



## Call for Applications

# THE RENAISSANCE OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT

## EUROPEAN MUNICIPALITIES IN TRANSITION

Joint EUROLOC **PhD-Training School** organized by

The University of FLORENCE, Dept. of Political and Social Sciences and Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence, ECPR/LOGOPOL and EURA Summer School Cooperation, the Research Network “Local Public Sector Reforms” (LocRef), the Municipality of Florence and the Tuscany Unit of the Italian National Municipal Association (ANCITOSCANA).

**June 12th to June 17th, 2017**

**Venue: PALAZZO MEDICI RICCARDI, Via Camillo Cavour, 3, 50129 Firenze**

<http://www.dsps.unifi.it/news.html>

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For more information about EUROLOC, EURA and the ECPR Standing Group LOGOPOL: Prof. **Angelika Vetter** ([angelika.vetter@sowi.uni-stuttgart.de](mailto:angelika.vetter@sowi.uni-stuttgart.de)), University of Stuttgart, Prof. Kristof Steyvers, ([Kristof.Steyvers@ugent.be](mailto:Kristof.Steyvers@ugent.be)), University of Ghent, Prof. Karsten Zimmermann ([karsten.zimmermann@tu-dortmund.de](mailto:karsten.zimmermann@tu-dortmund.de)), University of Dortmund or at

<http://www.eura.org>

<http://www.ecpr.eu/StandingGroups/StandingGroupHome.aspx?ID=19>

For more information about the 'LocRef': Prof. **Sabine Kuhlmann** ([Sabine.Kuhlmann@uni-potsdam.de](mailto:Sabine.Kuhlmann@uni-potsdam.de)) and Dr. **Christian Schwab** ([chschwab@uni-potsdam.de](mailto:chschwab@uni-potsdam.de)), both University of Potsdam, or at <http://www.uni-potsdam.de/cost-locref/>

### **About the PhD-Training School:**

The Training Schools overall topic is **“The Renaissance of Local Government. European Municipalities in Transition”**. All levels of government (local, regional, national, international) in Europe are experiencing a period of intense reform activity inspired by a common agenda of rescaling. As a result, the local tiers are severely pressurized from an enduring strain of changes. Many intertwined issues affect consequently the European local governments, such as territorial rescaling as a whole, empowerment of metropolitan areas, merger and inter-municipal cooperation as well as reshaping of sub-municipal units. Municipalities are consequently facing simultaneous requests for changes and a presumed *Renaissance* of the local level of government is expected all across Europe. An emerging question arises from this turbulent landscape: are European Local Governments really able to face these challenges, and to what extent will these changes support a renaissance? Or will they provoke a decline of local governments?

An answer to these questions has to be detected through a comparative approach and looking at the sector level. Analyzing the current transition of European local governments leads us to address numerous issues at the same time. Firstly, there is a matter of legitimacy. Secondly, there is a crucial and increasing problem of new kinds of coordination and integration among the local levels in an emerging pattern of multilevel government. Finally, a quest for a democratic accountability is increasingly raised from the stakeholders: councilors, managers and citizens. Here, the divide between politics and rescaling joins the well-known cleavage between reforms and bureaucracy.

All these questions point out the relevance of an overview on simultaneous sectorial changes to grasp a comprehensive insight of the current state of the art of the Local Government in Europe. According to this point of view, the PhD-Training School is meant to discuss the presumed Renaissance of the Local Government by reviewing changes and resistances, strength and vulnerability across many targets of reforms at the same time. This debate is proposed in a country, Italy, where the rescaling severely impacted the nature of local governance and a renaissance is intensely expected by the stakeholders as well as the public opinion. The course intends to provide training in four fields of research study: territorial rescaling, metropolitan areas, amalgamations and sub-municipal units. In addition, PhD students have the opportunity to “meet the stakeholders”, as the program includes communications by the implementers of the re-scaling in Italy (public officers and local administrators). At the same time, the students will get the opportunity to foster their knowledge through mutual learning from each other in small groups and a through Methodological Seminar.

## Organization

**Who can participate:** We encourage the participation of early stage researchers (PhD students and PhDs - less than 9 years) from disciplines such as administrative science, law, economics, public management, sociology, political science, planning or history interested in the overall topic. The number of participants is limited to 25. The participation is also open to local councilors, administrators and mayors.

**Certificate of Attendance:** Every participant will receive a certificate of attendance. The certificate will include a brief course description, which may be sufficient for their home University to grant some credit points for the attendance. We will suggest five credit points. Students are expected to give a brief presentation of their work (PhD topic, about 15-20 minutes) during the seminar, to shortly comment one assigned paper chosen among those presented by other PhD Students (about 5-10 minutes), and to deliver a written paper on their work (PhD or research) within 2 weeks before the starting date of the Training School.

