

## 3<sup>rd</sup> IGOORD Conference

### Intergovernmental Coordination in Polycrisis Times: Legal, Political and Financial Dimensions

### CALL FOR PROPOSALS

**Date:** 26-27 June 2025

**Venue:** Faculty of Law and Administration, Maria Curie-Skłodowska University, Lublin, Poland

**Application deadline:** 31 March 2025

**Notification of acceptance:** 30 April 2025

**Paper submission deadline:** 31 May 2025

The 2020-2024 period is frequently named the **polycrisis** period. In late 2019 and early 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic spread across the world, leaving a profound impact on the functioning of states and citizen welfare. On 24 February 2022, Russia launched a military invasion of Ukraine, sparking an ongoing war with little hope for a swift resolution. Millions fled Ukraine, prompting neighbouring countries to provide assistance, while millions more continue to suffer within their homeland. The energy crisis is a distinct and significant consequence of this war. Since 7 October 2023, an armed conflict has been ongoing in the Gaza Strip between Israel and Hamas-led Palestinian militant groups. The migrant "crisis" shows no signs of ending, as large numbers of people from conflict-affected and less developed countries are still seeking better lives in Europe or other developed nations. Such events affect every aspect of our lives, and intergovernmental relations inevitably cannot remain untouched during these complicated times. This conference focuses on the legal, political and financial issues of intergovernmental relations in the time of polycrisis.

#### Legal and political issues

Democracies entered the new millennium with high ambitions and optimism. Following the collapse of many authoritarian regimes in Europe and the launch of various international collaboration initiatives, it was widely anticipated that democratic values, the rule of law, and market-oriented economic principles would naturally prevail and foster further global development. However, instead of steady and positive economic and political progress, the world has experienced repeated and overlapping crises of various kinds since the early 2000s. Now, as we approach the end of the first quarter of the 21st century, it is evident that governments at all levels struggle to cope with a **polycrisis** which threatens not only the stability of political, administrative, legal, and economic systems in democratic countries, but also their entire societies, including their root values.

Under such circumstances, the responses of individual governments differ greatly. While some prioritize closer intergovernmental collaboration, sharing experiences and strategies, others adopt a more insular tactic, focusing on their own national interests. Such differing strategies inevitably shape governments' perspectives on the decentralization-centralization dichotomy. Notably, in countries that have chosen to pursue their own distinct paths, there are clear tendencies toward centralizing their existing systems.

Taking the aforesaid thoughts into account, we invite authors to focus their papers, *inter alia*, on:

- centralisation measures that have already been taken by central governments in some countries in order to cope with the current **polycrisis**;
- consequences of the transformation in the legal system of the given countries, the impact of the **polycrisis** on the regulatory environment and its resilience;
- results and intended, as well as unintended impacts of various centralisation measures adopted by central governments while facing the current **polycrisis**;
- variety of reactions and measures of those central governments that have wanted to fight the current **polycrisis** but, on the other hand, have not moved to any centralisation path;
- stability and resilience of political, administrative, legal and economic system in democratic countries under the circumstances of the current **polycrisis**.

## Financial issues

The polycrisis has had significant impacts on systems of fiscal federalism across the globe. Governments are facing substantial financial challenges as they strive to balance budgets and manage increasing debt. The “costs” of the fiscal stress are caused by the discontinuity of the economic growth for certain parts of the **polycrisis** period and by critically increasing needs for public resources. Coping with the consequences of the **polycrisis** significantly affects local public finance and the ways and volumes of the redistribution of resources between central and subnational levels.

Current challenges in intergovernmental fiscal relations, as well as the national and local government finances are also intertwined with innovative trends in the field of public financial management. These include the rapid advancement of e-government technologies, the growing use of artificial intelligence in the public sector, and the push for sustainable public finance systems (participatory budgeting, green budgeting, gender budgeting, and enhanced budget transparency).

Taking into the account the current core challenges related to the intergovernmental fiscal relations and to the financial management in the public sector, authors are invited to submit abstracts addressing topics such as:

- the impact of **polycrisis** on the sustainability of local finances and the dynamics between central and subnational budgets;
- the role of e-government and artificial intelligence in public financial management;
- and sustainable budgeting practices.

