



Upcoming Activities

European Institute of Public Administration (EIPA) – Upcoming courses

An overview of all EIPA courses can be found on our website at www.eipa.eu. Download the full 2026 course catalogue here: [Catalogue-2026](#)

[AI and Data Mining Tools in the Audit of EU Funds Work: Part I](#)

Lisbon (Portugal,) 23-25 September 2026

This highly practical course explores how Artificial Intelligence (AI) and data mining tools are used in the control, audit and fraud detection in EU funds to improve fraud identification, risk assessment, and compliance monitoring. Participants will gain a clear overview of current practices, key benefits, and the risks and challenges involved in applying these technologies.

[Evaluation for Busy People: What is Evaluation and Why Should I Care?](#)

Barcelona (Spain), 24-25 September 2026

This two-day course provides a practical introduction to evaluation and its importance for public policy, public programmes, and decision-making. The course explains what evaluation is, why it matters, and how it can be used to improve public services, policy effectiveness, and value for money.

[Practitioners' Seminar: European Public Procurement Rules, Policy and Practice](#)

Maastricht (Netherlands), 29 September – 2 October 2026

A 3 and half day practitioners' seminar offering a full journey through EU public procurement: principles, procedures, the three directives and essential CJEU case law. Practical, interactive and designed to strengthen your daily procurement practice.

[Internal, External and Performance Audit of ESIF and NEXTGENEU Funded Programmes and Projects: 2021-2027 and Preparations for 2028-2034](#)

Madrid (Spain), 6-8 October 2026

This highly practical 2 and half-day course will give you a complete overview and detailed understanding of all practical aspects of control and different types of audits of EU Funds in the programming period 2021-2027. This includes Next Generation EU and the Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance (IPA), and the preparation for control and audits in 2028-2034.

[EU State Aid Law in Practice: Current Challenges and Future Directions](#)

Luxembourg (Luxembourg), 9 October 2026

This one-day high-level conference on EU State aid control combines legal analysis with a round table featuring key stakeholders and focuses on jurisprudence, policy shifts, and the strategic use of State aid.

[Data Protection: Refresher and Advanced Course for DPOs and Data Protection Experts](#)

Maastricht (Netherlands) & Online, 19-21 October 2026

This course will help to refresh and update your data protection knowledge. The most pressing data protection topics will be detailed by speakers and practitioners, at the forefront of data protection. The course includes hands-on workshops designed to help you learn and share best practices within your organisation.



Activities from DPIDG



2026 UNITED NATIONS PUBLIC SERVICE FORUM

Transforming Public Institutions:
Advancing Innovation, Accountability, Participation, and Inclusion

23 - 25 June 2026 | Tbilisi, Georgia

UN Public Service Forum and Awards Ceremony

The 2026 United Nations Public Service Forum and Awards Ceremony took place in Tbilisi, Georgia from 23 to 25 June 2026, under the theme Transforming Public Institutions: Advancing innovation, Participation, and Inclusion. The Forum was co-organized by the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA) through its Division for Public Institutions and Digital Government (DPIDG) and the Ministry of Justice of Georgia. In addition to the plenary, there was a number of workshops facilitated by UN DESA and the Ministry of Justice. The Forum also highlighted innovative public sector initiatives through its 2026 UN Public Service Awards Ceremony held on the last day of the Forum.

For more information, please visit: unpsf2026.org/en



Driving transformation and coordinated action for sustainable development

Wednesday, 17 June 2026

United Nations Headquarters, New York



Department of Economic and Social Affairs



SDG 16 Conference

The Permanent Mission of Italy to the United Nations, UN DESA and the International Development Law Organization (IDLO) co-organized the SDG 16 Conference 2026 on the theme of Driving transformation and coordinated action for sustainable development. It was held on 17 June 2026 at UN Headquarters in New York.

Building on the outcomes of the previous six editions, the Conference provided a platform for showcasing concrete examples of how action on SDG 16 delivers tangible results for societies and supports national development priorities. This year's Conference mobilized action-oriented partnerships and identified practical pathways through which SDG 16 can accelerate progress on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and contribute to the implementation of the Pact for the Future. The Conference also informs key intergovernmental processes in 2026, including the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development.

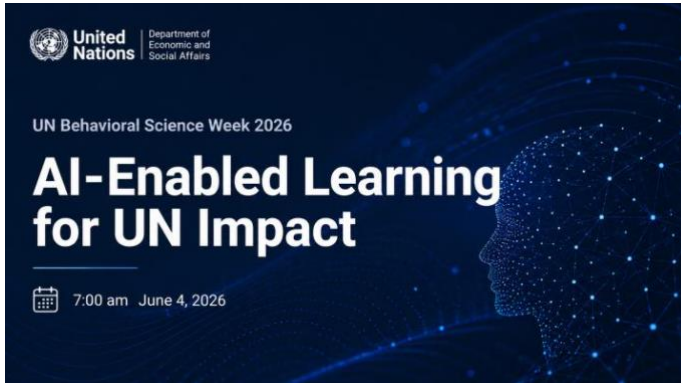
More information is available [here](#).



Webinar on the Data Governance Legal Framework

UN DESA/DPIDG and its Project Office on Governance (UNPOG) organized a webinar on the Data Governance Legal Framework. The webinar was held on 14 July 2026. There was an official launch of the Handbook on Data Governance Legal Framework, developed by UN DESA. The handbook is grounded in UN DESA's National Data Governance Framework and presents a structured, principles-based approach—covering seven core elements (data standardization and classification; sharing and interoperability; security and protection; privacy and ethics; infrastructure; digital identity; and AI automation) across four pillars (policy, institutions, people, and process), aligned with SDG 16 principles of effectiveness, accountability, and inclusiveness.

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AI-Enabling Learning for UN Impact

UN DESA/DPIDG organized a session on AI-Enabled Learning for UN Impact during the UN Behavioral Science Week 2026. The session explored how behavioural science could help increase the uptake and effective use of AI among UN and government staff.

The discussion focused on how behavioural science could support colleagues in building the skills, confidence, and motivation needed to use AI responsibly in their work. It also examined how behavioural science and AI could enhance the training and capacity development delivered by UN colleagues to Member States. Featuring examples from UN DESA, UNSSC, the World Bank, and Microsoft, the session highlighted practical tools, learning design, change management, and approaches for improving engagement, uptake, and impact.

advancing sustainable development. Governments worldwide were increasingly adopting Omnichannel One-Stop-Shop (OSS) service delivery models to simplify administrative procedures, improve access to services, and enhance institutional coordination across public institutions.

