UNPAN Partners' Newsletter

April – May – June 2025

2025 UN Public Service Forum

The 2025 United Nations Public Service Forum took place in Samarkand, Uzbekistan from 23 to 25 June 2025, under the theme "Five Years to 2030: Accelerating Public Service Delivery for a Sustainable Future". The Forum was co-organized by the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA) through its Division for Public Institutions and Digital Government (DPIDG) and the Government of Uzbekistan.

Read more

Africa Regional Forum on Governance Innovation: Advancing Agile, Inclusive and People-Centered Services for All

UN DESA/DPIDGorganized a Regional Forum on Public Service Innovation within the framework of the Continental Celebration of the 2025 African Public Service Day entitled Enhancing the Agility and Resilience of Public Institutions to Achieve Equitable Governance and Rapidly Address Historical Service Delivery Gaps. The Africa Public Service Day was organized by the African Union and the Ministry of Public Service and Human Resource Development of Ethiopia.

Read more

The Future of Governance: Changing Mindsets for Innovation and Public Sector Transformation

UN DESA/DPIDGorganized a Capacity Development Workshop on The Future of Governance: Changing Mindsets for Innovation and Public Sector Transformation in collaboration with the Caribbean Centre for Administration Development (CARICAD) and the Caribbean Office of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC). It was held 25-27 May 2025 in Bridgetown, Barbados.

Read more

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UN Global Horizon Scanning: Insights from using digital tools to analyze signals, trends, and drivers of change across the UN system

A Side Event on UN Global Horizon Scanning: Insights from using digital tools to analyze signals, trends, and drivers of change across the UN system was held virtually on 15 May 2025 at the margins of the 2025 Multi-stakeholder Forum on Science, Technology and Innovation for the SDGs.

Read more

Training of Trainers Workshop on Effective National to Local Governance for Sustainable Development Goals Implementation in Nepal

Nepal Administrative Staff College (NASC), in collaboration with UN DESA, through its Project Office on Governance (UNPOG) of the Division for Public Institutions and Digital Government (DPIDG), and with support from the UN Resident Coordinator Office and United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in Nepal co-organized a Training of Trainers Workshop on Effective National to Local Governance for Sustainable Development Goals Implementation in Nepal. It was 13 – 15 May 2025 in Kathmandu, Nepal.

Read more

SDG16 Conference 2025

The Permanent Mission of Italy to the United Nations, UN DESA and the International Development Law Organization (IDLO) organized the SDG16 Conference 2025 onAdvancing Peace, Justice and Institutions for Sustainable Development on 12 May 2025 at United Nations Headquarters in New York.

Read more

Changing Mindsets for Innovation and Public Sector Transformation

UN DESA/DPIDGorganized a Capacity Development Workshops on Changing Mindsets for Innovation and Public Sector Transformation in collaboration with the Caribbean Centre for Administration Development (CARICAD) and the Caribbean Office of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC). It was held in person from 23rd – 24th April 2025 in Castries, St. Lucia. The workshop was directed to General

Directors, Senior Public Officers at the level of Directors, Director Generals, Heads of Agencies and Authorities and Chairman of Boards/Board of Directors in charge of public policy implementation.

Read more

2025 UNPAN Members Annual Meeting

The 2025 UNPAN Members Annual Meeting, organized by UN DESA/DPIDGtook place at the margins of the 24th Session of the UN Committee of Experts on Public Administration at the UN Headquarters in New York on 10 April 2025.

Read more

Launch of a Capacity Building Initiative on Innovating Public Service Delivery to Achieve the Sustainable Development Goals

The Side Event to launch the Capacity Building Initiative on Innovating Public Service Delivery to Achieve the Sustainable Development Goals was held on 9 April 2025 at the United Nations Headquarters at the margins of the Twenty-Fourth Session of the Committee of Experts on Public Administration (CEPA). It was jointly organized by the State Agency for Public Service and Social Innovations under the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan together with the Permanent Mission of Azerbaijan to the United Nations in collaboration with UN DESA/DPIDG.

