

CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

May 24-26, 2019 / Prague, Czech Republic

Working Group 8: Non-Governmental Organizations in Central and Eastern Europe

WG Coordinators

Michael Brintnall, USA

Gyorgy Hajnal, Hungary

Iga Kender-Jeziorska, Hungary

Aims of the Working Group

Our working group is focused on Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) and their participation in governance in the states and regions of Central-Eastern Europe. Our broad objective is to create a forum for the intellectual and practical exploration of the role that NGOs play – independently and in collaboration with government institutions – in governance and in defining and achieving the public good. We define NGOs broadly and are especially interested in those whose mission is strongly related to the public interest and whose work is in areas such as governance, social and health services, public policy, citizen participation, human rights, and/or humanitarian aid.

Focus, expectations and topics for the 2019 conference

Bridging the gap between academia and praxis in the analysis and management of civil society is one of our priorities for 2019. Building bridges between scholars and practitioners can have benefits for NGO's and academia alike, such as applying participatory action research to policy challenges, fostering service learning in the classroom, and better sharing of practical experience. Therefore, in 2019 we are planning to organise a practitioners' panel that can create a space for dialogue between scholars and practitioners and foster interaction between the two sectors.

The general theme of the Working Group on NGOs panel for the 2019 conference is the role and performance of NGO's in governance in CEE countries, neighbouring regions and within the European Integration context. We are especially interested in learning about the following topics:

- **What is the role of NGO's in governance at the national and local level in CEE countries, and how is this shaped by public attitudes, government policy, legislation, and financial support?**
- **What do the relationships between civil society and states look like?**
- **What are the examples of existing multisector models of governance in the region, in which NGOs and government are seeking to work together?**
- **What conflicts arise between the state and the voluntary sectors; what are their consequences and ways to overcome them?**
- **What is the role of NGOs in delivering services at the national and local level in CEE countries?**
- **What is the role of civil liberties/watchdog NGOs in countries of Central-Eastern Europe?**
- **What are the relationships between organisations within the third sector itself and how are they shaped?**
- **What forms of international cooperation take place amongst NGO's in the region, how does the work of international NGO's in the region differ from national and local ones, and how do NGOs interact with supranational bodies like the European Union?**
- **How do NGOs operate and how are they managed? What are the tools and methods applied by NGOs to measure their effectiveness and efficiency?**

Recently, both the non-governmental sector and the geographical area of Central Europe have been attracting the attention of international publishers. Our Working Group invites high-quality papers that, given their sufficient number, could be compiled in a monograph addressing the third sector in the region.

Guidelines for the contributors

We welcome abstracts from all scholars and professionals with an interest in the non-governmental sector and in multi-sector governance processes, including from practitioners working in the sector and we invite all to join us for the 27th NISPAcee Annual Conference in Prague. We welcome papers with a theoretical, empirical, and/or analytical focus that relate to the above mentioned themes.

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

Deadline for applications: October 31, 2018

