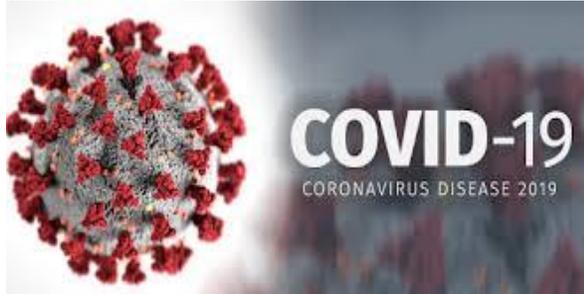




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The UNPAN Partners Newsletter

Capacity Development Webinar Series on "Leveraging Public Governance and Spearheading Innovative Solutions to Address the COVID-19 Pandemic – Responses in Africa" (12 May 2020, WebEx)



DPIDG held the first Webinar Series on "Leveraging Public Governance and Spearheading Innovative Solutions to Address the COVID-19 Pandemic – Responses in Africa". This iteration of the Webinar was organized in collaboration with United Nations Economic Commission for Africa, the African Union Development Agency (AUDA-NEPAD) and the African Association for Public Administration and Management (AAPAM). The Webinar took place on 12 May 2020, from 8 am to 9:30 am (New York time). The event brought together government officials and representatives from civil society organizations, the private sector, academia, public health experts and regional and international organizations including UN Agencies that are addressing the COVID-19 crisis in the region. The Webinar Series will provide a good venue to listen to, and interact with, government officials and experts from countries such as China, Italy, Republic of Korea, Ethiopia, Kenya, and other selected African countries. The discussions revolved around these countries' national experiences in fighting the COVID-19 pandemic, including effective approaches and strategies, successes and failures, as well as challenges faced and potential solutions. Additionally, the Webinar Series provided pragmatic recommendations on how to prioritize policy actions and choose different solutions tailored to current conditions.

DPIDG Participates in Ministerial Webinar on "The Effects of the Pandemic on Public Administration in Latin America", organized in cooperation with the Latin American Centre of Administration for Development (CLAD)



Over 700 participants from Latin American countries joined this Webinar held on April 29th from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. The panel was moderated by the Secretary General of CLAD, Mr. Francisco Javier Velazques Lopez, with the participation of H.E. Mr. Fernando Grillo, Minister of Public Administration in Colombia, H.E. Mr. Ramon Ventura Camejo, Minister of Public Administration in Dominican Republic and DPIDG. One of the main conclusions was that the pandemic is already accelerating innovation in public institutions in Latin America. For instance, telecommuting became routine, rapid recruitment procedures are in place, strengthening digital options for service delivery were implemented, unnecessary transactions in public service are being eliminated, revision of the professional profiles of civil servants are becoming part of a new reality. Over 6,000 public institutions and over 1.2 million civil servants in Colombia are changing their routines. The digitization of 1,100 public services were consolidated in Dominican Republic. A new balance between centralization/coordination of service delivery channels at federal level and decentralization of public service delivery at municipal levels is taking place. The pandemic is forcing governments to Reinvent the State. We are witnessing a rupture from the conventional public administration models. In all likelihood, the post-COVID-19 phase will be characterized by a process of transition towards more agile, digital, integrated



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(Including national-local) delivery channels. Colombia and Dominican Republic made changes that are likely to remain after COVID-19 in the areas mentioned above. On the other hand, the pandemic magnifies inequalities. There is an urgent need to record lessons learned and disseminate them globally. Therefore, DPIDG will organize webinars in other regions through partnerships. The CLAD expressed gratitude for UN DESA's support.

IGF 2020 main session on the role of the Internet in emergency situations



The Internet Governance Forum (IGF) Secretariat hosted the third planning meeting for the representatives of the 127 national, regional, sub-regional and youth IGF initiatives (NRIs). The meeting agenda focused on preparing the NRIs' joint main session at the 15th annual IGF meeting to be held in Katowice, Poland (2 - 6 November 2020). Through an open, bottom-up process, the NRIs have decided to focus their main session on the role of Internet governance in emergency situations. Over 50 different NRIs, represented by 68 delegates, discussed the possible policy areas this session could address, building on practices from their local communities. Participants emphasized the impact the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic is having on the utilization of digital technologies and, consequently, on public digital policies. It was agreed that the pandemic showed the critical necessity of using

digital technologies to continue working, learning and communicating. It was also noted, however, that in times where people are asked to attend schools online or work remotely, many are unable to do so, due to not having access to the Internet or devices, or because of lack of skills to use digital technologies and services. One of the possible policy areas the NRIs will discuss relates to the need for achieving universal access. Some NRIs provided information on actions being taken in their communities regarding the relevant stakeholders discussing the importance of treating the access to the Internet as a legal right or as a public utility. Given that COVID-19 has prompted a significant increase in the number of active end-users, many stressed the importance of discussing the implications digital technologies have with regard to human rights, particularly the use of personal data for security and health purposes and ways to balance human rights and security. Discussions also extended to how COVID-19 is prompting stakeholders to rethink ways for making economies and societies more resilient, as well as to identifying those that hold responsibility to ensure the necessary use of digital technologies within a framework that respects rights and freedoms and guarantees safety for all people. This discussion will continue over the coming weeks through a documented consultative process.

