

Panel 29
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Panel Title:

The Praxis of Performance Management in Public Services

Chair(s):

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Panel Description:

Papers are invited in all aspects of the practice of performance management in public services. However, we would like the authors to take account of the theme of the conference and of the following rationale.

Performance management is central to the management of public services these days. Four challenges will be facing us, with an increased need for further developments in the area: the financial crisis, ageing, demographics, and the environment. The financial crisis and the consequent stimuli packages will impose a significant burden on taxation for future generations with an increased interest on public sector productivity and performance. Ageing will, as well, put a strain on public budgets (possibly, bigger than the financial crisis will), which will reinforce the need for more productivity and performance from the public sector, especially in the health sector. As the 'old' world ages, the 'new' world of India, China, and Brazil, will still be growing, with an increased stress on the environment. Here too, the need for improved performance will be felt.

Bouckaert & Halligan (2008) distinguish measurement, incorporation and use of performance to explain the evolution of performance management in the public sector through several phases: performance administration, managements of performances and performance management, pointing further to the emergence of a fourth archetype: performance governance. Their review is based on several countries case studies, either Anglo-Saxon or northern European. We know little of what is happening in other countries, despite a growing multi-polarity, as the emergence of BRIC countries showcases.

We would like to hear from further studies from other countries and continents around the world. Different levels of analysis are of interest: state level, sector level, organisational level, programme level, and individual level.

All papers presented at the panel will be eligible for review for a special issue of International Journal of Productivity and Performance Management.