



Seminar organized by the research group 'Public Administration & Management' in collaboration with Jean Monnet Center ACTORE

University of Antwerp De Meerminne – M.106 – Sint Jacobstraat 2 Antwerpen

05 June 2018 from 12.30 to 14.00

Please notify your attendance by 01 June noon to chesney.callens@uantwerpen.be

Technological capacities in the public sector: why some public sector organizations are able to (rapidly) develop their technological capacities and others are not?

Dr. Veiko Lember
(Tallinn University of Technology)

Why and how do public sector technological capacities evolve and how can public sector organizations better adapt to technological changes. In this seminar, Dr. Veiko Lember will present the preliminary findings of a Marie-Curie research project. Within the context of this project, Lember has investigated why some public organizations within Belgium and Estonia were able to rapidly develop technological capacities and others are not.

Abstract of the paper that will be presented

Digital transformations provide the public sector with many challenges: there is a need to become better not only in utilizing digital technologies for policy making, but also in providing more effective and efficient public services while creating more inclusive public governance systems. Central to these developments is the evolution of public sector technological capacities, that is, an ability of public organizations to explore, develop and/or adapt new technological solutions in public policy and service design, delivery and evaluation. Yet, while technology is a critical factor in the lives of organizations, little is known why and how public sector technological capacities actually evolve and how public sector organizations can better adapt to technological changes. Thus, the central question of the seminar is: why are some public sector organizations able to rapidly develop new technological capabilities and others are not? Preliminary original empirical evidence from the Belgian and Estonian public sector organizations will be used to illustrate the arguments.

Bio of dr. Lember

Veiko Lember, PhD, is a Marie Skłodowska-Curie Research Fellow at Public Governance Institute, University of Leuven, Belgium and Senior Research Fellow in Public Management and Policy at Ragnar Nurkse Department of Innovation and Governance, Tallinn University of Technology, Estonia. From 2017 he serves as a Member of Steering Committee of the European Group for Public Administration (EGPA). He has previously been a research fellow at University of Tartu and a visiting research fellow at Université Paris-Est (LISIS). In 2014-2016 he served as the head of the Nurkse Department at TUT. Veiko's main research interests are in public administration and innovation policy.

His recent works in innovation policy have covered issues such as public procurement of innovation, technology transfer, university-industry cooperation and innovation policy governance. In public administration, his recent works have been on public sector innovation, digital transformation, public-private partnerships, contracting out and co-production.



Some information on the research group Public Administration and Management (PA&M)

The research group Public Administration and Management (PA&M) is a part of the Department of Political Sciences of the UA (Faculty of Social Sciences). The central research issue is how public administration systems cope with and integrate changing and partially conflicting (institutional) logics arising from their legal and political environment, administrative reform ideas and expanding interactions with private stakeholders. The research agenda of PA&M focusses on three research themes: (a) public administration and law, which studies the interaction between public law and administrative reforms; (b) public administration information and performance, which studies the use of performance information in decision making and management in public administration; (c) public administration and governance, which studies the governance and coordination of public tasks in complex multi-actor settings. The research group PA&M has about 20 members, with three professors, 4 post docs, two senior researchers and PhD's/researchers.

Some information on the JM Centre of Excellence ACTORE

ACTORE is the Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence of the University of Antwerp. ACTORE stands for Antwerp Consortium on the Organization of Rulemaking and Multi-level Governance in Europe. ACTORE brings together scholars from law, public administration and political science with multidisciplinary expertise in multi-level and multi-actor organization of the EU. Two research groups are involved besides PA&M, being ACIM, the Antwerp Centre for Institutions and Multilevel Politics as well as Government and Law. <https://www.uantwerpen.be/en/rq/actore/>