



CoronaTrack : Governing the Pandemic

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2020 will not only be remembered as the year where the International Institute of Administrative Sciences (IIAS) celebrated its 90th anniversary, but also as that of the outbreak of the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.

The IIAS decided not to cancel its jubilee conference due to the disease¹, but instead use it as an opportunity to reaffirm once again the societal commitment and relevance of the whole public administration community, and the resilience of its most representative learned society.

The COVID-19 pandemic constitutes a stress test for the global governance system, with health, security, economic, financial, and geopolitical dimensions. Public governance systems need to demonstrate resilience, absorbing the shock and bouncing forward.

In this Coronatrack, the IIAS invites the global (international) academic and professional community to address the public governance dimensions of the epidemic such as, i.e.:

Global crisis management by governments

- The scaling up of public health measures, regarding, e.g.: the detection of new cases, the provision of hygienic advises, recommendations for large community events/mass gathering, quarantine measures, and measures aiming at mitigating the economic impact;
- Effective crisis communication: the timing, the form, the channels, the messages, and the management of alternative voices (conspiracy theories and dubious facts about the virus);

¹ More information in the official policy statement by IIAS Director General Sofiane Sahraoui, www.iias-iisa.org

- The multi-level governance of the crisis, inside countries between central and local governments, and among countries at a regional and global level;
- The multisectoral coordination amid global crisis across health, transport, industry, security, education and scientific research sectors (alternative);
- The different administrative cultures reflected by the different national approaches to the issues.

The impact of the pandemic

- Economic: while the R-word remains a taboo at times of writing, the decreasing demand and supply of goods, the cancellation of mass gatherings and of international exchanges could significantly impact growth and employment levels;
- Financial: price of assets, interest rates, and reimbursement capacities of economic agents, including governments, could be affected, with wide-ranging consequences;
- Social and political: diminishing social contacts and economic opportunities can impact demographics and stress political uncertainty;
- Environmental: the pandemic is likely to lead to lower levels of greenhouse gas emissions, and gives to see how a low-growth, low-emission global system could look like;
- Geopolitical: global balance of power could evolve from shifts in the price of commodities, the solvency of economic agents, and the disruptions in supply chains

The recovery and next steps towards a resilient global community

- How to achieve an appropriate balance between values of efficiency and resilience in the organization of health care systems?
- How to further develop Research & Development policies are needed to control, prevent and anticipate the pandemic crisis?
- How to control risks of disruptions in the supply of goods and services at global and regional levels?
- How to ensure that citizens trust their government to face the crisis/pandemic and to reestablish the conditions of health, well-being and development?
- How to combine the governance pandemics with other ongoing priorities, related to the climate action, the migrations management and the 2030 agenda?

The International Institute of Administrative Sciences call for contributions examining these and other aspects of the ongoing Coronavirus pandemic. Contributions throwing light on national approaches of the crisis are particularly welcomed.

Abstracts of 200 words are expected, which could lead to paper or poster presentations.



References

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