Policy Brief on COVID-19: Embracing Digital Government during the Pandemic and Beyond



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United Nations | Department of Economic and Social Affairs | COVID-19 RESPONSE | POLICY BRIEF NO.61

COVID-19: Embracing digital government during the pandemic and beyond

SHARING INFORMATION

It is vital for governments to provide accurate, useful and up-to-date information to people, particularly during times of crisis. During the COVID-19 pandemic, governments started providing information on their national portals, mobile apps or through social media platforms. A review of the national portals of the 193 United Nations Member States showed that by 25 March 2020, 57 per cent (110 countries) have put in place some kind of information on COVID-19, while around 43 per cent (83 countries) did not provide any information; but a further analysis showed that by 8 April 2020, around 86 per cent (167 countries) have included information and guidance about COVID-19 in their portals (Figure 1).

Summary

Information and communication technologies (ICTs) play a vital role in promoting the health and safety of people and in keeping economies and societies working during the ongoing COVID-19 crisis. Digital government technologies either through information sharing or online services have kept governments and people connected during the outbreak. Digital technologies have also enabled governments to make rapid policy decisions based on real-time data and analytics, to enhance the capacities of local authorities for better coordination and to deploy evidence-based services to those who need them most. The efforts in developing digital government strategies after the COVID-19 crisis should focus on improving data protection and digital inclusion policies as well as on strengthening the policy and technical capabilities of public institutions. Even though public-private partnerships are essential for implementing innovative technologies, government leadership, strong institutions and effective public policies are crucial to tailor digital solutions to countries' needs as well as prioritize security, equity and the protection of people's rights. The COVID-19 pandemic has emphasized the importance of technology, but also the pivotal role of an effective, inclusive and accountable government. This policy brief addresses how digital government has played a central role as a key tool of communication and collaboration between policymakers and society during the COVID-19 pandemic. Policymakers need to further embrace the future of digital government, even when the crisis is over.

Figure 1
Percentage of government portals with COVID-19 information

Date	Percentage of government portals with COVID-19 information
25 March 2020	57%
8 April 2020	86%

Source: UN DESA.

The Policy Brief on COVID-19: Embracing Digital Government during the Pandemic and Beyond prepared by DPIDG was launched on 15 April as part of the UN DESA Policy Brief Series. The Policy Brief addresses how digital government has played a central role as a key tool of communication and collaboration between policymakers and society during the COVID-19 pandemic. It covers the topics of sharing information, engaging people, establishing multistakeholder partnerships and accelerating the implementation of innovative digital technologies. The Policy Brief is available here: https://www.un.org/development/desa/dpad/wp-content/uploads/sites/45/publication/PB_61.pdf



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Upcoming Events

Calling for 4th WeGO Awards applicants



WeGO has recently launched the 4th WeGO Awards - a triennial competition that recognizes and promotes local governments with exemplary projects and solutions that use ICT to help improve the quality of life of citizens.

Eligibility

All local governments, smart tech solution providers, and public organizations around the world, both members and non-members of WeGO, are eligible to apply. Smart tech solution providers and public organizations are also eligible to apply on behalf of a city after receiving their approval.

Categories

This year, the awards will be given in the following categories:

- Efficient Government (Public Service Delivery, Accountability, Service Integration, Breaking Down Silos, Interoperability)
- Emerging Technology (Latest ICT innovations such as AI, Drones, Blockchain, Virtual and Augmented Reality, Edge Computing)

- Mobility (Efficient Transport, Intelligent Transport Systems, Mixed-Modal Access, Integrated ICT Infrastructure, Parking)

- Open and Inclusive City (Citizen Participation, Open Data and Privacy, Transparency, Bridging the Digital Divide, Participatory Budgeting, Living Labs, Crowdsourcing)

- Safe City (Security, Emergency Response, Gas and Fire Detection, Infrastructure Management, Disaster Response)

- Sustainable City (Green ICT, Waste Management, Water Management, Circular Economy, Lighting, Buildings, Resources Management)

Past Award winners include Seoul, Moscow, Helsinki, Taipei, Abu Dhabi, Buenos Aires, Barcelona, Hong Kong, Kampala, and Singapore.

