the upcoming UN E-Government Survey 2024. For more information, click [here](#).

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Global Workshop on Policy Experimentation and Regulatory Sandboxes on Digital Technologies for Sustainable Development

The Workshop aimed to build institutional and individual capacities of countries to conceptualize and implement pragmatic solutions on operationalizing policy experimentation and regulatory sandboxes in digital technologies, in specific areas/sectors related to SDG targets. It bolstered regional and global discourse and collaboration among countries and stakeholders regarding policy experimentation and regulatory sandboxes in digital technologies for sustainable development, thereby fostering a fresh global consensus on the preparedness of Asia-Pacific countries for a future fraught with challenges and opportunities as highlighted by the upcoming Summit of the Future in 2024. It also enhanced global and regional dialogue and multistakeholder cooperation on policy experimentation for possible scale-up and replication in other countries especially the LDCs, SIDS and LLDCs. For more information, click [here](#).



Lusophone Countries Workshop for the Review of the Standards of Excellence for Public Administration Education and Training

UN DESA and the International Association of Schools and Institutes of Administration (IASIA) organized a

Regional Workshop for the Review of the Standards of Excellence for Public Administration Education and Training in Lusophone countries. The workshop took place on 20 February 2024. The event was conducted in Portuguese.

The purpose of the Workshop was to gather inputs on the review and/or update of the Standards of Excellence for Public Administration Education and Training which were originally established in 2008 before the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development was adopted by 193 Member States. For more information, click [here](#).



Webinar Series on Innovation, Digital Government and Changing Mindsets for Public Sector Transformation

The Caribbean Centre for Development Administration (CARICAD) in collaboration with UN DESA/DPIDG, as well as other global and regional partners, organized a Webinar Series on Innovation, Digital Government and Changing Mindsets for Public Sector Transformation. The webinars were held on 21 and 28 February 2024 and 20 and 27 March 2024. They brought together research findings, innovative practices and thought leadership on the topics of innovation, digital government and changing mindsets for public sector transformation.

Among the areas to be covered, in this webinar series, were the global context of digitalization and an exploration of the requirement for changing mindsets as foundational to innovation, digitalization and public sector transformation. CARICAD also presented its findings from an e-Government survey conducted amongst its member states. In addition, small country

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experiences were explored. For more information, click [here](#).



Building on Bangkok: A Follow-up Discussion on the Local Online Service Index (LOSI) Capacity Building Workshop Outcomes

This follow-up meeting reviewed the outcomes of the LOSI Bangkok Capacity Building Workshop conducted in November 2023. It focused on assessing the progress made in applying LOSI in various countries since the last gathering, as well as exploring other LOSI-related initiatives such as the LOSI network, Local E-Government Toolkit, Rural LOSI, and more.

This interactive session aimed to engage all participants in discussions about their local e-government endeavors and challenges. The LOSI network is envisioned as a dynamic platform where stakeholders can exchange ideas and receive support for fostering sustainable cities and communities (SDG 11). For more information, click [here](#).



Capacity Development and Consultation Workshop on Bhutan National Data Governance Framework

UN DESA in collaboration with the Government Technology (GovTech) of the Government of Bhutan hosted a national consultation workshop with representatives from governments, private, public sector, civil societies, academia and other key stakeholders to develop a national data governance framework.

The objective of the National Consultation Workshop was three-fold:

- Engaged stakeholders from different agencies and other non-government stakeholders to participate in the official dialogue and knowledge exchange on proposing a national data governance framework for Bhutan.
- Discussed the existing opportunity and gap assessments for proposed focus areas, emerging from dialogue and interaction among workshop participants, including the proposed UN DESA data governance framework of 4 pillars and 6 elements.
- Identified the next course of action in strategic planning and implementation for setting up a national data governance framework.

For more information, click [here](#).



Virtual Workshop on Subsidiarity and Decentralisation for Sustainable Development

The workshop was organized by UN DESA/DPIDG and its Project Office – United Nations Project Office on Governance (UNPOG). The workshop was designed to share knowledge and provide a platform to connect participants with practitioners in other countries, the UN system and other organisations to take concrete action-oriented steps towards more effective relations among levels of government in implementing the SDGs. For more information, click [here](#).

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CLIMATESCANNER GLOBAL CALL

Engaging Supreme Audit Institutions in assessing national climate action

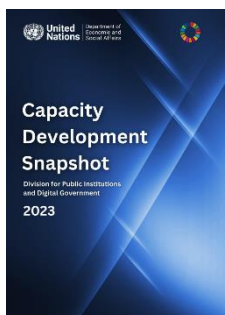
New York, 25-26 March 2024



ClimateScanner Global Call

UN DESA/DPIDG and the Federal Court of Accounts – Brazil (TCU) jointly organized a meeting on ClimateScanner Global Call: Engaging Supreme Audit Institutions in assessing national climate action from 25 to 26 March 2024 in New York.

DPIDG/UN DESA and TCU collaborated on the ClimateScanner global initiative, which aims to support Supreme Audit Institutions (SAIs) to conduct independent assessments of national responses to climate change. The meeting provided an opportunity to share information on the ClimateScanner initiative and discuss the way forward for the rollout of the assessment framework, receiving inputs from SAI leadership and stakeholders. The meeting also aimed to facilitate an informed dialogue among SAIs and stakeholders on common challenges and opportunities related to climate change and the engagement of SAIs in assessing national climate action. For more information, click [here](#).