UN DESA/DPIDG has developed a comprehensive Handbook on Designing and Implementing Omnichannel One-Stop-Shops to Promote Better Service Delivery and Achieve the Sustainable Development Goals. The handbook provides governments with practical guidance on institutional coordination, service integration, digital infrastructure, governance frameworks, financing models, and implementation pathways for Omnichannel OSS systems.

Building on this framework, UN DESA/DPIDG, in collaboration with the Ministry of Public Service, Administrative Reforms, Policy Coordination and Delivery, organized an online training program from 3 to 4 June for government officials in The Gambia to strengthen understanding of Omnichannel OSS models and explore practical pathways for their adoption within the country’s public administration reform agenda.



Online Training Program on Designing and Implementing Omnichannel One-Stop-Shops (OSS) for Improved Public Service Delivery in The Gambia

Effective public service delivery is central to strengthening governance, improving citizen trust, and



Capacity Development Initiative on Strategic Foresight, Systems Thinking, and Mindset for Innovation and Digital Transformation – Permanent Secretaries

A one-day Permanent Secretaries' Leadership Workshop was held in Castries, Saint Lucia on 28 May 2026, bringing together Permanent Secretaries and equivalent senior officials from across Saint Lucia's government ministries.

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It was convened by UN DESA's Division for Public Institutions and Digital Government, ECLAC, and the Saint Lucia Department of the Public Service Management. Anchored in the DPSM Induction Programme on Mindset for Innovation and Digital Transformation and aligned with UN DESA's Curriculum on Governance for the SDGs, the workshop focused on building senior leadership capacity to apply strategic foresight and systems thinking in ministerial decision-making, fostering an enabling environment for institutionalizing these approaches, and supporting policy coherence and cross-sector coordination. Participants also engaged with the Digital Government Capability Assessment framework through a Digital Readiness Self-Assessment and explored the role Permanent Secretaries played in supporting the broader rollout of the DPSM Induction Programme across government.

Development Programme for Strategic Foresight and Systems Thinking for Anticipatory Governance (March–December 2026), which aims to develop a national cohort of trainers capable of applying and facilitating strategic foresight and systems thinking across government.

In parallel, DPSM had developed the Induction Programme on Mindset for Innovation and Digital Transformation, within the context of Developing Capacities for Innovation, Digital Government Transformation and Changing Mindsets in the Caribbean Small Island Developing States (SIDS), which defined the leadership and behavioural foundations required to drive reform. This workshop brought these two strands together.



Capacity Development Initiative on Strategic Foresight, Systems Thinking, and Mindset for Innovation and Digital Transformation – Workshop for National Trainers

UN DESA/DPIDG in collaboration with the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) and the Government of Saint Lucia — through the Department of the Public Service Management (DPSM), with the engagement of the Public Service Training Institute — convened a two-day in-person workshop in Castries, Saint Lucia from 26 to 27 May in Castries, Saint Lucia.

The workshop built on ongoing efforts to support Saint Lucia’s public service transformation agenda. DPIDG is implementing the Training-of-Trainers (ToT) Capacity



Strengthening Artificial Intelligence (AI) Capabilities and Governance for Sustainable Digital Transformation in Africa and Asia-Pacific

AI is rapidly reshaping economies and governance systems, offering significant potential for productivity, innovation, and digital transformation, while also introducing serious risks—particularly from agentic AI threats such as prompt injection, model poisoning, and memory poisoning. Despite the urgent need for robust governance frameworks, many countries lag behind. According to the UN E-Government Survey 2024, only 44 of 193 UN Member States have AI-related legislation, fewer than half have adopted a national AI strategy. Micro, Small, and Medium-sized Enterprises (MSMEs), which represent over two-thirds of businesses globally and are vital engines of growth especially in developing economies, are particularly vulnerable, facing exclusion

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from the AI-driven digital economy without adequate governance support—undermining their capacity to create jobs, foster innovation, and advance the SDGs.

Against this backdrop, a capacity-building workshop was organized under the project Strengthening AI Capabilities and Governance for Sustainable Digital Transformation in Africa and Asia-Pacific, in partnership with the Government of the People’s Republic of China. The initiative delivered a 5-day study tour and workshop for senior government officials from 25 to 29 May in Hangzhou, China, drawing on findings from the 2024 UN E-Government Survey and its AI Addendum, as well as China's experience in leveraging AI for MSME development, poverty reduction, and inclusive growth. The workshop aimed to equip participants with the institutional, policy, and technical foundations needed to design and implement national AI strategies aligned with their development priorities and coherent with multilateral frameworks including WSIS+20 outcomes, the Global Digital Compact, and Internet Governance Forum (IGF) Messages on AI.



Introductory Workshop on Strategic Foresight - Central Bank of Seychelles

UN DESA/DPIDG together with the UN Resident Coordinator’s Office (UNRCO) for Mauritius and Seychelles and UNITAR, has been supporting the Ministry of Finance in building a national pool of foresight leaders through a Training-of-Trainers Capacity Building Programme on Strategic Foresight and Systems Thinking. A core objective of that programme is to progressively extend anticipatory governance to sectoral and independent institutions, including the Central Bank of Seychelles (CBS). This one-day introductory workshop on

14 May in Victoria, Seychelles, introduced CBS technical staff to core foresight concepts and applies them to CBS-relevant use cases, contributing to the whole-of-government foundation for forward-looking, resilient planning that the national programme is building.



Online Workshop on Strengthening Whole-of-Society Capacities for Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) and Climate Resilience: Inclusive Governance and Innovative Mechanisms

The 6th Joint Certificate Programme of the Online Workshop on Strengthening Whole-of-Society Capacities for Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Resilience: Inclusive Governance and Innovative Mechanisms was held virtually from 12 to 14 May 2026. It was organized by UN DESA/DPIDG and its Project Office on Governance (UNPOG), in partnership with the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) CIFAL Jeju/Jeju International Training Center (JITC), the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR) Office for Northeast Asia (ONEA) and Global Education and Training Institute (GETI), and Making Cities Resilient 2030 (MCR2030), in collaboration with the United Nations Environment Programme’s Climate Technology Centre and Network (CTCN).

The workshop emphasized inclusive resilience-building through gender-responsive and disability-inclusive DRR approaches, strengthened public institutions and policy planning by embedding strategic foresight methodologies for integrated climate action, and catalyzed private sector engagement while leveraging climate technologies for DRR and climate resilience.