Submissions exploring other relevant themes, such as intergovernmental fiscal relations or local service delivery, are also welcome.

## Organisational aspects

**Paper proposals** should include:

- title;
- abstract of max. 300 words;
- 5–7 keywords;
- scientific area/conference stream where the abstract is submitted (Political Science; Law; Finance and Economics), and
- contact details and affiliation of the author(s).

**Panel proposals** must include:

- a minimum of three papers and a maximum of four;
- panel title and a short description of the panel (max. 200 words);
- individual paper titles and short abstract (max. 100 words and 5–7 keywords for each);
- contact details and affiliations for all paper-givers (and possibly the discussant and chair).

The deadline for the submission of paper or panel proposals is **31 March 2025**. Notices of acceptance will be sent out by **30 April 2025**. Proposals should be submitted to [conference@igcoord.eu](mailto:conference@igcoord.eu).

## Registration

The conference is supported by COST – European Cooperation in Science and Technology. There is no conference fee, but registration is required. Authors whose abstract has been accepted are requested to join one of the Working Groups of COST Action IGCOORD (CA20123), which is free of charge.

Authors are required to submit their papers by **31 May 2025**. Submitting a draft version of the paper on time is a condition for attending the conference as a presenter and receiving funding for the conference participation. Presented papers are expected to meet high quality to be publishable in quality journals. Their extended abstracts will be published in the conference proceedings subject to quality review.

## Funding

Funding is available for members of COST Action IGCOORD (CA20123). Reimbursement of travel costs is capped at €350, to which a fixed daily allowance is added. Reimbursement of travel and accommodation costs cannot be guaranteed for all participants and depends on the number of applicants and overall amount of available funding. Priority in funding will be given to IGCOORD members who have submitted full papers of high quality and relevance to the conference topic. In the case of co-authored submissions, only one of the authors is eligible for reimbursement of travel and accommodation costs.

Confirmed keynote speakers are Prof **Thorsten Ingo Schmidt** and Prof **Pawel Swianiewicz**.

Inquiries can be directed to the organizers at [conference@igcoord.eu](mailto:conference@igcoord.eu).

## Scientific committee:

Prof. Juraj Nemec, *Masaryk University*, Brno, Czech Republic

Prof. Jarosław Kostrubiec, *Maria Curie-Skłodowska University*, Lublin, Poland

Prof. Istvan Hoffman, *Eötvös Loránd University*, Budapest, Hungary & *Maria Curie-Skłodowska University*, Poland

Dr. Daniel Klimovský, *Comenius University* Bratislava, Slovakia

Dr. Lucie Sedmihradská, *Prague University of Economics and Business*, Czech Republic

Dr. Noemia Bessa Vilela, *Institut Pravnih Znanosti, Raziskave in Razvoj na Področju Prava (OPHIZ)*, Maribor, Slovenia (Action Chair) & *Maria Curie-Skłodowska University*, Poland

Prof. Sean Mueller, *Institute of Political Studies, University of Lausanne*, Switzerland (Action Vice Chair)

## Organizing committee:

Dr. Mateusz Chrzanowski, *Maria Curie-Skłodowska University*, Lublin, Poland

Prof. Edyta Całka, *Maria Curie-Skłodowska University*, Lublin, Poland

Dr. Habil. Paweł Szczęśniak, *Maria Curie-Skłodowska University*, Lublin, Poland

Dr. Paweł Kłos, *Maria Curie-Skłodowska University*, Lublin, Poland

Karolina Caban, *Maria Curie-Skłodowska University*, Lublin, Poland

Mateusz Dolińczyk, *Maria Curie-Skłodowska University*, Lublin, Poland

Martyna Grzegorzak, *Maria Curie-Skłodowska University*, Lublin, Poland

Aleksandra Poślednik, *Maria Curie-Skłodowska University*, Lublin, Poland

Kinga Welz, *Maria Curie-Skłodowska University*, Lublin, Poland

Aleksandra Zawiślak-Białek, *Maria Curie-Skłodowska University*, Lublin, Poland

Amelia Motyl, *Maria Curie-Skłodowska University*, Lublin, Poland

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