

# Taking stock of Public Administration Research in Europe

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# Researching PA in Europe: Historical perspective

- Aftermath of WWII: public administration research in Europe dominated by national research discourses
- Internationally, discourse dominated by US (at least in Western world)
- a (composite) European discourse and interconnected set of research agendas gained traction during the 1970s
  - European public administration scholarship started to take shape
  - establishment of the European Group for Public Administration - EGPA - in 1975: the pan-European community of public administration scholars had a home

# A distinct research discourse in Europe takes off from the 1980s onwards

- A growingly self-conscious European scholarly community with its own research agendas, emphases in research methods, distinctive discourse(s), and usage of English as vehicle language
  - Increase from 34 to 43 per cent (2000-2014) of publications by European scholars in four top journals, ... (Groeneveld et al., 2015, also Rhodes 1995 - dataset still under construction)
- With its partly distinctive themes:
  - public management reform (18.5%), policy-making and development (12.2%), international/supranational governance and EU (7%) as main 'European' topics

# Drivers of European distinctive research discourse?

- Recognition of distinctive characteristics of European countries and politico-administrative systems
  - parliamentary systems,
  - consensus democracies,
  - legalistic traditions,
  - nature – and sheer magnitude vis à vis the US - of the welfare state in Europe, and
  - the great EU experiment
- All making the application of American-based ideas and studies (dynamics of spoils system, patterns of confrontation President vs Congress, and the like) increasingly difficult or of limited relevance

Stock-taking exercises:  
knowledge assets available

From PA *in* Europe to  
“*European* PA”?

# PA, Europe: Definitions

- Public administration *in Europe* = applying theories to public administration and management as manifested in Europe
- *European* Public Administration = what is distinctive of public administration and management in Europe

# Stocktaking exercises about European PA

- In recent years, a range of research efforts seem to have pursued stock-taking goals
- These include aspects of projects like EUPACK and COCOPS (and new ones are starting)
- Also within academic scholarship the ‘need’ to take stock has arisen and has been tackled by a number of initiatives
  - The recent publications of a Handbook on PA in Europe and European PA by 115 contributors is one testimony to this trend



PALGRAVE  
HANDBOOKS



# THE PALGRAVE HANDBOOK OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION AND MANAGEMENT IN EUROPE

Edited by  
Edoardo Ongaro and Sandra van Thiel



# Part 1. Public administration and management in Europe

## 1. Introduction (Edoardo Ongaro and Sandra Van Thiel)

In the 1970s a distinctive European PA debate and community emerged (vs. previous state of mostly nationally insulated PA)

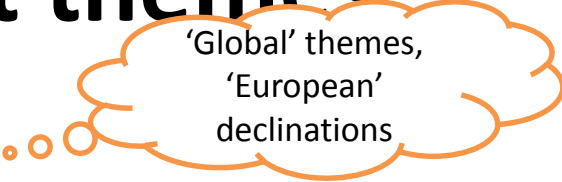
## 2. Public Administration and Public Management research in Europe: traditions and trends (Edoardo Ongaro, Sandra van Thiel, Andrew Massey, Jon Pierre, Hellmut Wollmann)

## 3. Education and Training in Public Administration and Management in Europe (Christoph Reichard and Eckhard Schröter)

## 4. Languages and Public Administration in Europe (Edoardo Ongaro and Sandra van Thiel - and seventeen co-authors who have made this journey through the languages of Europe and PA possible!)

Manifold languages over a relatively small territory/population is a key trait of Europe

# Part 2. Public management themes



'Global' themes,  
'European'  
declinations

5. Strategic Management in Public Services Organizations: Developing a European Perspective (Ewan Ferlie and Salvador Parrado)
6. Leadership in Europe's Public Sector (Anne Drumaux and Paul Joyce)
7. Public budgets and budgeting in Europe: state of the art and future challenges (Iris Saliterer, Mariafrancesca Sicilia, Ileana Steccolini )
8. IPSAS, EPSAS and other challenges in European public sector accounting and auditing (Isabel Brusca, Eugenio Caperchione, Sandra Cohen and Francesca Manes Rossi )
9. Accountability in Liberal Democratic, Parliamentary Systems (Leanne-Marie McCarthy-Cotter and Matthew Flinders)