Read more

Committee of Experts on Public Administration - 24th session

The Committee of Experts on Public Administration held its twenty-fourth session in New York from 7 to 11 April 2025. The theme was Governance and institutional perspectives on advancing sustainable, inclusive, science and evidence-based solutions for the SDGs**.**

Read more

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Changing Mindsets for Innovation and Public Sector Transformation

The Webinar on Changing Mindsets for Innovation and Public Sector Transformation sought to explore practices and approaches to support changing mindsets for innovation and digital transformation of public services, different mindsets, the role of changed mindsets and capacity building strategies (aimed not only to the public sector but society as a whole), to support this transformation.

Read more

3 April 2025 | 8:00 a.m. – 10:00 .am (EST)

Online Global Launch of the Standards of Excellence for Public Administration Education and Training

UN DESA/DPIDG in collaboration with the International Association of Schools and Institutes of Administration (IASIA), organized a global capacity development webinar to launch the 2025 Standards of Excellence for Public Administration Education and Training.

Read more

Follow-up Webinar on:
The Future of Governance and New Mindsets, Knowledge & Competencies fit for the 21st Century
Commitments and Next Steps

2 April 2025 | 9.00 am - 10.30 am (EDT) | by invitation only

Webinar on the Future of Governance and New Mindsets, Knowledge and Skills: Commitments and Next Steps

UN DESA/DPIDGorganized a follow up webinar with the participants of the 9 – 13 December 2024 Capacity Development workshop on Future of Governance and New Mindsets, Knowledge and Competencies Fit for the 21st Century organized within the framework of the 8th edition of the African Forum of Territorial Managers and Training Institutes.

Read more

Activities from UNPAN Members

Advanced Approaches to Public Sector Innovation by Design
Event Type: Virtual Training Program
Date: May 5, 12, 20, 26, 2025

This four-part program—developed by IPAC in partnership with the Danish Design Center—guided participants through public sector innovation practices rooted in service design, sustainable leadership, mission-led approaches, and systems change. Each session featured global experts from Denmark and a Canadian public service cohort.

Key Messages:

- Design leadership is essential to foster ethical, citizen-centered innovation.

- Public service challenges benefit from structured, design-based problem-solving methods.

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- Systems innovation requires bold experimentation and collaborative thinking.

Using Advanced Technologies and Data to Inform Disaster Preparedness and Response
Event Type: Virtual Webinar
Date: April 24, 2025

This session focused on how technology and data can enhance emergency preparedness and response in Canada. Presented with Deloitte, the discussion covered real-time information sharing, AI-supported planning tools, and the evolving role of digital communications during crises.

Key Messages:

- Modernizing disaster management requires interoperable tech systems across jurisdictions.
- Predictive analytics and geospatial data are critical for proactive risk mitigation.
- Training and investment in digital literacy are vital to ensure equitable response capacity.

Navigating the Future of Public Employment Services
Event Type: Virtual Webinar
Date: June 12, 2025

In partnership with Deloitte, IPAC hosted this forward-looking webinar to explore the key drivers reshaping global employment services. Speakers Alia Kamlani and Dr. Wilem Pieterson outlined how digital technologies and demographic shifts are transforming workforce ecosystems.

Key Messages:

- Governments must reimagine employment services through digital platforms and data strategies.
- AI-driven systems can personalize services but must be implemented equitably.
- Public-private collaboration is essential for resilience in employment systems.

Explorer l'IA: Un guide pratique pour les fonctionnaires publics
Event Type: Atelier Virtuel (French Ai Workshop Series)
Date: 15 avril – 6 mai 2025

The French-language edition of IPAC's AI training series provided over 1,500 Francophone public servants with practical skills to responsibly explore, implement, and leverage AI in the public sector. Delivered in collaboration with Microsoft, the sessions emphasized accessibility, practical tools, and policy leadership.

Key Messages:

- Francophone learners require and deserve equitable access to AI training in their language of choice.

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- Tools and techniques shared help demystify AI while highlighting its responsible application in governance.

- A community of practice is growing among bilingual public servants committed to digital innovation.

