

Dear young scientists!

For the first time National Research University Higher School of Economics (HSE) Saint-Petersburg holds The Saint-Petersburg International Research Student Forum, which will take place on 4th -5th February, 2016.

Senior Bachelor and Master students are invited to participate in the Forum. Leading international scientists, leading researchers of international research centers, the professors of HSE University in Saint-Petersburg of the following themes will take part in the Forum. The Forum participants will receive participation diplomas, the best papers will be marked separately.

Participation in Forum is free of charge. *Contact information is posted on the Forum website:* <http://spb.hse.ru/studresearch/>.

The announcement of the beginning and the end of the application submission for participation and registration forms are posted on the mini-conference website.

Theme mini-conference : «Synergy in Public Sector Reforms: Lessons, Best Practices and New Horizons» will examine public management and governance reforms since the beginning of the new century, and will focus on the challenges to and prospects of improving the efficiency of the Public Sector in Russia, as well as in others countries.

Background

The end of the 20th century and the beginning of the 21st century witnessed global tides of public administration/management reform. As early as the 1980s, scholars and think-tanks were focusing on governance reform in the public sector. After the benign years at the start of this century, the global financial crises of 2008-2009 returned to the fore the discussion of global challenges in public administration. The questions are: Why did decades of public administration reform around the world not stave off the latest governance crisis? Why did efforts in public management innovation not deliver what we expected that movement to deliver? Have we been on the right track? What more could we do to make a difference? What new tools and new knowledge can assist public managers to run their governments? How should public administration scholars around the world cooperate to face the new challenges? How to make our cities more livable and affordable? As a fast developing country, Russia's top leaders have also concluded that in order for Russia to further its reforms, it needs to build a strong and robust modern public governance system.

This conference, with all these questions in mind, calls for papers and panels to address issues of public sector and governance reform in the global setting. Problems of effective management and governance at regional and local levels, including urban development issues, as well as in the public sector of economy and public services are in focus of the conference. It promotes development in the public administration (at all levels) of substantial University research processes and innovation, understanding of research practices and their results, solving problems related to personnel provision in public administration, the expansion of international dialogue and the development of international business cooperation. Retrospective research on the reform lessons and experiences, and forward looking studies on ideas, methods, tools and strategies are all welcome.

Call for papers:

The Organizing Committee of the conference welcomes proposals from graduate, post-graduate and PhD students from Russia as well as from other countries.

Papers and panels should fall within, but are not necessarily limited to, the following areas:

1. Theories and Practice of Modern Governance
2. Tools for Governance
3. Core Capacities of Public Sector Leaders
4. Finance and Participatory Public Budgeting
5. Performance management and program evaluation
6. Applied aspects of sector development: health and education
7. Transparency and Open Information

8. Outsourcing Public Service
9. Public Sector Organizational Reform
10. The Role of Non-profits in New Governance
11. Values and Competence of Civil Servants and Public Managers
12. Urban Studies and Planning
13. Regional and Local Economic Policies and Development

Languages

The official languages of the conference are Russian and English. While papers could either be in English or in Russian, presentations should be made in English.

Abstracts should be written in English or in Russian and include author's name, institutional affiliation, contact information, and a 200-word summary of the planned paper.

Send abstract via email to: **vkaisarova@hse.ru**, **tadamenko@hse.ru**, Higher School of Economics, St. Petersburg, Russia.

The deadline for submission is December 20, 2015. Acceptance decisions will be made no later than December 27, 2015.

The Forum venue: Russia, Saint-Petersburg, Kantemirovskaya 3, building 1, lit. A., HSE Saint-Petersburg.

We are Glad to see you among the participants of the Forum!

Forum Organizing Committee