10. Performance management in Europe: An idea whose time has come - and gone?  
(Wouter Van Dooren and Conny Hoffmann)

11. Explaining citizen satisfaction and dissatisfaction with public services (Steven Van de Walle)

12. Public personnel reforms and public sector HRM in Europe (Peter Leisink and Eva Knies)

13. Public service motivation: state of the art and conceptual cleanup (Wouter Vandenabeele, Adrian Ritz & Oliver Neumann)

14. Ethics and Integrity (Michael Macaulay)

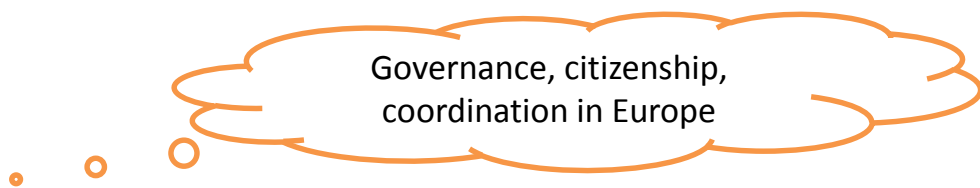
15. The Public network scholarly community in Europe: main characteristics and future developments (Daniela Cristofoli, Myrna Mandell and Marco Meneguzzo)
16. Collaborative Governance and the Third Sector: Something Old, Something New (Taco Brandsen and Karen Johnston)
17. Agencification in Europe (Koen Verhoest)
18. ICT, e-government and e-governance: bits & bytes for public administration (Vincent Homburg)
19. Public Procurement in Europe (Jolien Grandia)
20. Public Private partnerships: recent trends and the central role of managerial competence (Veronica Vecchi and Mark Hellowell)

21. From participation to co-production: Widening and deepening the contributions of citizens to public services and outcomes (Elke Loeffler and Tony Bovaird)
22. The roles of branding in public administration and place management: possibilities and pitfalls (G.J. Ashworth and M. Kavaratzis)
23. Communications of and for Public Services (Martial Pasquier)
24. Managing Crises in Europe: A Public Management Perspective (Donald Blondin and Arjen Boin)
25. Consulting for the Public Sector in Europe (Reto Steiner, Claire Kaiser, Lukas Reichmuth)
26. Public sector negotiations (Robin Bouwman)

# Part 3. Public policy and administration themes

- 27. Policy-Making and Public Management (Alberto Asquer and Valentina Mele)
- 28. Agenda-setting and framing in Europe (Sebastiaan Princen)
- 29. Policy Implementation in an Age of Governance (Harald Sætren and Peter Hupe)
- 30. Policy evaluation in Europe (Valérie Pattyn, Stijn van Voorst, Ellen Mastenbroek and Claire A. Dunlop)
- 31. Policy Learning and Organizational Capacity (Claire A. Dunlop and Claudio M. Radaelli)
- 32. Policy Diffusion and European Public Policy Research (Fabio Wasserfallen)

Understanding the policy process in Europe



Governance, citizenship,  
coordination in Europe

33. Comparative regulatory regimes and public policy (Martino Maggetti and Christian Ewert)
34. Coordination in Europe (Muiris MacCarthaigh and Astrid Molenveld)
35. Risk And Blame in The Public Sector (Sandra L. Resodihardjo)
36. EU citizens and public services: The machinery behind the principles (François Lafarge)
37. Is social innovation a game changer of relationships between citizens and governments? (William Voorberg and Victor Bekkers)
38. Welfare administration and its reform (Tanja Klenk)



# Part 4. Comparative perspectives and the study of public administration in Europe

39. The transformative effects of transnational administrative coordination in the European multi-level system (Tobias Bach and Eva Ruffing)

40. The Changing Nature of European governance and the Dynamics of Europeanization (Vasilis Leontitsis and Stella Ladi)

41. The European Commission as an administration (Hussein Kassim)

42. The EU Policy Process (Eva G. Heidbreder and Gijs Jan Brandsma)

43. Europeanization of policies and administration (Ellen Mastenbroek)

European governance, multi-level system, administration and policy

European PA East-West,  
North-South, Central-Local

44. Comparative Local Government Research: Theoretical Concepts and Empirical Findings from a European Perspective (Ellen Wayenberg and Sabine Kuhlmann)