Capacity Development Snapshot 2023

This report provides an overview of the capacity development activities that UN DESA/DPIDG conducted in 2023, including the substantive support provided to the reinvigorated UN Resident

Coordinator system, the development of new strategy guidance notes and methodologies, requests it received from Member States and how these were addressed, as well as the key outcomes of its capacity development support. For more information and to access the report, click [here](#).



Saudi Arabia Hosts IGF 2024 Kickoff Meetings

The Internet Governance Forum (IGF), the global multistakeholder platform for digital dialogue, kicked off the 2024 cycle with initial face-to-face meetings of its two advisory bodies from 25 to 29 February, in Riyadh, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. The IGF’s [Multistakeholder Advisory Group \(MAG\)](#) and [Leadership Panel](#) traveled to the Saudi capital at the invitation of the Government, which will host the [19th annual Forum](#) on 15-19 December.

The main outcomes of MAG [deliberations](#) were decisions on the 19th IGF overarching theme, “Building Our Multistakeholder Digital Future”, as well as four constituent [themes](#) agreed as – “Harnessing innovation and balancing risks in the digital space”; “Enhancing the digital contribution to peace, development, and sustainability”; “Advancing human rights and inclusion in the digital age”; and “Improving digital governance for the Internet We Want”. These will act as a structure for the annual meeting programme and guide intersessional policy, outreach and capacity development work over the coming months.

The MAG also heard from a wide range of stakeholders during its traditional open consultations. To foster organizational synergies, these featured short briefings from [UN agencies](#), including the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), ITU, UNDP, UNESCO, UNICRI and UNIDIR.

Setting the strategic course for IGF in its gathering, the Leadership Panel converged on the need to shine a spotlight on the Forum’s activities and impacts. These

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are extensive and diverse across 170 [National, Regional, Subregional and Youth IGF Initiatives \(NRIs\)](#), [policy initiatives](#) on Artificial Intelligence, Cybersecurity and more, and targeted engagement programmes such as those for [international legislators](#). Stronger IGF visibility was established as a priority against the backdrop of two major UN processes underway, negotiations on the Global Digital Compact (GDC), and the twenty-year review of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS+20), which will determine the extension of the IGF mandate beyond 2025.

Activities from UNPAN Members



SANPA-SIPG Webinar 1/2024: Building Global Public Administration Knowledge: Perspectives from the Global South

South Asian Network for Public Administration (SANPA) and South Asian Institute of Policy and Governance (SIPG), North South University organized a webinar on building Global Public Administration Knowledge: Perspectives from the Global South on 28 January 2024. The webinar was moderated by SANPA President Professor Akhlaque Haque. Global scholars James Perry, Akhlaque Haque, Kim Moloney, Shahjahan Bhuiyan, Aisha Azhar, Dr. Amir Nasrullah, and Alex Brillantes Jr discussed and debated how to build collaboration to create global knowledge on public administration. James Perry presented a thought-provoking note that invoked critical discussions from the panelists. For more information, click [here](#).



Call for Papers: Asian Review of Public Administration

The Asian Review of Public Administration (ARPA) opened manuscript submissions for online publishing. Articles submitted for consideration in ARPA should adhere to the guidelines in the Journal

Information Sheet, which is available for viewing/downloading [here](#).

All submissions, queries, and concerns must be e-mailed to publications@eropa.co, following the format mentioned in the banner.

For more information on the journal and to browse past issues, please visit the official ARPA website [here](#).

For more information, click [here](#). To view the Paper Guidelines, please visit: [ARPA Call for Papers - Eastern Regional Organization for Public Administration \(eropa.co\)](#)



Special lecture on Toward a Socially Sustainable and Resilient Collaborative Crisis Management: Survey Experiment on Gender Leadership and Information Framing in COVID-19 Public Health Response in Japan

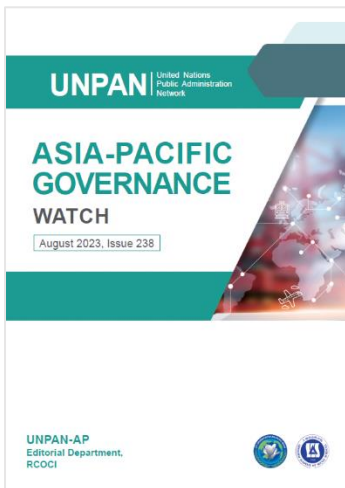
The University of the Philippines - National College of Public Administration and Governance (UP-NCPAG) and the Eastern Regional Organization for Public Administration (EROPA) held a special lecture on Toward a Socially Sustainable and Resilient Collaborative Crisis

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Management: Survey Experiment on Gender Leadership and Information Framing in Covid-19 Public Health Response in Japan on 27 February 2024.

This lecture featured Dr. Masao Kikuchi from Meiji University's Department of Public Management and School of Business Administration and the Director of the International Education Center. For more information, click [here](#).



Asia-Pacific Governance Watch (Issue 238 and 239)

This report covers various topics of Asia and the Pacific governance, such as: 1) government policy and legislation; 2) government system and civil services; 3) management, capacity building and innovation; 4) economic and social development and ICT; 5) public finance; and 6) private sector. To read Issue 238, please click [here](#). To read Issue 239, please click [here](#).

simply, quickly and securely. Users can access the services through the web, mobile (iOS and Android) channels, WhatsApp, and their application.

