



CALL FOR PAPERS

Territory, Digitalization and Development: Synergies and Perspectives

MENAPAR V Conference

ENA, Algiers, Algeria

November 27-30, 2022

Call for Papers

MENAPAR is pleased to announce its annual conference to be held from November 27th – 30th, 2022 in the capital city of Algeria, in close partnership with the Ecole Nationale d'Administration. This year's theme will contribute to knowledge exchange and knowledge production in topics pertaining to *“Territory, Digitalization and Development: Synergies and Perspectives.”*

Brief on MENAPAR (www.menapar.org)

The Middle East and North Africa Public Administration Research (MENAPAR) is a registered international NGO with its Secretariat in Bahrain and serving the MENA region. It is open to international [membership](#). MENAPAR is a strategic partner of the [International Institute of Administrative Sciences \(IIAS\)](#) and also a member of the [Global Coalition of Think Tank Networks \(GCTTN\) for South-South Cooperation](#). It came into existence through a joint effort of the [Bahrain Institute of Public Administration \(BIPA\)](#) and [UNDP-Bahrain](#) with approximately 70 members (20 institutional and 50 individual), spanning 13 Arab and 3 non-Arab countries . MENAPAR in its intrinsic nature is a model of South-South Cooperation (SSC) for knowledge creation and exchanges that occur among member organizations and individuals from government and the civil society.

Brief on National School of Administration (www.ena.dz)

The National School of Administration (ENA), known as ENA Algiers, is a major Algerian school of public administration. It has been created in 1964 to provide training for executives and senior civil servants for the needs of the administration of the state, local authorities and public institutions.

ENA Algiers is committed to train highly qualified public managers distinguished by their state culture, public service values, capacity for modernization and commitment to performance. It is distinguished by its



diversified long term training programs covering most fields of public administration. During more than 50 years of activities, ENA Algiers trained thousands of administrative and principal officers in fields of general public administration, local administration, audit, finance and economics, judiciary, diplomacy, institutional communication, customs administration, health administration etc. Many of African diplomats have been also trained in ENA Algiers.

In addition to its three years program, called initial training, ENA Algiers provides long-life training sessions in the fields of Public Leadership, Project Management, Public Procurements, Human resources & Competencies Management, Budget Management, Public Accounting, Administrative Writing, Territory Development. It is the privileged training institution by Algerian public administrations at both levels central and local.

ENA Algiers performs also research activities and consulting in the field of public administration through its Documentation, Research and Expertise Center (CDRE). The ENA Algiers publishes the biannual review “IDARA” (Administration).

The ENA Algiers campus is located in Hydra on the heights of the city of Algiers. Some buildings of the school are considered as historical monuments as they date back to the Ottoman era.

Background and Rationale for this Year’s Theme

Over the past two decades, the world has experienced crises of various kinds shaking economic development at national and territorial levels, social prosperity and environmental protection. Barely revived from the 2008 crisis and back on track to growth, the world economy is once again being aggressively hit by the COVID-19 health crisis. A crisis that has put in question public policies and revealed local and regional disparities sometimes within the same country and increased the uncertainties relating to the post-covid context.

By focusing on the conditions of resilience and economic efficiency, many countries have launched debates to rethink public action, particularly at the local level, and boost territorial development. The latter has imposed itself as a new trend in public policies with the aim of overcoming the insufficiencies of liberal solutions oriented towards the macroeconomic sphere which on their own, have proved incapable of satisfying the needs of development and growth (Pecqueur, 2013). Thus, local authorities and territories have occupied a central place in public policies and have become the backbone of national economic growth. As a result, local authorities have seen their capabilities expand towards issues of competitiveness,

attractiveness, isolation, even segregation, but also the pursuit of sustainability of territories. (Torré, 2015).

The notion of territorial development (synonymously used as local development), which evokes the possibility of more or less autonomous or independent development from that of nations, or even regions, means a proactive process seeking to increase the competitiveness of territories by involving local actors in the framework of concerted actions, generally transversal and often with a strong spatial dimension (Baudelle, Guy & Mérenne-Schoumaker, 2011). According to these same authors, this notion integrates three essential dimensions, namely: territories, their stakeholders and land utilization. The World Development Report of 2009 determined three axes for territorial development:

- the economy's density: the concentration of economic activities (business) and population in the territory.
- the connectivity between companies, population, and markets: the key to creating opportunities at the territorial level.
- the quality-of-life standards to reduce disparities in living standards between regions (World Bank, 2019).