Navigating AI: A Practical Guide for Public Servants

Event Type: Workshop Series
Date: April 15 – May 6, 2025

This four-part virtual training series, hosted by IPAC in collaboration with Microsoft, equipped Canadian public servants with core competencies in generative AI. Over four sessions, participants explored topics such as AI literacy, productivity tools, prompt engineering, and sector-specific use cases.

Featuring thought leaders from Microsoft, KPMG, and the Canadian public service, the workshops combined foundational knowledge with real-world applications, empowering over 20,000 public servants since November to integrate AI into their work.

Key Messages:

- Public servants must lead with a clear understanding of AI risks and opportunities to serve the public interest effectively.

- Prompt engineering is a core skill to increase efficiency and critical thinking when using generative tools.

- Real-world examples from Canadian and international public service use cases help translate AI theory into impact.

Integrity First: Values and Ethics for a Modern Public Service
Event Type: Webinar
Date: May 27, 2025

Held in partnership with York University's Schulich School of Business, this 3-hour session brought together Paul Mochrie (City of Vancouver) and Dr. Zachary Spicer to examine the role of values and ethics in the evolving landscape of public administration.

Key Messages:

- Modern ethical dilemmas require a proactive, reflective public service.

- Public trust is built through transparency and adherence to shared principles.

- Ethics must be embedded in leadership training and operational practice.

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Chief Executive Officer at Institute of Public Administration of Canada (IPAC) David Fulford meeting with Mr. Navid Hanif, Assistant Secretary-General for Economic Development, UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs and Ana Cristina Thorlund Governance and Public Administration Expert, United Nations Project Office on Governance after speaking at the UN Public Service Forum.

Launch of Exploring the Future of Public Sector Work - Generative AI Adoption Amongst Dubai Government Employees Report during Dubai AI Week 2025

As part of Dubai AI Week 2025, the Mohammed Bin Rashid School of Government (MBRSG), in strategic partnership with the Dubai Government Human Resources Department (DGHR), launched a landmark report titled Generative AI Adoption Amongst Dubai Government Employees. This timely research initiative aligns with Dubai's ambition to become a global leader in innovative, AI-driven governance.

The report offers the most in-depth look to date at how generative AI tools—such as ChatGPT, Gemini, Claude and Copilot—are being used, perceived, and understood within the public sector. Drawing on survey responses from over 2,400 government employees, in-depth interviews with Chief AI Officers from five key departments, and an occupational exposure analysis based on global AI benchmarks, the study provides actionable insights for policymakers.

Findings highlight a growing awareness of generative AI and its transformative potential, while also underscoring gaps in training, trust, and governance. The report calls for a unified approach to skill development, ethical frameworks, and cross-government collaboration to ensure responsible and impactful adoption.

The launch event featured a dynamic panel discussion exploring adoption trends, benefits, challenges, training needs, trust, and occupational impact—reinforcing the need for future-ready strategies to guide AI integration across the public sector.

Date: April 2025

Read the full report: https://mbrsg.ae/generative-ai-adoption-amongst-dubai-government-employees

Press release link: https://www.khaleejtimes.com/business/tech/ai-threat-dubai-government-jobs-clerical-roles

What Governments need to do to strengthen the Artificial Intelligence SME Ecosystem? MBRSG and Google Launch AI & SMEs Report during the Dubai AI Week 2025

With the objective of advancing AI-driven economic growth, the Mohammed Bin Rashid School of

Government (MBRSG), in partnership with Google.org, launched the groundbreaking report The Artificial Intelligence & SMEs Ecosystem in the UAE during the Dubai AI Week 2025. This timely research explores the evolving role of AI in enhancing the innovation, competitiveness, and resilience of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs)—a cornerstone of the UAE's economic diversification agenda.

The research is part of a wider regional project covering 10 Arab States. Drawing on expert interviews, policy analysis, and ecosystem mapping, the report offers an evidence-based assessment of the current state of AI integration among SMEs. It examines both the opportunities and challenges facing business owners, investors, policymakers, and ecosystem enablers in scaling AI adoption across various sectors.

