

## **The DISPA “GUIDANCE DOCUMENT”**

### **Brussels 2024**

#### **1) Introduction**

DISPA is an informal network that brings together directors and representatives of institutes and schools of public administration of EU Member States, candidate countries and the European Institute of Public Administration (EIPA). The network is coordinated by the European School of Administration (EuSA).

While DISPA is linked to the European Public Administration Network (EUPAN), it is not formally integrated into this network's structure.

#### **2) Background**

After 1989, public administrations across Europe decided to establish various networks for mutual cooperation and exchange of good practices and experiences. The most notable of these is the "European Public Administration Network" (EUPAN), which is composed of the Directors-General for public administration in the EU Member States.

In May 1995, at a EUPAN meeting organised under the auspices of the French Presidency, it was decided that directors and representatives of institutes and schools of public administration should be invited to organise a meeting among themselves later that year.

This inaugural meeting was organised on 27 October 1995 and attended by the directors of the schools of public administration in the EU and some central and eastern European countries.

### **3) Mission - Purpose**

The main mission and purpose of DISPA is the creation of an informal network to modernise public administrations across Europe and to strengthen their cross-country collaboration in the domain of learning and professional development between schools/institutes of European public administration.

The DISPA network seeks to:

- promote European values in the field of learning and professional development of public administrations;
- establish and maintain a network of peers promoting skills and knowledge development of public officials;
- enhance and encourage support to capacity building in the area of public administration and/or development of joint projects in line with the Commission Communication on Enhancing the European Administrative Space (ComPAct);
- support activities that would favour joint organisation of learning activities;
- encourage the creation of communities of practice;
- strengthen knowledge sharing and cooperation in the following areas: public service reform, skills for the future and foresight, new training methods and pedagogical approaches, new technologies and formats of learning delivery, evaluation of the impact of training and development etc.

### **4) Principles (informal nature, reinforced cooperation, information sharing)**

- **Informal nature of the network**

The uniqueness and strength of DISPA lies in its informal nature, bringing together the cultural, administrative and structural diversity, knowledge, experience and perspectives of the many different institutes and schools of public administration in Europe.

- **Reinforced cooperation**

The network encourages enhanced cooperation and joint initiatives among the different schools, institutes and other DISPA members.

- **Information sharing**

Knowledge management and information sharing is promoted to encourage the exchange of innovative ideas and training actions through informal online meetings, access to a shared online platform and regular meetings organised by the EU presidencies.

## **5) Functioning (regular meetings, role of presidencies, troika, EuSA)**

From the outset, the network has been organised on a purely informal basis, with both the level and nature of the representation decided by the participating states themselves. The representation is in principle ensured at the level of the directors but without any formal obligation.

The DISPA Member State holding the rotating presidency of the EU is in charge of organising the DISPA meeting of that semester. The school/institute holding the EU presidency is supported in its preparations and organisation by the “troika”, EuSA and other DISPA members if so wished for. The “troika” is composed by the DISPA representatives in the countries of the past, present and future presidencies. In principle, and depending on the capacity of the holding presidency country, two participants per DISPA Member State are invited to participate in the meetings.

The European School of Administration has a coordinating role of the network's activities and ensures a certain degree of consistency and continuity.

In addition, complementary/ad-hoc online meetings are organised by EuSA in cooperation with the DISPA members to meet and exchange on a more regular basis.

Furthermore, institutes and schools of public administration in candidate countries are invited to organise complementary DISPA meetings in coordination with the “troika” and EuSA.

A collaborative online platform supports the regular exchange of information and best practices to enhance regular cooperation between the meetings.

## **6) Members (including future members)**

The network is composed of two representatives of the national schools/institutes of public administration of each DISPA member country as well as representatives of EIPA and the Regional School of Public Administration (ReSPA). DISPA member countries can be all EU Member States, candidate countries and possibly EES countries (Iceland, Norway, Switzerland). DISPA membership is aligned to the EUPAN members.

The list of members is under the supervision of EuSA and available to all members via the collaborative online platform.

### **Background documents**

- [Strasbourg Manifesto \(2008\)](#)
- [Budapest Warsaw Resolution \(2011\)](#)
- [Lisbon Treaty](#)
- [Mandate DISPA \(2012\)](#)