Bahia's public service platform was launched in 2018, becoming, in a short time, a reference in the country in terms of capacity to offer digital services. Its operation that began with 17 digital services offered to the population, currently provides about 500 types of services and has more than 5 million registered citizens.

Innovation is a trademark of the Government of Bahia, the only state in Brazil with one third of its population registered on a public service platform. BA.GOV.BR has the target to reach half of the population of the state (around 7.070 million) by the end of 2024.

In January 2024, the platform won, through popular vote, the first place in the iBest Award in the State Government category. It is the largest internet award in the country, and it aims to distinguish the best initiatives in the Brazilian digital universe based on popular and expert voting. The award includes 105 categories, grouped into four segments: e-commerce, services, financial services, and content, in addition to a particular category.

It was the second award won by the Bahia platform, developed by the State Administration Secretariat (Saeb) in partnership with the State Information and Communication Technology Company (Prodeb). In December 2022, the platform won the Digital Government Award, granted by the Ministry of Economy and the Brazilian Association of State Entities of Information and Communication Technology (ABEP).

To learn more about the award-winning platform, visit: www.ba.gov.br



The Platform for the Provision of Services from the Government of Bahia Receives Awards

Last year, the government of Bahia renamed its public services platform. The former SAC Digital evolved to BA.GOV.BR, which can be accessed from any device



XXVIII Congreso Internacional del

CLAD

sobre la Reforma del Estado y de la Administración Pública
La Habana, Cuba
21 al 24 de noviembre, 2023



CENTRO LATINOAMERICANO DE ADMINISTRACIÓN PARA EL DESARROLLO



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XXVIII International Congress of CLAD on State and Public Administration Reform

The Latin American Center for Development Administration (CLAD) and the Government of Cuba through Ministry of Higher Education organized the XXVIII International Congress of CLAD on State and Public Administration Reform that was held in Havana, Cuba, from 21 to 24 November 2023, in the Havana International Conference Center.

During the Congress, renowned specialists presented Plenary Lectures. Panels made reference to eleven thematic areas. The conclusions reports are available on the site of XXVIII Congress. In addition, recently edited books were presented.

The most important annual event in the field of the Ibero-American Public Administration, it was attended by 1600 people from CLAD's member countries and the rest of the world, representatives of different governments, personalities of the academic field and public officials of Ibero-America, as well as students and professionals interested in the public sphere.

The Congress included 99 panels , 4 plenary conferences, 18 special presentations, 22 fast panels, the exhibition of 10 books published during the year 2023, the LIII Meeting of CLAD's Board of Directors, the presentation and award of the winners of the XXXVI CLAD Contest on the selection process for civil servants, as well as meetings with different institutions, among other activities.

For more information, click [here](#).



Ibero-American School of Administration and Public Policies (EIAPP)

Within the framework of the Academic Program of the CLAD School, the following International Virtual Conference (Webinar) has been organized: [How Does Democracy Die in Ibero-America?](#) (December 6, 2023. Speaker: Víctor Lapuente); and [Max Weber's Actuality:](#)

[the Rationalization of the Modern World](#) (January 10, 2024. Speaker: Joaquín Abellán).

In 2024 these virtual International Courses will be coordinated: [Management of Civil Servants' Job Skills](#) (April 15 - June 14); and [Governance of Artificial Intelligence in Public Administration](#) (April 30 - June 5). For more information, click [here](#).



XXXVI CLAD Contest on State Reform and Modernization of the Public Administration 2023 "The selection process for civil servants"

In this Contest, the monographs addressed aspects related to the theme of The selection process for civil servants. The works were dedicated indistinctly to the regional, subregional or national level, being presented in the official languages of CLAD (Spanish or Portuguese). Persons based in the member countries of the organization participated in the Contest. Individual or group works were submitted.

The International Jury determined the winners of three prizes and two honorable mentions, whose full texts can be consulted. In addition to the pecuniary prizes, the authors of the winning works received an airfare to Cuba, headquarters of the XXVIII International Congress of CLAD on the Reform of the State and Public Administration, which was held in November 2023, with the purpose of integrating a panel that was presented within the framework of this event. For more information, click [here](#).

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CLAD’s Journal Reform and Democracy: 84th edition

The CLAD Journal is a quarterly refereed publication dedicated to stimulating intellectual progress in the understanding of State-Society relations, as well as to disseminate proposals and alternatives to guide the transformations required in public administration.

The 84th edition has the following articles: 1) Recasting State Reform to Ensure Resilience in an Unpredictable World (Patria de Lancer Julnes); 2) How Does the Method of Evaluations Affect their Use? (José Danilo González Peña); 3) Regional Integration and Institutional Capacities: an Exploratory Analysis of their Impact on Development in Central America and the Dominican Republic (Joaquín Prestol); 4) The Prolonged Chilean Sociopolitical Crisis: Analysis and Interpretations 1997-2020 (Francesco Emmanuel Penaglia Vásquez); 5) The Evolution of Urban Policy in Seville (Spain): Scope and Limits for the Promotion of Socioeconomic and Territorial Inclusion (Eliana Tadeu Terci); 6) Ten Dimensions to Measure Municipal Management by Organization and Guaranteed Services: the Certification of Excellence of Concepción, Chile (Esteban Valenzuela Van Treek, Cristian Quiroz Reyes and María Inés Picazo Verdejo); 7) The Political Variable in the Institutionalization of Social Networks in the Administration. The Case of the Ministerial Communication in Spain (Óscar Cortés Abad); and 8) Characterization of the Mandate of Public Managers in Ecuador. An Approach to their Management from the Performance and Learning Cycles (Irma Jara Iñiguez and Gabriel Cevallos). In order to consult these full texts and their abstracts, click [here](#).