The research highlights several critical barriers, including limited access to data, lack of technical capabilities, and funding constraints. At the same time, it showcases successful case studies of AI-driven innovation taking place across the UAE. To foster a thriving AI-SME ecosystem, the report calls for strengthening digital infrastructure and data-sharing frameworks, expanding capacity-building and funding programs for startups, promoting ethical and responsible AI practices among small businesses, and facilitating multi-stakeholder partnerships to accelerate adoption.

The report was launched during a panel session featuring leaders from the public and private sectors, who discussed practical pathways to enhance SME competitiveness and innovation through AI. The session reaffirmed the UAE's commitment to enabling AI-powered economic resilience.

Date: April 2025

Read the full report: https://mbrsg.ae/the-artificial-intelligence-smes-ecosystem-in_the-uae?id=851189&rel=42285

Press Release: https://focus.hidubai.com/mbrsg-releases-new-report-showing-uae-ai-smes-lead-mena-innovation-drive/

MBRSG Launches 3rd Batch of its Groundbreaking Certified AI Ethics Training Program in Partnership with the IEEE and the UAE Government

As part of its commitment to fostering responsible AI innovation, the Mohammed Bin Rashid School of Government (MBRSG), in collaboration with the UAE's Artificial Intelligence, Digital Economy, and Remote Work Applications Office and the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE), launched the first edition of the Artificial Intelligence Ethics in the Age of Generative AI training program during Q2 2025.

This Executive Education initiative explored the evolving ethical dimensions of generative AI, equipping professionals with the knowledge and tools to assess and mitigate AI-related risks. Participants engaged in practical, hands-on sessions designed to prepare them as certified IEEE CertifAIEd AI Ethics Authorized Assessors—reinforcing the importance of integrating ethical frameworks into AI development and deployment across public sector ecosystems.

Through this program, MBRSG empowers future leaders to drive forward ethical, transparent, and human-centric innovation. Participant testimonials reflect how the course not only met but exceeded expectations, offering transformative insights into the intersection of technology, governance, and ethics.

For information on joining the future editions of the course, email: FutureGov.Research@mbrsg.ac.ae

Press release link: https://news.uppersetup.com/education/2025/05/20/mbrsg-introduces-ai-ethics-assessment-programme-for-future-leaders/

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33rd NISPAcee Annual Conference – Summary report

Conference main theme:
Polycrisis and multi-level governance: Impacts, lessons learned, challenges and opportunities

The polycrisis have uncovered insufficient capacities of many governments. The volatile nature of these polycrisis have tested the flexibility of policy making at various levels. A closer look at the CEE region during this period was discussed to understand seriousness of the polycrisis. With democratic backsliding, visible loss of citizens' trust in their governments, a shift from consolidated democracy and decentralisation towards attempts to use authoritarian approaches and centralisation tools, financial instability and growth of government debt, deterioration of fundamental principles like rule of law, transparency or accountability, an unprecedent success of populistic and anti-system voices, unreadiness to deal with a diverse group of hoaxes – many governments in the CEE region have struggled and have not found how to effectively cope with the polycrisis yet. On this matter, it is necessary to analyse the polycrisis, its effects as well as impacts, and to understand them. Despite the fact that we still do not see the end of the polycrisis,researchers and scholars should be leaders from the perspective of this intention because their findings can contribute to an effective capacity-building at all levels of governance.The conference focused on the polycrisis and its impacts at various levels from the perspective of governments as well as other stakeholders.

Conference papers included various research papers relevant for the Main Conference Theme, 10 NISPAcee Working Groups, 7 Panel Sessions, an Open Session and pre-conference PhD seminar. More then 190 papers were presented. The Conference provided a forum for an open exchange of theoretical ideas, food for thought for the future andexisting best practices. Special attention was given to the NISPAcee region but the conference aimed at the same time to make linkages with experiences globally with a special emphasis on perspectives, lessons learned and opportunities for an improvement of the quality of public services.

The Conference was attended by more then 220 participants from 31 countries. Participants evaluated highly the scientific as well as social programme of the conference.