### **How to apply:**

Please submit an abstract that provides a brief outline of your current work (PhD topic/project outline, 300 words max., in English) accompanied by a short CV, by **April 10, 2017**. To **apply for** and to register, please send electronically your abstract and CV to Annick Magnier ([annick.magnier@unifi.it](mailto:annick.magnier@unifi.it)) and/or to Andrea Lippi ([andrea.lippi@unifi.it](mailto:andrea.lippi@unifi.it)), and refer to 'PhD-Training School 2017' in the subject line.

Acceptance of participants will be notified within April 18th.

Fee: 80 euro, to pay on site at the registration.

**“The renaissance of local government. European municipalities in transition”  
Provisional Programme (12.06. – 17.06. 2017)**

DATE	HOUR	SESSION	LECTURERS/DISCUSSANTS	TOPIC
<b>12<sup>th</sup> June. Mon</b>	10:00	OPENING	Institutional welcome by The Municipality of Florence, the Italian National Association of Municipalities (ANCI) and Cittalia  Annick Magnier & Andrea Lippi (Local Organizers)	Welcoming
<b>Theme Day 1: Starting Conference on the POLLEADER Survey on the European Mayors</b>				
	10.45	<b>Conference - Part 1</b>	The Municipality after the recent re-scaling: Mayors' interpretation Leaders and reforms	<i>Conference: Cities for a European Renaissance, A debate among Researchers and policy-makers on the results of a survey among the European mayors</i>  <i>(the European Mayor II Survey) “</i>
	13:15	<b>Lunch</b>		
	14:30	<b>Conference Part - 2</b>	-Re-scaling, recruitment and careers of the local leaders - How the role of mayor is changing	<i>Conference: Cities for a European Renaissance, from an empirical research on European local government in transition, the POLLEADER Survey</i>
	17:30	Closing		
<b>Theme Day 2: The Reform of Local Government in Europe</b>				
<b>13<sup>th</sup> June Tue</b>	10.00	<b>Institutional welcome and Speech</b>	Dr. Matteo Biffoni, <i>Mayor of Prato and President of the Tuscany Unit of the National Association of Italian Municipality (ANCI)</i>	

	10:150	<b>Lecture 1</b>	Prof. L. Bobbio, University of Turin	<i>Up and Down with Italian Local Government</i>
	11:00	<b>Break</b>		
	11:300	<b>Lecture 2</b>	Prof. L. E. Rose, University of Oslo	<i>Territorial rescaling in the Nordic countries: Procedures, results and consequences for the quality of local democracy</i>
	13:00	<b>Lunch</b>		
	14:30	<b>Presentations by students</b>	Coord. Prof. Lawrence E. Rose, University of Oslo	
	17.30	Closing		
<b>Theme Day 3: The Metropolitan Cities in Transition</b>				
<b>14<sup>th</sup> June Wed</b>	09:30	<b>Institutional Welcome and Speech</b>	Dr.Giovanni Bettarini,  Council Member, Metropolitan City of Florence.	
	10:15	Lecture 3*	Prof. Hubert Heinelt, University of Darmstadt	<i>The metropolitan Cities and the second tier re- constructions</i>
	11:00	<b>Break</b>		
	11:30	<b>Lecture 4</b>	Prof.Karsten Zimmermann, University of Dortmund	<i>Metropolitan Regions as strategic site: a comparative view on recent developments in Italy, France, and Germany</i>
	13:00	<b>Lunch</b>		
	14:30	<b>Presentations by students</b>	Coord. Prof. Annick Magnier	
	17:30	Closing		
<b>Theme Day 4: Municipal Amalgamation in Northern and Southern Europe</b>				
<b>15<sup>th</sup> June. Thu</b>	09:30	<b>Institutional Welcome and speech</b>	Dr. G. Bugliani, Regional Councilor	

	10:15	Lecture 5	Prof. N. K. Hlepas, University of Athens	<i>Efficiency imperatives and territorial re-scaling in South-European crisis countries</i>
	11:00	<b>Break</b>		
	11:30	<b>Lecture6</b>	Prof. M. Laffin, University of London	<i>The Politics of Reform and Reorganisation in Local Government"</i>
	13:00	<b>Lunch</b>		
	14:30	<b>Presentations by students</b>	Coord. Prof. Andrea Lippi	
	17:30	Closing		
<b>Day 5: Sub Municipal Units and Territorial Rescaling as a Whole</b>				
<b>16<sup>th</sup> June Fri</b>	9:30	Institutional Welcome and Speech	Prof. Cristina Giachi, Deputy Mayor, Municipality of Florence	
	10:15	Lecture 7	Prof. A. Tavares, University of Minho	<i>Submunicipal Units in a Comparative Perspective: Between Diversity and Confusion</i>
	11:00	<b>Break</b>		
	11:30	Lecture 8	Prof. S. Kuhlmann, University of Potsdam	<i>Territorial and functional reforms in multi-level systems: lessons from Germany and cross-country comparisons</i>
	13:00	Lunch		
	14:30	Methodological Lecture	Prof. A. Damonte, University of Milan	<i>Tackling complexity with configurational methods</i>
	17:30	Closing		
<b>Day 6: Social Day (voluntarily, tba)</b>				
<b>17<sup>th</sup> June</b>	11:00	Field Visit	Palazzo Vecchio	

\* Students' presentations are organized as following (and in this order):

- 15-20 minutes for the presentation of the research project/PhD topic

- 5-10 minutes for comments by the junior discussant (PhD student)
- 10 minutes for comments by the assembly
- 5 minutes for comments by the senior discussant (Trainer)

### **About the University of Florence**

The University of Florence is an important and influential centre for research and higher training in Italy, with 1,800 lecturers and internal research staff, 1,600 technical and administrative staff, and over 1,600 research assistants and doctoral students.

