

Legitimate Crisis Management in the Context of Multi-Level Governance

Summary

This PhD position will be part of the recently started Horizon Europe project. The PhD project will address the following questions: 1) What has been the impact of the COVID-19 measures on democratic governance and legitimacy? 2) How has multi-level governance affected responses to COVID-19 pandemic? 3) What are the trade-offs between effectiveness in crisis management and legitimacy of crisis governance? 4) What are the lessons for future crisis management about adaptation and innovation of multi-level governance?

Research field:	Public policy and innovation
Supervisor:	Prof. Dr. Tiina Randma-Liiv
Availability:	This position is available.
Offered by:	School of Business and Governance Ragnar Nurkse Department of Innovation and Governance
Application deadline:	Applications are accepted between October 01, 2022 00:00 and October 23, 2022 23:59 (Europe/Zurich)

Description

The governance of the COVID-19 pandemic has been characterized by exceptional governance instruments and processes, beyond the “normal” decision-making and implementation processes and tools of liberal democracies. Ordinary democratic participation, rule of law, the horizontal and vertical separation of powers as well as fundamental rights and freedoms have been challenged and compromised by a crisis environment. This PhD project will take place within the recently started Horizon Europe project (2022-2025). The PhD project will examine decisions taken, measures implemented and processes followed that impacted democratic governance through the perspective of multi-level governance (MLG). The project will address a) the preservation and protection of democratic governance in order to ensure legitimacy in times of uncertainty and outside “normal” decision-making and implementation processes, and b) measures which are directly and indirectly impacted by MLG dynamics. The empirical research will cover COVID-19 related decisions on European, national, regional and local levels.

The thesis will address the following questions: 1) What has been the impact of the COVID-19 measures on democratic governance and legitimacy? 2) How has multi-level governance affected responses to COVID-19 pandemic? 3) What are the trade-offs between effectiveness in crisis management and legitimacy of crisis governance? 4) What are the lessons for future crisis management about adaptation and innovation of multi-level governance?

Responsibilities and (foreseen) tasks

- Compile an analytical framework for examining legitimate crisis governance in the context of multi-level governance
- Map possible case studies about crisis governance with the main focus on tackling COVID-19 in the MLG context
- Collect data and conduct case studies on the selected cases
- Contribute to comparative data collection by desk research and interviews
- Develop suggestions for government practitioners
- Contribute to the organization of research and practitioner workshops where project findings are presented
- Lead and contribute to academic articles

Applicants should fulfil the following requirements:

- a Master's degree in social sciences (preferably in public administration, political science, law or sociology)
- an explicit interest in the topic of the position
- excellent command of English
- strong and demonstrable writing and analytical skills

- capacity to work both as an independent researcher and as part of an international team
- capacity and willingness to provide assistance in organizational tasks relevant to the project

The candidate should submit a research plan for the topic, including the overall research strategy. The candidate can expand on the listed research questions and tasks, and propose theoretical lenses to be used.

We offer:

- 4-year PhD position in one of the largest, most internationalized and leading social science research centers in Estonia with a large portfolio of ongoing cross-European and national projects on public administration, digital governance and innovation studies.
- An opportunity to work closely with Europe's prominent scholars within the Horizon Europe project.
- Opportunities for conference visits, research stays and networking with globally leading universities and research centers in the fields of public administration, innovation studies and digital government.
- The PhD position guarantees a monthly income of at least 1700 EUR and Estonian national health insurance.

About the department

The Ragnar Nurkse Department of Innovation and Governance (RND) is an interdisciplinary research center of Tallinn University of Technology that focuses on socially relevant and future-oriented research and teaching on:

- models and practices of governance and public administration
- fiscal governance and fiscal bureaucracies
- e-governance and digital transformation of societies: datafication, public services and state-citizen relations in the digital era, smart cities and digital public services and cross-border collaboration
- P2P technologies, its' governance and potential new production models
- science and innovation policies

RND is a highly internationalized department and engages some of the top international thinkers and researchers in its research fields. Next to a fully English taught PhD degree it offers a MA degree in Technology Governance and Digital Transformations, and a unique Erasmus Mundus joint MSc programme in Public Sector Innovation and e-Governance in cooperation with KU Leuven (Belgium) and University of Münster (Germany). RND and its staff have coordinated or been involved in a multitude of international research projects with the EU (INTERREG, COST, FP7, Horizon), UN (UNDP), OECD (SIGMA), INET, and have participated in various European Commission working groups (the EU's Lisbon Agenda Group, Expert Group on Managing Risks in Public Technology Procurement, Expert Group on Public Sector Innovation). Recently RND initiated a major, 32 MEUR international R&D project on Smart Cities (FinestTwins). RND is also engaged in several international associations, such as the European Master in Public Administration program (EMPA), European Inter-University Association on Society, Science and Technology (ESST), and the European Group for Public Administration (EGPA).

For further information, please contact Prof Tiina Randma-Liiv, tiina.randma-liiv@taltech.ee



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