NISPAcee expresses its deep gratitude to the host of the conference, the Faculty of Economics and Finance, University of Economics in Bratislava, for providing the conference facilities which created an exceptional, friendly and pleasant atmosphere for the participants and to the members of the Local Organizing Committee and conference assistants for the excellent organization.Special thanks go to Dean Erika Pastoraková, Vice-Dean Kristína Jančovičová-Bognárová, and Chairman of the Local Organizing Committee Tomáš Černěnko for their commitment and support.

Simultaneously, NISPAcee would like to thank to members of the International Program Committee, including the coordinators of all research working groups, chairs of sessions and panels for their contributions to the high scientific and academic value of the entire event.

Activities report

The conference was opened by an Opening Ceremony. Opening was chaired by Eka Akobia, NISPAcee President, Caucasus University, Tbilisi, Georgia

Other distinguished guests delivered their opening remarks:

• Eka Akobia, NISPAcee President, Caucasus university, Georgia

• Ferdinand Daňo, Rector of the Bratislava University of Economics and Business

• Marcel Novák, Vice Dean for Research and Doctoral Studies, Faculty of Economics and Finance of the Bratislava University of Economics and Business

• Matúš Vallo, Mayor of Bratislava

• Juraj Droba, Chairman of Bratislava Self-governing Region

Plenary panel - Panel of Editors of Journals on Public Administration and Policy

We had a privilege to welcome journal editors on the plenary panel, chaired by Juraj Nemec, Editor in Chief, NISPAcee Journal of Public Administration and Policy, Masaryk University, Brno, Czech Republic.

The main objective of this panel was to introduce

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participating public administration and policy journals with a focus on their major profiles and strength. Editors of participating journals, in majority published in CEE, introduced mission and scope of their journals, and they offered insights related to publishing in indexed academic journals. Participants of the conference had an exceptional chance to meet and discuss opportunities for publishing with editors of these journals.

Participating Editors and Journals:

- Schnell Daniela-Sabina, Associate Editor, Public Administration Review (PAR), published for the American Society for Public Administration

- Attila Bartha, Editor-in-Chief/ Intersections. East European Journal of Society and Politics (IEEJSP), Members of the CEE Network of Public Administration and Policy Journals:

- Juraj Nemec, Editor in Chief/NISPAcee Journal of PA and Policy, Bratislava, Slovakia

- Dan-Alexandru Lazar, Deputy Editor in Chief / Administration and Public Management journal, Bucharest University of Economic Studies, Romania

- Mihaela Bronic, Editor in Chief /Public Sector Economics, Institute of Public Finance, Zagreb, Croatia

- Maja Klun, Editor in Chief / Central European Public Administration Review, University of Ljubljana, Slovenia

- Calin Hintea, Editor in Chief / Transylvanian Review of Administrative Sciences, Babes-Bolyai University, Cluj- Napoca, Romania

- Jana Janderová, Associate Editor /Scientific Papers of the University of Pardubice, Czech Republic

- Michal Placek, Deputy Editor in Chief/Central European Journal of Public Policy, Czech Republic

- Marek Ćwiklicki, Executive Editor /Journal of Public Governance, Krakow University of Economics, Poland

NISPAcee Business Meeting, Elections and a New NISPAcee President

The NISPAcee Business Meeting was held during the conference on May 22, 2025. NISPAcee Executive Director reported about the past and furture NISPAcee activities and NISPAcee finances. Elections of NISPAcee Steering Committee members were also on the meeting agenda.

Three NISPAcee Steering Committee members were re-elected for their second term and one new member was elected:

- Maja Klun, Faculty of Public Administration, University of Ljubljana, Slovenia. She finished her first term and was elected for her second term.

- Anamarija Musa, Faculty of Law, University of Zagreb, Croatia. She finished her first term and was elected for her second term.

- Steven Nommik, Ragnar Nurkse Department of Innovation and Governance at Tallinn University of Technology in Tallinn (TalTech), Estonia. He finished his first term and was elected for his second term.

- Bogdana Neamtu, Babes Bolyai University, Cluj Napoca, Romania. She was elected for her first term.