The workshop introduced concepts, frameworks, and practical approaches to strengthen inclusive disaster risk reduction, climate resilience, and climate action through effective governance, risk-informed planning, private sector engagement, and technology-enabled solutions. It provided participants with a comprehensive understanding of disaster and climate risk, resilience, and

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effective governance for strengthening public institutions, while highlighting how these priorities could be translated into actionable measures across different levels of government and society.

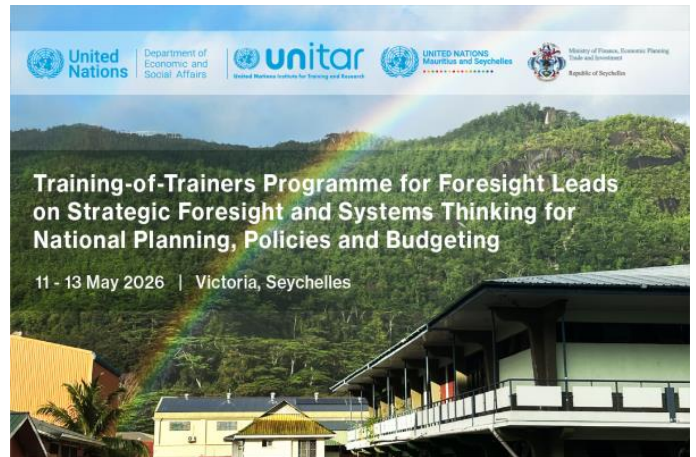


Changing Mindsets for Innovation and Digital Transformation in the Public Sector

UN DESA/DPIDG in collaboration with the Department of Public Sector Modernization of the Ministry of the Public Sector of Saint Lucia, organized a capacity development workshop on Changing Mindsets for Innovation and Digital Transformation in the Public Sector in Castries, Saint Lucia, from 11 to 13 May 2026.

A dedicated Training of Trainers (ToT) session was held in support of the Induction Programme launched by the Ministry of the Public Service’s Institute of Training on how to embed the UN DESA toolkits on innovation and digital transformation into their training programs.

Based on UN DESA’s Innovation and Digital Transformation toolkit and the Changing Mindsets for SDGs Implementation—one of the components of the Curriculum on Governance for the SDGs—as well as on previous support activities carried out in Saint Lucia, the workshop aimed to strengthen digital government and innovation capacities of public sector senior officials for public service delivery in Saint Lucia, aligned with the Government of Saint Lucia’s DigiGov initiative.



Training-of-Trainers Programme for Foresight Leads on Strategic Foresight and Systems Thinking for National Planning, Policies and Budgeting

UN DESA/DPIDG in collaboration with the UN Resident Coordinator's Office (UNRCO) for Mauritius and Seychelles, UNITAR, and the Ministry of Finance, Economic Planning, Trade and Investment (MoFEPTI) of Seychelles, convened a Training-of-Trainers (ToT) Capacity Building Programme for Foresight Leads on Strategic Foresight and Systems Thinking for National Planning, Policies, and Budgeting. It was held from 11 to 13 May in Victoria, Seychelles. This initiative built on a 2024 programme that had already strengthened national awareness and capacity, resulting in a five-step methodology, initial guidelines, and system-mapping tools aligned with Seychelles’ National Development Strategy 2024–2028.

In 2026, the programme further expanded national foresight capacity through a structured, three-phase approach—design, testing, and rollout—aimed at institutionalizing foresight practices, improving sector planning, and developing a sustainable cadre of national trainers. A central component was the three-day ToT workshop which provided practical training on foresight tools, scenario development, and anticipatory governance, while supporting the co-creation of national guidance and action plans for embedding these approaches across government.

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STI Forum side event: AI Integration in E-Governance

As governments navigate the complexities of AI, the United Nations provides critical, adaptable guidance to ensure its safe and inclusive integration into public systems. This side event offered a collaborative platform for participants to examine youth-led research on the benefits and risks of AI, directly informing the future of international e-governance standards.

The side event, organized by UN DESA/DPIDG in partnership with the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Korea and the USC Sol Price School of Public Policy, aimed to foster an open exchange of ideas, bridging the gap between youth innovation and public sector policy.



Joint Special Meeting From Digital Inclusion to Innovation Advancing Science, Technology and Youth Entrepreneurship for Development

Recent global policy frameworks underscored science, technology, and innovation (STI) as critical enablers of progress toward the Sustainable Development Goals, while highlighting persistent gaps in developing countries. Gaps in regulatory frameworks and

institutional capacity, limited digital infrastructure and skills, constrained access to finance, challenges in technology transfer, and fragile innovation ecosystems continued to limit the ability of many countries to harness emerging technologies, including artificial intelligence, in inclusive and sustainable ways. These challenges risk widening existing digital, data, and gender divides, reinforcing inequalities across geography, income, and age groups.

At the same time, STI presents significant opportunities for economic transformation, particularly through youth-led entrepreneurship. Young people represent a major, yet underutilized, source of innovation, creativity, and technological adoption, but face structural barriers such as unemployment, limited access to finance, and weak linkages between education, innovation systems, and labor markets.

In line with General Assembly resolution A/RES/80/147, the Joint Special Meeting focused on advancing STI for development, with particular attention to addressing the needs of developing countries. It examined persistent gaps and emerging opportunities related to governance capacities for STI-led development, digital infrastructure, access to finance, technology transfer, and innovation, while considering the implications of emerging technologies. The meeting also reflected a strategic shift from digital inclusion toward STI-driven youth entrepreneurship as a driver of transformation, reflecting the priority of the President of the Economic and Social Council. Through multi-stakeholder dialogue, it explored how young people could be supported with skills, digital tools, and financing to translate global commitments into actionable pathways that close digital divides, strengthen innovation ecosystems, and enable youth as drivers of sustainable development.

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2026 UNPAN Members Annual Meeting – 25th Anniversary of UNPAN

2026 marks the 25th anniversary of the UN Public Administration Network (UNPAN), a global network mandated by a UN General Assembly resolution. UNPAN connects over 30 public administration institutions worldwide working on effective governance and public administration for sustainable development in line with SDG 16. On 16 April UN DESA/DPIDG organized an UNPAN Members Meeting in New York at the margins of the CEPA session in New York, to mark the network’s milestone anniversary.



The meeting provided a platform for the UNPAN Members to explore innovative ways to strengthen synergies and partnerships and discuss UNPAN’s future plans guided by the results of an UNPAN Members’ survey.

More information, including the meeting report, is available [here](#).