It offers a wide range of study programmes at various levels and in all areas of knowledge. 126 Degree courses (First and Second Cycle, corresponding to Bachelor's and Master's Degrees) organised in 10 Schools, with a population of about 51,000 enrolled students, one-fourth of which come from outside of Tuscany.

There are over 9,000 degrees awarded each year in Florence. According to the alumni data, the percentage of students who are in the workforce one year after their First Level degree is above national average.

The University of Florence has a natural international vocation and the development of internationalization is one of its strategic priorities.

It is one of the largest and most productive public research systems in Italy. This result is accomplished thanks to the number of permanent and temporary researchers working in a wide range of disciplinary and scientific fields, and the numerous junior scientists in training. It is also due to an intensive participation in research programmes of national and international relevance and to the significant scientific results achieved. External funds support the research and knowledge transfer activities. This combination of factors qualifies the Florentine institution as a modern research university and accounts for its excellent position in national and world rankings. Researchers at the University of Florence operate within 24 different departments and have at their disposal approximately 40 research structures comprising inter-departmental and inter-university centres as well as specialised research, knowledge transfer and advanced training centres. Since 1999 the University of Florence has been acknowledged as Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence (<http://www.unifi.it/vp-4085-centro-di-eccellenza-jean-monnet.html>). The Euroloc summer school is a qualifying element of its 2017-2018 Jean Monnet programme at the University of Florence.

[www.unifi.it](http://www.unifi.it)

### **About the Department of Political and Social Sciences (DSPS)**

The Department of Political and Social Sciences (DSPS) gathers together professors and researchers in political and social sciences of the University of Florence. The research and higher education program of the Department places emphasis on a multidisciplinary approach, based on the long-lasting tradition of the first Italian School of political and social sciences -- the "Cesare Alfieri" Faculty of political sciences -- nowadays updated and enriched with the contribution of professors and researchers coming from others faculties and departments of the University of Florence. The DSPS is therefore an institution hosting the different disciplinary specializations of modern social sciences -- political science, sociology, political philosophy, contemporary history and international relations history -- oriented to the study of national, sub-national and transnational societies, of international relations, of contemporary social and political phenomena, analyzed in their inter-dependence, in their historical roots and in their recent changes, through empirical and comparative research.

The DSPS organizes courses at the three different levels of higher education: two BA courses in Political Sciences, and in Social Work; five MA courses in Social Policies Design and Management, International Relations and European studies, Political Science and Decision-making, Sociology and Social research; the PhD in Social and Historical Sciences. The DSPS participates in the teaching and

managing activities of three Florentine Schools: Political Science "Cesare Alfieri", Economics and Management, Humanistic and Educational Studies.

<http://www.dsps.unifi.it/index.php>

**About EUROLOC and EURA:**

The Standing Group in Local Government Studies of the European Consortium of Political Research (LOGOPOL) has been holding Summer Schools in Local Government and Governance Studies since 1995. In 2012, the Standing Group in Local Government Studies and EURA (European Urban Research Association) joined their forces to work together by organizing the EUROLOC and EURA Summer School in Local Government and Governance studies. This Summer School supports PhD students in their research activities by giving them the opportunity to present and discuss their work with others and inspire their research. The aim is to bring students up-to-date with ongoing research in the field of local government and governance, develop links between PhD students and experienced researchers in the field of local government and governance studies who work with the same kind of research questions. The Summer School intends to stimulate scientific exchange among students of different backgrounds, foster cross-national working relations among the participants and contribute to the development of the comparative study of local politics and administration.

For more information about EUROLOC, EURA and the previous summer schools see [http://www.uni-stuttgart.de/soz/avps/euroloc\\_neu/home/index.html](http://www.uni-stuttgart.de/soz/avps/euroloc_neu/home/index.html)

**About the LocRef network:**

'LocRef' is a network of researchers coming from 32 European countries who work in the field of local public sector reforms. It provides a platform for establishing a new set of comparative knowledge on local public sector reforms and for integrating the fragmented research activities in this neglected area of investigation. It aims to enhance the scope of the conceptual foundations as well as the methodological rigor of comparative public administration. The research activities yield policy relevant knowledge concerning local reform measures from a European perspective, which can be utilized to improve policy making for future public sector modernization.

A major objective of the LocRef is to encourage young researchers in network building to promote their future careers. The aim is to strengthen their methodological skills as well as their conceptual and comparative knowledge on local public sector reforms. For more information, please refer to <http://www.uni-potsdam.de/cost-locref/>