

First Trans European Dialogue in Tallinn: “Towards the Neo-Weberian State? Europe and Beyond?”

On January 30 till February 1, Tallinn University of Technology organised a top-level conference, featuring Europe’s and indeed some of the world’s most prominent public administration scholars, to discuss the hottest issue in contemporary administration: *Which kind of administrative system is better for today’s globalized, innovation-, ICT- and knowledge-based countries – one that orients itself towards business, or one that emphasizes classical administration with highly competent but also well-paid career civil servants? The last model is both the more traditional one and, in a new format, the currently most discussed one, called the “Neo-Weberian State” after the German economist and sociologist, Max Weber.*

The title of the conference was therefore, “Towards the Neo-Weberian State? Europe and Beyond.?”

The conference was the first one in a new series of top-level meetings jointly sponsored by the two key professional associations of Public Administration in Europe, the European Group on Public Administration (EGPA) and the Network of Institutes and Schools of Public Administration in Central and Eastern Europe (NISPAcee), called the “Trans-European Dialogue”. Both had, after the conference, their board meetings in Tallinn, and for the first time a joint board meeting as well.

Tallinn University of Technology’s Public Administration program was the logical place for this conference, as it is the only institution which has faculty members on both Steering Committees. It confirms TUT PA’s role as one of the most active, vibrant and well-connected PA departments internationally, and as a node of the East-West dialogue: <http://www.ttu.ee/>

The conference was co-sponsored by the State Chancellery of Estonia and includes a reception by the City of Tallinn.