Side event on Excellence for Public Service Delivery to Achieve the Sustainable Development Goals

A Side Event on Excellence for Public Service Delivery to Achieve the Sustainable Development Goals was held on 14 April at the UN Headquarters, at the margins of the 25th Session of the Committee of Experts on Public Administration (CEPA). The Side Event was organized by UN DESA/DPIDG in collaboration with the Government of the Republic of Azerbaijan within the framework of the project on Innovating Public Service Delivery to Achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) through the Transfer and Adaptation of Omnichannel Approaches, which was implemented by UN DESA/DPIDG.

The purpose of the Side Event was to discuss what defined excellence in public service delivery and how to enhance citizen trust. It provided an opportunity to share ideas and insights on what constituted excellence in public service delivery.

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25th session of the Committee of Experts on Public Administration

The Committee of Experts on Public Administration (CEPA) held its [twenty-fifth session](#) under the theme Transformative, equitable, innovative and urgent actions to rebuild trust, revitalize institutions and realize the SDGs: an institutional and governance perspective anchored in multilateralism in New York from 13 to 17 April. H.E. Mr. Lok Bahadur Thapa, President of the Economic and Social Council and Mr. Navid Hanif, Assistant Secretary-General for Economic Development delivered opening remarks. The Committee examined a range of issues in governance and public administration that are central to ongoing efforts to implement the global 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including: Transformative, equitable, innovative and urgent actions to rebuild trust, revitalize institutions and realize the Sustainable Development Goals: an institutional and governance perspective anchored in multilateralism; Peer exchange with voluntary national review countries and voluntary local review cities on experiences and promising practices in implementing Sustainable Development Goals 16 and 17; Exploring options for measurement of the principles of effective governance for sustainable development and the Committee’s pentagram of action; Governance and institutional perspectives on strengthening resource mobilization for the Sustainable Development Goals; Science, foresight, systems thinking, risk analysis and artificial intelligence for a future-oriented public administration; Building institutions to promote peaceful and inclusive societies, with a focus on women, youth and those in vulnerable situations; and Institutions, climate action and environment: ensuring availability

and sustainable management of water for all. The Committee adopted an input to the HLPF and a draft resolution for ECOSOC.

Activities from UNPAN Members



Successful 2nd Annual AMDIN Conference held in Namibia

The African Management Development Institutes’ Network (AMDIN) held its 2nd Annual Conference in Namibia from 18–20 May, hosted by the Namibia Institute of Public Administration and Management (NIPAM).

The conference met under the theme Transformative Public Service Leadership for Sustainable Development and Inclusive Growth in Africa.



Participants engaged in rich dialogue, shared best practices, and explored innovative approaches to building effective and accountable institutions. Central to the discussions was the need to enhance public sector

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capacity to drive sustainable development and improve the quality of lives of the citizenry in the continent.

Around 150 participants attended in-person, including more than 60 international delegates representing public administration institutions, government leaders, development partners, academia, private sector innovators, and governance practitioners across Africa and beyond, with 430 participants following the discussions online. The Conference also demonstrated growing continental research participation, receiving 50 academic abstract submissions, out of which 38 papers were presented across technical parallel sessions.



The delegates deliberated on the following thematic areas;

- Governance, Accountability, and Ethical Leadership in the African Public Service
- Building Institutional Capacity and Professionalizing Public Service
- Digital Transformation and Innovation for Public Sector Renewal
- Inclusive Public Service: Gender, Youth, and Vulnerable Groups in Leadership and Development
- Partnerships, Regional Integration, and Collaborative Governance for Agenda 2063
- Resilient Public Services for Sustainable Development and Climate Adaptation



The Conference was opened by Dr Tjitunga Elijah Ngurare, Prime Minister of the Republic of Namibia, alongside Mr Tombola Muke, President of AMDIN. The Prime Minister emphasized that the true currency of national development lies not in mineral wealth, but in the quality, integrity, and effectiveness of public institutions.



Messages of support were received from partners, UN DESA, African Union Commission and the African Association for Public Administration and Management.

The following key messages were delivered during the conference specifically for the public sector and the Management Development Institutes in Africa.

- Institutionalize competency and professionalization frameworks within statutory public service systems and link public service training and certification directly to career progression and deployment.

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- Enforce inclusive governance standards and disability accommodation measures across all public institutions.
- Invest in sovereign digital infrastructure and secure national data systems; and
- Modernize public sector leadership cultures to attract and retain youth talent.

Rethinking Public Sector Training in Africa: The RISE Model and Pathways to Reform

The African Management and Development Institutes Network (AMDIN) celebrated Africa Day on 25 May with a high-level webinar, emphasising the need to shift training from attendance-focused approaches to results-driven models.

The session was opened by the President of AMDIN Mr. Tombole Muke. It featured Dr. Funke Adepaju, the Director-General of Nigeria’s Administrative Staff College (ASCON) as the main discussant and Dr. Nancy Matshe, Director-General of the Zimbabwe Institute of Public Administration and Management (ZIMPA) as the respondent.

Dr. Adepaju questioned why training rarely leads to real reform. She noted that despite significant investment in workshops and programmes, service delivery gaps persist across Africa. She attributed this to three key “illusions” that weaken the effectiveness of training:

- Transfer illusion: Assuming classroom learning automatically translates into workplace practice.
- Competency trap: Relying on borrowed frameworks that fail to address local realities.
- Delivery illusion: Measuring success by attendance and certificates rather than reform outcomes.

Dr. Adepaju proposed the Reform-Inspired Systems Execution (RISE) model to close the gap between training and real outcomes. The model emphasizes linking training to specific reforms, integrating ethical leadership and citizen expectations, and ensuring follow-through through real-time tracking, accountability mechanisms, and post-training feedback.

Dr. Matshe reinforced the urgency of aligning training with reform. She identified five priority areas for African institutions, namely governance modernization, policy implementation, leadership development, digital transformation and artificial intelligence readiness. She stressed that leaders must be agile, innovative, and capable of tackling 21st-century challenges, while institutions must embrace digital tools and artificial intelligence to remain relevant.

Dr. Adepaju and Dr. Matshe sent out a clear message that by aligning training with reform priorities, measuring outcomes, and strengthening accountability, African public sector institutions can turn capacity building into real improvements in service delivery.

Science Day Summary Note: Nanoplastic Emergency on Earth: The Role of Human Geography in Times of Crisis

The African Training and Research Centre in Administration for Development (CAFRAD), a pan-African multidisciplinary institution, committed to strategic thinking and applied research on major contemporary challenges, organized a science day on April 22 at its headquarters in Rabat, Morocco, in partnership with several academic and scientific institutions. The event was under the theme Nanoplastic Emergency on Earth: The Role of Human Geography in Times of Crisis.