After the Business Meeting, the new Steering Committee elected Maja Klun as the new NISPAcee President for two years term.

NISPAcee Awards

NISPAcee Awards presented at the NISPAcee Annual Conference 2025:

Alena Brunovská Award for Teaching Excellence in Public Administration 2025

Presentation of the Award by Eka Akobia, NISPAcee President to:

Winner Diana-Camelia Iancu, Faculty of Public Administration, National University of Political Studies and Public Administration (SNSPA), Bucharest, Romania Title of the presentation: What Else Matters? On Passion and Pragmatism in Teaching Public Administration.

Mzia Mikeladze PhD Thesis Award 2025:

Presentation of the Award by Anamarija Musa, Chair of the Award Selection Committee to:

Winner Alexandra-Bianca Andrianu, Babes-Bolyai University Cluj-Napoca, Romania, Topic of thesis: Public Management Reform in Romania – The Development of Resilient Institutions.

NISPAcee Merit Award for active cooperation with NISPAcee and contribution to the achievement of its objectives.

Presentation of the Award by NISPAcee President Eka Akobia to:

Winner Jean-Michel Eymeri-Douzans, President of European Group for Public Administration EGPA, University of Toulouse, France

Allan Rosenbaum Award for Outstanding Contribution to Academia and/or Practice in Public Administration in the NISPAcee region:

Winner 2025: Calin Hintea, Babes Bolyai University, Cluj-Napoca, Romania.

Best Student Paper:

Author: Eugenijus Krikščiünas, Klaipeda University, Klaipeda, Lithuania. Winning paper: Smart Mobility Vilnius´ "Public Water Transport Vision and the Experiences of European Cities"

Best Comparative Policy Paper

The Award Selection Committee has decided to award two papers in 2025. The member of the Selection Committee Juraj Nemec, Masaryk University, Czech Republic presented the Award to the winners:

- Eva Sorensen (Corresponding author), Tiziana Caponio, György Hajnal, Tiina Randma-Liiv, David Spaček, and Peter Triantafillou.
  Paper: Politically robust government responses to Covid-19? Comparing government responses in five European countries.

- Tatiana Kostadinova and Milena I. Neshkova. Paper: Personalist Leadership and Corruption: Evidence from Third Wave Democracies

Closing Roundtable: Public Administration and Democratic Governance in CEE, Europe and beyond

"New international changes have raised major concerns about the evolution of democratic societies. We can observe attacks not only on certain institutions and regulations but also on the fundamental rules underpinning democracy such as the separation of powers, checks and balances, freedom of the press, freedom of elections, etc. Central and Eastern Europe seems to be even more vulnerable to these challenges." This was the topic of the conference closing roundtable chaired by Calin Hintea, Babes-Bolyai University, Cluj-Napoca, Romania

The debate focused on several important themes:

- The state of democracy in Europe and CEE,

- The EEC connection with developments in the US,

- The European Union and the challenges to democracy,

- The functioning of administration and governance in the context of attacks on democracy,

- Strategic perspectives on democratic governance in CEE, Europe and beyond.

Speakers:

- Eka Akobia, NISPAcee President, Caucasus University, Tbilisi, Georgia,

- Albena Taneva, Sofia University, Sofia, Bulgaria

- Gyorgy Hajnal, Corvinus University, Budapest, Hungary,

- Martin Potuček, Charles University, Prague, Czech Republic,

- Jan Meyer-Sahling**,** University of Nottingham, UK, collaborating with OECD-SIGMA and the Regional School of Public Administration (ReSPA) on how to improve civil service management in Central and Eastern Europe and the Western Balkans.

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INVITATION TO 34th NISPAcee Annual Conference 2026

Invitation to the 34th NISPAcee Annual Conference 2026 was presented by Alebena Taneva, Sofia University St.Kliment Ohridski, Sofia, Bulgaria.
Conference will be organized in cooperation with the Sofia University St. Kliment Ohridski, in Sofia, Bulgaria on May 28 - 30, 2026.
Main conference theme: Governing Uncertainty: Strengthening Democracy Through Responsible Public Administration.