Ibero-American governance: To change public administration/Francisco Velázquez López

This is a book of rigorous topicality, which shows how public administration can have a stable model, but with institutional capacities to adapt to new technological, economic and social challenges. For more information, click [here](#).



Reforme Bulletin

CLAD publishes the Reforme Bulletin directly on the Portal. It is a means of disseminating information that is linked to the programs, projects and services that CLAD promotes. It also includes also events, courses, publications, calls and job opportunities of interest to other institutions, as well as the compendium of the most outstanding news in the week of the member countries of CLAD. For more information, click [here](#).



RICO REP Bulletin

The RICO REP Bulletin is an information service for members of the Network of Institutions to Combat Corruption and Rescue Public Ethics, whose content

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refers to the main news, events and publications around the fight against corruption and the promotion of public ethics in Ibero-America. For more information, click [here](#).



Asian Review of Public Administration (ARPA) Vol. 31

The Volume 31 of the Asian Review of Public Administration (ARPA), the flagship journal of the Eastern Regional Organization for Public Administration (EROPA), is now out and accessible [online](#). This journal issue focuses on COVID-19 experiences, good and best practices, and lessons learned of select countries from the Asia-Pacific region namely Bangladesh, China, India, Nepal, South Korea, Viet Nam, as well as the United States of America. More articles will be released soon.

ARPA is also now open to manuscript submissions for online publishing. Articles submitted for consideration in ARPA should adhere to the guidelines in the Journal Information Sheet, which is available for viewing/downloading [here](#). All submissions and queries must be e-mailed to publications@eropa.co, following the suggested format.



EROPA Bulletin: Vol. 44, No. 1

The latest EROPA Bulletin, Vol. 44 No. 1, the flagship quarterly newsletter of the Eastern Regional Organization for Public Administration (EROPA) is now available.

This issue contains highlights on the following matters:

- 1.) Release of the much-anticipated special issue of EROPA's flagship journal, the Asian Review of Public Administration (ARPA);
- 2.) Recent and upcoming held/participated/co-organized events of EROPA, its members, network, and affiliated organizations;
- 3.) Publications, call for book proposals, event invitations, and other announcements of EROPA's members and partner organizations; and so much more!

Free copies are available for browsing and downloading [here](#).



Development challenges in Lebanon: the rocky road to reform

ESCWA published the Development challenges in Lebanon: The rocky road to reform paper. The paper assesses the long-term socioeconomic development of Lebanon in the following three areas: human development

challenges, inequalities and economic resilience. The applied metrics are drawn from the World Development Challenges including: The development challenges index, the development inequalities index, and the economic resilience index. The results reveal that Lebanon has a high level of development challenges. The country is the second-largest rank loser globally on the development challenges index in the last two decades, with a deterioration of 43 ranks between 2000 and 2021. As for the development inequalities index,

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Lebanon displays a medium level of inequalities. The country figures among the top 10 highest deteriorations in governance performance globally on the development challenges index between 2000 and 2021. Regarding economic resilience, Lebanon is ranked sixth lowest worldwide on the economic resilience index. The country's debt resilience index and rating index are second to last globally. The path to recovery for Lebanon requires more than just financial aid, it demands a comprehensive governance overhaul. International support combined with good governance, through increased public sector effectiveness and improved transparency and accountability, is the main pathway towards rebuilding the economy. For more information, click [here](#).

translating drivers of high vulnerability and worst-case crisis scenarios into policies that strengthen resilience.

The workshop drew from the ESCWA Risk Monitor, which was presented at the regional and national levels, and which identified the most concerning drivers of high vulnerability and low resilience that have evolved over the course of the last decade.

The workshop came up with preliminary recommendations on how to enhance the strategic planning process and develop risk-based public policies, and the requirements for institutionalizing them in the State of Palestine. The work on the final recommendations will be completed during the next workshop, in which the second section of the Palestinian planning and policy team will participate. For more information, click [here](#).



Adopting a methodology that helps provide a different understanding of risks in the occupied Palestinian territory

ESCWA's Cluster 6 on Governance and Prevention conducted a workshop on Risk-informed policymaking in the State of Palestine, which took place between from 15 to 17 February 2024 in Amman, Jordan, with Palestinian civil servants from the Prime Minister's office, ministries of economy, health, affairs, social development, education and higher education, environment, water, power, public works and housing, and other public institutions that comprise the national Palestinian Strategic Development Planning team.