The presentations highlighted the extent of the risks associated with the proliferation of nanoplastics, particularly their impacts on biodiversity, food security, and ecosystem health. The infiltration of plastic particles into aquatic and terrestrial food chains, as well as the annual losses in agricultural yields attributable to microplastic pollution, constitute threats that demand urgent action.

Faced with these challenges, the participants emphasized the need for a resolutely multidisciplinary approach, combining biophysics, nanotechnology, molecular toxicology, materials science, and medicine, in order to develop concerted and innovative strategies. They also stressed the fundamental role of human geography, a discipline that analyzes the interactions between societies, territories, and the biosphere, in understanding current environmental dynamics and developing appropriate responses to contemporary ecological crises.

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The Science Day reaffirmed CAFRAD’s role as a pan-African platform for reflection, innovation, and dialogue on emerging challenges. It illustrated its ongoing commitment to a resilient, sustainable Africa, scientifically prepared for the transformations of the 21st century. Faced with the nanoplastic emergency, it is now imperative to combine efforts, break down disciplinary silos, and collectively invent solutions that meet the scale of the challenges. The protection of the biosphere, the preservation of biodiversity, and the security of future generations depend on it.

Read the full article [here](#).

Partnership Agreement Signing between CAFRAD and UPJ

CAFRAD, as a leading pan-African organization committed to promoting African solutions to the continent’s challenges through capacity building, applied research, and training, and the Pan-African Youth Union (PYU), considered a key continental actor for coordinating African youth and recognized by the African Union (AU), which unites national youth councils and youth civil society organizations, signed a strategic partnership agreement on April 22 at the CAFRAD Headquarters in Rabat.

This agreement aims to establish a strategic and operational cooperation framework between the two institutions, with a view to promoting training, development and capacity building, employability, and the inclusion of young Africans. It also aims to contribute to the modernization of public administrative systems and the strengthening of inclusive governance in Africa.

The discussions preceding the signing highlighted several shared priorities, including:

- Strengthening youth inclusion in decision-making processes and public governance;
- The development of innovative programs to improve youth skills, employability, and entrepreneurship;
- Support for African startups and the development of innovation ecosystems;
- Combating irregular migration through the creation of sustainable opportunities for young people;

- Strengthening institutional partnerships with governments, regional organizations, and development partners.

The memorandum represents a significant step forward in consolidating efforts to place African youth at the heart of public administration reforms and the continent’s development, in line with the vision of the African Union’s Agenda 2063 The Africa We Want.

Through this partnership, the two institutions reaffirm their shared commitment to training a new generation of independent, qualified young Africans fully engaged in building the future of the continent.

In the medium- and long-term, this partnership aims to jointly develop training, research, and consulting programs focusing on themes related to youth, governance, and sustainable development. It also contributes to a dynamic of recognizing the strategic role of youth in public policy and the socio-economic development of the continent, while fostering the creation of institutional synergies conducive to innovation and capacity building in Africa.

Read the full article [here](#).

First International Strategic Forum on Artificial Intelligence, Energy, Digital Transformation, and International Cooperation)

CAFRAD organized the first edition of the International Forum on Artificial Intelligence, Digital Transformation, Energy, and Connectivity in Africa from 11 to 13 May in Rabat. Held under the High Patronage of His Majesty King Mohammed VI, this event aimed to bring together policymakers, international experts, researchers, investors, and economic stakeholders to address the major technological and energy challenges facing the African continent.

The Forum brought together numerous Moroccan and international institutions, including UNESCO, the African Union, UNDP, the African Development Bank, as well as several ministries, universities, and strategic private-sector companies.

Among the distinguished participants were globally renowned experts in artificial intelligence, energy systems, cybersecurity, and scientific research, including

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representatives from MIT, IEEE, the Ethereum Foundation, and leading American and European academic institutions.

Through the organization of this international forum, CAFRAD reaffirms its role as a unique pan-African platform for dialogue, cooperation, intellectual renewal, research and development, and the exchange of expertise between African countries and their international partners.

This forum is aligned with CAFRAD's longstanding commitment to strengthening African capacities and promoting balanced and sustainable international cooperation, with the ultimate objective of positioning Africa as a major player in global technological governance.

Read the full article [here](#).

Africa Day 2026: CAFRAD Celebrates the Africa We Must Build - An Innovative Royal Vision for Sustainable Development, Based on Shared African Sovereignty

On the occasion of Africa Day, CAFRAD organized in its Headquarters in Rabat, an event on 1 June that brought together African diplomatic representatives accredited to Morocco, partner institutions, and civil society for a joint reflection on the continent's future.

The ceremony was organized in partnership with the Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Services (CCIS) of the Rabat-Salé-Kénitra region, the International University of Executive Education, the International Federation of Global & Green Information and Communication Technology, and the African Union of Transport and Logistics Organizations.

The highlight of the day was the official launch of the African Committee for Sustainable and Integrated Development (CADDI). This new body, aligned with the implementation of Agenda 2063, will draw upon IPSAS (International Public Sector Accounting Standards) and APSAS to pilot a continent-wide project for sustainable and integrated development. The creation of CADDI reflects CAFRAD's commitment not only to reflect on the continent's challenges but also to take concrete action to address them, equipping Africa with the financial

governance and integrated planning tools it needs to fulfill its development commitments.

The ceremony was also an opportunity to pay tribute to the African women and men whose commitment, leadership, and achievements have significantly contributed to the continent's transformation and influence. Africa is built first and foremost by its women and men—in institutions, businesses, universities, and communities—and it is essential to remember those who pave the way.

This year's theme—An Innovative Royal Vision for Sustainable Development, Founded on Shared African Sovereignty—is not insignificant. It reflects the recognition of the active role played by His Majesty King Mohammed VI in promoting African integration through economic, diplomatic, and South-South cooperation initiatives that make Morocco an essential strategic partner for the continent's development. The concept of "shared African sovereignty" is central to this theme: it posits that African states are stronger together, that their true independence depends on strengthened cooperation.

Read the full article [here](#).

Inauguration of the 2026 Arab-African Summit on Territories and Smart Cities: A Shared Vision for Smart, Resilient, and Sustainable Territories

The 2026 Arab-African Summit on Territories and Smart Cities officially opened on June 9, bringing together in Rabat a prestigious panel of government decision-makers, international experts, researchers, local elected officials, and innovation stakeholders from the Arab world and the African continent. This event provided a strategic platform dedicated to reflection and action on the challenges of digital transformation, sustainable development, and territorial governance.

