

* * **LOCAL FINANCES IN EUROPEAN CITIES** * *
Between the management of local well-being and multi-level priorities

In the lively discussions around multi-level governance, the attention is currently on the financial interactions between international and national levels with the local level often taken for granted. However, deep constitutional, legal, economic and political differences exist between local government across Europe and within countries themselves.

Asymmetries between wealth/needs and revenues/spendings trigger fundamental questions of social justice, socio-economic cohesion, solidarity, substantive and formal equality. This leads to our research questions:

- *Are there alternatives to centralisation to address local asymmetries?*
- *Are there ways to mitigate centralisation to the benefit of local autonomy?*
- *What is the role of non-institutional forms of solidarity to mediate the local/central interfaces?*

These online discussions explore these questions from both top down and bottom up, thanks to case studies and interdisciplinary discussions, looking both at the taxation and the spending side of the equation. The sessions will feature examples from all corners of Europe: North (Sweden, Finland), South (Italy, Spain), West (Belgium, France, Germany, the UK) and East (Romania). Our guests will bring expertise from law, accounting and economy

28th October 2022 ~ Launch – 1pm UK time

This first session sets the scene for discussing the taxation and spending aspects of local autonomy in the 2020s, at a time when public action is both being increasingly outsourced and recentred on coercive functions. How do these transformations in administrative action align with taxation powers, how are the spending functions of local autonomy controlled? What are the constitutional guarantees and limits available?

Chair – Dr **Dominic de Cogan** [Cambridge]

- Professor **Jean-Bernard Auby** [Sciences Po Paris]

Respondant **Danielle Lamarque** [Revue Gestion et finances publiques]

- Professor **Edoardo Traversa** [UC Louvain]

Respondant Dr **Ines Ciolli** [Sapienza di Roma]

Registration : click [here](#)

16th December 2022 ~ Case study: competition and taxation challenges of ports in a global economy – 1pm UK time

Ports are specific economic entities in need of dedicated investments to respond to changing needs of transportation. They are also economic drivers and fierce competitors. (How) can they balance conflicting needs of attracting goods and investing in infrastructures?

Chair – Dr **Marine Chouquet** [Paris Cité]

Ports and Globalisation

Professor **Nicolas Guillet** [Le Havre]

Respondant Professor **Elvira Van Haezendonck** [VUB]

Free ports

Dr **Peter Holmes** [Sussex, UKTRO]

Mr **Guillermo Labalastier** [Sussex]

Respondant Dr **Frank Stevens** [Rotterdam]

Registration: click [here](#)

1st February 2023 ~ European funds at local level – 8:30 UK time

The debates on the rule of law in the EU have led to developing systems to monitor more closely the protection of the financial interests of the EU. Local governments fall within the scope of application of this new system. What does it mean for the EU, local government and the rule of law in Europe?

Chair – Dr **Nikos Vogiatzis** [Essex]

- Professor **Ulrich Stelkens** [Speyer] - *Conditionality Regulation and impact at local level*

- Professor **Emilia Korkea-aho** - [Eastern Finland] - *The national governance of EU funds: A case study on Finland*

- Dr **Marta Tomasi** [Trento] - *Italian municipalities and European funds: programming, innovation and valorisation.*

- Dr **Simona Gherghina** [Bucharest] - *Legal challenges of using European funds by Romanian municipalities*

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11th May ~ Local subventions and subventions for local needs – award and control - 1pm UK time

Local government enjoy a large freedom to develop and support financially local initiatives to address local needs. How far does this creativity reach? In practice? In legal terms?

Chair – Professor **Theodore Konstadinides** [Essex]

Local projects and needs – creativity and limits

- Dr **Martina Axmin** [Lund], *The Swedish Sällbo project – a new type of collaborative housing*
- Dr **Koldo Casla** [Essex], *Localising Human Rights in Essex and the UK*
- **Evan Lagune** [Aix Marseille]

Legal framing of local choices

- Professor **Jacobine van den Brinck** [University of Amsterdam], *The Dutch legal framework for local government subventions*
- Professor **David De Roy** [UC Louvain]

Registration: click [here](#)

22nd June ~ Influence of accounting on local management and autonomy - 1pm UK time

Local government operate in a context of legal constraints and accounting norms. How do these norms affect their practice – positively and negatively? (How far) can they be creative with these norms?

Chair – Professor **Steven Van Garsse** [Hasselt]

Accounting /economic perspectives

Jean-Pol Milot [formerly *Conseil de normalisation des comptes publics*]

Professor **Adam D Leaver** [Sheffield]

Professor **Ileana Steccolini** [Essex], *Accounting constraining and enabling roles in local governments*

Response from a legal perspective

Professor **Etienne Douat** [Montpellier, *Société française de finances publiques*]

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