



Smart City and Regional Development Journal

Special issue:
The Impact of COVID-19 on Subnational Governance

Editors: Diana – Camelia Iancu, Veronica Junjan, Cătălin Vrabie

Call for Papers

Subnational governments around the world are facing tremendous challenges in preparing answers against the ill-effects of, coordinating immediate responses to, and planning recovery strategies from COVID-19. Hsiang et al. (2020) show evidence that the policy packages that were deployed in China, South Korea, Italy, Iran, France and the United States to reduce the rate of transmission with Sars-Cov-2 prevented or delayed 61 million confirmed cases, corresponding to averting approximately 495 million total infections. Courtemanch et al. (2020) argue that social distancing measures imposed in the United States in March and April 2020 reduced the daily growth of confirmed COVID-19 cases by 5.4 percentage points after eleven to fifteen days and 9.1 percentage points after sixteen to twenty days.

OECD (2020) cautions that given the unprecedented scale and multi-faceted nature of the COVID-19 crisis, comparisons with previous ones, have significant limitations. Central and subnational policies need to be accurately coordinated, especially since territories are highly heterogenous and in all likelihood the most vulnerable ones will be hit harder. Vulnerable groups will also be more affected: Armitage and Nellums (2020) discuss the case of those living with disabilities worldwide (more than 1 billion people) and estimate that the pandemic is likely to put them at risk of increased morbidity and mortality. Kulge et al. (2020) present the risks associated to refugee and migrant health, while Amon (2020) concentrates on detention centers and human rights violations.

Undertaking financial and managerial actions in coping with COVID-19 is demanding and full of uncertainty (Maher et al. 2020), and subnational governments found themselves, quite often, at the epicentre of the crisis response coordination in the current pandemic. This Call addresses the need to inform about the existent capacities, analyse alternative scenarios and explore local and territorial actions in the “war against COVID-19”. Original contributions focusing on health / social, cultural, economic and fiscal impact of COVID-19 on subnational governments are encouraged. Special attention will be granted to research papers looking to the impact of COVID-19 on the introduction and expansion of digital reforms at local level. Identifying best cases, and evaluating the failures in terms of coordination of crisis response at local level to the pandemic, measuring administrative capacities and the risks incumbent to transitional territories is of particular interest to the Editors of this Special Issue of Smart City and Regional Development Journal.

Abstracts of proposed papers and a short bio-note of the author(s) should be sent to Dr. Diana – Camelia Iancu, at: diana.iancu@snsa.ro. Abstracts should include the research question, a brief account of the theoretical framework to be employed, the research design and methods for data collection and analysis (if the case may be). Abstracts will not exceed 1000 words.

Important deadlines

Deadline for submission of Abstracts: December 1, 2020

Deadline for notification sent to the authors: December 15, 2020

Deadline for online submission of full papers: February 15, 2021

About the Journal

Smart Cities and Regional Development Journal (ISSN: 2537-3803, ISSN-L: 2537-3803) is developed by the Research Group on Development of Urban Planning, Faculty of Public Administration, National University of Political Studies and Public Administration (SNSPA, Bucharest). The journal is committed to explore the international perspectives of the Smart City concept, promoting articles in areas, such as: Smart Governance, Smart Environment, Smart Economy, Smart People, Smart Mobility, Smart Living and Smart State, and making them widely available through open access publishing. **Smart Cities and Regional Development Journal** is indexed in the following international databases: RePEc (Research Papers in Economics), Google Scholar, Index Copernicus International, CEEOL (Central and Eastern European Online Library), SSRN (Social Science Research Network) and IDEAS.

Editors of the Special Issue

Diana-Camelia Iancu, Associate professor at the Department of Public Management, Faculty of Public Administration, National University of Political Studies and Public Administration (Bucharest). She is an independent expert for the Council of Europe – Group on the European Charter of Local Self- Government since 2018. Her research interests include international development and administrative capacity building in transitional countries, as well as quality assurance in teaching public administration. She co-chairs the Working Group on Public Administration Reform in Central and Eastern Europe and Central Asia, at the The Network of Institutes and Schools of Public Administration in Central and Eastern Europe (NISPAcee), since 2012.

Veronica Junjan, Assistant Professor at the Department of Public Administration, School of Management and Governance, University of Twente, Enschede, The Netherlands. Her current research focuses on investigating decision making processes, public performance management, particularly within the mechanisms and dynamics of public sector reform associated to the EU multi-level governance. She is involved since 2008 as co-chair in the coordination of the work within -first the Panel-, then the Working Group on Public Administration Reform in Central and Easter Europe and Central Asia, at the The Network of Institutes and Schools of Public Administration in Central and Eastern Europe (NISPAcee).

Cătălin Vrabie, Lecturer at the Department of Public Policies and Economics, Faculty of Public Administration, National University of Political Studies and Public Administration (Bucharest). He chairs the International Academic Conference Smart Cities (since 2012) and is co-editor of Smart Cities and Regional Development Journal. His research interests include good e-governance building and the impact of ICT on public administration reforms in Central and Eastern Europe and beyond. He is a member of E-government panels at the CEE e|Dem and e|Gov Days, SEEDIG (South Eastern European Dialogue on Internet Governance), EuroDIG (European Dialogue on Internet Governance) as well as for the Association for Information Technology and Communications of Romania – ATIC.

References

- Amon, J. (2020), COVID-19 and Detention: Respecting Human Rights, *Health and Human Rights Journal* (23.03.2020), Retrieved from: <https://www.hhrjournal.org/2020/03/covid-19-and-detention-respecting-human-rights/> (04.09.2020)
- Armitage, R., Nellums, L. (2020), The COVID-19 response must be disability inclusive, *The Lancet. Public Health* 5 (5), [https://doi.org/10.1016/S2468-2667\(20\)30076-1](https://doi.org/10.1016/S2468-2667(20)30076-1)
- Courtemanche, C., Garuccio, J., Le, A., Pinkston, J., Yelowitz, A. (2020), Strong Social Distancing Measures In The United States Reduced The COVID-19 Growth Rate, *Health Affairs* 39 (7), 1237-1246. <https://doi.org/10.1377/hlthaff.2020.00608>
- Hsiang, S., Allen, D., Annan-Phan, S. *et al.* (2020), The effect of large-scale anti-contagion policies on the COVID-19 pandemic. *Nature* 584, 262–267. <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41586-020-2404-8>
- Kluge, H.H., Jakab, Z., Bartovic, J., D'Anna, V., Severoni, S. (2020), Refugee and migrant health in the COVID-19 response, *The Lancet*, 395 (10232), 1237-1239, [https://doi.org/10.1016/S0140-6736\(20\)30791-1](https://doi.org/10.1016/S0140-6736(20)30791-1)
- Maher, C., Hoang, T., Hindery, A. (2020) Fiscal Responses to COVID-19: Evidence from Local Governments and Non-Profits, *Public Administration Review – COVID-19 ViewPoint Symposium*, 80 (4), <https://doi.org/10.1111/puar.13238>
- OECD (2020), *The territorial impact of COVID-19: Managing the crisis across levels of government*, Retrieved from: https://read.oecd-ilibrary.org/view/?ref=128_128287-5agkkojaaa&title=The-territorial-impact-of-covid-19-managing-the-crisis-across-levels-of-government (04.09.2020)