The summit's scientific program is structured around six major thematic plenary sessions covering the key drivers of transformation in Arab and African territories.

The first plenary session, dedicated to the digital sovereignty of territories, brought together renowned experts to discuss the challenges related to 5G, cloud computing, AI, and cybersecurity. The participation of

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Ms. Amal El Fallah Seghrouchni, Minister of Digital Transition and Administrative Reform of the Kingdom of Morocco, focused on the strategic importance of digital infrastructure in building the smart territories of tomorrow.

With the participation of Ms. Leila Benali, Minister of Energy Transition and Sustainable Development, the discussions explored decarbonization strategies, renewable energies, and support mechanisms for local authorities on their path to carbon neutrality.

Speakers shared their experiences in resilient urban planning, sustainable construction, and the preservation of natural resources, which are essential for the resilience of territories in the face of climate change.

The fourth plenary session highlighted the fundamental role of territorial public health, social protection, and solidarity in building inclusive cities. Emphasis was placed on the need to integrate health and social dimensions into the heart of urban policies to guarantee a better quality of life for citizens.

The discussions focused on the challenges of low-carbon urban mobility and territorial security. Participants examined innovative solutions for reducing the carbon footprint of transportation while improving the safety and flow of movement in African and Arab cities.

The final plenary session addressed issues of resilient territorial governance, equity, and administrative efficiency. Presentations emphasized the need to strengthen citizen participation, decentralization, and inter-territorial cooperation to effectively meet the needs of the population.

Read the full article [here](#).

European Institute of Public Administration (EIPA) – Monthly newsletter

In its monthly newsletter, EIPA informs its readers about recently held events, news, new blogs and upcoming events. Have a read of the newsletters of [April](#), and [May](#). To receive the EIPA monthly newsletter as well as regular updates about upcoming courses, you can [subscribe here](#).



European Institute of Public Administration (EIPA) – 2025 Annual Report

Strong public administrations are essential in times of rapid change, growing complexity, and geopolitical uncertainty.

EIPA’s Annual Report 2025 reflects on a year in which EIPA continued to support public authorities across Europe through training, capacity-building, research, and cooperation.

From EU governance and public procurement to AI, digital transformation, environmental law, and enlargement support, our work remained focused on strengthening skills, resilience, and impact in the public sector.

In 2025, EIPA:

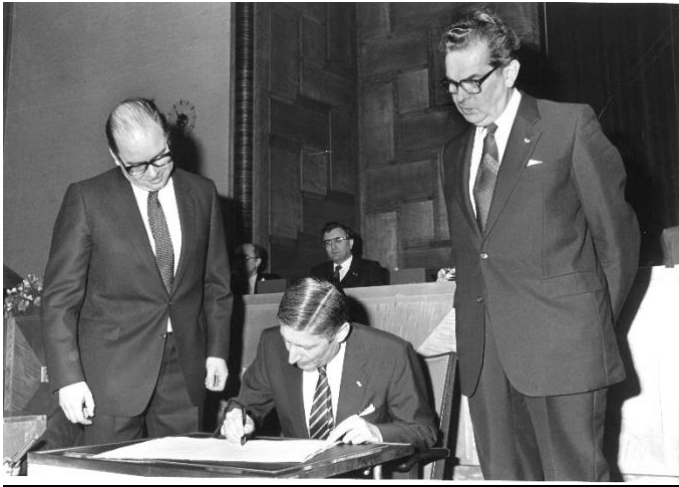
- Delivered 673 activities for 14,321 participants
- Worked with EU institutions, member states, candidate countries, and international partners
- Continued major framework partnerships with the European Union and Luxembourg
- Expanded initiatives in AI, quality management, housing policy, and judicial cooperation

As highlighted by EIPA Chair Cecilia Wikström and Director-General Marco Ongaro, effective public administration is more important than ever – not only for implementing policies, but also for building trust, strengthening democratic resilience, and helping Europe navigate transformation.

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[Access the full Report](#)



European Institute of Public Administration (EIPA) Anniversary

45 years ago, EIPA was officially launched on the occasion of the European Council meeting in Maastricht. Since 1981, EIPA has been advancing public administration, supporting governments, strengthening governance, and helping turn policy into practice across Europe and beyond.

From its early days to key milestones over the decades, EIPA has built a strong legacy of training, research, technical assistance and collaboration with public sector professionals and institutions.

Take a look back at some defining moments in our journey, explore our story and celebrate 45 years with us! [Be part of the celebration.](#)

EIPA ★

EPSA
25 - 26

Co-funded by
the European Union

European Public Sector Award 2025-26

[EPSA – the European Public Sector Award](#) – is a Europe-wide award scheme for public sector entities at all levels of government which has been organised every two years since 2009 by the European Institute of Public Administration (EIPA).

EPSA has received more than 1,600 projects from EU institutions, agencies and international organisations over the course of the past years. For all European public administrations, EPSA has generated highly valuable know-how and vital results that can be used for the benefit of providing innovative solutions and learning opportunities.

The European Public Sector Award (EPSA) 2025-26 has reached an important stage with the selection of the winning projects and Good Practice Certificate recipients across the three award categories. The selected projects showcase innovative solutions in public governance, infrastructure and energy, and user-centric public services, reflecting the creativity and commitment of public administrations across Europe.

The final rankings will be revealed during the [EPSA 2025-26 Award Ceremony](#), which will take place in Maastricht this September.

Read more: [EPSA 2025-26: Winning Projects and Good Practices Announced](#)

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European Institute of Public Administration (EIPA) – News:

An overview of our all our news items can be found [here](#).

Is Europe Ready to Act Together on Defence?



Is Europe Ready to Act Together on Defence?

In the latest EIPA in Conversation With episode on the topic of European Defence Procurement in a Changing Geopolitical Landscape, EIPA explored how Europe’s defence procurement is evolving in response to a rapidly deteriorating security environment. With conflicts stretching from the Middle East to Ukraine, defence has become a central political priority. Europe is living through a turbulent security period, where regional conflicts can have global repercussions and directly shape procurement strategies.

There is increasing willingness among EU member states to cooperate, with geopolitical pressure acting as a catalyst for joint procurement. However, progress is slow, mainly because agreeing on common requirements remains difficult.

