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The Future of Local Governance and Management: Leadership, Participation, and Public Sector Entrepreneurial Spirit for Innovation

Closes:
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Journal: [International Journal of Public Sector Management](#)

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Introduction

Local governments play a fundamental role in public sector management, which is essential in policy implementation, public service delivery, and community development. The governance of local authorities is increasingly shaped by decentralization policies, technological advancements, and evolving citizen expectations for greater participation in decision-making (Noda, 2023; Klijn & Koppenjan, 2012; De Vries et al., 2016). However, while much re

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on national and regional governments, local governments, particularly small

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governance, shaping public administration and service delivery within their communities. They are crucial actors in fostering sustainability, preserving cultural heritage, and enhancing community engagement through entrepreneurial initiatives that drive local innovation and economic resilience (Cristofaro et al., 2024; Vivona, 2024; Flora et al., 2018; Frare et al., 2020). There is a need for research to explore how local governments are integrating innovative governance practices to improve service delivery, to strengthen inter-municipal cooperation and to promote greater resilience, responsiveness and adaptability.

List of topic areas

- Mechanisms for citizen engagement and participation in governance within small municipalities.
- E-participation platforms, digital governance tools, and their role in policy responsiveness.
- User-oriented reporting and its effectiveness in facilitating citizen and stakeholder involvement.
- Strategies to overcome administrative and financial limitations through innovative governance practices.
- The influence of municipal leadership characteristics on policy implementation and governance outcomes.
- The role of entrepreneurial public leaders, institutional innovation, and policy experimentation in fostering economic development, overcoming bureaucratic constraints, and enhancing local governance effectiveness.
- Managerial control systems and their role in enhancing administrative efficiency and resource optimization.
- Governance models and best practices for cooperation among municipalities sharing public services.
- The effects of decentralization on autonomy, governance capacity, and administrative collaboration.

- Mechanisms for successful inter-municipal partnerships, policy integration, and knowledge sharing.
- The role of digital transformation in fostering sustainable governance strategies.
- Public-private partnerships for infrastructure development and urban planning in small municipalities.
- Adaptive institutional frameworks and regulatory policies supporting sustainable resource management and long-term resilience.

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Key deadlines

Opening date for manuscripts submissions: **30th July 2025**

Closing date for manuscripts submission: **31st December 2025**

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