45. Factors and determinants of the quality of public administration in the CEE region (Juraj Nemec & Michiel S. de Vries)

46. Public Administration in Europe North and South: enduring differences and new cleavages? (Dimitri A. Sotiropoulos)

47. The impact of fiscal crisis on public administration in Europe (Tiina Randma-Liiv and Walter Kickert)

48. Exploring the Legacies of New Public Management in Europe (Philippe Bezes)

49. Public Value Management and New Public Governance: key traits, issues and developments (Joyce Liddle)

New Public Management  
and Public Governance in  
Europe



It's not European PA if it's not about Weber's legacy

50. What is the 'Neo-Weberian State' as a regime of public administration? (Haldor Byrkjeflot, Paul du Gay and Carsten Greve)

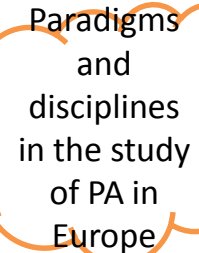
51. Max Weber's Bequest for European Public Administration (Christian Rosser)

52. Islamic Public Administration in Europe (Wolfgang Drechsler)

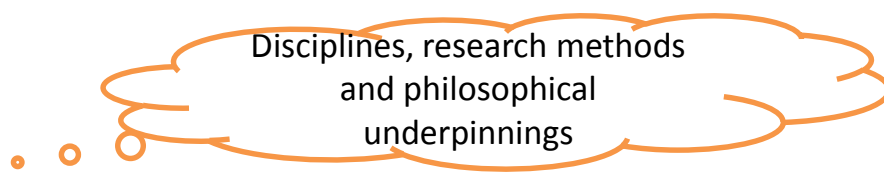
53. Public Administration and Political Science (Michael Bauer)

54. Law and Public Administration: a Love-Hate Relationship? (Dacian C. Dragos and Philip M. Langbroek)

55. An Organization Approach to Public Administration (Tom Christensen and Per Lægreid)



Paradigms and disciplines in the study of PA in Europe



Disciplines, research methods  
and philosophical  
underpinnings

56. Economics and PA: Public choice theory, transaction costs theory, theory of expectations, and the enduring influence of economics modeling on PA - comparing the debate in the US and Europe (Piret Tõnurist and Martin Bækgaard)

57. Behavioural Public Administration: Connecting Psychology with European Public Administration Research (Asmus Leth Olsen, Lars Tummers, Stephan Grimmelihijsen and Sebastian Gilke)

58. The case of case study research in Europe: practice and potential (Markus Haverland and Reinout van der Veer)

59. Challenges for large-scale international comparative survey-based research in public administration (Koen Verhoest, Wouter Vandenabeele, Jan Wynen, Steven Van de Walle)