For more information, please visit <http://wego.org/4th-wego-awards/>

ISA² - Interoperability solutions for public administrations, businesses and citizens



Joinup, the online solution developed under [the ISA² programme](#), launched a new collection on 2 April. Digital response to COVID-19 is a large database of solutions, resources and projects that help tackle the coronavirus crisis.

The outbreak and fast spreading of COVID-19 affects our society as a whole and poses along many challenges that require joint efforts. As the measures taken to fight the spread of the virus include confinement and social distancing, digital technology



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is an essential component of crisis response. The Digital response to COVID-19 collection is a repository of solutions and initiatives that aid us in stopping the pandemic, mitigate its effects, or help us work and study at this difficult time. In the repository, you will find:

- Open source solutions available to help medical staff, public administrations, businesses, and citizens in their daily activities.
- Open databases and datasets to analyze the evolution of the COVID-19 outbreak.
- A list of hackathons hosted to contribute to the development of new responses to tackle the issues related to COVID-19.
- Links to online platforms and websites to obtain more information about COVID-19 issues.
- Interoperable solutions already published on Joinup.
- A form to easily share your new solutions to be added to this repository.

The available solutions range from public health, education, online events, and volunteering to collaborative opportunities, among others. The repository is an online space where users can experiment, build applications and data tools to collectively fight the pandemic. As part of this ongoing project, the repository is updated on a regular basis. The Joinup team is inviting you to contribute, share your work and experience.



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NEW PROJECTS AND REPORTS

The April 2020 issue of The Hummingbird, ECLAC Caribbean



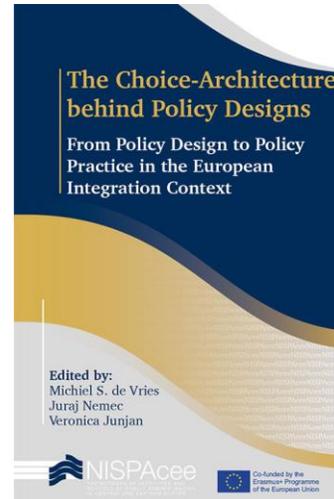
This issue puts the spotlight on the high-level meeting between the Caribbean heads of State and finance ministers and ECLAC's Executive Secretary, Alicia Bárcena, to analyze debt relief proposals and other measures to fight the effects of COVID-19. Special features include ECLAC Caribbean's upcoming study on the impact of COVID-19 in the Caribbean; the COVID-19 Caribbean update; innovation in disaster risk mitigation in the Caribbean; sustainable ocean management in the Caribbean; the state of affairs; Diane's Corner; the latest publications; and the regional round-up.

Issued on a monthly basis, The Hummingbird offers strategic insights into the latest projects, publications, technical assistance missions and research carried out by ECLAC Caribbean. In addition to these, sneak previews are provided of the most salient upcoming events, alongside enriching follow-ups to previously covered issues. With a view to featuring a variety of facets of Caribbean life and lifestyle, The

Hummingbird also zooms in on cultural activities and landmark occurrences through an eye-opening regional round-up.

Please click here, or on the front cover to view this on-line, mobile compatible edition -- also accessible with tablets and mobile phones. All previous issues of our magazine can be found at: <https://issuu.com/eclaccaribbean>

New NISPAcee e-book “The Choice-Architecture behind Policy Designs From Policy Design to Policy Practice in the European Integration Context”



Editors: Michiel S. de Vries, Juraj Nemec, Veronica Junjan

ISBN: 978-80-99939-01-2

Publisher: NISPAcee Press

Picture of coverpage attached



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The book contains selected revised papers from the 27th NISPAcee Annual Conference "From Policy Design to Policy Practice", May 24-26, 2019, Prague, Czech Republic organized in co-operation with Charles University, Prague and Masaryk University, Brno, Czech Republic, co-funded by the Erasmus+ Programme of the European Union under the Jean Monnet Action – Jean Monnet Project No. 599737-EPP-1-2018-1-SKEPPJMO-PROJECT "PRACTIC - From Policy Design to Policy Practice in the European Integration Context".

This publication was funded by the Erasmus+ Programme of the European Union under the Jean Monnet Action – Jean Monnet Project No. 599737-EPP-1-2018-1SK-EPPJMO-PROJECT "PRACTIC - From Policy Design to Policy Practice in the European Integration Context".

Download link:
<https://www.nispa.org/files/publications/PRACTIC-monograph-final.pdf>

Additionally, the new NISPAcee Database of Public Policy Papers was developed within the NISPAcee project "PRACTIC - From Policy Design to Policy Practice in the European Integration Context" supported by EC ERASMUS+ Jean Monnet Action – Jean Monnet Project.

Link: http://www.nispa.org/public_policy_papers.php?pg=13