The participants worked on a methodology for risk-based policy making and planning amidst fragility and occupation. The methodology identified drivers of extreme vulnerability and low resilience along conflict/occupation and social, economic, institutional and climate pathways. The workshop also entailed the articulation of various risk scenarios, in addition to

ESCWA programs in the field of social and institutional risk management

ESCWA's cluster 6 on Governance and Prevention held a virtual meeting on 29 February 2024, with several policy-making officials in the Ministry of Planning, the National Security Advisory, and the Al-Nahrain Center for Strategic Studies in the Republic of Iraq. The meeting aimed to introduce participants to ESCWA programs in the field of social and institutional risk management, in addition to the Arab Risk Monitor. The outcomes of this meeting will help adapt the content of the ESCWA program for social and institutional risk management in preparation for holding a three-day training workshop with the Iraqi team concerned with developing strategic studies and public policies.



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First Arab Consumer Protection Forum, 20-21 February 2024, Manama-Bahrain

As part of its mandate to strengthen the consumer protection frameworks and policies in the Arab region, ESCWA, in partnership with the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) and the Consumer Protection Directorate under the Ministry of Industry and Commerce of Bahrain, launched the first Arab Consumer Protection Forum.

The Forum serves as a yearly platform with the following objectives:

Enhancing economic growth and governance in the Arab region, in line with the principles of the Sustainable Development Goals; Promoting collaboration and coordination among consumer protection authorities in ESCWA member states; Informing consumer protection policymaking and enforcement in the Arab region, guided by international best practices; Generating concrete recommendations for future activities aimed at advancing consumer protection policy and enforcement in the Arab region.

The First Arab Consumer Protection Forum addressed topics such as Consumer protection policies for sustainability; Strengthening legal frameworks for consumer protection, Empowering consumers: improving access to redress and complaint resolution; Consumer protection in e-commerce and the digital market.

such as energy transition, the housing crisis, artificial intelligence, leading with flexibility, embracing work changes, and adjusting leadership styles, the summit served as a foundation for innovative solutions and inclusive leadership practices.

Discussions at the Summit revolved around the imperative energy transition, exploring sustainable pathways to address climate change and foster renewable energy initiatives.

Amidst the housing crisis gripping many communities, participants delved into strategies to alleviate housing insecurities and foster inclusive urban development. Through collaborative efforts and innovative policy frameworks, leaders sought to address the fundamental right to adequate housing for all citizens.

Artificial Intelligence (AI) emerged as a focal point, with deliberations on its potential to drive efficiency and innovation across sectors while ensuring ethical deployment. Attendees exchanged insights on leveraging AI to enhance public service delivery and empower communities.

Leading with flexibility and adapting to evolving work paradigms were recurring themes, emphasizing the dynamic nature of modern leadership. Embracing change and cultivating resilience were highlighted as essential for navigating uncertainty and driving organizational success.

Keynote addresses by distinguished speakers, including Her Excellency the Right Honourable Mary Simon, Governor General of Canada, and Her Honourable Janice Charette, Former Clerk of the Privy Council and Secretary to the Cabinet, underscored the importance of inclusive leadership grounded in integrity. They highlighted the imperative of embracing diversity and fostering inclusive environments to achieve collective goals.

The IPAC 2024 Leadership Summit served as a catalyst for collaboration, innovation, and inclusive leadership, empowering participants to navigate complexities, drive positive change, and shape a more resilient and equitable future for all Canadians.



19th Annual IPAC Leadership Summit

The IPAC 2024 Leadership Summit brought together leaders, public servants, and academics from across Canada to engage with leading minds who have successfully tackled change, adapted to complexities, and fostered empowerment. With a focus on themes

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IPAC's New Professionals event

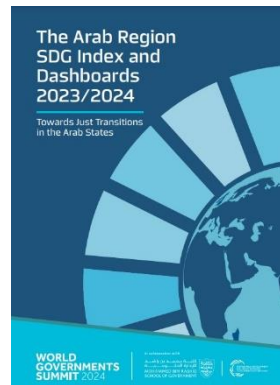
IPAC's New Professionals event on 7 December 2023 promised an engaging exploration of diverse themes through thought-provoking panel discussions. Attendees uncovered exciting career opportunities within the public service sector, gaining insights from emerging leaders managing their professional journeys. Seasoned senior executives offered perspectives on government functionality and success essentials across different administrative levels.

The event echoed three pivotal takeaways for professional growth:

Firstly, emphasizing the significance of networking, the discussions highlighted the value of connecting with individuals across various echelons of the organization. Advocating for proactive engagement, the event underscored the importance of reaching out and collaborating with a diverse array of individuals, recognizing the power in expanding one's network.

Secondly, the event fervently advocated for self-reliance and proactivity in career management. Attendees were reminded of their pivotal role in steering their professional trajectories. Empowering participants, the discussions reinforced the notion that individual actions and initiatives are paramount in shaping successful careers.

Lastly, the event championed the pursuit of mentorship opportunities and coaching. Encouraging attendees to actively seek guidance, the discussions highlighted the invaluable role of mentors in fostering professional growth. Participants were urged to proactively engage with mentorship programs to harness guidance and support in their career journeys. For more information, click [here](#).



The Arab Region SDG Index and Dashboards Report 2023/2024

Towards Just Transitions in the Arab States

Date: February 2024

Report Website: <https://arabsdgindex.com/>

The Arab Region SDG Index and Dashboards 2023/2024 Report, published by the Mohammed Bin Rashid School of Government in partnership with the Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN) provides a data-driven practical tool for governments, policymakers and other stakeholders to measure progress on the SDGs, and to highlight implementation challenges and data gaps, as a foundation for actions.