60. Administrative action and administrative behaviour: Some philosophical underpinnings (Turo Virtanen)

# Part 5. Overview and the future of public administration

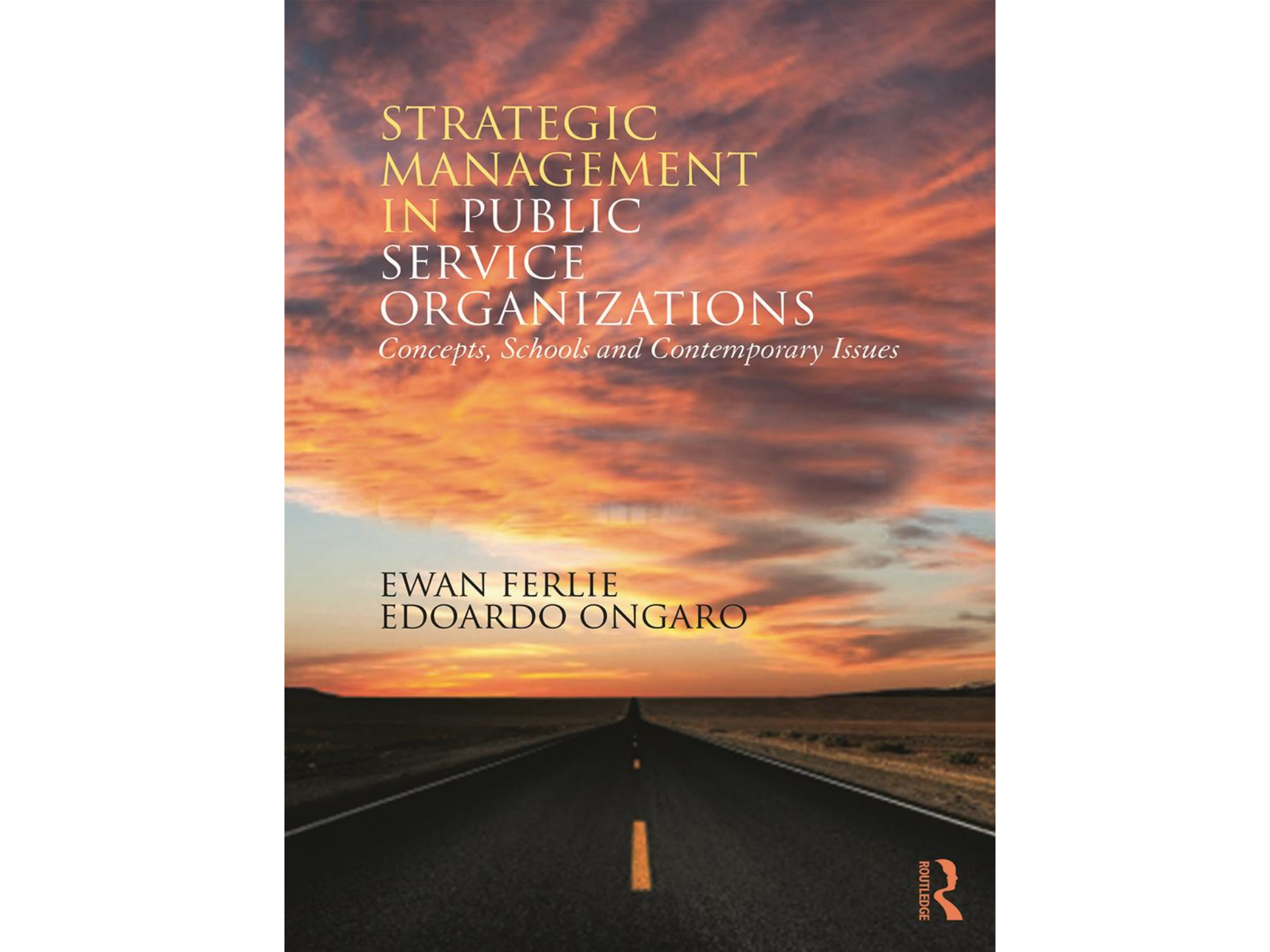
- 61. The contested autonomy of policy advisory bodies: The trade-off between autonomy and control of policy advisory bodies in the Netherlands, the United Kingdom and Sweden (Daphne Bressers, Mark van Twist, Martin Schulz and Martijn van der Steen)
- 62. Usable Knowledge: Discipline versus Problem Oriented Social Science in Public Policy (Colin Talbot and Carole Talbot)
- 63. Conclusions (Sandra van Thiel and Edoardo Ongaro)

# Themes from the Handbook for European PA

- Context does matter: knowledge is mostly contextualised (though the striving for ‘universal laws’ continues)
  - Bettering our knowledge of European PA context is key to effective transfer of practices across Europe
- PA in Europe is a mature and self-aware field of study
- The growth of PA as an academic field has not severed the manifold links and ties with practice
  - Many European academics are hands-on and know the empirics of PA, and yet European PA theoretical research is a powerhouse: so European scholarship is well placed to overcome ‘road to nowhere’ (Peters and Pierre 2016),