The NISPAcee Journal of Public Administration and Policy Volume XVIII, Number 1, Summer 2025

Since 2018, the journal has been published twice a year as an e-publication, available online free-of-charge. Only a limited number of hard copies were published for legally obligatory submissions, according to the requirements of the Ministry of Culture of the Slovak Republic and for subscribers until 2021. Since 2022 the Journal is published only online as an open access publication.

Download here

NISPAcee News 2025, Volume XXXII - No. 2

Download here

Asia-Pacific Governance Watch (Issue 255 and 256)

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 255, please click here. To read Issue 256, please click here.

Brazil's Bahia State's mission to Estonia accelerates digital government agenda

Bahia State, Brazil expanded its expertise by visiting Estonia, a country that is a world leader in new technologies to leverage its digital government strategy. From March 16 to 22, managers from the Bahia State government (Brazil) took part in a mission to Estonia to exchange experiences and learn about initiatives with the potential to accelerate the development of the digital transformation agenda in Bahia State, Brazil.

The trip was a development of the technical cooperation agreement between the Bahia State Administration Secretariat (Saeb) and Estonia Hub, a company that promotes technological and commercial relations between Brazil and the European nation, for a diagnosis of the state's digital maturity.

During the mission, the group led by Edelvino Góes, Secretary of State Administration, learned about best practices in areas such as digital governance, education, innovation, and the modernization of public services. Among the members of the mission were managers from the secretariats of Administration, Public Security, Science, Technology and Innovation, Health, Communication, Education and the Civil House, as well as the Bahia State Data Processing Company (Prodeb), the Bahia Superintendence of Economic and Social

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Studies (SEI), the State Traffic Department (Detran-Ba) and the State Water and Sanitation Company (Embasa).

As a result of the activity, Bahia State, Brazil, is already studying the possibility of new technical cooperation agreements, partnerships, and projects inspired by the Estonian experience. Among the novelties are initiatives in the areas of service design, artificial intelligence, technological architecture and data governance.

Estonia has stood out in recent years as a model digital society. The country has an ecosystem geared towards innovation and entrepreneurship, and is home to successful startups, as well as offering 99% of its services to citizens entirely digitally.

For more information, visit the link below: Study shows Bahia's progress in digital government | SAEB - Secretariat of Administration

Upcoming Activities

Call for Papers: 2nd Global Conference on Economic Diversification

The 2nd Global Conference on Economic Diversification will be hosted by the Mohammed Bin Rashid School of Government (MBRSG) in 2026. The Call for Papers seeks papers that address methodological, theoretical, policy dimensions of economic diversification, building on the EDI dataset and beyond. GCED brought together research scholars, academics, policy experts and government decision makers from around the world working on the frontiers of research and

implementation of economic diversification. Organized by MBRSG, the inaugural event brought together experts from universities, policymaking institutions, and international organizations to explore policies and research on economic diversification. The 1st edition of the conference welcomed 150 participants from 30 countries, with 19 academic papers accepted for publication.

The GCED 2024 proceedings, held in Dubai from 31 October to 1 November 2024, is now published by Springer. This publication features selected high-quality research papers on sustainable economic growth, innovation, digital transformation, and global trade dynamics. They will be accessible through the EDI website, with further details on publication timelines to be shared soon.

If interested in submitting a paper for future editions of the conference, please contact EDI@mbrsg.ac.ae

Further information on Conference website: https://economicdiversification.com/conference/

Save the Date: American Society for Public Administration 2026 Annual Conference

The American Society for Public Administration will host its 2026 Annual Conference in Hollywood, California, March 20-24 2026. The premier annual public administration event of the year, it regularly draws more than 1,200 attendees representing more than 40 nations around the globe. Details are still being finalized, but those in attendance can expect the same robust conversations and critical in-person discussions that are a highlight every year. Keep an eye on ASPA's

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website, www.aspanet.org/annualconference, for
updates, and watch our X (https://x.com/ASPANational)
and Bluesky
(https://bsky.app/profile/aspanational.bsky.social)
accounts for updates!

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