Amidst growing developmental needs, the Arab region faces increasing climate change risks projected to amplify preexisting social, economic, and environmental challenges in the region. Sustaining climate action – reducing greenhouse gas emissions (GHG) and enhancing resilience - is of paramount importance. However, the impacts of these efforts extend beyond the environmental scope. There are profound social and economic ramifications influenced by how climate-related goals are achieved, including effects on social justice, gender equality, health, well-being, poverty, unemployment, and social and political stability. Countries' pathways toward sustainable and environmentally friendly economies need to consider these factors to reach a fair and inclusive future for all. To steer the Arab region's efforts, it is essential to utilize data and evidence-based policies.

This edition of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) Index and Dashboards in the Arab Region aims to provide a practical data-driven tool for governments, policymakers, and other stakeholders to measure progress on the SDGs, shed light on implementation challenges and uncover data gaps. The Arab Region SDGs Index and Dashboards report for 2023/2024 utilizes insights derived from data on the performance of Arab countries in achieving the SDGs to explore challenges and opportunities associated with fair transitions in the Arab region.

Disclaimer: The views expressed are those of the individual authors and do not imply any expression of opinion on the part of the United Nations.



Global Economic Diversification Index 2024

Date: February 2024

Launch Event: The Arab Region SDGs Index and Dashboards Report 2023/2024 (World Government Summit 2024)

The Mohammed Bin Rashid School of Government (MBRSG), in collaboration with the United Nations Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN), has launched a special edition of the Arab Region SDGs Index and Dashboards Report 2023/2024.

The report highlights the various developmental challenges facing the Arab region, especially for the least developed countries. It also provides a practical tool to guide targeted interventions aimed at achieving positive change across the region on all sustainable development goals.

The presentation of the findings was followed by a panel discussion with:

- Dr. Meskerem Brhane, World Bank Regional Director for Sustainable Development in the Middle East and North Africa (MNA) region
- Simone Filippini, Chair International, Netherlands Commission for Environmental Impact Assessment
- Dr. Fadi Salem, Director of Policy Research at the MBRSG
- Lama Zakzak, Principal Researcher at the MBRSG

Date: February 2024

Press Release Link: <https://wam.ae/article/b1n6tqq-wgs-2024-mbrsg-launches-arab-region-sustainable>

Link: <https://economicdiversification.com/>

The pursuit of economic diversification has emerged as a key policy objective for nations reliant on commodity production. It aims to mitigate volatility, foster sustainable economic growth and development, generate employment opportunities, and cultivate a more robust private sector while ensuring sound public finances. Despite considerable research focusing on the determinants of economic diversification and the efficacy of related policies in driving economic advancement, a universally accepted measure or index of economic diversification was lacking until the inception of the Global Economic Diversification Index (EDI) in 2022. The EDI evaluates and ranks countries based on the breadth of their economic diversification, considering multiple dimensions such as the diversification of economic activities, international trade patterns, and the composition of government revenues, aiming to reduce reliance on revenue derived from natural resources or commodities.

In this new edition, as in previous ones, the EDI remains solely based on quantitative indicators, with no survey or perception indicators, providing a quantitative benchmark and ranking of the economic diversification of countries, using 25 publicly available indicators, data and information. This edition of the EDI extends the coverage to a total of 112 countries, for the period 2000 to the COVID-19 affected years of 2020-2022 allowing an international, cross-country, regional comparison and ranking of commodity dependent countries.

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Launch Event: The Global Economic Diversification Index 2024 (World Government Summit 2024)

The Mohammed Bin Rashid School of Government (MBRSG) has launched the third edition of the Global Economic Diversification Index (EDI) at the 2024 World Governments Summit (WGS) during a session around Shaping Future Governments.

The Global Economic Diversification Index is designed to serve as a comprehensive policy tool, aiding governments in understanding and implementing successful diversification plans. By incorporating digital trade into its analysis, the EDI provides a more nuanced view of the global economic landscape, offering valuable insights for policymakers worldwide.

The presentation of the findings was followed by a panel discussion with:

- Dr. Jihad Azour, Director at the International Monetary Fund
- Dr. Nasser Saidi, President of Nasser Saidi & Associates
- Prof. Raed Awamleh, Dean of the MBRSG
- Dr. Fadi Salem, EDI Co-Author, Director of Policy Research at the MBRSG

Date: February 2024

Press Release Link:

<https://wam.ae/en/article/13riogj-mbrsg-launches-3rd-global-economic-diversification>

1st Global Conference on Economic Diversification

The MBR School of Government (MBRSG) will host the 1st Global Conference on Economic Diversification in Dubai in 2024 to address methodological, theoretical, policy focused and thought-leadership outcomes based on the EDI dataset and beyond.

About the Global Economic Diversification Index (EDI) - In early 2022, the Mohammed bin Rashid School of Government (MBRSG) published the first edition of the EDI at the World Government Summit. The EDI is built on a cross-country, time series empirical analysis, allowing for a historical analysis of the evolution and extent of economic diversification across countries. Such an analysis represents a building block for further work to understand the macro-economic shifts, policy adjustments and strategic changes that allowed countries to either successfully diversify or, on the contrary, be held back in their path to diversification.

