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Author(s) **Gyorgy Gajduschek**

Corvinus University of Budapest
Budapest Hungary

Title **Understanding the Specificity of Public Administration Education in the Region: Outline of a Theoretical Frame**

Abstract The paper provides a theoretical frame for better understanding of Public Affairs (PA) Education (most of all: Public Administration and also – general – public management and policy) in post-communist (or post-socialist, here “communist” will be used) countries. In line with the historical-institutional approach centered around the tenet of “path dependency”, the theoretical frame explains most of the present attributes of post-communist PA education as a result of (a) long-run, pre-communist/socialist, (b) communist and (c) post-communist periods, identifying major effects on both the system of public administration, on one hand, and higher education on the other. The paper is a highly improved version of the ideas presented at the previous NISPAcee conference.