The core issue is not overregulation, but fragmentation. National approaches have created inefficiencies, and Europe continues to pay for its fragmentation. While new EU instruments aim to enable faster procurement within the rule of law, their impact depends on whether member states actually use them. Read more: [Is Europe Ready to Act Together on Defence?](#)

EIPA Experts Train 500 Ukrainian Civil Servants on EU Governance and Funding



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EIPA’s senior experts Sabina Lange and Marco Lopriore, delivered two online lectures, bringing together around 500 civil servants from across Ukraine.

The sessions were organised within the framework of the Strengthening Ukraine’s Public Administration Reform for EU Integration (PAR4UA) project and reflect the need for capacity- building activities among Ukrainian public officials.

The PAR4UA project is jointly implemented by the Professional Government Association of Ukraine and the Centre for Public Policy Providus, with funding from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Latvia. Read more: [EIPA Trains 500 Ukrainian Civil Servants on EU Governance and Funding](#).

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MELS Spring School 2026: Exploring Judicial Challenges in EU Law



MELS Spring School 2026: Exploring Judicial Challenges in EU Law

From 15 to 17 April, EIPA’s Centre for Judges and Lawyers in Luxembourg hosted the third edition of the MELS Spring School, bringing together participants in our Master of European Legal Studies for a programme on current challenges in EU law and European integration.

This year’s Spring School focused on key judicial developments shaping the EU, including judicial cooperation in criminal matters, the protection of the EU’s financial interests, and litigation before the Court of Justice of the European Union. Read more: [MELS Spring School 2026: Exploring Judicial Challenges in EU Law](#).

and beyond for discussions on quality management and public sector performance.

This edition stood out for its strong participation and forward-looking programme, developed by the European CAF Resource Centre in close collaboration with the network. Discussions reaffirmed the continued relevance of the Common Assessment Framework (CAF), which for over 25 years has supported improvements in public administration performance across Europe. Read more: [Strengthening Public Administration: CAF Correspondents Gather in Maastricht](#).

Understanding the Next Multiannual Financial Framework: EIPA Seminar for Luxembourg MFA



Understanding the Next Multiannual Financial Framework: EIPA Seminar for Luxembourg MFA

In May, EIPA hosted a dedicated seminar for the Luxembourg Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs, Defence, Development Cooperation and Foreign Trade (MFA) on the European Commission’s proposal for the next Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) 2028–2034.

Organised within the framework of EIPA’s long-standing Convention with the Luxembourg MFA, the half-day seminar gathered almost 20 public officials, primarily from the Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs, but also from several other Luxembourg ministries, including the Ministry of State, and the Ministries of Economy, Housing, Agriculture, Education, Family Affairs and Labour.

The training offered participants a timely opportunity to examine the European Commission’s proposal for the next long-term EU budget, focusing on its strategic direction, policy priorities and proposed financial allocations. Read more: [Understanding the Next](#)

Strengthening Public Administration: CAF Correspondents Gather in Maastricht



Strengthening Public Administration: CAF Correspondents Gather in Maastricht

EIPA hosted the CAF National Correspondents Meeting at its headquarters in Maastricht, Netherlands, this week, bringing together representatives from across Europe

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[Multiannual Financial Framework: EIPA Seminar for Luxembourg MFA.](#)

Tackling Europe's Housing Challenges: EHPN Meets in Bern



Tackling Europe's Housing Challenges: EHPN Meets in Bern

In May, the 5th European Housing Policy Network (EHPN) meeting took place in Bern, Switzerland, bringing together housing policy experts from across Europe for two days of exchange and collaboration.

Building on the previous successful events held in Rotterdam, Maastricht, Lisbon and Dublin, representatives from 18 countries, alongside colleagues from the European Commission Housing Task Force, gathered to exchange experiences and to discuss the central role played by tenancy law in public housing policy across Europe. Read more: [Tackling Europe's Housing Challenges: EHPN Meets in Bern](#)



XV CONSAD Congress on Public Management Promotes Women's Leadership in Brazilian States

The 15th National Congress on Public Management (XV CONSAD Congress), held from May 20 to 22, in Fortaleza, Brazil, marked a milestone; for the first time in the event's history, the congress took place outside the federal capital, Brasília. Organized by CONSAD (the National Council of State Secretaries of Administration) in partnership with the Government of Ceará, the edition brought together specialists, managers, and authorities from across the country to debate digital transformation, federative governance, public spending quality, and the future of the Brazilian state, gathering more than 1,500 participants.

The congress theme was Digital Government and Interfederative Governance: the Strategic Agenda of the State of the Future. One of its landmark moments was the official launch of the Women in Public Leadership Pact (Pacto Mulheres na Liderança Pública), signed by CONSAD in partnership with Movimento Pessoas à Frente. The initiative was opened with a keynote by Supreme Court Justice Cármen Lúcia, who addressed the role of women in leadership positions in the public sector.

The pact sets concrete targets for signatory states: achieving gender parity in 50% of commissioned positions and positions of trust, with half of those roles reserved for black women or women with disabilities. States also committed to implementing maternity protection policies and facilitating women's return to work after parental leave. The initiative is grounded in constitutional equality principles and aligned with SDG 5 of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

CONSAD brings together state secretaries of administration from all 27 Brazilian states and the Federal District, serving as a strategic forum for public service modernization. The XV Congress reinforced the network's role as a driver of inclusive governance.

More information is available [here](#).

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Navigating AI Series

The Institute of Public Administration of Canada (IPAC), in collaboration with Microsoft Elevate, delivered the third iteration of the highly attended Navigating AI training series for Canadian public servants during April and May 2026.

This three-part series focused on building AI literacy and workplace-ready skills that participants could apply immediately in their day-to-day work. Led through an AI avatar experience and supported by live expert Q&A sessions, the training explored practical use cases for generative AI while emphasizing responsible and ethical considerations for the public service.

The series reached more than 5,000 participants, demonstrating continued interest in AI literacy and growing confidence in the use of generative AI across departments and levels of government. IPAC's approach focuses on accessible, skills-based learning that supports public servants as AI tools continue to influence productivity, decision-making, and service delivery.

Key Messages:

- There is significant demand for practical AI learning tailored to real public service work and use cases.
- Responsible AI adoption requires a shared understanding of ethical and appropriate use, not just familiarity with generative AI tools.
- Scaled training can establish a common AI literacy baseline, supporting more consistent implementation across teams, departments, and levels of government.



DDC x IPAC Design Skills for Public Innovation Series

The Institute of Public Administration of Canada (IPAC), in collaboration with the Danish Design Centre (DDC), hosted Design Skills for Public Innovation in May 2026.

