

Welcome by the outgoing Director-General of EIPA, Prof. Dr Marga Pröhl, to the workshops organised at EIPA on the 2019 Theme, 5 November 2019

"New solutions to complex challenges – A public sector citizen-centric, sustainable and fit for the future"

Dear EPSA Participants,
Dear Colleagues,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

- A warm welcome to you all on behalf of the European Institute of Public Administration (EIPA). I hope you enjoyed the ceremony last night, the presentations of the projects and the first meetings you had with fellow EPSA participants. Today, we want to intensify the opportunity for exchange of knowledge. This is why 'Networking' is the motto of the day!
- I trust that you will enjoy today's workshops during which the nominees will present their respective projects and where there will be time for exchange and questions.
- These workshops offer a unique opportunity to not only talk about the projects but also to exchange information with colleagues from all over Europe. We will listen to their experiences, get inspiration, inspire others, pose questions and hopefully get some useful answers. EPSA is meant to provide a unique platform of knowledge about innovative and creative solutions in the public sector in Europe. It covers all levels of public administration from the pan-European level, the national level, the regional and local level.
- The result of this year's EPSA is again proof of the need for such an award. 158 applications were received this year. This gave us the basis for this fine book that contains first a research part analysing the findings of this edition and then a short description and contact details regarding the 40 Best Practices. It is a real source of information for all public administrations throughout Europe, as well as being enjoyable to read. Let me therefore express a very warm and direct thank you to all the applicants of EPSA 2019.

Without the enthusiasm and courage of the public administrations to contribute to EPSA, no exchange of know-how and information could take place today.

- Today we also have the opportunity to make use of the results of EPSA. We do not yet know who will actually win the 3 trophies. That will be announced tomorrow during the award ceremony. But my opinion is that we are all winners already – for different reasons. All EPSA participants are already winners. Not just because of the certificates they received last night; no, but because with their innovative practices, they have joined the group of European reformers in PA. By sharing one always wins: new insights, valuable feedback and new ideas.

And all the others present here are also winners, because we will learn a lot from the experience of the EPSA participants.

So let us make the most of today. I will now hand over the floor to Michael Burnett, the Project Leader of EPSA 2019, who will update us on what has happened so far in EPSA 2019.

Thank you for your attention!!