Indeed, territories and rural areas are deeply impacted by the rapid and radical transformations that affect the economic sphere as well as the entire societal field (Narring and Viora, 2019).

Although local development falls under the competences of local authorities, the positioning of the State, its capacities for impetus and incentives, the levers of direct or indirect action at its disposal, remain decisive (NARRING and VIORA, 2019). Public intervention in favor of territories in general and of rural areas, in particular, is motivated by two main reasons, namely: the reduction of social inequalities resulting from disparities between geographical localities and the compensation of market failures to achieve an optimal allocation of resources (Berriet-Sollicie and Trouvé 2013).

Thus, the public authorities are called upon to rethink territorial issues such as institutional conditions, human capital, connectivity and access to markets, smart specialization and fragmented planning at the territorial level in order to lay the foundations for local development and encourage territorial dynamics.

In addition to this "paradigm" change placing territorial development back at the heart of the interests of the public authorities, the digital revolution, for its part, is not without impact on the territories, and even on rural areas through its direct effects such as telework , digital entrepreneurship, digitalized public services but also through the transformation of companies, their organization and the determinants of their location, generating competition and territorial imbalances (Narring and Viora, 2019).

The digital revolution represents an "accelerator" of territorial development by integrating remote territories and areas into digital markets characterized by direct and indirect network effects; economies of scale; switching costs and additionality (OECD, 2018). It also allows:

- To improve substantially the standard of living in the regions through more efficiency in health services, education, climate change, etc.
- To help local business integrating global business models.
- To boost citizen participation.

Another area that also stands out as an essential lever for territorial development is local finance. The financial resources of the regions and territories are largely dependent on the performance of the financial decentralization systems being in force in their countries. Being called upon to resolve complex economic and social issues that greatly exceed their financial capacities, local authorities find themselves forced to strengthen and diversify local taxation, and to equip themselves with instruments for creating value for all stakeholders.

In fact, this context requires new explanatory models of territorial dynamics, even as socio-spatial disparities are widening (André Torre, 2015).

In short, the major challenge of local development is the demonstration of an existing system which values the resources of the territory, its singularity as well as the effectiveness of the relations, which are not exclusively commercial, between its various actors with the aim of developing the wealth from available resources. (Pequeur, 2013).

In the MENA region, the question of territorial development and its implications (digitalization, digitization, etc.) is ever-present in the debates and speeches of public authorities. However each country reacts according to the resources and opportunities available to its territories, although with a convergence towards the need to accelerate the

digitalization process, to better meet the expectations of territorial development, stakeholders and address the thorny issues hindering the prosperity of territories, including the very recent health crisis caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Given all these questions and issues inherent in territorial development, the 8th MENAPAR conference (inclusive of the 3 biennial EuroMENA conferences), scheduled for November at the National School of Administration (ENA) in Algiers, **will focus on the challenges of territorial development in the era of digital revolution and the globalization of markets.**

The conference will discuss the questions around:

1. New forms of local development.
2. The dynamics of territories and value creation.
3. The action of local authorities facing financial and health crises
4. The new eras of public finance.
5. Local finance at the service of territorial development
6. The effective interaction of digitalization and territory.
7. The adaptation of territory's natural resources to the formation and maintenance of internal and external demand for local products and services.
8. The development of a self-distribution system for local communities by strengthening self-government and local civil institutions.
9. The levers of the digital transition of territories.
10. Digitalization and promotion of local investment.
11. Thoughtful and focused deregulation.
12. Decentralized cooperation and cross-border trade.
13. The role of local communities in the success of Arab and African free trade areas.
14. The introduction of the quality approach in public services.
15. Territories and sustainable development

Additional Themes of the Conference

Other than the central theme of the conference; additional submissions about public administration and public policy in the region will be considered for presentation at the conference. These include and are not limited to:

- Decentralization/devolution of core government functions
- Public-private partnerships,
- Collaborative governance
- Policy making and implementation
- Citizen participation
- Representative bureaucracy
- Political and organizational leadership, transformational leadership
- Public values and public service motivation
- Civil service reform
- Accountability
- Administrative law and regulation
- Performance measures and public sector performance management
- Public finance, financial accountability and transparency
- Trust in government, citizen participation and satisfaction
- South-South and triangular cooperation
- Partnership and international development