This four-module training series explored how design can be used as a strategic tool to address complex challenges, improve public services, influence behaviour, and support future-focused decision-making across the public sector.

Through interactive modules, breakout discussions, and live Q&A sessions, practitioners from the Danish Design Centre shared practical approaches to applying design methods within government. Participants gained tools and perspectives to strengthen their innovation, leadership, and problem-solving capabilities.

Key Messages:

- Human-centred design can improve both service quality and interactions between public institutions and the people they serve.
- Behavioural design can help bridge the gap between policy intent and real-world action.
- Design approaches provide public servants with practical tools to navigate complexity and drive innovation.

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Deloitte x IPAC Strong and Free-ish: Driving Digital Sovereignty in Canada

In collaboration with Deloitte, the Institute of Public Administration of Canada (IPAC) hosted a virtual panel discussion on digital infrastructure and digital sovereignty on 22 May.

The panel brought together leaders from government, industry, and the broader Canadian ecosystem to examine what digital sovereignty means in practice and how Canada can strengthen its digital capabilities while maintaining openness, accessibility, and innovation.

Featuring Darcy Pierlot (Shared Services Canada), Lisa Carroll (Deloitte Canada), Jaimie Boyd (Deloitte Canada), Jonathan Kelly (Ministry of Cybersecurity and Digital Affairs), and Lena Trudeau (Inclined), the discussion explored emerging procurement approaches, domestic capability development, and the growing importance of digital infrastructure in Canada's future.

Key Messages:

- Digital sovereignty is becoming an increasingly important consideration as governments adopt new technologies and digital services.
- Public servants are seeking practical approaches to strengthening Canada's control over its digital systems, data, and infrastructure.
- Efforts to enhance digital sovereignty must continue to support innovation, inclusion, accessibility, and effective service delivery.



Reimagining Public Organizations: The Future of Work and Leadership (New Professionals Series)

As part of IPAC's New Professionals Series, IPAC hosted Reimagining Public Organizations: The Future of Work and Leadership, featuring Christian Bason, PhD, CEO of the Danish Design Centre and an internationally recognized expert in public sector innovation.

Drawing on international examples and practical experience leading organizational transformation initiatives, Christian Bason challenged participants to reconsider a fundamental question: What do we think about people? The session explored how assumptions about human behaviour influence leadership, workplace culture, organizational design, and public sector performance.

Participants examined new approaches to leadership and innovation while reflecting on how public organizations can create more meaningful, productive, and adaptive workplaces.

Key Messages:

- Organizational transformation begins with understanding and rethinking assumptions about people, motivation, and human potential.
- Public sector innovation depends on workplace cultures that support trust, collaboration, and continuous learning.
- Leaders play a critical role in creating environments where employees can thrive and adapt to evolving public sector challenges.

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Integrity in Action: A Fireside Chat on Values and Ethics in Today's Public Service (New Professionals Series)

As part of IPAC's New Professionals Series, a virtual event series designed for individuals in the first seven years of their public service careers, IPAC hosted Integrity in Action: A Fireside Chat on Values and Ethics in Today's Public Service.

Zac Spicer (York University) and Travis Bergin (New Brunswick Finance and Treasury Board) discussed the challenges of navigating complex ethical situations, balancing competing pressures, and maintaining public trust. Through candid conversation and reflection, participants explored real-world scenarios and lessons learned from the speakers' public service experiences.

The session provided an opportunity for participants to ask questions and engage in an open discussion about ethics, decision-making, and professional growth.

Key Messages:

- Early-career public servants are seeking open and honest discussions about the realities of public service.
- Conversations about values and ethics help build confidence in navigating complex workplace situations.
- Lessons learned from experienced public servants can support stronger decision-making and professional development.



Behind the Curtain: How Decisions Are Really Made (New Professionals Series)

As part of IPAC's New Professionals Series, Behind the Curtain: How Decisions Are Really Made offered participants an inside look at how Minister's Offices operate, how priorities are established, and how decisions are shaped within government.

AJ Tibando (Shift Canada) and Gianluca Cairo (Dayforce) led an open discussion about the realities of working in high-pressure, high-visibility environments. Participants gained insight into how priorities are managed, decisions are influenced, and challenges are navigated within political and public service settings.

The session provided practical lessons and perspectives for early-career public servants interested in understanding the broader context behind government decision-making.

Key Messages:

- Early-career public servants are eager to better understand how decisions are made and priorities are established within government.
- There is strong interest in learning about the behind-the-scenes realities of public service and political environments.
- Open discussions with experienced professionals help new public servants develop practical strategies for navigating their careers.

SANPA at the CEPA Meeting

South Asian Network for Public Administration (SANPA) attended the 25th Session of the UN Committee of Experts on Public Administration (CEPA) in April. SANPA President Prof Akhlaque Haque represented SANPA at the meeting, while

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SANPA Founding Member Prof Dr. Amir Nasrullah also attended. The discussions of the session revolved around the 11 principles of effective governance developed by CEPA. SANPA promotes these principles through its book projects, webinars, international conferences, and partnerships. At the meeting, SANPA also met UN DESA staff and Dr. Bok Gyo Jeong, Chair of the United States Chapter of Asian Association of Public Administration (AAPA).



SANPA President met Springer Nature’s Publishing Editor

Professor Akhlaque Haque, who is also the Editor for Springer Nature’s South Asian Public Administration (SAPA) Series, held a meeting on 15 April with the Publishing Editor, Ms. Lorraine Klimowich, in New York. They discussed several ongoing book projects and plans for the Series. The Series has already made a significant impact in promoting public administration scholarships, particularly from South Asian perspectives.

SANPA Executive Committee Meeting

The first Executive Committee meeting of 2026 for the [South Asian Network for Public Administration \(SANPA\)](#) was held on 4 April. Professor [Akhlaque Haque, President, SANPA](#), presided over the meeting. The meeting adopted the Annual Work Plan for 2026 and lined up three annual conferences for 2026, 2027, and 2028, respectively, in Nepal (National Administrative Staff College, NASC, and Public Administration Association of Nepal), Pakistan (University of Karachi), and the Maldives (Maldives National University). The EC expressed deep satisfaction with the success of the South Asian Public Administration [Series](#) (and demonstrated its commitment to making it one of the most successful platforms for public administration scholarship. SANPA also decided to establish the SANPA Excellence Award to recognize the contributions of leading scholars in the field and successful practitioners across South Asia. The Executive Committee emphasized the need for stronger partnerships with regional and international platforms dedicated to public administration scholarship and practice.

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