The inaugural edition of the EDI was based on the analysis of data from 83 countries, covering economies from all regions of the globe, income levels, and resource wealth/dependency. In 2023, the second edition of the Global EDI expanded the scope of coverage and analysis to include more than 100 countries. The third edition of the EDI is planned in 2024, with even further expanded coverage and thematic analysis.

As such, the EDI aims to fill the gap in the existing literature, data and empirical analysis: it represents a significant innovation and important addition to the analysis, discussion and policy efforts related to economic diversification. Furthermore, as a composite indicator, the EDI looks beyond trade to also include production/output and government revenue diversification, as the three dimensions forming the basis of the index. By design, the EDI is addressed as a rigorous 'reproducible research' and is solely based on publicly available data from reputable sources, following a methodology peer-reviewed by a panel of international experts. In order to ensure the highest levels of methodological rigor, data validity, robustness, inclusiveness, acceptance and impact on policy discourses, the MBRSG has conducted peer and expert reviews at different stages of the EDI's construction.

Please contact EDI@mbrsg.ac.ae for more information.

EDI Website: <https://economicdiversification.com/>

Conference Page:

<https://economicdiversification.com/conference/>

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DPR Vol. 1



DPR Vol. 2

The Dubai Policy Review Volume 3: Call for Contributions

The Dubai Policy Review (DPR) is published by the Mohammed bin Rashid School of Government with the aim of contributing to the advancement of future governance and public policy, through rigorous, accessible and actionable thought-leadership and practice-oriented knowledge. The journal targets the policy and government community with the objective of contributing to higher government quality, better government practice and informing future policymaking directions. The Dubai Policy Review (DPR) offers insights on future trends in public policy and government practice from global thought leaders in diverse public policy domains. These include, but are not limited to, innovation, digital transformation, social policy, economics, political science, management, leadership, wellbeing and sustainable development.

Please access this link for the DPR’s contribution guidelines: <https://dubaipolicyreview.ae/guidelines/>



Trans European Dialogue 2024

The Trans-European Dialogue TED2024 Conference on the topic: Digital governance in the age of AI: evolving policies, regulations, and practices was held from 7 to 8 March 2024 in Dubrovnik, Croatia.

It was organized by the Faculty of Law, University of Zagreb, in cooperation with NISPAcee and EGPA. The conference was opened by welcome addresses presented by Eka Akobia (President of NISPAcee) and Prof. Jean-Michel Eymeri Douzans (President of EGPA). Almost 40 experts, including online participants, from NISPAcee and EGPA networks took part in the event and discussed hot topics related to the digital governance in the age of AI as listed in the TED programme:

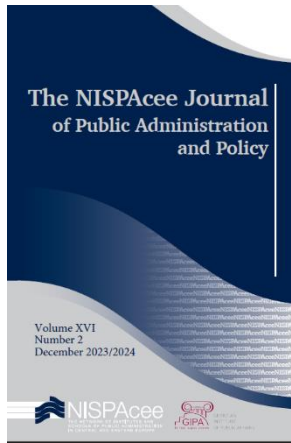
[TED2024 Programme](#)

Trans-European Dialogues (TED) are series of scholarly conferences on timely topics of public administration, jointly organised by the European Group for Public Administration (EGPA) and the Network of Institutes and Schools of Public Administration in Central and Eastern Europe (NISPAcee).

TED2024 was a high level conference bringing together senior public administration experts – academics and high-level practitioners – from across different regions – with the aim to discuss current research results and practices as well as future research opportunities. The emphasis of the conference is on broad debate among all invited participants based on their research based and practical experience.

Participants of TED 2024 were invited to develop scientific papers which would reflect the TED discussions. The papers could be published in the winter issue of the NISPAcee Journal of Public Administration and Policy, or other relevant journals. More information can be found on the TED 2024 website: <https://ted2024.pravo.hr/call-for-participation>

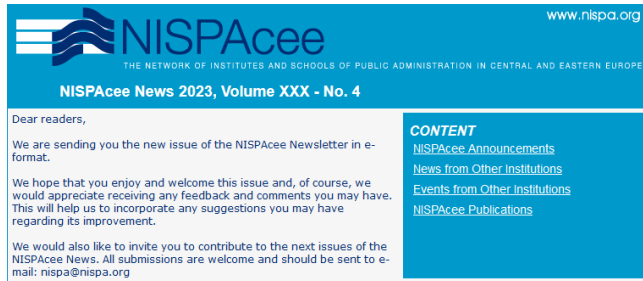
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NISPAcee Journal of Public Administration and Policy, Volume XVI, Number 2, Winter 2023/2024

The Journal is predominantly devoted to public administration, public policy and public governance issues in Central and Eastern Europe, but high-level submissions from any other part of the

world are also published, especially if they focus on the issues relevant for the NISPAcee region. The goal is to publish top quality papers based on empirical research (of qualitative, quantitative or mixed character), theoretical articles and literature reviews developing general public administration, public policy and public governance theory, or their specific dimensions. The Journal is available online: https://www.nispa.org/publication_details.php?p_id=265&pg=9



NISPAcee Newsletter

The last issue of the NISPAcee Newsletter is available at: https://www.nispa.org/newsletter.php?newsletter_id=48

Upcoming Activities



2024 ASPA ANNUAL CONFERENCE
MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA | April 12-16, 2024

ASPA 2024 Annual Conference Brings Public Service Professionals to Minneapolis April 12-16

The American Society for Public Administration held its 85th Annual Conference in Minneapolis, Minnesota, from 12 to 16 April. The theme of the event was “Building Resilient Communities.” What does this mean? We often think of “resilience” as the ability to overcome, grow, adapt and innovate. And, we know that “community resilience” is garnering attention across the public service profession around the globe. But, the definition is complicated, especially given the interconnection of local knowledge, community networks and relationships, governance and leadership, community capital and economic investment, inclusivity, social and economic equity, climate adaptation and environmental justice. ASPA’s 2024 Annual Conference aimed to help attendees understand the myriad connections and complex systems involved.

