

TROPICO online

TROPICO's online presence offers access to our results and tools for further interaction, including:

- Research output from 8 scientific work packages
- More than 35 case studies for further exploration and exploitation
- Results from innovative surveys to experts on public administration and government practitioners
- A collection of codes of collaboration across Europe for quick online access
- A collaboration monitor that enables comparison of good practices across countries and sectors (from 2019)
- A blog featuring insights from the project and its team
- A newsletter with highlights from the project activities
- TROPICO policy briefs, research reports and scientific publications

www.tropico-project.eu

The consortium

TROPICO consists of 12 partners in 10 countries:

- Belgium (University of Antwerp + KU Leuven)
- Denmark (Roskilde University College)
- Estonia (Technical University Tallinn)
- France (CNRS Grenoble)
- Germany (Hertie School of Governance + University of Potsdam)
- Hungary (Central European University)
- Netherlands (European University Rotterdam)
- Norway (University of Bergen)
- Spain (University of Zaragoza)
- United Kingdom (Cardiff University)

The TROPICO-team engages a group of more than 40 expert scholars from public administration, political science and public management with strong records of scientific work, consultation, executive teaching and previous research collaboration.

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How are public administrations transformed to enhance collaboration in policy design and service delivery, and how is this influenced by digitalisation and ICT?

Collaboration within governments, and between governments and third parties, like private businesses, non-profit organizations and citizens, is essential for efficient policymaking, public administration, public sector service delivery, and democratic participation. Digitalisation and the development of information and communication technologies (ICT) offers new possibilities for such collaboration, and for a more efficient, transparent and effective government. However, digital transformation may also complicate collaboration and challenge traditional notions of policy-making, public administration, management, organisation, accountability, and engagement.

TROPICO analyses collaboration in and by European governments, with a special emphasis on digitalisation and the exploitation of ICT, using multiple methods from the social sciences. The project runs from June 2017 until May 2021.



Conditions, collaboration and effects

The research in TROPICO is organised in eight scientific work packages (WPs), which focus on four different aspects of collaboration and the use of ICT in the public sector.

Pillar 1: Conditions, drivers and barriers

TROPICO examines institutional conditions as well as individual drivers and barriers for collaboration in the public sector. State structures, regulation and administrative traditions provide different starting points for public sector collaboration. Likewise, the attitudes, skills, and expertise of government employees play a decisive role in understanding how ICT is used in collaboration. WP2 and WP3 includes:

- ✓ Regulatory analysis
- ✓ A practitioner survey

Pillar 2: Collaborative policy design

TROPICO assesses collaboration practices for policy design across a variety of policy sectors. This includes practices to ensure collaboration within governments, and external collaboration to ensure citizen participation. WP4 and WP5 provides:

- ✓ An academic expert survey
- ✓ Comparative case studies

Pillar 3: Collaborative service delivery

TROPICO examines collaboration practices for service delivery between governments and external actors from the private and societal sector. WP6 and WP7 covers:

- ✓ Management arrangements
- ✓ Public-private partnerships
- ✓ Comparative case studies

Pillar 4: Consequences and effects

TROPICO assesses the effects of the use of ICT for internal and external collaboration considering legitimacy, accountability and government efficiency. WP8 and WP9 include:

- ✓ A collaboration monitor
- ✓ A red tape analysis
- ✓ Comparative case studies



Illustration: colourbox.com

Outreach to practice and policy recommendations

TROPICO engages with policy makers, public administrators, public managers, as well as third sector groups, private sector firms and citizens across Europe.

Our findings aim to contribute to better working practices in government and improved interactions between government authorities, stakeholders and citizens across Europe. The project will also focus on success factors of e-participation initiatives that involve governments, key stakeholders, societal groups, and users. TROPICO furthermore interacts actively with the academic research community and aims for a major impact on public administration and management research and related disciplines within the wider social sciences and humanities.

Recommendations and lessons learnt are actively disseminated through our website, in workshops, at practitioner-oriented events and conferences.

Engage with us at:

- TROPICO Summit in Tallinn, 2019
- TROPICO Summit in Antwerp, 2020



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