

CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

May 24-26, 2019 / Prague, Czech Republic

Panel: Platform Economy and Regulation: The Challenge for Public Administration

CHAIRS

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Aims of the panel

In the name of sharing and collaboration, new digital markets which operate through web platforms and apps are disrupting old industries worldwide, straining labour market rules and, both regulation and the role historically played by policy makers in fostering and protecting general interest, public goods and the consumer. Competition, ownership rights, privacy protection, data management, taxation, labour rights and welfare, health and safety, and consumer protection are some of the main concepts that have been strongly impacted by the digital oligopolies that are operating across sectoral boundaries, challenging the existing regulatory framework.

Policymakers, sometimes seem unprepared to effectively cope with this wide array of issues raised by digital markets: traditional regulation, in fact, rarely proved helpful, often restricting itself to only playing the role of blocking these technological and organisational innovations under the constant pressure coming from lobbying activities of old incumbent industries.

Major efforts have been made to address particular disputes concerning different sectors, concentrating on the aspect of competition between old and new players. Existing regulation doesn't seem effective and sufficient to respond to the complex and diverse new challenges that are emerging.

Furthermore, regulation appears today to be one of the most significant barriers to the growth of the platform economy, especially when it just copies and pastes rules that have been designed for and applied to traditional economic actors with the aim of extending them to those newcomers operating in the digital environment, without making an effort to understand how to properly accompany such innovations. There is a need to rewrite a set of common regulatory basic principles, as competition policy had made in past decades, a task that is far from being accomplished.

The panel focuses on the way the platform economy is challenging the assumptions of regulation and its mechanisms and, at the same time, analyses how regulators could better cope with the problems raised by these new digital actors, in order to achieve – without hindering technological innovation - some important goals such as guaranteeing fair competition, safeguarding consumers' safety, protecting personal data, and preventing the worst effects of economic disruption.

The aim of the panel is to discuss the most relevant and complex aspects of the phenomenon, in the hope of helping and providing policymakers and stakeholders with a theoretical toolbox and a more general vision.

Focus, expectations and topics for the 2019 conference

Many complex economic, socio-technical and anthropological transformations lie at the basis of the rise and development of the platform economy. It is important to "unpack" the whole concept of the platform economy without assuming rigid sectoral/industrial boundaries. We will try to devote attention to each specific aspect of regulatory interest emerging from the innovative business models under investigation.

- **Trust.**
- **Microeconomics of platforms, market disruption and legal aspects.**
- **Regulation overhauling.**
- **Policy options.**
- **Labour.**
- **Data.**

Contributions from different areas of expertise are welcome, in particular: **PA, economics, public policy, regulatory economics and game theory, industrial economics, law, sociology, data analysis, marketing and big data.** Papers can present specific case studies from the NISPAcee region, or provide a comparative analysis between NISPAcee countries and other geographical areas.

Application link: <http://www.nispa.org/conference2019/application>

Deadline for applications: October 31, 2018