# Themes from the Handbook for European PA (cont'd)

- Close interconnections between EU studies and European PA studies:
  - EU governance, EU citizenship, the European Administrative Space are more and more part of the picture of the distinctive European PA
- The comparative method remains central in research on PA in Europe
  - indeed Europe is leading worldwide in comparative public administration and management
  - Europe is powerhouse in PA research: asset to be better exploited for practical applications!
- Emphasis on context-sensitive approaches to (“best”) practices extrapolation for application elsewhere in European PA literature



STRATEGIC  
MANAGEMENT  
IN PUBLIC  
SERVICE  
ORGANIZATIONS

*Concepts, Schools and Contemporary Issues*

EWAN FERLIE  
EDOARDO ONGARO



# The contribution of EGPA

The European Group for Public Administration  
(EGPA)

and its contribution towards European PA

# EGPA and its knowledge assets

- Established 1975
- Parallel development of EGPA and the pan-European PA scientific community
- Nowadays
  - 22 Permanent Study Groups (and counting)
  - A range of worldwide “Dialogue Conferences” and Partnerships (IIAS)
  - The strategic project European Perspectives on Public Administration – EPPA
  - The EGPA Policy Papers on European Governance: ideas, case and practices for the bettering of European Governance
- Book on occasion of 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of EGPA...

GOVERNANCE AND PUBLIC MANAGEMENT SERIES



# PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION IN EUROPE

THE CONTRIBUTION OF EGPA

EDITED BY EDOARDO ONGARO



**IIAS**  
International Institute  
of Administrative Sciences



# Functional, cultural and institutional reasons for a *European* PA Group

There are functional, cultural and institutional reasons that underpin the significance of a pan-European learned society, that is, for establishing in Europe a platform for researching and studying PA at an 'intermediate level of governance' between the national and the global levels

# Why a European Group for Public Administration: Functional Reasons

- Knowledge generation for PA requires a certain combination in the degree of similarity and dissimilarity
  - in the object of study (the public sector and public services)
  - and in the subjects of investigation and inquiry (the scholars researching, the practitioners developing knowledge for PA)
- Europe is the ‘proper’ scale and level to combine similarities and dissimilarities:
  - the national level is too narrow
  - the global level is in a sense too wide and may contain too high a degree of dissimilarity, for many research projects to be meaningfully carried out
- The national and the global level require an intermediate level in-between

# Why a European Group for Public Administration: Institutional Reasons

- The EU has provided an institutional infrastructure to the regional (=European) dimension which has no parallels elsewhere in the world
- Civic-societal pan-European institutions like EGPA both benefit from and contribute to pan-European political institutions (theoretical foundation of argument in normative institutionalism)
- The expansion of EGPA, like so many other European learned societies, has found its breeding ground in the unification and integration of the continent

# Why a European Group for Public Administration: Cultural Reasons

- There are also powerful cultural underpinnings of a regional group on PA in Europe
- After the tragedy of World War II, a European ‘identity’ with political and not just cultural bearing has started to develop
- Albeit nowadays challenged by powerful forces, such European identity has been a key driver of efforts of integration, not just of an institutional kind (the EU), but also cultural
- European scholars - across all disciplines and surely in the field of PA - have over time acquired a European identity which sits comfortably alongside both their national one and their professional-global one (epistemic community of PA scholars)

# Functional, cultural and institutional reasons for *European PA Principles*?

- Are there then functional, institutional and cultural reasons underpinning a distinctive European PA?
- We argue there are:
  - Functional reasons: a PA which has developed at the service of the European model, from the welfare to security wedded to liberal-democratic values
  - Institutional: The European multi-level administration (from supranational to local)
  - Cultural: a PA reflecting the European identity and values



# Towards European 'Principles' of PA?

- Performance criteria must reflect European core values
  - such values get challenged on world stage - distinctiveness of European values
- Public Sector Reform and PA development is context-sensitive:
  - Context matters, 'administrative diversity', like bio-diversity, is richness ('Unity in diversity' put in action) – but we must learn about effective knowledge transfer fitting local circumstances
- Implications for learning and policy transfer in the field of administrative reform
  - Member States
  - Accession Countries
  - Third Countries
- Key roles: learned societies and the European academic community; national institutions in the field of PA; the EU and the European Commission

Thank you