Best Practices Call for Contributions (Pre-Conference Day)

The Best Practices (BP) Workshop is a permanent feature of the MENAPAR annual conferences and takes place during the Pre-Conference Day. The MENAPAR V will conduct this important forum on November 27th, 2022. Its purpose is to showcase best practices in Public Administration and output from collaboration projects that have been started through the MENAPAR and involve at least 2 Arab countries. Best Practice workshops have taken place in conjunction with MENAPAR and EUROMENA conferences in Tunisia, Oman, Palestine, Spain, and Morocco. To date contributions have been made from the following Arab and non-Arab countries: Bahrain, Saudi Arabia, Tunisia, Morocco, Oman, Palestine, France and Germany.

Preferably, best practices should relate to the management of local authorities. All best practices submissions are reviewed by a committee of experts in public administration to ascertain the proof of concept as a requirement for presentation. Submissions can be in any of the following formats:

- A written paper in the format of a case study (to be submitted in this [template](#))
- A video or animated presentation
- A demo / storyboard display
- A combination of the above or any other format / delivery that clearly outlines the best practice

Best practice presentations will be grouped within single 15-minute sessions either on an industry or country basis. If there are many submissions that are deemed worth presenting by the committee of experts, parallel sessions could be considered.

Best practices should have undergone proof of concept with evidence to show their effectiveness (e.g. international benchmarking, impact analysis, etc.). Other than their basic functionalities/ working mode, lessons learned should illustrate the path to success and/or risks of failure.

Conference Submission Guidelines

To begin the submission process, please register and login to <https://www.conftool.org/menapar-algiers-2022/>. More details will be available on the new MENAPAR website, to be released shortly.

Submissions can be made in English, Arabic or French.

The participating contributions must be submitted prior or on the 20th of August, 2022 in the form of an abstract of 4,500 characters maximum specifying the title of the paper, the authors (with their contact details), the relevance of the subject, the theoretical positioning, the problem, the method, the main results (obtained, in progress), as well as some bibliographical indications. They can be written in Arabic, French or English.

As for the complete write-up, it should be done in fifteen to twenty pages maximum (40,000 characters maximum).

Publication of the best contributions:

After selection by the scientific committee of the conference, a number of good papers may be proposed for publication in the journal of ENA IDARA.

Due Dates

For Papers and Best Practices



Conference Chairs

Prof. Abdelmalik Mezhouda, Director General, ENA

Dr. Raed BenShams, Director General, BIPA Bahrain and MENAPAR President

Scientific Committee

Conference Program Co-Chairs

Prof. Ali Debbi, President of the Scientific and pedagogic council, ENA - Algeria

Dr. Sofiane Sahraoui, Director General, International Institute of Administrative Sciences

A full list of committee members will soon be available on the new MENAPAR website.

Logistics Committee

- MENAPAR Secretariat
- ENA Algiers Local Organizers

General Program

Best Practices workshops	November 27 th , 2022 (Sunday)
Opening Ceremony, Plenaries and Sessions	November 28 th , 2022 (Monday)
Gala Dinner	November 28 th , 2022 (Monday)
Plenary and Sessions, Closing Ceremony	November 29 th , 2022 (Tuesday)
Social Day	November 30 th , 2022 (Wednesday)

Registration Information

Registration information including fees will be available on the MENAPAR website shortly.

Fees:

Participant	Fee
Local Participants /Academics	DAZ 4000
Regular foreign attendees	Euro 250
Paper Presenters	Euro 200
MENAPAR/ENA members of scientific Committee / Session chairpersons	Euro 150
Online	Euro 100
Accompanying persons	Euro 100
Foreign PhD Student	Euro 50
Local PhD Student	DAZ 2000

Contact Information

For any conference related questions, please contact the MENAPAR Secretariat via:

Emails: conf@menapar.org and/or info@menapar.org

Phone: (+973) 17383882 – (+973) 17383887 – (+973) 17383744

You may also contact the Local Organizer via:

Email: menapar.ena-2022@ena.dz

Phone: (+213)23472406 - (+213)23472412 ext 141

Cell phone: (+213)558587326

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*We look forward to your submissions and to seeing you at the Conference in Algeria!*

