

1st IGCOORD Training School

When: Monday 15/05/2023 until Thursday 18/05/2023

Where: Budapest, Hungary

Venue: ELTE, Faculty of Law, H-1053 Budapest, Egyetem tér 1–3

Monday 15 May 2023

08:30-09:00 Registration

09:00-10:00 Welcome from COST Action

1. Session: 10:00-12:30 (including coffee break)

Introduction: Intergovernmental Coordination in Unitary and Federal States

This session covers premises of decentralisation and federalism to offer an opportunity for policy experimentation and for competition for more effective and efficient policies that are developed and delivered closer to people's preferences. While the normative arguments in favour of decentralisation focus on the potential of economic and democratic benefits, empirical research highlights the need for coordination among governments to avoid unintended consequences, negative externalities, or strategic burden-shifting by individual actors. In this session, we will introduce different types of coordination and conceptual distinctions used in the literature. Secondly, we will tap into economic and democratic theories of decentralisation, discuss arguments about optimal allocation of power and resources. Finally, we will look at the relation between competition and coordination, as well as investigate incidents of coordination problems and coordination failure and how actors can deal with them in practice.

2. Session: 13:30-16:30 (including coffee break)

Vertical Coordination: Challenges, Approaches and Instruments

Vertical specialization in each organized system requires vertical coordination efforts. The Europeanization of public policies, harmonization of law within the European Union, and strengthening of institutional ties within the European Administrative Space place the issue of vertical intergovernmental coordination among the most complex public governance activities. It can be researched within an administrative silo / policy sector or within the EU or even broader multi-level public governance settings. The general shift from hierarchical coordination to coordination by networks and markets adds to the complexity of vertical coordination, but also widens the range of available vertical coordination arrangements and instruments. In addition, this change opens space for inclusion of a wide array of actors into vertical coordination activities. All the mentioned changes make vertical coordination a multi-dimensionally challenging, highly risky and – from time to time – bitterly ineffectual public governance activity. The lecture aims to shed some light and give a structured view of this field.

Tuesday 16 May 2023

3. Session: 09:30-12:30 (including coffee break)

Vertical coordination: The Politics of Coordination in Plurinational Contexts

This session considers the politics of intergovernmental relations, especially when governments are led by competing political parties. It takes a focused look at vertical coordination in multinational states, where one or more of the governing units claims to represent a nation that is distinctive from that represented by the “national” state-wide government. Here, IGR can become a site of territorial politics, where intergovernmental engagement is as much about competition and maximising and protecting jurisdictional autonomy as it is about cooperation and coordination.

4. Session: 13:30-16:30 (including coffee break)

Horizontal coordination in the absence of hierarchy

In contrast the vertical dimension of coordination, situations of horizontal coordination are typically characterized by the absence of hierarchy as a mode of governance. Also, often legal or administrative borders are transcended, creating potentially institutional incongruence and a need for harmonization. Those characteristics pose particular challenges, yet offer specific venues and opportunities for success. In this session, we distinguish typical instances of horizontal coordination (e.g. bi- vs. multilateral; at various levels – local, regional, national; policy-specific or multi-purpose; institutionalized or informal; voluntary or compulsory). We discuss their challenges and the strategies open to participating actors. Particular emphasis is put on the means and processes for achieving information, communication and coordination in the absence of a central authority. In the second part, we apply the conceptual tools in the group-wise discussion of case studies.

Evening: Keynote Lecture (Speaker tbc)

Wednesday 17 May 2023

5. Session: 09:30-12:30 (including coffee break)

Multilevel Governance in border regions: Practices and challenges of inter-local and cross-border coordination

Governance coordination can be challenging. While states usually have installed legal and developed cultural mechanisms to coordinate governance between different levels of administration, this is not necessarily the case between states even within the European Union. This has an impact on border regions – formalized governance coordination between local authorities may be in place within a state, but usually not across the border. The EU has, over time, created two instruments to encourage and enable cross-border governance coordination: Interreg as a financial incentive, and the European Grouping of Territorial Cooperation as a legal instrument (Evrard 2016; Zapletal 2010). Furthermore, the Council of Europe introduced a Framework Convention for Cross-Border Cooperation between local and regional authorities (so-

called Madrid Convention) already in 1980, ratified by most of its member states. A third legal framework, the Cross-Border Mechanism, has been introduced by the European Commission, but has not been accepted by the Member States, yet.

This session will introduce the trainees to the concept of Multi-Level Governance (Marks, Hooghe, and Blank 1996), these legal instruments, and their application in daily practices. It will furthermore focus on cultural mechanisms of coordinating governance. In a practical exercise, trainees should elaborate a concrete case of successful cross-border governance coordination to establish a cross-border public service.

6. Session: 13:30-16:30 (including coffee break)

Measuring coordination and effectiveness of coordination

This session is dedicated to methods and measurement questions related to intergovernmental coordination. How can we measure the scope, scale and depth of coordination? Are there any problems with gathering comparable data? How does coordination sit with measures of regional authority or local autonomy? Does the measurement of coordination impact on the evaluation of effectiveness of coordination?

Thursday 18 May 2023 COST Annual Conference

09:00-10:30 Keynote Speech: Prof Sabine Kropp

Coffee break

7. Mentoring 11:15-13:15 (small parallel groups)

This session is organised in multiple parallel groups in which participants will give an elevator pitch of their own work, discuss their ideas and feedback from trainers as well as other trainees. We are envisioning a range of topical questions, empirical examples and stimulating discussions of new ideas for researching coordination and coordination problems.

8. Afternoon with local PhD and postgraduate students

A treat after all the work! Join the local PhD students for an exploration of local treasures in Budapest.