Six tracks guided the discussions: global and comparative perspectives; emergency preparedness, public health and disaster response; good governance and democratic resilience; social equity, diversity and inclusion; innovative human resource management; and environmental management and effective technology.

Attendees from across the United States and more than 40 countries around the world met in Minneapolis for this event and discussed the most pressing challenges the public administration profession is facing today.

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The lens of community resilience guided all of these discussions, while also providing space for thinking through solutions communities can implement to move forward into a hopeful, resilient future.



SANPA International Conference

The South Asian Network for Public Administration (SANPA) will host its first conference in Dhaka, Bangladesh, from 25 to 26 October 2024. Please save the dates! Dhaka International University is partnering with SANPA to host the conference.

For all international participants, SANPA will provide local hospitality, including accommodation and meals. National participants will receive meals and refreshments during the conference hours.

SANPA will share the call for abstracts soon and looks forward to your active participation. If you are interested in attending, please visit [here](#).



كلية محمد بن راشد للإدارة الحكومية
MOHAMMED BIN RASHID SCHOOL OF GOVERNMENT



Artificial Intelligence Ethics in the Age of Generative AI: Certified AI Ethics training course, 6-10 May 2024

The IEEE Standards Association (IEEE SA) and the Mohammed Bin Rashid School of Government (MBRSG) have the pleasure to organize this first of its kind in-person training at the MBRSG premises in Dubai.

In this training, you will learn how to address social responsibility in Autonomous Intelligent Systems (AIS) while improving your current business model, by joining a community of AI Ethics experts in mastering the IEEE CertifAIED approach.

Training Objective:

This course has been developed for individuals who are interested in learning how to assess Autonomous and Intelligent Systems (AIS) for their conformity to ethical privacy, transparency, accountability and algorithmic bias criteria required by the IEEE CertifAIED Program.

Completion of this course is an integral first step towards becoming recognized as an IEEE CertifAIED Authorized Assessor.

What You will Get from This Training:

Become proficient in the key principles of AI Ethics and the IEEE CertifAIED criteria and certification process

Work with experts and other trainees on how to assess products, services, and systems from an ethical perspective

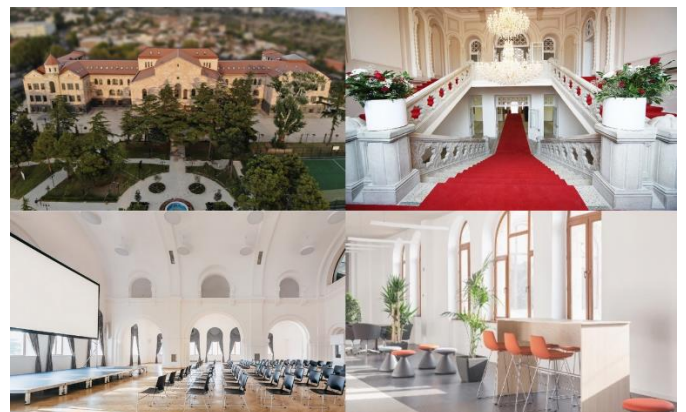
Learn what the IEEE CertifAIED mark exemplifies on AIS products, services, and systems

Gain knowledge of fundamental concepts such as ethical profiling, assessment, and certification

Who Can Participate:

There are no prerequisites for attending the training; however, taking the [IEEE Awareness Module on AI Ethics](#) or other training or background in ethics, artificial intelligence, standards development, certification programs and conformity assessment is encouraged.

Please email execed@mbrsg.ac.ae to register for the course.



32nd NISPAcee Annual Conference 2024

The conference is organized in cooperation with the Caucasus University, Tbilisi, Georgia

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We are pleased to invite interested public administration and policy professionals to register for the 32nd NISPAcee Annual Conference 2024, that includes activities and research on various topics of public administration.

Dates and place: 23-25 May 2024, Tbilisi, Georgia.

Main Conference Theme: Public Administration in Post-conflict Reconstruction:

Countries around the world still experience violent conflicts. In 2022 there were 56 instances of State-based violence, 83 instances of non-State violence and 45 instances of one-sided violence (UCPD, 2023). Moreover, it has become evident by recent European history that bad governance leads to an unwarranted use of force and illegal military invasion of a peaceful neighbouring country, affecting economy, social foundation and governance in Ukraine and beyond, regionally and globally. While in post-conflict situations many sectors require reconstruction, governance and administration are central to the functioning and stability of the post-conflict society.

Conference venue: Caucasus University

More information is available on [conference webpage](#).

To contact the UNPAN team, click on the following icons:

